

Cool and shady retreat

What could be nicer on a hot summer day than to take a break from your work in a cool, shady spot? How about a comfy bench surrounded by flowers in yellows and cool pinks? The plants in this plan also enjoy a little place out of the sun.

It can be a challenge to create a colorful perennial bed in shade, but this design is proof it can be done beautifully. One secret? Use plants with interesting

foliage. The bright gold-green leaves of the 'Holland's Gold' bear's breeches and the green-edged silver leaves of the spotted deadnettle help light up even the darkest shade.

Then add colorful blooms, like the cool pinks of the deadnettle and astilbe and the mauve and white of the bear's breeches. A splash of yellow from daisy-shaped ligularia flowers echoes the golden yellow foliage near the bench.



lightshade

All of these plants prefer moist, well-drained soil and are at their peak of bloom in midsummer — *exactly* the time you'd be needing a little breather!



Plant List

Plant Code	Plant Name	Cold/Heat Zones	No. to Plant
A	Bear's breeches <i>Acanthus mollis</i> 'Holland's Gold'	6 to 10/12 to 7	3
B	Ligularia <i>Ligularia dentata</i> 'Desdemona'	4 to 10/8 to 1	3
C	Astilbe <i>Astilbe xrosea</i> 'Peach Blossom'	3 to 8/8 to 1	4
D	Spotted deadnettle <i>Lamium maculatum</i> 'Beacon Silver'	4 to 8/8 to 1	9