



## **DEFINING SHADE**

Plants usually come labeled with their sun exposure requirements. Measuring sun exposure for plants is not an exact science. There will always be variables such as cloudy days and places where it gets to be 100 degrees in the shade. The definitions below are the generally accepted standards for determining sun exposure in the garden.

## **DEGREES OF SHADE**

**Full Sun:** *At least 6 full hours of direct sunlight.* Many sun lovers enjoy more than 6 hours per day, but need regular water to endure the heat.

**Partial Sun / Partial Shade:** These 2 terms are often used interchangeably to mean 3 - 6 hours of sun each day, *preferably in the morning and early afternoon*

However if a plant is listed as *Partial Sun*, greater emphasis is put on its receiving the minimal sun requirements. If a plant is listed as *Partial Shade*, the plant will need some relief from the intense late afternoon sun, either from shade provided by a nearby tree or planting it on the east side of a building.

**Dappled/Filtered Sun:** Dappled sunlight is similar to partial shade. It is the sun that makes its way through the branches of a deciduous tree. Woodland plants and underplantings

prefer this type of sunlight over even the limited direct exposure they would get from partial shade.

**Full Shade:** Less than 3 hours of direct sunlight each day, with filtered sunlight during the rest of the day. Full shade does not mean no sun. There aren't many plants, except mushrooms, that can survive in the dark.

-If necessary and feasible, thin out existing tree or shrub limbs and branches to provide more light for semi-shade selections.

\*\*\* Shade loving plants are often planted near buildings/overhangs or under trees whose leaves deflect water and whose roots compete for available water and nutrients. Be sure to compensate for this loss.\*\*\*

-The North side of the house is the shadiest side (the closer to the house the shadier the area will be)