



**Aylett Nurseries**  
*The Complete Garden Centre*

# **Alpines & Rockery Plants**

## **Information Leaflet No. 1**



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**ACAENA** – Common name New Zealand Burr. Mat forming perennial for a sunny or part shaded site with well-drained soil.

**ACHILLEA** – Common name Alpine Yarrow. Sunny site and sharp drainage. All have ferny mat-forming foliage. Height 15-20cm Spread 23cm.

**Tomentosa Aurea** – Woolly green leaves and bright yellow flowers in summer. 🏆

**AJUGA** – Common name Bugle. Part shade with moist soil. Height 15-20cm spreads freely.

**Catlins' Giant** – The tallest variety. Blue flowers in spring, large purple leaves. Good ground cover. 🏆

**Reptans Atropurpurea** – Blue flowers. Purple variegated foliage.

**Reptans Braunherz** – Blue flowers in spring.

**Reptans Burgundy Glow** – Silvery leaves suffused pink.

**Reptans Rainbow** – Rich blue flowers, bronze, cream and pink variegated foliage.

**ALYSSUM** – Syn. Aurinia requires a sunny well-drained position. Good for dry walls. Height 20-30cm.

**Mountain Gold** – Mat forming variety with grey leaves and bright yellow flowers.

**Saxatile** – Rosettes of grey foliage, clusters of golden flowers.

**Saxatile Gold Ball** – Rosette forming, with large clusters of bright yellow flowers.

**ANTENNARIA** – Common name Pussy Toes. Evergreen mat forming perennial. Well drained sunny site. Height 5cm Spread 45cm.

**Dioica** – Grey leaves, with white undersides. White or pink fluffy flower heads in May-June.

**ANTHEMIS** – Common name double chamomile. Good soil in sun.

**Nobilis Flore Plena** – Double white daisy like flowers. June-August. Aromatic foliage. Height 15cm Spread 45cm.

**AQUILEGA** – Common name Columbine. Herbaceous perennial for sun or light shade. Well drained soil.

**Alpina** – Nodding blue flowers, sometimes white tipped. May. Height 30cm Spread 25cm.

**ARABIS** – Evergreen for sun or light shade. Average soil.

**Caucasica Variegata** – ‘Rock Cress’ White four petalled flowers April – May. Attractive gold edged foliage. Height 15cm Spread 50cm.

**Ferdinandi – Old Gold** – Attractive golden variegated foliage. White spring flowers. Height 5cm Spread 40cm.

**Snowball** – Mats of grey-green foliage. Pure white flowers April-June. Good contrast to Aubrieta. Height 15cm Spread 35cm.

**Spring Charm** – Dark green foliage, sometimes tinged purple. Intense carmine flowers March – June. Height 20cm Spread 60cm.

**ARENARIA** – Common name Sandwort. Mat-forming perennial. Sunny, well drained site.

**Balearica** – Shiny evergreen mats of foliage studded with white flowers all summer. Height 1cm Spread 30cm.

**Caespitosa Aurea** – Dense mats of golden foliage. Height 1cm Spread 20cm.

**Montana** – Vigorous evergreen with cup shaped white flowers in early summer. Good for rock crevices. Height 5cm Spread 30cm. 🏆

**ARMERIA** – Common name Thrift. Evergreen hummock forming alpine for a sunny well drained position.

**Juniperifolia** syn. **Caespitosa** – Spiky hummocks of foliage studded with spherical pink flowers. Height 5cm Spread 15cm. 🏆

**Maritima** – Tussocks of grassy foliage. Flowers held on long stems. Height 20cm Spread 30cm.

**Maritima Alba** – White form of the above. Height 20cm Spread 30cm.

**Maritima 'Dusseldorf Pride'** – Spherical red flowers. Height 15cm Spread 30cm.

**Martima Splendens** – Rosy red flower heads. Height 15-20cm.

**ASTER** – Clump forming perennial for sun or light shade. Well drained soil.

**Alpinus** – Purple flowers with yellow centres from early summer. Height 25cm Spread 45cm. 🏆

**AUBRETIA** – Common name Wall Cress. Evergreen mat forming perennial, average soil. Well drained sunny position. Height 5cm Spread 60cm.

**Blue Cascade** – Mounds of blue flowers in Spring.

**Bressingham Red** – Dense mats of deep red flowers April-May.

**Cascade** – A mixture of blues, mauves and purples.

**Dr. Mules Variegata** – Rose-lilac flowers against cream variegated foliage.

**Royal Blue** – Mats of deep blue flowers March-May. 🏆

**Royal Lavender** – Mats of deep lavender flowers March-May. 🏆

**Royal Rose** – Mounds of rosy pink flowers March-May. 🏆

**Royal Violet** – Mounds of deep violet purple flowers March-May. 🏆

**CAMPANULA** – Common name Bellflower. Average soil, sunny position.

**Carpatica** – Clump forming plant with cup shaped blue flowers over several months. Height 30cm Spread 30-60cm. 🏆

**Carpatica Alba** – White form of the above.

**Dicksons Gold** – Attractive golden foliage contrasts with sky blue flowers in summer. Height 10cm Spread 20cm.

**Portenschlagiana** – syn. **Muralis** – Mound forming perennial with numerous tubular blue flowers mid-summer. Height 15cm Spread 50cm. 🏆

**Portenschlagiana Rescholts Variety** – Very deep blue variety of the above. Height 15cm Spread 50cm.

**Poscharskyana**– Vigorous variety with sprays of star shaped pale blue flowers in summer. Height 15cm Spread 60-80cm.

**CERASTIUM ALP. LANATUM** – Perennial for sunny position. White flowers above silvery foliage in Spring. Height 10cm, Spread 20cm.

**DIANTHUS** – Evergreen perennials for well drained sunny position. We have a large range, including the following:-

**Alpinus** – Greyish grassy foliage. Sweetly scented flowers in a range of colours. Height 8cm Spread 10cm. 🏆

**Artic Star** – Fragrant double white flowers. Height 10cm.

**Deltoides** – Mat forming evergreen ‘Maiden Pinks’ come in a range of colours, red, white and pink. Height 20cm Spread 30cm.

**Little Jock** – Light pink flowers on grey foliage. Height 8cm Spread 10cm.

**Neon Star** – Bright purple fragrant flowers. Height 5-7cm. 🏆

**Pikes Pink** – Gloriously fragrant pale pink flowers with darker banding. Height 15cm Spread 20cm. 🏆

**Pixie Star** – Rosy pink flowers with deep pink eye. Height 5-7cm. 🏆

**Whatfield Gem** – Double red-pink flowers. Height 10cm Spread 20cm.

**Whatfield Joy** – Scented vibrant pink flowers. Height 15cm, Spread 25cm.


**ERODIUM** – Common name Stork’s bill. Sunny well drained position.

**Chamaedryoides Album** – Syn. **Variabile** – Cushion forming plant with small scalloped edged leaves, and small red veined white flowers in summer. Height 5cm Spread 30cm.

**Chamaedryoides Roseum** – As ‘Album’ but with clear pink flowers.

**GERANIUM** – Common name Cranesbill. Perennial for sunny well drained position.

**Ballerina** – Greyish leaves and large lilac veined purple flowers. Height 15cm Spread 30cm.

**Subcaulescens Splendens** – Dark eyed magenta flowers. Height 10-15cm Spread 30cm. 

**GYPSOPHILA** – Excellent plants for well drained sunny positions, forming mats of foliage studded with flowers all summer.

**Cerastoides** – Grey leaves and trumpet shaped white flowers. Height 5cm Spread 15cm.

**Repens Rosea** – Bluish-green leaves and masses of starry pink flowers Height 20cm Spread 50cm.

**HELIANTHEMUM** – Common name Rock Rose. Well drained sunny site. Prune hard after flowering to keep plants neat, and encourage more flowers the following year. Evergreen. Height 15cm Spread 45cm.

We offer many varieties including the following:-

**Ben Fhada** – Single yellow with orange eye.

**Ben Nevis** – Tawny orange single.

**Cerise Queen** – Rosy red double flowers.

**Rose Queen** – Clear pink flowers.


**The Bride** – White flowers against silver foliage. 

**Wisley Pink** – Pink single flowers. Silver grey foliage.

**Wisley Primrose** – Pale yellow on grey foliage. 

**Wisley White** – Single white on grey foliage.

**IBERIS** – Common name Perennial Candytuft. Evergreen for sunny well drained site. Height 20cm Spread 60cm.

**Sempervirens** – Dark green foliage. Crowded heads of pure white flowers. 


**LEONTPODIUM** – Common name ‘Eidelleweiss’. Well drained gritty soil in sun.

**Alpinum** – Woolly grey leaves are topped with unusual flowers resembling small flannel starfish. Height 15cm Spread 25cm.

**LEPTINELLA** – Alpine perennial for sun or light shade and well-drained soil.

**Platts Black** – Small button-shaped flowers late spring. Dark brown/black feathery foliage. Height 5-7.5cm.

**LEWISIA** – Evergreen requiring sun and perfect drainage. Protect from winter wet. Best when planted on side in rock garden crevices.

**Cotyledon** – Funnel shaped striped pink flowers Height 30 cm Spread 25cm. 


**LITHOSPERMUM syn. LITHODORA** – Creeping evergreen for sunny position. Humus-rich soil.

**Alba** – White flowers from April-August. Height 15-30cm, spread 30-40cm.

**Heavenly Blue** – Close mats of green foliage studded with gentian blue flowers. Height 15cm Spread 60cm.

**Star** – as ‘Heavenly Blue’ but flowers have white background and blue central stripe. Height 15-30cm, spread 30-40cm.

**OXALIS** – ‘Alpine Shamrock’ Sunny well drained position.

**Adenophylla** – Shamrock like leaflets. Large pink flowers with white centres. Deciduous bulb. Height 10cm Spread 15cm. 

**PAPAVER** – ‘Alpine Poppy’ Gritty soil, sunny position.

**Alpinum** – Tuft forming alpine with saucer shaped flowers of orange, yellow and white. Height 15cm Spread 10cm.

**PARAHEBE** – Shrubby alpine. Any average soil. Sunny site.

**Catarractae** – Slender sprays of white flowers veined purple. Height 30cm Spread 30cm.

**PHLOX** – Gritty soil, sunny site.

**Douglasii Varieties** – Mound forming evergreens, summer flowering. Height 20cm Spread 30cm. We offer many varieties including:-

**Rose Cushion** – Rose pink.

**Subulata Varieties** – Mossy foliage forming cushions of evergreen leaves. Height 5-15cm Spread 50cm. We offer the following:

**Amazing Grace** – Pale pink with deep pink edges.

**Candy Stripe** – Pink and white striped flowers April-May.

**McDaniels Cushion** – Very deep pink. 🏆

**PRATIA** – Prostrate evergreens best in moist soil, part or full shade.

**County Park** – Small violet blue flowers. Height 3cm Spread 30-45 cm.

**Pedunculata** – Starry turquoise flowers. Height 1-5cm Spread 80cm.

**Treadwellii** – White starry flowers marked with purple. Height 6cm Spread 1m.

**PRIMULA** – Common name primrose. Part shade, humus-rich soil.

**Acaulis** – Rosette forming plants in a range of colours. Height 20cm Spread 35cm.

**Auricula** – Grey leathery leaves. Flowers often in distinctly banded colours. Mealy stems. Best in gritty soil and sun. Height 10cm Spread 20cm.

**Beesiana** – Candelabras of pink – peach flowers. Height 30-60cm.

**Denticulata** – Drumstick variety. Dense heads of blue, mauve, red or white flowers. Height/spread 45cm. 🏆

**Rosea** – Deciduous variety, bronze flushed. New leaves emerge after the vivid pink flowers in early spring. Height 20cm Spread 20cm. 🏆

**Veris** – (Cowslips) Mixed colours. Very fragrant variety. Height 25cm Spread 25cm. 🏆



**Viali** – Poker like flowers, red buds open to lilac. Height 60cm, spread 30cm. 🏆

**Vulgaris** – (Primrose) Woodland garden favourite, masses of yellow flowers in early spring. Height 20cm Spread 35cm. 🏆

**V. Wanda** – Wine red primrose. Height 20cm Spread 35cm. 🏆

**RAOULIA** – Evergreen alpine for sheltered sunny site, well drained gritty soil. Height 1cm Spread 30cm.

**Hookeri** – Minute rosettes of silver foliage covered in silky hairs. Protect from winter wet.

**SAPONARIA** – Common name Soapwort. Sunny well-drained position.

**Ocymoides** – (Tumbling Ted) Spreading evergreen, with purple-backed leaves and profuse deep pink summer flowers. 🏆

**SAXIFRAGA** – Evergreen alpine for sunny, well drained position.

**Elf** – Cushion forming carmine flowers Height 10cm Spread 30cm.

**Southside Seedling** – White flowers spotted red. Height 35cm Spread 30cm. 🏆

**Triumph** – Blood red flowers on long stems. Height 15cm, spread 40cm.

**Umbrosa** – Leathery rosettes with pink starry flowers. Height 30cm Spread 30cm.

**Winston Churchill** – Dainty red flowers over neat foliage. Height/spread 15-25cm.

**SCABIOSA** – Evergreen rosettes forming alpine well drained sunny soil. Protect from excessive winter wet.

**Alpina** –syn. **Celphalaria Alpina** – Violet blue to powder blue flowers on wiry stems. Height 30cm Spread 25cm.

**SEDUM** – Common name Stonecrop. Sunny well drained site.

**Acre Aurea** – Sulphur yellow tipped foliage. Yellow starry flowers. Height 5cm Spread 60cm.

**Lineare** – Bright yellow flowers over variegated foliage. Height 10cm, spread 30cm.

**Rupestre** – Mat forming, grey-green fleshy foliage with yellow flowers. Height 100cm, spread 60cm.

**Spurium Dragons' Blood** – as Spurium but purple tinted foliage.

**SEMPERVIVELLA** – Average soil, sunny position.

**Alba** – Rosettes of foliage, white flowers. Height 10cm Spread 20cm.

**SEMPERVIVUM** – Common name Houseleek. Prefers poor gritty soil in full sun. Height 15cm Spread 50cm unless stated.

**Arachnoideum** – 'Cobweb Houseleek'. Fleshy rosettes are cobwebbed with white hairs. Leafy stems of pink flowers. Height 8cm Spread 30cm. 🏆

**Blood Tip** – Large green rosettes with red tips. Red flowers.

**Guisseppi** – Grey/green neat mounded foliage. Magenta dark eyed flowers. Height 15cm, Spread 25cm. 🏆

**Royal Ruby** – Rosettes of fleshy ruby coloured foliage year round.

**Snowberger** – Fleshy rosettes with a white sheen in summer.

**Spring Mist** – Clusters of grey green foliage, tinged scarlet pink flowers. Height 100cm, spread 20cm.

**Woolcotts Variety** – Clusters of green foliage tinged silver pink starry flowers. Height 10cm, spread 20cm.

**SILENE** – Common name Campion.

**Maritima Alba** – Bell shaped white flowers on grey green mats of foliage. Height 15cm Spread 20cm.

**THYMUS** – Evergreen mat forming sub-shrub. Sunny well drained position. Height 10cm Spread 40cm unless stated.


**Bressingham Pink** – Tiny green leaves, round heads of pink flowers. Height 10cm, spread 35cm.

**Citriodorus Andersons Gold** – Golden yellow foliage.


**Citriodorus Archers Gold** – Golden yellow foliage.

**Citriodorus Silver Queen** – Lemon scented foliage variegated silver. Height 30cm Spread 25cm.

**Doone Valley** – Green and gold foliage with lavender-pink flowers. Height 12cm, spread 35cm.

**Serp. Pink Chintz** – Clear pink flowers. Aromatic foliage. Height 5cm, spread 45-60cm. 


**VERONICA** – Common name Speedwell. Prostrate evergreen for average well drained soil in sun.

**Prostrata** – Bright green foliage and short spikes of intense blue flowers. Height 15cm Spread 40cm. 

**VIOLA** – Common name Violet. Moist well drained soil in sun or part shade.

**Bowles Black** – Small, almost black flowers all summer. Semi-shaded position. Height 7cm Spread 25cm.

**Irish Molly** – Massed yellow and green flowers. Height 15cm Spread 20cm.

**Molly Sanderson** – Showy black velvety flowers. Height 15cm Spread 20cm. 

**Odorata** – ‘Sweet Violet’ Sweetly scented flowers in various colours. Height 10cm Spread 30cm.

**Rebecca** – Creamy white flowers streaked mauve, every flower is different. Height 10cm Spread 25cm.

**Zoe** – Mauve flowers with yellow face. Height 10cm, spread 25cm.



= RHS award of garden merit

# **ALPINE SINK OR TROUGH GARDENS**

If you have limited space, but wish to grow as many alpines as possible, then containers are the perfect answer. Most alpines will grow happily in containers if they are given suitable drainage.

Many types of containers are available in a variety of materials, stone and terracotta being the most suitable. Old glazed sinks may also be given a new lease of life by coating them with 'hypertufa'. This gives the appearance of hewn stone, a perfect background for alpines.

Hypertufa is made as follows: -

Mix together-	2 parts sand
	2 parts peat
	1 part cement

Add water until the mixture is the consistency of thick porridge.

Score the glazed surface of the sink with a chisel, apply a coat of epoxy glue to provide grip, then coat the sink with the hypertufa mixture. The mixture can be modelled and chipped to give a natural appearance.

## **POSITIONING**

All containers must be raised above ground level to allow for drainage, a few centimetres will suffice, but obviously if they are able to be raised a little higher, one can more easily appreciate the beauty of such dainty plants.

A sunny open site is needed; alpines are not generally troubled by frost or wind, but dislike being under the drip of trees or buildings. They are a good choice for sunny balconies, where wind damage may be a problem with other plants.

## **PREPARATION**

Put the container in its permanent position before filling. Cover the drainage holes with mesh or corks, and add a 4cm layer of moist peat over the drainage material. Mix 2 parts of John Innes No. 2 compost with 1 part grit to fill the container. Make sure the compost is well firmed in. Leave about 4cm between the top of the compost and the edge of the container, to allow for watering.

Once planting is complete, the surface of the compost should be covered with grit. This not only improves the appearance of the finished container, but also provides drainage around the 'neck' of the plants, and prevents them from being soiled by compost during watering. Large stones may also be added to give height, and enhance the appearance of the planting.

# **HOW TO CONSTRUCT A ROCKERY GARDEN**

Rock gardens can be an impressive and attractive addition to the garden, but require careful planning to live up to their potential. Before you begin there are a few things to consider.

Rock plants, also referred to as Alpine plants, for the most part require an open, sunny site away from overhanging trees. A south or west facing position would be ideal.

The soil needs to be free draining – more alpiners are killed by winter wet than by frost. This usually means that grit and compost will need to be added to the existing soil to improve its texture.

Size is also an important consideration, where space is limited, a small raised bed looks far more effective than a tiny rockery.

Since few gardens will possess the perfect south/west slope, artificial slopes or hillocks can be created. A popular method is to create a pond at the same time as the rock garden, using the spoil dug from building the pond. Remember though that simply throwing the soil to one side as you dig will leave you with infertile sub-soil on top. Take the good topsoil when you start and put it to one side.

If you have no-where to dig soil from, topsoil may be purchased from us in 25lt. bags.

When you have decided on your site, clear it of weeds. Preferably by using a glyphosate based weedkiller, which will ensure that no roots will be left to re-grow, roughly dig over the area, adding rubble to create better drainage.

Build up the rocks using the largest pieces as the base. Vary the spacing between the rocks, and keep the strata lines running in the same direction for a natural effect. Always use the same type of rock for the whole of the rockery. When you have the rocks positioned, fill in with topsoil, grit and compost mixed in roughly equal parts. Ram the soil in between the cracks to ensure there are no air pockets.

Continue with the next tier of rocks, lining up the vertical joints rather than staggering them, this gives the impression of vertical fault lines.

The proportional size should be a rise of 30cm for every 60cm width. Angle the rocks back into the slope as you build. Stand back occasionally to check you are achieving the desired effect.

When you have reached the required height it is best to let the soil settle for a week or two before planting up.

When you have finished planting it is beneficial to mulch the soil surface with grit. This improves drainage around the neck of the plant, and prevents soiling of leaves and flowers besides looking attractive.

Choose your plants with care, and plan where you will put the individual plants. The effect should be of a miniature rock garden. Dwarf conifers or deciduous subshrubs may also be used to give height and interest.

**This leaflet is available in  
alternative formats**

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