



Full Sun Groundcovers - Dry to Average Soil

These species mix well into areas with very limited mowing, lawn areas with semi frequent mowing, or in managed beds for weed suppression. For more details about Groundcovers and Freedom Lawns, check out our [Info page on them.](#)

Under 6 Inches High:

Juniper Leaf, *Polyprenum procumbens*
Carolina Ponysfoot, *Dichondra carolinensis*
Sunshine Mimosa, *Mimosa strigillosa*
Frog Fruit, *Phyla nodiflora*

Low Groundcovers with Tall Flowers:

Lyre-leaf Sage, *Salvia lyrata*
Elephant's Foot, *Elephantopus tomentosus*
Silkgrass, *Pityopsis graminifolia*
Rayless Sunflower, *Helianthus radula*

1 to 2 Feet High:

Purple Lovegrass, *Eragrostis spectabilis*
Elliott's Lovegrass, *Eragrostis elliottii*
Pineywoods Dropseed, *Sporobolus junceus*
Wiregrass, *Aristida stricta*
Maryland meadowbeauty, *Rhexia
mariana var. Exalbida*
Groundcherry, *Physalis spp.*
Dune Sunflower, *Helianthus debilis*

Size is approximate, plants may be larger with more water or soil nutrients.

All species can be mowed and tolerate foot traffic unless otherwise noted.

Under 6 Inches High:

Plant Species	Height	Description	Spreads by
<p>Juniper Leaf <i>Polypremum procumbens</i></p> 	<p>Up to 4 inches</p> <p>Perennial</p>	<p>Great low-growing groundcover for supplementing lawns or adding in landscaping beds as a living mulch</p> <p>White flowers in the summer support pollinators. Turns vibrant orange in the fall</p> <p>Seeds stay viable for 100 years. Very common to find naturally occurring in residential yards</p>	<p>Reseeds</p>
<p>Carolina Ponysfoot <i>Dichondra carolinensis</i></p> 	<p>Under 1 inch</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Summer Dormant</p>	<p>One of our most recommended groundcovers</p> <p>Yellow to white flowers in spring attract pollinators. Edible foliage</p> <p>Disappears in the summer, reappears in the winter to spring. Active year round in areas with more moisture or shade</p> <p>Pairs well with a summer active groundcover</p>	<p>Surface Spreading</p>
<p>Sunshine Mimosa <i>Mimosa strigillosa</i></p> 	<p>0.5 - 6 inches</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter Dormant</p>	<p>Aggressive spreader in full sun and dry conditions. May need trimming back from growing into formal beds. Best in areas where fast spreading is welcomed</p> <p>Showy pink flowers in the summer. Coastal friendly</p> <p>Stays low and creeps along the surface. Butterfly host plant</p> <p>Deciduous in North Florida. Pairs well with an evergreen or winter active groundcover. Produces a thick woody taproot that can be difficult to remove once it is established in an area</p>	<p>Surface Spreading</p>

<p>Frog Fruit <i>Phyla nodiflora</i></p> 	<p>3-6 inches</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Very tough groundcover, can spread quickly</p> <p>Long season pink and white flowers support pollinators. Butterfly host plant</p> <p>Taller leaves and stems die back in the winter</p> <p>Performs best when mowed</p> <p>Pairs well with an evergreen or winter active groundcover such as Carolina Ponysfoot</p>	<p>Surface Spreading</p>
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Low Groundcovers with Tall Flowers:

Plant Species	Height	Description	Spreads by
<p>Lyre-leaf Sage <i>Salvia lyrata</i></p> 	<p>2-4 inches</p> <p>Perennial</p>	<p>Very adaptable. Grows in almost any condition</p> <p>Low-growing basal rosette of leaves with up to 18" tall purple flower spikes in the spring</p> <p>Sections of the leaves turn purple in response to cold weather. Seed production occurs 4-6 weeks after flowering is finished</p> <p>Mow after seeds are released to encourage spread</p>	<p>Reseeds</p>
<p>Elephant's Foot <i>Elephantopus tomentosus</i></p> 	<p>1-3 inches</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Reseeding wildflower, very adaptable to different conditions. Grows flat on the surface. Flower stalks in fall reach up to 2 feet high</p> <p>Clusters of purple flowers in late summer are a butterfly favorite</p> <p>Flowers may attract hummingbirds as well</p> <p>Excellent filler in managed beds, lawns, or as a border to stop turf grass from coming into managed beds. Reseeds actively</p>	<p>Reseeds</p>

<p>Narrowleaf Silkgrass <i>Pityopsis graminifolia</i></p> 	<p>3-6 inches</p> <p>Evergreen</p> <p>Perennial</p>	<p>One of the toughest and most adaptable groundcovers. Flowers in fall reach up to 2 feet</p> <p>Yellow flowers in the fall support late season pollinators</p> <p>Keystone species that supports 11 types of specialist bees</p> <p>Large when planted and spreads over time to balance at a smaller height</p> <p>Can be mowed to resemble grass. Needs poor dry soil for health and stability</p>	<p>Reseeds and spreads underground</p>
<p>Rayless Sunflower <i>Helianthus radula</i></p> 	<p>0.5 - 4 inches</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Low growing groundcover with 1-2 foot tall flowers in fall</p> <p>Unique black disk flowers attract Poey's Furrow Bee, <i>Halictus poeyi</i></p> <p>Grows densely in wet soil and more open habit in dry soil</p> <p>Seeds are a source of food for birds in winter</p> <p>Works well in meadows</p>	<p>Surface Spreading</p> <p>Reseeds with appropriate habitat</p>

1-2 Feet High:

Plant Species	Height	Description	Spreads by
<p>Purple Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis spectabilis</i></p> 	<p>Up to 1.5 feet tall</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Small bunchgrass. Very tough and drought tolerant.</p> <p>Showy pink cloud-like flowers in fall. Songbirds eat the seeds. Butterfly host plant</p> <p>Best in dry sandy mixed lawn areas where it is mowed semi frequently. The entire top of the grass breaks off in the winter as a tumbleweed to spread seeds</p> <p>Aggressive re-seeder. Can be spotted on roadsides in coastal areas by signature pink flowers. Special order only, custom grow upon request</p>	<p>Reseeds</p>
<p>Elliott's Lovegrass <i>Eragrostis elliottii</i></p> 	<p>1-2 feet tall</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Bunchgrass with hues of green, blue, and pink foliage</p> <p>Flowers in the fall offer seeds for songbirds</p> <p>Butterfly host plant</p> <p>Handles limited foot traffic and high mowing.</p>	<p>Limited reseeding into bare soil nearby</p>
<p>Pineywoods Dropseed <i>Sporobolus junceus</i></p> 	<p>1-2 feet tall</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Semi dormant in winter</p>	<p>Low-growing bunchgrass</p> <p>Hues of blue and dark green foliage</p> <p>Burgundy flowers in the fall are followed by seeds that offer food for birds and small mammals</p> <p>Handles limited foot traffic and high mowing</p>	<p>May reseed into nearby areas with bare soil</p>

<p>Wiregrass <i>Aristida stricta</i></p> 	<p>1-2 feet tall</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Formal shape</p> <p>Semi dormant in winter</p>	<p>Low-growing bunchgrass</p> <p>Keystone species in Longleaf pine savannas. Important food source for gopher tortoises. Birds eat seeds</p> <p>Flower stalks may reach up to 3.5 feet tall</p> <p>Handles limited foot traffic and high mowing</p>	<p>May reseed if cut back or burned annually</p>
<p>Maryland Meadow Beauty <i>Rhexia mariana</i></p> 	<p>1-2 feet tall</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Low-growing perennial wildflower. White flowers all summer attract pollinators</p> <p>Great as a filler in garden beds, border plant, or ground cover in areas with limited foot traffic</p> <p>Thrives in wet to average soil, but has drought tolerance too</p> <p>Excellent use in rain gardens</p> <p>Butterfly host plant</p>	<p>Spreads underground</p>
<p>Groundcherry <i>Physalis spp.</i></p> 	<p>3 - 6 inches</p> <p>Perennial</p>	<p>Semi evergreen, aggressive groundcover</p> <p>Yellow flowers all summer, followed by tasty edible fruits</p> <p>Coastal friendly</p> <p>Butterfly host plant. Fruit is an important food source for endangered beach mice</p> <p>May die back in a freeze, pair with an evergreen or winter active groundcover</p>	<p>Spreads underground</p>

Dune Sunflower
Helianthus debilis



1-2 feet tall

Annual

Large sprawling wildflower. Can spread 6+ feet wide

Flowers constantly until the first hard freeze. May perform as a perennial in coastal areas that don't receive a hard freeze

Coastal friendly, salt tolerant, and very drought tolerant

Great filler for harsh spots with poor dry soil in full sun. Flowers attract pollinators, songbirds eat seeds

Handles limited foot traffic and higher cutbacks rather than mowing

Surface spreading

Reseeds around parent plant