

Annual Flowers for Shade

(Compiled by Kim Watson from HGTV's website)



Hippo Rose Polka-Dot Plant

When leaves are this pretty, flowers aren't necessary! Hippo Rose polka-dot plant (*Hypoestes*) delivers outstanding color with contrasting shades of hot pink and deep green. Tuck this beauty into containers or use it to fill a planting bed with can't-miss color. Pinch plants when young to increase branching. Plants grow 16 to 22 inches tall by 8 to 14 inches wide.

Begonia Mistral Yellow Container

Bring on the blooms with Mistral Yellow begonia. This sunny beauty is a type of *Begonia boliviensis*, which pumps out flowers all summer long. Showcase Mistral Yellow in a hanging basket or tall container. Plants form tubers that overwinter easily in the pot. Slip the pot into a non-freezing, cool, dark location for winter. Barely water once a month. Tubers start sprouting in spring, signaling it's time to move the plant into bright light.





Gryphon Begonia and Impatiens

Unusual hand-shaped leaves with a striking color mix make Gryphon begonia a star for shade gardens. Avocado green leaves have maroon veins and are splashed with silver. Leaf undersides and stems also showcase maroon shades. It's a natural for containers, easily filling the thriller role. It looks beautiful paired with red and white Super Elfin impatiens (shown). Gryphon does best in part to full shade, growing 18 to 24 inches tall and wide. In Southern zones, protect Gryphon from hot afternoon sun.

Lobelia and Nemesia Hanging Basket

This pretty pair of bloomers bridges the part shade to sun gap with non-stop flowers. Lobelia Sky Blue Erinus opens blossoms in soft blue, offering an eye-catching contrast to Sunsatia Lemon nemesia and its lemon yellow flowers. Both plants tend to stop flowering when night temps stay above 70 F. If this occurs, give plants a light trim to promote fresh, branching growth when temps cool off. Both plants grow 6 to 10 inches tall and spread at least 12 to 16 inches. Choose these bloomers to fill the spiller role in containers or make a handsome hanging basket.





Coleus Container Garden

Coleus is an old-fashioned favorite for shady locations, and modern varieties deliver even more. This trio of ColorBlaze coleus boasts beautiful leaves on plants that don't set flowers easily, which means no more endless deadheading. Mix and match coleus varieties for containers or planting beds by choosing complementary and contrasting leaf colors and patterns. Make sure the coleus you choose is not a full-sun variety if you're growing it in the shade. Pinch out growing tips when plants are young to increase branching.



Caladium, Begonia and Ivy

Shady spots explode with color when you draft botany's big guns for shade: caladium, begonia and ivy. This pot showcases classic container garden design. A white and green caladium stands in as thriller, with Dragon Wing Pink begonia as filler and green ivy as spiller. It's a blend that easily fits on any porch or deck to bring season-long color. Dragon Wing begonias are a shade all-star, strutting their stuff in part to full shade. These begonias are low maintenance, heat tolerant beauties that pump out flowers until fall's first frost. This planting combination looks great in a pot, but would transition easily to planting beds, too.



Blue And White Torenia

For beautiful blooms that can't be overlooked, plant 'Duchess Blue & White' torenia (*Torenia fournieri* 'Duchess Blue & White'). Also known as wishbone flower, this pretty annual makes a striking filler in containers or edging along a planting bed. Plants grow 6 inches tall and up to 10 inches wide. Pinch out growing tips on young plants to increase branching, which means more flowers. Look for torenia that opens blossoms in hues of pink, lavender, yellow and white. 'Duchess' torenia has been specifically developed to flower strongly in full shade.

Impatiens

Meet the classic go-to shade annual—impatiens. This bloomer stages a spectacular show in part to full shade. Look for flowers in a rainbow of shades, including bi-colors and swirls; the 'Firefly Watermelon' cultivar shown here blooms in a vibrant watermelon pink color. For low-maintenance beauty in shady spots, it's tough to beat this long-time favorite. Impatiens may be attacked by a severe disease, downy mildew. If your impatiens have succumbed to this disease in the past, avoid replanting impatiens in the same spot. Instead, look through the gallery for other shady color.





**Tuberous begonia
(*Begonia x tuberhybrida*)**

Set your sights on floral delights with the luscious blooms of tuberous begonias. Flowers can be single or double and often resemble small roses. Use in containers or planting beds. Cascading types make stunning hanging baskets. Look for blossoms in yellow, red, pink, orange and white shades—no blues here. Give plants partial shade; avoid bright sun and high temps. Tuberous begonias flower non-stop in Zones 9 to 11. In other zones, dig tubers and store for winter.



**Summer Wave Bouquet
Wishbone Flower
(*Torenia fournieri* 'Summer
Wave Bouquet')**

Try out torenia for bold color. This shade lover traditionally opens purple or pink flowers spotted with yellow, but new hybridizing efforts have introduced almost solid purple and fuchsia flowers, along with an eye-catching yellow and white bloom. 'Summer Wave' torenia withstands high heat and humidity and sprawls to cover ground. It's a great choice for containers or beds. Give plants shade or sun.

Fuchsia

Grace your shady areas with the striking colors of fuchsia. Fuchsias come in a variety of sizes, from small bedding plants to shrubs. Most fuchsias are root hardy to Zones 7 or 8, dying to the ground each winter and sprouting in spring. Fuchsias typically like light shade and thrive in bright, indirect light.



Bush Violet (*Browallia speciosa*)

White centers sparkle in the purple blossoms of bush violet. This annual is native to tropical South America. In your garden, tuck bush violet into pots or use it in beds. It thrives in part shade or woodland gardens beneath the high shade of trees. Provide soil rich in organic matter. In containers, use a commercial bagged soilless mix.

'Molten Lava' Oxalis
(*Oxalis vulcanicola*)

Oxalis is known to many as an invasive weed. Discover the prettier, docile side of the oxalis family. 'Molten Lava' offers eye-catching leaves and won't take over your garden. Plant in part shade to full sun. Leaf color is chartreuse in shade and shifts to orange in sun. Protect from hot afternoon sun in warmest regions.

