

## HOW TO: ACCENT PLANTS

ILLUMINATE  
THE SHADOWS

**64) Layer it Lovely** Place tall shade-tolerant flowering perennials and shrubs, such as peegee and oak leaf hydrangea, in shadowy areas of a garden and then arrange shorter sun-lovers, such as blue mop-head hydrangeas, red bee balm, and purple coneflowers, in brighter sections of that same garden, **right**.



Photo courtesy of Proven Winners/Provenwinners.com

**65) Master the Repeat** Use perennials and annuals that boast similarly colored leaves and blossoms to draw the eye through a shady patch, **above**. Here, frothy yellow 'Bottle Rocket' Ligularia rises above serrated green leaves to play off burgundy-leaved cordyline pictured in the background.

**66) Manage Microclimates** Sunlight isn't the only thing that affects how a shade garden grows, **right**. Gardens adjoining stone paths, rocky walls, and concrete walks warm up and dry out more quickly than gardens abutting grassy lawns or woodlands. Amend "hot spots" with organic matter and lay down mulch to help these garden areas retain moisture.

Photo by Janet Loughrey. Garden design by Visa Winters



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