To have a shady spot in the garden, large or small, is a treat! Whether you have a wooded patch that creates a large shaded area with rich soil or a small area with average soil shaded by the house, you can still utilize native trees, shrubs and perennials for shade. Although some plants are more selective about soil type, requiring alkaline soil or consistently moist soil, the majority of shade plants are quite versatile.

In designing your shade garden, the first rule of thumb is to observe and follow the natural flow and environment of your shaded area. If there are some areas that retain more moisture than others, select plants accordingly. If existing large trees create dry areas and root competition, refrain from planting in those areas and give your larger trees the space they need. Remember to include native under-story trees and shrubs in your design. Stair stepping from the large trees to smaller shade trees or shrubs, followed by the flowering herbaceous plants can greatly compliment the overall design and attract a greater diversity of wildlife.

After you have chosen a design, pay careful attention to your plant selection, ensuring you have color, texture and interest throughout the growing season. Although many woodland wildflower plants bloom in early to late spring, there are several species that continue to stand out later in the summer with berries, interesting seed pods or changing leaf color.
Since some woodland wildflowers go dormant mid-summer and essentially disappear, it is important to choose a mixture of plants to avoid bare patches mid-summer. Incorporating ferns or shade loving sedges will help carry the shade garden through to the fall. The table below lists a few shade loving species you can include in your design.

Spring is the best time to plant your shade garden. The selection of shade plants in the spring will always be much higher than in mid-summer or fall. Mulching the garden is important to hold and conserve moisture and suppress weed growth. If you have mulched leaves, it is always a good idea to add a layer in the spring before mulching with hardwood mulch or in the fall after the garden has gone dormant. These mulched leaves will add humus and nutrients to your soil. And don't forget, if you would like to divide your shade plants to spread throughout your yard or give away to a friend, fall is the best time of year for divisions.

The photo above is of Creasey-Mahan's wildflower garden. Creasey-Mahan is a non-profit nature preserve located near Dropseed Nursery in Goshen, KY. The preserve is open to the public, and their wildflower garden is a great site to visit to inspire your next garden!
http://www.creaseymahannaturepreserve.org/

We will be holding a shade garden workshop on Saturday April, 29th at 2:00pm at the nursery. It is free and open to the public. We will tour the nursery's shade gardens, the raised beds used for plant divisions and discuss the large variety of woodland wildflowers available this spring at the nursery. Feel free to bring photos or dimensions of a potential shade garden in your yard. We are happy to consult and help you select the best plants for your garden. Come join us!!

A few wildflowers and ferns to consider....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blooming Perennials</th>
<th>Ferns</th>
<th>Sedges &amp; Grasses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bloodroot</td>
<td>Lady Fern</td>
<td>River Oats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phlox</td>
<td>Maidenhair Fern</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Sedge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Poppy</td>
<td>Cinnamon Fern</td>
<td>Appalachian Sedge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack in the Pulpit</td>
<td>Sensitive Fern</td>
<td>Virginia Wild Rye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Cohosh</td>
<td>Royal Fern</td>
<td>Blue Sedge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardinal Flower</td>
<td>Hay Scented Fern</td>
<td>Bottlebrush Grass</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thanks Mary!

We will be selling plants at

Gardenaganza

Sunday, April 30 11-3

At the Louisville Nature Center
3745 Illinois Ave, Louisville, KY 40213

Keep the memory of the woods alive - plant woodland wildflowers!
Dropseed Nursery
Spring Plant Sales
1205 S. Buckeye Lane, Goshen, KY
Saturdays: April 29, May 13, 20 and 27
9 am – 4 pm
Opening Day Workshops, Saturday April 29

10-11:30   Scavenger Sculptures
Inspired by the Land Art movement, Sarah Kuhn has created a workshop for
everybody that wants to engage with nature in a unique and playful way. It is quite
simple: take a walk through the world, pick up sticks, rocks, bark, leaves, etc., and make a
sculpture. Appropriate for all ages.

12-1   Wild Food. Wild edibles will be available during the lunch hour

2:00-3:30   Woodland Wildflower Gardens
Elizabeth Kuhn, Dropseed Nursery Manager, will take you on a tour of the nursery's
woodland wildflower garden and wildflower propagation beds. Elizabeth will discuss
garden preparation and maintenance as well as plant propagation.