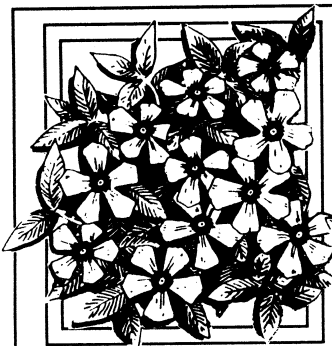
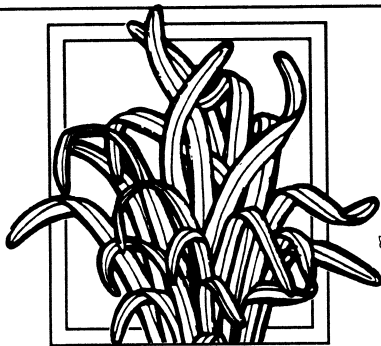


Groundcovers

FOR SHADY AREAS



Vinca major



Liriope



English Ivy



Star Jasmine

Any plant with a spreading or sprawling habit can be classified as a groundcover. Obviously, many small shrubs, annuals and perennials could be classified as at least "temporary" groundcovers. Ask our Certified Nursery Professionals about alternative uses of these plants. In this list, we have provided you with several varieties of permanent groundcovers for shady locations. Some of these shady spots may not have enough sunlight to grow turf grasses but shade loving groundcovers will flourish. You can also use groundcovers to provide a change in foliage texture or add a splash of color to these shaded areas. Another advantage of groundcovers is that they generally have low maintenance requirements, especially compared to turf grasses.

How To Plant

Groundcovers will grow best when they don't have to compete with weeds and grasses for water and nutrients. Prepare your groundcover beds by cleaning out all weeds and grasses before you plant anything. Use a non-selective herbicide containing glyphosate like **Green Light Weed-Away**. Measure and mark the bed to position the plants in a checkerboard pattern. This pattern will provide the quickest coverage at the most economical cost. Dig each hole twice as wide and the same depth as the root ball. Mix an equal amount of **Perma-Gro Mulch** with the soil removed from the hole. After carefully removing the plant from

the container, place the plant in the hole and fill the hole with the 50/50 soil-mulch mixture. Water each plant thoroughly with a solution of Perma-Gro Root Stimulator to prevent transplant shock and promote a healthy, vigorous root system. Repeat feeding with **Root Stimulator** at 2 week intervals for 3 to 4 months. To help retain moisture and reduce weed competition, put a 3 to 4 inch top layer of **Perma-Gro Mulch** over the entire groundcover bed.

Maintenance

You will need to water your new groundcover bed regularly during the first growing season, until the plants have established deep root systems. Your new plants will need at least an inch of water each week. So if it doesn't rain, bring out the hoses. As groundcovers grow, they will need additional nutrients provided by supplemental fertilization. Fertilize your groundcover with a complete turf food like **Perma-Gro Premium Lawn Food** 3 times a year, early Spring, late Spring and early Fall. Most groundcovers are selected for their low maintenance needs, so you won't need to prune unless the plants become lanky and leggy. This can generally be corrected by lightly pruning back the growing shoots to encourage more branching and spreading. The most important maintenance task will be to keep the weeds out. Proper soil preparation at planting will reduce most

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Maintenance (continued...)

of these problems. Heavy mulching will also help to keep the weeds out. Several herbicides, like **Green Light Eptam**, can be used for pre-emergent control and a few for post-emergent spot treatment control. Bring in a sample of your weed problem and consult with one of our Certified Nursery Professionals. They will be glad to assist you in determining the best products to use.

Groundcovers For Shady Areas

Ajuga

This 2 to 6 inch low-growing evergreen has spoon shaped leaves that often have a purplish tint, especially during cold weather. In early Spring, ajuga produces spikes of blue/purple flowers. Plant 8 to 10 inches apart in well-drained soils.

Liriope

This coarse bladed 12 to 18 inch grass-like plant makes a great border or mass planting around taller landscape plants. Spikes of flowers will appear for several weeks in the Summer, followed by black berries. Space clumps 15 to 18 inches apart. Liriope comes in green and variegated forms. The green varieties will tolerate more sun.

Monkey Grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*)

This is a finer bladed 6 to 10 inch grass-like plant that also makes a great border or mass planting. This is a very dependable groundcover for shady areas. It does not tolerate hot sun very well.

English Ivy (*Hedera helix*)

A very dark green vine that bunches on the ground to a height of 10 inches and climbs on trees, trellises, walls and fences. Even though it is a fast grower, it can be easily controlled.

Algerian Ivy (*Hedera canariensis*)

It closely resembles English Ivy except the leaves are 2 to 3 times larger. It is also an aggressive grower but is tender to cold weather damage in areas of North Texas.

Vinca major

This is a perennial trailing periwinkle that provides a dark green cover of foliage with blue/purple flowers in the Spring. Once established, this groundcover will be essentially maintenance free. Invigorate new growth and branching by mowing in early Spring. *Vinca minor* is very similar with smaller leaves. It requires a little more protection from the sun.

Japanese Honeysuckle

This dark green vining plant is very versatile. It will tolerate shade as well as sunny exposures. Its very fragrant blooms will make you want this in your garden every Spring. Plant 12 to 24 inches apart. If you are using this strictly as a groundcover and not as a climbing plant, you will need to prune it back in late Winter to prevent it from getting lanky and woody.

Star Jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*)

This trailing evergreen vine has dark, glossy green leaves and blooms in the Spring producing delightfully fragrant white flowers. This favorite will also climb on fences and trellises. Plant 18 to 24 inches apart. It is tender to cold in North Texas.

Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

This low growing groundcover has small rounded leaves on long stems that hug the ground to 2 to 4 inches. Plant 12 to 15 inches apart and water regularly.

Several other great groundcovers for shady areas in mild Winter climates are:

Campanula spp. (Bellflower), *Cissus rhombifolia* (Grape Ivy), *Fragaria chilensis* (Wild Strawberry), *Soleirolia soleirolia* (Baby's Tears).



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