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Shady Landscapes

Today on Gardening in a Minute: shady landscapes.

On hot summer days, a shady landscape can be a real blessing.

But exactly what kind of shade do you have? Is it dense or dappled shade? Morning, afternoon, or all-day shade? Understanding the shade you have will help ensure you pick the right plant for the right place.

Camellias, ferns, and gingers all thrive in shady spots. Flax lily does well in areas that shift from shade to sun.

Admittedly, it’s tough or even impossible to grow a lawn in the shade. Instead, plant a groundcover or install mulched beds filled with shade-loving plants.

If you’d like more shade in your landscape, consider planting shade trees on the south or west sides of your home. They’ll create the shade you crave, and help you save money on your cooling costs!

For more information about shady landscapes and many other gardening topics, contact your county Extension office or visit Gardening in a Minute dot com.

Gardening in a Minute is a production of the University of Florida’s Center for Landscape Conservation and Ecology, IFAS Extension, and WUFT-FM.