Perennial Groundcovers

Plants in this category spread indefinitely to create a dense, living carpet. They are ideal for controlling erosion, filling hard-to-mow spaces, and reducing the emergence of weeds. Groundcover plants spaced 6-8” apart in staggered rows typically achieve coverage of their area within a season or two. During their first season in the ground, check to see if your new groundcover plants need water once or twice a week by poking your finger into the soil to feel for moisture. Each time you water them, do so thoroughly and only when the soil around the plants’ roots feels relatively dry to the touch. Once established, your groundcover bed should require little to no watering or maintenance (except under extraordinarily hot, dry conditions).

How many plants are needed for your project?

Determine the area of the space you are planting and decide how far apart you want to space your plants (the closer you plant them, the faster they will cover the space). Then, multiply the recommended quantity of plants per square foot (see chart below) by the number of square feet in the area you are planting.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Space between plants | Approximate quantity of plants per square foot | 50 sq. ft. area  | 100 sq. ft. area | 250 sq. ft. area  | 500 sq. ft. area |
| 6” | 4 | 200 plants | 400 plants | 1000 plants | 2000 plants |
| 8” | 2.25 | 112.5 plants | 225 plants | 562.5 plants | 1125 plants |
| 10” | 1.5 | 75 plants | 150 plants | 375 plants | 750 plants |
| 12” | 1 | 50 plants | 100 plants | 250 plants | 500 plants |

Example: To cover a 4’ by 6’ space with plants spaced 8” apart…

-Find your area: 4’x6’=24 sq. ft.

-Multiply the approximate quantity of plants per sq. ft. by the area: 2.25 x 24= 54. You need about 54 plants to cover your planting area.