Waterwise Groundcovers

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Watering Guide

Water Zone 0

Water Zone 1

Water Zone 2

Water Zone 3

Water Zone 4
Water Zone 0

No irrigation

May need supplemental irrigation in extremely hot weather.
Most ground covers require supplemental irrigation until they have filled in.
Combine flowers and grasses for low growing, no irrigation ground cover.

- Select two or three flowers and one or two grasses.
- Prepare seedbed and keep seed wet and plants moist for the first season.
- Seeding rates vary, consult seed company for advice or experiment with 1 pound per acre of each flower plus grass.
Porter’s Sulphur Flower

*Eriogonum umbellatum*

- Perennial: yellow flowers
- 6 inches tall
- Sun, light shade
- Open individual plants without irrigation
California Poppy

*Eschscholtzia californica*

- Annual: Orange or yellow flowers
- 8 inches tall
- Sun
- Self seeding
White Yarrow

*Achillea millefolium*

- Sun
- Invasive, flowers more with zone 1 watering
- Flowers: White, Summer
- Tolerates mowing after flowers die
Pacific Aster

*Aster chilensis*

- Herbaceous perennial
- Sun
- Flowers: Small, lavender and daisy like
- Fall flowers
Blue Grama

*Bouteloua gracilis*

- Sun
- One grass uses 2 lb./1000 sq. ft.,
  Two grasses use 1 lb./1000 sq. ft.
- Does better in Southern Utah
- Groundcover or open turf
Buffalograss

Buchloe dactyloides

- Sun
- One grass use 2 lb./1000 sq. ft.,
  Two grasses 1 lb./1000 sq. ft.,
- ‘Sharps’ or other improved cultivars preferred
- Male and female plants, males have no seeds
Early Indian Paintbrush

*Castilleja chromosa*

- Sun
- Flowers: Red, Spring
- Often grows with sagebrush
- Dislikes transplanting
Sheep Fescue

Festuca ovina

- Sun
- Grass, 1lb./1000 sq. ft.
Firewheel

*Gaillardia pulchella*

- Sun
- Flowers: Yellow, Red  Summer
Blue Flax

*Linum lewisii*

- Annual
- Sun
- Flowers: Blue, Summer
- Direct seeding, no transplanting, self-seeding once established, spreads rapidly
Blazing Star

*Mentzelia lindleyi*

- Sun
- Flowers: Large yellow, Spring
- Tall
- may not be a groundcover
White Evening Primrose

_Oenothera pallida_

- Sun
- For clay soil use _O. Caespitosa_
- Flowers: White, Summer
Showy Goldeneye

Viguiera multiflora

- Sun
- Flowers: Yellow, Summer
Water Zone 1

1 irrigation per month

May need supplemental irrigation in extremely hot weather.

Most ground covers require supplemental irrigation until they have filled in.
Pink Pussy Toes

*Antennaria dioica*

- Evergreen
- Flowers: Pink, Summer
- Sun, light shade
- Forms dense mat; Silver, gray leaves
Prairie Coneflower

*Ratibida columnaris*

- Sun
- Flowers: Yellow, Summer
Kinnikinnick

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi

- Evergreen
- Prefers slightly acid soil
- Shade, light sun
- Flowers: White, Summer
Creeping Mahonia

*Mahonia repens*

- Evergreen
- Yellow flowers with purple berries
- Sun, shade
- Drought tolerant
Blue Fescue

*Festuca ovina*

- Clump forming grass
- Evergreen
- Sun
- Carefree once established
Common Juniper

*Juniperus communis*

- Evergreen
- Many types with varying heights
- Sun, light shade
- Native alpine
Juniper

*Juniperus horizontalis*

- Evergreen
- Size and appearance varies
- Sun, light shade
- Variety, blue green to green, no wet soils
Juniper

*Juniperus sabina*

- Evergreen
- Size and appearance varies
- Sun, light shade
- Variety, blue green to green, no wet soils
Juniper

*Juniperus scopulorum*

- Evergreen
- Size and appearance varies
- Sun, light shade
- Variety, blue green to green, no wet soils
Juniper

*Juniperus squamata*

- Evergreen
- Size and appearance varies
- Sun, light shade
- Variety, blue green to green, no wet soils
Potentilla

Potentilla neumanniana or verna

- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: Yellow, Summer
- Sun
- Invasive
Dragon’s Blood Sedum

*Sedum spurium*

- Perennial
- Flowers: Pink, Summer
- Sun, light shade
- Low growing, spreads rapidly
Utah Green Sedum

Sedum acre

- Evergreen
- Flowers: Yellow, Summer
- Sun
- Spreads rapidly
Hens and Chicks

*Sempervirens tectorum*

- Evergreen
- Flowers Summer
- Sun
- Plants multiply but die after they bloom
Water Zone 2

2 Irrigations per month

More frequent irrigation may be necessary in hot weather

Need more frequent irrigation to establish plantings
Bishop’s Weed

*Aegopodium podagraria*

- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: White, Summer
- Shade, leaves burn in sun
- Prune flowers after blooming, heat sensitive
Bugleweed

*Ajuga reptans*
- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: Blue, Spring
- Shade, light sun
- Height: 6 inches
Basket of Gold

*Aurinia saxatilis*
(Formerly *Alyssum saxatalis*)

- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: Yellow, Spring
- Sun, light shade
- Height: 12 inches
Snow in Summer

*Cerastium tomentosum*

- Perennial
- Flowers: White, Summer
- Sun, shade
- Height: 4 to 12 inches
Alpine Strawberry

Fragaria vesca

- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: White, Summer followed by small fruit
- Sun, shade
- Height: 6 inches
Aaron’s Beard

*Hypericum calycinum*

- Evergreen
- Flowers: Yellow, Summer
- Sun, shade
- Burns in extreme heat
Hall’s Honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica*

- Herbaceous vine forming perennial
- Fragrant, invasive
- Sun, shade
- Flowers: White, Summer
Mountain Lover

*Paxistima myrsinoides*

- Evergreen
- Also forms low shrub
- Shade, light sun
- Prefers slightly acid soil, grows under trees
Memorial Rose

\textit{Rosa wichuraiana}

- Semi-evergreen
- Flowers: White, Summer
- Sun
- Tolerates poor soil, may become invasive
Water Zone 3

1 irrigation per week
Irish Moss

*Sagina subulata*

- Evergreen
- Solid green mat, Scotch moss is lighter green
- Shade, light sun
- Needs well drained soil
Dwarf Plumbago

*Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*

- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: Blue, Summer
- Sun
- Showy red fall color
Sweet Woodruff

*Galium odoratum*

- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: White, Spring
- Shade, light sun
- Excellent for many uses
English Ivy

*Hedera helix*

- Evergreen
- Climbs if not controlled
- Shade -- burns in direct sun
- May become invasive
Creeping Jenny

*Lysimachia nummularia*

- Evergreen
- Flowers: Yellow, Summer
- Sun, light shade
- Invasive
Pachysandra

*Pachysandra terminalis*

- Evergreen
- Flowers: White, Summer
- Shade or filtered sun
- May winter kill under harsh conditions
Wooly Thyme

*Thymus psuedolanuginosus*

- Evergreen
- Soft, low growing plant
- Sun
- Nicely scented
Periwinkle

*Vinca major*

- Herbaceous, trailing perennial
- Flowers: Blue, Summer
- Sun, shade
- Invasive
Periwinkle

*Vinca minor*

- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: Blue or white, Summer
- Sun, shade
- Good for planting with other plants
Sweet Violets

*Viola odorata*

- Herbaceous perennial
- Flowers: Purple or white, Spring
- Light sun, shade
- May be invasive
For More Information
Contact Your Local Utah State University Extension Office
Check Them Out At http://extension.usu.edu/