



THREE TEASERS FOR SHADE GARDENERS

Helen Battersby's presentation *Gardening in Shade* shares ways that gardeners can define and manage shade in their own garden. Here are a few.

Shade in your garden isn't only about light

- Green plants depend on *sunlight* to turn it into food energy for growth
- Plants also require *water*, which can be slurped up by the trees that make shade
- The same trees can also have a negative effect on fertility and other *soil* issues
- These things work together to create your own shade garden formula
- So gardening in shade isn't just about plant choices
- It's important to understand how the

three elements above work for or against your garden

Plants can behave differently in shade

- The ways plants behave can depend on your own shade formula
- "Right plant, right place" is a general garden rule, but it isn't always all or nothing
- Plants stressed by shade might flower less or grow more slowly
- However, there are several strategies for dealing with shade issues like these – for example, choosing the plant for its foliage (not its flowers) or spacing the plants more closely

And all shade is not alike

- Full sun = 6+ hrs direct sun; part sun/shade = 4-6 hrs direct sun; full shade = less than 4 hrs
- These light conditions can change with time of day or time of year
- Your garden might have more than one kind of sun or shade, each with different opportunities
- Mapping your own shade zones can help you identify what those opportunities might be
- Plus, you might be able to modify your shade conditions, and other factors, to expand your opportunities for a satisfying shade garden

To learn about Helen and other presentations on her menu, visit her site helenbattersby.com or her blog torontogardens.com. You can reach Helen at helen@torontogardens.com.