

GROUNDCOVERS

Recommended for Coastal Southeast Landscapes



Groundcovers are generally characterized as those plants that grow low to the ground, spread over time, and are low-maintenance alternatives to traditional turfgrass. Groundcovers also provide a dense vegetative barrier that can mitigate weed pressure in landscape beds.

KEY TO LIST

PLANT VARIETIES, also known as cultivars, are the recommended plant selections that perform better in our area than others or the plain species.

UNDERLINED plants are extremely drought-tolerant and can withstand 4-6 weeks without supplemental irrigation once established (1 year for perennials, 2-3 years for shrubs and trees).

HEIGHT IN INCHES is how tall the plant will be when it is mature, usually given as a range (i.e. 4-6').

WATER USE ZONES

- **High (H):** Zones where plants need frequent watering, sometimes daily if there is no rain;
- **Moderate (M):** Zones where plants need an average amount of water; they will need to be watered moderately if there is no regular rain, more often in hot and dry periods;
- **Low (L)** Zones where plants normally need no supplemental water except in extended droughts; these plants may also come with the descriptor *drought tolerant*.

EXPOSURE refers to the amount of sunlight a site receives as follows:

- **Full sun** indicates a site that receives at 6+ hours of direct sun each day;
- **Part sun** indicates a site that receives 4-6 hours of sunlight;
- **Part shade** indicates a site that receives 1-3 hours of direct sunlight each day;
- **Full shade** indicates a site that receives no direct sun all day.

UNDERSTANDING EXPSOURE RANGES:

- **Sun-pt. shade:** plant will perform best if given afternoon shade.
- **Pt. shade-shade:** plant needs some direct morning sunlight exposure, but should be in shade by noon.

Groundcovers for Sun

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Botanical Name</i>	Water Use Zone	Height (in)	Cultivars	Exposure
<u>Prostrate Abelia</u>	<i>Abelia grandiflora</i>	L	18-24	Prostrata	Sun-pt. shade
<u>Beach wormwood*</u>	<i>Artemisia stelleriana</i>	L	6-12	Silver Brocade	Sun
<u>Cherokee sedge</u>	<i>Carex cherokeensis</i>	M	12-18		Sun-pt. shade
<u>Willowleaf Cotoneaster</u>	<i>Cotoneaster salicifolius</i>	H, M, L	12-15	Scarlet leader; Gnom; Autumn Fire	Sun-pt. shade
<u>Hardy Ice Plant</u>	<i>Delosperma cooperi</i> ; <i>D. nubigena</i>	M, L	4-6		Sun
<u>Pinks</u>	<i>Dianthus</i> sp.	M, L	6-18	Bath's Pink; Firewitch; Floral Lace Crimson	Sun
<u>Love Grass*</u>	<i>Eragrostis elliottii</i> <i>E. specatabilis</i>	L	24-36	Wind Dancer; Purple love grass	Sun
<u>Carolina jessamine</u>	<i>Gelsemium sempervirens</i>	M, L	10-20'	Pride of Augusta; Margarita;	Sun-pt. shade
<u>Daylily</u>	<i>Hemerocallis</i> x hybrids	H, M, L	18-48		Sun-pt. shade
<u>Candytuft</u>	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	L	6-8	Alexander White	Sun
<u>Shore juniper</u>	<i>Juniperus conferta</i>	L	12-18	Blue pacific	Sun
<u>Creeping juniper*</u>	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	L	10-12	Wiltonii; Blue Chip; Blue Rug	Sun
<u>Andorra juniper</u>	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Plumosa compacta'	L	18		Sun
<u>Firepower nandina</u>	<i>Nandina domestica</i> 'Firepower'	L	24-36	Firepower	Sun
<u>Moss phlox*</u>	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	L	4-6		Sun
<u>Orange coneflower*</u>	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	M, L	24-30	Goldsturm	Sun-pt. shade
<u>Stonecrop</u>	<i>Sedum reflexum</i> ; <i>S. album</i> <i>S. tetractinum</i>	L	4-6	Blue Spruce; Murale	Sun

Groundcovers for Shade

<i>Common Name</i>	<i>Botanical Name</i>	Water Use Zone	Height (in)	Cultivars	Exposure
Carpet bugle/Bugleweed	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	M	4-8	Bronze beauty; Jungle beauty	Pt. shade-shade
<u>Pussytoes</u> *	<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	M, L	4-8		Pt. shade-shade
Japanese ardisia	<i>Ardisia japonica</i>	H, M	4-8		Pt. shade-shade
Japanese painted fern	<i>Athyrium nipponicum</i>	H, M	12-18		Pt. shade-shade
Grassland sedge	<i>Carex divulsa</i>	M, L	10-12		Pt. shade
Oak sedge/Pennsylvania sedge	<i>Carex pennsylvanica</i>	M, L	8-10		Shade
Green and Gold*	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	M	6-8		Pt. shade-shade
Holly fern	<i>Cyrtomum falcatum</i>	H-L	24-30		Pt. shade-shade
Autumn fern	<i>Dryopteris erythrosa</i>	H, M	18-24		Pt. shade-shade
Liriope	<i>Liriope muscari</i>	M, L	18-24	Silver sun; Webster; Silvery sunproof	Pt. shade-shade
Creeping liriope	<i>Liriope spicata</i>	L	8-12	Silver dragon	Pt. shade-shade
Mondo grass	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	L	6-10		Sun-shade
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i> <i>V. minor</i>	M, L	8-18		Pt. shade-shade

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Brunswick Botanical Garden & Information Hotline

To see plants that grow in Coastal Southeast NC, visit the **Brunswick Botanical Garden** behind the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension (BCCES) Offices. It is free and open daylight hours, 7 days a week. The garden and associated programs are managed by CES horticultural staff in conjunction with trained Extension Master Gardener Volunteers.

For questions about plant selection and maintenance, lawn care, vegetable gardening, plant disease and pest problems, visit or call the BCCES **Information Hotline**. Staffed by trained Extension Master Gardener Volunteers under the supervision of Extension Horticulture staff, the Hotline is open from 9:00 a.m. until noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. when offices are open.

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plants.ces.ncsu.edu/

NC Cooperative Extension Gardening Portal
for all your garden, lawn and landscape needs:
gardening.ces.ncsu.edu/

VISIT US IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY!

**Brunswick County Cooperative Extension
& Botanical Garden**

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brunswick.ces.ncsu.edu

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

