

# LOW MAINTENANCE LANDSCAPE inc.

## USING GROUNDCOVER UNDER TREES INSTEAD OF LAWN

A groundcover area is simply a mass planting of a single plant serving the same purpose of a lawn-to fill large areas of landscape space with one type of plant. Mowing and maintaining that water thirsty lawn under your large shade trees is expensive and time consuming! In the long run, you are fighting a losing battle in which the tree roots will out-compete lawn for water and nutrients. I have seen too many landscapes over the years where groundcover plants should have been used in a particular area instead of lawn. It is frustrating to see customers unhappy with their lawn in those areas. You should consider this idea if you have received this information sheet. We are in business to help your landscape look beautiful with the least amount of maintenance possible. As you will see below, groundcover mass plantings offer many advantages.

## ADVANTAGES OF GROUNDCOVERS OVER LAWN IN FULL SHADE

- Groundcovers require much less maintenance than lawns in shaded areas and in some situations, no maintenance. (Think of all the time and monetary savings over the years)
- Landscaped yards consisting of too much lawn area are monotonous and boring. A proper balance of lawn and landscaped areas are necessary for aesthetic reasons and curb-appeal.
- Fewer weed problems occur; a thick ground cover smothers out weeds and prevents the germination of new seeds. Extremely competitive root systems make newly introduced weeds fail.
- Most groundcovers require less water; some will thrive with no supplemental irrigation. Others will only need water during periods of summer drought. This helps save our water supply.
- Groundcovers have high wildlife value and benefit our environment – local birds benefit from shelter, availability of nesting materials, and edible berries.
- Many groundcovers boast an array of attractive foliage, seasonal flowers, fruit, and fall color.
- Groundcovers under shade trees promote a healthier tree by insulating the root system from cold in the winter and heat in the summer. Because groundcovers need less water, the tree benefits.
- Groundcovers over 6 inches in height absorb fallen leaves. The leaves break down into nutritious mulch, benefiting both tree and groundcover. This means less leaf raking for you!
- Insect and disease problems occur more frequently in densely shaded lawns. Most groundcovers have tough foliage that is less desirable for insect and disease organisms.
- In general, groundcovers are tolerant of a wider range of soil types. By looking at your soil type, We can recommend the perfect groundcover, even for that “*nothing will grow there*” soil.
- Many groundcovers will thrive in “*dry shade areas*”. A “*dry shade area*” usually occurs under a tree with shallow root systems that use high amounts of water during the summer. Attempting to grow a shade tolerant grass like Fescue, if successful, requires water as much as once per day. In addition, chemical fertilizers, fungicides and pre-emergent applications are critical to maintaining a healthy lawn in such areas. This is very high maintenance, time-consuming and expensive!
- Groundcovers have no thatch or aeration problems common in lawn areas.
- The initial cost of installing a large groundcover area will seem high compared with sodding or reseeding the same area. However, much lower long-term maintenance costs will save you money and time in the future; most groundcover projects pay for themselves after about 3 years.

**Call Ryan Domnick at Low Maintenance Landscape today to discuss design possibilities; free consultation & estimate. We specialize in customer satisfaction, high quality, and have our ability to meet any budget!**

**Lawrence, KS. 785-550-5610 or 785-749-9316.**