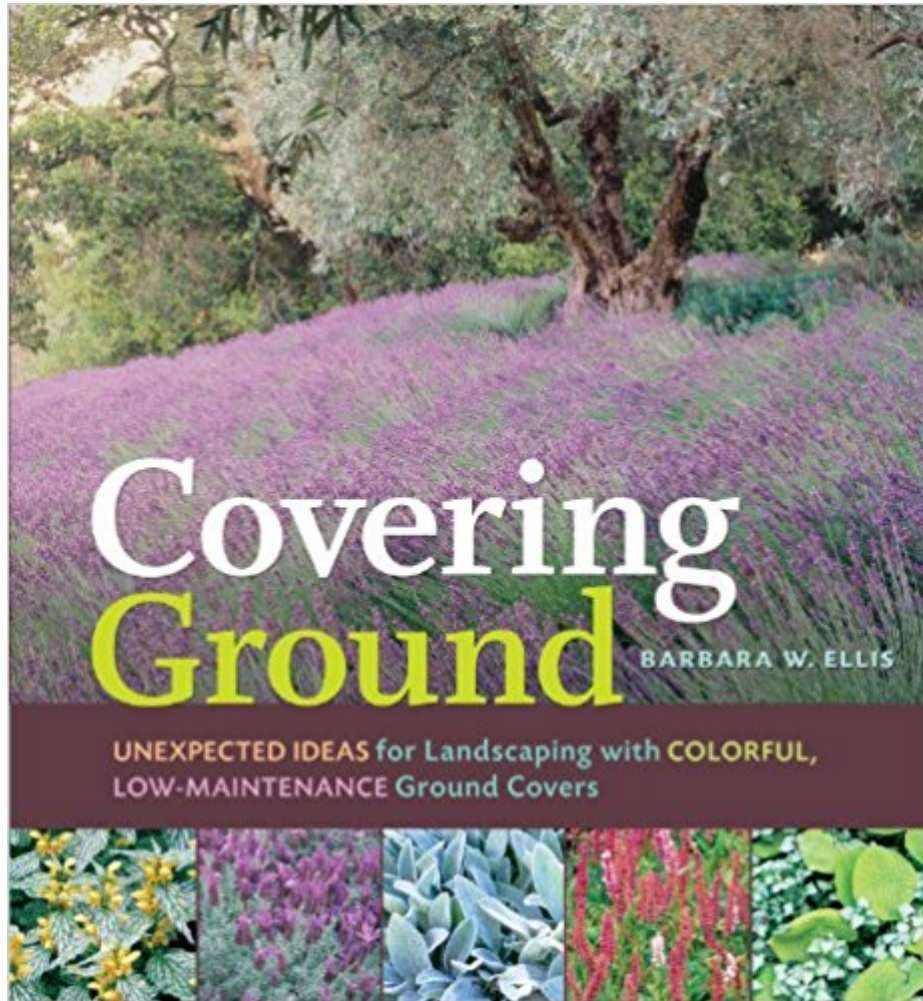




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Covering Ground



Synopsis

Ground covers are a pretty and practical way to bring diversity, elegance, and durability to open sweeps of lawn. Give your landscape a vibrant new palette that is both sustainable and low-maintenance through plantings of herbs, shrubs, mosses, and more. Barbara W. Ellis provides a variety of full-color lawn designs and professional planting advice to get you started. You'll be amazed as your ordinary lawn transforms into a striking display of color and texture.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Barbara W. Ellis transforms yards into flowering pieces of art offering low-maintenance schemes, plant combinations, and in-depth advice on nurturing verdant landscapes. • Home Magazine "Covering Ground will inspire with its wonderful possibilities for creating eye-catching color and texture in unexpected places." Ellis has the answers to the toughest garden situations. • East Coast Gardener "If you're making the decision to get rid of some water-thirsty lawn, here's help." Here are plenty of alternatives, as simple or as show as you want, for sun or shade, around pavers, along edges, fragrant or not, fast- or slow-growing, high- or low-maintenance. • St. Petersburg Times "There's life beyond lawn grass, and even beyond English ivy and pachysandra. You'll find lots of good ideas in Covering Ground." • Chicago Tribune "Barbara Ellis | elevates utilitarian ground cover plants to garden stars." • McClatchy News Service

REIMAGINE the Possibilities for Covering Your Ground
REPLACE GRASS on hard-to-mow slopes
CONNECT scattered flower beds, trees, and shrubs
CONTROL erosion along stream banks
CARPET the patches between stepping stones
STABILIZE boggy areas
EDGE walkways, curbs, and driveways
CREATE natural alternatives to traditional lawns
ADD A SPLASH OF COLOR anywhere you need it!

Review: *Covering Ground* by Barbara W. Ellis
The book is an excellent book on ground covers of all types. It is divided into sections by 1) Site considerations, 2) perfect plants for every site and the actual planting, and 3) growing and propagating of the many plants featured. Barbara gives us an excellent view of problem areas in yards and gardens and some solutions for these areas. She takes the problem areas (sun lovers, ground huggers for paths, perennials for sun, vines for covering ground, shrubby shade plants, woodland natives, wet soil and acid soil). She even includes a section on what she considers "problem plants" which she lists out for being overly vigorous in spreading, or escaping into the wild. As these are plant choices for covering large areas, many of her selections are much taller than normally considered "ground covers." She lists many plants for drifts or swails which may reach 4 feet or more. Most of the plants Barbara lists are hardy, and in many areas of the country vigorous growers and spreaders. Thus this is an excellent book for people with large areas. But even those with smaller areas can greatly benefit from exploring the plant selections in this book. As Barbara wrote this book for nationwide use, each gardener will have to evaluate the plants that may or may not grow in his/her area, zone, climate, soil, and micro-ecology. The book is well written, a good read with lots of beautiful pictures of hundreds of plants. This is not a beginner's garden book, but an excellent book for advanced gardeners faced with areas of ground that need covering.

I poured through this book many times front to back and refer to it often. I love Barbara's easy writing style and the book is arranged nicely. I've gardened for years and am getting to the point where I need to add lower maintenance plants. With the detailed plant descriptions there is no mistake of what a plant will do for you so choosing is a much easier task. I have a rather large collection of plant books and this one ranks with my favorites.

I am a papermaker that has been focusing on planting and growing the plants I use in my paper artwork (handmade papers made from native plants transferred onto art canvas's.) After 11 years of this kind of gardening, I have begun to explore ground covers in my garden. Ground covers are

traditionally planted in a single species in a large drift. The author of *Covering Ground*, has opened me to the idea that there are other options to how we plant ground covers. Barbara Ellis likes to plant her ground covers in small drifts - of three or five plants of a single species or intermingling two different species of plants in drifts of three to five in one bed. Very creative and extremely beautiful! I will be trying this technique. This book had many, many color photographs and is very well organized giving specific plant suggestions for each soil type and both sun and shade situations with a nice section on native ground cover - one of my primary areas of interest. I rated this a four star book and recommend it for any gardener.

Excellent resource. Great photos of MOST species mentioned. Basic info on height, spread and sun highlighted for quick reference. Plants well grouped into growing conditions. Info provided on planting, growing and propagation. Some info on invasive and aggressive spreaders. This book is not zone specific and some species listed may not be perennial in your area.

This book is a wonderful picture book full of information on any plant or plant combination you might use to cover an area of your garden. From borders to large expanse open areas. I was happy to find that it was not just the standard 'ground cover' plants that were discussed. Instead, it covered beautiful plant combinations that could be used to fill-in bare spots and trouble spots in the garden. It's the perfect book for garden planning and dreaming during the dreary winter.

I bought this book along with *Lawn Gone* by Pam Penick. It was a good combination. This book lists so many options for ground coverings, while the other one has suggested landscaping plans.

A great book for anyone that does not KNOW ANYTHING about ground covers..

Can't say enough good about this reference for choosing, planting and growing ground covers. Besides making the case for using them, Ellis also provides plenty of assistance for choosing the optimal plants for your terrain and climate, with detailed steps for preparing the soil and planting. In addition, her resource is saturated with numerous photographs of individual plants and plant groupings. It is a text that will be consulted repeatedly in the years ahead.

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