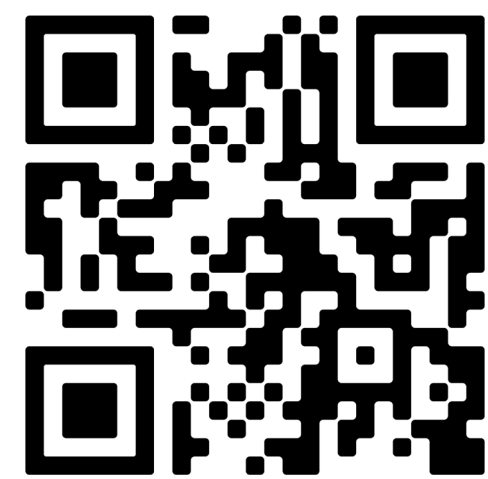


# TOP 10

## SUSTAINABLE PLANTS FOR SHADE

SELECTED BY PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS



**These plants are excellent choices for your home garden landscape.** They are non-invasive, are resistant to disease and insects which eliminates the need to use pesticides, and require little or no watering or fertilization once established.

### PERENNIALS



Photo © Mark Pellegrini

#### Foam Flower

(*Tiarella cordifolia*)

A perennial with wide, heart-shaped leaves, foam flower spreads rapidly to form a carpeting ground cover. Leaves are green with burgundy-stained veins, and the foliage turns bronze-red in fall. In spring, pyramidal panicles of starry, creamy white flowers emerge. Plant in moist, humus-rich soil, in part to full shade.



Photo © Paul g. Wiegman

#### Turtlehead

(*Chelone* species)

White turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*) is the perfect southwestern PA native perennial for a shady, wet spot. Its white, turtlehead-shaped flowers appear from August through October. Turtlehead slowly spreads by rhizomes and grows to a height of 2 – 3 feet providing an important food source to Baltimore checkerspot larvae. Pink turtlehead (*Chelone lyonii*) is a pink blooming variety native to southeastern US.



Photo © Dominicus Johannes

#### Hellebore

(*Helleborus* species)

Hellebores are wonderful additions to a shady garden, growing best in part sun to shade and preferring moist, well-drained soils. A joy for any garden as the flowers bloom in late winter to early spring and the deep green, large, leathery leaves are present all year round. Growing to a height and width of 1 to 2 feet, hellebores attract bees but are deer, rabbit, drought and salt tolerant! Perfect for a shady border or ground cover.

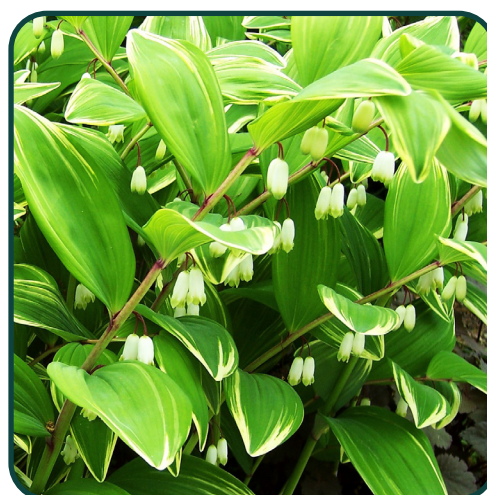


Photo © Phillip Merritt

#### Variegated Fragrant Solomon's Seal

(*Polygonatum odoratum* 'Variegatum')

This hardy, herbaceous perennial grows in clumps that slowly spread. In spring, arched stems support elegant, medium-green leaves with streaked white edges. Bell-like white flowers bloom in May and June, followed by spherical black fruits and yellow foliage in fall. Plant in fertile, moist, well-drained soil. Prefers part to full shade.



Photo © David J. Stang

#### Sedge

(*Carex* species)

Sedges are grass-like plants of the genus *Carex*. They are great in the border or as ground covers and grow in variable soils and sunlight, depending on the species. Recommended species native to western Pennsylvania are eastern-narrow leaved sedge (*Carex amphibola*), palm sedge (*Carex muskingumensis*) and plantain-leaf sedge (*Carex plantaginea*).



Photo © Nicholas A. Tonelli

#### Virginia Bluebells

(*Mertensia virginica*)

A spring ephemeral, this early-blooming perennial has clusters of pink buds opening to light blue, trumpet-shaped flowers on upright plants in March or April. This southwestern PA native, deer-resistant plant is spectacular in mass plantings, but the foliage dies back by mid-summer so plant with something that can cover the ground when they disappear, like ferns or Solomon's seal. It grows best in light shade and moist soil.



#### Sweet Woodruff

(*Galium odoratum*)

Sweet woodruff is a terrific deciduous, perennial groundcover for shade or part shade. It forms a thick mat of bright green foliage in tiered whorls about 4 inches tall, topped by dainty white flowers in late May and early June. Sweet woodruff makes a great groundcover around trees and shrubs in rich, loamy soil. It is deer resistant.



Photo © Agnieszka Kwiecien, Nova

#### Wild Geranium

(*Geranium maculatum*)

Wild geraniums are great for shade gardens and wooded slopes. They prefer moist, rich soils and grow in part to full shade. They bloom in spring to summer with pink to purple 5 petal flowers that attract native bees. Birds enjoy the seeds of wild geranium. They grow up to 3 feet tall and can form nice ground cover.

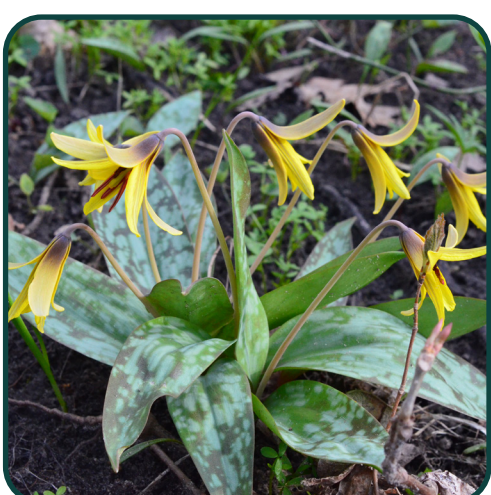


Photo © Mttswa

#### Trout Lily

(*Erythronium americanum*)

Trout lily is a lovely native spring ephemeral, soaking up the sun in early spring and blooming before deciduous trees have leafed out. Planted in full to part shade under deciduous trees, trout lilies burst back to life each spring, spreading and forming colonies up to 8 inches tall and will go dormant in mid-summer. The delicate yellow flower blooms from March to May with distinct silvery green mottled leaves in moist, rich soils.



Photo © Michael Wolf

#### Wild Ginger

(*Asarum canadense*)

Wild ginger is native to southwestern Pennsylvania and the eastern United States and grow in average to wet soils. This slow spreading ground cover has heart shaped leaves and small, usually hidden maroon flowers that grow low to the ground. They do well in partial sun to shade and can spread roughly 6 to 8 inches in all directions each year, easily filling in and brightening up the shade garden understory.

For more information, visit Phipps online at [phipps.conservatory.org/sustainable](http://phipps.conservatory.org/sustainable)