



**CORNELL  
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## **HOME GROWN FACTS**

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### **Groundcovers: Selecting Plants for the Landscape**

Groundcovers are low-growing plants that spread quickly to form a dense cover. They add beauty to the landscape and, at the same time, help prevent soil erosion. Grass is the best known groundcover, but grass is not suited to all locations. Other groundcover plants should be used where grass is difficult to grow or maintain.

Unlike grass, most groundcover plants cannot be walked on. They can be used effectively to reduce maintenance work and to put the finishing touch on any landscaping project.

#### **Location**

Groundcovers can be found to fit many conditions, but they are used most frequently for the following locations:

- Steep banks or slopes
- Shady areas under trees and next to buildings
- Underplantings in shrub borders and beds
- Where tree roots grow close to the surface and prevent grass from growing
- Very wet or very dry locations

When planted under trees, groundcovers reduce the possibility of mower damage to the base of the tree. Some groundcovers may be used to protect the roots of shallow-rooted trees. They shade the soil and keep it from drying out rapidly. Some groundcovers don't require as much moisture and nutrients as grass. Therefore, they are in less competition with trees and shrubs.

#### **Selection**

Selection of a suitable plant for groundcover depends on the area where it will be grown. Some groundcover plants prefer partial shade; others thrive in deep shade or full sun; and a few grow well in either sun or shade. The selected groundcover plants listed here grow well in a wide variety of soil types. Some, however, prefer moist soil, while others need dry or well-drained soil. First, select types best suited to the conditions existing where the groundcover is needed. From these selected types, choose one that ornamentally blends best with surrounding plantings.

#### **Establishment**

Bed preparation: If you need to add a soil amendment, such as organic matter or fertilizer, add it to the entire planting bed, not just to individual planting holes. Organic materials, such as leaf

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mold, compost, or well-rotted manure, improve drainage in clay soils and improve water-holding capacity of sandy soils. Eight to ten bushels of organic materials per 100 square feet incorporated into the bed may be necessary in very poor or heavy soils.

A soil test provides the best guidance for fertilizer usage. Without this information, a general rule would be to use 3 pounds of a commercial fertilizer, such as 5-10-5, per 100 square feet. Fertilizer can be mixed into the soil at the same time other amendments are incorporated.

In open sites: A well-prepared planting bed is necessary to develop a dense, healthy groundcover planting. The soil should be worked to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Take care to eliminate perennial weeds and grass that might compete with the groundcover during establishment.

In sites under trees: When establishing a groundcover under existing trees, choose shallow-rooted plants, such as hostas. Since the majority of fibrous tree roots are found in the top 12 inches of soil, prepare the soil for planting only 2 or 3 inches deep to minimize disturbance of these roots and prevent damage to the tree.

Most groundcover plants can be planted any time during the growing season, but either spring or fall is preferred.

The arrangement and spacing of plants in the planting bed depends on the growth characteristics of the plant. Space plants so they will develop a uniformly covered area in a relatively short period of time. Plant in staggered rows, not straight lines, to get faster coverage. (Fig. 1.)



**Figure 1: Arrangement of plants in bed**

Plants that spread rapidly may be spaced much wider than slow-spreading types. Spacing also depends on how many plants you can purchase and how quickly a complete cover is wanted. Spacings from 6 inches to 2 feet are most frequently used. The following chart shows the area that approximately 100 plants will cover when set at various distances. For example, if plants are spaced 4 inches apart, 100 plants will cover about 11 square feet.

Watering, weeding, mulching, and feeding will be the main requirements of the new groundcover planting. Water during dry periods. An occasional thorough soil soaking is better than frequent light watering. Occasional hand weeding with a minimum disturbance of the soil may be necessary. A 1- to 2-inch mulch layer of leaf mold, compost, or similar organic material will conserve soil moisture and reduce weed growth.

### Recommended Groundcovers

#### **Creeping Juniper** *Juniperus horizontalis*

Creeping juniper is an excellent, woody, evergreen groundcover that grows 1 to 2 feet tall, depending on the variety. It is a vigorous grower capable of covering a large area. The leaves are needle shaped and green or blue-green in color. The foliage frequently turns a purple or slate color in the winter.



Creeping juniper withstands hot, dry situations and prefers full sun. It is an excellent plant for slopes and banks. The plants may be improved by clipping the ends of main branches for two or three seasons after planting to induce a dense branching system. Space plants 2 to 4 feet apart.

Varieties most commonly planted for groundcovers include: Andorra (*J. horizontalis* 'Plumosa'), Bar Harbor (*J. horizontalis* 'Bar Harbor') and Blue Rug, (*J. horizontalis* 'Wiltonii').

Andorra is a flat-topped variety with a compact growth habit, reaching a height of approximately 18 inches. The foliage is a light grey-green, becoming a purplish plum color in the winter. Bar Harbor is a low, vigorous-growing plant, usually no more than 8 inches tall. The foliage is grey-green in summer, turning a slate color in winter. Blue Rug or Wilton Carpet grows flat on the ground. The foliage is an outstanding blue color that is retained all winter.

An additional juniper species that is an excellent groundcover is Shore juniper (*J. conferta*), with the blue-green cultivar, 'Blue Pacific', and the green cultivar, 'Emerald Sea'. Winter temperatures below -10F may cause damage.

#### **Moss Pink** *Phlox subulata*

Moss pink or creeping phlox is commonly used as a rock garden plant, but it also forms an effective groundcover on poor, bare soils where there is little competition. It forms a dense mat of moss-like foliage, which is covered in spring with masses of flowers in pink, purple, or white. In rocky areas, it will persist in the existing soil and drape itself over the stones. It is a plant for full sun and relatively dry soils. As plants age, they tend to develop dead spots. Periodic division to fill such spots may be necessary. In mild climates, the plants are evergreen, but where winters are cold and plants are exposed, browning may occur.



#### **Baltic English Ivy** *Hedera helix* 'Baltica'

A hardy selection recommended for areas with severe winter conditions.



**Hosta, Plantain Lily** *Hosta spp*

For partially shaded areas, hostas make effective groundcovers. They appear most often in perennial borders as accent plants or edgings, but their large leaves provide a lush covering for the soil. Hosta species vary in size and foliage color. Some have deep-green, yellow-green, blue-green, or grey-green foliage, while others are edged or variegated with white or cream. Hostas may also produce lily-shaped flowers in white or lavender. Flower stems may be 6 to 24 inches tall, and plant forms range from dwarf (3 to 4 inches) to tall (2 feet).



As a groundcover, hostas are best where the soil remains slightly moist. Excessively dry soil may cause the foliage to burn around the margins or partially die back. In full sun, leaf color is pale and leaf dieback may be more severe, especially during dry periods. In winter, the foliage of hostas dies back, leaving the ground exposed. However, new foliage develops quickly in spring and lasts well into the fall.

**Pachysandra, Japanese Spurge** *Pachysandra terminalis*

Pachysandra is a popular groundcover suitable for shaded landscape situations. This evergreen plant spreads by underground stems and attains a height of 1 foot. The foliage is tinged purple in spring, becoming bright green in summer and yellow-green in winter or when planted in sunny locations.



Occasionally, clusters of tiny, off-white blossoms appear above the leaves in early May, but they have little ornamental value. The plant is adapted to full or partial shade. When planted in full sun, growth is poor. It is one of the few plants that will grow under evergreens and in dense shade. The evergreen leaves commonly "burn" and turn brown in exposed places during the winter.

Established plants are usually planted 1 foot apart in the spring. Clipping the tips of vigorous growing shoots in the spring will induce the plant to become denser. The plants should not be cut all the way to the ground. Place pachysandra in a moist, highly organic, well-drained soil for best establishment. A planting of this groundcover is usually a uniform height throughout.

**Yucca** *Yucca filamentosa*

Yucca is a rugged plant able to take almost any situation. The plant is normally around 2 to 3 feet tall with all the leaves arising from a central point at ground level in a rosette fashion. The leaves are long, pointed, and rigid. In summer, the plant produces a flower stalk about 4 to 6 feet high with a large head of pendulous, creamy-white flowers. Yucca is used as an accent plant and is frequently used in modern ground plantings. The plant is suited best to hot, dry situations.



**Liriope, Lilyturf** *Liriope muscari*, *L. spicata*

The liriope or lilyturfs are very versatile grass-like groundcovers that adapt to a wide range of conditions, including drought and salt spray. Most cultivars do well in heavy shade or full sun, although some cultivars, especially the variegated ones, are better used in shade. Liriope is used as groundcovers under trees and shrubs, on slopes and banks, and even as low edging plants along paved areas and in front of foundation plantings.



The two species are separated by the size of their leaves. *L. muscari* has a longer and wider leaf, and the clumps it forms are generally taller (up to 2 feet). The spikes of lilac-purple flowers formed on it in the summer generally only stand as tall as the leaves, while the spikes of lilac to almost white flowers on *L. spicata* generally stand up above the smaller clumps of leaves. Blue-black berries are formed on both after the flowers and are somewhat ornamental.

Liriope spread readily, filling in areas quite quickly. There are many named cultivars of *L. muscari*, with several white and yellow variegations and several inflorescence variations. A related genus, *Ophiopogon*, generally called mondo grass, is less hardy and bears its flowers buried well down into the foliage.

**Sedum Stonecrop, *Sedum* spp**

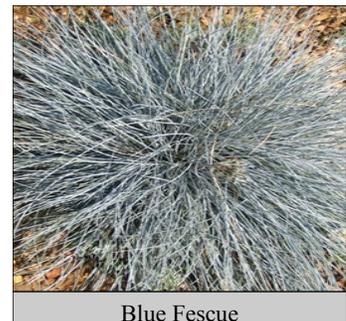
Over 300 species and 500 cultivars of sedums exist; ranging from tiny mats only a few inches high to plants 2 feet tall. They are used as mass groundcovers, in rock gardens, on slopes, between stepping stones, and even in containers.



Most sedums are spreading or creeping plants that will root from broken branches or fallen leaves. Related to the cacti, their thick, waxy, generally evergreen leaves mean that they do not require large amounts of water. Most sedums are very drought tolerant and will rot if kept too moist or if air circulation is poor. They are best used in full sun where they produce flowers ranging from tiny, yellow-green stars to large masses of small, pink to wine-colored flowers. Foliage color will also vary, from various shades of green to blues and bronzes.

**Ornamental grasses (numerous genera, species, and cultivars)**

The group of groundcovers increasing most rapidly in popularity at present is the ornamental grasses. With heights ranging from under 1 foot (blue fescue) to over 10 feet (fountain and maiden grasses), the ornamental grasses will generally have a member that can fit any landscape situation.



Blue Fescue

Often used strictly as groundcovers and for erosion control on slopes, ornamental grasses also make outstanding specimen plants when used

as individual plants in the landscape. In addition to a wide range of heights and spreads, there is tremendous variation in leaf size and color. Leaf colors range from pale greens to bright blues and blood reds, with many types of both vertical and horizontal stripe patterns.

Most of the ornamental grasses require full sun and will produce a wide variety of flowers, ranging from small, bottlebrush arrangements to large, showy plumes. Flower colors range from pale yellows and pinks to deep maroons. Many of the flower spikes persist well into the winter giving added landscape interest, though the leaf clumps will generally die to the ground and re-grow each spring.

Additional groundcovers to consider include bearberry, hypericum, candytuft, goutweed, santolina, ferns, many plants often classified as perennials (such as daylilies), and woody shrubs (dwarf yaupon holly, cotoneasters, etc.).

### Common Invasive Groundcovers

Beware of the "vigorous" groundcover. Sometimes, this term is applied to a plant that can be extremely aggressive in its growth habit even to the point of being considered invasive. Invasive plants exhibit rapid growth and maturity, are highly successful at self-propagating, and have the ability to compete and crowd out other plants. All this leads to a high cost for you in removing or containing such a plant.

#### **Ajuga, Carpet Bugleweed** *Ajuga reptans*

Ajuga is a good groundcover forming a dense carpet of foliage over the soil. This semi-evergreen plant grows rapidly by producing mats of foliage in rosettes. As runners develop from the mother plants, take root, and produce new plants, it can become invasive.



The foliage grows about 4 inches high with upright clusters of blue flowers reaching 6 to 8 inches. The plant flowers in early May to mid-June. Ajuga will flourish in almost any soil with good drainage. It grows best in full sun, but also tolerates shade. The foliage is deep green in color and partly evergreen, turning brown after severe freezing weather. Bronze and variegated varieties are also available. The extensive root system prevents soil erosion.

If established plants are set 12 to 15 inches apart in the spring, they will cover the soil in one growing season. Do not set the plants too deep. The crown should never be covered. In the spring or early fall, rooted "runner plants" can be dug from established plantings and replanted elsewhere.

#### **English Ivy** *Hedera helix*

English ivy is an evergreen, creeping vine that forms a dense mat of dark-green foliage 6 to 8 inches tall. The plant grows best in shade or in semi-shaded locations. It is most useful on north and east facing banks, under trees where grass will not grow, or as an underplanting



between shrubs. If exposed to full sun or sweeping winds, the foliage "burns" or discolors in the winter.

Although it can be planted 1 foot apart for cover in one year, it is more economical to transplant growing plants from pots or flats in the spring at a spacing of 18 to 24 inches. Vines may grow about 3 feet the first season. When used next to buildings, walls, or trees, English ivy will climb, clinging by means of aerial rootlets. Its aerial roots have the ability to damage mortar between bricks and the density of vines in the trees can be damaging.

**Common Periwinkle, Myrtle, or Vinca** *Vinca minor*

Periwinkle or myrtle is an excellent, evergreen groundcover with dark-green foliage and purple, blue, or white flowers, depending on the variety. It blooms in April and sometimes again in the fall. The plant grows about 6 inches tall, spreading in all directions by sending out long, trailing and rooting shoots that make new plants. It is best in shade, but will grow satisfactorily in full sun. The foliage color is richer in partial shade, but more flowers are produced in the sun. This groundcover is most commonly used for underplanting trees and shrubs, on shaded slopes, or on the north side of buildings. Rooted cuttings or established plants are normally spaced from 12 to 18 inches apart. At a 6-inch spacing, a complete cover will be produced in one year. Plant in the spring in areas with severe winters.



Spring-flowering bulbs interplanted with periwinkle will lend color and interest to the groundcover planting. Daffodils are particularly well suited to this since they bloom at the same time as periwinkle and do not require frequent division.

**Crown Vetch** *Coronilla varia*

Crown vetch is a perennial legume used frequently to cover dry, steep, rocky slopes. It is most valued for its ability to prevent soil erosion and is often used for this purpose on highway slopes. The plant is suited for covering large areas, but is too vigorous and invasive for most residential landscapes.



Crown vetch grows 1 to 2 feet tall and bears small pink flowers from July to September. It spreads by underground stems, and one plant can cover an area up to 6 feet in diameter. It tolerates shade but thrives in full sun. The foliage dies to the ground by December. It is propagated either from crowns or by seeding. Crowns planted 2 feet apart will provide coverage in about two years. One crown per square foot is recommended for quick cover. Seeding should be at the rate of 1/2 pound per 1,000 square feet. The seed should be inoculated to introduce bacteria for nitrogen fixation. The seed can be sown without seedbed preparation into weedy, grassy areas if necessary, but this will delay coverage. Both crowns and seed may be planted any time during the year.

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## Groundcovers by Common Name

| <b>Common Name</b>    | <b>Scientific Name</b>                         |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Alpine goldenrod      | <i>Solidago cutleri</i>                        |
| American alumroot     | <i>Heuchera americana</i>                      |
| American beachgrass   | <i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>                 |
| American cranberry    | <i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>                   |
| American germander    | <i>Teucrium canadensis</i>                     |
| Alum root             | <i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>                      |
| Astilbe               | <i>Astilbe x arendsii</i>                      |
| August lily           | <i>Hosta plantaginea</i>                       |
| Barren myrtle         | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                 |
| Basket-of-gold        | <i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>                       |
| Beach fleabane        | <i>Erigeron glaucus</i>                        |
| Bearberry             | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                 |
| Bear's grape          | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                 |
| Big bluestem          | <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>                     |
| Bigroot cranesbill    | <i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>                   |
| Bigroot geranium      | <i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>                   |
| Bilberry              | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                 |
| Black-eyed susan      | <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>                       |
| Black peppermint      | <i>Mentha piperita</i>                         |
| Blue catmint          | <i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>                      |
| Blue-downy lyme grass | <i>Leymus arenarius</i>                        |
| Bluejoint             | <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>                     |
| Bluejoint reedgrass   | <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>                |
| Blue leadwood         | <i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>             |
| Blue lily-turf        | <i>Liriope muscari</i>                         |
| Blue lyme grass       | <i>Leymus arenarius</i>                        |
| Blue sedge            | <i>Carex glauca (syn. C. flacca, C. firma)</i> |
| Blue star creeper     | <i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i>                   |
| Blue wood sedge       | <i>Carex flaccosperma</i>                      |
| Bonytip fleabane      | <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>                  |
| Butterfly weed        | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>                      |
| Campion               | <i>Silene caroliniana</i>                      |
| Canadian reedgrass    | <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>                |
| Canada wildrye        | <i>Elymus canadensis</i>                       |
| Carnation             | <i>Dianthus myrtinervius</i>                   |
| Carnation grass       | <i>Carex glauca (syn. C. flacca, C. firma)</i> |
| Catchfly              | <i>Silene caroliniana</i>                      |
| Catmint               | <i>Nepeta subsessilis, Nepeta x faassenii</i>  |
| Chigger flower        | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>                      |
| Christmas fern        | <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>              |

|                            |                                                                |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Climbing hydrangea         | <i>Hydrangea anomala</i>                                       |
| Coat flower                | <i>Petrorhagia saxifraga</i>                                   |
| Common periwinkle          | <i>Vinca minor</i>                                             |
| Coral bells                | <i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>                                      |
| Cranberry                  | <i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>                                   |
| Creashak                   | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                                 |
| Creeping baby's breath     | <i>Gypsophila repens</i>                                       |
| Creeping bluet             | <i>Houstonia serpyllifolia</i>                                 |
| Creeping charley           | <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>                                   |
| Creeping jenny             | <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>                                   |
| Creeping lily-turf         | <i>Liriope spicata</i>                                         |
| Creeping mazus             | <i>Mazus reptans</i>                                           |
| Creeping phlox             | <i>Phlox stolonifera</i>                                       |
| Creeping red thyme         | <i>Thymus serpyllum</i>                                        |
| Creeping speedwell         | <i>Veronica repens</i> C                                       |
| Creeping thyme             | <i>Thymus praecox</i> , <i>Thymus serpyllum</i>                |
| Crested wheatgrass         | <i>Agropyron cristatum</i>                                     |
| Crimson bells              | <i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>                                      |
| Crowbars                   | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                                 |
| Cypress                    | <i>Microbiota decussata</i>                                    |
| Deertongue                 | <i>Dichantheium clandestinum</i> (syn. <i>Panicum c.</i> )     |
| Double bladder campion     | <i>Silene uniflora</i>                                         |
| Dunegrass                  | <i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>                                 |
| Dutch clover               | <i>Trifolium repens</i>                                        |
| Dwarf deutzia              | <i>Deutzia gracilis</i>                                        |
| Dwarf periwinkle           | <i>Vinca minor</i>                                             |
| Dwarf plumbago             | <i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>                             |
| Early daylily              | <i>Hemerocallis dumortieri</i>                                 |
| Early sedge                | <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>                                     |
| English lavender           | <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>                                  |
| Fairway crested wheatgrass | <i>Agropyron cristatum</i>                                     |
| Fairway wheatgrass         | <i>Agropyron cristatum</i>                                     |
| Fairy wings                | <i>Epimedium x perralchicum</i>                                |
| False miterwort            | <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>                                     |
| False rockcress            | <i>Aubrieta deltoides</i>                                      |
| False spirea               | <i>Astilbe x arendsii</i>                                      |
| Feited cranesbill          | <i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>                                   |
| Foamflower                 | <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>                                     |
| Fox plum                   | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                                 |
| Fragrant hosta             | <i>Hosta plantaginea</i>                                       |
| Fragrant plantain lily     | <i>Hosta plantaginea</i>                                       |
| Fragrant sumac             | <i>Rhus aromatica</i>                                          |
| Glaucous sedge             | <i>Carex glauca</i> (syn. <i>C. flacca</i> , <i>C. firma</i> ) |

|                         |                                                                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Golden coneflower       | <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>                                                      |
| Golden dead nettle      | <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>                                                 |
| Goldenrod               | <i>Solidago sphacelata</i>                                                    |
| Goldenstar              | <i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>                                                |
| Goldentuft              | <i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>                                                      |
| Goldentuft alyssum      | <i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>                                                      |
| Gray rockcress          | <i>Arabis caucasica</i>                                                       |
| Green and gold          | <i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>                                                |
| Hardy geranium          | <i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>                                                  |
| Hardy ice               | <i>Delosperma nubigenum</i>                                                   |
| Harewell speedwell      | <i>Veronica prostrata</i>                                                     |
| Heartleaf bergenia      | <i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>                                                    |
| Heath aster             | <i>Aster ericoides</i>                                                        |
| Heath sedge             | <i>Carex glauca</i> (syn. <i>C. flacca</i> , <i>C. firma</i> )                |
| Hog cranberry           | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                                                |
| Hybrid anemone          | <i>Anemone x hybrida</i>                                                      |
| Indian paintbrush       | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>                                                     |
| Japanese anemone        | <i>Anemone x hybrida</i>                                                      |
| Japanese blood grass    | <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>                                                    |
| Japanese pachysandra    | <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>                                                 |
| Japanese painted fern   | <i>Athyrium nipponicum</i>                                                    |
| Japanese sedge          | <i>Carex morrowi</i>                                                          |
| Junegrass               | <i>Koeleria cristata</i> (syn. <i>K. macrantha</i> , <i>K. pyramid data</i> ) |
| Kinnikinick             | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>                                                |
| Koeler grass            | <i>Koeleria cristata</i> (syn. <i>K. macrantha</i> , <i>K. pyramid data</i> ) |
| Lady's mantle           | <i>Alchemilla mollis</i>                                                      |
| Lamb's ears             | <i>Stachys byzantina</i>                                                      |
| Lamiastrum              | <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>                                                 |
| Largeleaf brunnera      | <i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>                                                   |
| Late low blueberry      | <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>                                                |
| Latin American fleabane | <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>                                                 |
| Laurentia               | <i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i>                                                  |
| Lavandin                | <i>Lavandula hybrida</i>                                                      |
| Lavender                | <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i> , <i>L. hybrida</i>                             |
| Leadwort                | <i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>                                            |
| Lenten rose             | <i>Helleborus orientalis</i>                                                  |
| Lilacbush               | <i>Aubrieta deltoidea</i>                                                     |
| Little bluestem         | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>                                                |
| Loosestrife             | <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>                                                  |
| Lowbush blueberry       | <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>                                                |

|                          |                                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Low sweet blueberry      | <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>          |
| Madwort                  | <i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>                |
| Maiden pink              | <i>Dianthus deltoides</i>               |
| Manzanita                | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>          |
| Marram grass             | <i>Ammophila breviligulata</i>          |
| Marram sea grass         | <i>Leymus arenarius</i>                 |
| Marsh pinegrass          | <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>         |
| Marsh reedgrass          | <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>         |
| Mauve catmint            | <i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>               |
| Meadow pinegrass         | <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>         |
| Meal plum                | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>          |
| Mealberry                | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>          |
| Miterwort                | <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>              |
| Moneywort                | <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>            |
| Morrow's sedge           | <i>Carex morrowi</i>                    |
| Moss pink                | <i>Phlox subulata</i>                   |
| Moss phlox               | <i>Phlox subulata</i>                   |
| Moss sandwort            | <i>Minuartia verna</i>                  |
| Mother-of-thyme          | <i>Thymus praecox, Thymus serpyllum</i> |
| Mountain box             | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i>          |
| Mountain sandwort        | <i>Arenaria montana</i>                 |
| Myrtle                   | <i>Vinca minor</i>                      |
| Narrow bent              | <i>Leymus arenarius</i>                 |
| Nepal cinquefoil         | <i>Potentilla nepalensis</i>            |
| Northern dropseed        | <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>           |
| Northern maidenhair fern | <i>Adiantum pedatum</i>                 |
| <br>                     |                                         |
| Pale evening primrose    | <i>Oenothera pallida</i>                |
| Penn sedge               | <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>              |
| Pennsylvania sedge       | <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>              |
| Peppermint               | <i>Mentha piperita</i>                  |
| Perennial candytuft      | <i>Iberis saxatilis</i>                 |
| Pig squeak               | <i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>              |
| Pinks                    | <i>Dianthus myrtinervius</i>            |
| Plantainleaf pussytoes   | <i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>       |
| Pleurisy root            | <i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>               |
| Plumbago                 | <i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>      |
| Prairie dropseed         | <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>           |
| Prairie junegrass        | <i>Koeleria cristata</i>                |
| Pratia                   | <i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i>            |
| Purple rockcress         | <i>Aubrieta deltoides</i>               |
| Pussytoes                | <i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>       |
| Rancheria grass          | <i>Leymus arenarius</i>                 |

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Rapper dandies              | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> |
| Red baron blood             | <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>     |
| Red bearberry               | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> |
| Red cogon                   | <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>     |
| Rock madwort                | <i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>       |
| Rockberry                   | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> |
| Running myrtle              | <i>Vinca minor</i>             |
| Russian arborvitae          | <i>Microbiota decussata</i>    |
| Sandberry                   | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> |
| Saxifrage pink              | <i>Petrorhagia saxifraga</i>   |
| Saxifrage tunicflower       | <i>Petrorhagia saxifraga</i>   |
| Scented cranesbill          | <i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>   |
| Sea lyme grass              | <i>Leymus arenarius</i>        |
| Seaside daisy               | <i>Erigeron glaucus</i>        |
| Shamrock                    | <i>Trifolium repens</i>        |
| Siberian bugloss            | <i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>    |
| Siberian cypress            | <i>Microbiota decussata</i>    |
| Slender deutzia             | <i>Deutzia gracilis</i>        |
| Snow flurry aster           | <i>Aster ericoides</i>         |
| Snow-in-summer              | <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>    |
| Speedwell-creeping          | <i>Veronica peduncularis</i>   |
| Spruce stonecrop            | <i>Sedum reflexum</i>          |
| Spruced-leaved stonecrop    | <i>Sedum reflexum</i>          |
| Stonecrop                   | <i>Sedum spurium</i>           |
| Sundrops                    | <i>Oenothera pallida</i>       |
| Swamp isotoma               | <i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i>   |
| Texoka buffalograss         | <i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>     |
| Thinfruit sedge             | <i>Carex flaccosperma</i>      |
| Thymeleaf bluet             | <i>Houstonia serpyllifolia</i> |
| Trailing ice plant          | <i>Delosperma nubigenum</i>    |
| True lavender               | <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>  |
| Tufted catchfly             | <i>Silene saxifraga</i>        |
| Turkeyfoot                  | <i>Andropogon gerardii</i>     |
| Two-row stonecrop           | <i>Sedum spurium</i>           |
| Universe plant              | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> |
| Uva-ursi                    | <i>Arctostaphylos uva-ursi</i> |
| Variegated Japanese sedge   | <i>Carex morrowi</i>           |
| Variegated yellow archangel | <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>  |
| Vernal stitchwort           | <i>Minuartia verna</i>         |
| Wall rock cress             | <i>Arabis caucasica</i>        |
| Wavy-leaved plantain lily   | <i>Hosta undulata</i>          |
| Wheatgrass                  | <i>Agropyron cristatum</i>     |

|                     |                                   |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| White clover        | <i>Trifolium repens</i>           |
| Whorled loosestrife | <i>Lysimachia punctata</i>        |
| Wild germander      | <i>Teucrium canadensis</i>        |
| Wild strawberry     | <i>Fragaria x sp.</i>             |
| Wild thyme          | <i>Thymus serpyllum</i>           |
| Woman's tobacco     | <i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i> |
| Wood sage           | <i>Teucrium canadensis</i>        |
| Woolly betony       | <i>Stachys byzantina</i>          |
| Woolly hedgenettle  | <i>Stachys byzantina</i>          |
| Woolly thyme        | <i>Thymus praecox</i>             |
| Woolly woundwort    | <i>Stachys byzantina</i>          |
| Woolly yarrow       | <i>Achillea tomentosa</i>         |
| Yellow archangel    | <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>     |
| Yellow loosestrife  | <i>Lysimachia punctata</i>        |
| Yellow sedge        | <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>        |

**Scientific name**

*Achillea tomentosa*  
*Adiantum pedatum*  
*Agropyron cristatum*  
wheatgrass,  
*Alchemilla mollis*  
*Ammophila breviligulata*  
*Andropogon gerardii*  
*Anemone x hybrida*  
*Antennaria plantaginifolia*  
*Arabis caucasica*  
*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*  
myrtle, Crowbars,  
plum, Mountain box,  
Rockberry,  
*Arenaria montana*  
*Asclepias tuberosa*  
sy root  
*Aster ericoides*  
*Astilbe x arendsii* Astilbe,  
*Athyrium nipponicum*  
*Aubrieta deltoidea*  
*Aurinia saxatilis*  
alyssum,

**Common name(s)**

Woolly yarrow  
Northern maidenhair  
Crested wheatgrass, Fairway wheatgrass, Fairway crested  
Wheatgrass  
Lady's mantle  
American beachgrass, Dunegrass, Marram grass  
Big bluestem, Bluejoint, Turkeyfoot  
Hybrid anemone, Japanese anemone  
Plantainleaf pussytoes, Pussytoes, Woman's tobacco  
Gray rockcress, Wall rock cress  
Bearberry, Kinnikinick, Bilberry, Bear's grape, Barren  
Hog cranberry, Creashak, Fox plum, Meal  
Mealberry, Rapper dandies, Sandberry, Red bearberry,  
Universe plant, Uva-ursi, Manzanita  
Mountain sandwort  
Butterfly weed, Chigger flower, Indian paintbrush, Pleuri-  
Heath aster, Snow flurry aster  
False spirea  
Japanese painted fern  
False rockcress, Lilacbush, Purple rockcress  
Basket-of-gold, Goldentuft, Rock madwort, Goldentuft  
Madwort

|                                    |                                                     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>         | Heartleaf bergenia, Pig squeak                      |
| <i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>        | Largeleaf brunnera, Siberian bugloss                |
| <i>Buchloe dactyloides</i>         | Texoka buffalograss                                 |
| <i>Calamagrostis canadensis</i>    | Bluejoint reedgrass, Canadian reedgrass, Marsh      |
| pinegrass, Marsh                   | reedgrass, Meadow pinegrass                         |
| <i>Carex firma</i>                 | Blue sedge, Carnation grass, Glaucous sedge; Heath  |
| sedge                              |                                                     |
| <i>Carex flacca</i>                | Blue sedge, Carnation grass, Glaucous sedge; Heath  |
| sedge                              |                                                     |
| <i>Carex flaccosperma</i>          | Blue wood sedge, Thinfruit sedge                    |
| <i>Carex glauca</i>                | Blue sedge, Carnation grass, Glaucous sedge, Heath  |
| sedge                              |                                                     |
| <i>Carex morrowi</i>               | Variegated Japanese sedge, Japanese sedge, Morrow's |
| sedge                              |                                                     |
| <i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>         | Early sedge, Penn sedge, Pennsylvania sedge, Yellow |
| sedge                              |                                                     |
| <i>Cerastium tomentosum</i>        | Snow-in-summer                                      |
| <i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i> | Blue leadwood, Dwarf plumbago, Leadwort,            |
| Plumbago                           |                                                     |
| <i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>     | Goldenstar, Green and gold                          |
| <i>Delosperma nubigenum</i>        | Trailing ice plant, Hardy ice                       |
| <i>Deutzia gracilis</i>            | Dwarf deutzia, Slender deutzia                      |
| <i>Dianthus deltoides</i>          | Maiden pink                                         |
| <i>Dianthus myrtinervius</i>       | Carnation, Pink                                     |
| <i>Dichanthelium clandestinum</i>  | Deertongue                                          |
| <i>Elymus canadensis</i>           | Canada wildrye                                      |
| <i>Epimedium x perralchicum</i>    | Fairy wings                                         |
| <i>Erigeron glaucus</i>            | Seaside daisy, Beach fleabane                       |
| <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i>      | fleabane, Latin American fleabane                   |
| Bonytip                            |                                                     |
| <i>Fragaria x sp.</i>              | Wild strawberry                                     |
| <i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>       | Bigroot cranesbill, Bigroot geranium, Feited        |
| cranesbill, Hardy                  |                                                     |
|                                    | geranium, Scented cranesbill                        |
| <i>Gypsophila cerastioides</i>     | none                                                |
| <i>Gypsophila repens</i>           | Creeping baby's breath                              |
| <i>Helleborus orientalis</i>       | Lenten rose                                         |
| <i>Hemerocallis dumortieri</i>     | Early daylily                                       |
| <i>Heuchera americana</i>          | American alumroot                                   |
| <i>Heuchera sanguinea</i>          | Alum root, Coral bells, Crimson bells               |
| <i>Hosta plantaginea</i>           | August lily, Fragrant hosta, Fragrant plantain lily |
|                                    |                                                     |
| <i>Hosta undulata</i>              | Wavy-leaved plantain lily                           |
| <i>Houstonia serpyllifolia</i>     | Thymeleaf bluet, Creeping bluet                     |
| <i>Hydrangea anomala</i>           | Climbing hydrangea                                  |

|                                   |                                                    |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Iberis saxatilis</i>           | Perennial candytuft                                |
| <i>Imperata cylindrica</i>        | Japanese blood grass, Red baron blood, Red co-     |
| gon                               |                                                    |
| <i>Koeleria cristata</i>          | Junegrass, Koeler grass, Prairie junegrass         |
| <i>Koeleria macrantha</i>         | Junegrass, Koeler grass, Prairie junegrass         |
| <i>Koeleria pyramidata</i>        | Junegrass, Koeler grass, Prairie junegrass         |
| <i>Lamiastrum galeobdolon</i>     | Variegated yellow archangel, Yellow archangel,     |
| Golden dead nettle,               | Lamiastrum                                         |
| <i>Laurentia fluviatilis</i>      | Blue star creeper, Laurentia, Pratia, Swamp isoto- |
| ma                                |                                                    |
| <i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>     | True lavender, English lavender, Lavender          |
| <i>Lavandula hybrida</i>          | Lavandin, Lavender                                 |
| <i>Leymus arenarius</i>           | Blue lyme grass, Blue-downy lyme grass, Sea        |
| lyme grass,                       |                                                    |
|                                   | Narrow bent, Rancheria grass, Marram sea grass     |
| <i>Liriope muscari</i>            | Blue lily-turf                                     |
| <i>Liriope spicata</i>            | Creeping lily-turf                                 |
| <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>      | Creeping jenny, Moneywort, Creeping charley,       |
| Loosestrife                       |                                                    |
| <i>Lysimachia punctata</i>        | Whorled loosestrife, Yellow loosestrife            |
| <i>Mazus reptans</i>              | Creeping mazus                                     |
| <i>Mentha piperita</i>            | Peppermint, Black peppermint                       |
| <i>Microbiota decussata</i>       | Cypress, Russian arborvitae, Siberian cypress      |
| <i>Minuartia verna</i>            | Moss sandwort, Vernal stitchwort                   |
| <i>Nepeta x faassenii</i>         | Catmint, Mauve catmint, Blue catmint               |
| <i>Nepeta subsessilis</i>         | Catmint                                            |
| <i>Oenothera pallida</i>          | Pale evening primrose                              |
| Sundrops,                         |                                                    |
| <i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>     | Japanese pachysandra                               |
| <i>Panicum clandestinum</i>       | Deertongue                                         |
| <i>Petrorhagia saxifraga</i>      | Coat flower, Saxifrage pink, Saxifrage tunicflow-  |
| er                                |                                                    |
| <i>Phlox stolonifera</i>          | Creeping phlox                                     |
| <i>Phlox subulata</i>             | Moss phlox, Moss pink                              |
| <i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i> | Christmas fern                                     |
| <i>Potentilla nepalensis</i>      | Nepal cinquefoil                                   |
| <i>Rhus aromatica</i>             | Fragrant sumac                                     |
| <i>Rubus calycinooides</i>        | none                                               |
| <i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>          | Golden coneflower                                  |
| Black-eyed susan ,                |                                                    |
| <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>    | Little bluestem                                    |
| <i>Sedum reflexum</i>             | Spruced-leaved stonecrop, Spruce stonecrop         |
| <i>Sedum spurium</i>              | Stonecrop, Two-row stonecrop                       |
| <i>Silene caroliniana</i>         | Campion, Catchfly                                  |

|                                    |                                                                     |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Silene saxifraga</i>            | Tufted catchfly                                                     |
| <i>Silene uniflora</i>             | Double bladder campion                                              |
| <i>Solidago cutleri</i>            | Alpine goldenrod                                                    |
| <i>Solidago sphacelata</i>         | Goldenrod                                                           |
| <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>      | Northern dropseed, Prairie dropseed                                 |
| <i>Stachys byzantina</i>           | Lamb's ears, Woolly betony, Woolly hedgenettle,<br>Woolly woundwort |
| <i>Teucrium canadensis</i>         | American germander, Wild germander, Wood<br>sage                    |
| <i>Thymus praecox</i>              | Creeping thyme, Mother-of-thyme, Woolly thyme                       |
| <i>Thymus serpyllum</i>            | Creeping thyme, Creeping red thyme, Mother-of-<br>thyme, Wild thyme |
| <i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>         | False miterwort, Foamflower, Miterwort                              |
| <i>Trifolium repens</i>            | Dutch clover, Shamrock, White clover                                |
| <i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>     | Late low blueberry, Lowbush blueberry, Low<br>sweet blueberry       |
| <i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>       | American cranberry, Cranberry                                       |
| <i>Veronica prostrata</i>          | Harewell speedwell                                                  |
| <i>Veronica repens</i>             | Creeping speedwell                                                  |
| <i>Veronica peduncularis</i>       | Speedwell-creeping                                                  |
| <i>Veronica x 'Goodness Grows'</i> | none                                                                |
| <i>Vinca minor</i>                 | Common periwinkle, Dwarf periwinkle, Running<br>myrtle, Myrtle      |

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Source: [http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/Extension/Woodys/CUGroundCoverSite/List\\_Master\\_SciSort.html](http://www.entomology.cornell.edu/Extension/Woodys/CUGroundCoverSite/List_Master_SciSort.html)