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*Dichondra*

***Dichondra*** is a small genus of [flowering plants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flowering_plant) in the[morning glory](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ipomoea) family, [Convolvulaceae](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convolvulaceae%22%20%5Co%20%22Convolvulaceae). They are prostrate, [perennial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perennial_plant), [herbaceous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbaceous) plants, with creeping stems which take root readily at the leaf nodes. The[flowers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flower) are white, greenish or yellowish, 2-3 mm diameter.

The number of species is disputed, with some authors dividing the genus regionally into about ten separate species, while others accept only two species. Members of the genus are commonly known as**ponysfoots**[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dichondra%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-ITIS-2) and are native to tropical and warm temperate regions around the world.

The genus name is derived from the [Greek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) words (*dis*), meaning "two", and (*chondros*), meaning "grain". It refers to the fruits.

Some *Dichondra* species are cultivated as as [ornamental plants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ornamental_plant), with [cultivar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultivar) selections also available. *Dichondra micrantha* is used as a[groundcover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Groundcover). *Dichondra argentea* is a light silver leaved accent plant. The *Dichondra argentea* 'Silver Falls' cultivar is often used for trailing over the rims of potted plants, and has lower water needs. [[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dichondra#cite_note-9)

*Dichondra micrantha* was very popular in [Southern California](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_California) in the 1950s and 1960s as a [grass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grass) substitute for [lawns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawn). Each leaf consists of a stem with a nearly circular or kidney-shaped horizontal leaf top, between 8-25 mm in diameter with a 20-35 mm petiole. A healthy lawn consisting entirely of *Dichondra* is fairly difficult to start, grow, and maintain. Neighbors' [Bermuda grass](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bermuda_grass) often seeded in, with *Oaxalis* sp. and other weeds.

In some habitats and landscapes of the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), some of the non-native *Dichondra* species are treated as [weeds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weed).