



- Pacific Northwest
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SITESPECIFIC

What's growing in your region—and how to care for it.

best plants for dry shade

midwest/mountain

OUR REGION HAS plenty of large trees, which means plenty of dry shade. Fortunately, one of my favorite plants, foam flower (*Tiareella* spp., Zones 4 to 9), thrives in such conditions. Foam flowers are fabulous woodland wildflowers that grow in full or part shade. Maplelike leaves emerge in early spring, and soon after, flower spikes rise above the foliage. The cultivar 'Pink Skyrocket' is especially charming, with large, dense, 11-inch spikes of fragrant pink blossoms and cutleaf foliage with bronze-highlighted veins. 'Candy Striper' has large fingerlike leaves with a dark stripe down each lobe. It bears pink flower buds. 'Sea Foam' has the showiest flowers—they almost hide the foliage in spring. In autumn the leaves turn bronze. 'Sugar and Spice' bears shiny leaves with handsome central markings; the silvery pink flowers are fragrant. Other hybrids have bronze or cream leaf variegations and deep pink to white flowers in tight clusters or plumes. —Cathy Wilkinson Barash, Des Moines, IA

tips

- Try planting foam flower with Canadian wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) or coral bells (*Heuchera* spp.).
- Look for the cross-genus hybrid called x *Heucherella*, a cross between foam flower (*Tiareella*) and coral bells (*Heuchera*).

what to do this season

- Plant tomatoes, peppers, and other hot-season vegetables once nighttime temperatures are consistently over 60°F.

Photo of *Tiareella* 'Pink Skyrocket': Rob Cardillo