

MEL'S

where home and garden come together

GROUNDCOVER SELECTION AND PLANTING

There are a wide variety of foliage textures and colors in ground cover plants. They are available for all conditions. When choosing groundcover, ask yourself these questions:

- How much sun does the area receive?
- Is the soil overly moist or dry?
- Will there be foot traffic?
- Will it be surrounding other plants?
- How big an area is to be covered?
- How tall will the plant grow?
- Will it be used for erosion control?

Here are a few examples for specific conditions:

FULL SUN: *Thymus praecox articus* (Creeping Thyme), *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (Kinnikinnick), *Ceanothus gloriosus* (Pt. Reyes Ceanothus)

PART SUN/SHADE: *Ajuga reptans* (Carpet Bugle), *Vinca minor* (Periwinkle), *Gaultheria procumbens* (Wintergreen)

SHADE: *Pachysandra terminalis* (Japanese Spurge), Dwarf *Sarcococca*, *Mahonia nervosa* (Low Oregon Grape), *Sagina Sabulata* (Irish Moss)

EROSION CONTROL: *Hypericum calycinum* (St Johnswort), *Hedera helix* (English Ivy), *Cotoneaster dammeri* (Bearberry Cotoneaster)

SOME FOOT TRAFFIC: *Thymus pseudolanuginosus* (Woolly Thyme), *Sagina subulata* (Irish Moss), *Laurentia fluviatilis* (Blue Star Creeper)

HIGH TRAFFIC AREA: Lawn, Stone pavers

DROUGHT TOLERANT: *Juniper sp.*, *Genista Lydia* (Creeping Broom), *Rubus calycinoides*

MOIST AREAS: *Galium odoratum* (Sweet Woodruff), *Cornus Canadensis* (Bunchberry), *Vaccinium vitis-idaia minus* (Dwarf Lingonberry)

These are just a few ideas. Our nursery staff can help you choose what's best for your situation.

Before planting groundcover, the site must be prepared. If a large area is being planted, prepare as if it were a lawn. This will allow the groundcover to grow evenly. Loosen soil six to twelve inches deep. To enrich the soil, use peat moss, compost and aged manure. If using bark, spread first in a thin layer, and then plant the groundcover. Bark aids in the control of weeds. Keep plants well watered until established, including drought tolerant plants.

The following will help determine the number of plants needed, but can change considering the different plants vigor.

GROUNDCOVER SPACING

Pot Size	Normal Spacing	Coverage (in sq ft)	No. of plants needed
4 inch	18 inches	50	22
	24 inches	100	25
	24 inch	500	125
1 gallon	3 ft	50	6
	5 ft	100	5
	5 ft	500	20
Packs	8 in	10	12
2 inch	12 in	50	50
	18 in	100	45
solid flats	18 in	500	222

(or 2-3 solid flats)