
ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH421



SAXIFRAGE

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

Thomas M. Blessington, David L. Clement, and Kevin G. Williams
Central Maryland Research and Education Center
University of Maryland

INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Rock foil
- Scientific name: *Saxifraga sp.*
- Native to North and South America
- Grows up to 6'' tall in flower
- Forms rounding rosettes of foliage that are moss-like in appearance
- Rosettes are evergreen in all but the coldest climates
- Flowers form in spring and can be rose, white, pink, or red
- Hardy in zones 5-9

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Requires a cool, partially shaded location
- Needs well-drained media

- As plants grow, top dress with fine soil containing loam, leaf mold, and sand
- If planting in a border or edging, make sure to keep plants raised

PROPAGATION

- Can be propagated by seeds, cuttings, or division
- To divide, lift plants and pull into separate pieces with roots attached
- Replant each individual section
- To propagate from cuttings, remove a few lower leaves and insert them into a pan of sand
- When roots form, transfer cuttings to a small pot and then into the garden

DISORDERS

- Root rot (*Phytophthora sp.*)
 - Leaves and stems turn yellow and wilt
 - Improve drainage and air circulation
 - Remove and destroy infected plants
- Rust (*Puccinia pazschei*)
 - Light yellow spots appear on leaves
 - Rust pustules form on upper and lower leaf surfaces
 - Remove infected foliage

CONSUMER CARE

- Often grown in a rock garden

- Plants fill in between rocks by producing stolons that hold them in place

CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Saxifraga x arendsii*
 - 'Apple Blossom': soft pink flowers
 - 'Flower Carpet': pink flowers, moss green leaves
 - 'White Pixie': white flowers, compact foliage

References

- <http://www.botany.com/saxifraga.html>
- <http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/documents/saxifraga05.pdf>