



## Part Sun to Shade Groundcovers - Dry 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:

**Carolina Ponysfoot**, *Dichondra carolinensis*

**Rosette Grass**, *Dichanthelium spp.*

### Low Groundcovers with Tall Flowers:

**White Wood Aster**, *Eurybia divaricata*

**Elephant's Foot**, *Elephantopus tomentosus*

**Silkgrass**, *Pityopsis graminifolia*

**Lyre-leaf Sage**, *Salvia lyrata*

### 1 to 2 Feet High:

**Golden Packera**, *Packera aurea*

**Carolina Petunia**, *Ruellia carolinensis*

**Swamp Twinflower**, *Dyschoriste humistrata*

**Oblongleaf Twinflower**, *Dyschoriste  
oblongifolia*

**Spiderwort**, *Tradescantia ohiensis*

**Inland Sea Oats**, *Chasmanthium latifolium*

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><b>Carolina Ponsfoot</b> <i>Dichondra carolinensis</i></p> 	<p>Under 1 inch  Perennial  Summer Dormant</p>	<p>One of our most recommended groundcovers  Yellow to white flowers in spring attract pollinators. Edible foliage  Disappears in the summer, reappears in the winter to spring. Pair with a summer active groundcover</p>	<p>Surface Spreading</p>
<p><b>Rosette Grass</b> <i>Dichanthelium spp.</i></p> 	<p>3-6 inches  Evergreen  Shade Perennial</p>	<p>Very small clumping grass  Creates different flowers in the spring and fall  Songbirds and small mammals eat the seeds  Adds nesting material and cover for small insects</p>	<p>Reseeds</p>

**Low Groundcovers with Tall Flowers:**

Plant Species	Height	Description	Spreads by
<p><b>White Wood Aster</b> <i>Eurybia divaricata</i></p> 	<p>Up to 2 foot tall in flower    Perennial</p>	<p>Evergreen groundcover  White flowers in late summer to fall  Butterfly host plant  Can be an aggressive spreader. Great filler in areas where spreading is welcomed</p>	<p>Spreads underground  Reseeds</p>

<p><b>Elephant's Foot</b> <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><b>Narrowleaf Silkgrass</b> <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</p>
<p><b>Lyre-leaf Sage</b> <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. Seed production occurs 4-6 weeks after flowering is finished</p> <p>Sections of the leaves turn purple in response to cold weather</p> <p>Mow after seeds are released to encourage spread</p>	<p>Reseeds</p>

**1-2 Feet High:**

Plant Species	Height	Description	Spreads by
<p><b>Golden Packera</b> <i>Packera aurea</i></p> 	<p>6-8 inches, 1-2 feet tall in flower</p> <p>Perennial</p>	<p>Evergreen groundcover with attractive dark green foliage</p> <p>Yellow flowers in spring attract pollinators</p> <p>Songbirds eat the seeds</p>	<p>Spreads underground</p>
<p><b>Carolina Petunia</b> <i>Ruellia carolinensis</i></p> 	<p>Up to 1 foot tall</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Flowers heavily from summer into fall</p> <p>Butterfly host plant</p> <p>Reseeds as a filler in areas with limited foot traffic</p> <p>Dies back fully in winter. Pair with an evergreen or winter active groundcover</p>	<p>Reseeds</p>
<p><b>Swamp Twinflower</b> <i>Dyschoriste humistrata</i></p> 	<p>Up to 1 foot high</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Deciduous groundcover dies back in the winter</p> <p>Pair with a winter active or evergreen groundcover</p> <p>Purple flowers in spring through summer</p> <p>Butterfly host plant</p>	<p>Spreads underground</p>

<p><b>Oblongleaf Twinflower</b> <i>Dyschoriste oblongifolia</i></p> 	<p>6-8 inches</p> <p>Perennial</p> <p>Winter dormant</p>	<p>Deciduous groundcover dies back in the winter.</p> <p>More of an open growth habit compared to Swamp Twinflower and larger flowers.</p> <p>Dies back in winter. Pair with a winter active or evergreen groundcover.</p> <p>Purple flowers in summer</p> <p>Butterfly host plant</p>	<p>Spreads underground</p> <p>Reseeds</p>
<p><b>Spiderwort</b> <i>Tradescantia ohioensis</i></p> 	<p>2-3 feet in flower</p> <p>Perennial</p>	<p>Cool-season perennial. Important early spring nectar resource.</p> <p>Flowers in early spring into summer. Flowers open in the morning and close in the afternoon.</p> <p>Grass-like foliage blends into lawns well. Mowable. Leaves turn purple in the winter.</p> <p>Can be cut back after flowering to refresh</p> <p>Butterfly host plant</p>	<p>Reseeds</p>
<p><b>Inland Sea Oats</b> <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i></p> 	<p>2-3 feet in flower</p> <p>Perennial</p>	<p>Medium sized bunch grass</p> <p>Showy seed heads in fall offer food for birds and small mammals over winter</p> <p>Golden fall color</p> <p>Seed heads hold up well in cut flower arrangements</p> <p>Butterfly host plant</p>	<p>Spreads underground</p> <p>Reseeds</p>