

Mitchella repens

Partridge-berry

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

Common throughout the Mid-Atlantic,* Partridge-berry is a sweet trailing plant with shiny, rounded evergreen leaves distinguished by a stripe down the main vein. Fragrant, 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, trailing, evergreen ground cover	
Opposite , ovate to rounded, glossy dark green leaves with a white stripe down the midrib	
Paired, fragrant, funnelform flowers with 4-ovate-lobed, densely-bearded corollas from May–July	
Ruby red, fleshy drupes from July to December	
Stems root at nodes ; slow to form dense mats	
Attributes	
Tolerates dry soil and dense shade; no serious pests or diseases; deer rarely damage	<div><div>Excellent Replacement for</div><div>Euonymus fortunei - Wintercreeper</div><div>Glechoma hederacea - Ground Ivy</div><div>Hedera helix - English Ivy</div><div>Lysimachia nummularia - Creeping Jenny</div><div>Vinca minor - Periwinkle</div></div>
Edible: fruits insipid; dried leaves used as an herb	
Attracts to flowers, bumble bees and to the fruit, game birds and small mammals (fox, chipmunk, and mice) that spread seeds to new areas	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	
Soil Requirements : Humus -rich acidic soil	
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade, Shade	<div><div>*It is native to DC, common throughout DE and VA, and present throughout MD and PA.</div><div>**This image, taken in April, shows a drupe that has remained through winter.</div></div>
Water Requirements : Moist	
Divide the plants in spring or take stem cuttings in early summer	
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 3a–8b	

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