

SummerWinds Nursery *Dry Shade Gardens*



We know that it can be challenging to find plants that grow in dry, shady areas of your garden and landscape.

What does dry shade mean? Dry shade means a garden without direct sunlight, and with light that rarely reaches the ground. This includes areas in your garden that are located under eaves, covered porches, balconies, or even under the canopies of large evergreens or established California native oak trees.

Challenges posed by California native oak trees: California native oak trees are very sensitive to over-watering. They usually don't require irrigation—even during dry California months. In addition, native oaks should not be watered within their driplines, and sprinklers that throw water against the oak's trunks should be avoided.

Bone dry soil: If you have soil that's bone dry, it's primarily due to the limited amount of rainfall that's able to penetrate the dense mass of the tree's canopy. Plus, the tree's thirsty and extensive system of feeder roots soak up all available water.

Some ways you can alleviate the above pre-existing conditions:

- * Most trees can be limbed up a bit or the canopy can be selectively thinned to let in more light.
- * Conifers can handle the careful pruning of smaller branches (less than 2" in width).
- * If your soil is dry, you can always provide additional water.
- * Never remove more than a fifth of the foliage of any tree during one calendar year.
- * The thinning of branches on large trees is a job best left to an ISA certified arborist.

The plants on the following page were selected based on their low water requirements (once established). Below are some additional guidelines that will encourage their successful growth.

Water: All young plants need irrigation to get established. This could take one or more growing seasons depending on the plant. A drip irrigation system is easy to install and adjust the water output of, as the plant's root system matures.

Soil: Hard, dry soil may need to be amended to let water and air pass through to the plant's roots. Soil can be amended with SummerWinds Planting Mix or other types of organic matter.

Speak with one of our Trusted Garden Advisors for advice about your specific landscape challenges.

Dry Shade Gardens Plant List

Perennials	Shrubs
Acanthus mollis – bear’s breeches, sea dock, bearsfoot, oyster plant	Arctostaphylos manzanita – common manzanita, whiteleaf manzanita
Aeonium spp. – Aeonium	Berberis japonica – Mahonia japonica
Aspidistra elatior – Cast Iron Plant	Carpenteria californica – Bush Anemone
Begonia grandis – hardy begonia	Ceanothus – California Lilac
Bergenia cordifolia – Pigsqueak, heartleaf bergenia	Cistus spp. – rockrose
Dianella – Flax lily	Correa – the Australian fuchsia
Digitalis Purpurea – Common Foxglove	Cotoneaster
Digitalis ‘Illumination Flame’ – Illumination Foxglove	Fatsia japonica – glossy-leaf paper plant, fatsi, paperplant, false castor oil plant, Japanese aralia
Echeveria spp. – Echeveria	Heteromeles arbutifolia – Toyon
Epimedium x versicolor ‘Sulphureum’ – bishop’s hat, barrenwort ‘Sulphureum’	Hydrangea quercifolia – oak leaf hydrangea
Fragaria vesca – wild strawberry, woodland strawberry, Alpine strawberry, Carpathian strawberry, European strawberry, fraisier des bois	Hypericum calycinum – St. John’s Wort
Geranium incanum – Carpet Geranium	Juniperus spp. – Juniper
Hakonechloa macra – Japanese Forest Grass, Hakone Grass	Kerria japonica – Japanese kerria
Heliotropium arborescens – Heliotrope	Loropetalum chinense – Chinese fringe flower
Heuchera maxima – Island Alum Root	Mimulus aurantiacus – Sticky Monkey Flower, Bush Monkey Flower, Orange Bush Monkey Flower
Hostas – Plantain Lilies	Osmanthus heterophyllus ‘Goshiki’ – Goshiki False Holly
Muhlenbergia rigens – Deer Grass	Osmanthus heterophyllus ‘Sasaba’ – common names Holly Olive and False Holly
Nepeta – Catmint	Pyracantha – Firethorn
Nephrolepis cordifolia – Southern Sword Fern	Rhus integrifolia – lemonade sumac, lemonade berry, lemonadeberry
Oenothera biennis – Common Evening Primrose	Ribes spp. – gooseberries
Polystichum munitum – Western Sword Fern	Romneya coulteri – Coulter’s Matilija poppy
Sedum spp. – Stonecrops	Rosmarinus officinalis – Rosemary
	Sarcococca spp. – Sweet Box



Campbell - 2460 S. Winchester Blvd. | (408) 866-0171
 Cupertino - 1491 S. De Anza Blvd. | (408) 996-8355
 Palo Alto - 725 San Antonio Road | (650) 493-5136