



## Shade Tolerant Ornamentals

The other day I was asked by someone who knew I had one, if Heptacodium would tolerate some shade. Heck yes, I responded, my Seven Son Flower only gets three to four hours of sun per day! The plant is thriving under the canopy of a large Oak tree. In



September and October, the plant gets even less direct light because the sun is lower on the horizon and a close tree line to the south blocks much of the sun. While this blurb is about shade tolerant plants, the most important fact here to remember is

this: different seasons will change the amount of light and shade your landscapes will receive! Just because a particular plant gets enough sun in mid June, don't assume it will receive enough in August or September. Dirr says the Heptacodium will get 15'+, and about 10' wide. The exfoliating bark is an absolute delight on my specimen.



Another great shade tolerant plant is the *Cryptomeria japonica* 'Yoshino', or Japanese Cedar. Even more shade tolerant than the Heptacodium, it's Deer resistant as well! It will grow tall and upright, and provides great vertical

interest. This tree will get 30'+ tall and 10' wide.

Please remember, there is shade and then there is the overly dense shade under a mature Maple tree with its highly competitive surface roots. That's a very tough nut we will not try to crack today!

I'm often amazed at how well Panicle Hydrangeas like 'Quick Fire' and 'Limelight' do in dappled shade with almost no direct sun. They even bloom well in those conditions. Viburnums can be another choice, almost as good as the Panicle Hydrangeas.



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