

**T**here are lots of exciting shade plants available that are rarely seen in gardens. This design showcases many of them, selected to flower from Spring to Fall! In addition to the color that their flowers provide, you'll get to enjoy their exotically hued leaves and contrasting textures throughout the growing season.

Although this plan is designed with all day shade in mind, these plants will also do well in a spot that gets morning sunlight and afternoon shade. Position the tallest plants at the back of the bed. (A, B and C, as marked below.)

**Your new garden will need regular water.** In order to keep it looking it's best, it's important not to let it go through any periods of drought. Add wood mulch from Stone Market to conserve moisture around your new plants and complete the look!

The shade garden plan is presented below. We'll help you get to know the plants on the next page.

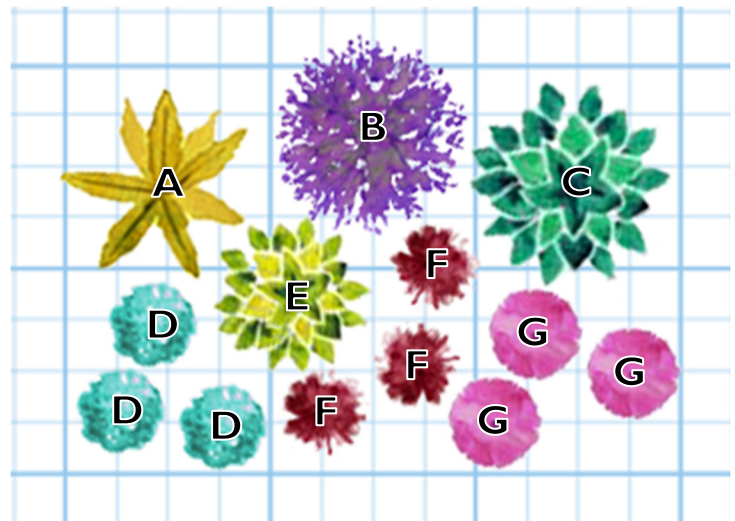
## The Plan

### Plant List:

- A. One **Ligularia**
- B. One **Bugbane**
- C. One **Large Blue Hosta**
- D. Three **Brunnera**
- E. One **Medium Gold Hosta**
- F. Three **Astilbe**
- G. Three **Lungwort**

Approximate cost of plant material: \$225

Dimensions as shown: 12'x8'



Each small square represents one square foot

# The Plants



**A. Ligularia** feature large, interesting leaves and yellow summer flowers that light up a shady spot. It makes a big visual impact in or out of flower once it gets established!

Best in bright, dappled shade, or a spot with morning sun and afternoon shade. Likes lots of water during the growing season– will droop if the soil dries out.



**B. Bugbane** is a tall, elegant plant with lacy purple leaves so dark that they're nearly black. It sends up fragrant pink tinged flower spikes in early autumn that dance and sway with the breeze.

Needs rich, well-drained soil and lots of water. Mix compost 50/50 with the native soil surrounding the plant when planting if you have heavy clay. (Clay soil feels slick when damp, and can be shaped into a ball or a long “snake.”)



**C. Hosta** are the quintessential shade plant, and with good reason! Their showy leaves look fantastic alongside other plants with colored foliage. In this plan, the large blue hydrangea at the back of the shade bed contrasts with the dark, lacy Bugbane beside it and the brighter gold Hosta in front of it. Look for a blue Hosta with impressive stature, such as ‘Aquamarine,’ ‘Blue Angel,’ ‘Earth Angel,’ ‘Giant Blue,’ ‘Halcyon,’ or ‘Krossa Regal.’



**D. Brunnera** grace the garden with tiny forget-me-not blue flowers in spring. For the remainder of the growing season, their heart shaped, silvery leaves light up the shade garden.

Needs rich, well drained soil and regular water. Mix compost in 50/50 with the native soil when planting if you have poor soil or heavy clay.



**E.** A medium, gold-leaved **Hosta** adds a spot of sun to the center of the shade garden design. Look for varieties that top out at 3’ or less and no more than 3.5’ wide, such as ‘August Moon,’ ‘Gold Standard,’ ‘Dancing Queen,’ ‘Etched Glass,’ or ‘Coast to Coast.’

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**F. Astilbe** is among the showiest of shade garden flowers, with lacy green leaves providing a backdrop for vivid blooms in red, pink, lavender or cream. Pick out your favorite variety, or mix and match the colors!

Needs plenty of water and rich soil. Mix compost in 50/50 with the native soil when planting if you have poor soil or heavy clay. Also appreciates a deep wood mulch to help retain moisture.



**G. Lungwort** is another showy bloomer with attractive leaves. Bicolor blooms in pink and purple appear in spring, giving over the spotlight to silver dappled leaves in summer and fall.

Needs constantly moist soil and excellent drainage. Goes dormant if soil dries out. If the soil is heavy, mix in compost 50/50 to lighten it.

### Tips for installing your new garden:

- It's fine to plant during summer, as long as you're prepared to water deeply and often! Know how you plan to water your new plants *before* you plant them. Soaker hoses and sprinklers are both good options.
- Most shade perennials need a lot of water to look their best. Give the plants a good, long drink once or twice a week whenever there's been no significant rain. The soil should never be allowed to dry out.
- We recommend using Root Stimulator at the time of planting during summer and fall. It gets your plants focused on putting down roots ahead of winter.
- If you have sand or heavy clay soil, dig holes at least twice as wide as you normally would and amend the soil by mixing in 50% compost. You can also use our own Premium Soil Blend, which comes with topsoil, compost and beneficial microbes that will get your plants off to a good start. You'll find both bagged and bulk landscape materials at our Stone Market, next door to the Hoerr Nursery Garden Center.
- A deep wood mulch will help the soil hold water and suppress weeds around your new plants. Bulk wood mulch is also available at Stone Market for pickup or delivery. If you'd like to arrange a bulk delivery of soil, compost, mulch or rock, you can call 309-689-2513 to reach Stone Market directly.
- Slugs and sowbugs can cause problems in moist, shady spots. Watering early in the morning will allow plant leaves to dry before nightfall, which will make them less enticing. Deal with slugs organically by sprinkling an iron phosphate product around the affected plant. To deter sowbugs organically, use a product containing Spinosad. (Sluggo Plus will treat for both types of pest at once.) For advice about specific pest problems, visit the Plant Pharmacy at Hoerr Nursery. Pictures of the issue or fresh samples of the affected plant will help us to diagnose your problem and provide recommendations.
- If you have questions, we're here for you! To speak with one of our experts you can visit the Garden Center, email us at [expert@hoerrnursery.com](mailto:expert@hoerrnursery.com), message us on Facebook or Instagram, or call (309) 691-4561 any time during business hours.