

# Veronicas

**Lifecycle:** Perennial

**Size:** 12" x 18:

**Sun:** Partial Shade

Life Cycle: Perennia

**USDS Zones:** 3-8

**Soil:** Normal

**Season:** Early to Late Summer

## Description

For gardeners with limited time, choosing carefree plants is key to a low-maintenance yard. Speedwell (*Veronica*) is a tough ornamental that is tolerant of different soils and watering needs, with varieties that are hardy in most regions. Sizes and forms range from creeping groundcovers a few inches high to upright flower spikes reaching several feet tall. Low growers are suited for containers, border edging and rock gardens, while taller veronicas make good cut flowers and combine well with other plants in beds and borders. Groundcovers tend to bloom in spring, while spiky forms produce flowers during the summer.

## Veronica (Speedwell) Planting Directions

**Temperature:** 68F

**Average Germ Time:** 15 - 30 days

**Light Required:** Yes

**Depth:** Do not cover the seed but press into the soil

**Sowing Rate:** Approximately 1000 seeds covers 20 square feet

**Moisture:** Keep seeds moist until germination

**Plant Spacing:** 8 - 10 inches

How to Grow Veronica Speedwell: Sow Speedwell seeds indoors 8 - 10 weeks before planting outside. Use a peaty starter mix and lightly sow the Creeping Speedwell seeds on the surface of the mix, and gently press the seed into the mix. Light is needed for germination, and keep the ground cover seed consistently moist. After frost season, Creeping Speedwell ground cover seeds can also be directly sown outdoors. Prepare a weed free seed bed in a protected area, sow the seed on the surface and keep it moist. Creeping Speedwell is a very easy-to-care-for ground cover plant.

## Growing Conditions

Speedwell plants grow best in an area with full sun and loamy, well-drained soil. The best time to plant them is in spring, after the soil becomes warm enough to work easily. Speedwell may suffer in poorly-drained locations that stays overly wet, so it is important to plant them in well-drained soil. To help accomplish this, mix compost into the ground when you plant. The compost will also add nutrients to the ground to give your young plant a good start. In future years, occasionally sprinkle more compost onto the ground around the plant and work it in by soaking the soil afterward with your garden hose.

Deadhead the flowers to extend the blooming season. The easiest method is to shear the tops of the plants off to remove many blossoms at the same time. It's not a problem if some of the foliage gets sheared off; the upper leaves tend to become ratty-looking, anyway. After the first killing frost, cut back all foliage to within a few inches of the ground.

There are very few pest or disease problems with speedwell, but soggy soils can cause root rot.