

NATIVE PLANTS APPROPRIATE FOR SOFT LANDINGS

Their light needs and tolerances will depend on where your tree is located and how large your tree is. For large canopy trees, choice will also depend on whether you plant them closer to the trunk of the tree or closer to the outer boundary because of sunlight differences. As a consequence, check online whether the plants you are considering need relatively more sun or more shade.

Here is a short list of native groundcovers.

Groundcovers are low-growing plants that fill in quickly to make a dense carpet of foliage. Once established, they'll crowd out weeds, provide year-round protection to the soil, and offer overwintering habitat for native fauna. Ideally, a groundcover should include several species combined to create a beautiful tapestry of foliage and blooms, offering a long season of interest to humans and pollinators. Choose species with a similar growth rate (aggressiveness) for low-maintenance planting. If planting around an established tree, use plugs and a trowel so as not to disturb the tree's tiny feeder roots. Do not use a shovel.

May-apple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) • Canada windflower (*Anemone canadensis*) • Eastern hay-scented fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*) • Big-leaf aster (*Eurybia macrophylla*) • Canada wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) • Golden star (*Chrysogonum virginianum*) • Wild bleeding-heart (*Dicentra eximia*) • White wood-aster (*Symphyotrichum divaricata*) • Creeping wood phlox (*Phlox stolonifera*) • Foam-flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*) • Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*) • Golden groundsel (*Packera aurea*, *P. rotundifolia*) • Spreading Jacob's-ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) • Solomon's-seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*) • Native violets (*Viola* species, blue, yellow, or white flowers) • Glade fern (*Diplazium pycnocarpon*) • Lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) • Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) • Moss phlox (*Phlox subulata*) • Wild strawberry (*Fragaria virginiana*) • Golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*) • Frogfruit (*Phylla nodiflora*) • Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*)