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Beyond Hostas: 10 Great Plants for Shady Gardens

By Kathy LaLiberte

Though you'd be hard-pressed to find a shade-loving perennial more rugged and carefree than hostas, there ARE lots of terrific plants that will thrive in a shady garden. Like hostas, most have interesting foliage as well as nice flowers, so they give you color and visual interest throughout the growing season. Here are a few favorites you'll be glad to have in your garden.

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Foxgloves make good companions for other shade-loving plants

Stop Slugs in Their Tracks

Almost every gardener runs into slugs and snails at some point. Their presence is indicated by large, irregularly shaped holes in the leaves of plants and shiny slime trails. They are active mostly at night and in wet weather. Slugs and snails are very prolific; individuals of some species lay up to 500 eggs per year. Fortunately, they are fairly easy to control.

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Small Yard Yields Abundant Harvest

While taking a river trip near Vienna in 1993, Susan and Dennis Slevin noticed that each of the houses along the river had a small vegetable garden. Although they'd never had a vegetable garden, the idea of a small edible garden took root. In 1994, Susan convinced her husband to build an 800-square-foot vegetable garden in their small, urban yard. It's been a rousing success and over the past 13 years they have expanded it an additional 150 square feet.

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GARDENER'S Journal

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Show Us How You Support Your Tomatoes

Earlier this year, we asked gardeners to vote for their favorite tomato support: cages, ladders, spirals, old-fashioned stakes or something more homemade. The poll is about to close, but there are still a couple days left to vote. If you haven't voted yet, [take the poll](#). We've learned that gardeners have some pretty creative techniques for supporting their

tomatoes. [Just read](#) some of the comments that follow our original post. Now, we'd love to see photos of your support structures, so please post them in our album. Or, just take a look at what other folks have created.

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