

## **Ground Cover Plants**

Fact Sheet No. 7.400

Gardening Series | Yard

by J.E. Klett and R.A. Cox\*

A ground cover should spread by itself. Species that produce rhizomes or stolons or that spread by offsets or tip layering are good choices for ground covers. Ideally, they will develop rapidly into a dense cover. Some, however, grow so fast they can become invasive.

A ground cover should be sufficiently dense to inhibit competition from weeds. If the ground cover will be used to prevent soil erosion on a steep slope, it should have a vigorous growth habit and extensive root system.

## Considerations

- Control existing weeds before planting ground covers. Weeds may reduce the attractiveness of the ground cover or compete with it for resources such as water and nutrients. No one species of ground cover plant works for every landscape situation. Consider the following factors before selecting a ground cover for a specific situation:
- To maintain design balance, select lower-growing ground covers for smaller areas and taller ones for larger areas or steep slopes.

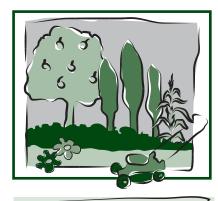
- The amount of sun versus shade and the exposure to winter sun and winds are important considerations in selecting a ground cover.
- Most ground covers will not tolerate excessive foot traffic. If foot traffic is anticipated, install a walkway through the area before planting the ground cover
- Improve soils with good quality organic matter before planting. Incorporate 2 to 4 cubic yards of compost or other organic materials into each 1,000 square foot area.

## Maintenance

All ground cover plantings require maintenance, some more than others. This contradicts the common perception that ground covers are "no-maintenance plants." Lawns also are considered ground covers, but may require more moisture, sunlight, fertilizer and maintenance than other ground cover choices.

Evergreen ground covers, such as creeping juniper, require little care. Ground covers that develop flowers and fruit often require more maintenance to keep them attractive. Weeds may become a significant maintenance problem in a ground cover planting if not managed properly.

See Tables 1-3, pages 2-5.



## **Quick Facts**

- Ground covers help link together ornamental plants.
- Plants that are low-growing (generally less than 12 inches) and spread easily are suitable as ground cover plants.
- Ideally, a ground cover should be dense enough to inhibit weed emergence.
- Build walkways through areas intended for foot traffic before planting a ground cover.
- Incorporate compost or another good quality organic material into soils before planting.
- Use ground covers to prevent soil erosion, as a design element, or where grass is not practical.

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Table 1. Selected ground covers for hot, dry, sunny exposures.

Small areas – under 50 sq. ft. Af-hilles appreshibite Af-hilles appressible White April May Anne April May Afril May Anne April May Afril May Anne April May Anne April May Afril May Anne April May Afril May Anne April May Anne April May Afril May Anne April May Afril May Anne April May A	Plant Name	Туре	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Remarks
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Anacycula gryethrum depressus Mount Allas delises Antennaria dioloca Herbaceous Antennaria dioloca Herbaceous Antennaria dioloca Herbaceous Antennaria dioloca Herbaceous White May-June Drop and Little Trassure Deep Ross' Covered in flowers; realing habit. Mounded, feathery, aromatic, silver-gray foliage, Soft, gray, spreading foliage, varieties include 'Snow Drop and Little Trassure Deep Ross' Covered in flowers; realing habit. Mounded, feathery, aromatic, silver-gray foliage, Soft gray, spreading foliage, varieties include 'Snow Drop and Little Trassure Deep Ross' Covered in flowers; realing habit. Mounded, feathery, aromatic, silver-gray foliage, Soft under gray and Little Trassure Deep Ross' Covered in flowers; realing habit. Mounded, feathery, aromatic, silver-gray foliage, Soft-gray, spreading foliage, varieties include 'Snow Drop and Little Trassure Deep Ross' Covered in flowers; realing habit. Mounded, feathery, aromatic, silver-gray foliage, Finely dissected silver foliage, Plant Select*  Shear sher bloom.  Shear after bloom.  Herbaceous, evergreen Saponaria coymoridas Rock soapover  Herbaceous, evergreen Saponaria coymoridas Rock soapover  Herbaceous, evergreen Sodum area Coldmonas actum Herbaceous, evergreen Sedum area Sedum	Achillea tomentosa	Herbaceous	Yellow	June-Aug.	Poor soil; woolly foliage; spreading.
Anternaria diolice   Herbaceous   White to pink   May-June   Native; silver gray, mal-like foliage; unique flowers. Pussyloss   Arabis acucasica   Herbaceous   White   April-May   Soft, gray, spreading foliage, varieties include 'Show Drop' and 'Little Treasure Deep Place'   Covered in flowers; trailing habit.   May-June   Covered in flowers; trailing habit.   Mounded, feathery, aromatic, silver-gray foliage.   Mounded, feathery, aromatic, silver-gray foliage.   Mounded, feathery, aromatic, silver-gray foliage,   Mounded, feathery, aromatic,	Anacyclus pyrethrum depressus	Herbaceous	White	April-May	White daisies with red undersides; silvery foliage.
Arabis caucasica Herbaceous, evergreen to pinik May-June Rockcress Herbaceous White May-June Covered in flowers; trailing habit.  Mountain sandwort Merbaceous White May-June Covered in flowers; trailing habit.  Mountain sandwort algo Arternisia schinicitians Silver Mound' Silver mound sage Arternisia schinicitians Silver Mound' Silver mound sage Arternisia schinicitians Silver Mound sage Arternisia schinicitians Silver Mound' Silver mound sage Arternisia schinicitians Silver Mound sage Arternisia schinicitians Silver Mound' Silver mound sage Arternisia schinicitians Silver Mound sage Arternisia schinicitians Silver Mound' Silver mound sage Arternisia schinicitians Silver Grapt Silver G	Antennaria dioica	Herbaceous	White to pink	May-June	Native; silver gray, mat-like foliage; unique flowers.
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Artemisia versicolor 'Sea Foam' Sea Foam' Sea Foam' Sea Foam Sage  Aurinia saxatilis (Alyssum saxatilie) Basket-of-gold  Coreopsis auriculata 'Nora' Dwarf coreopsis  Penstemon pinifolius Pinelead penstemon Saponaria coymoides Recous Reddish- Goldman are Goldman are Goldman are Goldman are Goldman are Sedum, Sentemon Sentemon Sentemon Sentemon Sentemon Sentemon Sentemon Stachys byzantina Herbaceous Purple June-July Furry, gray leaves resemble a lamb's ear. Tanacetum densum amani Petatridge feather Thymus praecox Creeping thyme Herbaceous Pink, White May-June Sentemon Sente	Artemisia stelleriana 'Silver Brocade'	Herbaceous	Unimportant	_	Finely-cut, velvety silver foliage; mat forming.
Aurinia saxatilis (Alyssum saxatile) Basket-ofgold   Herbaceous   Vellow   April-May   Shear after bloom.   Basket-ofgold   Coreopsis auriculate 'Nora'   Dwarf coreopsis	Artemisia versicolor 'Sea Foam'	Woody	Unimportant	_	Finely dissected silver foliage, Plant Select®
Coreopsis auriculatar Nora' Dwarf coreopsis Panstemon pinifolius Pinelad penestamon evergreen Saponaria ocymoides Rock soapwort Sedum accused Herbaceous, Sedum Se	Aurinia saxatilis (Alyssum saxatile)	Herbaceous	Yellow	April-May	Shear after bloom.
Panstemon prinfolius   Pincelace presidence	Coreopsis auriculata 'Nora'	Herbaceous	Orange, yellow	June-Sept.	Mouding habit with slender leaves.
Saponaria ocymoides Rock soapwort         Herbaceous evergreen         Pink, White         May-July         Shear after bloom.           Sedum acre Goldmoss sedum         Herbaceous, evergreen         Yellow evergreen         May-June July-Aug.         Low growing; succulent, dark green leaves.           Sedum kamschalticum Kamschalticum         Herbaceous, evergreen         Orange, yellow         July-Aug.         Scalloped, succulent, green leaves.           Sedum stonecrop Sedum, stonecrop         Herbaceous, evergreen         Red         July-Aug.         Succulent leaves; commonly sold varieties are 'Dragon's Blood,' Tircloor' and 'John Creech'           Semperivum spp. Houseleek, hen and chicks         Herbaceous evergreen         Purple         June-July         Furry, gray leaves resemble a lamb's ear.           Il anacetum densum amani Partridge feather         Herbaceous         Yellow         May-June         Finely-cut, silvery-white foliage, Plant Select* 2010           Verbena canadensis Verbena         Herbaceous         Purple         July-Sept.         Vigorous groundcover; common variety 'Homestead Purple.'           Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.         Herbaceous         Red, orange         AugOct.         Gray-green leaves; good for attracting hummingbirds, Plant Select* 2001.           Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.         Herbaceous         Yellow         AugSept.         Fringed, silvery-gray foliage; good for naturalized a	Penstemon pinifolius			June-Sept.	Needle-like, evergreen foliage.
Sedum acre	Saponaria ocymoides	•		May-July	Shear after bloom.
Sedum kamschaticum   Herbaceous, Crange, Kamschatka sedum   Sedum per vergreen   yellow   Sedum per vergreen   yellow   Sedum per vergreen   Yellow   Sedum purium   Herbaceous, Sedum purium spp.   Herbaceous   Purple   June-July Surry, gray leaves resemble a lamb's ear.    Iamacetum densum amani   Herbaceous   Yellow   May-June   Finely-cut, silvery-white foliage, Plant Select* 2010    Partridge feather   Thymus praecox Creeping thyme   Herbaceous   Purple   July-Sept.   Vigorous groundcover; common variety 'Homestead Purple.'    Verbena canadensis   Verbena   AugOct.   Gray-green leaves; good for attracting hummingbirds, Hummingbird trumped Orange Carpet*   Herbaceous   Yellow   AugSept.   Fringed, silvery-gray foliage; good for naturalized areas.    Aug-Sept.   Fringed, silvery-gray foliage; good for naturalized areas.   Several varieties with various flower colors. Several Poppy mallow, winecups   Herbaceous   White   May-June   Aggressive; shear after bloom.   Several varieties with various flower colors. Several Pelpsyman varieties with various flower colors. Several Pelpsyman varieties with various flower colors. Several Pelpsyman varieties available.   Herbaceous   Purple   June-frost   Succulent foliage turns reddish in winter.   Several low-growing varieties including 'Bradmoor,'   Several low-growing varietie	Sedum acre		Yellow	May-June	Low growing; succulent, dark green leaves.
Sadum reflexum 'Blue Spruce'   Herbaceous, Elue Spruce'   Herbaceous, Elue Spruce Sedum   Sedum, stonecrop   Herbaceous, evergreen   Herbaceous   Unimportant   — Succulent, evergreen leaves in rosettes.		Herbaceous,		July-Aug.	Scalloped, succulent, green leaves.
Sedum, stonecrop Sempen/ivum spp. Herbaceous, Unimportant Herbaceous, Unimportant Herbaceous, Unimportant Herbaceous, Unimportant Herbaceous, Unimportant Herbaceous, Unimportant Herbaceous, Purple June-July Furry, gray leaves resemble a lamb's ear.  Furryle count, silvery-white foliage, plant Select* 2010  Furryle carear-arearearearearearearearearearearearearea	Sedum reflexum 'Blue Spruce'	Herbaceous,		July-Aug.	Blue green needle-like leaves.
Sempenvirum spp. Herbaceous   Herbaceous   Herbaceous   Purple   June-July   Furry, gray leaves resemble a lamb's ear.		,	Red	July-Aug.	
Lamb's ear  Tanacetum densum amani Partridge feather  Thymus praecox Creeping thyme  Herbaceous Pink, red, white Verbena canadensis Verbena canadensis Verbena  Taunceria garrettii 'PWWG01S' Hummingbird trumpet Orange Carpet*  Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.  Artemisia frigida Finged sage Callithne involucrata Poppy mallow, winecups  Ceratium tomentosum Snow-in-summer  Delosperma hybrids Ice plant Delosperma cooperi Purple ice plant Perbaceous Perbena Herbaceous Purple Purple June-Aug. Pringed AugOct. Pringed, silvery-gray foliage; good for naturalized areas. Trailing stems with saucer-like flowers; Plant Select* 1999.  Several varieties with various flower colors. Several plant Select* in varieties available. Purple ice plant Perbaceous Vellow May-June Purple Purple ice plant Perbaceous Vellow May-June Purple		,	Unimportant	_	
Partridge feather Thymus praecox Creeping thyme  Herbaceous Pink, red, white Pink Chintz'.  Verbena canadensis Verbena  Zauschneria garrettii 'PWWG01S' Hummingbird trumpet Orange Carpet*  Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.  Artemisia frigida Fringed sage Callirhoe involucrata Popopy mallow, winecups  Cerastium tomentosum Snow-in-summer Delosperma nubigenum Purple Herbaceous, Purple Pink Chintz'.  Herbaceous Purple AugOct. Gray-green leaves; good for attracting hummingbirds, Plant Select* 2001.  Fringed, silvery-gray foliage; good for naturalized areas. Trailling stems with saucer-like flowers; Plant Select* 1999.  Cerastium tomentosum Snow-in-summer Delosperma cooperi Purple ice plant Delosperma nubigenum Yellow Yellow Way-June May-June May-June Succulent foliage turns reddish in winter.  Purple varieties available Noody, White, pink May-June May-June Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,' Snowin-summer Delosperma nubigerus varieties including 'Broadmoor,' Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,' Snowin-summer Delosperma nubigenum Yellow ice plant Voody, Unimportant Voody, Unimportant Unimportant Voody, Unimportant Vigorous groundcover; common variety 'Homestead Vigorus, common variety 'Homestead Vigory-gen leaves; good for attracting hummingbirds, Purple.'  Squary-gray		Herbaceous	Purple	June-July	Furry, gray leaves resemble a lamb's ear.
Verbena canadensis Verbena canadensis Verbena canadensis Verbena  Zauschneria garrettii 'PWWG01S' Hummingbird trumpet Orange Carpet*  Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.  Artemisia frigida Fringed sage Callirhoe involucrata Poppy mallow, winecups Cerastium tomentosum Snow-in-summer Delosperma hybrids Ice plant Delosperma cooperi Purple ice plant Perbaceous, Verlow Herbaceous, Verlow Wild strawberry Yellow May-June May-May-May-May-May-May-		Herbaceous	Yellow	May-June	Finely-cut, silvery-white foliage, Plant Select® 2010
Verbena  Zauschneria garrettii 'PWWG01S' Herbaceous Red, orange AugOct. Gray-green leaves; good for attracting hummingbirds, Hummingbird trumpet Orange Carpet*  Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.  Artemisia frigida Fringed sage Herbaceous Reddish-purple June-Aug. Trailing stems with saucer-like flowers; Plant Select* 1999.  Callirhoe involucrata Poppy mallow, winecups Persensional Herbaceous White May-June Aggressive; shear after bloom.  Snow-in-summer  Delosperma hybrids Le plant evergreen Purple Le plant evergreen  Delosperma nubigenum Herbaceous, Purple June-frost Succulent foliage turns reddish in winter.  Purple ice plant evergreen  Delosperma nubigenum Herbaceous White, pink May-June Native strawberry; small edible berries.  Fragaria vesca Wild strawberry  Juniperus horizontalis Woody, Unimportant — Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,' Piroce of Wales' and 'Wittonii.'  Juniperus sabina  Purple ice pland Purple ice pland Purple evergreen  Woody, Unimportant — Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,' Piroce of Wales' and 'Wittonii.'  Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,' Piroce of Wales' and 'Wittonii.'	, ,	Herbaceous	Pink, red, white	June-July	
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Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.  Artemisia frigida Fringed sage  Callirhoe involucrata Poppy mallow, winecups  Cerastium tomentosum Snow-in-summer  Delosperma hybrids Ice plant Purple ice plant Pelosperma nubigenum Yellow Yellow Yellow Yellow AugSept. Fringed, silvery-gray foliage; good for naturalized areas.  Trailing stems with saucer-like flowers; Plant Select® 1999.  May-June Aggressive; shear after bloom.  Several varieties with various flower colors. Several Plant Select® introductions.  Purple ice plant Delosperma nubigenum Yellow ice plant Pragaria vesca Wild strawberry  Juniperus horizontalis Creeping juniper Juniperus sabina Woody, Unimportant Woody, Unimportant  Vellow AugSept. Fringed, silvery-gray foliage; good for naturalized areas.  Frialling stems with saucer-like flowers; Plant Select® flowers, Plant	Zauschneria garrettii 'PWWG01S' Hummingbird trumpet	Herbaceous	Red, orange	AugOct.	Gray-green leaves; good for attracting hummingbirds,
Artemisia frigida Fringed sageHerbaceous Fringed sageYellowAugSept.Fringed, silvery-gray foliage; good for naturalized areas.Callirhoe involucrata Poppy mallow, winecupsHerbaceous Poppy mallow, winecupsReddish-purpleJune-Aug.Trailing stems with saucer-like flowers; Plant Select® 1999.Cerastium tomentosum 	• ,				
Callirhoe involucrata Poppy mallow, winecupsHerbaceous Poppy mallow, winecupsReddish-purpleJune-Aug.Trailing stems with saucer-like flowers; Plant Select® 1999.Cerastium tomentosum Snow-in-summerHerbaceous Poleosperma hybrids Ice plantHerbaceous, evergreenVarious evergreenMay-JuneSeveral varieties with various flower colors. Several Plant Select® introductions.Delosperma cooperi Purple ice plantHerbaceous, evergreenPurpleJune-frost Purple ice plant foliage turns reddish in winter.Delosperma nubigenum Yellow ice plantHerbaceous, evergreenYellowMay-JuneSucculent foliage turns reddish in winter. Some varieties available.Fragaria vesca Wild strawberryHerbaceousWhite, pinkMay-JuneNative strawberry; small edible berries.Juniperus horizontalis Creeping juniperWoody, evergreenUnimportant—Several low-growing varieties including 'Bar Harbor,' 'Blue Chip,' 'Prince of Wales' and 'Wiltonii.'Juniperus sabinaWoody, UnimportantUnimportant—Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,'	Artemisia frigida	Herbaceous	Yellow	AugSept.	
Cerastium tomentosum Snow-in-summerHerbaceous Delosperma hybrids lce plantHerbaceous, evergreenVarious PurpleMay-June PurpleSeveral varieties with various flower colors. Several Plant Select® introductions.Delosperma cooperi Purple ice plantHerbaceous, evergreenPurpleJune-frostSucculent foliage turns reddish in winter.Delosperma nubigenum Yellow ice plantHerbaceous, evergreenYellowMay-JuneSucculent foliage turns reddish in winter. Some varieties available.Fragaria vesca Wild strawberryHerbaceous Wild strawberryWhite, pinkMay-JuneNative strawberry; small edible berries.Juniperus horizontalis Creeping juniperWoody, evergreenUnimportant—Several low-growing varieties including 'Bar Harbor,' 'Blue Chip,' 'Prince of Wales' and 'Wiltonii.'Juniperus sabinaWoody, Woody,Unimportant—Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,'	Callirhoe involucrata	Herbaceous	Reddish-purple	June-Aug.	
Ice plantevergreenPlant Select® introductions.Delosperma cooperi Purple ice plantHerbaceous, evergreenPurpleJune-frostSucculent foliage turns reddish in winter.Delosperma nubigenum Yellow ice plantHerbaceous, evergreenYellowMay-JuneSucculent foliage turns reddish in winter. Some varieties available.Fragaria vesca Wild strawberryHerbaceous Wild strawberryWhite, pinkMay-JuneNative strawberry; small edible berries.Juniperus horizontalis Creeping juniperWoody, evergreenUnimportant—Several low-growing varieties including 'Bar Harbor,' 'Blue Chip,' 'Prince of Wales' and 'Wiltonii.'Juniperus sabinaWoody,Unimportant—Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,'	Cerastium tomentosum	Herbaceous	White	May-June	
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Juniperus horizontalisWoody, Creeping juniperUnimportant evergreen—Several low-growing varieties including 'Bar Harbor,' 'Blue Chip,' 'Prince of Wales' and 'Wiltonii.'Juniperus sabinaWoody,Unimportant—Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,'	Fragaria vesca	•	White, pink	May-June	Native strawberry; small edible berries.
Juniperus sabina Woody, Unimportant — Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,'	Juniperus horizontalis	•	Unimportant	_	
	Juniperus sabina	Woody,	Unimportant	_	Several low-growing varieties including 'Broadmoor,'

Table 1 (cont.). Selected ground covers for hot, dry, sunny exposures.

Plant Name	Туре	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Remarks
Oenothera speciosa  Mexican evening primrose	Herbaceous	Pink	June-Oct.	Spreads quickly, may become invasive.
Polygonum cuspidatum 'Compactum' Japanese fleece flower	Herbaceous	Pink	AugSept.	Aggressive; thick, green leaves with red veins; red fall color; excellent ground cover for dry areas.
Potentilla neumanniana Creeping cinquefoil	Herbaceous	Yellow	May-Aug.	Bright green foliage; spreads quickly.
Prunus besseyi 'PO11S' Pawnee Buttes® sandcherry	Woody	White	April-May	Same species as native sandcherry but with a low, spreading habit; orange/red fall color; Plant Select®.
Rhus aromatica 'Gro-Low' Gro-Low fragrant sumac	Woody	Yellow	March-April	Vibrant orange-red fall color; very drought tolerant.
Table 2. Selected ground covers for su	n to part shade.			
Plant Name	Туре	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Remarks
Small areas – under 50 sq. ft.				
Alyssum montanum  Mountain alyssum	Herbaceous	Yellow	April-May	Gray foliage.
Armeria maritima Sea pink	Herbaceous, evergreen	Pink, white, purple	May-June	Grass-like foliage; several varieties.
Aubrieta deltoidea Rockcress	Herbaceous	Purple, blue, red	May-June	Several varieties; mat-like foliage.
Bergenia crassitalia 'Winterglut' Winter glow bergenia	Herbaceous	Pink	April-May	Low, cabbage-like foliage.
Campanula poscharskyana Adriatic bluebells	Herbaceous	Blue	May-June	Spreads quickly; good for rock gardens.
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides Plumbago	Herbaceous	Dark blue	AugSept.	Attractive green foliage turns red in fall.
Dianthus deltoides  Maiden Pink	Herbaceous	Red	May-June	Dark green foliage; mat-like. Varieties include 'Zing Rose', 'Brilliant'. Several varieties available.
Festuca glauca Blue fescue	Herbaceous	Unimportant	_	Silvery-blue clump grass.
Geranium cinereum Cranesbill	Herbaceous	Pink, purple	May-July	Leaves are deeply divided; clump forming.
Geranium dalmaticum Compact rose geranium	Herbaceous	Pink	May-June	Foliage turns red in fall.
Geranium x cantabrigiense 'Biokovo' Biokovo cranesbill	Herbaceous	Pink, white	May-July	Foliage turns red in fall.
Gypsophila repens Creeping baby's breath	Herbaceous	White, pink	June-July	Mat-like.
Heuchera sanguinea Coral bells	Herbaceous	Red, pink, white	June-Aug.	Mounded foliage with taller bell-shaped flowers. Many newer varieties selected for foliage colors.
Iberis sempervirens Candytuft	Herbaceous, evergreen	White	May-June	Dark green, needle-like foliage.
Persicaria affinis Himalayan border jewel	Herbaceous	Pink	AugSept.	Mat-like foliage becomes copper-red in fall.
Phlox subulata Creeping phlox	Herbaceous, evergreen	Pink, white, lavender	March-May	Several varieties; needle-like foliage.
Potentilla nepalensis 'Miss Willmott' Miss Willmott cinquefoil	Herbaceous	Rose, red	June-July	Strawberry-like leaves.
Thymus x citriodorus Lemon thyme	Herbaceous, evergreen	Purple	June-July	Lemon-scented foliage. Several varieties available.
Thymus praecox pseudolanuginosus Woolly thyme	Herbaceous, evergreen	Pink, purple	June-July	Mat-like, woolly-gray foliage; turns purplish in winter; sparse flowers.
Thymus serpyllum	Herbaceous,	Purple	June-July	Aromatic foliage; mat-like.
Mother-of-thyme  Veronica austriaca 'Crater Lake Blue'  Crater Lake Blue speedwell	evergreen Herbaceous,	Blue	June-July	Shiny leaves on mounded clumps
Veronica filiformis	Herbaceous	Blue	June-Aug.	Grows quickly in dry conditions.
Birdseye speedwell  Veronica hybrids  Speedwells	Herbaceous, evergreen	Blue, white	May-June	Several varieties are Plant Select® introductions.
Veronica liwanensis Turkish veronica	Herbaceous	Blue	May-June	Low growing; dark green leaves; Plant Select®1997.
Veronica pectinata Woolly veronica	Herbaceous	Lavender	May-June	Low growing; gray foliage; evergreen some winters.
Veronica peduncularis Speedwell	Herbaceous	Blue	May-June	Commonly sold variety is 'Georgia Blue'
Veronica prostrata Prostrate speedwell	Herbaceous	Blue to purple	May-June	Dense mats.

Table 2 (cont.). Selected ground covers for sun to part shade.

lable 2 (cont.). Selected ground cover	rs for sun to pari	snade.		
Plant Name	Туре	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Remarks
Veronica repens Creeping speedwell	Herbaceous	Blue to purple	May-June	Dense mats.
Veronica spicata 'Red Fox' Red Fox speedwell	Herbaceous	Rose-red	May-June	Flower spikes rise above clumps of dark green leaves.
Waldsteinia fragarioides Barren strawberry	Herbaceous, evergreen	Yellow	April-May	Sparse fruit is inedible.
Waldsteinia ternata Siberian barren strawberry	Herbaceous	Yellow	April-May	Compact growth habit; fruit inedible.
Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.				
Cotoneaster apiculatus Cranberry cotoneaster	Woody	Pink	May-June	Attractive, mounded habit, red fruit; maroon fall color.
Cotoneaster dammeri 'Coral Beauty' Coral Beauty cotoneaster	Woody	White, pink	May-June	Bronze fall color; abundant orange-red fruit, best in protected spots.
Cotoneaster horizontalis Rock cotoneaster	Woody	Pink	April-May	Semi-evergreen; small rounded leaves with red- bronze fall color. Best in protected spots.
Duchesnea indica Mock strawberry	Herbaceous	Yellow	May	Aggressive; bright red, inedible fruit.
Juniperus communis Common juniper	Woody, evergreen	_	_	Performs best in acidic soils. Common clones include: Alpine Carpet®, Blueberry Delight® and 'Ettusa'®.
Lonicera japonica 'Halliana' Hall's honeysuckle	Woody, evergreen	White, yellow	July-Aug.	Can use as vine or aggressive ground cover.
Lysimachia nummularia Moneywort	Herbaceous	Yellow	June-July	Prefers moist soil but can become aggressive.
Parthenocissus quinquefolia Virginia creeper	Woody			Can use as vine or groundcover; aggressive, red fall color; commonly sold variety is 'Engelmannii'
Parthenocissus tricuspidata Boston ivy	Woody			Can use as a clinging vine or ground cover; aggressive; red fall color.
Potentilla neumanniana Creeping potentilla	Herbaceous	Yellow	May-Aug.	Commonly sold variety is 'Nana'.
Prunella grandiflora Self-heal	Herbaceous	Purple, rose, white	June-July	Dense mat, several varieties.
Prunella laciniata Lacy self heal	Herbaceous	Pink		Fuzzy evergreen foliage.
Teucrium chamaedrys Germander	Woody, evergreen	Pink, purple	June-July	Dark green leaves; erect stems; can be sheared.
Symphoricarpos x chenaulti 'Hancock' Hancock coralberry	Woody	Pink, white	June-Aug.	Can spread to 12; stems root where they touch the ground.
Table 3. Selected ground covers for pa	art to deep shad	e.		
Plant Name	Туре	Flower Color	<b>Bloom Time</b>	Remarks
Small areas – under 50 sq. ft.				
Ajuga reptans Carpet bugle	Herbaceous	Blue/pink, white/ purple	May-June	Varieties include 'Atropurpurea,' 'Burgundy Glow', 'Chocolate Chip', and 'Silver Beauty'.
Brunnera macrophylla 'Jack Frost' Jack Frost Siberian Bugloss	Herbaceous	Blue	May-June	Large heart-shaped silver leaves with green veins.
Convallaria majalis Lily-of-the-valley	Herbaceous	White	May-June	Drooping, fragrant flowers.
Hosta spp. Hosta, plantain lily	Herbaceous	Lilac to white	July-Aug.	Many varieties; primarily grown for foliage effect.
Lamiastrum galeobdolon Archangel	Herbaceous	Yellow	May-June	Silver-flecked foliage; commonly sold variety is 'Herman's' Pride'.
Paxistima cambyi Mountain lover	Woody, evergreen	_	_	Small shrub; prostrate growth.
Sagina subulata Pearlwort, Irish moss	Herbaceous, evergreen	White	May-June	Dense, moss-like mat; moist soil.
Viola cornuta Tufted pansy	Herbaceous	Violet	May-June	Many varieties with various flower colors; moist soil.
Viola corsica Corsican violet	Herbaceous	Violet	May-August	Can tolerate some drought, reseeds moderately, Plant Select® 2003.
Viola odorata Sweet violet	Herbaceous	Violet	May-June	Several varieties; potentially invasive.
Large areas – greater than 50 sq. ft.				
Aegopodium podagraria 'Variegatum' Snow-on-the-mountain or Bishop's goutweed	Herbaceous	White	June-July	Looks best in moist soil; grown for foliage effect; invasive, aggressive.
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi Kinnikinick	Woody, evergreen	Light pink	April-May	Native; prefers acid soil; bright red fruits; glossy, evergreen leaves turn copper-red in fall.
Euonymus fortunei 'Coloratus'	Woody, evergreen	_	_	Foliage turns purple through winter; many other varieties.
Purpleleaf wintercreeper				

Table 3 (cont.). Selected ground covers for part to deep shade.

Plant Name	Туре	Flower Color	Bloom Time	Remarks
Galium odoratum Sweet woodruff	Herbaceous	White	May-June	Fragrant foliage; aggressive.
Glechoma hederacea Ground ivy	Herbaceous	Blue, purple	May-July	Member of the mint family; aggressive; variegated varieties available.
Hedera helix English ivy	Woody, evergreen	_	_	Can use as clinging vine or groundcover; aggressive; foliage may winterburn on exposed sites.
Lamium maculatum Spotted deadnettle	Herbaceous	Pink, white	April-June	Many varieties, including 'Beacon Silver', 'Lemon Frost', 'Purple Dragon', and 'White Nancy'; most with variegated foliage.
Mahonia repens Creeping Oregon grape	Woody, evergreen	Yellow	April-May	Native; spiny foliage turns reddish purple in fall; may winterburn on exposed sites; blue, grape-like fruits.
Pachysandra terminalis Japanese spurge	Herbaceous, evergreen	White	April-May	Glossy foliage; prefers moist, acidic soil.