



SMALL TREE BED

Planting underneath trees can be challenging — for the tree and for the gardener. The good news is, there's no lack of plants that thrive in the shade — and the roster goes far beyond the hostas and ferns you might expect. Sometimes it's a smaller, multistemmed tree that beckons. One plus is that there tends to be more sunlight under the canopy than under larger trees. This means that plant choices can expand to include sun-loving plants that take a bit of shade. Here a river birch (*Betula nigra*) allows grasses, flowers and evergreens that won't thrive in shade to do so. □

THE GARDEN'S PALETTE

Code	Plant Name	No. to Plant	Type	Blooms	Height/Width	Cold/Heat Zones	Comments
A	Zinnia <i>Zinnia</i> Dreamland Mix	46	Annual	Many colors; summer	10-12 in./10-12 in.	Annual/12-1	Compact habit; loads of brightly colored flowers all season
B	Creeping juniper <i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Blue Chip'	5	Shrub	NA	6-12 in./6-10 ft.	3-9/9-1	Informal-looking prostrate habit; blue-green foliage is purple-tipped in winter
C	Sedum <i>Sedum</i> 'Vera Jameson'	5	Perennial	Pinkish; late summer	8-12 in./15-18 in.	4-9/9-1	Pink flowers atop burgundy foliage; adds nice texture; fast-growing
D	Maiden grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Variegatus'	1	Grass	Reddish; late summer	5-9 ft./4-5 ft.	5-9/9-1	Variegated foliage; leave blooms standing in winter and cut back in spring
E	Tufted hair grass <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> 'Northern Lights'	5	Grass	Light green; summer	10-15 in./10-15 in.	5-9/9-1	Variegated foliage; compact habit
F	Cranesbill <i>Geranium cinereum</i> 'Ballerina'	7	Annual	Pink; late spring to summer	4-8 in./12-15 in.	5-9/8-1	Dwarf habit; gray-green foliage; deeply veined, cup-shaped flowers in late spring and early summer
G	Sedum <i>Sedum</i> 'Autumn Fire'	6	Perennial	Rosy pink; late summer	24-30 in./18-24 in.	4-9/9-4	Clump form; blue-green foliage; flowers age to coppery red in fall
H	Smooth hydrangea <i>Hydrangea arborescens</i> 'Annabelle'	1	Perennial	White; summer	3-5 ft./4-6 ft.	3-9/9-1 flowers	Rounded shape; strong stems hold large, pure white flowers
I	Spotted deadnettle <i>Lamium maculatum</i> 'Anne Greenway'	7	Perennial	Rosy mauve; summer	6-8 in./12-18 in.	4-8/8-1	Low, spreading habit; variegated foliage is a mix of gold, silver and mint green