

Pachysandra procumbens

Allegheny Spurge

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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Why plant English Ivy, Vinca, or Liriope when you can enjoy this southern,* semi-evergreen gem? Fragrant, white flower spikes, which appear in early spring, later become camouflaged by a new flush of gorgeous, crisp green foliage. Leaves have a scalloped margin and take on an attractive mottling.

Ground Cover	Spring Flowers, Foliage in July and January
Height: 6–10 inches	
Spread: 1–2 feet	
Bloom Color: White, Pink	
Characteristics	
Clumping, <u>decumbent</u> , semi-evergreen perennial	
<u>Alternate</u> , <u>whorled</u> , <u>ovate</u> , blue-green to mottled (with silver or purple) foliage, scalloped toward apex, untoothed at the base; winter foliage remains green in warmest zones, but may brown or undergo loss in colder zones; in Zone 7 it may become sparse or ragged; old foliage is replaced in spring	
Fragrant white to pinkish flower <u>spikes</u> in early spring rarely followed by small, dry fruit <u>capsules</u>	
Spreads slowly by <u>rhizomes</u> to form colonies	
Attributes	
Tolerates dense shade, heat, and drought; no serious pests or diseases (less susceptible to leaf blight than <i>P. terminalis</i>); <u>deer</u> rarely damage	
Will not overgrow an area like invasive <i>P. terminalis</i>	
Attracts bees and predatory insects	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
<u>Soil Requirements</u> : Organic, acidic, well-drained	<i>Arum italicum</i> - Italian Arum
<u>Light Requirements</u> : Partial Shade, Shade	<i>Hedera helix</i> - English Ivy
<u>Water Requirements</u> : Moist	<i>Liriope spicata</i> - Creeping Liriope
In order to establish a ground cover, place starter plants 6–12 inches apart	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i> - Japanese Pachysandra
Use under trees, near foundations, or along walkways where lawn growth is poor or en masse in woodland gardens	<i>Vinca minor</i> - Periwinkle
<u>Hardiness</u> : USDA Zones 4a–9b	* <u>Native</u> to the South, it is concentrated in the Allegheny Mountains of KY and TN. In the Mid-Atlantic Region it has been reported only in Delaware, Philadelphia and Montgomery counties of PA where it may have been introduced.

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

Images by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden and
by Elaine Mills (bottom right), private garden, Arlington, VA



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