

that the sun in winter does not directly hit the soil and there will be no thawing in early spring.

Soil is most important for the pockets where the plants will be set should be especially prepared. Use a mixture of 2 parts good loam, one part sand and small amounts of peat moss.. Do not use boulders but rather stones irregular and having one surface at least a foot across. A few large ones for special placements, a few flat ones for steps and as many well-weathered ones as you can find.

Construction: First dig away the existing top soil. Remove all roots of weeds or grasses. This soil will be used in back fill. Start building with the big rocks and pack soil well around each. Continue the row varying the size and shape of the stones and also breaking the line, so that the garden does not appear to be made up of a number of terraces. All rows need not be continued. Leave a few gaps here and there. Set the rocks so that the main surface slopes inwards and the longer edge is exposed. Usually leave about one third exposed. As you continue with other irregular lines bear in mind the needs of the plants and/or spots that will provide not only a good root hold but also proper drainage. Some plants are best set out in rock gardens during construction. These include very large clumps of moss pinks (*Phlox subulata*) and rock cress (*Arabis alpestris*), dwarf shrubs such as daphne and potentilla, evergreens like *Picea glauca albertiana* "Conica" which gives the effect of a mountain forest. Crevice planting must be placed at the time of construction. Spread their roots on a rock, cover them well with soil, then place a rock over them.

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