



## ANNUALS FOR SHADY SPOTS

In the heat of summer, nothing beats a shady retreat, and one planted with bright flowers and foliage is even more welcoming. Gardeners who have more shade than sun need not lament - the selection of annuals that thrive in the shade is greater than one might expect.

Browallia is a low-growing annual with star-shaped flowers of white, blue, lavender or purple. Its well-branched habit makes it an excellent pot, border, or hanging basket plant. 'Blue Bells' is a deep sapphire blue and 'Silver Bells' is pure white. Lobelia is also low-growing, and often trailing, making it an ideal candidate for mixed containers, edging, rock gardens and baskets. 'Crystal Palace' is a popular, dark blue variety with bronze-toned foliage, and 'Regatta Blue Splash' is bright blue with a white eye.

Mimulus, or monkey flower, is an underused plant that is available in a wide array of colors from yellows to reds to oranges in various combinations. The unusual spotted flowers do resemble a monkey's face, as the common name suggests. Mimulus grows six to eight inches tall and works well in borders and in pots.

Another little-used annual is Torenia, or wishbone flower. This plant has snapdragon-like blooms that are a two-toned mix of purple, pink, red-violet, blue or white. Torenia grows about eight to twelve inches tall, and works well for pots, baskets, and shady corners in the garden. 'Summer Wave' is a new, heat-loving, trailing Torenia that produces an abundance of light and dark blue flowers all season long.

For foliage effects, Caladium, or elephant's ear, and coleus can both be quite spectacular. Caladium grows from one to two feet tall and produces colorful, exotic foliage in combinations of white, pink, red, and green. Extremely effective when massed, it also works well in containers. Caladium tubers can be dug in the fall and saved to plant the following spring.

Coleus grows from six to thirty six inches tall and is available in a wide range of color combinations from greens, to whites, reds, pinks, yellows, oranges, purples, or browns. This easy-to-grow plant works well to brighten up dark corners or as a groundcover. New for this spring is several varieties that will work well in both sun and shade. Try the Solar series and the Sunlover's series.



Coleus is available in a wide range of colors.

Diminutive but charming is *Hypoestes*, or polka dot plant. This plant produces pretty green foliage that is splashed with pink, red, or white. It is a good choice for containers or the front of the border, and is easily wintered over as a houseplant.

*Oxalis*, sometimes called shamrock, is another charming addition to the shade garden. It grows to about eight inches in height and produces delicate white, pink, or lavender flowers over green or purple shamrock-like foliage. *Oxalis* prefers light, open shade, and, like the polka dot plant, is a good candidate to winter over as a houseplant.

Another unusual plant that is sometimes grown as a houseplant is *Abutilon*, or flowering maple. This plant prefers light to semi-shade and grows from eighteen to thirty six inches tall. As its common name suggests, the foliage of *Abutilon* resembles maple leaves. Large, bell-shaped flowers are held on pendulous branches, and range in color from yellow, to apricot, to white. It is an ideal plant to use in hanging baskets or window boxes.

Another striking plant for hanging baskets is *Fuchsia*. Its exotic blooms are red, pink, violet, white, or a combination of any of these colors. Flowers may be ruffled or simple, and are a favorite of hummingbirds.

Also good for hanging baskets or for pots are the tuberous *Begonias*. The huge, bright blooms of the Non-Stop hybrids bring vibrancy to the shade in pink, white, red, yellow, and orange. New Guinea *Impatiens* are equally impressive in hanging baskets, in pots, or in the border. This exotic relative of the standard garden *Impatiens* has large, bright flowers in a wide range of colors and bi-colors over glossy green, bronze, or variegated foliage.

*Nicotiana alata*, or flowering tobacco, is a taller plant that works well in light shade or half sun/half shade. It ranges in height from twelve to thirty six inches and produces many star-shaped flowers in shades of white, pink, maroon, and yellow-green. The newer, dwarf forms of Flowering Tobacco, such as the Nicky Hybrids, are very well branched and do not require staking.

Also performing well in light shade or half a day 's shade is *Nierembergia*, or cup flower. This plant has a low growing or trailing habit that works well for rock gardens, baskets, pots, or edging. It is available in shades of violet-blue and white. 'Purple Robe' is a long-blooming, dense flowering All American Selection winner.

Finally, don 't forget two old standbys, wax *Begonias* and *Impatiens*. Both are versatile, adaptable, easy-to-care for plants that are a welcome addition to any shade garden.

' Super Elfin Sunrise ' is a striking new *Impatiens* variety with salmon orange centers and purple edges.

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>BOTANICAL NAME</u>	<u>USES</u>	<u>TYPE OF SHADE</u>
Baby Blue Eyes	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i>	rock gardens, edging, ground-cover, containers	half day
Begonia, tuberous	<i>Begonia x tuberhybrida</i>	bedding, containers, hanging basket	light
Begonia, wax	<i>Begonia x semperflorens</i>	pots, borders	light, half day
Browallia	<i>Browallia speciosa</i>	pots, borders, baskets	light to deep shade
Coleus	<i>Coleus x hybridus</i>	pots, borders, groundcover	light, half day
Cup Flower	<i>Nierembergia caerulea</i>	rock gardens, baskets, pots, edging	light, half day
Elephant Ears	<i>Caladium x hortalanum</i>	containers, bedding	light to deep shade
Flowering Maple	<i>Abutilon hybridum</i>	pots, baskets	light, half day
Flowering Tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	borders, containers	light, half day
Fuchsia	<i>Fuchsia</i>	containers, baskets	light shade
Impatiens, Busy Lizzy	<i>Impatiens wallerana</i>	bedding, pots, baskets	light to deep shade
Impatiens, New Guinea	<i>Impatiens Schlecteri</i>	bedding, pots, baskets	light, half day
Lobelia	<i>Lobelia erinus</i>	containers, edging, rock gardens, baskets	light, half day
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus x hybridus</i>	pots, borders	deep shade
Polka Dot Plant	<i>Hypoestes</i>	pots, borders, groundcover	light, half day
Shamrock	<i>Oxalis</i>	pots, edging	light, half day