

Mary's Greenhouse, Inc.
(931) 668-2119
Website: www.marysgh.com

202 Meiser Lane
McMinnville, TN 37110

Helpful Garden Tips – Spacing and Planting Groundcovers*

*(*Disclaimer: Mary's is a greenhouse grower of plants and we don't currently offer landscape services. Greenhouse production is different than outside gardening. For professional advice, please consult a landscaper or full service garden center. These tips are for planting medium to large areas.)*

Do I have to take care of a groundcover? Yes. There is a certain amount of maintenance required to keep your groundcover looking good and healthy. No groundcover will be completely weed free although the weeds will be significantly reduced in established areas. Some groundcovers benefit from being cut back from time to time. This promotes new growth and rejuvenates older plants. Adequate water and fertilize is also important. Some groundcovers such as English ivy, and to a lesser extent euonymus coloratus, can attach to structures and trees. It is best to prevent this as they can cause damage.

How far apart should I plant groundcovers? Groundcovers can be planted as close as 6" to as far as 24" apart depending on the plant and location. A rule of thumb is 10-15" apart. Factors to consider are cost, how fast do you want it to fill in, vigor of plant and location. The condition of your soil and water supply play a major role. Several groundcovers are tough plants (which is why they make good groundcovers) but they still need some soil preparation and adequate water to get established. Some groundcovers are less vigorous than others but still result in a dense cover.

Slow to medium vigor groundcovers: Pachysandra and ophiopogon (mondo grass – black, dwarf, and regular) are in this category. While these make excellent groundcovers, they are slow to fill in. Consider putting these 6-10" apart if you want it to fill in quickly.

Medium to vigorous groundcovers: English ivy, hypericum calycinium, euonymus coloratus, vinca minor, and lirioppe spicata are more vigorous and can be planted 12-24" apart depending on the situation. The more vigorous a groundcover is, the more maintenance is needed to keep it in check.

What are good groundcovers for shade? Some examples include vinca minor, ophiopogon (mondo grass – black, dwarf, and regular), pachysandra, lirioppe spicata, and English ivy.

What are good groundcovers for sun? Some choices include Hypericum calycinium, euonymus coloratus, and English ivy.

******There are many other choices for groundcovers especially for small areas and nooks and crannies. These are simply suggestions for larger scale areas. Please refer to our listing of groundcovers for more options.***