

Alpine Adaptation Champions

Alpine plants have developed special attributes, from root to leaf, that help them survive harsh high-altitude environments. For instance, the roots of alpine species reach deeper underground than those of plants at lower elevations. This improves their stability in loose sand and gravel. Certain species have tiny hairs along their stems and leaves that provide some protection against dry conditions and cold temperatures. Other plants achieve the same protection by having leaves with a small surface area. Many have thick leaves that help them retain moisture.