

Appendix: How to create a simple wildlife friendly rockery

A rockery has many advantages. The rocks help to fill out the area and look well even in Winter. The rocks are also ‘basking locations’ for butterflies in summer that need resting places when flying in search of food. The rocks are also winter hibernations sites for frogs, common lizard and insects that burrow down under rocks for Winter.



A rockery designed by M. Stack

Examples of plants suited to rockeries include:

• Cosmos	• Sweet William
• Verbena	• Phlox
• Lavender	• Sea Kale
• Heather	• Sea Campion
• Thrift	• Sea Holly
• Saxifrage	• Pot Marigold
• Nepeta	• Winter Aconite
• Wallflowers	• Bellflower
• Candytuft	• Alkanet
• Sweet Alyssum	• Lamium
• Forget me Not	• Stonecrop
• Pheasant’s Grass	• Rudbeckia
• <u>Michelmas Daisy</u>	

If the rockery is built on a sloped soil base, it is very beneficial to mining Solitary Bees. Our most common bee type in Ireland is the Solitary Bee family. There are 77 Solitary Bee species in Ireland compared to 22 Bumblebee species. One third of our bees are facing extinction due to lack of food and habitat. Solitary bees live on their own, not in hives, hence their name. Solitary mining bees mine into the soil in south and east facing soil banks to lay their eggs in early Summer. These overwinter in the soil over the winter and emerge in Spring. There must be a food source within 300m of Solitary Bees due to their tiny size. Thus a sloped soil rockery is excellent for solitary mining bees for nesting and for food.