

BETH CHATTO'S Shade-loving Collection

Beth Chatto

A guide to planting and maintaining

YOUR BETH CHATTO-INSPIRED SHADE-LOVING COLLECTION



The plants you have received are pot grown, with the majority in 1 litre pots (occasionally 9cm), an ideal size for rapid establishment and growth. These are the same plants the gardeners select when planting the garden here at Beth Chatto's Gardens.

IN THE COLLECTION

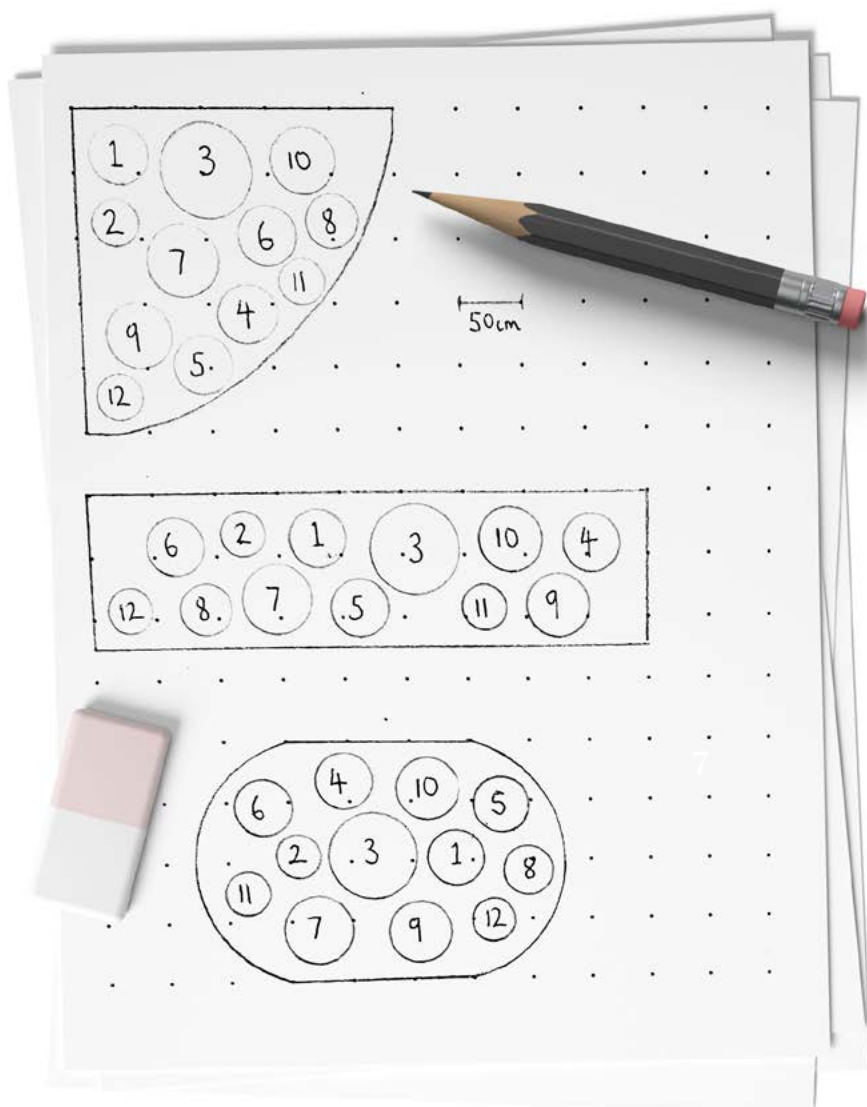
1. *Anemone*
2. *Digitalis*
3. *Dryopteris*
4. *Epimedium*
5. *Geranium macrorrhizum*
6. *Heuchera*
7. *Hosta*
8. *Lamium maculatum*
9. *Melica uniflora f. albida*
10. *Symphytum*
11. *Tiarella*
12. *Viola*

PLANTING PLAN

A single collection will cover an area 5-6m². If you've bought more than one collection, the area covered increases. So eg three collections will cover an area of 15-18m².

PREPARATION

These plants prefer a partly or fully shaded position and any reasonable soil, (but they will not do well directly underneath heavy evergreens such as conifers). Firstly the hard work. Ideally, your plot should be well dug over and free of weeds. It's not strictly necessary but all soils will benefit from the addition of a soil improver in the form of organic matter, which, no matter what the soil type, will improve its structure, fertility and water-holding capacity. This can be from your own compost heap or purchased in the form of council waste compost or spent mushroom compost. Mix the soil improver into the top 25-30cm (10-12inches). How much to use will depend somewhat on your budget but aim to incorporate a layer of 8-10cm if possible.



More Beth Chatto-inspired garden design

- Border designed specifically for you
- A garden designer to your home to help you choose the right plants for your garden

Find out more at bethchatto.co.uk/gardendesign

PLANTING

We recommend planting from March to June or September to October, but planting in summer is possible with plenty of preparation and watering. Try to avoid planting during hot, dry spells.



1 Your border is ready to plant. Mark out the area to be planted determined by the size collection you have chosen. The exact dimensions can vary in width and length but should maintain the same area.



2 Ensure plants are moist before planting. We recommend you always soak them for a few minutes by submersing the pot in a bucket of water. Even apparently moist plants will bubble and absorb more water.



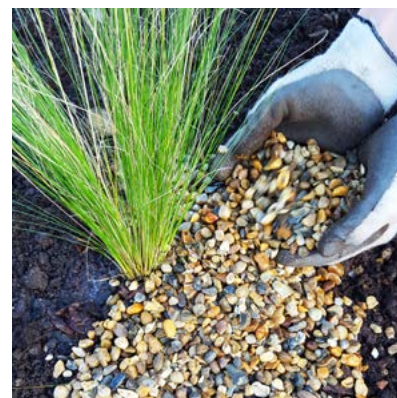
3 Using the planting plan that we've provided, place the plants in their allotted position. The plants should be approx. 60cm apart.



4 Dig a hole at least twice the size of the pot. Take the plant out of the pot, slightly loosen the roots and place the plant in the hole. Backfill the loose soil. Aim to leave a slight depression around the plant.



5 Thoroughly water in by filling up the depression around the plant. If using a watering can, remove the rose. Allow water to settle.



6 After planting, level the soil and apply a mulch; a covering of bark chips, gravel or stone of your choice. This will prevent the soil surface drying out and keep weeds under control. Aim for at least a 2.5cm (1 inch) thick layer.

MAINTENANCE

After planting, your border should only need a little attention whilst the plants establish. If you are planting in summer, however, give them a good drink during dry spells. Try to water a lot in one go, rather than little and often. Watering too regularly will mean the roots don't reach down far enough into the ground to allow your drought-tolerant plants to implement this survival technique. Pull out any weeds. The planting may seem sparse at first, but following this guide should mean most of your plants will flower and put on good foliage growth within the first season. Please see the list of plants overleaf for any specific plant maintenance.

Your shade-loving plants



Anemone (Japanese) - Valuable autumn flowers, with shade of pink to white, surrounding a boss of yellow stamens, stands proud of the divided green foliage.

Flowers. AUTUMN | Height. UP TO 1.2M

MAINTENANCE. Cut down flower spikes and foliage in autumn or winter.



Hosta - Clump-forming herbaceous perennials, often with attractively coloured, variegated and textured foliage. The underated spikes of flowers can vary from white to purple and can be scented.

Flowers. SUMMER | Height. UP TO 80CM

MAINTENANCE. Cut flower spikes and foliage down once they have died back.



Digitalis (perennial foxglove) - A vertical accent in a shady border. Spikes of yellow flowers with a neat rosette of green leaves often remains over winter. Toxic if eaten!

Flowers. SUMMER | Height. UP TO 1M

MAINTENANCE. Cut flower spikes down, once flowers have finished, or leave to self seed.



Lamium maculatum - Invaluable low groundcover in tricky dry spots. Silver variegation and hooded flowers of white or pink. Quick spreading.

Flowers. SUMMER | Height. UP TO 20CM

MAINTENANCE. Cut back hard, as and when needed.



Dryopteris - The male fern, extremely drought tolerant and adds an upright contrast to surrounding plants.

Height. UP TO 1M

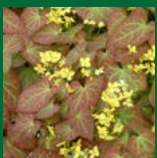
MAINTENANCE. Cut foliage down during winter, just above the resting knuckles of next year's new foliage.



Melica uniflora f. albida - Quietly very attractive. Above neat clumps of soft green foliage float sprays of pale little buds.

Flowers. SPRING, SUMMER | Height. UP TO 40CM

MAINTENANCE. Cut foliage back close to ground level by late winter.



Epimedium - Gently spreading evergreen groundcover, with spring and autumn colour. Sprays of yellow flowers.

Flowers. SPRING | Height. UP TO 40CM

MAINTENANCE. Cut foliage back close to ground level in late winter.



Symphytum - Hairy leaves and flowers ranging in colour, with whites, blues and pinks prominent. Worth cutting back after flowering to generate fresh new foliage.

Flowers. SPRING | Height. UP TO 50CM

MAINTENANCE. Cut down hard after flowering.



Geranium macrorrhizum - At home in shade or sun. The evergreen palmate foliage is aromatic when crushed. White, with pink hued flowers.

Flowers. SPRING, AUTUMN | Height. UP TO 40CM

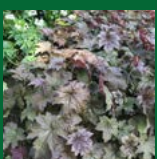
MAINTENANCE. Cut back foliage after flowering.



Tiarella - Running trails of pretty pointed green leaves form almost evergreen cover. Creamy-white flowers spikes. An essential plant to interlink taller shade loving plants.

Flowers. EARLY SUMMER | Height. UP TO 30CM

MAINTENANCE. Cut flower spikes down once finished.



Heuchera - Various shades of dark bronzed to purple. Masses of dark wiry stems carry feathery heads of tiny white flowers.

Flowers. SUMMER | Height. UP TO 50CM

MAINTENANCE. Cut flower spikes down once finished.



Viola - Cheery short-spurred, flowers varying in colour from white through to blue, with heart-shaped leaves.

Flowers. SPRING | Height. UP TO 20CM

MAINTENANCE. Cut flower spikes down, once flowers have finished, or leave to self seed.