

GROUND COVERS

Ground covers are the perfect way to fill in an area under a tree, along a walk, or in a variety of other situations. The following selections offer many different foliage and flowering characteristics and will add something special to problem areas in your garden.

Ajuga ◐ ●

Bugle Weed/Carpet Bugle

Spreading clumps of foliage. Produces spikes that are covered with lovely flowers over a long period in spring. Prefers moist soils. Zones 4-9.

***A. reptans* 'Black Scallop'** – Dark burgundy-black scalloped leaves. Deep blue flowers bloom late spring/early summer. 3-6".

***A. r.* 'Burgundy Glow'** – Pink and cream leaves with purple-blue flowers. 6".

☺ ***A. r.* 'Chocolate Chip'** – The foliage is primarily dark purple with a mix of green. Blue-violet flowers bloom in mid-May. 3-4".

Antennaria dioica 'Rubra' ○

Red-Tinted Pussy Toes

Growing in almost any climate, this slow-spreading ground cover has beautiful deep red flowers. Mat-forming, gray-green foliage. 4-8".

☺ *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* 'Massachusetts' ○ ◐

Massachusetts Kinnik

An evergreen and cold-hardy plant with medium-sized, leathery leaves and spherical, bright scarlet fruit. It prefers moist soil. Has a slow, creeping growth habit and eventually forms a mat. Height 12". Spreads 10-15' wide.

☺ *Asarum canadense* ◐ ●

Canadian Wild Ginger

Heart-shaped, evergreen, velvet foliage with purple-brown flowers. This is a larger plant than the European variety. 6-12" × 12-18".

☺ *Asarum europaeum* ◐ ●

European Wild Ginger

This spreading perennial has greenish-brown bell-shaped flowers hidden in mottled foliage. Kidney-shaped leaves are a glossy bright green. Prefers rich soil. 4-6". Zones 4-7.

Asarum splendens ◐ ●

Chinese Wild Ginger

Arrowhead-shaped, dark green and gray/silver mottled leaves. Dark purple flowers bloom in spring. Prefers humus-rich, acidic, moist soil. 6". Zones 5-9.

☺ *Cerastium tomentosum* 'Silver Carpet' ○

Snow-in-summer

Star-shaped white flowers bloom from early spring to summer upon silver-green, mat-forming foliage. Great for rock walls and in between stepping stones. 6-12". Zones 3-10.

☺ *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides* ○

Plumbago/Leadwort

Dark red buds open to clear gentian-blue flowers from late summer to autumn. Red foliage in fall. Prefers well-drained soil. 9-12". Zones 5-8.

Chamaemelum nobile ○ ◐

Creeping Chamomile

Aromatic white flowers with yellow centers bloom June – Sept. Traditionally used in English gardens as a grass substitute, it can be mowed and walked on. Great for pathways or between paving

stones. Excellent for a hot, dry, sunny situation. 12". Zones 5-9.

Convallaria majalis ○▶●●

Lily-of-the-Valley

C. m. 'Variegata' – White, strongly scented flowers bloom May – June. Foliage has creamy white, thin, longitudinal stripes. Prefers damp, shady conditions. 8". Zones 2-7.

Dianthus deltoides ○▶

Maiden Pink

Small, carnation-like flowers rise from mats of narrow, dark green foliage. Plant in ordinary soil, but provide good drainage. One of the most fragrant perennials. Do not mulch, as these require good air circulation. Zones 3-10, unless noted otherwise.

☺ **D. d. 'Arctic Fire'** – White fringed petals have deep pink eyes. Blooms in June – July. Prefers part shade. 6". Zones 3-9.

Epimedium ▶●●

Barrenwort/Bishop's Hat

Light green, heart-shaped foliage has a delicate appearance that belies its hardiness. This airy, mounded, moisture-loving ground cover prefers loose, peaty, rich soil. Sprays of dainty flowers appear on wiry stems in May. Zones 4-9.

☺ **E. grandiflorum 'Lilafee'** – Compact selection features abundant, large, violet-purple flowers. New growth has a glossy red-tinted appearance. 10".

☺ **E. × versicolor 'Sulphureum'** – Yellow flowers in early spring. 12".

E. × youngianum 'Niveum' – Dainty, pure white flowers. Tolerates dry soil. 8".

Euonymus fortunei ○▶

Winter Creeper

Evergreen, woody ground cover. Mound forming. Very easy to grow and exceptionally adaptable to any location. These spreading selections are vigorous and compact. They can be used as accent plants, ground covers, and in masses. Grows well in poor soil and full sun. 2' × 3-5'. Zones 4-8.

E. f. 'Emerald Gaiety' – Rich green foliage is surrounded by white margins. Foliage takes on a pinkish-red cast in fall and winter.

E. f. 'Emerald 'n' Gold' – Rich green foliage is accented with golden leaf margins.

E. f. 'Moonshadow' – Leaves have yellow centers and green margins. 1-2'.

☺ ***Galium odoratum*** ▶●●

Sweet Woodruff

Creeping plants with fragrant, white, star-shaped flowers in May. Leaves occur in whorls of rich green. Prefers moist, well-drained soil. Dappled shade. 6-8". Zones 4-8.

☺ ***Houstonia caerulea***
'Millard's Variety' ○▶

Mountain Bluets

Tiny, star-shaped blue flowers appear on small green leaves. An adorable, low maintenance ground cover. Prefers acidic, moist soil. 4-6". Zones 3-9.

Lamium maculatum ▶●●

Spotted Deadnettle

This fast-growing ground cover blooms from May – July. Grows to approximately 8" in height. Zones 4-8.

L. m. 'Orchid Frost' – Silver foliage is accented with a bright green margin. Soft orchid-pink flowers bloom reliably in high heat and humidity.

☺ **L. m. 'Shell Pink'** – Small silver-green leaves and abundant pink flowers from late spring through summer.

L. m. 'White Nancy' – Silvery leaves with green edges and white flowers.

Phlox ○ ◻

Phlox

The erect form bears narrowly conical, panicle-like flowers that are long-flowering and fragrant. Likes moist, rich soil. Needs good air circulation. Blooms during July – Aug. Cut back faded blooms to promote reflowering. Zones 3-9.

Phlox divaricata 'Montrose

Tricolor' – The new foliage that appears in spring is lavender-pink. It then turns to green with white variegation. 12-16".

P. subulata – Creeping Phlox. These semievergreen, mat-forming plants are topped by flowers in April – May. Lovely dark green, ½", needle-like leaves emerge in spring. Shear after flowering. Prefers sandy, well-drained soil with low fertility. Drought tolerant. 4-6". Zones 3-9.

P. s. 'Atropurpurea' – Rich, wine-red flowers. Performs best in full sun.

P. s. 'Candy Stripes' – Pink and white bicolored flowers.

☺ **Sagina subulata** ○ ◻

Irish moss

This deep green moss is perfect for walkways or in between stones. Plant 12" apart. 1". Zones 4-8.

Sedum ○ ◻ 🌱

Stonecrop

Star-like flowers attract butterflies. Fleshy, succulent leaves and stems. Easy to grow. Likes well-drained soil and tolerates partial shade. Zones 3-9.

S. caucolicolum – The blue-green leaves turn soft purple in August. Bright rose flowers Aug. – Oct. 6".

S. rupestre 'Angelina' – Brilliant, needle-shaped, golden-yellow foliage. This evergreen plant is a vigorous grower. 4-5". Zones 3-7.

Thymus ○ ◻

Thyme

Valuable for carpeting banks, rockery or walls, covering bulbs, between stepping stones, around pools, etc. All have aromatic evergreen foliage and bloom profusely. Occasional shearing is helpful. Zones 3-8.

☺ **T. serpyllum 'Magic Carpet'** – Creeping Thyme. Carmine-pink flowers bloom on green fragrant foliage. 2" × 12". Zones 4-9.

T. × citriodorus – Lemon Thyme. Bushy and erect grower. The lemon scent is at its strongest just before flowering. A culinary plant. 4-12".

Vinca minor ○ ◻

Periwinkle

A low, fast-growing ground cover, this plant has 1" flowers in spring and sporadically through summer. Zones 4-9.

☺ **V. m. 'Dart's Blue'** – Dark blue flowers. Shows improved disease resistance.

☺ **Waldstenia ternata** ○ ◻ ●

Barren Strawberry

This spreading, mat-forming ground cover is a native with strawberry-like foliage. Yellow flowers bloom in May – June. Drought tolerant and performs best in well-drained soils. 4". Zones 5-8.