

**Shade groundcovers  
for DEER areas**

**CLICK TO TAKE THE QUIZ AGAIN → [www.solomonsgardens.net/quiz#go](http://www.solomonsgardens.net/quiz#go)**

Plant Name	Height & Spread	Evergreen or Deciduous	Description	Photo
<p><b>Golden Creeping Jenny</b> <i>Lysimachia nummularia</i> 'Goldilocks'</p> 	<p>2-4 inches tall 1-2 feet wide but can spread indefinitely</p>	<p>Semi-evergreen  Hardy to minus 30 degrees  Somewhat invasive. Can be hard to stop in wet areas.</p>	<p>Low-growing perennial with round to heart-shaped leaves. Golden yellow flowers in mid-summer. <b>Foliage may be green or golden yellow, depending on type.</b></p> <p><b>Deer rating: 7/10</b></p>	
<p><b>Carpet Bugleweed</b> <i>Ajuga reptans</i></p>  	<p>3-6 inches tall 8-12 inches wide</p>	<p>Evergreen  Hardy to minus 20 degrees</p>	<p>Small, creeping groundcover with red-burgundy, variegated, or dark green leaves. Small blue flower spikes above foliage in spring. Leaves turn deep bronze in fall.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 8/10</b></p>	
<p><b>Periwinkle</b> <i>Vinca minor</i></p>  	<p>3-6 inches tall Spreads indefinitely</p>	<p>Evergreen  Hardy to minus 20 degrees</p>	<p>Trailing stems of smooth, green leaves. Blue-purple flowers in spring. Spreads continuously wherever there is water – can be difficult to stop spread.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 9/10</b></p>	

<p><b>Spotted Dead Nettle</b> <i>Lamium 'Beacon Silver'</i></p> 	<p>6-8 inches tall 1-2 feet wide but can spread indefinitely</p> 	<p>Semi-evergreen  <b>Hardy to 0 degrees</b></p>	<p>Heart-shaped, ivery-white leaves with green edges form a lush groundcover. Small, pale pink flowers starting in mid-spring.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 8/10</b></p>	
<p><b>'Emerald Carpet' Creeping Bramble</b> <i>Rubus calycinoides 'Emerald Carpet'</i></p> 	<p>6-10 inches tall 5-6 feet wide</p>	<p>Evergreen  <b>Hardy to 5 degrees</b></p>	<p>Vigorous groundcover with handsome dark green, heavily lobed leaves. Forms durable weed smothering mat. Small white flowers in summer. Produces edible orange berries under leaves.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 7/10</b></p>	
<p><b>'Summer Sunshine' Germander</b> <i>Teucrium chamaedrys 'Summer Sunshine'</i></p> 	<p>6-12 inches tall 12-18 inches wide</p> 	<p>Evergreen  <b>Hardy to minus 20 degrees</b></p>	<p>Small, glossy golden-green leaves with serrated edges. Purple-rose flower spikes in summer makes nice contrast against foliage.</p> <p><b>Deer rating: 8/10</b></p>	



→ this symbol indicates plants that can survive drought once established. It typically takes 1-2 years of regular water for a new plant to be established. In general, plants look better with regular water, but drought-tolerant plants can survive times when water is not available.



→ this symbol indicates plants that are considered fire-wise, meaning that they are more resistant to wildfire due to their growth habits. Plants with this symbol were found online in lists of 'fire safe' plants.

Scroll down for California Native ideas!

# California Native Options ↓

[CLICK TO TAKE THE QUIZ AGAIN → www.solomonsgardens.net/quiz#go](http://www.solomonsgardens.net/quiz#go)

Plant Name	Height & Spread	Evergreen or Deciduous	Description	Photo
<b>Common Lippia</b> <i>Phyla nodiflora</i> 	2-6 inches tall 2-3 feet wide 	Semi-evergreen  Hardy to 5 degrees	Vigorous grower that forms a dense mat of green. Small pinkish-white flowers in late spring. Attracts butterflies and bees.  <b>Deer rating: 7/10</b>	
<b>Yerba Buena</b> <i>Satureja douglasii</i> 	2-6 inches tall 4-6 feet wide 	Evergreen  Hardy to 15 degrees	Creeping, flat perennial with green and deliciously minty. Tiny white flowers in spring. Drought-tolerant, looks best with some watering.  <b>Deer rating: 9/10</b>	
<b>Wild Ginger</b> <i>Asarum caudatum</i> 	4-6 inches tall 1-2 feet wide 	Evergreen  Hardy to 15 degrees	Green, heart-shaped leaves release a spicy, ginger-and-citrus fragrance when crushed. Purplish-brown flowers in early summer.  <b>Deer rating: 8/10</b>	
<b>Silver Carpet Aster</b> <i>Lessingia filaginifolia</i> 'Silver Carpet' 	4-8 inches tall 4-6 feet wide 	Evergreen  Hardy to 15 degrees	One of the best native California groundcovers. Beautiful silver foliage, pink flowers summer to fall.  <b>Deer rating: 9/10</b>	

**'Emerald Carpet'**  
**Manzanita**  
*Arctostaphylos 'Emerald Carpet'*

10-16 inches tall  
4-6 feet wide

Evergreen

Hardy to 5 degrees

Low, spreading shrub with glossy green leaves. Small pink bell flowers in early spring. Drought-tolerant once established.

**Deer rating: 7/10**  
\*deer don't typically like to bend over to feed on low things, but will if they are very hungry

