

MARCH 2021

# THE GATEWAY GARDENER®

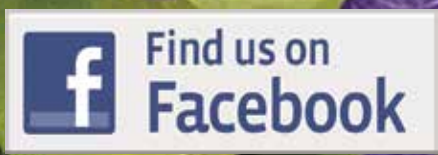
Your Guide to Enjoyable Gardening and Easy-Care Landscapes

**Shade Color**  
*All Year Long*

**WWOOFFing**

**Native Plants for  
Under Trees**

**Veggies for the  
Spring Garden**



**FREE** Courtesy of:

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bloomers: wild sweet William, azalea, Siberian bugloss, old-fashioned bleeding heart.

### May

A long-time favorite groundcover, 'Chocolate Chip' **Ajuga** flourishes in shade. 2021 brings the brand new '**Cordial Canary**' a yellow-leafed version of 'Chocolate Chip.' This new variety has shockingly vibrant foliage that keeps its color well, even in darker shade. In May, spikes of blue flowers contrast strongly against the neon foliage. This tough low grower tolerates a wide range of soil conditions, including dry shade. Other May-blooming plants: cranesbill, Jacob's ladder, lily of the valley.

### June



**Indian Pinks**

Designed for our favorite winged friends, the showy flowers on the Missouri native **Indian pinks** (*Spigelia*) begin to bloom right when the hummingbirds come to town. Bright yellow stars tip the end of the red tubular flowers, creating a bouquet of shooting stars. Indian Pink blooms most of June and into July. Other June bloomers: Astilbe, Oakleaf Hydrangea, Smooth Hydrangea.

### July-August



**Fringed-leafed Bleeding Heart**  
**'King of Hearts'**

The long-blooming cousin to the old-fashioned bleeding heart, the **fringed-leafed bleeding hearts** bloom for months on end. Small pink-to-red heart-shaped flowers dangle over fern-like foliage beginning in June. Plants need adequate moisture to continue blooming all summer. These small plants are perfect for the front of the garden or tucked in between rocks. The regal '**King of Hearts**' displays lipstick pink blossoms that are larger in size and quantity than other varieties. Other summer bloomers: hosta, coral bells, fairy candles, turtlehead.

### September-Frost



**Windflower**  
**'Curtain Call Deep Rose'**

**Windflowers** (*Anemone hybrid*) produce countless flowers at a time when most plants are ready to call it a day. While the classic tall varieties create enticing displays, their large size, usually growing 3' tall or more, limit their function in the garden. The petite '**Curtain Call Deep Rose**' features loads of large vibrant pink flowers while only growing about 18" tall. Another dwarf, 'Snow Angel', illuminates the garden with hundreds of bright white blossoms. Windflowers provide a late-season nectar source for pollinators, and their long-lasting flowers look beautiful in fall bouquets. Other late-season bloomers: woodland aster, toad lily.

To create a long-blooming shade garden, use a nice mix of perennials and shrubs. Add strong punches of long-season color by planting annuals like begonias, New Guinea impatiens or wishbone plant, but be prepared to replant every year. With a little thought and good plant selection you can attain a multi-seasonal flowering shade garden.

All photos courtesy Walters Garden except Ajuga, courtesy Growing Colors, and Windflower, by Abby Lapidés.

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