

❖ Question Drawer. ❖

How to Make a Rockery.

Answer to H. H. Bradfield, Esq., by Mr. John Craig, of Ottawa.

The ground space at the disposal of your correspondent is so limited that it will be quite difficult to construct a rockery which will be effective without being formal. Having a space 5x18 feet, and with a tree in the centre of it, the ends only of this become available for constructing a rockery.

Rockeries are built by throwing up a mound of good, friable earth, to the height and size which the situation calls for. In this case it would necessarily need to be small. Upon this mound the stones are imbedded, leaving spaces between them large enough to receive roots of plants or flower-pots, as the case may be. The openings between the stones should be so arranged as to admit of water without allowing the soil to wash away. Larger spaces should be left at the top for some goodly sized plants which are designed to crown the mass, such as ferns.

If water pipes can be run through the centre with a tap at the top, screened by plants, so that a liberal amount of water can be supplied as often as desired, it will add much to the ease with which the plants may be retained in a healthy and vigorous condition.

I am furnished with the following list of plants suitable for such work, or for shady positions, by Mr. Fletcher, Botanist to the Experimental Farms at Ottawa.

Plants Suitable for Growing on a Rock Work and in Shady Positions.—*Aquilegia Canadensis*, *Saxifraga Virginiensis*, *Sedum acre*, *Arctostaphylos uva ursi*, *Linnaea borealis*, *Mimulus moschatus* (musk), Ferns—natives. *Begonias*, *Crassulas* and *Sedums*, English violets, lily of the valley, periwinkle (*vinca*) variegated, *Lysimachia nummularia*, *tradescantia*, *Linaria cymbalaria*, bulbs in pots.

Climbers for Back Ground.—*Adlumia cirrhosa*, *apios tuberosa*, *amphicarpia monoica* (this delicate creeper will also do for the front).

Bingham and Beauty of Naples Plums.

585. SIR.—Would you kindly give me an idea of the respective merits of Bingham and Beauty of Naples plums. Also, is there an apple by name of Indian Rareripe? Is it known by any other name?

DAVID A. BLACKADDER, Windsor, Ont.

Reply by G. W. Chin, Winona, Ont.

I would recommend the planting of the Bingham as a worthy plum for the orchard, but would not plant Beauty of Naples, except for trial, as it does not succeed in all soils or parts of the country. We have so many choice varieties of plums that it is hardly necessary to try all the varieties catalogued, unless as sample trees, an experiment which is well enough for those who can afford it.