



Suggested plants for a shady or partial shade slope

A great number of plants can be grown in slopes, from large shrubs and trees to low groundcovers. The following are just a few easy to grow suggestions, but we encourage you to be creative in your planting!

Many plants listed in these lists can be very aggressive spreaders, and it is for this very trait that makes them so effective at erosion control. When introducing these plants to your landscape, ensure they will not spread into neighbouring yards, garden beds or turf areas by installing root fences.

Slope location	Botanical name	Common name	Height	Plant type and characteristics
Top - base	<i>Cornus racemosa</i>	Grey Dogwood	4m	Native shrub with white berries. Pollinator.
Top - base	<i>Cornus stolonifera</i>	Red Osier Dogwood	4.5m	Native shrub with white flowers. Young twigs are red.
Top - mid	<i>Epimedium spp.</i>	Barrenwort, Bishop's Hat	15-40cm	Drought tolerant perennial groundcover
Top - mid	<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper	1.2m	Spreading woody evergreen shrub
Top - mid	<i>Gallium odoratum</i>	Sweet Woodruff	20cm	Perennial groundcover with small white flowers
Top - mid	<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	Big Root Cranesbill	30-60cm	Perennial with pink flowers and fragrant leaves
Top - mid	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Cranesbill	35cm	Perennial with bright pink flowers and nice fall colour
Mid	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Witch-hazel	3.6m	Native shrub with yellow blooms very early spring
Top - mid	<i>Hydrangea spp.</i>	Hydrangea	varies	Drought tolerant shrub with showy white flowers
Top - mid	<i>Lamium spp.</i>	Deadnettle	25cm	Perennial with purple, white or yellow flowers
Base	<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern	1.5m	Large fern with edible fiddleheads. Native perennial.
Mid	<i>Myrrhis odorata</i>	Sweet Cicely	80cm	Perennial with white flowers and anise flavoured seeds
Base	<i>Onoclea sensibilis</i>	Sensitive Fern	30-60cm	Native perennial. Chartreuse coloured fern.
Top - base	<i>Parthenocissus vitacea</i>	Virginia creeper	varies	Versatile vine that likes sun or shade. Nice fall colour.
Mid	<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	Creeping Phlox	10-30cm	Perennial with purple flowers
Mid - base	<i>Physostegia virginiana</i>	Obedient Plant	45-90cm	Perennial with white or mauve flowers late summer
Mid- base	<i>Polemonium reptans</i>	Jacob's Ladder	30-45cm	Native perennial with purple, pink or white flowers
Mid	<i>Polygonatum spp.</i>	Solomon's Seal	0.9m	Perennial with arching foliage. Some are native.

Mid	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>	Christmas Fern	45cm	Perennial evergreen native fern
Mid	<i>Pulmonaria spp</i>	Lungwort	30cm	Perennial with spotted leaves and purple to pink flowers
Top - mid	<i>Sorbaria sorbifolia</i>	False spirea	1.5m	Shrub with white flowers. Readily suckers.
Mid - base	<i>Symphoricarpos alba</i>	Snowberry	0.9–1.5m	Native shrub with white berries. Attracts birds.
Mid - base	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foam Flower	30cm	Native groundcover with fuzzy white flowers
Top - mid	<i>Viola sororia</i>	Common Blue Violet	25cm	Native perennial groundcover with purple/blue flowers

Source: [City of Guelph Healthy Landscapes](#)