

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

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

Common Name	Botanical Name
Rock Soapwort	Saponaria
Dwarf Blanket Flower	Gaillardia
True Geranium	Geranium
Geum	Geum
Strawflower	Helichrysum
Hosta (sun tolerant varieties)	Hosta
Hutchinsia	Hutchinsia

Common Name	Botanical Name
Candy Tuft	Iberis
Dwarf Iris	Iris pumila
Edelweiss	Leontopodium
Dwarf Feverfew	Matricaria
Evening Primrose	Oenothera
Iceland Poppy	Papaver
Creeping Phlox	Phlox
Gold Moss	Sagina

### 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 Campion Silene Schafta  
Blue-eyed Grass Sisyrinchium  
Lamb's Ears Satchys  
Germander Teuchrium

### Thyme

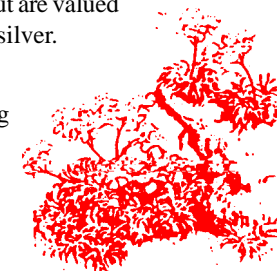
Many varieties of Thyme are available. All are flowering plants but are valued more for their foliage in shades of green, plus gray, gold and silver.

### 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 are Blue Fescue varieties, Tuberous Oat Grass, Blue Oat Grass, June Grass (Koeleria), plus grass-like plants such as Sedges (Carex) and Wood Rush (Luzula).