



Ground Covers

Keeping it simple, ground covers are the perfect fillers for any foundation landscape. They serve many uses when added into your landscape design. Varying in height, texture, and color they are desirable and versatile. Additionally, once established the denser foliage requires very low maintenance and is great for weed prevention. Environmentally they protect against erosion and help absorb runoff from storm water. Ground covers are excellent as transitional plants, between houses and driveways, trees and shrubs, grass to woodlot, etc. They are also beautiful as accent plants when tying in a statue, bench or lighting feature.



Some basic rules for choosing and planting ground covers:

- Keep it simple - one to two plant types is sufficient. Adding too many varying plants will give the design a cluttered, messy appearance.
- Scale - when planting in a smaller space, choose a smaller leafed plant and the opposite when planting in a larger space.
- Form and flow - group complimentary plants through texture and color when planting between your perennials, woodies, and trees. Keep the flow.
- Growth habit - when making your ground cover choices, don't plant a vigorous grower (Vinca) with a slower one (Ajuga). The faster grower will dominate your landscape and push out the slower grower.

When adding ground covers to the landscape it is best to keep the design simple, it may be time to think outside the box. Our industry is going to have a hard time keeping up with supply and demand. The need to choose plants that are less often used is going to become the new norm. Thankfully there is a whole palette of alternatives to the Pachys and Vincas of this world! Think Epimedium, Fragaria, Sedums, creeping Veronicas or how about creeping perennial Potentilla!



Joanna Whitt

Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

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