

Halton Region Master Gardeners

Come Grow With Us



Shade Garden plants.

I for have a question on plants in Zone 4 Shade gardens for you. I am planning to add a number of shade loving plants to my shade garden this spring and wonder if any of you have any experience with the following plants which are on my short list. Most of these are Zone 3-8 plants, although some are zone 4-9:

Euonymous Nana 'Turkistanica'

Astrantia Major 'Star of billion'

Astilbe Arendsii 'Burgundy Red'

Convallaria Majalis Hosta 'Blue Mouse Ears'

Hosta 'Blue Umbrellas'

Hosta 'Pathfinder'

Any thoughts?

David

I lived in Saskatoon a Zone 2b (or not 2b). Hostas did just great. They were able to winter thru. The blue hostas are good if you are worried about slugs. Also the larger leaved ones are more hardy. I have one called "Blue Angel" and it is a trooper which is super hardy and so far I have divided it many times.

Astilbes are more finicky as even in my Zone 6b garden now they still haven't found their proper home. I find these are like some other perennials where you may have to try them out in different parts of the garden before they really take.

Hope this if of some help,

Karen

I have grown all of these plants in, what is really, dry shade in my heavily treed garden. The larger hostas do extremely well but I haven't had good success with the smaller 'Mouse Ears'. The Astrantia does tolerate this condition but flowers only minimally. This year I moved the Astrantia to full sun and was pleased with the increased amount and duration of flowering. Astilbes love shade as you know, but dry shade not so much. I find I have to give them extra watering for them to manage. I have found more shade success with the shorter Chinese varieties of Astilbe which do quite well even in dry shade. My conclusion with shade plants is that it's more about the amount of moisture than the amount of light. If your new garden has more adequate than I have, then these plants should do well.

Donna