

Planting Ground Covers

Most ground covers take about one year to establish and actually begin filling in an area. After established though, they need very little maintenance.

Planting:

Choose an area with well-drained soil. Dig a hole for each plant and plant to the root collar (the line on the plant where it was planted before). Most varieties can be spaced from 8 inches to 18 inches apart, depending on the variety and how fast they establish. A timed release organic fertilizer may be applied during the planting on ground covers. Mulch around each plant with about 2-3 inches of aged compost or other organic matter. Water until soil is completely moist. Then, water weekly during the first year (unless receiving adequate rainfall) and during summers with no/limited rainfall. Note: **vinca** once established will not require regular watering.

Tips:

As the ground covers establish and begin to creep into other areas, many can be kept at bay by using a weed trimmer or hand shears. **Ivy** should be pruned in early spring before rapid growth begins and then remove all foliage close to the soil. Mow large areas with ivy or use a hedge trimmer. The ivy will rejuvenate quickly with new growth. To keep ivy under control, 2-3 trimmings per year may be necessary. **Ivy** shouldn't be allowed to climb into trees or onto low growing branches. The shrubs and trees will eventually die.

Sedum is drought tolerant and will thrive in hot sun and poor soil. It will tolerate some shade, but prefers 6 to 8 hours of sunlight per day. Typically, sedum do not appear attractive during their first growing year. Clusters of 3 or more plants look best. They don't need to be fertilized or cut back to grow. They are pretty self-sufficient.