



April 28<sup>th</sup> workshop on shade gardens by Chris Bogie a McKay Nursery Company employee

- What is shade?

Full Shade is considered 3 hours or less of direct sunlight each day.

Partial Shade is considered 3-6 hours of direct sunlight each day.

Shade gardens are cool – literally! It can feel 10-15 degrees cooler in a shaded garden than in direct sunlight.

- Plants – more than just hosta!

The handout shows some great plants that McKay grows that work well in partial and full shade situations. Shady areas can be dry, moist, and wet so once you've established if your area is partial or full shade, look at what moisture tolerance the plants have.

Good wet choices: Sedges, Astilbe, Hydrangea, Gray Dogwood

Good dry choices: Hosta, Gro-Low Sumac, Lungwort

- Now that we know what plants to use, what do you do with them?

What look are you going for? What is your style preference and what style is your home? If you get creative enough you can create any style in a shade garden; Modern, Cottage, Woodland, Specialty. Some of these styles will lean towards certain plants more than others, but in a lot of cases it is more about how the plant is used or shown in the garden.

Shady areas are already mysterious, curving paths and playing with heights are great ways to have people discovery surprises hidden in your garden. A hidden bench, a prize hydrangea, the place where the fairies and gnomes go to hang out. Elaborate or simple, shade gardens can really create a feeling of being closer to the plants.

Shade gardens can make big & bold statements! Largely because most shade gardens “show off” groupings and masses of plants, so you get a big impact from the textures and colors.

Talking about textures and mass plantings:

Fine: Ferns, bleeding heart, sedge, astilbe

Medium: Lady's mantle, coralbells, diervilla

Large: Hosta, Hydrangea, Witchhazel

Great for mass planting: Hosta, Gro-low sumac, cutleaf Steppandra



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Great for specimen planting: Japanese Maple, Hydrangea, Rhododendron, Lungwort

Specialty Gardens: Hosta and Hydrangea (keep supporting plants basic like groundcovers and evergreens)

There are many great groundcovers you can use shady situations, keep in mind some of them can become aggressive. Make a plan ahead of time about how you want to handle very happy groundcovers. Let them be happy, survival of the fittest, once they reach HERE they get dug out, cut back, sprayed.

Stone vs Bark

Stone – “one time” install, lower maintenance, lots to choose from

Bark – Easier to change up plants, more moisture and nutrients for the plants

Are you curious?

Try things! I plant full sun plants in shady areas at my house all the time, sometimes just to see what happens, sometimes because that’s the only space I have available at the time. Does it always work out? No, but it’s interesting to see how plants adapt. I have sedums in some pretty shady spots, they are not reliable bloomers, but I keep them there because I like how their texture plays with my hosta and yews.

Some extras!

At the nursery in Waterloo, we don’t grow annuals, but I believe they will be some available here at Winterland this season. Mix in annuals for some extra color and easy change ups. I don’t do much with annuals, so I like to have spots for pots, tucked in between some not mature plants, or at a bend in a pathway. What’s great about pots is that if I skip a year, or don’t do all the pots, no one knows.

Edibles – the trend for edibles seems to keep going up and you don’t need to have a rectangle plot at the back of your yard. Mix edibles, shrubs, perennials and annuals right into your landscape beds.

Shade gardens aren’t just for plants.

Hardscapes – Unless you’re looking for a very modern look in your shade garden, I tend to lean towards more natural stone or tumbled materials.

Lighting – It gets dark and even more and earlier in a shade garden. Uplights, downlights, pathlights can all add to the mysteriousness of a shade garden, as well as make it more inviting and expand the time spent there.



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### Partial Shade

Daylily	Ironwood	Ninebark
Geraniums	Forsythia	Quince
Lady's Mantle	Diervilla (Cool Splash)	Privet
Spirea	Dogwood	Viburnum
Mockorange	Japanese Maple	Yucca
Fothergilla	Sumac	Arborvitae
Serviceberry	Honeysuckle Shrub	Spruce
Redbud	Cotoneaster	Amsonia
Magnolia	Elderberry	Catmint

### Full Shade

Sedge	Boxwood	Currant
Pachysandra	Bronx Forsythia	Yew
Vinca	Rhododendron	Hemlock
Astilbe	Viburnum	Gro-Low Sumac
Hosta	Ash Leaf Spirea	Cutleaf Stephandra
Brunnera	Chokeberry	Hornbeam
Ferns	Gray Dogwood	Engleman Ivy
Bleeding Heart	Winterberry	Lamium
Coralbells	Euonymus	Russian Cypress
Lungwort	Hydrangea	Iris
Honeysuckle Vine	Snowberry	Jacob's Ladder
Kerria	Witchhazel	

### Some Annuals for Shade

Impatiens	Euphorbia	Alyssum
Bugonias	Lobelia	Pansy
Fuchsia	Caladium	Snapdragon





## Shade Gardens – Winterland Workshop

April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

*By Chris Bogie from McKay Nursery Company*