

Mitchella repens

Partridge-berry

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



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.

Ground Cover	Leaves and Buds, Flowers, and Fruit*
Height: 4 inches	
Spread: ½–1 foot	
Bloom Color: White, pinkish	
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 small mammals (fox, chipmunk, and mice) that spread seeds to new areas	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements: Humus-rich acidic soil	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i> - Ground Ivy
Light Requirements: Partial Shade, Shade	<i>Hedera helix</i> - English Ivy
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Lysimachia mummularia</i> - Moneywort
Divide the plants in spring or take stem cuttings in early summer	<i>Vinca minor</i> - Periwinkle
Ensure leaf litter does not cover plants in winter	
Use under shrubs/trees, in border front and rock, shade, and woodland gardens, on slight slopes	
Hardiness: USDA Zones 3–8	*This image, taken in April, shows a drupe that has remained through winter.

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Tyler Ormsby (top), Arlington, VA and by Elaine Mills, Arlington, VA and Columbia, MD



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