

POTENTIAL GROUND COVERS FOR WEED REDUCTION

Compiled by David Sauter, Foothills Community College

Below is a list of aggressive low growing plants (most under 12", some up to 18") that, once established, will reduce weed growth through competition. Because many of these are spreading plants, be sure to check that the plant you select is not one listed on a local list of invasives. Key to success is to maintain the planted area during the first one to two seasons of growth. This will allow plants to establish well and provide maximum competition with weeds. And, as always, none of these are considered "weed free".

Grasses (plant 12" to 18" apart to form a dense cover that competes with weeds)

Festuca rubra	red fescue (several cultivars, avoid turf species)
Festuca idahoensis	Idaho fescue
Carex comans	New Zealand hair sedge
Carex temulicola	Berkeley sedge

Woody, low growing, spreading plants

(take longer to establish and compete with weeds)

Rubus pentalobus	dwarf raspberry
Coprosma X kirkii	prostrate mirror plant
Actostaphylos uva ursi	bearberry, prostrate Manzanitas (several cultivars)
Ceanothus sp.	Prostrate ceanothus (several cultivars)
Myoporum parvifolium	prostrate myoporum

Herbaceous ground covers

Arctotheca calendula	capeweed
Gazania hybrids	gazania
Euonymus fortunei coloratus	purpleleaf wintercreeper
Dymondia margaratae	dymondia
Galium odoratum	sweet woodruff
Satureja douglasii	yerba buena
Laurentia fluviatilis	blue star creeper
Alyssum montanum	sweet alyssum
Fragaria chiloensis	beach strawberry
Pachysandra terminalis	Japanese spurge (shade)
Asarum caudatum	wild ginger (shade)
Vinca minor	periwinkle (irrigate, avoid V. major)
Polygonum capitatum	pink fleece flower (can be invasive)
Ophiopogon japonicus	mondo grass (doesn't spread rapidly, plant close)