

















Native Groundcovers of NC

Native species are those that occur naturally in an area. They are better adapted to local conditions requiring less care once established. Native plants support our native wildlife, in particular our birds, butterflies and bees (pollinators). Introduced plants may become invasive, outcompeting the natives and not providing the food and cover our native wildlife depends on.

The native plants below are all perennials and should return each year if planted properly. They all attract pollinators, provide a food source, and are available commercially. If your local nursery does not sell these native plants – encourage them to do so!

North Carolina Native Plant Society

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Time/Color	Area Best	Planting Needs	Native Notes
	Green-and-gold	<i>Chrysogonum virginianum</i>	Spring, or later yellow	Piedmont Coast and Mountains	Part sun-part shade; average to dry soil	Evergreen; great as ground cover; deer resistant
	Plantain Pussytoes	<i>Antennaria plantaginifolia</i>	Spring, whitish	Piedmont, Mountains, Coastal Plain	Mostly sun; well-drained, non-rich soils	May be only somewhat evergreen; spreads by stolons
	Partridge- berry	<i>Mitchella repens</i>	Spring, Summer, white	Piedmont, Mtn. Coastal Plain	Mostly shade; acidic soil	Plants less than 1 inch; keep debris from covering; berries may persist a year
	Mountain Stonecrop	<i>Sedum ternatum</i>	Late Spring, white	Piedmont, Mountains	Shade; well-drained non-rich, less- acid soils	Loves thin soil over rocks; do not overwater
	Mountain Pachysandra, Allegheny- spurge	<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>	Late Winter, white	Mountains, (rare in the wild)	Shade; less acid soils; tolerates flooding	Great for choking out other plants; slow to establish; beautiful mottled evergreen leaves
	American Alumroot	<i>Heuchera americana</i>	Spring, white	Piedmont, Mountains	Shade; moist-average soils	Drought tolerant
	Dwarf Lobed Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis auriculata 'Nana'</i>	Late Spring, yellow- orange	Piedmont, Mountains, Coastal Plain	Sun; average, drying soils	This dwarf form spreads densely; wild type is upright

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Bloom Time/Color	Area Best	Planting Needs	Native Notes
	Northern Barren Strawberry	<i>Waldsteinia fragarioides</i> [= <i>Geum fragarioides</i>]	Spring , yellow	Piedmont, Mountains	Mostly shade; non-rich, well-drained, acidic soil	Spreads well in dryish soil; do not over-water
	Foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Spring , white to pinkish	Piedmont, Mountains, Coastal Plain	Mostly shade; rich, well-drained soils	Some forms spread by stolons; others clump-forming; several hybrids exist with marked leaves
	Creeping Phlox	<i>Phlox stolonifera</i>	Spring , White, pink, purple	Piedmont, Mountains	Mostly shade; well-drained, rich soils	Wood phlox, <i>P. divaricata</i> is another good similar species
	Moss Phlox	<i>Phlox subulata</i>	Spring , white, shades of pink	Piedmont, Mountains	Sun; very well-drained soils	Makes a striking show in masses; <i>Phlox nivalis</i> is similar and more heat tolerant
	Golden Ragwort	<i>Packera aurea</i> [= <i>Senecio aureus</i>]	Early Spring , yellow	Piedmont, Mountains	Mostly shade; very moist to average soils	Excellent vigorous groundcover; tolerates temporary wet feet; cut back after flowering
	Robin's-plaintain	<i>Erigeron pulchellus</i>	Early Spring , white	Piedmont, Mountains, Coastal Plain	Mostly shade; moist, well-drained soil	Large round leaves are flat on the ground
	Common Wild Ginger	<i>Asarum canadense</i>	Spring , brown (hidden)	Piedmont, Mountains, Coastal Plain	Mostly shade; moist-average soils, can tolerate	Deciduous; spreading; may spread seeds; creeping stem, smells like ginger

Create a native garden in your yard, and help sustain our native plant and pollinator populations. Do your homework to make sure you choose native plants suited to your site conditions. With proper planting and care, these perennials will become established in your yard.



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For information about the North Carolina Native Plant Society and to find a local chapter, visit www.NCNPS.org or email secretary@ncwildflower.org