



## Michigan Invasive Plant Council

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### Michigan Plant Invasiveness Assessment System (MPIAS June 2008)

#### *Pachysandra terminalis*, *Pachysandra*

**Summary and Recommendations for Michigan:** *Pachysandra terminalis* is an evergreen perennial groundcover that can reach twelve inches in height and spread to form dense mats. It is one of the most widely utilized groundcovers for shady environments in cold temperate regions. Effectively sterile reproduction via seed has not been documented or observed. It spreads through underground stems and roots from its original planting site. Occasionally it may be found in natural areas due to former cultivation. *Pachysandra* may also be found along forest and meadow edges adjacent to where it has been used in ornamental plantings. *Pachysandra* has been introduced into natural areas by the careless dumping of yard waste.

**Invasiveness in Michigan:** *Pachysandra terminalis*, *Pachysandra* is not an invasive plant. Its potential invasiveness is considered insignificant due to both the lack of reproductive ability and dispersal. Its invasiveness rank is consistently insignificant across natural and managed systems in the Upper and Lower Peninsula ecological regions. For more information consult the complete MPIAS assessment.

**Value in Michigan:** Recognized value found in horticulture, landscape and erosion control.

**Responsible Use:** *Pachysandra terminalis* is a low maintenance ground cover and shade tolerant substitute for turf. Its dense carpet is valuable in minimizing weed control efforts. It may be safely/responsibly used as a garden plant if planted in parts of the landscape that do not border natural areas. Do not dump plants or their parts in natural areas.

**Early detection/rapid response:** *Pachysandra* is an evergreen ground cover easily identified by its leaf characteristics and flowers. Consult printed or on-line resources for pictorial descriptors of the plant.

**Long term control/management:** Unwanted *Pachysandra* can be removed by digging, mowing the plants, cutting the plants in spring. It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides. It may take a few successive sprays but it can be eradicated. Chemical applications should be performed in accordance with the manufacturer's label.

**Restoration:** A natural area may require restoration following removal of *Pachysandra terminalis* due to the risk of facilitating invasion by other undesirable plants. In such case, a competent restoration ecologist should be consulted for appropriate species and planting procedures.

For complete information from the Michigan Plant Invasiveness Assessment System  
Consult: <http://invasiveplantsmi.org>