Life Beyond Hostas

Not all shade is created equal!

* Definition of shade: up to 4 hours of sunlight a day.
* Bright shade: 2-4 hours of morning or afternoon sun and dappled shade during the day
* Dappled shade: mixture of sun and shade under a deciduous tree
* Dense shade: no direct sun, dense tree canopies
* Dry shade: shallow tree roots
* Deep shade: dark side of the wall (also, remember that white color reflects light!)

Trees: roots and branches

* Deep root system: Oak, Hickory, Black Tupelo – relatively easy to garden under
* Shallow root system: Maple, Beech, Birch – competition for water, dry shade
* Sometimes to convert dense shade into dappled shade just a few lower limbs should be removed
* Trees with very low hanging branches (1-2 feet from the ground) might be worth mulching under

Deep shade

* Consider hardscaping: seating area – thick layer of mulch or patio with benches, statuary, fountain
* Containers: Impatiens, Begonias, Coleus, foliage

Principles of landscape design

* Thriller (36” and higher), Filler (approximately 18” to 24”), Spiller (approximately 6” to 12”)
* Every plant has color, shape and texture.
* Shape: mat, mound, vase, upright
* Texture: from fine to rough
* We put together plants that have at least one characteristic in common, and at least one characteristic different

Woodland garden

* Woodland plants are the plants that naturally grow under the canopies of taller trees.
* Trees: Dogwood (*Cornus kousa, Cornus florida*), Redbud (*Cersis canadensis*), Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)
* Conifers: Yew (*Taxus*), Hemlock (*Tsuga*)
* Broadleaf evergreens: Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Pieris, Boxwood (*Buxus*) - especially, “Green Mountain”, Oregon Grape (*Mahonia aquifolium*)
* Shrubs: Vibernums, Hydrangeas, Elderberry (*Sambucus*), Chokeberry (*Aronia*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), Kerria, Deutzia
* Grasses: Sedges (*Carex*), Japanese Forest Grass (*Haconecloa*), Clamping Bamboo
* Groundcovers: Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), Sweet Woodruff (*Gallium* *odoratum*), Bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*), Pachysandra, Wintercreeper (*Euonimu*s *fortunei*), Barrenwort (*Epimedium*), Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*), Dead Nettle (*Lamium*), Creeping Jenny (*Lysimachia*), Hardy Plumbago (*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*)

Blooming in the shade

* Spring: Lenten Rose (*Helleborus*), bulbs, spring blooming Anemone (*Anemone sylvestris*, *Anemone pulsatilla*), Bergenia, Brunnera, Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra* *spectabilis*), Goatsbeard (*Aruncus*), Pulmonaria, Jacob’s Ladder (*Polemonium)*
* Summer: Hardy Geranium, Fernleaf Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra* *formosa*), Shamrock (*Oxalis*), Corydalis, Celandine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), perennial Viola, Monkshood (*Aconitum*), Astilbe, Lobelia, Ligularia, Bear’s Breeches (*Acanthus)*
* Fall: Japanese Anemone

Foliage beyond hostas

* Foamflowers and Coralbells (*Tiarellas* and *Heucheras*)
* Painted ferns
* Creeping Jenny, Ajuga, Hardy Plumbago
* Aralia, Cimicifuga, Ligularia, Piggyback Plant (*Tolmiea menziesii*)
* Variegation: Japanese Forest Grass, Sedges, Polemonium “Jacob’s Ladder”, variegated Solomon’s Seal (*Polygonatum*), variegated Wintercreeper
* As big as Empress Wu: Aralia, Goatsbeard, Baneberry (*Actaea*), Cimicifuga, Rogersia, Ligularia

Vines: spiller or thriller?

* Porcelain vine (*Ampelopsis glandulosa*): foliage and berries
* Climbing hydrangea and Japanese climbing hydrangea (*Schitzophragma*): flowers and fragrance
* Sweet Autumn Clematis and Sweet Summer Clematis

Full sun to partial shade

* Hardy Geranium, Foxglove, Delphinium, Garden Phlox, Coneflower, Joe Pye Weed, Siberian Iris
* Tree peony (*Paeonia suffruticosa*)
* Clematis (some varieties), Honeysuckle
* Raspberry, Blackberry, Gooseberry, Black Currant