

# Ground Covers

Ground covers are low growing plants planted in close proximity to one another used to cover and adorn areas where grass will not grow or is not desired.



Ground covers have an advantage over grass in that they are useful plants for trying situations. There are ground covers that will grow in wetter places or drier areas than grass will tolerate.

Whenever soil erosion is a problem the ground cover roots can stabilize the soil and their foliage breaks the force of heavy rains.

Ground covers can reduce lawn maintenance on steep slopes where mowing is hard and sometimes dangerous. Some do well in difficult areas such as strips of ground between sidewalks, drives or walls. Areas of dense shade where grasses will not perform adequately may benefit from certain ground covers. Others

provide

barriers to foot traffic.



The growing conditions at the site should be determined before choosing a variety of ground cover. Light intensity, drainage, soil and location in the county will have marked influence on which plants can be selected.

Stop by the IFAS Palm

Beach County Extension Service 531 North Military Trail in West Palm Beach Monday-Friday from 9am-4pm and view our ground cover display located in front of the Mounts Building. Ground covers on display include the native Sunshine mimosa-Mimosa strigillosa , non native perennial peanut-Arachis glabrata, Creeping tibouchina-Dissotis rotundifolia and Dwarf Confederate jasmine-Trachelospermum. While visiting stop and see the rest of our 14 acres of the Mounts Botanical Garden.

