

*Erysimum amoenum*

*E. amoenum* (syn *E. capitatum* var. *purshii*) is one of the North American alpine species which grows at around 3,500m in the Rocky Mountains. It was first described in 1906 by Edward Lee Greene and Per Axel Rydberg. It is a good example of the form of the North American species in general and a lovely little plant in its own right. It is a low-growing plant with a rosette, or clump of elongated leaves and mauve flowers, which are borne on short stems emerging from the centre of the clump.



Photo by Bob Skowron, copyright Rocky Mountain Rare Plants

*E. amoenum* is very rare in cultivation in the UK and is only offered for sale occasionally by specialist alpine nurseries. It is also available as seed from some specialist seed companies. However, it grows and flowers perfectly well in the UK, under the right conditions, and there is no reason why it should not be grown more widely as an ornamental alpine