



***Mitchella repens* – Partridgeberry**

COMMON NAME: Partridgeberry, Squaw Vine, Deerberry, Checkerberry, Winter clover, One-berry, Twin-berry

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Mitchella repens* – Linnaeus named this plant for his friend, Dr. John Mitchell (1711-1768), born in Virginia, but died in England. *Repens* comes from Latin “to creep.”

FLOWER: Pale pink or white tubular flower with 4 petals

BLOOMING PERIOD: June to July

SIZE: 4 to 12 inches

BEHAVIOR: Spreads slowly to form a mat. Even a large mat will produce only a few flowers and berries. Evergreen foliage.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Well drained, humus-rich sandy soil with a neutral pH. Dry woods, forests. Full sun to partial shade.

NATURAL RANGE: Eastern and central North America from Newfoundland to Minnesota and south to Florida and Texas.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Flowers occur in pairs and after fertilization the two ovaries fuse to form a single red fruit. The two dimples on the berry reveal its fused nature. Berries remain on the plant all winter if not eaten by wildlife. It is called partridgeberry because in Europe it was thought the berries were eaten by partridges.

SUGGESTED CARE: Useful for a rock garden, for spreading over shady slopes, and as a ground cover beneath trees or hostas. Water regularly when planted.

COMPANION PLANTS: wild sarsaparilla, wild oats, pines, hemlocks.