

# Spotlight on Podophyllum

Tony Marden of Shadyplants.com won't keep you in the dark about these shade lovers



Part of Tony's Podophyllum collection.

Asiatic species with mottled leaves appearing in Spring. It has upward facing white or pink flowers which readily produce egg-shaped fruits which turn red in autumn when ripe.

One of the smaller leaf forms. 0.5m high x 0.5m wide

## Podophyllum "Spotty Dotty"

Podophyllum 'Spotty Dotty', is a relatively recent cultivar with strong, beautiful, mottled foliage. These are a spectacular woodland plant with the dramatic large, highly-patterned leaves, and in the Spring and early Summer, produce exquisite dark wine-red drooping flowers with the appearance of torn silk.

A connoisseur's plant for that damp shaded spot. They can easily reach 0.75m high x 0.75m wide

They can remain evergreen in a sheltered site in a mild winter.

## Podophyllum (family Berberidaceae)

Podophyllum is a genus of hardy woodland perennials from Asia and one from America, mostly grown for their foliage and form. They prefer deep shade and are all hardy in the U.K.

## Podophyllum peltatum (American "May-apple")

Podophyllum peltatum grows well in a woodland situation. Flowers are white and can be followed by 1- to 2-inch fruit that looks like small apples hence the nickname. Mayapples belong in a woodland garden or other moist, shady areas. They can spread by rhizomes to form large colonies.

## Podophyllum "Kaleidoscope"

This is a modern hybrid and as the cultivar name suggests, the leaves of 'Kaleidoscope' have distinctive markings, which can

range in colour from silver to light green to nearly black. Very much like a child's kaleidoscope. Maroon flowers bloom in early summer. This plant is mostly evergreen. The plant's growth habit is umbrella-like. The leaves can be 30cm or more across and quite spectacular.

## Podophyllum Hexandrum



Some of our baby Podophyllum Spotty Dotty getting ready to be sold in the Spring

### **Podophyllum pleianthum**

Native to central and southeastern China. This is a shade loving, clump-forming perennial that typically grows to 18-24" tall.

The beautiful large, very glossy green leaves, shallowly-lobed and toothed around the edges grow to 12-16" wide. The flowers are produced under the leaves in the leaf junctions and are wine-red.

Tony has taken many years to collect different clones of this plant and has now managed to produce viable seed.

### **Podophyllum delavayi**

This plant is probably the most spectacular Podophyllum.

Beautiful deeply incised, mottled leaves in shades of brown to black.

Crimson red flowers hang beneath the leaves.

### **Podophyllum Versipelle**

I find that this is the largest leaf of the genus. Similar to Pleianthum but more deeply incised lobes.

### **Podophyllum difforme**

This is a wonderful plant that is not easily obtained. It has a most unusual rectangular leaf that can be beautifully marked.

### **Podophyllum aurantiocaulle**

It is a rare white flowered species from Tibet. which I have not previously grown but we have obtained a few small plants for sale 2016.

### **Tony's Top Tips:**

They like a deep humus rich soil

that is well drained. Shady spot out of full sun.

All in all, Podophyllums are a beautiful, architectural statement for your woodland or shade garden.

**Please note all parts of all varieties are toxic.**  
**P.hexandrum is being grown for use as an anti-cancer drug.**