

GROUNDCOVERS

Recommended for New Hanover County Landscapes

Underlined plants are extremely drought-tolerant once established * = Indicates a plant native to SE USA

GROUNDCOVERS FOR SUN

Common Name	Botanical Name	Water Use Zone	Recommended Varieties	Height (in)	Type of Plant	Growth Rate	Exposure	Soil Conditions
<u>Beach Wormwood*</u>	<i>Artemisia stelleriana</i>	2,3	'Silver Brocade'	6 – 12	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained to Xeric
<u>Hardy Ice Plant</u>	<i>Delosperma cooperi</i> <i>Delosperma nubigenum</i>	2,3		4 – 6	Semi – Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained to Xeric
<u>Cheddar Pinks, Dianthus</u>	<i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i> and hybrids of this species	2,3	'Bath's Pink' 'Firewitch' 'Greystone'	4 – 8	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained
<u>Weeping Love Grass</u>	<i>Eragrostis curvula</i>	2,3		24 – 36	Clumping Grass	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained to Xeric
Daylily	<i>Hemerocallis</i> hybrids	1,2,3	Many Available	18 – 48	Herbaceous Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun to Part Shade	Moist to Well Drained
<u>Atlantic St. John's Wort*</u>	<i>Hypericum reductum</i>	2,3		8 – 12	Semi-Evergreen Shrub	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained to Xeric
Candytuft	<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	1,2,3		6 – 8	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun to Light Shade	Well Drained
<u>Shore Juniper</u>	<i>Juniperus conferta</i>	2,3	'Blue Pacific'	12-18	Evergreen Conifer	Fast	Full Sun	Well Drained to Xeric
<u>Creeping Juniper*</u>	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i>	2,3	'Bar Harbor' 'Blue Chip'	10 – 12	Evergreen Conifer	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained to Xeric

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<u>Andorra Juniper</u>	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Plumosa'	2,3		24	Evergreen Conifer	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained to Xeric
<u>Blue Rug Juniper</u>	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Wiltonii'	2,3		4-6	Evergreen Conifer	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained to Xeric
Dwarf Nandina	<i>Nandina domestica</i>	1,2,3	'Harbor Belle' 'Harbor Dwarf' 'San Gabriel'	24 – 36	Evergreen Shrub	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained
Moss Phlox or Thrift*	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	1,2,3	Many	4 - 6	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun to Light Shade	Well Drained
Orange Coneflower*	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	1,2,3	'Goldsturm'	24 – 30	Semi-Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun to Part Shade	Moist to Well Drained
<u>Stonecrops</u>	<i>Sedum reflexum</i> <i>Sedum album</i> <i>Sedum tetractinum</i>	1,2,3	'Blue Spruce' 'Murale'	4 – 6	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun to Light Shade	Well Drained
<u>Wooly Stemodia*</u>	<i>Stemodia tomentosa</i>	1,2,3		4 – 6	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained
Prostrate Germander	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	1,2,3	'Prostratum' 'Nanum'	6 – 8	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Full Sun	Well Drained

GROUNDCOVERS FOR SHADE

Common Name	Botanical Name	Water Use Zone	Recommended Varieties	Height (in)	Type of Plant	Growth Rate	Exposure	Soil Conditions
Carpet Bugle	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	1,2		4 - 8	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Part to Full Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Pussytoes*	<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	1,2,3		4 - 8	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Light to Full Shade	Well Drained
Japanese Ardisia	<i>Ardisia japonica</i>	1,2		4 - 8	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Part to Full Shade	Well Drained

Common Name	Botanical Name	Water Use Zone	Recommended Varieties	Height (in)	Type of Plant	Growth Rate	Exposure	Soil Conditions
Japanese Painted Fern	<i>Athyrium nipponicum</i>	1,2		12 - 18	Herbaceous Fern	Moderate	Light to Full Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Green and Gold*	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	1,2		6 - 8	Semi-Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Light to Part Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Holly Fern	<i>Cyrtomium falcatum</i>	1,2,3		24 - 30	Evergreen Fern	Moderate	Part to Full Shade	Well Drained
Autumn Fern	<i>Dryopteris erythrosa</i>	1,2		18 - 24	Evergreen Fern	Moderate	Part to Full Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Dwarf Gardenia	<i>Gardenia jasminoides</i> 'Radicans'	1,2		12 - 24	Evergreen Shrub	Moderate	Light to Part Shade	Well Drained
Algerian Ivy	<i>Hedera canariensis</i>	1,2,3		12	Evergreen Vine	Moderate to Fast	Light to Full Shade	Well Drained
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	1,2,3		6-12	Evergreen Vine	Slow to Moderate	Part to Full Shade	Well Drained
American Alumroot*	<i>Heuchera Americana</i>	1,2,3	Many Available	6 - 12	Semi-Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Light to Part Shade	Well Drained
Hosta	<i>Hosta</i> species and hybrids	1,2,3	Many Available	12 - 24	Herbaceous Perennial	Moderate	Part to Full Shade	Well Drained
Liriope	<i>Liriope muscarii</i>	1,2,3	Many Available	12 - 18	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Light to Full Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Spreading Liriope	<i>Liriope spicata</i>	1,2,3		8-15	Evergreen Perennial	Moderate	Light to Full Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Creeping Jenny	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	1,2	'Aurea'	2	Semi-Evergreen Perennial	Fast	Light to Full Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Mondograss	<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i>	1,2		6 - 10	Evergreen Perennial	Slow to Moderate	Part to Full Shade	Well Drained

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Christmas Fern*	<i>Polystichum acrostichiodes</i>	1,2		12 - 18	Evergreen Fern	Moderate	Part to Full Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Creeping Raspberry	<i>Rubus calycinooides</i>	1,2		6 - 12	Evergreen Shrub	Moderate	Light to Part Shade	Well Drained
Sweetbox	<i>Sarcococca hookeriana</i> var. <i>humilis</i>	1,2		36	Evergreen Shrub	Moderate	Light to Full Shade	Well Drained
Strawberry Begonia	<i>Saxifraga stolonifera</i>	1,2		12	Evergreen Perennial	Fast	Light to Full Shade	Moist to Well Drained
Asiatic or Star Jasmine	<i>Trachelospermum asiaticum</i>	1,2,3		6 - 8	Evergreen Vine	Fast to Moderate	Light to Part Shade	Well Drained
Common Periwinkle	<i>Vinca minor</i>	1,2,3		5-6	Evergreen Vine	Fast	Light to Full Shade	Well Drained

Many ornamental grasses, perennials and low growing shrubs will make good groundcovers when planted in mass. View those lists for more possibilities.

Type of Plant

- Evergreen plants retain enough foliage to remain dense and full during winter.
- Semi-evergreen plants retain at least half of their foliage through winter, but are not as dense as evergreens.
- Herbaceous plants go dormant during winter, losing all of their foliage.

Exposure

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

- **Full sun** indicates a site that receives at least 8hrs of direct sun each day.
- **Light Shade** indicates a site that is shaded less than half of the day by a light high shade such as that cast by pine trees.
- **Part Shade** indicates a site that is shaded for half the day by a dense shade such as that cast by buildings or shade trees.
- **Full Shade** indicates a site that is in shade all day.

Soil

Soil refers to soil condition at the site as follows:

- **Wet** indicates a site that stays moist most of the time and receives periodic flooding.
- **Moist** indicates a site that is moist most of the time with brief (less than 12hrs) periods of standing water.
- **Well Drained** indicates a site where water drains from the surface and rarely stands.
- **Xeric** indicates a site that is extremely dry and sandy with very little ability to hold water.

Native Plants*

A plant native to SE USA implies a plant endemic to the Southeastern portion of the United States, from Virginia to Eastern Texas.

Water Use Zones

Water Use Zones indicate the water needs of various plants and correspond to the following NCCE publications:

- *Water Wise Use in Landscaping* http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/bae/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_1.html
- *How to Plan and Design a Water Wise Use Landscape*
http://www.bae.ncsu.edu/bae/programs/extension/publicat/wqwm/ag508_2.html

Drought Tolerant Plants

Extremely drought tolerant plants are marked with an underline. When planted in their preferred soil type, these plants are able to withstand extended periods of drought, 4-6 weeks, without supplemental irrigation once established. Most trees and shrubs take two to three seasons to become fully established. Perennials, grasses and groundcovers usually require one to two seasons to become established.

Mature Size

Mature sizes of all plants are given as height x width, though many may take several years to reach these dimensions. Mature size can vary depending on growing conditions.

Recommended Varieties

For many plants, recommended varieties are given. These are selections of that plant that either perform better in our area or are more suitable to landscape use than the plain species. Plant varieties, also known as cultivars, are listed enclosed in single quotes.



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