

Groundcovers are amazing, hardy plants that do tough jobs other plants just can't handle. They can be loosely defined as low, spreading plants that cover a broad area of land. We're here to help you find a great option, no matter what space you're working with, so as always, don't hesitate to speak to a Sky employee if you have any questions.

HOW DO I CHOOSE A GROUNDCOVER?

You'll want to identify the soil quality and light exposure of your space, and think about features you may need/want (like tolerance of foot traffic or drought, or erosion control). Other important considerations include how quickly you'd like to fill the space, and what other plants or garden features may be nearby that you want to complement.

HOW MANY PLANTS DO I NEED TO FILL A GIVEN SPACE?

Almost all of the groundcovers we carry come in 4" containers. The list below details approximately how far these will spread in good growing conditions. If you need to fill a space quickly, you may want to plant them closer together, so that they fill in faster. This means you might have to buy more initially. If you're willing to wait, you can plant them further apart, or divide the original plants as they grow, and save a little money .

WHAT CAN I USE AS A GROUNDCOVER?

What we offer here on our list is the cream of the crop that we stock in the groundcover aisles of the Sky greenhouse. Beyond that, there are many, many other plants that can be used as a "groundcover." Sedums for example, are a wonderful drought tolerant choice. We also carry a variety of low-growing conifers, and a number of groundcover roses, just to name a few.

WHERE DO I FIND THESE PLANTS AT SKY?

The vast majority of our groundcovers are located in the perennials section of our greenhouse. We organize them into shade and sun lovers, then alphabetically by botanical name.

HOW DO I TAKE CARE OF GROUNDCOVERS?

Groundcovers, by definition, are often tough plants with little-to-no specific care requirements. For most of these plants, as long as you meet their basic soil, light, and water needs, they will grow faithfully, sprucing up hard-to-plant or high traffic spaces in your garden. Be sure to read the notes in the list below for tips on specific plant requirements!

Groundcovers

ICON KEY



FULL SUN - These often require more than 6 hours of sunlight per day, and many tolerate heat as well



PART SUN - These plants can handle an "in-between" level of light, with at least a few hours of bright sunlight.



FULL SHADE - These plants will often burn in direct sunlight, and thrive in shade 6 hrs. or more



STEPPABLE - These plants can tolerate varying degrees of foot traffic; they're great around pavers!



EROSION CONTROL - If you're looking to secure a hillside from PNW rain, choose one with this symbol.



EVERGREEN - These groundcovers will provide beautiful foliage all year round.



NOTABLE FLOWER - Looking for something a little bit prettier? Choose one with an ornamental flower

TABLE TERMS

Fast growing - If you need a large area filled quickly, look for this in the notes. Keep an eye for the couple that say 'plant in a controlled area' as these have aggressive growth rates, and need to be contained.

Drought resistant - These plants are tolerant of drought after becoming established.

Rabbit & deer resistant - Although no plant is entirely safe from opportunistic wildlife, there are plants they don't favor, and ones that bounce back well after being nibbled on.

Great for pollinators - These have flowers that attract bees, butterflies, and/or hummingbirds. Do keep an eye out for steppable plants when flowering! There may be a lot of bees looking for a tasty meal.

Native - This means that the species has a PNW or West Coast native variety available. Keep in mind that there may be other cultivars offered that are not native.

Likes moist soil - Don't let these plants dry out too much. They may need more regular water than others.

Likes/dislikes acidic soil - Soil in the PNW is often acidic because of our heavy rainy seasons. Some plants thrive in this kind of soil, others may need lime or other balancing amendments added to do well.

Likes rich soil - Make sure that these groundcovers live in soil with lots of organic material and nutrients.

Slow growing - These plants may take a bit of extra time to fill a space, making them ideal for smaller areas, and they often require less maintenance than more vigorously growing varieties.

Great for rockeries - These plants fill in wonderfully in the tight nooks and crannies of a rock wall.

Great for containers - Many of these will trail over the edge of a container, or stay compact in a pot.

Great for ponds/water features - Plants with this note usually can tolerate boggy or heavy soil and make great marginals for ponds. Always be sure to confirm specific needs for the variety you choose!

Groundcovers

PLANT	LIGHT	STEP	EC	EG	FLO	SIZE	NOTES
Acaena spp. Sheep's Burr						~6" tall 2-3' spread	Fast growing, Frost resistant, Needs good drainage
Aegopodium Bishop's Weed						~12" tall 2-4' spread	Fast growing, Plant in contained area, Drought & deer resistant
Ajuga spp. Bugleweed						3-6" tall 1-2' spread	Fast growing, Deer resistant, Great for pollinators
Arctostaphylos uva ursi Kinnikinnick						6-12" tall 3-6' spread	Drought & deer resistant, Native, Slow growing
Arenaria Sandwort						~6" tall 12" spread	Drought tolerant, Deer resistant, Great in sandy soils, rock gardens
Azorella spp. Bolax						1" tall ~8" spread	Deer resistant, Great for compacted soil, Likes heat
Bellium minutum Miniature Mat Daisy						2-4" tall 15" spread	Fast growing, water regularly, Great for rockeries, pollinators
Ceanothus gloriosus Point Reyes Creeper						12-15" tall 2' spread	Fast growing, Native, Drought & deer resistant, Good for poor soils & coasts
Cornus canadensis Bunchberry						8" tall Indefinite	Native, Rabbit & deer resistant, Red berries, Needs moist soil
Cotoneaster spp. Cotoneaster						2-3' tall 6' spread	Drought tolerant, Great for rockeries, Slow growing, Dislikes acid soils
Cymbalaria Kenilworth Ivy						4-6" tall 18" spread	Fast growing, Great in rockeries & containers, Dislikes extreme temps
Ellisiophyllum Ellisiophyllum						2-3" tall 3' spread	Fast growing, Great in rockeries, containers & along water features
Erodium Heron's Bill						3-6" tall 20" spread	Long blooming, Great in rockeries & for pollinators, Dislikes acid soils
Euonymus fortunei spp. Wintercreeper						2-4' tall 4-6' spread	Fast growing, Drought resistant, Likes to climb, Needs good drainage
Fragaria spp. Orn. Strawberry						6" tall 24" spread	Fast Growing, Native, Berries attract birds, Ok for coasts,
Galium odoratum Sweet Woodruff						8-12" tall 2' spread	Rabbit & deer resistant, Aromatic flowers/leaves, Keep soil moist
Gaultheria procumbens Wintergreen						4-6" tall 1-3' spread	Deer resistant, Edible red berries, Likes moist, acidic soil, Slow growing
Gaultheria shallon Salal						2-4' tall 20" spread	Long lived, Native, likes acidic soil, Edible blue-black berries
Herniaria Rupturewort						3" tall 18" spread	Deer resistant, Great lawn alternative, Good for poor soils
Houttuynia Chameleon Plant						12" tall Indefinite	Fast growing, Plant in contained area, Great for ponds & rain gardens
Hypericum St. John's Wort						12-24" tall Indefinite	Drought & deer resistant, Great for rockeries & dry soils
Lamium spp. Dead Nettle						4-8" tall 20" spread	Fast growing, Deer resistant, Good for pollinators

Groundcovers

PLANT	LIGHT	STEP	EC	EG	FLO	SIZE	NOTES
Leptinella Brass Buttons	 					1-3" t 12-16" spread	Great in rockeries, Needs moist, well-draining soil
Lindernia Blue Moneywort	 					2" tall 2-3" spread	Great in containers & water features, Likes heat, Slow growing
Lithodora Lithodora						6-10" tall 24" spread	Great in rockeries & containers, Likes acid, well-draining soil, Slow growing
Lysimachia spp. Creeping Jenny	 					4" tall 18" spread	Fast growing, Great in containers & for water features, Deer resistant
Mahonia nervosa Low Oregon Grape	 					1' tall 3' spread	Rabbit & deer resistant, Native, Edible berries, Likes moist, acid soil
Mazus reptans Creeping Mazus	 					<6" tall 12" spread	Fast growing, Deer resistant, Great lawn alternative & in rockeries
Mentha requienii Corsican Mint	 					<1" tall 12" spread	Great in rockeries & containers, Edible aromatic leaves, Needs moist soil
Muehlenbeckia spp. Wire Vine	 					2-6" tall 24" spread	Fast growing, Great for containers, Thrives in rocky, dry soils
Origanum spp. Dwarf Oregano	 					<3" tall 10" spread	Fast growing, Drought & deer resistant, Edible aromatic leaves
Oxalis spp. Sorrel	 					10-12" tall 2-3" spread	Native, Great for naturalizing & rockeries, Likes cool, moist soil
Pachysandra spp. Japanese Spurge	 					10" tall 12" spread	Deer resistant, Great in acidic soils & hard to plant areas (deep shade)
Pratia spp. Blue/White Star Creeper	 					<4" tall >18" spread	Fast growing, Great in rockeries, & for birds, Likes moist, well-draining soil
Rubus Creeping Raspberry	 					2" tall 2' spread	Fast growing, Deer, drought & heat resistant, Small yellow-orange berries
Sagina spp. Irish/Scotch Moss	 					1" tall 12" spread	Deer resistant, Great in rockeries, Slow growing, Dislikes hot sun
Scleranthus Australian Astroturf	 					2" tall 10" spread	Great in rockeries, Likes gritty, moist, well-draining soil, Slow growing
Selaginella spp. Spikemoss	 					3-6" tall 12" spread	Deer resistant, Great for containers, Needs moist soil & high humidity
Soleirolia soleirolii Baby's Tears						1-3" tall Indefinite	Fast growing, Great for rockeries, Likes rich, moist soil
Thymus spp. Thyme						6-12" tall 1-2' spread	Drought & deer resistant, Great for pollinators & lawn alt., Slow growing
Veronica repens Creeping Speedwell	 					1-3" tall 20" spread	Fast growing, Great for rockeries, Rabbit, deer & drought resistant
Vinca major/minor Periwinkle	 					3-6" tall 8' spread	Fast growing, Drought resistant, Great in containers
Waldsteinia Barren Strawberry	 					<6" tall 2' spread	Deer & drought resistant, great in rockeries, Likes acidic, Ok in clay soil