

# Groundcovers for Shade



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It can be hard to find plants that will spread enough to cover the soil and keep weeds down, while at the same time staying within the area you would like it to grow. This sheet lists less aggressive groundcovers that should do well in light to moderate shade. Slowly spreading plants will take a few seasons to fill in, while moderate and fast spreading plants may need occasional maintenance to keep them in bounds. None should behave aggressively.

Species	Common Name	Rate of Spread
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Bugleweed	moderate
<i>Anemone tomentosa</i>	Grape-leaf anemone	moderate
<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Wild ginger	slow
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	Heart-leaved bergenia	very slow
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	Siberian bugloss	slow
<i>Dicentra</i> spp.	Bleeding heart	slow
<i>Epimedium</i> spp.	Barrenwort	moderate
Ferns (except ostrich)	Fern	slow
<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>	Wintergreen	moderate
<i>Helleborus</i> spp.	Christmas / Lenten Rose	slow
<i>Heuchera</i> spp.	Coral bells	moderate
<i>Heucherella</i> spp.	Foamy bells	slow
<i>Hosta</i> spp.	Hosta	moderate
<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> ssp. <i>petiolaris</i>	Climbing hydrangea	fast once established
<i>Leucothoe</i> spp.	Fetterbush	moderate
<i>Liriope</i> spp.	Lilyturf	slow to moderate
<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Partridgeberry	moderate
<i>Ophiopogon</i> spp.	Mondo grass	slow
<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>	Allegheny Mountain Spurge	slow
<i>Pulmonaria</i> spp.	Lungwort	slow
<i>Saxifraga stolonifera</i>	Strewberry begonia	moderate
<i>Tiarella wherryi</i>	Foamflower	slow
<i>Viola labradorica</i>	Labrador violet	moderate