

Proposed Autumn Shade Border

A low-maintenance, autumn-colour-focused planting scheme for shade under maples, using reliable plants for clay soil in Chester.


Vibrant
autumn colour
with minimal
maintenance



Plant list

All existing plants and hard landscaping are retained. Quantities are provisional, subject to final measurements.

No.	Plant	Photo	Qty*	Height	Spread	Season	Position	Why it fits
1	Acer palmatum 'Osakazuki'		2	2.5 m	2 m	Autumn	Mid-back, sheltered from strong winds	Rich scarlet autumn foliage, reliable in partial shade.
2	Cornus sanguinea 'Midwinter Fire'		3	1.5 m	1.5 m	Autumn-winter	Back-mid border	Striking orange-red stems, best impact in groups in shade.
3	Dryopteris wallichiana (Wallich's Wood Fern)		To confirm	1 m	0.8 m	Spring-autumn	Under-tree, mid to front	Evergreen structural foliage, shade-loving and robust.
4	Epimedium x perralchicum 'Frohnleiten'		To confirm	0.3 m	0.6 m	Spring foliage, autumn leaf colour	Front edge and understorey	Dense evergreen groundcover, yellow autumn tints, copes with dry shade.
5	Sarcococca confusa		3	1 m	1.2 m	Winter, evergreen year-round	Mid-front, towards boundary	Glossy evergreen leaves, winter flowers, shade tolerant.
6	Anemone tomentosa 'Robustissima'		To confirm	1.2 m	0.8 m	Late summer-autumn	Mid border	Tall, reliable late season flowers for shade, minimal care.
7	Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost'		To confirm	0.4 m	0.5 m	Spring foliage interest, autumn bronze	Front to mid border	Textured silver leaves, copes well with shade and clay.

Approximate planting plan

These are approximate planting positions. The plan is intended to show the position of each plant in relation to the other plants. Exact positions and spacing can be adjusted when planting.



Interest through the year

Autumn is the key display season, with Japanese acers and Cornus sanguinea showing vibrant leaf and stem colours. Evergreen ferns and Epimedium provide ground cover, contrasting with late-season flowers and foliage. Spring brings some limited flower interest, though the main focus is on foliage and stems.



Ongoing care

 Water Water new plants weekly during the first season, particularly in dry spells under trees.	 Mulch Apply a 5cm mulch of composted bark after planting and repeat annually.	 Prune Remove dead or congested foliage from ferns in early spring. Minimal pruning required.	 Cornus Cut back hard in March to encourage colourful new growth.	 Acers Minimal pruning, ideally just after leaf fall.	 Feed Use a slow-release fertiliser in spring.	 Monitor Check for vine weevil on Epimedium and keep leaf litter for a natural woodland effect unless excessive.
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