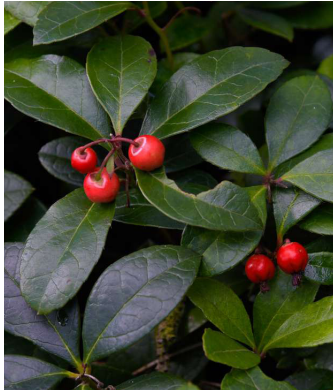


# WINTERGREEN CARE GUIDE

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Wintergreen  
*Gaultheria procumbens*

Common names: **boxberry, deerberry, ground berry, spice berry, winterberry**

## WATER

This plant prefers the soil to stay moist, but not wet. Water when the top inch of the soil is dry. You can test this with a water meter, or your fingertip.

## PLACEMENT & TEMPERATURE

Wintergreen will prefer to be in a cooler room with more shade rather than a window that gets full sun.

## FERTILIZER

There's no need to fertilize Wintergreen, as they thrive in low nutrient mediums like sand and peat moss.

## PROPAGATING

Propagating is very easy! These plants propagate by rhizomes. Cut off the rhizome, allow to dry for a day or two, then replant in soil and proceed with regular care.

## PESTS & DISEASE

Wintergreen oils deter pests, making them virtually pest free. If planting them outside, you may see aphids in the spring – just blast them off with your hose, shower head, or kitchen sprayer. Poor drainage will lead to root rot and/or mildew.

## MOVING OUTSIDE

Plant in the ground in early Spring.

## LIGHT

In nature, Wintergreen is a ground cover, creeping along the ground floor. Therefore, Wintergreen is extremely shade tolerant and will do well in the dark corners of your home. Wintergreen can also tolerate bright, filtered light, like the light coming through an East or West facing window's sheer curtain.

## SOIL TYPE

Wintergreen does not need nutrient rich soil, but they do like well-draining soil. You can add sand or peat moss to increase drainage and help raise the acidity for your Wintergreen to thrive!

## GROWTH

One plant can grow to be 3 feet in width. They also produce white or pale pink blooms from July-August.

## TOXICITY

Although the berries and leaves are safe to eat (within reasonable amounts), be wary that large amounts of wintergreen oil can be toxic to animals and humans. In the wild, birds and deer enjoy munching on this plant.

## HARVESTING

You can harvest the leaves from your Wintergreen at any time, throughout the whole year. We recommend harvesting berries as soon as they are fully red. The leaves have a bitter taste to them, along with a minty smell.

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