

Chrysogonum virginianum (Green and Gold)

Green and Gold is a native, semi-evergreen, rhizomatous, low-growing, low-maintenance perennial that typically forms an easily controlled foliage mat 1- to 2-in. tall while spreading to 18-in. wide or more.

Each yellow, daisy-like flower has five rounded, slightly-notched petals and a center tuft of yellow disk flowers. In areas with hot summers, bloom is profuse in spring and usually becomes sparse or stops in the heat of summer, with a light rebloom in fall. Flowering stems rise above the foliage mat to 8- to 10-in. tall, depending on variety. Remove spent flower stems for best ground cover appearance.

Use Green and Gold as a shady ground cover in woodland gardens, native-plant gardens or naturalized areas where flowers attracts bees, butterflies, pollinators, and songbirds (which eat the seeds).

Three naturally occurring varieties of *Chrysogonum virginianum* are found in the Eastern United States, occupying slightly over-lapping regions. The northernmost variety, *C. virginianum* var. *virginianum*, is without stolons and not considered mat-forming. This variety is also the tallest in bloom, with flowering stem height of 6 to 13 inches, and has the longest bloom time. The southern-most variety, *C. virginianum* var. *australe*, has the longest stolon length (5- to 24-in. long). The flowering stems are shorter — only ¾-in. to 1 ½-in. tall. The variety in the central portion of the range, *C. virginianum* var. *brevistolon*, has shorter stolon lengths (1- to 2½-in. long), and similar flowering stem heights to *C. virginianum* var. *australe*. The faster spreading *C. virginianum* var. *australe* will colonize larger woodland sites more quickly.

Green and Gold is easily grown in average, medium-moisture, well-drained soils high in organic matter in sun-dappled part shade to full shade. It will tolerate full sun only if grown in consistently moist soils. Plants will need supplemental water during periods of summer drought or if exposed to afternoon sun. Plant

establishment is enhanced with the addition of a slow-release, organic fertilizer mixed into the planting soil.

In the fall, propagate Green and Gold varieties that produce stolons by cutting and digging the stolons that have taken root where they touch the soil. Plants can also be propagated by division of the crown in late spring. Seedlings may be found near the base of established plants and transplanted most successfully in the fall. Seeds may be collected and sown in a fine potting mix at 70 to 75 degrees F. Germination will occur in about 3 weeks.

Green and Gold is moderately resistant to deer damage. It has no serious insect or disease problems, but there is some susceptibility to mildew. Snails and slugs may eat holes in the newer spring foliage, but damage is rarely significant.



Flower Close-up (Durham County, NC)-Spring Andrea Laine [CC BY-NC 4.0](#)

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For more information on gardening in Brunswick County, please call the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Office, 910.253.2610.

SOURCES:

[Chrysogonum virginianum](#) var. *brevistolon* (Carolina Green and Gold, Goldenstar, Green and Gold) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox ([ncsu.edu](#))

[Chrysogonum virginianum](#) (Green and Gold) | North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox ([ncsu.edu](#))

[Green & Gold](#) | Home & Garden Information Center ([clemsun.edu](#))