



Horticulture Diagnostic Laboratory

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**Cornell
Cooperative
Extension**
Suffolk County

Woody Plants for Shady Places

Woody Plants Tolerating Shade and Acid Soil

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (in feet)
<i>Amelanchier</i> spp.	Shadbush	varies w/species
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	American Cyrilla	10-15+
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	February Daphne	3-5
<i>Enkianthus</i> spp.	Red-vein Enkianthus	varies w/species
(E) <i>Ilex</i> spp	Evergreen and Deciduous Holly	varies w/species
(E) <i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel	7-15+
(E) <i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	Drooping Leucothoe	3-5
(E) <i>Pieris floribunda</i>	Mountain Andromeda	2-6
(E) <i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Evergreen and Deciduous Azaleas	varies w/species
(E) <i>Rhododendron carolinianum</i>	Carolina Rhododendron	3-5
(E) <i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba Rhododendron	6-10+
(E) <i>Rhododendron maximum</i>	Rosebay Rhododendron	4-15+
(E) <i>Skimmia japonica</i>	Skimmia	3-4+
<i>Vaccinium angustifolium laevifolium</i>	Lowbush Blueberry	½ - 2
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry	6-12

Woody Plants Tolerating Shade and Dry Soil

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (in feet)
<i>Acanthopanax Sieboldianus</i>	Five Leaf Aralia	8-10
<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>	Japanese Barberry	3-6
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sweet Fern	2-4
<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Gray Dogwood	10-15
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i>	Gravelweed	dwarf
(E) <i>Gaylussacia brachycera</i>	Box Huckleberry	½ - 1 1/2
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Common Witch Hazel	20-30
<i>Hypericum calycinum</i>	St. John's Wort	1-1 1/2
<i>Hypericum prolificum</i>	Shrubby St. John's-Wort	1-5
<i>Ligustrum</i> spp.	Privet	varies w/species
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry	5-12
<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Ninebark	5-9
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Common Buckthorn	18-25
<i>Rhodotypos scandens</i>	Jetbead	3-6
<i>Ribes alpinum</i>	Alpine Currant	3-10
<i>Symphoricarpos orbiculatus</i>	Coralberry	2-5
<i>Vaccinium pallidum</i>	Dry Blueberry	3
<i>Viburnum lentago</i>	Nannyberry	15-18+

Woody Plants Tolerating Shade and Wet Soil

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (in feet)
(E) <i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog Rosemary	1-2
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Chokeberry	6-10
<i>Calycanthus floridus</i>	Carolina Allspice	6-9
<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>	Summersweet	3-8
<i>Comptonia peregrina</i>	Sweet Fern	2-4
<i>Cornus alba</i>	Tartarian Dogwood	8-10
<i>Cornus sericea</i>	Red-osier Dogwood	7-9
<i>Cornus sericea</i> 'Flaviramea'	Goldentwig Dogwood	7-9
<i>Cyrilla racemiflora</i>	American Cyrilla	10-15+
(E) <i>Ilex glabra</i>	Inkberry	6-8 varies
<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Winterberry	6-10+
(E) <i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	Mountain Laurel	7-15+
(E) <i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	Drooping Leucothoe	3-5
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Spicebush	6-12
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay Magnolia	10-20
<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	Bayberry	5-12
<i>Rhododendron arborescens</i>	Sweet Azalea	8-20
<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>	Flame Azalea	4-15 varies
<i>Rhododendron canadense</i>	Mountain Azalea	3-4
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i> (<i>R. nudiflorum</i>)	Pinxter-flower	4-6 varies
<i>Rhododendron vaseyi</i>	Pinkshell Azalea	5-10
<i>Rhododendron viscosum</i>	Swamp Azalea	1-8
<i>Sambucus pubens</i>	Scarlet Elder	12-25
(E) <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	American Arborvitae	40-60
<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Highbush Blueberry	6-12
<i>Viburnum dentatum</i>	Arrowwood	6-15
<i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i>	Yellowroot	2-3

Woody Vines Tolerating Shade and Normal Soil

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (in feet)
<i>Akebia quinata</i>	Five-leaf Akebia	20-40
<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>	Oriental Bittersweet	30-40
<i>Celastrus scandens</i>	American Bittersweet	20+
<i>Clematis dioscoreifolia</i> var. <i>robusta</i>	Sweet Autumn Clematis	tall
(E) <i>Euonymus Fortunei</i> vars. and cultivars	Wintercreeper	varies w/type
(E) <i>Hedera helix</i>	English Ivy	90
<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> subsp. <i>petiolaris</i>	Climbing Hydrangea	60-80
<i>Lonicera japonica</i> 'Halliana'	Hall's Honeysuckle	15-30
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i>	Virginia Creeper	30-50+
<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>	Boston Ivy	30-50+

Woody Ground Covers Tolerating Shade and Normal Soil

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (in feet)
(E) <i>Euonymus fortunei</i> vars. and cultivars	Wintercreeper	varies w/type
(E) <i>Mahonia repens</i>	Creeping Hollygrape	1
(E) <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese Spurge	1/2-1
(E) <i>Paxistima canbyi</i>	Canby Pachistima	1
(E) <i>Sarcococca hookerana</i>	Himalayan Sarcococca	4-6
(E) <i>Vinca minor</i>	Common Periwinkle	1/4-1/2
<i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i>	Yellowroot	2-3

Woody Shrubs Tolerating Shade and Normal Soils

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (in feet)
<i>Abelia x grandiflora</i>	Glossy Abelia	3-6
<i>Acanthopanax sieboldianus</i>	Five-leaf Aralia	8-10
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i>	Downy Shadblow	6-20
<i>Aronia arbutifolia</i>	Red Chokeberry	6-10
(E) <i>Aucuba japonica</i>	Japanese Aucuba	6-10+
(E) <i>Berberis x chenaultii</i>	Chenault Barberry	3-4
(E) <i>Berberis julianae</i>	Wintergreen Chokeberry	6-8
(E) <i>Berberis triacanthophora</i>	Threespine Barberry	3-5
(E) <i>Berberis verruculosa</i>	Warty Barberry	3-6
(E) <i>Buxus microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i>	Japanese Box	3-6
(E) <i>Buxus sempervirens</i>	Common Box	15-20
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Flowering Quince	6-10 varies
<i>Corylopsis</i> spp.	Winterhazel	varies w/species
(E) <i>Cotoneaster salicifolius floccosus</i>	Willowleaf Cotoneaster	10-15
<i>Deutzia gracilis</i>	Slender Deutzia	2-6
<i>Enkianthus campanulatus</i>	Red-vein Enkianthus	15-30
<i>Euonymus alata</i>	Winged Euonymus	15-20
<i>Fothergilla</i> spp.		varies w/species
<i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>	Vernal Witch Hazel	6-10+
<i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Grandiflora'	Snowhill Hydrangea	3-5
<i>Hydrangea quercifolia</i>	Oakleaf Hydrangea	4-6+
(E) <i>Ilex cornuta</i>	Chinese Holly	8-10+
(E) <i>Ilex crenata</i> 'Microphylla'	Littleleaf Japanese Holly	5-10+ or a small tree
<i>Kerria japonica</i>	Kerria	3-6
(E) <i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>	Drooping Luecothoe	3-5
<i>Ligustrum amurense</i>	Amur Privet	12-15
<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Glossy Privet	20-25
<i>Ligustrum obtusifolium regelianum</i>	Regal Privet	4-5
<i>Lonicera fragrantissima</i>	Winter Honeysuckle	6-10+
<i>Lonicera morrowii</i>	Morrow Honeysuckle	6-8
<i>Lonicera tatarica</i>	Tatarian Honeysuckle	10-12
(E) <i>Mahonia aquifolium</i>	Oregon Hollygrape	3-6+
(E) <i>Mahonia bealei</i>	Leatherleaf Mahonia	10-12
(E) <i>Osmanthus heterophyllus</i>	Holly Osmanthus	8-10+
<i>Philadelphus coronarius</i>	Sweet Mockorange	10-12
(E) <i>Pieris floribunda</i>	Mountain Andromeda	2-6
(E) <i>Pieris japonica</i>	Japanese Andromeda	9-12
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil	1-4
(E) <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i>	Cherry Laurel	10-18
(E) <i>Pyracantha coccinea</i> 'Lalandei'	Laland Firethorn	1/2-1 1/2
<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	False Spiraea	5-10
<i>Spiraea thunbergii</i>	Spiraea, Bridal-Wreath	3-5
<i>Stephanandra incisa</i>	Cutleaf Stephanandra	4-7
<i>Symphoricarpos albus</i> var. <i>laevigatus</i>	Snowberry	6
(E) <i>Taxus baccata</i> 'Repandens'	Spreading English Yew	2-4
(E) <i>Taxus canadensis</i>	American Yew	3-6
(E) <i>Taxus cuspidata</i>	Japanese Yew	10-40+ can be sheared
(E) <i>Taxus x media</i> 'Hicksii'	Hicks Yew	20
<i>Viburnum acerifolium</i>	Mapleleaf Viburnum	4-6

Woody Shrubs Tolerating Shade and Normal Soils (continued from previous page)

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (in feet)
<i>Viburnum dilatatum</i>	Linden Viburnum	8-10
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	European Cranberrybush	8-12+
(E) <i>Viburnum rhytidophyllum</i>	Leatherleaf Viburnum	10-15

Woody Trees Tolerating Shade and Normal Soils

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height (in feet)
<i>Acer pensylvanicum</i>	Striped Maple	15-20+
<i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	Allegheny Shadblow	15-25+
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	American Redbud	20-30
(E) <i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i>	Hinoki Falsecypress	50-75
<i>Clethra barbinervis</i>		18
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i>	Pagoda Dogwood	15-25
<i>Cornus florida</i>	Flowering Dogwood	20-40 varies
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian Cherry	20-25
<i>Hamamelis mollis</i>	Chinese Witch Hazel	10-15+
(E) <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	English Holly	30-50+
(E) <i>Ilex opaca</i>	American Holly	15-30+
<i>Magnolia virginiana</i>	Sweetbay	10-20
<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>	Sourwood	25-30+
<i>Prunus pensylvanica</i>	Pin Cherry	25-40
(E) <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	American Arborvitae	40-60
(E) <i>Thuja plicata</i>	Giant Arborvitae	50-70+
(E) <i>Tsuga</i> spp.	Hemlock	varies w/species
<i>Viburnum prunifolium</i>	Blackhaw	12-30

(E) = Evergreen.

Reprinted from: *Woody Plants for Shady Places*, Leaflet D-1-7-A, Cornell Cooperative Extension - Nassau County, 1981.

The botanical and common names used in this list are written and spelled according to *Hortus Third, A concise Dictionary of Plants Cultivated in the United States and Canada*, 1976.

Plant heights listed for the most part were obtained from *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, Third Edition, by Michael A. Dirr, 1983.

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