

Soil: pH 6.0 to 7.0; moist, well-drained, rich in organic matter

Height: 10 to 18 inches

Hardiness: Zone 4

Spacing: 12 inches on rows 9 inches apart

Flower: Greenish white, buttercup-like, appear after first snow melts.

Remarks: Perennial; mulch in summer; should remain undisturbed; plant in spring after flowering at a depth of one inch; spreads by seed and underground rhizomes; reported to be toxic if eaten

Botanical Name: *Hosta* (spp)

Common Name: Plantainlily (Funkia, August Lily)

Soil: Slightly acid, moist, well-drained, will tolerate dry soils

Height: 1 to 2 feet

Hardiness: Zone 3

Spacing: 18 inches in rows 14 inches apart, depending on size of cultivar

Flower: Blue, white

Remarks: Perennial; many varieties available with green or variegated foliage; some foliage is wavy or ruffled-like; very tough plant

Botanical Name: *Liriope* (spp)

Common Name: Lilyturf

Soil: Acid, good loam, well-drained, rich in organic matter

Height: 6 to 24 inches

Hardiness: Zone 5

Spacing: 12 to 18 inches in rows 9 to 14 inches

Flower: Blue, borne on spikes, not readily visible

Remarks: Perennial in most of West Virginia, evergreen in the south; grows rapidly; looks like a grass and often used as a substitute; *Liriope japonica* attains a height of 4 to 6 inches and *Liriope spicata* 18 inches with a white flower; very effective when narcissus are planted in combination with the Liriope; sometimes listed as *Ophiopogon* or Monkey Grass

Botanical Name: *Pachysandra terminalis*

Common Name: Japanese Pachysandra (Pachysandra, Japanese Spurge)

Soil: pH 5.0 or lower; tolerant; moist, well-drained

Height: 6 to 12 inches

Hardiness: Zone 4

Spacing: 18 inches in rows 14 inches apart

Flower: Small, white on short terminal spikes, only occasionally produced

Remarks: Evergreen; very hardy, transplants well, spreads by underground stems

Botanical Name: *Phalaris arundinaceae picta*

Common Name: Ribbon Grass (Canary Grass)

Soil: Acid, moist, well-drained, rich in organic matter

Height: 18 inches, may get taller

Hardiness: Zone 3

Spacing: 6 inches in rows 4 inches apart

Remarks: Herbaceous perennial; variegated foliage, reed-like; very effective in large plantings

Botanical Name: *Trillium* (spp)

Common Name: Trillium (Birthroot)

Soil: pH 7.0 to 7.5, moist, well-drained, rich in organic matter

Height: 8 to 12 inches

Hardiness: Zone 2

Spacing: 9 to 12 inches in rows 6 to 9 inches apart

Flower: White, borne on upright stems; other species may have purple, pink or yellow flowers

Remarks: Herbaceous perennial; plant in the autumn at a depth of 3 to 4 inches with bud pointed upwards

Botanical Name: *Vinca minor*

Common Name: Common Periwinkle (Myrtle, Running Myrtle, Lesser Periwinkle)

Soil: pH 6.0 to 8.0; moist, well-drained, rich in organic matter

Height: 3 to 6 inches

Hardiness: Zone 4

Spacing: 9 inches in rows 6 inches apart

Flower: lavender, blue, white

Remarks: Evergreen; requires about 2 years to cover, not as rapid a grower as ivy but easier to control; crown rot a problem during wet, humid weather but clears as dry weather approaches; may be mowed every 2 to 3 years by setting mower at highest setting

There are many shrubs such as leucothoe, rhododendron, azaleas, and inkberry which grow well under shady conditions and are very effective in mass plantings.

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