GROUND COVERS FOR NEW JERSEY GARDENS

Barbara J. Bromley, Mercer Co. Horticulturist 2005

Ground covers are plants that are under 12" in height and cover the ground. The following are some of the plants grown in New Jersey. Some that are invasive may be more restrained in difficult growing conditions. There are many references, including the internet, to provide descriptive and cultural information about these plants.

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	COMMENTS
Aegopodium podagraria	bishop's weed, goutweed	invasive, white flower, variegated foliage
Ajuga reptans	carpet bugle	shade ev, may invade lawn areas
Alchemilla mollis	lady's mantle	ps/ mod shade, green flowers
Andromeda polifolia	bog rosemary	lt/mod shade, ev, wet site
Asarum spp.	wild ginger	wet shade, inconspicuous flower
Asarum spp.	wild ginger	any shade, aromatic, satiny leaves
Aubretia deltoides	false rockcress	lt. shade, flowers
Bergenia cordifolia	heartleaf bergenia	any shade, pink, may winterburn
Ceratostigma plumbaginoides	leadwort	ps, blue
Chrysogonum virginianum	golden star	sun-ps, gold
Convallaria majalis	lily-of-the-valley	poisonous, any shade, white, fragrant
Cornus canadensis	bunchberry	mod/dense shade, white
Epimedium spp.	bishop's hat, barrenwort	needs shade, yellow, pink
Euonymus fortunei	wintercreeper	scale insects, shade tolerant, ev
Galax aphylla	wandflower	lt. to dense shade, white flowers
Galium odoratum	sweet woodruff, bedstraw	shade, fragrant, white, 6"
Gaultheria procumbens	wintergreen, teaberry	lt. to dense shade, ev
Hedera helix	English ivy	sun to shade, ev, berries poisonous
Hosta spp.	plantain lily, funkia	any shade, drought tolerant, deer
Lamiastrum galeobdolon	yellow archangel	shade, 1', yellow
Lamium maculatum var.	spotted dead nettle	8", ps to dense shade, pink-white
Lysimachia nummularia	moneywort, creep. Charlie	per, yellow, wet to moist, shade
Mahonia repens	creeping mahonia	lt. shade, yellow, blue berries
Mitchella repens	partridgeberry	ps/dense shade
Ophiopogon japonicus	dwarf lily turf, mondo grass	ps/dense shade, white, blue
Pachysandra terminalis	Japanese spurge	ev, white, lt. to dense shade
Paxistima canbyi	Canby pachistima	lt./mod shade, ev, acid, 1'
Phlox stolonifera	creeping phlox	lt. to mod shade, blue
Pulmonaria spp.	lungwort	lt. to mod shade, white, pink, blue
Sedum spurium 'Dragons Blood'	two-row stonecrop	sun to lt. shade, red
Stachys byzantina	lamb's ears	sun and good air circulation, pink
Vinca minor, V. major	periwinkle	sun/mod shade, ev, blue/purple