Blue Wood Sedge  
Carex flaccosperma

- Habit: Clump forming
- Height: 6-12 inches
- Zones: 5-8
- Appearance: North America
- Care: Partial shade to shade
- Flowers: Blue-green wide bladed grass-like
- Foliage: Clear blue star-shaped flowers with lime-green foliage with tinges of red.
- Soil: Grows best in dry soils. Vigorous spread in garden bed.
- Zones: 5-9
- Care: Full sun to partial shade
- Flowers: Deep maroon foliage, small delicate pink flowers on tall flower spikes.
- Foliage: Lime-green foliage with tinges of red. Foliage becomes winter damaged.
- Zones: 4-10
- Care: Full sun to partial shade
- Flowers: Wide purple to violet, summer flower spikes in shades from light purple to violet.
- Foliage: Dark green grass-like evergreen
- Zones: 4-7
- Care: Full sun to partial shade
- Flowers: Evergreen in mild winters. Prune them to work miracles—your plants need pruning every year.
- Foliage: Large round light green-gray leaves sparkle when holding moisture
- Zones: 4-9
- Care: Full sun to partial shade
- Flowers: Pink flowers on tall flower spikes.
- Foliage: Sand-dune green, mounded and damaged foliage in spring.
- Zones: 7-10
- Care: Full sun to partial shade
- Flowers: Showy pink flowers on tall flower spikes.
- Foliage: Blue-green wide bladed grass-like
- Zones: 5-8
- Care: Partial shade to shade
- Flowers: Blue-green wide bladed grass-like
- Foliage: Lime-green foliage with tinges of red.
- Zones: 5-9
- Care: Partial shade to shade
- Flowers: Blue-green wide bladed grass-like
- Foliage: Clear blue star-shaped flowers with lime-green foliage with tinges of red.

**Weed-suppressive Groundcovers**

**For further information and resources visit:**

http://conf.enviro.extension.illinois.edu/ufg/groundcovers/

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- Cornell University
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- New York State Agricultural Experiment Station
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
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**What's in a name?**

A groundcover is a perennial plant used on mounds for its visual wallop and to crowd out weeds. Many are gorgeous perennials that gardeners have used in flower borders for years. Now we're finding that some are top performers in the “tough sites” department too. Fewer weeds means less herbicide use. Good news for you … and for the environment.

The plants listed here have been evaluated under different growing conditions for their ease of establishment, low maintenance characteristics and their ability to exclude weeds. Our initial screening tests took place in Ithaca (Finger Lakes region, zone 5) and Riverhead (eastern Long Island, zone 7), New York. Since then demonstration plots have been established across New York State. We believe these characteristics are of primary interest to gardeners in northern New York State. Here renovation is occurring: the groundcover characteristics are the same in all regions, but the plants need to compete with weeds. Great news for you … and for the environment.
Moss Phlox
Phlox subulata
'Emerald Blue'

Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa

Catmint
Nepeta x faassenii
'Walker's Low'

Autumn Goldenrod
Solidago virgaurea
'Golden Eagle'

Salvia
Salvia nemorosa / S. sylvestris
'Indigo Spires'

Little Bluets
Scabiosa speciosa
'Puprle Rain'

Northern Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis

White Heath Aster
Aster ericoides
'Snow Bunny'

Two-row Stonecrop
Sedum spurium
'John Creech'

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Moss Phlox
Phlox subulata
'Emerald Blue'

- Mat forming
- 4-6 inches high
- North America
- Zones 3-9

- Full sun.
- Tolerates drought and even a little salt.
- Grows best in well drained soil.

Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa

- Spreading
- 12-24 inches high
- Zones 3-9
- North America

- Profusion of early spring blue blooms, glossy evergreen foliage.

Catmint
Nepeta x faassenii
'Walker's Low'

- Upright and spreading
- 12-24 inches high
- Zones 3-8
- Eurasia, Africa

- Dark green foliage. Bright orange flowers in summer are very attractive to butterflies. Interesting upright seed pods late in the season.

Autumn Goldenrod
Solidago virgaurea
'Golden Eagle'

- Upright
- 3-5 inches high
- North America

- Green-grey foliage. Long lasting blue flowers in spring/summer.

Salvia
Salvia nemorosa / S. sylvestris
'Indigo Spires'

- Clump forming
- 18-24 inches high
- Zones 3-8
- Europe

- Blue flowers late spring through early fall. Attractive to pollinators and hummingbirds.

Little Bluets
Scabiosa speciosa
'Purple Rain'

- Clump forming
- 12-18 inches high
- Zones 1-8
- North America

- Tall, slender blue-green leaves turn to golden bronze in fall. Looks best planted in large groups. Free to bend and sway, provides a prairie look.

Northern Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis

- Clump forming
- 24-48 inches high
- Zones 3-9
- North America

- Low growing with small, finely divided leaves and pink flowers in late summer and early fall.

White Heath Aster
Aster ericoides
'Snow Bunny'

- Clump forming
- 3-6 inches high
- Zones 3-8
- North America

- Slow growing with small, finely divided leaves and pink flowers in late summer and early fall.

Two-row Stonecrop
Sedum spurium
'John Creech'

- Creeping
- 3-6 inches high
- Zones 1-8
- Asia

- Mounding dark green foliage covered with white flowers in September.

Butterfly Milkweed
Asclepias tuberosa

- Full sun.
- Tolerates drought and even a little salt.
- Grows best in well drained soil.

Catmint
Nepeta x faassenii
'Walker's Low'

- Full sun.
- Drought tolerant. Prune back spent stems in late winter or spring. New foliage emerges later than most perennials.

Autumn Goldenrod
Solidago virgaurea
'Golden Eagle'

- Full sun.
- Vigorous grower, allow room so it doesn’t crowd out neighboring plants.

Salvia
Salvia nemorosa / S. sylvestris
'Indigo Spires'

- Full sun.
- Removing spent flower stalks in the spring gives the plant a more refined look.

Little Bluets
Scabiosa speciosa
'Purple Rain'

- Full sun.
- Cut back after first bloom to encourage vigorous re-bloom.

Northern Dropseed
Sporobolus heterolepis

- Full sun.
- Removing spent flower stalks in the spring gives the plant a more refined look.

White Heath Aster
Aster ericoides
'Snow Bunny'

- Full sun.
- Drought tolerant.

Two-row Stonecrop
Sedum spurium
'John Creech'

- Full sun.
- Drought tolerant.

- Full sun to partial shade.

- Full sun to partial shade.

- Grows best in dry soils.

- Full sun to partial shade.

- Grows best in well drained soils.