

Pleasant Valley Greenhouse & Nursery, Inc.

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Groundcovers

Groundcovers for sun and dry soil:

Sedum – Spreading varieties (there are many!)

Hens n'Chicks – There are many varieties.

Groundcovers for sun and good soil:

Aegopodium – (Bishops Weed) Green leaves with white edges. Spreads very well.

Ajuga – Low, tricolor, or maroon leaves with 4” purple flower spikes in summer. This is a low spreading “mat” that tolerates poorer soil, plant in sun to part shade. It is a perennial, so it dies back in the winter.

Cerastium – (Snow in the Summer) Silvery foliage and white flowers in May and June.

Cotoneaster Apiculato – A semi-evergreen spreading groundcover can be 2’ high and 3-6’ wide. This does best in good, well-drained soil. Attractive red berries in late summer to fall. Plant in sun to part shade.

Creeping Phlox – Low mat with bright flowers in early spring. It likes good soil.

Crown Vetch – Crown Vetch is a clover like groundcover that is planted by seed. It needs to be planted by early May in order to take. It can be seeded over existing grass or weeds. It is a good choice for steep, rocky banks where other groundcovers will not grow. It grows approximately 18” tall and has round pinkish flowers similar to clover.

English “Thorndale” Ivy – This medium leaf version of English Ivy is the hardies and the best variety in our area. It spreads and climbs, evergreen variety. May die back in severe winters where exposed.

Euonymus ‘Coloratus’ – (Purple leaf wintercreeper). It is a low growing, vigorous evergreen groundcover with dark green, thick leaves that turn purplish in winter. It may not be a good choice out in the country where rabbits could damage it in the winter. Plant in full sun to part shade.

Groundcover Roses – For a sunny area, these can’t be beat! Very disease resistant, spreads, and they flower from June-October.

Irish Moss – This low growing perennial can be used in-between rocks, where moisture is adequate. It can be used in rock gardens or in-between stone walkways.

Lamium – Variegated heart shaped leaves with white, pink, or purple flowers. It spreads very well.

Myrtle, Vinca, Periwinkle – Waxy green small leaves with light purple flowers. This spreads very well. This is a great groundcover for sun or shade, but it needs good, well-drained moist soil to do best.

Spreading Juniper – Blue chip, blue rug, and other spreading junipers can be used as groundcovers in sunny areas. Plant approximately 5' apart after covering the ground with landscape fabric. After planting, mulch for best results.

Spreading Sedum – Sedum makes a good groundcover for a sunny, dry area. It comes in many low growing varieties with yellow, red, or pink flowers. It is a perennial so it dies back in the winter.

Thyme – Thyme is a low growing perennial that likes a sunny, well-drained location. It is a good choice for growing in-between stones in a walkway. Mother of thyme is hardier than woolly thyme.

Groundcovers for the shade:

Astilbe – This is another perennial that can make a groundcover in a shady, cool, moist area. There are many varieties from low groundcovers that only get 4" tall to 2' tall. The flowers are red, pink, white, lavender, and purple.

English "Thorndale" Ivy – This medium leaf version of English Ivy is the hardiest and the best variety in our area. It spreads and climbs, evergreen variety. This can be planted in part-shade to full shade. May die back in severe winters where exposed.

Hardy Ferns – Many of the hardy perennial ferns make good groundcovers for shady, cool, moist areas.

Hosta – A very tough perennial that makes a great groundcover in shady and part shade areas. They need a moist, shady, well-drained location to do best. Hostas come in many colors, shapes, and sizes. Some very interesting and bright colors can live up a shady area. Some varieties can grow 3' around. The Francee variety will grow in sun if the soil is moist enough.

Lamium – Variegated heart shaped leaves with white, pink, or purple flowers. It spreads very well. Can tolerate "light" shade.

Lily-of-the-Valley – A low growing perennial with very fragrant, white bell shaped flowers in the spring. They need a moist, shady area.

Myrtle, Vinca, Periwinkle – This is a great groundcover for sun or shade, but it needs good, well-drained moist soil to do best.

Pachasandra – Pachasandra is a hardy evergreen groundcover that does well in moist, shady locations. It fills in well and is hardy.

Purple Leaf Wintercreeper – (*Euonymus coloratus*) A very hardy spreading groundcover with green leaves that turn purplish in winter. Can tolerate shady, dry areas.

Recommended spacing for ground covers:

Rooted cuttings should be spaced 6"-12" apart.

3" pots should be spaced 1' apart.

1 gallon pots should be spaced 2' apart.