

AlterNATIVES to Invasive Groundcover!

Wintercreeper, English Ivy & Periwinkle

Also known as *Euonymus fortunei*, *Hedera helix*, and *Vinca minor*, these three plants have been popular as groundcovers in landscaping for years.

Why Shouldn't I Plant Them?

The same characteristics that make these plants good groundcover, also make them very invasive. All three plants aggressively cover the ground and spread, physically preventing other plants from growing. English Ivy and Wintercreeper also climb and damage trees and structures. Able to spread through seeds, creeping roots, and plant fragments to natural areas, these plants harm even mature native trees, and prevent new tree seedlings and other plants from growing.

Why Should I Choose a Native Alternative?

Native plants are not only beautiful, but also benefit birds and other wildlife. Unlike non-native species, these plants support multiple pollinators and insects, providing food for Indiana birds. Also, if spread to nearby natural areas, native plants don't harm the ecosystems.

For More Information

- Indiana Native Plant Society: www.indiananativeplants.org
- Indiana Invasive Species Council: www.indianainvasivespecies.org
- Local SWCDs: iaswcd.org/contact-your-local-swcd/
- **Additional native alternatives include:** Violets (*Viola spp.*), Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*), Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*), Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Maidenhair Fern (*Adiantum pedatum*)

Created by the **Daviess-Dubois-Martin Invasive Plant Partnership**, with funding from a Clean Water Indiana grant.

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Wild Ginger

(*Asarum canadense*)

- Attractive heart-shaped leaves
- Prefect for shaded, average-moist areas
- Grows up to 6" tall, deer resistant
- Spreading roots fill in areas over time
- Look for our native *Asarum canadense*, and not a European wild ginger



Wild Stonecrop

(*Sedum ternatum*)

- Low-growing succulent, showy spring flowers
- Deer, rabbit, and drought resistant
- Easy to grow in average well-drained soils, full sun to part shade
- Often added to rock gardens



Dwarf Crested Iris

(*Iris cristata*)

- Short but showy spring blooms
- Grows up to 6" tall, deer resistant
- Plant in sun or shade, prefers medium soils but tolerates some drought



Sedges (*Carex spp.*)

(ex: *C. albicans*, *C. pensylvanica*, *C. radiata*...)

- Several species available for a variety of sites, sunny to shady, wet to dry
- Some low growing species can also be used as a no-mow lawn alternative
- For more native sedge species, research the name or consult a native plant nursery

