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# Creating And Planting Alpine Gardens

## Creating and Planting Alpine Gardens

**Rex Murfitt**

How to Build Small Rock Gardens and Work with Alpine Plants



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## Synopsis

This book defines every phase of the process of creating an alpine garden in a relatively small space. In *Creating and Planting Alpine Gardens*, the reader will find author Rex Murfitt's time-tested ways of achieving success with alpines, especially in North American growing conditions. The author begins the book with descriptions of alpine sites and ways of handling rocks and building small gardens. He continues with information on growing alpines in troughs and tufa rock, other containers, raised beds, and alpine houses. His opinionated discourse on suggested plants is a treat and an inspiration. By manipulating soil types, exposures, and rock structures, lowland gardeners can grow gemlike, ground-hugging plants from alpine regions of the world. Alpine plants evolved on high, windy sites with extreme climates and are difficult to grow in locations with hot summers and rich, moist soil. To show their true beauty, even to survive at all, they need excellent drainage, good light, protected rock crevices, and a lean and gritty soil. Growing these elegant plants is challenging and rewarding—ideal for serious gardeners with limited growing space. Author Rex Murfitt trained in his native England and worked there with the Ingwersens and other famous rock gardeners. He is the 2002 recipient of the Carleton R. Worth Award from the North American Rock Garden Society, for distinguished writing about rock gardening. He coauthored *Creating and Planting Garden Troughs* with Joyce Fingerut. Their book received a Book of the Year 2000 award from the American Horticultural Society. Chapters Include: Beginning an Alpine Garden, The Nature of Rocks, Building a Rock Garden, Building Raised Beds, Soil and Topdressing, Alpine Plants in Containers, Rock Gardens Under Glass, Plant Talk, Herbaceous and Semi-Woody Plants, Small Bulbs, Dwarf Trees and Shrubs. From the Author: "In creating the successful small rock garden, we aim to create our own piece of alpine landscape, bringing it down from the vast alpine wilderness and setting it into our own lowland gardens, where it should look as natural as possible." —Rex Murfitt

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Award-winning rock gardener Rex Murfitt presents *Creating And Planting Alpine Gardens: How To Build Small Rock Gardens And Work With Alpine Plants*, a guide to the challenges and rewards of raising Alpine plants, especially in lowland climates. Alpine plants evolved on high, windy sites and do not adapt well to hot summers or moist soil - to survive, they need top-quality drainage, good light, protected rock crevices, and gritty soil. Able to thrive in limited growing space, can be raised in rock gardens, raised beds, containers, or other variations; *Creating And Planting Alpine Garens* walks the reader through the details of what preparations to make, and what pitfalls to watch out for. Black-and-white photographs with some sections of inset color photographs illustrate this hands-on, easy-to-use guide for gardeners at all levels of experience.

If you are interested in designing and building a rock garden using Alpine plants you will find this specialized book a valuable resource. The author covers everything from designing the area, to working with stone effects, building raised beds, preparing the soil, getting the right exposure and selecting the right plants. At the back of the book the author has included an extensive plant guide with detailed descriptions of different types of plants appropriate for an Alpine garden. *Creating and Planting Alpine Gardens* is recommended for anyone interested in this unique style of gardening.

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