

GROUNDCOVER CARE SHEET

Groundcovers have many functions in the garden.

- Quickly covering large, bare areas.
- Help stabilize soil on slopes.
- Help unify different elements in a gardenscape.
- Soften the hard edges of buildings or architectural structures.
- Evergreen types can reduce drifting and blowing of snow.
- provide colour and visual interest in an otherwise barren area, especially groundcovers with variegated foliage.
- May grow where other plantings fail, such as in deep shade or in hot, dry climates.
- Act as a living mulch to maintain moisture levels in the soil and help prevent weed germination and weed growth.
- Complement and contrast with other plant textures, colours and forms.
- Provide a lower maintenance alternative to a lawn.
- Help hide yellowing bulb foliage in the summer.
- Can provide multi-seasonal interest with changing foliage colour, berries and blooms.

Because we expect so much from these plants, there are a few things to remember to ensure their success in the garden/landscape. First, assess the intended planting site. Consider sun exposure, wind, moisture conditions, soil type (sandy or clay), soil PH (you may wish to have your soil tested), winter snow cover, and exposure to pollution (salt spray in winter can be a problem in some areas). Try to match up the groundcover's requirements with the planting site; there are many varieties to choose from.

SITE PREPARATION AND PLANTING

Before planting, clear the area of all weeds and other unwanted plants. The quality of the soil is key to success. Amend the soil to a depth of 8 - 12" with well-rotted manure or compost. Large areas should be mulched first with shredded cedar or another organic mulch. The mulch will help keep weed germination down while the planting is becoming established. Plant your groundcover through the mulch. Do not mulch too heavily if the type of groundcover is a root-as-it-runs variety; e.g. *Hedera helix* or Ivy.

If you are under-planting existing perennials, shrubs, or trees, topdressing the soil with organic compost or well-rotted manure, before planting, may be all that is necessary. Gently loosen groundcover roots at planting time to encourage them to develop into the new area. Water thoroughly to remove air pockets in the soil and follow up with a Plant World Plant Starter 5-15-5 fertilizer to encourage healthy root growth. Maintain deep watering for the first year until the plants can become established. Be certain to water well just before the ground freezes to ensure good winter survival. Top-dress the area annually with an organic source such as shredded leaves, compost or composted manure.

<i>Aegeopodium podagraria</i>	Ht:12"(30cm) part shade/shade	<i>Hosta</i> (many cultivars)	Part shade/shade
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Ht:6"(15cm) part shade/shade	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	Ht:8-12"(20-30cm) part shade/shade
<i>Astilbe chinensis</i> 'Pumila'	Ht:10"(25cm) part shade	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Ht:6-12"(15-30cm) part shade/shade
<i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>	Ht:6-12"(15-30cm) full sun	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Ht:2-4"(5-10cm) full sun to shade
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Ht:8-12"(20-30cm) full sun	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Ht:8"(20cm) part shade/shade
<i>Chamamelum nobile</i>	Ht:6"(15cm) full sun lawn substitute	<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	Ht:6-12"(15-30cm) part shade - shade
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Ht:6"(15cm) part shade/shade	<i>Sagina subulata</i>	Ht:1"(2cm) full sun/part shade (some foot traffic)
<i>Dianthus</i> (many cultivars)	Ht:6-12"(15-30cm) full sun	<i>Sedum</i> dwarf varieties	
<i>Epimedium</i> hybrids	Ht:8-12"(20-30cm) part shade - shade, tolerates dry shade	<i>Sedum spurium</i>	Ht:6"(15cm) full sun/part shade
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Ht:12-18"(30-45cm) full sun/part shade	<i>Tiarella</i> 'Slickrock'	Ht:6-8"(15-20cm) part shade
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Ht:4-8"(10-20cm) shade - part shade, some foot traffic	<i>Thymus praecox</i>	Ht:1-2"(2-5cm) full sun (tolerates foot traffic)
<i>Geranium cantabrigiense</i>	Ht:8-12"(20-30cm) full sun/part shade	<i>Veronica prostrata</i> 'Heavenly Blue'	Ht:4"(10cm) sun/part shade
<i>Geranium dalmaticum</i>	Ht:4"(10cm) full sun/part shade	<i>Veronica repens</i>	Ht:1/2"(1cm) full sun/part shade
<i>Geranium endressii</i>	Ht:12-18"(30-45cm) full sun/part shade	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Ht:4-6"(10-15cm) part shade/shade
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	Ht:12"(30cm) full sun to shade/tolerates dry shade	<i>Cotoneaster dammeri</i>	Ht:6-12"(15-30cm) full sun/part shade
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ht:4-6"(10-15cm) full sun to shade	Also consider spreading Junipers (<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>) Ht:4-24"(10-60cm) full sun	
<i>Hemerocallis</i> (many cultivars)	Full sun/part shade		

Follow the guidelines for spacing requirements. Plants that are spaced too far apart may take longer to grow in, allowing weeds to take over bare areas in the meantime.

Square Footage	4 inch spacing	6 inch spacing	8 inch spacing	12 inch spacing	18 inch spacing
1	9	4	2	1	0
5	45	20	11	5	2
10	91	40	23	10	4
20	182	80	46	20	9
50	455	200	114	50	22
75	682	300	171	75	33
100	909	400	228	100	44