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## CONSTRUCTING A ROCK GARDEN

### **Rock:**

Use only one kind of rock  
Use local rock if available  
Avoid using cut stone or quarried blocks if a natural look is desired

### **Construction:**

Start with a firm base  
Work from the bottom, placing stone at its broadest base with a slight tilt to it so the rainwater trickles toward the plant roots  
Make sure that all rocks are stable  
Bury 1/3 to 1/2 of each rock  
Fill in soil firmly so that no air pockets exist  
Work with dry soil so that it does not become compressed

### **Soil:**

Equal parts of good garden loam, sand or gravel and a compost or peat moss  
Greenhouse mixture: peat moss, perlite, and potting soil and pea gravel

### **Mulch:**

Mulch with 1 1/2" fine stone or gravel to give a more natural look, to help control weeds and to keep the soil cool.

### **Plants:**

Refined habit of growth  
Foliage that is attractive all year  
Hardy for planting zone

### **Maintenance:**

Water plants well until established; then water deeply when needed  
Weeding must be done by hand  
In the spring, remove all dead foliage. Spreading plants need to be cut back after flowering.  
Winter covering can be placed over plants after the ground has frozen; this is especially useful where there is not continual snow cover.