



ALPINE LINE

Allegheny Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society

January–February 2015

Message from the Chair, Len Lehman



I am always amazed at how fast time flies as you grow older. It seems like just yesterday that we were listening to Ran Lydell talk on rock layout to enhance showing off dwarf conifers and then a list of choice dwarf conifers to grow. And then Thanksgiving and getting like the turkey – stuffed - and Christmas.

Time to start thinking of the new year and all of its hopes and plans. As is customary, one generally makes some new year's resolutions. I thought it might be fun to share some that I will make (but will probably soon break).

I resolve to:

- Cut down on buying every new plant I see. I will buy a new plant only to replace something dead or to replace some plant with something better. This probably will never be kept!
- Do less weeding by using more mulches. I despise weeding and hate it when I weed and then a week later, weeds are back. I should know better. Mother nature abhors a vacuum and bare soil is a vacuum to be filled with colonizing weeds.
- Do more to aid pollinators. I am now planning to replace many flowers with types that aid bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. I was so depressed last year, despite large clumps of milkweed, I did not see a single Monarch Butterfly. I understand Monarchs are in deep trouble nationwide!
- To use water more efficiently. Jimmy Carter and others have said that the two crises facing mankind in the future will be sources of potable water and sources of food. I intend on using more soaking hoses instead of sprinklers.
- Start more plants from seeds. To see a seed germinate and watch it mature has to be one of the world's great ego boosters. I have an Evodia tree that I started from seed 40 years ago. Every August, when it blooms, my spirit does a massive jolt of joy and pride. And so it is with any seed started and grown to maturity.



Copyright Janet Davis

- Finally . . . spend more time in the garden, just enjoying the life and beauty it provides. It is said that people who garden have less stress in a stress filled world, and I believe it!

I probably have a few others that deal more with things that I just note and promptly relegate then to the forgotten part of the brain.

Meanwhile, I think we have a wonderful program planned for 2015. Karen is doing an excellent job in lining up great speakers and workshops. Tentatively, we will be doing two workshops -- one on seed starting in February and one on making terrariums at our picnic in August.

If you have a chance, please refer to an informative article on terrariums in new issue of *Fine Gardening* (February 2015, issue 161).

Also, through NARGS, we will again have the pleasure of a visiting speaker from Germany, Dieter Zschummel, to speak at our April meeting at the Aviary!

Starting this month, I will begin a fun contest, *Mystery Plant of Month*. A prize will go to the first person to identify the image of a rock garden or alpine plant which I will describe with some basic information. Email me



both correct COMMON and LATIN names. Send your answer to llehman1@verizon.net. It's a different way to highlight and learn about rock garden plants! **See page 3 for more details.**

I hope to see you at our January meeting, where our double duo of Debbie Myers and Carol Przborski will speak on their travels to the NARGS meeting in New Mexico last August.

May the New Year bring you much fulfillment in gardening pleasures.

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Contributors

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Join NARGS

Contact Lyn Lang at lyn9@consolidated.net, or visit
www.nargs.org.

Aviary Garden Dormant but Attractive

A handful of intrepid members made their final maintenance visit to our public rock garden at the aviary on Thursday, December 4. In the chilly and partly sunny morning, we gathered 4 or 5 wheelbarrows of leaves from the garden beds and pathways and added them to a huge



pile from a fall cleanup already accumulated in the adjacent park. After trimming leaves on iris and a few other perennials, our work was finished for 2014.

The garden will be attractive all winter and worth a visit. It was a very eventful year, which included planting many new shrubs and perennials following the unusually severe winter, removing a large tree, a visit by the Garden Writers of America, and unexpectedly rebuilding the shade garden. We look forward to the excitement of hel-leborus blooming and many spring-flowering bulbs emerging along with primulas, trilliums, arisaemas and other currently dormant treasures in the shade garden.


Maintenance visits will resume in March or April when weather permits. Announcements will be sent to all members via e-mail.

~Lyn Lang

Allegheny Chapter Membership Renewals Due

Membership renewals for 2015 are due as of January 1. The annual fees are \$10 for individuals and \$15 for family membership. Annual dues are used to fund workshops, speakers and field trips. To renew, mail your check (payable to **NARGS Allegheny Chapter**) to: **Lyn Lang, 4042 Valleyvue Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044-9501**. Please include the enclosed membership form with your payment if there has been any change in your address, phone number or e-mail.

To maintain your Allegheny Chapter membership, renewals must be received by March 31, 2015.

	2015 MEMBERSHIP	
	NARGS Allegheny Chapter	
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Date _____
Name _____		
Address _____		
Phone _____ E-mail _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual - \$10	<input type="checkbox"/> Family - \$15	
Please make checks payable to: NARGS Allegheny Chapter		
Mail to: Lyn Lang, 4042 Valleyvue Drive, Gibsonia, PA 15044-9501		

Germination Guide



The Ontario Chapter of NARGS has a comprehensive, excellent Seed Germination Guide available on their web site, www.onrockgarden.com. Click on the link at the bottom of the first page to access this guide, which provides recommendations for germination of over 4,600 seeds. For each species, a single germination technique has been chosen from several successful approaches for dry seed stored six months @20C (68 F), except where noted. This data is based primarily on the experience of ORGS members; however, they have relied extensively on methods described by recognized experts on seed germination such as Norman Deno.

Whether you are a novice at growing rock garden plants from seed or a long time participant in the art, this guide will provide you with a lot of valuable information. Also, you might be interested in their Face Book page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/740896525938734/>

Mystery Plant of the Month



The first person to email Len the **correct common name AND Latin or scientific name** will receive a prize at the next meeting. This month's plant is below. Our plant this month belongs to a rather large family of alpine plants that include some grown both for flowers and as vegeta-

bles for eating. It is considered to be one of the most unusual of alpine rock garden plants. Growing 3 to 4 inches in diameter, it is considered by many to be somewhat difficult to grow as it mostly inhabits crevices. A lime lover, it is associated with limestone areas of European Alps. Indented leaves set off the unusual flower which is light pink with deep purple ends. It is considered by many to be the ultimate rock garden plant.

November Meeting Report

The November 16, 2014, meeting of the Allegheny Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society was called to order in Northland Library at 2:15 by Chair Len Lehman. Five guests and 24 members were in attendance.

Vice Chair Karen Schmidt introduced the speaker, Ransom (Ran) Lydell, a member of the American Conifer Society and The American Hosta Society. Ran received his degree in horticulture from Alfred University in 1962. While at Mennie Nursery, he did a series of educational programs for public television. He later developed landscaping for homes and public areas. Along the way, he developed 45 new hosta varieties, 3 new Japanese maple varieties, and he received an award for achievement from Mrs. Nixon. Ran purchased Cooks Nursery in 1979 and opened Eagle Bay Gardens in Dunkirk NY. On his eight acres of gardens is a wide variety of rare plants.



Ran's program, *Using Evergreens in the Rock Garden* touched on construction and approach. He advised before purchasing a plant, you should consider placement, have a theme in mind, determine if there will be enough space and if conditions are right. The slide presentation and accompanying handout focused on plants he recommended. Ran ended his talk by providing tips on pruning.

After a refreshment break, the Business Meeting began with Secretary Dianne Passoth reading the October 11, 2014, minutes. Lyn Lang moved and Chuck McGuire seconded that the minutes be approved as read. The motion unanimously passed.

Patty McGuire read the Treasurer's Report. Fourteen checks were written and six deposits made. Atria's Restaurant sent a

check to refund tax the Club paid at the October Banquet. Bonnie Plato moved and Chuck McGuire seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report as received. The motion carried.

Certificates for the point winners at the May 4 Rock Garden Show should have been presented at the October Banquet. Congratulations to Jim Adams, Trish Abrams and Al Deurbrouck. Nancy Polacheck was also an award winner.

The Club will be repackaging seeds for the NARGS seed exchange December 11, 9-12 at Northland Library. A sign-up sheet for volunteers was passed around.

Email will be sent regarding a maintenance day at the Aviary Rock Garden. We have received such wonderful comments from the City of Pittsburgh about the garden.

New Business: An audit of the books must be completed by the first meeting in January 2015. Three people will be appointed. Amanda Haney volunteered to be a member of the committee.

Beginning with the January *Alpine Line*, a description of a mystery plant will be included in each newsletter. The first person to email Len Lehman the correct answer will win a plant.

Vice Chair Karen Schmidt announced the next two programs. In January Debbie Meyer and Carol Przyborski will share with us their trip to the National Convention in Santa Fe. In February there will be a seed starting workshop.

Members were reminded that dues are owed.

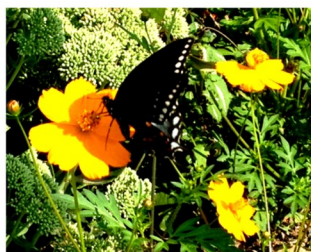
Sandy Ciccone moved and Chuck McGuire seconded that the meeting be adjourned. No vote was necessary.

Allegheny Chapter 2015 Meetings/Events

Next meeting—2:00 Sunday, January 18, at Northland Library

Members I through P are asked to bring snacks. Raffle contributions will be appreciated.

	Time	Speaker	Topic	Location
January 18	2:00	*Debra Meyer and Carol Przyborski	NARGS Annual Meeting in Santa Fe	Northland Library
February 15	2:00	Len Lehman	Seed planting workshop	Northland Library
March 15	1:30	Jill M. Nicolaus	Pocket Gardens	National Aviary
April 19	4:00	Dieter Zschummel	One Year in Our Garden in the Middle of Germany	TBD
May 17	2:00	Garden tour	Lynch's garden and her neighbor's Japanese garden	TBD
June 28	9:30 am	DJ	Breakfast at DJ's and then a hands on Terrarium workshop	DJ's Greenhouse
August 16	11 & 2:00	Picnic		TBD
September 20	2:00	Chuck Gleaves	Gardening for the Fun of It	Northland Library
October 17	5:00	Banquet		TBD
November 15	2:00	TBD		Northland Library
December	9 am		Seed packing workshop	Northland Library



*Two of our members will report on the NARGS annual meeting which they attended Thursday through Saturday, August 28–30, 2014, at the Eldorado Hotel & Spa in Santa Fe, NM. They will share with us what they learned from the programs they attended, their experiences on a guided hike exploring a part of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains as well as their opinion of the private garden tours and botanical garden visits.

Our 2015 schedule is still in the works, but the tentative schedule is listed above. Be sure to confirm details closer to the meeting date. Many thanks to Karen Schmidt for working toward completing a year full of interesting and timely speakers and topics.

*The color of springtime is in the flowers
the color of winter is in the imagination.*

~Terri Guillemets

See It In Print

Would you like to share an interesting and informative article, an idea, or helpful suggestion about gardening? We can publish it in the *Alpine Line*.

Email information to kalcevicl@verizon.net - or mail it to Linda Kalcevic, 772 Village Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. The deadline for contributions is the **20th of the month**.

Thank you for your interest and support of *Alpine Line*.



Daffodil & Host a Society of Western PA (DHSWP)

Saturday, January 3	Winter's Friends Luncheon
Saturday, January 17	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Saturday, February 7	Soup Luncheon & General meeting at Phipps Garden Center in Shadyside
Saturday, March 14	Annual Meeting, state of the DHSWP, Northland Library
Fri – Sat, Mar 20 – 21	Hosta College, Piqua, OH
Thurs – Sun, Apr 9 – 12	National Daffodil Convention, Williamsburg, VA
Saturday, April 11	Daffodil Meeting, Northland Library
Saturday, April 18	Daffodil Show at Shadyside Academy, joint with the Penn State Master Gardener's Symposium & Marketplace. Ice Rink at Shady Side Academy, Fox Chapel
Sunday, May 3	Hosta Grooming Clinic joint with Rock Garden Society Show & sale at Soergels
Saturday, June 6	Hosta Show at Soergels
Thus – Sat, June 18 – 20	National Hosta Convention, Raleigh, NC
Sat – Sun, June 20 – 21	Whispering Pines Hosta Sale
Fri – Sun, July 10 – 12	Great Lakes Region Tailgate, W NY Hosta Society
Saturday, July 18	Picnic & Hosta Auction at DJ's Greenhouse
Saturday, August 8	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
August---TBA	Garden in the Parks Field Day, demonstration gardens at North & South parks
September---TBA	Fall Hosta Forum, Edinboro PA
Saturday, October 10	Pot Luck meeting: Put your Hosta to Sleep/Plant your Daffodils for Spring, Northland Library
Saturday, November 7	End of Season Luncheon, TBA
Saturday November 21	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Grow Your Own Ginger

1. Select a Healthy Root. The best roots (rhizomes) for growing are firm, fleshy and already have green points forming at the end of the 'fingers.' If you prefer, cut the ginger into separate pieces with at least one green tip per segment and allow to dry for a few days.

2. Soak the Roots Overnight in warm water to stimulate growth. Rinse off any chemicals that might be present

3. Set the Roots in Sphagnum Moss (or coconut fiber) so that the top of the root is visible, with the green growing tips pointing up. Use a propagating tray or any container wide enough to accommodate the root. Keep the sphagnum moss lightly moist, but allow it to dry out between waterings.

4. Transplant to a Pot once the first leaves have formed. Use a pot with drainage holes. At this point you should notice a mass of fleshy white roots, which can be gently teased loose from the moss. Hold the root just beneath the edge of the pot, and fill the pot with fresh potting mix so that the fine roots are surrounded and the top of the rhizome is barely visible

5. Caring for Your Ginger is easy, as long as you provide warmth, humidity, moisture and drainage. Summer is the best time to grow ginger because it's already hot and humid, but if you're growing it indoors you can place it in a bright windowsill and occasionally mist it with water.

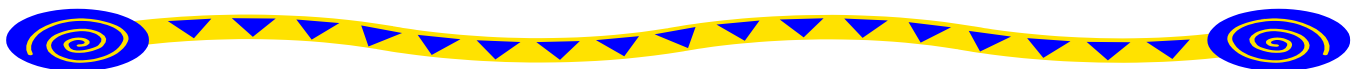


DJ's Greenhouse 2015 Calendar of Events

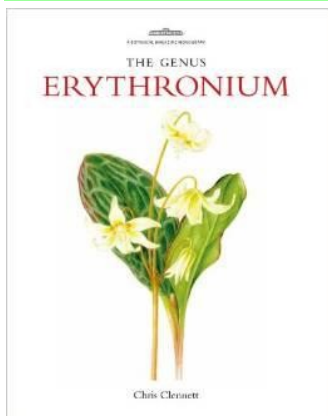
April 15-30	Thousands of spring bulbs in bloom
April 7, 6:30	Create your own Terrarium. \$35. Materials Included
April 9, 6:30	Create your own Fairy Garden. \$35. Materials included
April 15, 9-5:00	Opening Day Stop by for Refreshments
April 25, 10:00	New Plants for 2015. Greenhouse Tour
April 28, 6:30	Vegetable garden series
May 14	Gardening to attract Hummingbirds (Paula Shacklock)
May 19, 6:30	Gardening to attract Butterflies (Donnajean Enyeart)
May 26, 6:30	Vegetable Garden series
May 28, 6:30	Container Class. \$25 Includes material
June 2, 6:30	Create your own Fairy Garden. \$35. Materials included
June 6, 9:00	Breakfast with DJ. Reservations
June 9, 6:30	Create your own Carnivorous plant Terrarium. \$35. All material Included. Reservations
June 12, 6:30	Ladies Night Out. \$15. Reservations
June 13, 10:00	Creative Planting. \$18. Plant a unique Container
June 16, 6:30	Herb Infused Butters. \$5. Pam Brown, Pamela Gardens
June 20	TBA
June 23, 6:30	Vegetable Garden Series
July	Hundreds of Daylilies in Bloom All Month
July 11, 9:00	Breakfast with DJ. Reservations
July 14, 6:30	Create your own Fairy Garden. \$35 Materials Included
July 17, 6-9:00	Evening in the Garden. \$26. Good food, good times, and good music! Reservations.
July 25, 6:00	River Watchers Fund Raiser
July 28, 6:30	Vegetable Garden Series
Aug 8, 9:00	Breakfast with DJ. Reservations
Aug 11, 6:30	Tappas at Sunset. \$23. Small plate with beer & wine. Tasting Chef David Armstrong. Reservations
Aug 18, 6:30	Create Your own fairy Garden. \$35. Materials Included
Aug 22	Customer Appreciation Day: Refreshments and Specials
Aug 25, 6:30	Vegetable Garden Series
Sept 5, 9:00	Breakfast with DJ. Reservations
Sept 8, 6:30	Make your own Terrarium. \$35. Materials included
Sept 22, 6:30	Vegetable Garden series
Sept 26, 10:00	Fall Clean-up Class and Garden Walk. A Guided tour of the Fall Garden. Q & A

Located at 1004 East Lake Road, Transfer PA 16154

Opening April 15. For more information, www.djsgreenhouse.com or 724-92-1230



Curl up With a Gardening Book



The Genus Erythronium, Chris Clennett, Botanical Magazine Monographs, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; 158 pp, hardcover; publisher's price \$85, Amazon price \$76.50 .

This is the first monograph to include the entire genus *Erythronium*, which has species in the Northern Hemisphere of both the Old World and the New. In format it adheres to the

pattern of Kew botanical monographs, with chapters on history of study, phytogeography, morphology, studies of cell and gross structures, palynology (pollen studies), and phylogeny, ecology and conservation, and taxonomy. "Taxonomic treatment" includes the meat of the book, with "species accounts" (pp. 40–119) of 29 species recognized in this work. These are followed by brief treatments of hybridization and cultivation. Back matter includes a glossary of botanical terms, list of abbreviations, and selected bibliography, along with separate indexes of scientific names, common names, and cultivar and hybrid names.

Author Chris Clennett is a horticulturist and botanist, currently manager of the garden at Wakehurst Place in England, a garden associated with Kew; he has been at Wakehurst since 1987. His PhD dissertation focuses on *Erythronium*; he has also written on *Cyclamen*.

In summary, this book is a valuable addition to the libraries of bulb enthusiasts and those especially interested in North American native plants. Those who focus on cultivation might want more detail in that respect, but this is not the purpose of the Kew monographs. I hope more gardeners will be inspired to grow the less common species, which are easily raised from seed. Their flowering is brief, but Chris Clennett's work should remain authoritative well into future years.

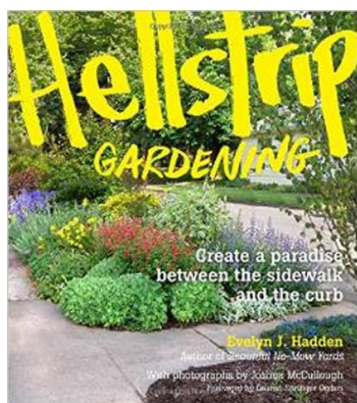
The book is illustrated with 14 color plates of botanical paintings by Christabel King, Pandora Sellars, and Meiko Konishi. You may read entire reviews at <https://www.nargs.org/book-of-the-month/jan-2015>.

Jane McGary gardens near Portland, Oregon, and has specialized in growing bulbs from seed for the past 25 years. She is a former editor of the Rock Garden Quarterly and three NARGS/Timber Press books.

In the winter . . . curl up around a good book and dream away the cold.

~ Ben Aaronovitch

Hellstrip Gardening: Create a Paradise between the Side-



walk and the Curb, Evelyn Hadden, Timber Press (2014); 296pp, softcover; publisher's price: \$24.95, Amazon price: \$18.27

Evelyn Hadden, in her new book, *Hellstrip Gardening*, encourages us to use every space we have, wet, dry, curbside, adjacent to the driveway, whatever. This book is useful and enjoyable. Inspiring descriptions

of the designs and problem solving of creative gardeners get us thinking.

Her garden portraits range from a tiny San Francisco garden to the larger hellstrips of suburban Portland, to gardening at 6000 feet in Colorado. She tackles the challenges and obstacles we may face when gardening adjacent to public space: water run off, pedestrian traffic, city codes, vehicles, and wildlife, among many others. Her suggestions for designing, building and managing curbside gardens are creative and

practical. How about building a low berm to increase drainage and reduce vehicle noise?

Portraits of possible plants for tough places include showy flowers, interesting foliage, four-season structure, and culinary/medicinal uses. Not many plants listed are appropriate for rock gardens, since many she mentions tend to spread, seed and root from fragments after being walked on. She does, however, describe one of my favorites in my rock garden: *Scutellaria suffrutescens*.

This book is not aimed at rock gardeners or specialists, but for all us who want to garden in challenging spaces. It is an enjoyable, valuable discussion of making gardens in tough conditions.

Barbara Strunk has a small urban garden in Portland, Oregon. After converting most of her front yard to a rock garden Barb then turned her hellstrip (see picture) into a crevice garden. She is also Co-Vice President of the Columbia-Willamette Chapter.



Conifers in Containers — Containing conifers for year-round pleasure

As days shorten toward winter, the summer flowers in our patio containers fade away, leaving bare soil and unrealized potential behind. What's a gardener to do? Luckily, elegant, dramatic conifers make an excellent choice for container gardens, with or without familiar, but fleeting flowers. You can count on conifers to provide twelve full months of color.

Dwarf, slow-growing conifers come in an amazing array of exciting colors, snazzy shapes and diverse textures, so gardeners can find superior selections to compliment any style of home. Not only beautiful, conifers are durable plants by nature, with tough, trouble-free constitutions that make them easy to grow. They need little care to maintain their elegant good looks. Most popular selections are cold hardy to USDA Zone 4, and most dwarf conifers grow so slowly that, with appropriate care, they can thrive for years before outgrowing their spaces. Add seasonal flowers to change the scene during the year and to complement the structure of the conifers.

The popularity and availability of dwarf and slow-growing conifers has grown dramatically in recent years. Today, better garden centers offer small conifers that serve as the vertical accent for container arrangements: narrow spires and conical forms in colors that range from blue and green to yellow and white. Gardeners can also choose dense, compact conifers shaped like globes or buns, also in a range of colors, with a fantastic selection of textures. Some of them sport a soft, fluffy feel; others offer sturdy, stiff needles; and still others produce fern-like foliage that curves and twists or delicate needles that weep and drape. The options for dwarf conifers to fill containers are limited only by the imagination of the gardener.

The ABC's of Dwarf Conifer Choices

Abies—True firs come in beautiful, adaptable garden forms with exceptional uniformity and regular branching. Selections include naturally low, prostrate forms that spill over the edges of containers, tiny varieties for troughs, and weeping forms that make outstanding focal points. Stiff, pointed needles contribute rich colors and tight textures to garden scenes, and some of them produce upright ornamental cones in bright colors too. Assorted containers and troughs mix well in the conifer garden.

Chamaecyparis

Choices of the popular, diverse *Chamaecyparis* genus offer a wide range of color, texture, and shape. *Chamaecyparis obtusa*, the False Hinoki Cypress, takes full sun or partial shade and lends sprays or fans of fine evergreen foliage to container scenes. *C. pisifera*, the Threadbranch Cypress claims excellent cold hardiness and adds feathery foliage to the choices.

Juniperus—A wide variety of growth habits and colorful seasonal foliage assures that there is a juniper for nearly every design need. Most junipers are extremely cold hardy and resist

pollution. Selections supply striking colors, superior habits and interesting shapes.

Picea—Spruces also offer variety in size, shape and color, including distinctive choices with blue, green, gray, gold, yellow, silver, white and mixed colors. Some are very small, low, spreading domes; others offer an upright presence or a dramatically prostrate form. All spruces make striking statements and adapt to a wide range of climates.

Pinus—Pines are among the most striking of the ornamental conifers, and they come in a diverse palette of useful forms and ornamental colors with familiar evergreen texture that contributes year-round character and class to containers. Undemanding pines are exceptionally adaptable and require little maintenance. They can develop superior drought tolerance, and once established, require little pruning or fertilizing. Columnar pines add height, but require only a narrow footprint in the design. Fine pyramidal forms provide vertical accent. Low, compact spreading and mounding pines become fabulous groundcovers, and pendulous or weeping trees provide high drama. Dwarf and miniature mugo pine cultivars come in tight, mounding, compact forms, with good adaptability and hardiness.

Tsuga—Hemlocks are graceful, finely textured evergreen trees that are available in a range of shapes and sizes from tiny little buns to larger forms with wispy foliage that seems to dance in a gentle breeze. Most Hemlocks are dark green, but several are available with bright golden yellow or white foliage. The elegant hemlocks like cool, moist northern climates, where they can be grown in sun or partial shade.

Choosing a Container for your dwarf conifers

To get started decorating your house and yard with container gardens, look first to containers you already own. Conifers are very adaptable and don't need a particularly large root run, so bowls, dishes and boxes all work well, as long as they drain well. To create a certain type of look, visit good garden centers to hunt for pots that appeal to you. You might like rustic troughs, which you can fill with an assortment of complementary conifers and succulent plants, especially *sedums* and *sempervivums* (hens & chicks). Trough gardening to create the look of alpine landscapes in miniature dates back hundreds of years and is still popular today. For instance, an upright dwarf Alberta spruce contrasts nicely with a draping yellow juniper and a stout dwarf mugo pine. Together, they create a simple, beautiful scene. (Continued on next page)



Conifers in Containers — Containing conifers for year-round pleasure

Elegant pots and statuesque urns with richly hued glazes make excellent sites for upright conifers with colorful small grasses and trailing conifers draping over the edges. Try adding a clump or two of a small strappy grass, such as black mondo grass or golden or white striped Japanese forest grass. That way, all the elements of design are covered. Even seasonal window boxes filled with fluffy flowers benefit from the structure provided by conifers. Just remember to choose pots that are at least two to three inches larger all round than the nursery pots they come in.

Caring for dwarf Conifers in Containers

Contained conifers do best in a moist, well-drained soil that is high in organic matter. Most local garden centers supply a variety of high quality potting media. Submerge your plant's rootball in water to eliminate air bubbles, and then gently remove the plant from its container without damaging the roots. Plant the conifer carefully in a container at the same depth it has been growing.

In containers, conifers need a regular watering schedule and protection from winter cold extremes. Light, but regular applications of fertilizer for conifers are best. Water regularly throughout the year, and pay special attention to months of active growth and dry weather, even in winter.

Try including dwarf conifers in container arrangements, and you will enjoy the unmatched grace and character of these trouble-free plants for years to come.

Edward Remsrola is highly respected at Iseli Nursery, an early contributor to the American Conifer Society Bulletin, and was a soul mate of the late Jean Iseli.



*In the garden
I tend to drop my thoughts
here and there.
To the flowers
I whisper the secrets I keep
and the hopes I breathe.*

~Dodinsky

Bob Nold's List of the 10 Best Drabas

The drabas are one of the really choice dwarf alpines. These cushion and mat forming gems are must have rock garden plants. There are approximately 300 species, many from our western states. They are mostly yellow flowered spring bloomers that light up the early rock garden. They are relatively easy to grow from seeds.

I do not recommend the white flowering species even though *D. dedeana*, a white flowered draba, is shown in the list below as it is hard to find a good clone.

D. acaulis, *D. bruniifolia*, *D. bryoides*, *D. cappadocica*, *D. dedeana*
D. densifolia, *D. mollissima*, *D. paysonii* var, *treleasii*, *D. polytricha*, *D. Rigida*.

