

## The Scree Garden

Where a homeowner's property contains mainly sandy soils, a Scree Garden may be a sensible alternative to the traditional, formal or cottage style gardens. Scree gardens are easy to make and once constructed require very little maintenance.

A Scree Garden is a type of garden that is based around plants grown in scree deposits - aggregations of small, loose rock debris. In nature, scree is usually found in mountainous areas where loose rock debris can be found at the base of steep inclines or cliffs, providing a unique growing medium. In creating a scree garden, alpine conditions can be recreated by building an area of gravel on which creeping plants grow. Scree may be located on a slope, occupy a sloping gully or even a relatively flat area if good drainage is provided. Although our newly installed Scree Garden has been created as a demonstration, there may be areas within the City where soil conditions are already favourable for installing such a garden. For sandy-sloped areas, especially in full sun, little would be needed in the way of time and money to upgrade the soil. The addition of a few rockery stones to make flat areas, and suitable drought-tolerant plants are all that is needed to make this alpine meadow.

### How to Create Your Own Scree Garden:

When selecting a site, choose an area that is slightly raised where water drains away, especially in gardens of clay soil. Mark its boundaries and excavate the area to a depth of at least a foot, preferably more.

Continued inside brochure...

**WATERWISE GARDEN:**  
Tranquility Hall  
(corner of Powerline Rd. & Francis St.)

For more information about the Waterwise Demonstration Garden, contact the WATER HOTLINE at 519-759-1511.

*A partnership project by:*



**City of Brantford  
Water Conservation Program**

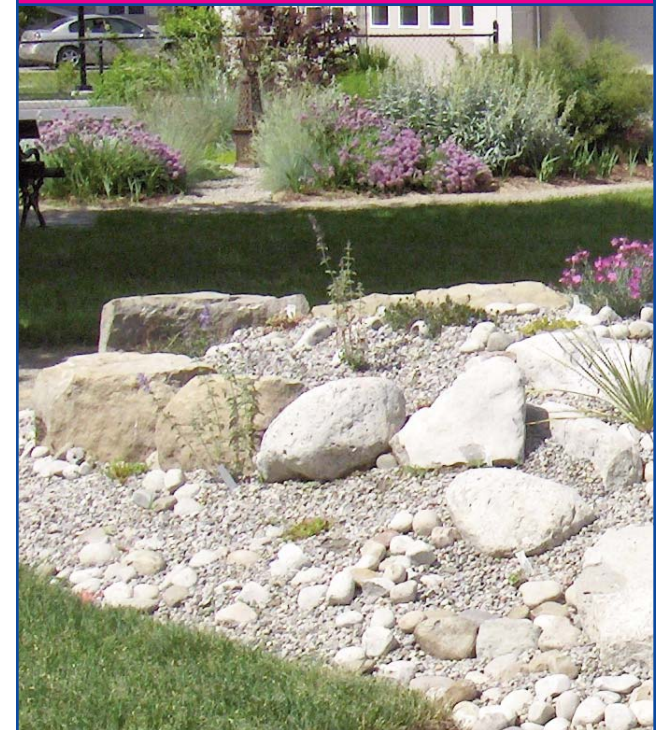


**Brant-Lyn Optimists**

CITY OF  
**BRANTFORD**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

*WATERWISE*  
Demonstration  
Garden Brochure

**SCREE GARDEN**



Because alpine plants require good drainage, fill the area a little more than half way with broken stone, shattered bricks or coarse gravel. This material may be piled a little higher in the spots where you want to add some elevated contours. The next layer should be a mix roughly consisting of one half smaller pieces of crushed stone or gravel, one quarter grit or sand and one quarter soil. A thorough watering at this point will prevent air pockets and wash the soil and smaller pieces down through the larger pieces. After planting, a top dressing of a decorative stone can be added and replenished if desired but is not necessary.

Choose plants that prefer well-drained soil. Recognizing that most alpine plants will not grow in our climate, consider augmenting your plantings to include drought-tolerant

ground cover perennials, low shrubs and dwarf conifers to recreate a mountain moraine appearance. Slow-growing specimens, that take years to cover scree area, are desirable, as rampant species will get out of control. Sedums, which come in a variety of sizes and shapes as well as bloom colour and timing, are ideal plants with very low maintenance requirements. Yuccas, phlox, hens and chicks, and native prickly pears and are also good choices. Include some evergreens such as junipers for year-round color and structure. Creeping or dwarf varieties come in a range of colours and shapes. Small flowering shrubs could also be considered. Once the bed is established, your Scree Garden should require very little care or water, except during times of extreme drought.

**Key**

**Latin Name**

**Common Name**

a	<i>Aquilegia alpina</i> (blue)	Alpine Columbine
cg	<i>Campanula persicifolia</i> 'Grandiflora' Blue	Blue Peach Leaved Bell Flower
ca	<i>Campanula persicifolia</i> 'Alba'	White Peach Leaved Bell Flower
d	<i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i> 'Feuerhexe'	Cheddar Pink(s)
g	<i>Gentiana dahurica</i> (deep blue)	Gentian
jh	<i>Juniperus horizontalis</i> 'Glauca'	Bar Harbor Juniper
jp	<i>Juniperus pro.</i> Nana	Dwarf Japanese Garden Juniper
l	<i>Lithodora diffusa</i> 'Grace Ward'	Blue Lithospermum
n	<i>Nepeta faassenii</i> 'Walker's Low'	Catmint
pf	<i>Penstemon fruticosus</i> 'Purple Haze'	Purple Haze Beard Tongue
pr	<i>Phlox subulata</i> Rosea	Summer Phlox
pw	<i>Phlox subulata</i> White Delight	Creeping Phlox
sn	<i>Salvia nemorosa</i> Marcus	Perennial Sage
sa	<i>Sedum album</i> 'Faro Form' (Baby Tears)	Baby Tears Sedum
sb	<i>Sedum</i> 'Blue Carpet'	Blue Carpet Sedum
sk	<i>Sedum kamschaticum</i> 'variegatum'	Stonecrop
sm	<i>Sedum makinoi</i> 'Ogon'	Japanese Golden Sedum
sr	<i>Sedum rupestre</i> Angelina	Angelina Stonecrop
ss	<i>Sedum sexangulare</i>	Watch Chain Sedum
ssm	<i>Sedum sieboldii</i> Mediovariegatum	Autumn Stonecrop
sf	<i>Sedum forsterianum</i> 'Silver Stone'	Silver Stone Sedum
sd	<i>Sedum spurium</i> 'Dragon's Blood'	Dragon's Blood Sedum
sj	<i>Sedum spurium</i> 'John Creech'	John Creech Sedum
s	<i>Sempervivum</i> variety	Hens and Chicks
yf	<i>Yucca filamentosa</i> 'Adam's Needle'	Adam's Needle Yucca
yg	<i>Yucca glauca</i>	Spanish Bayonet

