

Groundcover (6")  
Evergreen

Map #64

*Japanese Spurge*  
*(Pachysandra terminalis)*  
Family: *Ericaceae*



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**Leaves:** Appearing as if whorled at the end of stems, the evergreen leaves are oblong, 2-4" long and highly glossy; are coarsely dentate above the middle. The close proximity of adjacent stems makes for a dense canopy of leaves.

**Buds:** not important.

**Stems:** not important.

**Bark:** not important.

**Flowers:** White 1-2" spikes are present in late March to early April and are pleasantly fragrant. The flowers are small and only slightly showy, with the fat stamen filaments being the most noticeable portion of the flower. Interestingly, plants that bloom exhibit more branching than those not producing flowers.

**Fruits:** rarely produced in cultivation.

**Habit:** A refined ground cover that slowly spreads through rhizomes (underground stems).

**Culture:** Adaptable but prefers moist, well-drained soil high in organic matter. Partial to full shade in a protected location. Can tolerate sun under ideal conditions but because it is an evergreen, it can brown in winter from sun and wind exposure, soil can dry out and may be outcompeted by weeds.

**Cultivars:** 'Green Carpet' - This slightly shorter selection forms a uniform low mat of very dark green foliage. It has become the standard form sold in the industry. 'Variegata' - This slow-growing groundcover with delicate gray-green foliage sometimes goes by the cultivar name of 'Silver Edge.'

**Miscellaneous:**

**Related species:**



'Variegata' or 'Silver Edge'



In a location with too much exposure to sun and wind.

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