

Perennials for Your Rock Garden

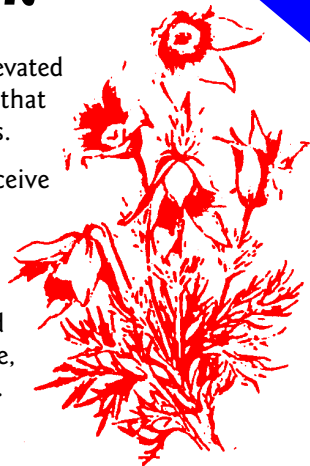


A properly constructed rock garden, with rocks and soil elevated in tiers provides good drainage for many small plants that might otherwise succumb to winter and spring wetness.

Rocks are best situated where the plants will receive maximum sunshine and not be shaded by trees.

In addition to perennials and small spring flowering bulbs such as Crocus, Snowdrop and Winter Aconite, using dwarf evergreen enhances and maintains year-round interest in any rock garden. Many varieties of Dwarf Spruce, Yew and Hemlock are very suitable and widely available.

The perennials in this list are mostly under 30 cm.



Common Name	Botanical Name
Woolly Yarrow	<i>Achillea</i>
Lebanon or Persian Cress	<i>Aethionema</i>
Bugle Flower (many varieties)	<i>Ajuga</i>
Lady's Mantle	<i>Alchemilla</i>
Ornamental Onion	<i>Allium moly</i> and others
Basket of Gold	<i>Alyssum</i>
Pearly Everlasting	<i>Anaphalis</i>
Rock Jasmine	<i>Androsace</i>
Pasque Flower	<i>Anemone</i> or <i>Pulsatilla</i>
Pussy Toes	<i>Antennaria</i>
Dwarf Columbine	<i>Aquilegia</i>
Rock Cress	<i>Arabis</i>
Thrift	<i>Armeria</i>
Silver Mound	<i>Artemisia</i>
Silver Brocade	<i>Artemisia</i>
Alpine Aster	<i>Aster</i>
Dwarf Astilbe	<i>Astilbe</i>
Purple Rock Cress	<i>Aubretia</i>
English Daisy	<i>Bellis</i>
Heartleaf	<i>Bergenia</i>
Slipperwort	<i>Calceolaria</i>
Carpathian Harebell	<i>Campanula</i>

Common Name	Botanical Name
Dalmation Bellflower (many other small Campanula)	<i>Campanula</i>
Silver Thistle	<i>Carlina</i>
Dwarf Coreopsis	<i>Coreopsis</i>
Dianthus/Pinks (many named varieties available)	<i>Dianthus</i>
Dwarf Columbine	<i>Dicentra eximia</i>
Draba	<i>Draba</i>
Cushion Spurge	<i>Euphorbia</i>
Indian Strawberry	<i>Fragaria</i>
Yellow Bedstraw	<i>Galium</i>
Creeping Baby's Breath	<i>Gypsophila</i>
Rock Rose/Sun Rose	<i>Helianthemum</i>
Coral Bells	<i>Heuchera</i>
St. John's Wort (Dwarf)	<i>Hypericum</i>
Houstonia	<i>Houstonia</i>
Hardy Gloxinia	<i>Incarvillea</i>
Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium</i>
Golden Flax	<i>Linum flavum</i>
Catmint	<i>Nepeta</i>
Prickly Pear	<i>Opuntia</i>
Dwarf Beardstongue	<i>Penstemon</i>
Perennial Potentilla	<i>Potentilla</i>

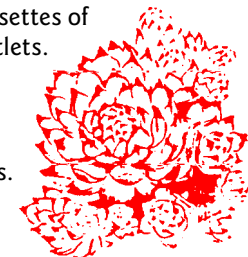
Common Name	Botanical Name	Common Name	Botanical Name
Rock Soapwort	<i>Saponaria</i>	Candy Tuft	<i>Iberis</i>
Dwarf Blanket Flower	<i>Gaillardia</i>	Dwarf Iris	<i>Iris pumila</i>
True Geranium	<i>Geranium</i>	Edelweiss	<i>Leontopodium</i>
Geum	<i>Geum</i>	Dwarf Feverfew	<i>Matricaria</i>
Strawflower	<i>Helichrysum</i>	Evening Primrose	<i>Oenothera</i>
Hosta (sun tolerant varieties)	<i>Hosta</i>	Iceland Poppy	<i>Papaver</i>
Hutchinsia	<i>Hutchinsia</i>	Creeping Phlox	<i>Phlox</i>
		Gold Moss	<i>Sagina</i>

Sedum

Sedum is a very important rock garden family. Dozens of varieties are readily available and hundreds are possible. All sedum varieties flower in their season from early summer to late fall. Flower colours vary from pink, red, white or yellow. More important than their flowers, however, is their interesting and colourful foliage. Sedums are a MUST in any rock garden.

Hens and Chickens – *Sempervivum*

Another important rock garden plant, *Sempervivum* has fleshy rosettes of foliage with the mother plant surrounded by many small plantlets. These can be detached and planted in another spot.



Foliage Plants

There are many named varieties, all with interesting colourful leaves.

They include: Moss Champion *Silene Schafta*
 Blue-eyed Grass *Sisyrinchium*
 Lamb's Ears *Satchys*
 Germander *Teucrium*

Thyme

Many varieties of Thyme are available. All are flowering plants but are valued more for their foliage – in shades of green, plus gray, gold and silver.

Veronica

Many small Veronicas or Speedwells are available, including creeping varieties.



Violets – *Viola*

Many varieties are available in many different colours.

Grasses for rock gardens

The smaller, clump-forming (non-invasive) grasses add great charm and quite a different touch in a rock garden. Recommended – Blue Fescue varieties, Tuberous Oat Grass, Blue Oat Grass, June Grass (*Koeleria*), plus grass-like plants such as Sedges (*Carex*) and Wood Rush (*Luzula*).



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