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## Growing Groundcover

When getting ready to purchase groundcover for a garden area it is important to take certain steps before bringing your plant material home.

1. You will want to observe and write down the conditions of your site.
2. Do any site preparation that may need to be done *before* planting time.
3. Make sure you choose the right groundcover for your site. Important factors to take into consideration are: Light (sun/shade), soil conditions (sandy/clay wet/dry), any mature trees or shrubs in the planting area and also **DEER**.

### Site Preparation

1. When prepping your site, you will want to loosen the entire ground area by hand or with a rototiller. The goal here is to loosen your soil so the roots of the groundcover spread quickly.
2. If your soil seems less than desirable, it will be to your benefit to work in some organic material such as well rotted manure, leaf compost or any combination of the two.
3. Make sure all weeds are removed before planting (especially the roots).
4. Figure out how you will irrigate the area.

### Choosing your groundcover

When choosing the appropriate ground cover for your landscape you will need to address a few important factors.

1. How much sun or shade does the area receive?
2. What are your soil conditions like? Sandy and light or heavy and clay-like? Does the area tend to be moist all the time or is it dry because there are mature trees around?
3. Another important factor is DEER. If deer are a standard issue for you then you need to choose a groundcover that does not appeal to them.

### Once you have chosen your Groundcover...

Once you have chosen your groundcover you will need to figure out how much of it you will need. We have provided a chart to assist you with figuring this out on the back of this hand out, or feel free to ask any of the perennial staff.

The closer you space your plants, the more plants you will need to start out. However, spacing them closer together initially will fill in the area much faster.

Once you have planted your groundcover you will need to ***water everything in thoroughly and mulch the area*** to help suppress any weed growth. It is very important to keep the weeds away while your groundcover is establishing. If there is too much competition from weeds, your groundcover will not cover well. Also, if you are not irrigating well enough your plants will wilt and die and you will have to start all over. Irrigating is especially important in areas where there are mature tree roots and in periods lacking adequate rainfall.

**Establishment will probably require at least a full growing season.**

## Plant Spacing Estimation Chart

Total Square Feet of Bed	Plant Spacing – On Centers						
	6"	8"	10"	12"	18"	24"	36"
50	200	113	73	50	22	13	6
100	400	225	145	100	44	25	11
150	600	338	218	150	66	38	17
200	800	450	290	200	88	50	22
250	1000	563	362	250	110	63	28
300	1200	675	435	300	132	75	33
400	1600	900	580	400	176	100	44
500	2000	1125	725	500	220	125	55
600	2400	1350	870	600	264	150	66
700	2800	1575	1015	700	308	175	77
800	3200	1800	1160	800	352	200	88
900	3600	2025	1305	900	396	225	99
1,000	4000	2250	1450	1000	440	250	110

### Plant Spacing Multipliers

Space Between Plants	Spacing Multiplier (Plants per square foot)
6"	4
7"	2.94
8"	2.25
9"	1.78
10"	1.45
11"	1.19
12"	1
15"	0.64
18"	0.44
24"	0.25
30"	0.16
36"	0.11

**Note:** To figure out the square footage of the area you would like to plant with groundcover you need to multiply the length of the area by the width. For example, if your garden area is 30 feet long by 12 feet wide you would multiply  $30 \times 12 = 360$  Sq. Ft.

#### Our Sizes:

50 plants (1/2 flat) will cover approximately 12 square feet at 6" spacing

50 plants (1/2 flat) will cover approximately 25 square feet at 8-9" spacing

1-gallon plant to cover 100 Square Feet = requires approximately 60 plants at 15" spacing on center.