Wintercreeper Euonymus  
(*Eunymus fortunei*)

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**Summary:**
- **Foliage:** Evergreen broadleaf  
- **Height:** 4 inches as a ground cover 20 feet as a vine  
- **Shape:** Spreading  

Wintercreeper euonymus is a low-growing evergreen ground cover that will climb when it encounters a vertical surface. There are several cultivars which vary in foliage color and height.

**Plant Needs:**
- **Zone:** 4 to 9  
- **Light:** Partial shade to full sun  
- **Moisture:** Moist to dry  
- **Soil Type:** Sandy, loam, or clay  
- **pH Range:** 3.7 to 7.0

**Functions:**
Suggested uses for this plant include ground cover and climbing vine.

**Planting Notes:**
- Transplants readily.  
- Tolerates wide ranges of soil conditions, except extremely wet conditions.  
- When using as a ground cover, space plants 18 to 24 inches apart in the spring.

**Care:**
- Easy to maintain, as long as scale insects are controlled.  
- Some pruning of upright shoots keeps the ground cover more compact.

**Problems:**
- Euonymus scale, a white-covered scale insect, is the most serious pest. A severe infestation will make the underside of leaves and the entire stem white. Unless controlled, this pest will eventually kill the plant.  
- Wintercreeper euonymus will spread to adjoining beds. Thus, it is best used when it is land locked (e.g., surrounded by pavement).  
- Wintercreeper euonymus is somewhat slow to fill in an area. Thus, weed invasion may initially be a problem in large beds.

**Alternatives:**
- Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.  
- **Cultivars of *Eunymus fortunei*:**  
- `Emerald and Gold` is a low-growing ground cover (1 to 2 feet high) which has green leaves with gold margins.  
- `Emerald Gaiety` is a low-growing ground cover (1 to 2 feet high) and has green leaves with white margins.  
- `Sarcoxie` is an upright form (up to 4 feet high) that makes an excellent, broad-leaved, erect evergreen shrub.  
- Purpleleaf wintercreeper (*Eunymus fortunei* var. *coloratus*) is an evergreen ground cover/vine for covering large areas, banks, slopes, and shaded areas under trees. Foliage turns purplish-red in early fall and remains this color throughout the winter.
Comments:
  Wintercreeper is useful for training against walls, for climbing over low walls, and as a ground cover.
  The vine may be allowed to completely cover a wall or may be thinned out to give a tailored effect. Once established, this species is difficult to eradicate.

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