



Castle Pines Village Garden Club

Board 2018 - 2019

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SPECIAL EDITION OF THE CPVGC NEWSLETTER

SUMMER GARDENS

SAVE THE DATE

Wed May 30 - Opening Day for Serenity
June 11 – 15 – Return to Santa Fe, New Mexico
June 22 – First Wine in the Garden @ Porters
July 20 – Summer Party @ Linda Hanson's
Tues Aug 7- Field Trip B. Ford Alpine Gardens
June 16-21, 2019 – 7th Annual Away Trip to Victoria, BC

SIGNUP & PAYMENT DEADLINES

May 25 Deadline for Serenity Lunch
June 1 Time to Renew CPVGC Membership
June 18 RSVP Deadline for Wine in the Garden
July 9 RSVP Deadline for Summer Party
July 27 RSVP Deadline for Vail Field Trip



May 1st was our field trip to Cherokee Ranch Garden and Serenity Garden, both of which are maintained by our garden club members. Kathy Dennis gave a presentation on the history of the garden at Cherokee Ranch, and Dee Metcalf gave a presentation on the the history of Serenity Garden. The day concluded with a lunch provided by the CPVGC at the Canyon Club Pavilion. Some comments heard during the presentations were “inspirational”, “eye opening”, “very informative”, “motivating”, and “learning about the gardens make me want to participate in the gardens”.

The purpose of this special newsletter is to include for our members who were not able to attend, the presentations and photos shared by Kathy Dennis and Dee Metcalf, and to hopefully instill the desire for all members of our garden club to join in working in the gardens. Even if you were only able to work in each garden once or twice this summer you will be making an impact on our gardens!

Our new president, Janice Wright, says it is her goal to strengthen our club’s support for both of the gardens, by providing more organization and participation.

Our new chair for Serenity Garden is Nancy Kirschke, and she is really looking forward to working with the “Serenity Garden Girls”!

Cynthia Rohan, who has been chair for the Tweet’s Cherokee Ranch Memorial Garden, has resigned. We all wish her well and thank her for her years of service. Contact a board member if you are interested in applying for this position.

Also note suggestions, beginning on page 22, for your shady gardens - both annual and perennial plant ideas!



CHEROKEE RANCH MEMORIAL GARDEN

I am Kathy Dennis and I have been a member of the Castle Pines Village Garden Club since its beginning in 1994. Many of you probably are familiar with at least some aspects of the history of Cherokee Ranch. I am in love with this garden and have decided to read my presentation, because, otherwise, I just may leave out details that you should know.



“Tweet” Kimball

Mildred Montague Kimball was born June 18, 1914 near Chattanooga, Tennessee, the daughter of wealthy West Point graduate and banker Richard Huntington Kimball--and Mildred Montague.

Her father referred to her as “Tweet” in letters to her mother before she was born. The name stuck! In fact, she must have had her name legally changed to Tweet at some point in her

life-- as her social security info reads Tweet M. Kimball. Tweet was the belle of Chattanooga. She was the Cotton Queen as a debutante. Her life was that of privilege and power.

In 1938, she married wealthy Merritt Ruddock, an executive and diplomat. In the early years of their marriage, Merritt was posted at the US Embassy in London. During those years, they came to know many monarchs and diplomats, which opened the way to purchasing fine European art and early rare first edition books. Her marvelous art collection and books are now housed inside her castle. Tweet especially admired Churchill and has many 1st editions of his books. Her library is named for Churchill.

Tweet and Merritt returned to Tennessee in the late 1940s and divorced. It is well known that Merritt told Tweet he would purchase ANY land Tweet wanted--- as long as it was west of the Mississippi and he would remain east of the Mississippi. Tweet had a close college friend in Colorado, which drew Tweet here. She relocated to Colorado with her two adopted sons, Kirk and Richard, in the early 1950s. Later, her mother also came to live with her. About that time, 1954, the Scottish inspired Charlford Castle built by Charles Johnson in 1929, came up for sale. Tweet purchased the 24-room castle. Eventually, she bought up more land increasing her ranch to 4,000 acres.

The little building, just to our north, was built for Tweet's sons-- Kirk and Richard. For many a summer, they hiked here, played and camped in the little cabin. Our garden club often uses the building for a picnic on our first day of working in the garden each May.

Tweet knew much about livestock breeding, growing up in Tennessee. She decided to breed and raise Santa Gertrudis cattle on her high country Colorado ranch.



SANTA GERTRUDIS CATTLE

She was told this Texas cattle breed would not do well in this cold climate but she proved them wrong. Even her foremen thought she was making a mistake to bring Santa Gertrudis

from Texas. I have heard that her foreman refused to unload the first bunch of cattle off the train cars when they arrived in Sedalia. He lost his job and Tweet directed the unloading herself.

Tweet always thought outside the box! As you drove up here you might have noticed the huge monument just off the right side of the road about 2/3 the way up.



MINOTAUR MEMORIAL

It bears the name “Minotaur”, one of her finest Santa GERTRUDIS bulls that sired 42 calves in one season. Other such monuments marking the graves of other favorite bulls can be seen thru out the property. At one time, she had 600 head. Her bulls were National Western Stock Shows hierarchy for many years, taking home blue ribbon after blue ribbon. In those years, she also came to know many well-known people---state governors, Ronald Reagan and even Princess Ann of England. They both shared a love of horses and riding.

Tweet renamed the ranch “Cherokee Ranch” in honor of the Native Americans who lived in the Chattanooga, Tennessee area. Her Chattanooga parents’ plantation home, in which she grew up, was razed many years ago and she salvaged the arched entry to her childhood home and had it shipped here. Many years before her death, she decided that this site-----on which we are standing today--- would be her final resting place. She had the arches from her Chattanooga home re-constructed here and then the area surrounded by the iron fence.



THE MEMORIAL GARDENS AND ARCHED ENTRY

Tweet died on January 14, 1999 at the age of 84 ½ years. Until a few days before her death, she was still driving the road you came up to get her mail in Sedalia. We have been told she was a wild driver. She was feisty all her life and very independent. Some of us who have been in the garden club for many years were lucky enough to meet Tweet on many occasions, enjoying tours she personally gave of her house and property. Tweet was eccentric, very bright, focused, and had a passionate vision for her property---- beyond her cattle business. She was concerned about water conservation, the wildlife habitats & migration patterns on her land and safeguarding all evidence of early human life on this land. There is a very good video called “A Jewel of the Rockies” done by Douglas County Films. It is about Cherokee Ranch and Castle. Tweet Kimball speaks extensively on the film. She is articulate, very well spoken. She does a superb job describing her work, her passion. If you can, watch it. I believe it is still sold at the small gift store in the castle.

The reason that we enjoy so much wildlife in and around Castle Pines Village is because of Tweet. The elk herd, the deer, bobcats, even the bear that we see in CPV so often thrive because they spend a good part of the year on Tweet’s open land. And when you came up today, you probably saw many, many blue birdhouses. Tweet had them erected all over her land in the 1970s----- to encourage the return of nesting western blue birds in the area, long before we started to do the same in Castle Pines Village.

Years before her death, Tweet made arrangements to, upon her death, create an everlasting wildlife preserve by gifting her home and most of her ranch land to Douglas County under the auspices of the Cherokee Ranch Foundation----this--- to ensure proper stewardship of her holdings forever. She also requested that 150 head of her cattle continue to be raised here as an exhibit of where the money from this most successful land holding came.



GARDEN IN 2001

This is how Tweet's Memorial Garden looked in September 2001. The large piece of petrified wood that IS her memorial rock was found on the ranch property. Under it are her ashes. By the way, there is also a lot of petrified wood in Castle Pines Village. You may have found petrified wood on your own property.

Tweet's Memorial Garden was pretty pathetic as you can see in this photo from September 2001---almost devoid of living plants.

Then one Meg Gaeta came into the picture.



MEG GAETA

Meg was our 8th garden club president from 2001-02 but it was long before that time that Meg was volunteering as a docent, giving tours, at Cherokee Ranch Castle. While volunteering at the castle, Meg became enamored with what Cherokee Ranch represented and also philanthropist Tweet Kimball. Meg wanted to give back to the foundation and to Tweet, in particular, for generously donating her ranch to Douglas County.

MEG STARTS THE GARDEN: In 2000 Meg was completing training as a master gardener. As a new master gardener, she was required to complete so many volunteer hours in the field. She convinced the Cherokee Ranch Foundation to let her create a true garden around Tweet's Memorial rock. With the help of Heather Clark, horticulturist for Colorado State University Extension, Douglas County, Meg drew up a landscape plan that was submitted to---and approved by the Cherokee Ranch Foundation.

However there was NO funding at all for the project. If you know Meg, you know that did not hinder Meg. She talked the Douglas County Soil Conservation District into assisting in making up an irrigation design. Meg then found two Eagle Scout candidates, one being her own son. They put in the irrigation, pathways and did the soil amendments as part of their Eagle Scout project. Two Cherokee Ranch employees also provided compost from the ranch.

As a master gardener, Meg was entitled to obtain FREE plants thru the plant select program. And this she did. The Douglas Co. CSU Extension thru the Denver Botanical "plant select program" donated 250 plants. Receiving free plants was pivotal to making the garden a reality.

Additional plants and gardening supplies were also donated by local garden supplies stores and Tagawa nursery, etc. Meg also wrote a letter in our own CVGC newsletter asking members if they could divide specific hearty perennials from their private gardens to be planted in the new Memorial Garden. The plants Meg requested were from her Garden design list of plants. There was nothing willy-nilly about the way this garden came together. The planting of the Memorial Garden commenced on July 12, 2002.

CARING FOR THE GARDEN: For 3 years, the Douglas County Master gardeners worked in the memorial garden along with a few of our own garden club members. They met here each Friday at 9am, May thru the fall.

In 2005, Meg moved to Arizona and the Douglas County Master Gardeners decided they could no longer maintain Tweet's garden. Before moving, Meg approached our 2005 garden club president, Marion Clark, to see if our garden club could/would take on full maintenance of the Memorial Gardens. We did! And so our club's close association with this very special garden began then—2005-- and continues today, -----13 years later.

With Meg's move, club member and master gardener Jan Behler took over the reins of the Memorial Garden volunteer work. Many of you may know Jan as she attends most meetings and in fact will be modeling in our May fashion show luncheon later this month. Under Jan's

direction and the work of a small pool of dedicated club members, the garden that Meg had envisioned and first planted, took off, grew and matured into much of what you see today.



Above are 4 photos of the Memorial Garden from about 2008- 14

Small yearly grants from Tagawa Nursery and our own garden club enabled Jan to purchase a few new plants and replace plants that had died. Jan headed up our volunteer work in this garden for 7 years. During those years, she dealt with ify irrigation, rodents, temperamental plants, over watering, under watering and harsh weather.

Tweet's favorite flower was the wild rose. Jan Behler and President Marion Clark did research and found a wild rose variation that was not as aggressive as true wild roses. Together, they planted them at the base of Tweet's memorial rock in 2005. Proceeds from a garden club raffle paid for the roses. You can see that they continue to thrive and bloom today.



THE WILD ROSES

Jan headed up our volunteer work thru 2011. In 2012, Meg Gaeta returned from Arizona, became active in the garden club again, eventually took on responsibility for the Memorial Garden volunteers, and maintained the program for another 2 years. She was very serious about this work, coming down to work in the garden with our other volunteers every 2 weeks, even after moving up to Lafayette.

For the 2013-14 gardening season, there was no one to take over leadership of our volunteer gardening program here in the Memorial Gardens-----until club member and longtime volunteer gardener, Ruth Clark, kindly stepped up to the plate for that summer. Without her, our volunteer efforts could have easily floundered. Ruth is still on the club membership committee and you will often see her checking in everyone at our monthly programs.

In 2015, Cynthia Rohan, a CPVGC member, and master gardener, took over as head of our Memorial Gardens volunteer gardening work. Cynthia continues today. She is an active club member, has become a master gardener and represents the Memorial Gardens volunteer program on our Board. Cynthia also plays a most important role as liaison between our club and the Cherokee Ranch Foundation.

What was once a jumble of weeds, the Memorial Gardens is now a beautiful memorial to Tweet and an asset to Cherokee Ranch.



PHOTOS OF TWEET’S GARDEN IN LATE SUMMER

The Memorial garden has been the photo backdrop for many weddings held in the castle, and has drawn the attention and most positive feedback from the Denver Botanical Gardens Board on their visits to the castle. I am sure Tweet Kimball must also be very proud—and I am also certain that Tweet would somehow let us know if it was NOT up to her standards. That was Tweet.

On a personal note, I have been volunteering in this garden for most of the last 13 years. Some years, I have been up here every workday. For the last couple of years, we have been living in Oregon part of the year. So I have been only able to get up here and to the Serenity Garden a couple of times during our volunteer season. But if in town, I will be here!!! Helping in our two gardens is something I want to do ---and I feel is important as a member of our club—a GARDEN club. But there is more. I cannot describe how much I enjoy gardening here. I know that my blood pressure must fall 20 points as I drive up thru Tweet’s property.



BUTTERFLIES AND A BROAD TAILED HUMMING BIRD ON HYSSOP PLANT IN GARDEN

On the drive up, I usually see some sort of wildlife---elk, turkeys, raptors, coyotes, bobcat, and even bear. Many years ago, a young deer showed up each time we were working in the garden and just watched us thru the fence!

For an hour or two each work day, our band of volunteers weed, cut back bushes, deadhead.



THINNING IRIS AT CHEROKEE RANCH



There is nothing hard about the work. I WEAR A HAT and bring along my favorite weeding tool, shovel or pruners, my gloves and some water. I usually also bring a bucket too, as I sit on it, but that is not necessary. While weeding, dead heading or pruning, I get to take in this awesome view of the Front Range---- seeing all the way from Pike's Peak to the Wyoming border on some days. As we get more into summer, you may even have a humming bird zipping around your head. I have learned about several new plants that prosper here, which I then have purchased and added to my own garden. One is Sunset Hyssop (attracts humming birds) and also the Turkish Veronica between the stepping-stones.

I have picked up many a gardening tip from Cynthia and my fellow volunteers. We all chat as we work. It is a great way to start up new friendships. Working in this garden just makes my day!

We currently have some 120 members. It would be wonderful if just half of our membership put in gardening time in this garden and also the Serenity Garden—every month or even a few times over the summer. I assure you, it is a rewarding time.

With that in mind, the first day of volunteer work in Tweet's Memorial Garden is Friday, May 25. The first day of work in the Serenity Garden in the Village is Wednesday, May 30. And

there is an added bonus on the first day---a complimentary picnic organized by the garden club. Hope to see you all in both gardens all summer!

Meg Gaeta sent a planting list for the Memorial Garden which she made up back in 2001-2. She did it from memory so I am most impressed. She said that she made up the original plan and picked plants which were on the plant select list, so she was fairly certain most would do ok up at 7,200 feet and she also had the possibility of getting them free at that time.

She also included the Latin name which she had looked up as she said she no longer knew them by heart:

Pikes Peak Purple penstemon, *Penstemon x mexicali* 'P007S'
Red Rocks penstemon, *Penstemon x medical* 'P008S'
Prairie Jewel penstemon, *Penstemon grandiflorus* 'P010S'
Carla Baby penstemon, *Penstemon x 'Coral Baby'*
Coral Canyon twin spur, *Diascia integrima* 'P009S'
Spanish Peaks foxglove, *Digitalis Thapsi*
Tennessee Purple cornflower, *Echinacea tennesseensis*
Tanager gazania, *Gazania krebslana*
Colorado God gazania, *Gazania linearis* 'P004S'
Winecups, *Callrhoe involucrata*
Turkish veronica, *Veronica liwanensis*
Table Mountain ice plant, *Delosperma* (4 varieties)
Denver Gold columbine, *Aquilegia chrvsantha*
Coronado Red hyssop, *Agastache 'Pstessene'*
Coronado hyssop, *Agastache aurantiaca* 'PO12S'
Dalmatian pink cranesbill, *Geranium dalmaticum*
Snow Angel coral bells, *Heuchera sanguinera* 'Snow Angel'
Vermillion Bluffs mexican sage, *Salvia darcy* 'Pscarl'
Orange Carpet hummingbird trumpet, *Zauscheria garrettii*, 'PWWGO1S'
Cherry scullcap, *Scutellaria suffrutescens*

Kathy Dennis April, 2018

NOTE FROM THE CPVGC BOARD: THANK YOU KATHY DENNIS, FOR YOUR 24 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO CPVGC, AND FOR YOUR 13 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO TWEET'S GARDEN. IN ADDITION, THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING AND SHARING THIS FABULOUS HISTORY OF TWEET'S MEMORIAL GARDEN WITH US!



**EDITOR'S NOTE: THESE 3 FOOT TALL IRIS ARE IN MY GARDEN,
WITH BLOOMS AS BIG AS FISTS,
AND THEY ARE DESCENDANTS FROM TWEET'S GARDEN
(SEE PAGE 13 –THE DAY WE THINNED THE IRIS AT CHEROKEE CASTLE)**

SERENITY GARDEN



A BRIEF HISTORY:

In 1992 a group of enthusiastic women began the Castle Pines Garden Club. (our name changed in 2010 to the Castle Pines Village Garden Club) They established the Charter and By-Laws which we still operate under today. The Charter states “The object of this Club is to operate for charitable, scientific and educational purposes conducive to the well-being of the community and useful to the public including the purpose of encouraging an interest in all phases of home gardening, plant care and floral decorations, educating its members in the science and arts of horticulture and performing educational and charitable horticultural service to the community.”

We fulfill that statement with our educational programs and field trips as well as our community outreach at the Tweet Kimball Memorial Garden which began in 2005. Prior to that, the Garden Club provided garden design, plant materials and our own labor for beautification of the gates

in the Village. When that project was completed, the Club continued to provide the HOA with funds for annual plantings at the gates and common areas.

In 2008, the HOA carried enough funding for landscaping and was no longer in need of Club funds. By 2010 our treasury was quite healthy, in the several \$1000's and knowing we are a non-profit organization, we started asking the question "How do we want to see these funds used?"

INCEPTION OF THE SERENITY GARDEN:

Looking at the charter and the budget, the Board took on 2 major projects and allocated funds to each. The First project: \$1000 to develop a website so we could save on paper and postage for the newsletter. (great savings considering we were at 140 members and newsletters could be 12 pages) Kim Watson was instrumental in getting us up and running and we continue to benefit from her computer skills, commitment and tenacity. The newsletters on the website are always beautiful with all the photos and something to look forward to every other month.

The Second project: \$3000 to create a small legacy garden of tranquility inside the Village. The entire garden club was in favor of such a place and the work began. We searched for a site among several in the Village and found our spot at East Lake, behind the Fitness Center and over the bridge. We went through all the proper channels, meetings and agreements with the Metro District to develop the land while ownership stays with CPV. We presented our plans to design review with HOA for approval and drew up an agreement with Village Lakes Association to connect to their watering systems, etc., etc., etc. Sue Navaro and Michele Ostrowski were our committee heads and major worker bees. They enlisted the expertise of Emily Coll, master horticulturist and water conservationist with the Metro District. They planned & designed this charming Xeriscape garden to serve as a demonstration garden for others to see and learn that low water plants can bloom in colors and provide beauty. We knew in a few short months of planning that \$3000 was not going to accomplish this even with free land, water and expert consulting. SO how to make this happen.....an amazing auction at the summer party of June 2011. We raised over \$10,000, along with another commitment from the Board for \$2000, Tagawa Gardens gave us a small grant and let us sell Tagawa gift cards with a 5% kickback. After all the planning it was a go and we broke ground on May 4, 2011.

Many of us remember fun stories of climbing over rocks in the rock yards, hauling water by buckets on ropes from the pond to water starter plants (before we added our own secret spigot), learning how not to punch holes in the irrigation system when planting and on and on.

This was an amazing labor of love and dedication.

We are blessed to have a connection to two fabulous gardens- Tweet's Memorial Garden and our neighborhood Serenity Garden. Consider it a privilege to maintain both gardens. They continue to be a wonderful place to meet other members and garden together for a couple hours a month. Please, please, don't miss the opportunity to contribute to this sweet and impressive Legacy from the Castle Pines Village Garden Club as well as contributing to Tweet's Memorial Garden.

In 2004, we asked each member of the Garden Club to commit to one Wednesday in each garden during the summer. (Later our work day at Cherokee was switched from every other Wednesday to every other Friday). Please take that pledge to heart so that we can continue to provide beauty and service to the community, and work in both gardens this summer.





STONE AT ENTRANCE TO SERENITY GARDEN



**THANK YOU, DEE METCALF, FOR HAVING THE INSIGHT OF COMING UP WITH THE
CONCEPT OF A SPECIAL GARDEN IN CPV,
AND FOR SHARING THE HISTORY OF THIS LOVELY SERENITY GARDEN**

2018 Gardening Opportunities

**DATES FOR WORK DAYS IN BOTH GARDENS
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Cherokee – Fridays:

May 25 – Opening Day and Lunch

June 8 & 22, July 13 & 27, August 10 & 24, September 7 & 21

Serenity – Wednesdays:

May 30 – Opening Day and Lunch

June 13 & 27, July 18, August 15 & 29, September 12 & 26

And now... time to work in our personal gardens too!
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.





Sweet Alyssum

Sweet alyssum is an old-fashioned annual that holds its own in a part shade spot, opening tiny, dainty white blooms with a sweet fragrance. Snow Princess (shown) updates that timeless beauty by giving sweet alyssum an ability to withstand heat and sun. Use Snow Princess in part shade to full sun as a spiller in containers, or count on it as a butterfly-attracting ground cover in beds. Plants grow 4 to 8 inches tall and up to 24 inches wide.



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 Sunpatia 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



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.



Zone 4 Perennials for Shady Areas (Compiled by Kim Watson from HGTV Website)



Astilbe (Astilbe hybrids)

The feathery plumes of astilbe hybrids weave textural color into shade plantings. Look for varieties that unfurl flowers in red, pink, white or lavender. Astilbe blooms in summer. By planting a mix of early-, mid- and late-flowering types, you can savor season-long color. Plants are deer-resistant. Mass them for an easy-care groundcover. Hardy in Zones 4 to 8.

Toad Lily

(*Tricyrtis hirta* 'Miyazaki')

Spotted orchid-like blooms appear late summer to early fall. Tuck toad lily into part to full shade, but reserve it for places you can view the blooms up close. Flowers are small enough that the plants can be lost in a large border. The 'Miyazaki' hybrids' don't spread aggressively like some toad lilies do. Hardy in Zones 4 to 8.





**'Sweet Kate' Spiderwort
(Tradescantia 'Sweet Kate')**

Chartreuse leaves and violet blossoms make a striking pair in part shade. The gold foliage turns on the light in shady gardens. Plants flower from spring to fall frost. Also look for spiderworts that open white or pink blossoms. To keep this low-care perennial in tip-top shape, cut plants back to soil level to encourage fresh growth. Hardy in Zones 3 to 10.

**Lenten Rose
(Helleborus orientalis)**

Kick off the garden season with the very early flowers of Lenten rose. Rose-like blooms open beneath leathery leaves in late winter and early spring. The evergreen leaves are deer-resistant and provide a deep green presence through winter. Look for hybrids that open flowers in every hue imaginable, including deep purple-black, pale pink and chartreuse. Hardy in zones 4 to 10.





**'Jack Frost' Heart-leaf
Brunnera
(*Brunnera macrophylla* 'Jack
Frost')**

Tiny blue-purple blooms appear in spring above the variegated leaves of 'Jack Frost' heart-leaf brunnera. The flowers complement the silvery leaves beautifully. This perennial adds striking color to gardens in part shade. Fuzzy leaves are slug- and deer-resistant. Hardy in Zones 3 to 10.

**Bluebird' Columbine
(*Aquilegia* 'Bluebird')**

'Bluebird' columbine is a hybrid of the native wildflower. The flowers on this hybrid face up and have long spurs. Columbine is a hummingbird favorite, while deer and rabbits leave it alone. Give it a spot in partial shade or in a woodland garden with soil rich in organic matter. Hardy in Zones 3 to 9.





Hosta (Hosta)

Most gardeners choose shade-loving hostas for their colorful leaves, but many of these leafy beauties also offer eye-catching flower spikes. *Hosta plantaginea* and its hybrids open fragrant flowers that can perfume a summer evening. Give hostas soil enriched with organic matter in part to full shade. Hardy in Zones 3 to 9.

Bressingham Purple Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium* 'Polbress')

Jacob's ladder brings fine-textured beauty to shade garden plantings. This perennial is native to North America and typically found in part to full shade settings. Light blue, white or deep purple blossoms open in spring. The common name refers to the fact that leaves are arranged along stems like rungs on a ladder. Look for variegated leaf hybrids for color after flowers fade. Plants are hardy in Zones 3 to 8.



THE END