

## SELECTED HARDY, SHADE-TOLERANT PLANTS FOR ANCHORAGE

Compiled by: Sally Arant

Degree of shade tolerance is indicated by: 1 – light shade, 2 – medium shade, 3 – dense shade.  
Alaska native plants are indicated with \*

### SHRUBS

Shade Tolerance	Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Zone
1,2	<i>Acer ginnala</i> “Bailey’s Compact”	Amur Maple	6 ft. +	3
1,2	<i>Acer pseudosieboldianum</i>	Korean Maple	6 ft. +	3
1	<i>Amelanchier</i> “Regent”	Regent Serviceberry	4-6 ft.	2
1	<i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	Glossy Black Chokeberry	4-6 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Redtwig Dogwood	6-10 ft.	2
1,2	<i>Cotoneaster acutrifolia</i>	Peking Cotoneaster	6-8 ft.	2
1	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	4-8 ft.	2
1,2	<i>Rhododendron</i> – many	Northern Lights Rhodo.	3-4 ft.	4
1,2,3	<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Alpine Currant	3-5 ft.	2
1,2	<i>Rubus odoratus</i>	Flowering Raspberry	5-6 ft.	4
1,2,3	<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	Ashleaf Spirea	5-8 ft.	2
1,2	<i>Spirea japonica</i> “Little Princess”	Spirea	2 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Spirea trilobata</i> “Fairy Queen”	Spirea	3 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Viburnum trilobum</i> “Bailey’s Compact”		5-6 ft.	2

### TALL GROWING PERENNIALS

Shade Tolerance	Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Zone
1,2,3	<i>Aconitum</i> – many	Monkshood	2-4 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Aruncus dioicus</i> *	Goatsbeard	3-5 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Astrantia</i>	Masterwort	2-3 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Cimicifuga</i>	Bugbane	4-6 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Delphinium</i>	Delphinium	3-6 ft.	3
1,2,3	<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	Bleeding Heart	2-4 ft.	2
1,2,3	<i>Ligularia</i> – many	Ligularia	3-6 ft.	4
1	<i>Macleaya cordata</i>	Plume Poppy	5-8 ft.	4
1,2,3	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i> *	Ostrich Fern	3-5 ft.	2
1	<i>Meconopsis grandis</i>	Him. Blue Poppy	3-4 ft.	3
1,2,3	<i>Polygonatum</i> – many	Solomon’s Seal	2-4 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Primula florindae</i>	Tibetan Cowslip	3 ft.	4
1,2,3	<i>Streptopus amplexifolius</i> *	Watermelon Berry	3-4 ft.	2
1,2	<i>Thalictrum dipterocarpum</i>	Meadow Rue	3-4 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Thalictrum polygamum</i>	Swamp Meadow Rue	4-6 ft.	4

1,2	<i>Thalictrum rochebrunianum</i>	Meadow Rue	4-5 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	Globeflower	2-3 ft.	4

### MEDIUM GROWING PERENNIALS

Shade Tolerance	Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Zone
1,2	<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle	1-2 ft.	3
1	<i>Anemone sylvestris</i>	Snowdrop Anemone	1 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Aquilegia</i> – many	Columbine	1-3 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Aruncus</i> “Kneffii”	Kneffii Goatsbeard	2-3 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Astilbe</i> – many	Astilbe	2-3 ft.	4
1	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	1 ½ - 2 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Dicentra eximea</i>	Dwarf Bleeding Heart	1 ½ - 2 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Digitalis grandiflorum</i>	Yellow Foxglove	1 ½ - 2 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Disporum maculatum</i>	Fairy Bells	2 ft.	5
1,2	<i>Doronicum</i>	Leopard's Bane	1-2 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Epimedium</i> —many	Epimedium	6-24 inc.	4
1,2,3	Ferns – many	Ferns	1-2 ft.	2-4
1,2	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Queen of the Meadow	1-3 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	Bigroot Geranium	1-2 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Mourning Widow	2 ft.	4
1	<i>Heuchera</i> – many	Coral Bells	1-2 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Hosta</i> – many	Hosta	1-2 ft.	3
1	<i>Lilium</i>	Asiatic Lily	1-3 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Lysimachia punctata</i>	Yellow Loosestrife	2-3 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Meconopsis cambricum</i>	Welsh Popy	1-2 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	Virginia Bluebells	1-2 ft.	3
1	<i>Polemonium</i> – many	Jacob's Ladder	1-3 ft.	3
1,2	<i>Primula</i> – many	Primrose	1-3 ft.	2-4
1,2,3	<i>Pulmonaria</i> – many	Lungwort	6-18 in.	3
1,2,3	<i>Smilacina racemosa</i>	False Solomon's Seal	2 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i>	Columbine Meadow Rue	2-3 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Uvalaria grandiflora</i>	Merry Bells	1 ft.	4

### LOW-GROWING PERENNIALS, GROUNDCOVERS AND WILDFLOWERS

Shade Tolerance	Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Zone
1,2	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugleweed	3-6 in.	4
1,2	<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i>	Rue Anemone	4 in.	4
1	<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-Pulpit	12 in.	4
1,2	<i>Aruncus aethusifolius</i>	Dwarf Goatsbeard	6-12 in.	4
1,2	<i>Asarum canadensis</i>	Canadian Wild Ginger	3 in.	3

1	<i>Astilbe simplicifolia</i>	Dwarf Astilbe	8-12 in.	4
1,2,3	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	Bergenia	6-12 in.	3
1,2	<i>Chrysanthemum parthenium</i> "Aureum"	Golden Feverfew	8 in.	4
1,2	<i>Claytonia</i> *	Spring Beauty	4-12 in.	4
1,2,3	<i>Cornus canadensis</i> *	Dwarf Dogwood	3-6 in.	2
1	<i>Corydalis</i>	Corydalis	6-12 in.	4
1	<i>Cypripedium calceolus</i>	Yellow Lady's Slipper	8-12 in.	4
1,2	<i>Cypripedium guttatum</i> *	Spotted Lady's Slipper	4-6 in.	3
1,2	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	Dutchman's Breeches	4 in.	4
1	<i>Dodecatheon</i> – many*	Shooting Star	4-12 in.	4
1,2	<i>Gallium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	4-6 in.	5
1	<i>Gentiana</i>	Gentian	4-12 in.	4
1	<i>Geranium</i> "Biokovo"	Biokovo Geranium	4-6 in.	4
1	<i>Geranium orientaltibeticum</i>	Geranium	4 in.	4
1,2	<i>Hepatica acutiloba</i>	Hepatica	3 in.	4
1,2	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	Hairy Alumroot	12 in.	4
1,2	<i>Heuchera glabra</i> *	Native Coralbells	12 in.	3
1,2,3	<i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>	Yellow Archangel	4-6 in.	4
1,2,3	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead Nettle	4-8 in.	4
1,2	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Creeping Jenny	1-2 in.	4
1,2,3	<i>Mitella diphylla</i>	Bishop's Cap	12 in.	4
1,2	<i>Myosotis</i>	Forget-me-not	4-12 in.	4
1,2	<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	Creeping Phlox	6 in.	4
1,2	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Mayapple	12 in.	5
1,2,3	<i>Polygonatum humile</i>	Japanese Solomon's Seal	8 in.	4
1,2	<i>Primula</i> – many	Primrose	3-12 in.	3-5
1	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	Bloodroot	6 in.	4
1,2	<i>Saxifragia urbium nanum</i>	Dw. London Pride Sax.	2 in.	4
1,2,3	<i>Smilacina stellata</i>	Star Bead	6 in.	4
1,2,3	<i>Tellima grandiflora</i>	False Alumroot	18 in.	4
1,2	<i>Thalictrum kiusianum</i>	Meadow Rue	6 in.	4
1,2,3	<i>Thalictrum ichengense</i>	Meadow Rue	3 in.	4
1,2	<i>Thalictrum isopyroides</i>	Meadow Rue	12-18 in.	4
1,2,3	<i>Tiarella</i> – many	Foamflower	12 in.	4
1,2	<i>Trientalis borealis</i> *	Starflower	4 in.	3
1,2	<i>Trillium</i> – many	Wakerobin, Trillium	2-18 in.	4
1	<i>Veronica grandiflora</i>	Aleutian Speedwell	4 in.	3
1,2	<i>Viola</i> – many	Violet	2-8 in.	3-5

## GRASSES

Shade Tolerance	Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Zone
1	<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Yellow Foxtail Grass	2 ft.	4

	“Aureus”			
1	<i>Arrhenatherum elatius bulbosum</i>	Bulbous Oat Grass	2-3 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Carex gmellini*</i>	Native Sedge	2-3 ft.	4
1	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	Palm Branch Sedge	2-3 ft.	4
1	<i>Glyceria maxima</i> “Variegata”	Variegated Manna Grass	3 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Luzula nivea</i>	Snowy Woodrush	2 ft.	4
1,2	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i> “Picta”	Ribbon Grass	3 ft.	3

Bulbs (or bulb-like plants) Spring sun, summer shade

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	English Anemone
<i>Chionodoxa</i>	Glory-of-the-Snow
<i>Convallaria</i>	Lily-of-the-Valley
<i>Erythronium</i>	Trout Lily
<i>Fritillaria camschatcensis</i>	Chocolate Lily
<i>Narcissus</i>	Daffodil – dwarf
<i>Puschkinia</i>	Lebanon Squill
<i>Scilla siberica</i>	Siberian Squill