

REEMS CREEK NURSERY

Ground Covers

A Garden Guide

There are many lovely and interesting options for ground covers. As a replacement for lawn or as a supplement to turf areas, ground covers help to blend and unite the yard into a harmonious picture. A well-selected ground cover can address such problem areas as a slope too steep to mow or an area too shady for grass. Ground covers can also create an attractive surface upon which buildings, garden structures, garden art, trees, shrubs, and flower beds are displayed. One asset of ground covers is that once established, they grow, spread, thicken, and become more attractive each year. Unlike grass, ground covers require no mowing, reducing the time spent in landscape maintenance.

SOIL PREPARATION

The best way to prepare the soil is to till the entire planting area. If this is not possible, spade deeply, break up the soil, and rake smooth. If soil is heavy clay, amend with one bag of Soil Conditioner / pine bark fines and one bag of either Composted Cow Manure or Mushroom Compost per 25 sq. ft. of planting space. On a steep bank it is easier to dig individual holes and amend each one.

PLANTING AND SPACING:



See list on back for several kinds of ground covers for different areas. Some of the vining and clump-type ground covers are available in small pots and although slower growing this is an economical way to purchase them. For quick coverage, plant 2-3 plants per square foot. Shrub and perennial ground covers are most commonly available in gallon size. Spacing on junipers, cotoneasters, and jasmine can be as close as 4' apart and still give good coverage. Spacing on the other ground covers vary – our tags provide mature height and width information. To ensure complete coverage start at the top of the area to be planted and stagger rows down and across until finished.

EXAMPLE

X X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X X
X X X X X X X X

Incorporate Espoma Biotone or Plantone (4 lbs. per 100 sq. ft.) mixed into the soil when planting. Water each plant thoroughly as it is planted.

MAINTENANCE

Keep newly set plants well watered until they become established (at least 1st year). Mulching a new planting helps control weeds and retain moisture. After the first year fertilize the planting in spring with Espoma Plant-Tone® according to instructions on the label. This is also a good time to prune out dead branches, twigs, leaves, etc.

GROUND COVERS SHADE – No direct sun

Acorus sp. – Sweet Flag
Ajuga sp.
**Asarum canadense* – Wild Ginger
**Athyrium filix-femina* – Lady Fern
**Carex pensylvanica* – Sedge
**Chrysogonum virginianum* – Green and Gold
Convallaria majalis – Lily of the Valley
**Dennstaedtia punctilobula* – Hay Scented Fern
**Diplazium pycnocarpon* syn. *Athyrium pycnocarpon* – Glade Fern
**Dryopteris marginalis* – Eastern Wood Fern
Galium odoratum – Sweet Woodruff
**Iris cristata* – Dwarf Crested Iris
Lamium sp. – Dead Nettle
Liriope sp.
**Osmunda cinnamomea* – Cinnamon Fern
Pachysandra sp. (semi-evergreen)

**Parathelypteris noveboracensis* syn.
Thelypteris noveboracensis – New York Fern
**Polystichum acrostichoides* – Christmas Fern (evergreen)
Sarcococca sp. – Sweet Box
Vinca minor – Periwinkle (evergreen) – Silver Gem Prostrate Blue Violet
**Viola walteri* ‘Silver Gem’
**Woodwardia virginica* – Virginia Chain Fern

PARTIAL SHADE Filtered sun all day or 2-3 hours direct sun

Acorus sp. – Sweet Flag
Ajuga sp.
**Athyrium filix-femina* – Lady Fern
Convallaria majalis – Lily of the Valley
**Dennstaedtia punctilobula* – Hay Scented Fern
**Diplazium pycnocarpon* syn. *Athyrium pycnocarpon* – Glade Fern
**Dryopteris marginalis* – Eastern Wood Fern
Galium sp.
Gaultheria sp.
Helleborus sp. – Lenten, Christmas Rose
Hosta sp.
Jasminum nudiflorum – Winter Jasmine
Lamium sp.
Liriope sp.
Mazus reptans
**Osmunda cinnamomea* – Cinnamon Fern
Pachysandra sp. (evergreen)

**Parathelypteris noveboracensis* syn.
Thelypteris noveboracensis – New York
Fern

**Polystichum acrostichoides* – Christmas
Fern (evergreen)

Sarcococca sp.

Vinca minor (evergreen)

**Woodwardia virginica* – Virginia Chain
Fern

PART SUN
4-5 hours direct sun

Ajuga sp.

Ceratostigma sp. – Plumbago

**Chrysogonum virginianum* – Green and
Gold

Cotoneaster sp.

Dianthus – various varieties (evergreen)

Fragaria sp. – Strawberry

**Gaultheria procumbens* – Wintergreen

Geranium sp. – Hardy geranium

Iberis sempervirens – Candytuft

Jasminum nudiflorum – Winter Jasmine

Lamium sp.

Lysimachia sp.

Liriope sp.

Mazus reptans

Nepeta sp. – Catmint

Ophiopogon sp. – Dwarf Mondo Grass

Rubus calycinoïdes – Creeping Raspberry
(evergreen)

Sagina subulata

Saponaria officinalis – Soapwort

Sarcococca sp. – Sweet Box

Sedum sp.

**Sisyrinchium angustifolium* 'Lucerne' –
Blue-eyed Grass

Stachys sp.

Thymus sp.

Vinca minor (evergreen)

FULL SUN

7 or more hours of direct sunlight

Ceratostigma sp.

Cotoneaster sp.

Delosperma sp.

Dianthus sp. (evergreen)

Fragaria sp. – Strawberry

Geranium sp. – hardy

Iberis sempervirens – Candytuft

Jasminum nudiflorum – Winter Jasmine

Juniperus sp.

Liriope sp.

**Lysimachia lanceolata*

Mazus reptans

Phlox – Creeping

Rosa sp. – Creeping Rose varieties

Rubus calycinoïdes – Creeping Raspberry
(evergreen)

Sagina subulata

Saponaria officinalis – Soapwort

Sedum sp.

**Sisyrinchium angustifolium* 'Lucerne' –
Blue-eyed Grass

Stachys sp.

Thymus sp. – Thyme

*-native to eastern U.S.

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