



# Extension FactSheet

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## Herbaceous Groundcovers for the Home Landscape

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**G**round covers are low-growing plants that spread over an area. They often are used to solve a problem with erosion or maintenance of steep slopes. Where shade is too dense for growing turfgrass, ground covers are suggested. Ground covers are recommended around trees when the trees' roots are at the surface and cause mowing problems.

Ground covers should not only be thought of as a solution for problem areas but also as a way to visually unify divergent components of a landscape or to soften the edges of walks, steps, and drives. As a foreground, a ground cover can be the unifying factor in a collection of plants. They may function as a traffic barrier or visual guide to the entry.

A ground cover defines space. It gives a crisp, permanent definition to the form of a garden. A low ground cover provides a transition between the lawn and taller plants. The aesthetic qualities of ground covers include attractive foliage, colorful flowers, and bright fruits, adding color and texture to the landscape. Careful selection of a ground cover will add to the year-round beauty of your landscape. Many herbaceous ground covers die back to the ground in winter, exposing bare soil. If this is undesirable, select an evergreen ground cover.

### Site and Soil Preparation

Start by removing all vegetation from the planting site. Grass and weeds may be killed using a systemic, non-selective herbicide or by covering the site with a sheet of plastic for one to three months. Once dead, the remaining debris may be turned into the soil, adding organic matter. Turfgrass also may be removed by undercutting the sod. Thoroughly removing grasses and weeds from an area

before planting ground covers reduces, but does not eliminate, future weeding.

Till the soil to a depth of 6 or more inches, except in areas where tree roots are growing. Improve heavy clay and porous, sandy soils by adding as much as 30 percent by volume organic matter, such as humus, composted sewage sludge, or composted manure, and working it into the top 6 inches of soil. This will improve aeration and water penetration and infiltration.

Test the soil for pH and nutrient levels before planting. Add fertilizer based on the soil-test results and till them into the soil. This is especially important if phosphorus is low, since it does not move readily through the soil.

### Planting

Most ground covers can be planted any time during the growing season; however, spring and fall are preferred because of the nearly ideal growing conditions. Summer planting may require significant irrigation. To prevent heaving, mulch fall-planted ground covers once the soil freezes.

The ideal ground cover grows vigorously, quickly filling in the area and shading out weeds. Select a plant adapted to the conditions of the site. Space plants according to their size, the effect desired, and the plant's rate of growth and growth habit. Closer planting results in the area filling in faster but is unnecessary if site and soil are properly prepared and maintained. See the planting chart (page 10) for determining the number of plants needed for a given area.

When planting on slopes, the goal is to keep the soil in place until the ground cover has established adequately to control erosion. Do this by planting in pockets and not

tilling the entire area, planting in staggered rows to slow the runoff of heavy rain, mulching the area after planting, or placing netting over the area and planting through it. Netting should be made of natural fiber that will disintegrate, since synthetic fibers may entrap wildlife, especially snakes.

## Maintenance

Newly planted ground covers require regular irrigation but must not be over-watered. Under normal circumstances, one inch of water applied every five to seven days is adequate for establishing new plants. Monitor rainfall with a rain gauge or a straight-edged can. Check the soil in the root zone. When it is dry, apply enough water so that the soil is moist to a depth of 4–6 inches.

Two to 3 inches of mulch will reduce evaporation of moisture from the soil and help reduce invasion by weeds. Well-aged bark, humus, cocoa bean hulls, pine needles, and shredded wood chips are organic mulch options.

Figure 1. USDA Revised Hardiness Zones



### Average Minimum Temperatures

	<b>Zone 5a</b> -15 to -20°F
	<b>Zone 5b</b> -10 to -15°F
	<b>Zone 6a</b> -5 to -10°F
	<b>Zone 6b</b> 0 to -5°F

Weeding is required until the plants fill the space. Hand weeding is probably the best option. A few pre-emergent herbicides are labeled for use in specific ground covers, however, it is critical that label directions are followed. Your specific ground cover must be listed for safe and legal use of the product.

There are a few post-emergent herbicides available for use in ground covers. Some perennial weeds, such as thistle and bindweed, regenerate from root fragments and are difficult to remove by hand weeding. These may be treated with a non-selective broadleaf herbicide applied with a brush, cloth, or wick applicator. Be careful, since these herbicides will kill the ground cover if applied to its foliage. Fertilization of ground covers is ideally based on soil-test analysis. Otherwise, a general recommendation is to apply 1–1½ pounds of 16-8-8 analysis fertilizer per 100 square feet annually in the fall or early spring.

## Herbaceous Ground Covers for Ohio

A brief description of several factors is given for each plant.

**Common name:** There is often more than one common name for a single plant. These are the most widely used common names. When purchasing plants it is recommended that you use the botanical name to avoid confusion.

**Zone:** The Zone refers to the USDA Zone Map. The lower the zone number, the colder the winter temperature that the plant can survive under reasonably good gardening conditions. A map of the zones in Ohio is located on the left.

**Growth rate:** The growth rate is given in general terms. These will vary greatly depending on the soil conditions, soil preparation, how closely the growth needs of the plant match the conditions of the site, planting technique, etc.

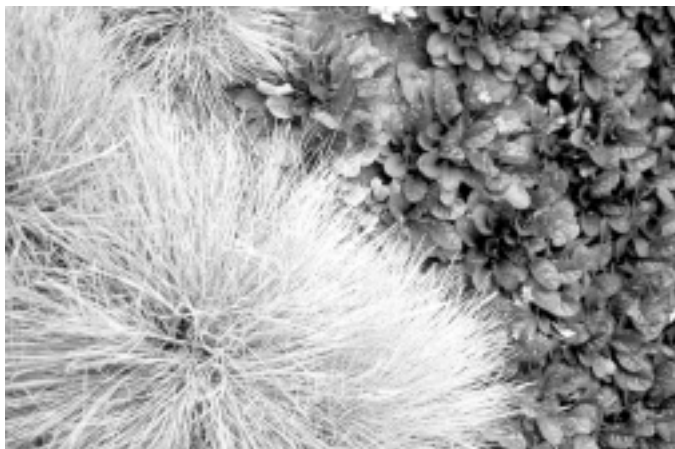
**Culture:** The culture of a plant refers to its soil, exposure, and other growing needs. The following are definitions for the degrees of sun and shade:

*Full sun:* Six or more hours of direct sunlight per day.

*Partial shade:* Neither full sun nor shade, but shaded during part of the day (six hours or less per day); for many plants it is ideal if the shade is during the hottest hours of the day.

*Light shade:* Neither full sun nor shade, but sunlight that is filtered through the foliage of a tree or an open structure.

*Shade or full shade:* No direct sunlight or reflected light.



*Ajuga reptans*, commonly called bugleweed, is shown in the rear right of the above photo. *Festuca ovina lauca*, commonly called blue sheep fescue, is shown in the front left of the photo. Photo by Jack Kerrigan.

**Uses:** These are the main ways the plant may be used. There are many options that have not been listed.

**Problems:** This refers to common insect and mite pests, as well as diseases that can cause serious problems for the plant. Additionally, the problem of plants that can be invasive in the garden is indicated.

### *Aegopodium podagraria 'Variegatum'*

Common name: goutweed, bishop's weed

Zone 4

Height: 12 inches

Growth rate: fast

Foliage: leaves twice compound, with leaflets toothed

Flower: small, white, in a compound umbel in summer

Culture: any soil; partial shade, but tolerates sun

Uses: foliage plant

Problems: mites, slugs, leaf blight; can be very invasive

### *Ajuga reptans*

Common name: bugleweed or carpet bugle

Zone 2 to 3

Height: 3–6 inches

Growth rate: fast

Foliage: leaves opposite, smooth margins or blunt teeth, oval; cultivars with variegated and bronze foliage are available

Flower: irregular and two-lipped, in close clusters or spikes, blue or purplish from May to mid-June

Culture: easy to grow in ordinary, well-drained garden soil; sun to partial shade

Uses: for borders or rock gardens

Problems: crown rot in moist soil (especially in hot weather), invasive in good soil and can invade adjacent turf areas

### *Alchemilla mollis*

Common name: lady's mantle

Zone 4

Height: 15 inches

Growth rate: moderate

Foliage: lobed, erect, long-stalked, greyish-green

Flower: small, greenish-yellow flowers without petals, early summer

Culture: easy to grow in any soil; sun or light shade (leaves may scorch in full sun)

Problems: none serious

### *Arabis caucasica*

Common name: wall rock-cress

Zone 4

Height: 12 inches

Growth rate: moderate

Foliage: leaves basal or along stem, grey-green, toothed, usually hairy

Flower: small, white or purple in early spring, fragrant, spikes or racemes

Culture: warm, sandy, well-drained soil; sun

Problems: aphids, club root, downy mildew, white rust, leaf spots

### *Artemisia spp.*

Common name: wormwood

Zone 3 to 5 (varies with species)

Height: 6 inches to 2 feet, varies by species

Growth rate: moderate to fast

Foliage: soft, grey, and aromatic

Flower: small, clustered, white, brownish, purplish, or yellowish (varies with species), not ornamental

Culture: infertile, relatively dry, acidic to neutral soil; sun to partial shade

Uses: mounded, neutral foliage plant

Problems: rust, damping off

### *Asarum spp.*

Common names: wild ginger and European ginger

Zone 4 *A. canadense*, Zone 5 *A. europeum*

Height: 6–8 inches

Growth rate: slow to moderate

Foliage: evergreen, kidney-shaped, leathery, European has glossy leaves

Flower: bell-shaped, greenish-purple or brown, not ornamental

Culture: rich, moist soil; shade

Uses: naturalizing

Problems: none serious

***Aubrieta deltoidea***

Common name: purple rock cress  
 Zone 4  
 Height: 3–6 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate  
 Foliage: evergreen, grey-green, toothed, hairy  
 Flower: rose-lilac to rose-purple, April to June  
 Culture: slightly acidic to slightly alkaline, well-drained, sandy loam; full sun to light shade  
 Problems: damping off, aphids, mealybugs

***Campanula poscharskyana***

Common name: Serbian bellflower  
 Zone 4  
 Height: 4–9 inches  
 Growth rate: vigorous to invasive in fertile soil  
 Foliage: medium-green, heart-shaped, toothed  
 Flower: lavender-blue to lilac, mid-summer  
 Fruit: none  
 Culture: well-drained soil, drought resistant once established; medium to light shade  
 Problems: leaf spot, powdery mildew, invasive

***Cerastium tomentosum***

Common name: snow-in-summer  
 Zone 4  
 Height: 6 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate to fast  
 Foliage: mat-forming, conspicuously white-wooly  
 Flower: white, small, relatively showy, June  
 Culture: well-drained soil, will grow in pure sand; full sun  
 Problems: aphids and mealybugs

***Ceratostigma plumbaginoides***

Common name: leadwort, plumbago  
 Zone 5  
 Height: 12 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate to fast  
 Foliage: alternate, hairy on the margins, reddish in autumn  
 Flower: loose clusters with stiff bracts, corolla tubular, deep blue, late summer  
 Culture: moderately fertile, loose soil; in full sun, will tolerate some shade  
 Problems: aphids

***Chrysogonum virginianum***

Common name: golden star  
 Zone 5  
 Height: 4–10 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate  
 Foliage: opposite, long-stalked, bluntly toothed  
 Flower: solitary or few, yellow, spring  
 Culture: moderately rich, well-drained soil; partial shade  
 Problems: none serious

***Convallaria majalis***

Common name: lily-of-the-valley  
 Zone 4  
 Height: 6–12 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate to fast  
 Foliage: basal, lily-like  
 Flower: white, waxy, very fragrant, bell-shaped, in a terminal raceme, mid-May to mid-June  
 Culture: moist, fertile soil, enriched annually; full to partial shade  
 Problems: weevils, nematodes, Japanese beetle, slugs, anthracnose, leaf spots, leaf blotch, crown rot, can be invasive

***Epimedium spp.***

Common name: barrenwort  
 Zone 4–5  
 Height: 8–12 inches  
 Growth rate: slow  
 Foliage: compound, finely toothed, heart-shaped  
 Flower: crimson flushed with red or yellow, spring  
 Culture: moist soil; partial shade  
 Problems: none serious

***Euphorbia cyparissias***

Common name: cypress spurge  
 Zone 3  
 Height: 10–20 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate  
 Foliage: needle-like, blue-green leaves  
 Flower: showy, red-tinged yellow bracts, mid-spring to summer  
 Culture: loose, light-textured, sandy or gravelly soil, well-drained, neutral to alkaline; full sun to moderate shade  
 Problems: can be invasive



Three groundcovers are used together for a pleasing combination of heights, shades of green, and leaf size and texture. Hosta is in the rear. *Athyrium thalyppteroides*, commonly called silvery-glade fern is the feathery plant in the middle with *Lamium maculatum*, commonly called dead nettle, in the front. *Photo by Jack Kerrigan.*

## Ferns

Many ferns provide excellent ground cover for shaded sites. Most are in the range of one to three feet tall, but they vary according to species. Most do well in a moist, well-drained, organic soil.

*Adiantum pedatum* (maidenhair fern), 18–26 inches tall  
*Cystopteris bulbifera* (bulblet bladder fern), 2–3 feet tall  
*Osmunda cinnamomea* (cinnamon fern), 4 feet tall  
*Polypodium virginianum* (polypody fern), 10 inches tall  
*Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas fern), 3 feet tall

### *Festuca ovina* var. *Glauca*

Common name: blue fescue

Zone 4

Height: 8–10 inches

Growth rate: slow

Foliage: grass-like, sky-blue, sharply pointed

Flower: straw-colored, late summer

Culture: excellent drainage, sandy or gravelly, light-textured soil; full sun

Uses: border or massing

Problems: none serious

### *Galium odoratum*

Common name: sweet woodruff

Zone 5

Height: 12 inches

Growth rate: moderate

Foliage: lance-shaped, small, in whorls, fragrant when dried

Flower: white, tiny, in clusters, May to mid-June

Culture: moist to dry, well-drained, slightly acidic soil; shade

Uses: finely textured ground cover

Problems: invasive

### *Geranium* spp.

Common name: cranesbill

Zone 4 to 5

Height: 18 inches

Growth rate: moderate to fast

Foliage: medium to dark green, toothed, hairy

Flower: showy, white, pink, or blue; flowering time varies with species

Culture: well-drained, acidic to slightly alkaline soils; full sun to partial shade

Problems: bacterial and fungal leaf spots, invasive

### *Helianthemum nummularium*

Common name: rock rose

Zone 6

Height: 9–12 inches

Growth rate: slow to moderate

Foliage: evergreen or semi-evergreen, narrow, usually grey-green

Flower: yellow, round, five petals, texture like crepe paper, early June and July

Culture: sandy, well-drained, alkaline soil; full sun

Problems: crown rot

### *Hemerocallis* hybrids

Common name: daylilies

Zone 3 (evergreen cultivars Zone 6 to 7)

Height: 5 inches to 4 feet

Growth rate: moderate

Foliage: strap-like

Flower: bell-shaped and widely expanding, white, yellow, orange and red, bloom time varies with hybrid, repeat bloomers available

Culture: most garden soil, well-drained and organic best; full sun to light shade

Problems: thrips, slugs, aphids, spider mites, Japanese beetles, blight, russet spot on foliage, but none serious

***Hosta spp.***

Common name: plantain lily

Zone 4

Size: 6–36 inches

Growth rate: moderate

Foliage: basal, heart-shaped, green to blue-green to yellow, some variegated, some with crinkled or wavy texture

Flower: white to pale lavender, spikes; bloom time varies with species

Culture: moist, well-drained soil; part to full shade

Problems: slugs

***Houttuynia cordata 'Chameleon'***

Common name: Houttuynia

Zone 5

Height: 6–8 inches

Growth rate: fast

Foliage: heart-shaped, yellow, green, bronze, and red

Flower: long spike with florets lacking petals; early summer

Culture: moist to wet soil; sun or partial shade

Problems: none serious, very invasive

***Lamium galeobdolon var. Variegatum***

Common name: yellow archangel

Zone 4

Height: 12 inches

Growth rate: fast

Foliage: heart-shaped to ovate, spotted with silver, long margins doubly toothed

Flower: hooded, double-lipped in whorls of 5 to 15, yellow, late spring to early summer

Culture: any average soil; shade

Problems: leaf blight, mites, invasive

***Lamium maculatum***

Common name: spotted dead nettle

Zone 4

Height: 6–8 inches

Growth rate: moderate

Foliage: crinkled, rounded teeth, heart-shaped, some cultivars variegated

Flower: white, rose, and lavender, late spring to mid-summer

Culture: well-drained, rich, acidic loam; cool site; moderate shade

Problems: slugs, aphids, leaf scorch, crown rot, leaf blight, leaf spots

***Liriope spicata***

Common name: creeping lily-turf

Zone 5

Height: 10 inches

Growth rate: slow to moderate

Foliage: narrow, grass-like, with minute teeth on margins

Flower: pale lilac to white, clusters lax and open, summer

Fruit: berrylike, black

Culture: fertile, moist soil; shade or sun

Problems: snails, slugs, scale insects, mealybugs

***Lysimachia nummularia***

Common name: creeping Jennie

Zone 4

Height: 2 inches

Growth rate: moderate to fast

Foliage: opposite, nearly round

Flower: solitary in leaf axils, stalked, yellow corolla bell-shaped, late spring, sporadic through mid-summer

Culture: moist soil; sun or shade

Problems: bud scale mites, wooly aphids, fungal leaf blight, invasive

***Mazus reptans***

Common name: creeping mazus

Zone 6

Height: 2 inches

Growth rate: initially slow, then moderate to fast

Foliage: lance-shaped to oval, coarsely toothed, light green, fleshy

Flower: lavender to purplish-blue, small in profuse clusters; late spring to early summer

Fruit: not ornamental

Culture: moist, rich soil; sun or light shade

Uses: between stepping stones

Problems: invasive in rich soil

***Pachysandra procumbens***

Common name: Alleghany spurge

Zone 5

Height: 8–10 inches

Growth rate: slow to moderate

Foliage: leathery, grayish to bluish-green, toothed, bronzed in autumn, deciduous to semi-evergreen

Flower: white or purplish, fragrant, early spring

Fruit: purple capsule often obscured by foliage

Culture: moist, well-drained, organic soil; shade to partial shade

Problems: slugs, mites, scale, nematodes, aphids, leaf blight (none as serious as on *P. terminalis*)

***Pachysandra terminalis***

Common name: Japanese spurge

Zone 5

Height: 9 inches

Growth rate: slow to moderate

Foliage: thick, dark, glossy green, spoon-shaped, alternate, toothed

Flower: white, in spikes, early spring

Fruit: small, whitish, oval berry

Culture: moist organic soil; shade to partial shade

Problems: slugs, mites, scales, nematodes, aphids, leaf blight

***Phlox subulata***

Common name: ground pink

Zone 4

Height: 6 inches

Growth rate: moderate

Foliage: small, crowded, needle-like

Flower: bright purple, pink or white, dense clusters, early to mid-spring

Culture: average, well-drained soil; full sun

Uses: rock gardens, walls or borders

Problems: beetles, scales, wireworms, two-spotted mite, bulb and stem nematodes, stalk borer, aster leaf hopper, leaf spots, powdery mildew, rusts, crown rot, stem blight, bacterial crown gall.

***Polygonum spp.***

Common name: fleece flower

Zone 4

Height: 2–18 inches, varies with species

Growth rate: moderate to fast

Foliage: basal, spatula-shaped, dark green with a white midvein

Flower: pink to bright rose, small on a spike, mid- to late summer

Culture: moist soil; sun

Problems: invasive

***Potentilla spp.***

Common name: cinquefoil

Zone 3 to 4

Height: 2–3 inches

Growth rate: moderate to fast

Foliage: palmately compound, toothed

Flower: golden-yellow to white, varies with species, bloom time varies with species

Culture: well-drained soil; full sun

Problems: none serious



*Sedum kamtschaticum*, commonly called stonecrop, is ideal in full sun. Photo by Jack Kerrigan.

***Sagina subulata***

Common name: Irish moss

Zone 5

Height: 2–4 inches

Growth rate: moderate

Foliage: very small, numerous, prostrate, moss-like

Flower: profuse, tiny white flowers on short stalks, early to mid-summer

Culture: moderately fertile, moist, well-drained soil; shade

Problems: crown rot, difficult to grow

***Saponaria ocymoides***

Common name: rock soapwort

Zone 2

Height: 4–10 inches

Growth rate: moderate to fast

Foliage: evergreen, dark green, small, teardrop-shaped

Flower: bright purplish-pink, late spring and sporadic through autumn

Culture: well-drained, loamy soil; sun

Problems: aphids and leaf spots

***Sedum spp.***

Common name: stonecrop, sedum

Zone 4 to 5

Height: 2–18 inches, varies with species

Growth rate: fast

Foliage: beadlike to broad flat oval

Flower: white, yellow, pink, red, or purple, tiny borne in clusters, bloom time varies with species

Culture: well-drained, sandy or gravelly, acidic soil; full sun

Problems: slugs, nematodes, aphids, weevil

***Stachys byzantina***

Common name: lamb's ears, wooly betony  
 Zone 5  
 Height: 8–18 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate  
 Foliage: soft, white-wooly, growing densely on lax, spreading stems, opposite, oval or broadly lance-shaped  
 Flower: purple, in whorls, on stems, in terminal spikes, corolla tubular, opening into two lips, July to frost  
 Culture: average, well-drained soil; full sun  
 Uses: neutral foliage color in flower borders  
 Problems: leaf spot, powdery mildew, leaf gall, slugs, nematodes, invasive

***Symphytum grandiflorum***

Common name: large-flowered comfrey  
 Zone 5  
 Height: 8–12 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate  
 Foliage: oblong or oval, hairy  
 Flower: pale yellow, tubular, in curved panicles, late spring to early summer  
 Culture: well-drained soil; sun or partial shade  
 Problems: none serious

***Thymus serpyllum***

Common name: creeping thyme, mother-of-thyme  
 Zone 4  
 Height: 1–3 inches  
 Growth rate: slow to moderate  
 Foliage: tiny, linear to elliptic, simple  
 Flower: purple, small, bell-shaped, late spring  
 Culture: well-drained, not overly rich soil; sunny  
 Uses: a lawn substitute, along walks, between paving stones  
 Problems: snails, slugs, leaf blight

***Tiarella cordifolia***

Common name: false miterwort, fleecflower, foamflower  
 Zone 5  
 Height: 6 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate  
 Foliage: broadly heart-shaped, margins lobed and toothed  
 Flower: small, white, dense, finger-shaped raceme on a slender stem, mid-spring  
 Culture: organic, moist, well-drained soil; light shade  
 Problems: none serious

***Veronica repens***

Common name: speedwell  
 Zone 5  
 Height: 4 inches  
 Growth rate: moderate to fast  
 Foliage: semi-evergreen, toothed, shiny dark green  
 Flower: blue, May  
 Culture: slightly to moderately acidic, well-drained soils; full sun to light shade  
 Problems: checkerspot butterfly larvae, Japanese weevil, southern root-knot nematode, downy mildew, leaf spot, leaf galls, root rot, leaf smut

***Vinca minor***

Common name: periwinkle  
 Zone 5  
 Height: 4–6 inches  
 Growth rate: slow  
 Foliage: evergreen, oblong to oval, shiny dark green  
 Flower: lilac-blue, funnel-shaped, spring  
 Culture: fertile, rich, organic, well-drained, loamy, acidic to neutral soil; shade to partial shade  
 Problems: aphids, nematodes, blight, canker, dieback, leaf spots, root rot

***Waldsteinia fragarioides***

Common name: mock strawberry  
 Zone 5  
 Height: 4–8 inches  
 Growth rate: slow to moderate  
 Foliage: evergreen, wedge-shaped, coarsely toothed  
 Flower: yellow, clusters, late spring to early summer  
 Culture: well-drained, acidic to neutral soil; full sun to light shade  
 Problems: slugs

**Ground covers for specific sites and uses:*****Shade***

*Aegopodium podagraria* 'Variegatum' (partial)  
*Ajuga reptans* (partial)  
*Alchemilla mollis* (light)  
*Artemisia* sp. (partial)  
*Asarum* sp.  
*Aubrieta deltoidea* (light)  
*Campanula poscharskyana*  
*Chrysogonum virginianum* (partial)  
*Convallaria majalis*  
*Epimedium* sp.

*Euphorbia cyparissias* (moderate)  
*Galium odoratum*  
*Geranium* sp. (partial)  
*Hemerocallis* hybrids (light)  
*Hosta* sp.  
*Houttuynia cordata* ‘Chameleon’ (partial)  
*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* var. *Variegatum*  
*Lamium maculatum* (moderate)  
*Liriope spicata*  
*Lysimachia nummularia*  
*Mazus reptans* (light)  
*Pachysandra procumbens*  
*Pachysandra terminalis*  
*Sagina subulata*  
*Symphytum grandiflorum* (partial)  
*Tiarella cordifolia* (light)  
*Veronica repens* (light)  
*Vinca minor*  
*Waldsteinia fragarioids* (light)

### Sun

*Ajuga reptans*  
*Alchemilla mollis*  
*Arabis caucasia*  
*Artemisia* sp.  
*Aubrieta deltoidea*  
*Cerastium tomentosum*  
*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*  
*Euphorbia cyparissias*  
*Festuca ovina* var. *Glauca*  
*Geranium* sp.  
*Helianthemum nummularium*  
*Hemerocallis* hybrids  
*Houttuynia cordata* ‘Chameleon’  
*Liriope spicata*  
*Lysimachia nummularia*  
*Mazus reptans*  
*Phlox subulata*  
*Polygonum* sp.  
*Potentilla verna*  
*Saponaria ocymoides*  
*Sedum* sp.  
*Stachys byzantina*  
*Symphytum grandiflorum*  
*Thymus serpyllum*  
*Veronica repens*  
*Vinca minor*  
*Waldsteinia fragarioids*

### Evergreen for shade

*Pachysandra terminalis*  
*Vinca minor*

### Evergreen for sun

*Vinca minor*

### Dry

*Artemisia* sp.  
*Campanula poscharskyana*  
*Geranium* sp.  
*Hemerocallis* hybrids  
*Lamium maculatum*  
*Sedum* sp.  
*Thymus serpyllum*  
*Vinca minor*

### Wet

*Asarum* sp. (moist)  
*Houttuynia cordata* ‘Chameleon’  
*Liriope spicata*  
*Lysimachia nummularia*  
*Mazus reptans* (moist)

### Slopes

*Convallaria majalis*  
*Hemerocallis* hybrids  
*Hosta* sp.  
*Liriope spicata*  
*Lysimachia nummularia*  
*Pachysandra procumbens*  
*Pachysandra terminalis*  
*Phlox subulata*  
*Sedum* sp.  
*Vinca minor*

### Invasive

*Aegopodium podagraria* ‘*Variegatum*’  
*Ajuga reptans*  
*Campanula poscharskyana*  
*Convallaria majalis*  
*Euphorbia cyparissias*  
*Galium odoratum*  
*Geranium* sp.  
*Houttuynia cordata* ‘Chameleon’  
*Lamiastrum galeobdolon* var. *Variegatum*  
*Lysimachia nummularia*  
*Mazus reptans* (in rich soil)  
*Polygonum* sp.  
*Stachys byzantina*

Ornamental grasses can be used as ground covers. See OSU Extension Fact Sheet HYG 1238 for detailed information.

### Determining the Number of Plants Needed

This chart may be used to determine how many plants you will need based on the square footage of your area.

<i>Square feet of planting area</i>	<i>Spacing (in inches)</i>				
	<i>6 in.</i>	<i>8 in.</i>	<i>9 in.</i>	<i>12 in.</i>	<i>18 in.</i>
100	400	225	178	100	45
200	800	450	356	200	90
300	1200	675	534	300	135
400	1600	900	712	400	180
500	2000	1125	890	500	225
600	2400	1350	1068	600	270
700	2800	1575	1246	700	315
800	3200	1800	1425	800	360
900	3600	2025	1602	900	405
1000	4000	2250	1780	1000	450

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