

Dry Shade Perennials



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- ❑ **Barrenwort** (*Epimedium* spp.) - Fairy wings (*Epimedium grandiflorum*, USDA Hardiness Zones 5-7) with red-lilac flowers, 'Orange Queen' (*Epimedium x warleyense* 'Orangekönigen', Zones 5-9) with orange flowers, and 'Sulphureum' (*Epimedium x versicolor* 'Sulphureum', Zones 5-9), my favorite, with yellow flowers. The red-flowered bishop's hat (*Epimedium x rubrum*, Zones 5-9) is another reliable variety that also boasts reddish-tinged foliage.
- ❑ **Lenten rose and Christmas rose** (*Helleborus orientalis*, Zones 6-9, and *Helleborus niger*, Zones 3-8) are among the earliest bloomers with the Christmas rose blooming a little earlier than Lenten.
- ❑ **Bigroot Geranium** (*Geranium macrorrhizum*, Zones 3-8), which is a mounding plant that flowers from spring to fall and has large, water-holding roots to help it ward off dry spells. 'Elke' has bright pink flowers edged and centered with white.
- ❑ **Japanese Anemones** (*Anemone x hybrida*, Zones 4-8) are one of my favorite dry shade flowers. Some excellent varieties are the white-flowered 'Honore Jobert', double, dark-pink-flowered 'Bressingham Glow', and double, pink 'Margarete'.
- ❑ **Virginia Anemone** (*A. virginiana*, Zones 3-8) under my silver maple, and it thrives in the dry shade there.
- ❑ **Lungworts** (*Pulmonaria* spp.) are low growing plants that are grown for their spotted leaves, as well as their pinkish and violet-blue flowers. Look for 'Raspberry Splash' with intense pink flowers and dotted leaves, 'Silver Bouquet' with silver leaves and rose and blue flowers or 'Bertram Anderson' with silver blotched leaves and glowing blue blooms.
- ❑ **Italian Arum** (*Arum italicum*, Zones 5-9) forms an interesting clump of attractive leaves that withstand drought. It is a beautiful plant whose insubstantial flowers develop bright orange-red fruits late in the season.
- ❑ **Christmas Fern** (*Polystichum acrostichoides*, Zones 4-9) dots the dry woods in our region and also makes an outstanding fern that will grow well in dry, shaded gardens.

Evergreen European Wild Ginger (*Asarum europeum*, Zones 4-7) is another good foliage plant that will take dry periods in summer and continues to look pretty all season with its glossy, heart-shaped leaves.

Complementary Black Gold® Amendments

Black Gold Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss