



Goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*) – A great perennial for both landscape and restoration sites. Reaching a height of 6 feet, this herbaceous plant creates a great background in forest gardens. It probably will not be lost or stepped on in restoration sites, due to its size. This species has beautiful feathery, cream colored blooms that shoot out above the foliage in May–July, somewhat resembling blooms of astilbe. Goatsbeard will grow exceptionally in partial to full shade and somewhat moist, rich soil. Dry soil will be fine if shade is provided. The seeds provide food for song birds, and the flowers attract butterflies. Try planting goatsbeard next to red columbine for a great mix of color.



Bunchberry (*Cornus unalaschensis*) – A small herbaceous ground cover that can be used in moist to wet shady areas. The feature that makes this plant so fascinating is its single stalk with a whorl of leaves surrounding a solitary white, dogwood bloom around July. This handsome bloom develops into a cluster of showy, bright red berries that creates a wonderful spectacle in the garden. When the birds finish feasting on the berries and winter approaches, the leaves turn a rich purplish color and limp over. They will remain this way until spring, when they bounce back to life. Bunchberry grows no taller than 12” and spreads by trailing underground rhizomes. For best results, plant bunchberry in light shade and moist soil that is rich with organic material. Try planting with maidenhair ferns for contrasting textures.



Woodland strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*) – Another great perennial groundcover that tolerates a broader range of light and soil conditions than bunchberry. This plant is low maintenance and spreads rapidly on runners. In May or June, flowers with five white petals and a yellow center appear atop emerald green, deeply toothed leaflets. These adorable little flowers give way to delightful berries in mid to late summer. The animals keep a close eye on these berries, so you will have to be quick if you want a share. This little, no fuss plant will do wonders if provided with a small amount of shade, or a little moisture in sunnier locations. In rich soil, these guys will create a dense cover and help provide weed suppression. For a quick and easy edible groundcover, try woodland strawberry.



Fringecup (*Tellima grandiflora*) – A tough plant, whether in your garden or out in the wild, that thrives in sun and shade. In sites with dappled light and moist soil, this plant will happily compete with invasive weeds. Have an Herb Robert problem? Try planting fringecup to compete. The upright spikes of small greenish/white flowers appear in May–June, and they fade to pink as they age. Fringecup is a member of the Saxifrage family, with attractive foliage consists of scalloped or heart shaped, fuzzy leaves that resist slugs and remain evergreen during mild winters. Growing at a moderate rate and spreading by thick underground rhizomes, this herbaceous perennial will reach a maximum height of around 30”. It will tolerate disturbed soils and some drought once established. This plant looks great when combine with hardy ferns such as deer ferns in the shade, or mixed with native lupines in sunny sites.