



GROUNDCOVER

Americans plant more turf grass than any other groundcover; however, grass does not do well everywhere. Other groundcovers can be used for areas where grass is not practical. This includes steep slopes, narrow or hard to reach locations, areas around shallow-rooted trees, and very shady spots.

Good **site preparation** is essential for giving your plants a good start. Work with a small area to start off, and expand it over time. Turn the soil using a tiller or a spade, and amend the soil with ample quantities of organic matter. Most groundcovers are highly adaptable and will grow well in a wide range of pH (see chart below).

Spring is the ideal time to plant, although you can plant in summer provided you supply adequate water. Plant early in the fall, giving the roots time to get established before winter sets in. Choose your plants according to the light and wind exposure. Proper spacing will insure good coverage and erosion control for steep areas. Watering is essential to get your newly planted area established. Pull weeds as soon as they pop up and before they go to seed. You can fill in with colorful annuals the first year. Once established, the maintenance for groundcovers decreases.

Groundcover	Light	Soil	pH	Spacing
Blue fescue	part-shade to full sun	sandy, loam, or clay; well-drained	3.7- 7.3	18"
Ajuga	part-shade to full sun	sandy, loam, or clay	3.7-6.5	12"-15"
English ivy	part shade to sun	sandy, loam, or clay	3.7-7.0	18"-24"
Liriope	part shade to sun	sandy, loam, or clay	3.7-7.0	12"-15"
Pachysandra	shade to part shade	sandy or loam; wet to moist	3.5-6.0	12"
Periwinkle	part shade	sandy, loam, or clay; moist	3.7-7.0	12"
Hosta	shade to part shade	sandy, loam, or clay; moist, well-drained	5.5-7.5	varies
Daylily	light shade to full sun	sandy, loam, or clay; prefers moist	5.5-7.5	18"-30"
Sedum (Stonecrop)	full sun to light shade	sandy or loam; well-drained	varies	varies
Euonymus (Wintercreeper)	part shade to full sun	sandy, loam, or clay	3.7-7.0	18"-24"
Phlox subulata (Creeping phlox)	full sun	sandy, loam, or clay; well-drained	5.6-7.5	18"-24"
Hypericum	full sun	sandy, loam, or clay	6.1-7.5	12"-18"
Iberis (Candytuft)	full sun to part shade	sandy, loam, or clay	6.6-8.5	18"-24"

*For faster coverage, space plants closer together. The above recommended spacing guide should give adequate coverage in two years.

Use the information below to determine the number of plants you will need.

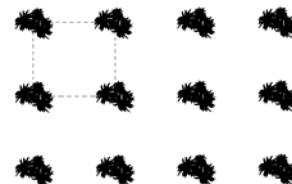
Number of Plants for Coverage

Inches between plants	# of Square feet covered by 64 plants	# of Square feet covered by 100 plants
4	7	11
6	16	25
8	28	44
10	45	70
12	64	100
15	100	156
18	144	225
24	256	400

Formulas to determine square feet

Circle: Area = radius squared x 3.14
 Triangle: Area = ½ base x height
 Rectangle: Area = length x width

Standard Spacing



Spacing for Quicker Coverage (or on slopes)

