

PACHYSANDRA

(*Pachysandra terminalis*)

Pachysandra is capable of escaping cultivation and colonizing in other areas. It **spreads very aggressively** and can flourish in deep shade, within forests and along meadow edges. Pachysandra **grows very quickly, creating a monoculture** that doesn't benefit wildlife and displaces native vegetation

IDENTIFY

PACHYSANDRA | Jill Swearingen, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org



CHARACTERISTICS

Pachysandra is also known as Japanese spurge and Chinese fever vine. It is an evergreen, perennial member of the Boxwood family (*Buxacae*). It has small oval-shaped leaves (2–4 inches) that are coarse, leathery and alternate along the stem. Unremarkable, fragrant, spiky white flowers bloom between March and April. Pachysandra reaches about 12 inches in height and spreads by rhizomes to form dense mats.

WHERE FROM

From Eastern Asia, pachysandra first came to the U.S. for use as an ornamental groundcover.



PACHYSANDRA
Jill Swearingen,
USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org

WHERE FOUND

Pachysandra prefers a soil with a high humus content that is well-drained. It is found in parts of the mid-Atlantic states, west to Wisconsin and south to the Carolinas. Pachysandra is considered invasive in Pennsylvania.



PACHYSANDRA FLOWERS
Brandywine Conservancy



PACHYSANDRA
Karan A. Rawlins,
University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

CONTROL

CHEMICAL METHOD

The systemic herbicide glyphosate (e.g., *Roundup*) is effective in controlling pachysandra. Use a 2% glyphosate solution mixed with a surfactant on the leaves of the plant during the fall.

MANUAL METHOD

Wear gloves and pull small plants when soil is moist to aid complete removal of root system. Work slowly and try to pull the plant out by the root system as much as possible, ensuring that all plant tops, roots, runners,

etc. are completely removed from the soil. All plant material should be bagged and properly disposed. Composting is not recommended for invasive plants as the seeds may still be able to germinate.

REMEMBER

When removing, **be careful** not to remove or destroy desirable species.

REPLANT

Excellent choices for native alternatives that provide a similar ground cover include:
wild ginger,
canadian anemone,
wild sarsaparilla,
and rue anemone.