

Shade: Tall* Perennials

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Zone	Soil Type	Exposure**	Comments
<i>Actea racemosa</i> (<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>)	black snakeroot	4-6'	3-9	moist, well-drained	S, PS	Tall blossoms; 'Atropurpurea' has purple foliage.
<i>Actea simplex</i> 'White Pearl' (<i>Cimicifuga simplex</i>)	white pearl, snakeroot	4'	3-8	tolerant of boggy conditions	S, PS	Spikes of flowers
<i>Aconitum</i> spp.	monkshood	4-5'	3-8	moist, well-drained	PS	Poisonous.
<i>Aconitum henryi</i>	autumn monkshood	3-6'	4	average, dislikes wet	PS	Showy flowers, poisonous.
<i>Aruncus dioicus</i>	goat's beard	4-6'	4-9	moist	PS, Sh	Attractive foliage; spectacular plumes.
<i>Astilbe biternata</i>	false spirea	2-6'	4	moist, acidic woodlands	PS, Sh	Clusters of flowers.
<i>Campanula lactiflora</i> 'Prichard's Variety'	milky bellflower	3'	4-8	moist	Sh	Self-seeds.
<i>Chelone glabra</i>	turtlehead	24-36"	3-8	rich, moist	PS	
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	bleeding heart	36"	4	tolerant of boggy conditions	S, PS	Exquisite arching sprays of flowers.
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	foxglove	2-4'	4-10	moist, well-drained	S, PS	Tall elegant flower spikes; self-seeding biennial.
<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	Joe-Pye weed	3-6'	3-9	average	S, PS	Useful in wet areas.
<i>Filipendula rubra</i>	queen-of-the-prairie	3-6'	3-8	moist	PS	Flower clusters; 'Venusta' has dark pink flowers.
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	queen-of-the-meadow	48"	3-9	moist, well-drained	Sh	
<i>Gillenia trifoliata</i>	bowman's root	2-3'	4-8	moist	PS	
<i>Ligularia dentata</i>	big leaf ligularia	4'	3-7	alkaline	PS	'Desdemona' 'Britt-Marie Crawford' are good.
<i>Ligularia przewalskii</i>	leopard plant	4-6'	3-8	moist	PS, Sh	Requires moist soil.
<i>Lilium martagon</i>	martagon lily	3-4'	4	humus rich	PS, Sh	Small, turk's cap flowers.
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	ostrich fern	3-4'	4-8	moist	PS	Tolerates moisture; ostrich plume leaves.
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	cinnamon fern	2-4'	3-8	rich, well-drained	S, PS	Cinnamon brown spore bearing stalks.
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	royal fern	3-5'	3-8	moist, wet	S, PS, Sh	Can be grown in swampy conditions.
<i>Rodgersia</i> spp.	rodgersia	3-6'	4-7	moist	PS	Huge foliage; accent plant.
<i>Thalictrum dasycarpum</i>	tall meadow rue	3-6'	4-9	rich, well-drained	S, PS	Blue-green foliage.
<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Culver's root	3-5'	4-9	rich, moist	S, PS, Sh	Candles of white flowers; native to moist sites.

* 3' or more

** S = full sun, PS = partial sun, Sh = shade

Tall plants for shade are harder to find. These drier sites usually mean shorter plants, but this list features a variety of native and non-native taller perennials.

Compiled by Pam Hartley, Cathy LeVahn and Sheryl Engstrom, Anoka County Master Gardeners. Anoka County Master Gardeners are active in teaching classes and other horticulture related projects.

r: 'Lavender Mist' meadow rue and Culver's root are two tall perennials for shade.

l: Bughbane, or black snakeroot, is native to woodland edges in Minnesota. Its stately tall white flowers last for several weeks in the summer.

