

garden plan a crevice garden

by Ruth Rogers Clausen



How about perking up that drab Zone 5 to 8 patio or terrace with a sundial and some compact flowering plants? All you have to do is remove a few of the pavers or even chip corners off them, loosen the exposed soil and improve it with the addition of compost or other organic matter, then plant a selection of low-growing, sprawling perennials. We included species with attractive foliage for extended interest. A site that receives good light and sun for five or more hours daily is ideal. Additional water is seldom required after the plants are established; allow them to grow naturally without extra fertilizer. If you like, plant groups of five to seven low-growing bulbs such as crocus, squills, and snowdrops for early spring color; press seeds of compact annuals such as sweet alyssum, portulaca, and nemesia into the cracks for added summer pizzazz. ■

the garden at a glance

- 1. Lady's mantle** (*Alchemilla mollis*) 8 plants planted 9" apart; 12" to 15" tall; softly hairy, rounded scalloped leaves; sprays of chartreuse flowers in late spring.
- 2. Carpathian bellflower** (*Campanula carpatica* 'Blue Clips') 2 plants planted singly; 8" to 12" tall; toothed heart-shaped leaves on trailing stems; masses of 1"-wide upfacing bright purple-blue flowers.
- 3. Cheddar pink** (*Dianthus gratianopolitanus* 'Fire Witch') 2 plants planted singly; 12" tall; rounded balls of semi-evergreen blue-green grassy leaves; lightly fragrant, deep rosy flowers; deadhead for scattered rebloom. Good as cut flowers.
- 4. Myrtle spurge** (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) 2 plants planted singly; 6" to 9" tall; sprawling stems clothed with whorls of blue-green leaves; acid yellow bracts surround inconspicuous flowers in spring; may self-seed.
- 5. Yellow corydalis** (*Corydalis lutea*) 2 plants planted singly; 9" to 12" tall; fern-like leaves; abundant yellow flowers all season long; self-seeds freely.
- 6. Woolly thyme** (*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*) 2 plants planted singly; 3" tall; fragrant mats of tiny gray-green woolly leaves; small spikes of rosy pink flowers in early summer; allow to spread across the pavers; tolerates light foot traffic.

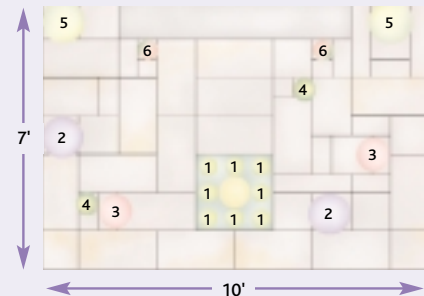


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