

Under a Black Walnut Tree

Botanical Name	Common Name	Height	Comments
<i>Alcea rosea</i>	hollyhock	4-8'	Full sun with rich soil; half-hardy biennial, reseeds like a perennial.
<i>Arisaema triphyllum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit	8-24"	Flower or "pulpit" is 3-4" green leaf-like hood; red berries in fall.
<i>Astilbe xarendsii</i>	astilbe	1-2'	Fernlike foliage; clusters of tiny flowers; heavy feeders; may need irrigation.
<i>Begonia sempervirens</i> & hybrids	wax begonia	8"-2'	Attractive foliage; white, pink, rose or red flowers.
<i>Calendula officinalis</i>	pot marigold	12 - 24"	Gold, red or yellow flowers all summer; all soils.
<i>Campanula latifolia</i>	bellflower	2-4'	Bell-like, purplish blue flowers; spreads freely by rhizomes and seeds.
<i>Chionodoxa luciliae</i>	glory-of-the-snow	6"	Early flowering bulb; violet-blue, six petal, star-like flowers.
<i>Claytonia virginica</i>	spring beauty	3-6"	Flowers are white with fine pink stripes; wide variety of soils.
<i>Crocus vernus</i>	crocus, giant crocus	4-6"	Very early spring flowering bulb; prefers sandy, well-drained soil.
<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	dutchman's breeches	6-12"	White upside down "breeches" for flowers; prefers fertile moist soil.
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i>	snowdrop	3-10"	One of the earliest flowers; dainty white flowers with green markings.
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	sweet woodruff	4-12"	Dainty-looking groundcover with late spring white flowers.
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	cranesbill	12-18"	Attractive foliage; tough; many cultivars.
<i>Heuchera</i> spp.	coral bells	12-20"	Small red, pink, or white tiny bell-shaped flowers; good drainage is essential.
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish bluebell	12-15"	Woodland garden; grows into robust clumps; average to rich well-drained soil.
<i>Ipomoea</i> 'Heavenly Blue'	morning glory	10'	Blooms early summer to fall; blue trumpet-shaped flowers; vine.
<i>Monarda didyma</i>	bee balm	2-4'	Requires good air circulation to prevent powdery mildew; moist soil is best.
<i>Oenothera fruticosa</i>	sundrops	15"	Reliable; yellow flowers; well-drained soil; sun.
<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>	cinnamon fern	2-4'	Large, yellowish-green fronds; prefers moist, humus-rich soil.
<i>Phlox paniculata</i>	garden phlox	3-4'	Common perennial; rich, well-drained soil.
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Kentucky bluegrass	2-28"	Sod-forming lawn grass; tolerates cold, heat, rain, but not shade or wet.
<i>Pulmonaria species</i>	lungwort	8-18"	Pink, violet, and blue flowers; prefers evenly moist, humus-rich soil.
<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	bloodroot	8-10"	White flowers in April; moist, humus-rich soil.
<i>Scilla siberica</i>	Siberian squill	6"	Early spring; blue flowers; moist soil; naturalizes by seed and off sets.
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	lamb's ear	6-15"	Large silvery very soft leaves; prefers well-drained, sandy loamy soil.
<i>Tradescantia virginiana</i>	spiderwort	18-24"	Long blooming flowers; grass-like foliage; well-drained soil.
<i>Zinnia</i> spp.	zinnia	1-3'	Easy to start from seed; many colors and flower forms.

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Native throughout Minnesota and much of the U.S., black walnut trees pose difficult gardening conditions due to the toxic juglone naturally produced by the plants. In addition to the list above, pansies, violets, daylilies, hosta, sedum, squash, melons, beans, carrots, corn, and black raspberries can grow under black walnuts.

Compiled by Kathleen Fesenmaier and several other Renville County Master Gardeners. In Renville County, friends and family have been growing walnut trees in their yards for 50 or more years. The Master Gardeners compiled this list because as black walnuts grow, the juglone slowly kills off some plants that had appeared to thrive. Master Gardeners were often asked why a plant did not grow, only to solve the mystery by finding out a neighbor or they themselves owned a beautiful black walnut tree.



Hosta grow well under many trees, maples as shown here at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, as well as black walnut trees.



The trees are each side of the bench are black walnuts. There are many juglone tolerant plants; however, many plants will not tolerate this tough site.