

Examples of coastal plants are:

- Sea Campion (*Silene uniflora*) (White, perennial, summer flowering, bee friendly, shingle and sand dunes)
- Sea Thrift (*Armeria maritima*) (pink, coastal, pollinator friendly, native Irish, sandy, dry, exposed)
- Sea Fleabane (*Erigeron glaucus*) (low growing carpeting perennial, evergreen, lilac pink flowers Summer, full sun).
- Sea Lavender (*Limonium bellidifolium*) (compact, woody, evergreen perennial, tiny purple and white flowers in summer, sand or soil).
- Sea Holly (*Eryngium maritimum*) (blue, summertime, native Irish, pollinator friendly, shingle or sandy)
- Stone Crop (*Sedum* sp.) (evergreen mat forming perennial, colours vary, full sun)
- Sea Kale (*Crambe maritima*) (Near Threatened Species in Ireland's Red List (white flowers May-July, native Irish, pollinator friendly, shingle and sandy)
- Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis antheraria*) (Preferred food of Large Carder Bee, yellow, sandy, native Irish)
- Stonecrop (*Sedum* spp.) (white flowers summer, coastal/harsh environments, sandy, pollinator friendly).
- Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) (could be considered coastal, is bee friendly, found on nearby Howth Head)



Sea thrift



Kidney vetch



Sea Holly



Sea Campion



Sea Kale



Sea Lavender



Sea fleabane



Stonecrop (not blooming and in bloom)

If a sand dune look is required, some of the following look like sea grasses:



Japanese Sedge (*Carex marrowei*) Ponytail grass (*Stipa tenuissima*)

Morning light (*Miscanthus sinensis*)

Plant above plants and grasses on gravel that replicates a 'shingle' habitat.

Some images of coastal themed gardens:



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.