

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Gaultheria procumbens

Wintergreen



Also called checkerberry, or teaberry. A low-growing, creeping groundcover. Evergreen; dark, glossy leaves often turn red or reddish-purple in winter. Red berries ripen in late summer and persist through the winter. Both leaves and berries taste and smell strongly of wintergreen. Wintergreen is difficult to transplant, but once it's established, it's trouble-free. It needs acid soil, although it does well in both rich, moist woods and dry, sandy ones.

Suggested companions: under oaks (*Quercus* sp.), white pine (*Pinus strobus*), with partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*)

Photo Credit: copyright by William S. Justice. USDA, NRCS 1999. The PLANTS database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA

Plant Type: Wildflower

Size: 2"-6" H
W

Water Tolerant: No

Habitat:

Forested Upland
Woodland Margin

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Sandy/ Gravelly
Rich Moist

Exposure: filtered
shade

Flower Color:

White

Bloom Time:

April
May

Other Attributes:

Deer resistant
Fall color
Winter interest

Plant in:

Groundcover: Yes