



Favorite Native Plants for Dry Shade

Planting in dry shade is one of the biggest gardening challenges. Irrigation is often used to nurture plants in shade.

But true ecoscaping—creating native landscapes that do not require additional/artificial inputs—requires a thoughtful selection of indigenous plants that can survive in these often challenging conditions.

While the plants listed here may need some watering during extended dry periods, they will hold up well in tough shady spots with dry conditions.

Forbs

Red Baneberry (*Actaea rubra*)
Wild Garlic (*Allium canadense*)
Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)
Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*) — native to Wisconsin and Iowa
Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadense*)
Large-leaved Aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*)
Wild Strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*)
Wild Geranium (*Geranium maculatum*)
Virginia Waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum virginianum*)
False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*)
Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*)
Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*)
Rattlesnake Root (*Prenanthes alba*)
Zigzag Goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*)
Heart-leaved Aster (*Symphyotrichum cordifolium*)
Early Meadowrue (*Thalictrum dioicum*)
Large-flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*)
Bellwort (*Uvularia grandiflora*)

Sedges

Ivory Sedge (*Carex eburnea*)
Pennsylvania Sedge (*Carex pennsylvanica*)
Plantain-leaved Sedge (*Carex plantaginea*)
Sprengel's Sedge (*Carex sprengelii*)

Ferns

Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)
Marginal Wood Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)
Oak Fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*)
Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*)
Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

Shrubs

Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)
Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)
Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
Smooth Wild Rose (*Rosa blanda*)

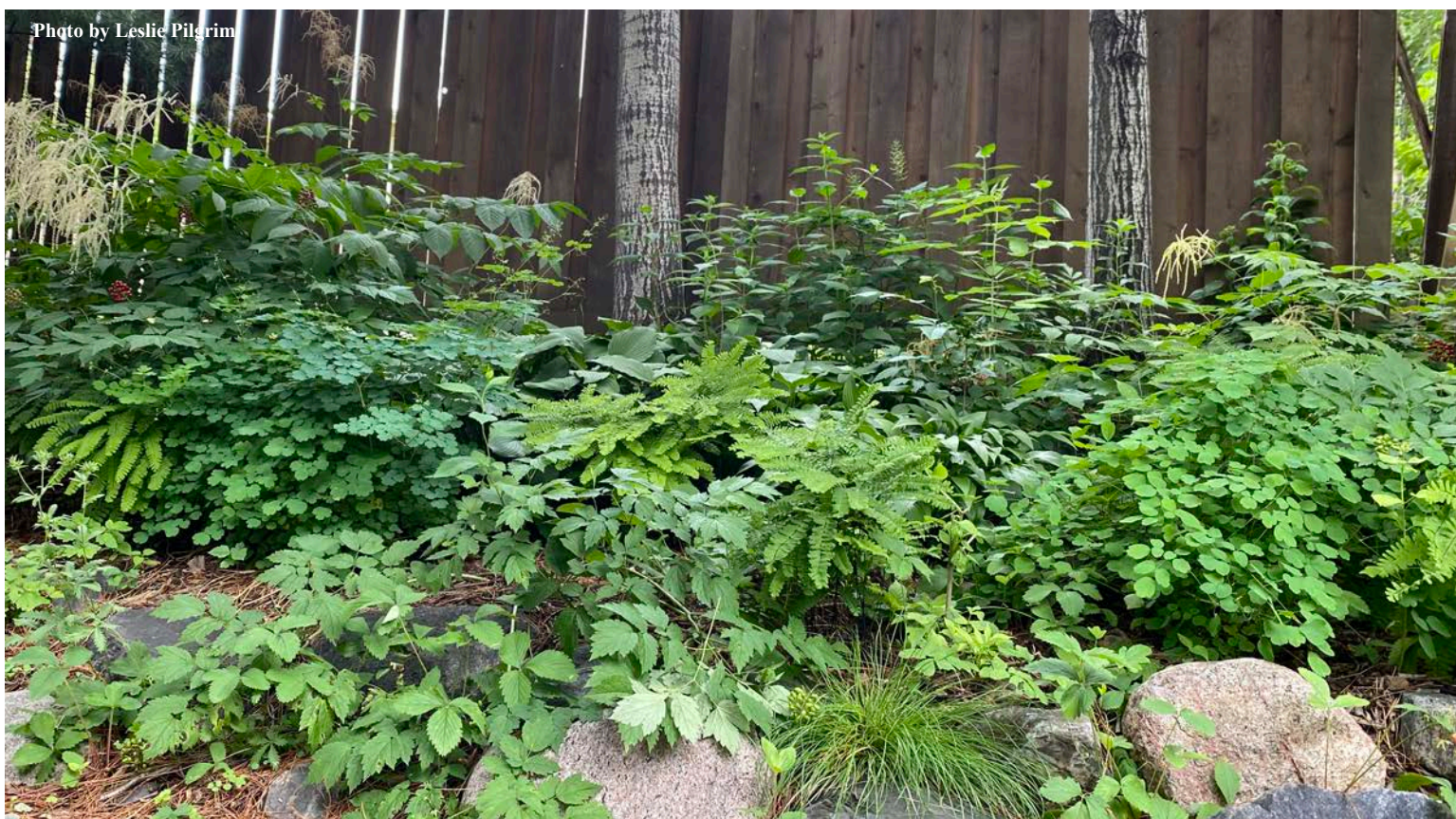


Photo by Leslie Pilgrim