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ROCK GARDEN PLANTS FROM SEED

FERRY-MORSE SEED CO.
DETROIT SAN FRANCISCO

GROW FLOWERS

Choose Appropriate Plants

Only plants that grow among rocks in their native haunts, and those that appear at home among stones, should be selected for rock garden planting. They make such a garden look more natural than when planted with ordinary garden and bedding plants. They also thrive better under conditions furnished by rocks.

Suit Plants to the Location

In selecting plants for your rock garden, consider whether they are adapted to the various places you have chosen for them. Plants that trail are usually at their best when they are allowed to droop naturally over the face of rocks; they are especially effective at the top of a bank or wall. In the smaller crevices, tufted plants with rosettes of foliage and short flower stalks are suitable. Creeping plants make carpets of color in the larger soil pockets, and erect plants of varying heights are appropriate in any of the flat spaces.

Consider Height and Color Harmony

Most true rock plants grow less than ten inches tall. Plant your rock garden mostly with these low growing annuals and perennials. They look at home tucked in among the stones; and the rocks, properly placed, enhance the beauty of the little plants. Toward the back of the rock garden, however, and for accent here and there, use some of the

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medium and taller growing annuals and perennials that are considered suitable. Because of the contrasts in size, you will be better pleased with your garden than when only tiny plants are used. Arranging for color harmony in a rock garden is not quite so important as in the ordinary garden border. Tints and shades of rock plant flowers are delicate and seldom clash. Use some white, though, for it is always pleasing among the brighter blossoms.

Plant Perennials for Permanence

When you build a rock garden, you want it to become more beautiful as time goes on. Perennials, wisely chosen and well cared for, bring this about. By growing and spreading from year to year, they fill the chinks and spaces, taking away the newness. They give the effect of naturalness, too, and the ever-increasing charm of having been there a long time.

Plant Annuals for Various Needs

Most rock garden perennials bloom in spring and very early summer, leaving only foliage effects for the remainder of the season. There are many suitable annuals, however, that will keep your rock garden in flower from June to early October. Since annuals must be re-

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newed each year, the color arrangements can always be varied, and your rock garden will never be a monotonous spot. Annuals are also a wonderful help for securing color and foliage masses during the first season the garden is built, while the perennials are getting a foothold. Each spring there are likely to be bare spots, too, caused by the winter-killing of some of the perennials. Fill these spaces with gay annuals to complete the garden picture.

Sow Seed at the Right Time

Practically all rock garden annuals, started from seed in spring, will furnish a wealth of bloom the same summer. A few of the perennials, if the seed is sown early enough in spring, will bloom the first season. The seed of most perennials, though, should be sown in summer in order to make strong healthy plants that will be well on their way toward blossoming when spring comes.

Suit Plants and Soil to Each Other

Most rock plants do not require special soil mixtures. They do well in ordinary garden soil that has excellent drainage and is not too rich. A good loam mixed with plenty of sharp sand and humus is all that is necessary. Barnyard manure is too rich for most rock plants. However, even when the same kind of soil is

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used in the crevices, soil pockets, and spaces, the design of the garden will bring about varying conditions. Choose your plants with this in mind. Soils higher up in the rock garden will naturally be drier. Those lower down will be more moist. Shady situations will be better for certain plants; and a site exposed to burning sunshine should have plants that can endure this trying condition.

Provide Good Drainage

Several inches of gravel, coarse sand, or cinders placed 18 inches or so below the garden space will carry away the excess moisture in most rock gardens. Surface drainage may be a greater problem. Grass gutters above the garden, or underground tile, may be necessary to prevent flooding of lower parts of the garden; otherwise, soil and plants may be washed out during hard rains.

Provide Plenty of Moisture

Plants chosen because they endure hot dry situations need little attention in regard to watering. Those that require considerable moisture should be soaked once or twice a week in dry weather. When watering by means of a hose, make it a long and gentle process so that the soil will not be eroded and the plants washed out. Do not water during the heat of the day unless the spot is shady.

Keep Plants at Their Best

In the spring, firm the soil around the roots of all rock plants. Fill in with new soil where the earth has been washed away or heaved

up by frost. Shallow rooting plants, like Rock Cress (*Arabis*), may have a top dressing of fine sand and leaf mold. In summer, cut back plants that spread a great deal, like *Alyssum saxatile*, *Aubrietia*, and *Arabis*. This will cause them to form stronger growth. Thin any of the plants that become too thick or too numerous. Keep the weeds out, so that the garden will be at its best during a long season.

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ANNUALS

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Abronia</i>	Sand Verbena
<i>Ageratum</i>	Floss Flower
<i>Alyssum procumbens</i>	Carpet of Snow
<i>Alyssum compactum erectum</i>	Alyssum, Little Gem
<i>Brachycome</i>	Swan River Daisy
<i>Dianthus chinensis</i>	China Pink
<i>Dimorphotheca</i>	African Daisy
<i>Eschschlotzia</i>	California Poppy
<i>Lobelia, Crystal Palace compacta</i>	Lobelia
<i>Lobelia, Celestial</i>	Lobelia
<i>Malcomia</i>	Virginian Stock
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	Ice Plant
<i>Mesembryanthemum tricolor</i>	Dew Plant
<i>Nemophila insignis</i>	Baby Blue Eyes
<i>Nierembergia hippomanica</i>	Dwarf Cup Flower
<i>Phacelia campanularia</i>	Harebell Phacelia
<i>Phlox drummondii</i>	Phlox
<i>Portulaca</i>	Moss Rose
<i>Saponaria</i>	Bouncing Bet
<i>Schizanthus</i>	Poor Man's Orchid
<i>Thunbergia</i>	Black-eyed Susan
<i>Statice</i>	Sea Lavender
<i>Verbena</i>	Verbena

For complete descriptions of these flowers, see

Protect the Garden in Winter

In northern sections it is usually advisable to cover a rock garden in winter. Protect it well, but do not smother the plants by too thick a covering. About four inches of dry leaves or marsh hay are sufficient. Chicken wire placed in a slight arch over the space will keep the material from blowing away and will not cause it to press too heavily on the plants.

TO GROW FROM SEED

PERENNIALS

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Alyssum saxatile	Hardy Alyssum
Anemone coronaria	Wind Flower
Aquilegia	Columbine
Arabis	Rock Cress
Armeria	Thrift, Sea Pink
Asclepias tuberosa	Butterfly Wildflower
Aubrietia	Aubrietia
Bellis perennis	English Daisy
Campanula carpatica	Harebell
Cheiranthus	Siberian Wallflower
Cerastium tomentosum	Snow-in-Summer
Dianthus plumarius	Hardy Pink
Erinus alpinus	Liver Balsam
Gypsophila paniculata	Baby's Breath
Heuchera	Coral Bells
Linum perenne	Flax
Myosotis alpestris	Forget-me-not
Platycodon	Japanese Bellflower
Papaver nudicaule	Iceland Poppy
Primula	Hardy Primrose
Ranunculus	Buttercup
Sedum acre	Stonecrop
Viola cornuta	Viola

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SEDUM ACRE is one of the "backbone" plants of many a rock garden