Ground covers becoming popular

By R. J. Hilton Department of Horticultural Science

Recently, friend remarked there seemed to be greater garden use of ground cover plants than was the Right enough, but why?

It is partly due to the greatly increased use of patios and pools (and pools with paties). Perhaps the alertness of some of our most progressive nurserymen and garden operators something to do with it. They have seen to it that the homeowner has access to more kinds of ground covers than ever before. We have a wide range of plant types that are good ground covers in sunny sites, but when we want a substitute for grass in a shady place, what can we choose? Following is a list of shade-loving or shade tolerant plants suitable as ground

covers. Keep in mind any Ontario. It was used in maple woods. ground cover takes a seasonand-a-half, at least, to fill in from the original planting and a fertile soil with reasonably good drainage and fair water-holding case even a decade or so ago. capacity should be a standard requirement.

Aegopodium podagraria (Goutweed)-This is a herbaccous perennail and comes in deep green or a yellowgreen variegated form. It should be used only where escape plants will not be an embarrassment, for it is Invasive and persistent. 45 cm. ht.

reptans (Bugle-Ajuga weed)-A well-known lowgrowing perennial that makes a dense mat with blue flowers in the spring. Needs good fertility, 15 cm.

Asarum canadense (Wild Ginger)-This shade-loving perennial is common in hardwood stands in southern

ploneer days as a substitute for ginger. If the rootstocks, which are borne aboveground in the mat of fallen leaves, are bruised, the relationship to true ginger in smell and taste is obvious. 12 CIR.

Convallaria majalis (Lily of the Valley)-A very well known garden habitue, richly scented when in flower but tending to look tired and worn when the attractive and poisonous red berries ripen in early fall. 30 cm.

Euonymus fortunei (Winter Creeper)-Evergreen and woody. Withstands adverse conditions well, once established. Some forms have colorful leaves in the aumumn. 20 cm.:

Euonymus abovatus (Running Strawberry-Vindeciduous e)--A native woody vine, often seen as an under-storey plant in the

Altractive scarlet fruits. 30 cm.

Gaultheria procumbens (Wintergreen)-Evergreen and native but needs moist acid soil, the kind suitable for rhododendrons and blueberries. Wintergreen has lustrous leaves and red berries, both edible, 10 cm.

Heder helix 'Baltica' (Baltic Ivy or English Ivy, Baltic Strain)-Evergreen woody vine needs rich, loamy soil and can tolerate dense shade, unless it has a support for climbing, 20 cm.

Lonicera Japonica 'Halliana' (Halls Honeysuckle)-This deciduous woody vine can be a nuisance unless it is pruned and kept within bounds, 30 cm.

Lysimachia nummularia (Moneywort)-Low, green herbaceous creeper with yellow flowers, 10 cm.

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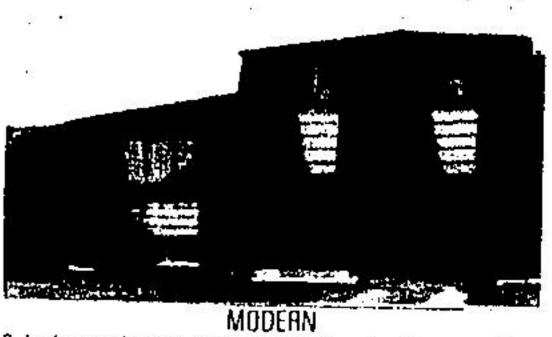
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