Pachysandra procumbens
Allegheny Spurge

Why plant English Ivy, Vinca, or Liriope when you can enjoy this southern,* semi-evergreen gem? Fragrant white flower spikes in spring, later become camouflaged by a new flush of gorgeous, crisp green foliage. Leaves have a scalloped margin and take on an attractive mottling.

Ground Cover

| Height: 6–10 inches |
| Spread: 1–2 feet |
| Bloom Color: White |

Characteristics

- Clumping, semi-evergreen, perennial ground cover
- Leaves and stems range from deciduous in northern zones to evergreen in warmest zones; in Zone 7 winter foliage may be sparse and ragged
- Scalloped foliage marbled with pale green or purple; new growth replaces last season’s foliage
- Fragrant white blossoms in early spring
- Spreads by rhizomes to form colonies

Attributes

- Tolerates dense shade and drought
- No serious pests or diseases (less susceptible to leaf blight than *P. terminalis*); deer rarely damage
- Toxic to animals (and people) if eaten
- Spreads slowly and will not overgrow an area like non-native *P. terminalis*

Growing and Maintenance Tips

- Soil Requirements: Organic, acidic, well-drained
- Light Requirements: Partial Shade, Shade
- Water Requirements: Moist
- In order to establish a ground cover, place starter plants 6–12 inches apart
- Use under trees, near foundations, or along walkways where lawn growth is poor or en masse in woodland gardens
- Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–9

Excellent Replacement for

- *Glechoma hederacea* - Ground Ivy
- *Hedera helix* - English Ivy
- *Liriope* species
- *Pachysandra terminalis* - Japanese Pachysandra
- *Vinca minor* - Periwinkle

*Native to the South, it is concentrated in the Allegheny Mountains of KY and TN. In the Mid-Atlantic Region it has been reported only in Delaware, Philadelphia and Montgomery counties of PA where it has been introduced.

Images by Mary Free, Quarry Shade Garden