

Rock Gardens

Growing plants in rock gardens has long been practiced as a form of gardening. When it was introduced to the United States from England in the 1920's, it soon became a craze. Those early rock gardens were developed in the English tradition, with emphasis on the beauty and composition of both rocks and plants. In later years a fresh approach was introduced in the Japanese style with stress on openness and simplicity.

A rock garden may be defined as an outcropping of rocks - natural or devised - where small plants are grown. Usually it is on a slope and, although the plants chosen generally come from rocky places, many are low growing perennials, annuals, bulbs, and shrubs. Small shrubs, usually under two feet high, add height; color, in the case of flowering shrubs; green, from evergreens in winter; and a picturesque form and branching habit. In large rock gardens, plants that grow as much as three feet tall or more are worthy of consideration.

Many gardeners are fortunate in having natural rock gardens, where their choice treasures are brought in and arranged in an artistic manner. In other instances they are constructed with rocks and boulders that have been hauled in.

Today's rock gardens have changed to meet the needs of the times. Simplicity and ease of maintenance is a key note. On the whole, the rock garden needs little care - no hoeing or cultivating and very little weeding. Once weeds are pulled up and thick mulch is applied, a minimum of feeding and watering is needed to keep plants healthy and looking their best.

Sun Perennials:

Achillea millefolium, Red Beauty Yarrow
Alyssum saxa tile, Basket of Gold
Aquilegia, Columbine
Arabis, Snowcap
Arenaria, Sandwort
Armeria, Sea pink
Artemesia albula, Silver King
Artemesia schmidtiana, Silvermound
Bellis, English Daisy
Cactus
Campanula carpatica, Bellflower
Cerastium tomentosum, Snow-in-Summer
Chrysanthemum maximum, Shasta Daisy
Coreopsis
Erica, Heather
Dianthus varieties, Pinks, Carnation, Sweet William
Gypsophila verens, Dwarf Babies Breath
Helianthemuin
Heuchera, Coral Bells
Iberis, Candytuft
Liatris, Spiked Gayfeather
Linum, Flax

Oenothera, Sundrop
Physostegia, False Dragonhead
Platycodon, Balloon Flower
Potentilla, Cinquefoil
Echinacea, Coneflower
Santolina, Lavender Cotton
Sedum
Sempervivum, Hens & Chicks
Stachys, Lamb's Ear
Veronica, Speedwell

Shade Perennials:

Alchemilla, Lady's Mantle
Anemone (Rue)
Aubrieta, Purple Rockcress
Dicentra exima, Dwarf Bleeding Heart
Epimedium, Barrenwort
Ferns
Hosta, Funkia, Plantain Lily
Mertensia, Virginia Bluebells
Myosotis, Forget-me-nots
Primula, Primrose

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Trillium, Giant Trillium
Uvularia, Merrybells
Viola

Ornamental Grasses:

Blue Fescue
Fountain Grass
Karl Foerster's Feather
Reed
Liriope
Mondo Grass
Northern Sea Oats

Annuals:

Allysum
Dahlberg Daisy
Dianthus
Felicia
Gazania
Heliotrope
Lobelia
Morning Glory
Neirembergia
Pansy
Phlox
Portulaca
Swan River Daisy
Thunbergia
Verbena

Herbs:

Alpine Strawberry
Chives
Germander
Lavendula
Purple Leaf Basil
Rosemary
Santolina
Scented Geraniums
Sweet Woodruff
Thyme
Tri-Color Sage

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