

# Shade Garden Sun & Plant Guide

Map your shifting light and choose the perfect woodland plants.

Turn a struggling dark corner into a lush summer retreat. By tracking your exact light, you will confidently place every fern and hosta where it naturally thrives.

## ● Bed Prep & Planting Specs

**8 ft**

Lift deciduous tree canopy for light

**2 in**

Starter plugs & mowed leaf mulch

**12 in**

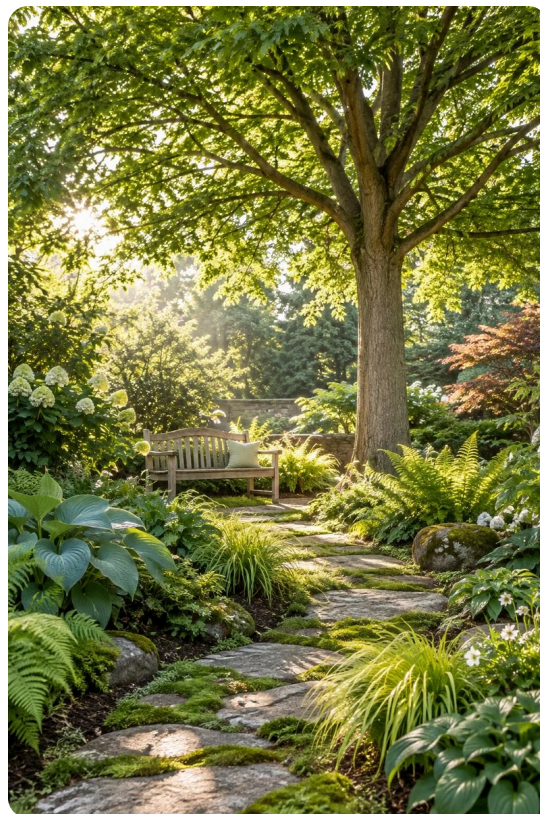
Minimum distance from vulnerable trunk flare

**5.0-5.5**

Soil pH for a moss lawn

**3 weeks**

Mist new moss daily to establish



## ● Photo the Bed Hourly

- 1 Set a recurring alarm** Program your phone from 9 AM to 4 PM to never miss a light measurement.
- 2 Stand in exact spot** Pick a fixed vantage point to ensure your hourly shadow lines align perfectly for comparison.
- 3 Log dappled patches** Tally direct, dappled, and deep shade to create a definitive map of your microclimates.
- 4 Note moisture levels** Physically touch the soil to determine if it is dry under a canopy or moist.
- 5 Identify hottest exposure** Watch for harsh direct sunlight between 2 PM and 4 PM that scorches delicate plants.

### *Protect Mature Trees*

*Never chop through thick anchor roots. Slip tiny plugs into natural soil pockets to protect your trees and newly planted shade perennials.*

## ● Shade Plant List

Find your row: **Sun & Moisture**

| Sun & Moisture        | Your pick                    | Why                               |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Under 3 hours, dry    | Epimedium, liriopse, sedges  | Handles intense root competition  |
| Under 3 hours, moist  | Ligularia, ostrich ferns     | Thrives in consistently damp soil |
| 3–6 hours, dappled    | Hellebores, hostas, heuchera | Loves filtered, shifting light    |
| 3–6 hours, part shade | Astilbe, bleeding hearts     | Needs cool morning sun only       |

## ● Planting Plugs Under Trees

- Check for natural soil gaps to avoid severing critical feeder roots.
- Verify you are planting directly into the existing natural grade.
- Ensure no heavy topsoil is piled over the mature root zone.
- Confirm the immediate root zone gets diligent watering the first year.

## ● Garden Planning Notes

Enjoy your cool, vibrant woodland retreat this July!