

Color for Shade

in the Valley of the Sun

Common Name	Botanical Name	Plant Type	Planting Season	Showy Season	Comments
Allamanda, Bush	<i>Allamanda schottii</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender.
Aloe	<i>Aloe species</i>	succulent	fall	fall-spr.	A few species bloom in summer.
Alum Root	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	annual	fall	fall-spr.	Colorful foliage.
Angel's Trumpet	<i>Datura metel</i>	perennial	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender.
Azaleas, some kinds	<i>Rhododendron hybrids</i>	shrub	fall	spring	Best in pots. Look for Belgian Indica, Rutherfordiana, or Southern Indica hybrids. A few kinds will produce scattered bloom through fall, as well as the big blast in spring.
Bat Face	<i>Cuphea llavea</i>	perennial	spring	spr.-fall	Attracts hummingbirds. Frost tender.
Bear's Breech	<i>Acanthus mollis</i>	perennial	fall	spring	Nothing showing above ground in the summer.
Begonia, Angelwing	<i>Begonia hybrids</i>	perennial	spring	spr.-fall	Needs fast drainage.
Begonia, Wax	<i>Begonia semperflorens</i>	perennial	year round	year round	Frost tender, and needs fast drainage to survive summer heat.
Blood Flower	<i>Asclepias curassavica</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender, but resprouts easily.
Bloodleaf	<i>Iresine species</i>	annual	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender, but might survive the winter.
Bougainvillea, Variegated	<i>Bougainvillea hybrids</i>	shrub	spring	year round	Showy leaves, esp. 'Raspberry Ice'
Brazilian Plumeflower	<i>Justicia carnea</i>	shrub	spring	sum.-fall	Feed regularly.
Cabuya	<i>Furcraea species</i>	rosette	spring	year round	Some kinds are spiny.
Caladium	<i>Caladium bicolor</i>	bulb	spring	spr.-fall	Showy leaves.
Camellia, Common	<i>Camellia japonica</i>	shrub	fall	fall-spr.*	Needs fast drainage and acid soil: best in containers
Camellia, Sasanqua	<i>Camellia sasanqua</i>	shrub	fall	fall-win.*	More tolerant of alkaline soil than above.
Canna, Variegated	<i>Canna x generalis</i>	bulb	spring	spr.-fall	Showy leaves, occasional blooms.
Carolina Jessamine	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	vine	fall	win.-spr.	Attracts hummingbirds. All parts are poisonous.
Cashmere Bouquet	<i>Clerodendrum bungei</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender. Invasive.
Cestrum, Mexican	<i>Cestrum fasciculatum</i>	shrub	spring	spring	Frost tender. Needs fast drainage.
Cestrum, Orange	<i>Cestrum aurantiacum</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender.
Cigar Plant	<i>Cuphea ignea</i>	perennial	spring	spr.-fall	Attracts hummingbirds. Frost tender.
Cineraria	<i>Senecio x hybrida</i>	annual	fall-winter	win.-spr.	Don't let it dry out.
Coleus	<i>Solenostemon scutellarioides</i>	annual	spring	spr.-fall	
Columbine	<i>Aquilegia species</i>	annual	fall	spr.-sum.	Golden Columbine is a short-lived perennial.
Copper Plant	<i>Euphorbia cotinifolia</i> 'Atropurpurea'	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Colorful foliage.
Crown of Thorns	<i>Euphorbia milii hybrids</i>	shrub	spr.-fall	fall-spr.	Bright light.

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Cyclamen, Florist's	<i>Cyclamen persicum</i>	annual	fall	fall-spr.	May be perennial if kept dry in summer.
Delphinium	<i>Delphinium elatum</i>	annual	fall	spring	May be hard to find in fall. May become perennial in the right microclimate.
Echeveria hybrids	<i>Echeveria hybrids</i>	succulent	fall	year-round	Colorful foliage, but a few have showy flowers. Bright light is essential.
Ficus, Variegated	<i>Ficus benjamina</i> varieties	tree	spring	year-round	Colorful foliage. Cut out solid green branches.
Flowering Maple	<i>Abutilon</i> hybrids	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Subject to whiteflies and spider mites
Foxglove	<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	annual	fall	spring	Watch for aphids in early spring.
Foxglove, Copper	<i>Digitalis x mertonensis</i>	perennial	fall	spring	Short-lived. Watch for aphids.
Hibiscus, some kinds	<i>Hibiscus rosa-sinensis</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Look for 'White Wings', 'Classic Pink', 'Itsy Bitsy White', 'Itsy Bitsy Pink'
Holly Osmanthus, Variegated	<i>Osmanthus heterophyllus</i> 'Variegatus'	shrub	fall	year-round	Mix sand and sulfur into the soil, when planting.
Impatiens	<i>Impatiens wallerana</i>	annual	fall	fall-spr.	Slightly frost tender.
India Hawthorn	<i>Rhaphiolepis indica</i> .	shrub	fall	spring	May bloom again in the fall. Mix sulfur with the soil, when planting.
Ivy, Variegated	<i>Hedera</i> varieties	vine	fall	year-round	Colorful foliage. Don't overwater!
Ixora	<i>Ixora coccinea</i> hybrids	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Slightly frost tender.
Japanese Euonymus, Variegated	<i>Euonymus japonicus</i>	shrub	fall	year-round	Colorful foliage. Subject to mildew.
Jasmine, Angelwing	<i>Jasminum nitidum</i>	shrub	fall-spr.	spr.-fall	Can also be trained as a vine. Mix sulfur into the soil, when planting.
Jasmine, Arabian	<i>Jasminum sambac</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Can also be trained as a vine.
Jasmine, Flowery	<i>Jasminum floridum</i>	shrub	fall-spr.	spr.-fall	Scentless yellow flowers on a small bush.
Jatropha, Spicy	<i>Jatropha integerrima</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	May drop most of its leaves in winter.
Kaffir Lily	<i>Clivia miniata</i>	perennial	fall	winter	Best in terra cotta pots, cactus mix.
Lavender Trumpet Vine	<i>Clytostoma callistegioides</i>	vine	fall-spr.	spr.-sum.	Needs acid soil.
Lily Turf, Variegated	<i>Liriope muscari</i> 'Silvery Sunpeoof'	perennial	fall-spr.	year-round	Colorful foliage, plus spikes of purple flowers in late summer. Trim severely in early spring.
Lily, Amazon	<i>Eucharis x grandiflora</i>	perennial	spring	win.-spr.	Occasionally blooms again in monsoon season
Madagascar Dragon Tree, Variegated	<i>Dracaena marginata</i> 'Tricolor'	palm-like	spring	year-round	Frost tender, but drought tolerant. Colorful foliage.
Mandevillea	<i>Mandevillea splendens</i> hybrids	vine	spring	spr.-fall	Need perfect drainage, no frost. Some can be small shrubs.
Mexican Firecracker	<i>Hamelia patens</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Attracts hummingbirds.
Monkey Flower	<i>Mimulus x hybridus</i>	annual	fall	fall-spr.	Slightly frost tender. Semi-trailing.
Mum	<i>Chrysanthemum x morifolium</i>	perennial	fall-spr.	fall	Short but spectacular bloom.
Orchid, Corsage	<i>Cymbidium</i> hybrids	perennial	fall	win.-spr.	Need fast drainage, bright light. Best in pots.
Periwinkle, Dwarf	<i>Vinca minor</i>	perennial	fall	spr.-sum.	Don't water too often.
Pigsqueak	<i>Bergenia</i> hybrids	perennial	fall	spring	Some have red leaves in winter

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Pothos	<i>Epipremnum aureum</i>	vine	spring	year-round	Colorful foliage. Frost tender.
Primrose, English	<i>Primula x polyanthus</i>	annual	fall	fall-spr.	Very frost hardy. Feed regularly.
Primrose, Fairy	<i>Primula malacoides</i>	annual	fall	fall-spr.	Slightly frost tender. Feed regularly.
Primrose, German	<i>Primula obconica</i>	annual	fall	fall-spr.	Slightly frost tender. Feed regularly.
Purple Heart	<i>Tradescantia pallida</i> 'Purpurea'	perennial	spring	year-round	Slightly frost tender, but recovers fast.
Queen's Tears	<i>Billbergia species</i>	rosette	spring	spr.-sum.	Best in containers.
Rubber Plant	<i>Ficus elastica varieties</i>	tree	spring	year-round	Colorful foliage.
Ruellia, Trailing	<i>Ruellia squarrosa</i>	groundcover	fall-spr.	spr.-fall	May be hard to find.
Sage, Lady-in-Red	<i>Salvia coccinea</i>	perennial	spring	spr.-fall	Deadhead regularly.
Sage, Pineapple	<i>Salvia elegans</i>	perennial	spring	fall-spr.	Slightly frost tender, but tasty!
Sage, Scarlet	<i>Salvia splendens</i>	annual	early spr.	spr.-fall	Spectacular! May be an everblooming perennial if it doesn't freeze.
Shrimp Plant	<i>Justicia brandegeana</i>	shrub	fall-spr.	year-round	Mix sulfur into the soil, when planting.
Shrimp Plant, Yellow	<i>Pachystachys lutea</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender. Feed regularly.
Silk Flower	<i>Abelmoschus moschatus</i>	annual	spring	fall-spr.	May be difficult to find.
Snake Plant	<i>Sanseveria trifasciata</i>	succulent	spr.-fall	year-round	Colorful, sculptural foliage. Dozens of varieties. Can take very deep shade.
Snowflake	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	bulb	fall	winter	Easy to grow.
Spider Plant, Variegated	<i>Chlorophytum comosum</i>	perennial	spring	year round	Showy leaves. Frost tender.
Star Cluster	<i>Pentas lanceolata</i>	perennial	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender.
Sweet Potato, Ornamental	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	annual	spr.-fall	spr.-fall	May become a perennial, if it doesn't freeze in the winter.
Velvet Honeysuckle	<i>Dicliptera suberecta</i>	shrub	spring	spr.-fall	Frost tender, but recovers fast.
Violet, Sweet	<i>Viola odorata</i>	perennial	fall	spring	Fragrant. No foliage in summer.
Wandering Jew	<i>Tradescantia zebrina</i>	perennial	spring	year-round	Frost tender, but recovers fast.
Wishbone Flower	<i>Torenia fournieri</i>	annual	spring	spr.-fall	Feed regularly. Semi-trailing.
Yellow Dot	<i>Wedelia trilobata</i>	groundcover	spring	spr.-fall	Slightly frost tender, but recovers fast.
Yesterday-Today-and-Tomorrow	<i>Brunfelsia pauciflora</i> 'Floribunda'	shrub	spring	spr.-sum.	Needs acid soil.