Ground Cover

Height: 4 inches
Spread: ½–1 foot
Bloom Color: White, pinkish

Close-ups of Leaves and Fruit*

Characteristics
Low, evergreen ground cover
Glossy, dark green, rounded to oval leaves with a white stripe down the mid-vein
Paired, fragrant white flowers from May to July
Ruby red, fleshy drupes from July to December

Attributes
Tolerates dry soil and dense shade
No serious pests or diseases; deer rarely damage
Slow to establish, but forms dense mats in time
Edible: fruits insipid; dried leaves used as an herb
Attracts bumble bees to flowers and to the fruit, game birds and mammals (red fox, eastern skunk, eastern chipmunk, and white-footed mice), which spread seeds to new areas

Growing and Maintenance Tips

Soil Requirements: Humus-rich acidic soil
Light Requirements: Partial Shade, Shade
Water Requirements: Moist
Divide the plants in spring or take stem cuttings in early summer
Use as ground cover under shrubs/trees, in front of border, and in rock, shade, and woodland gardens
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–8

Excellent Replacement for

- *This image, taken in April, shows drupes that have remained through winter.

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**Mitchella repens**

Partridge-berry

Common throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region, Partridge-berry is a sweet trailing plant with shiny, rounded evergreen leaves distinguished by a stripe down the mid-vein. The paired white tubular flowers form half-inch stars in early summer followed by red berry-like fruits (drupes), which may persist through the winter into early summer. The Virginia Native Plant Society named Partridge-berry as Wildflower of the Year in 2012.