

Niagara College Greenhouse & Nursery Success Sheet No. 117

Limestone Rocks in the Landscape

Rock is consolidated or unconsolidated mineral matter. Limestone is sedimentary rock formed from the skeletons and shells of ocean organisms that consist chiefly of calcium carbonate.

Rocks are the most natural elements to use in landscaping. Unlike other materials, such as wood or metal, which can enhance the appearance of the landscape, rocks are perfectly “at home” in any outdoor environment.

Retaining Walls

Limestone slabs are an effective way to retain earth on a property with various elevations. Natural retaining-wall slabs are offered in 10 to 30 inches and larger in any dimension. They can provide the perfect foundation for a pool, garden or retaining-wall project. Combined with gardens and rockeries, they provide a natural, rugged look to your landscape.

Because these slabs can be purchased in fairly even dimensions, they are perfect for stacking as retaining walls and provide a beautiful, natural way to retain large-grade variations without future erosion problems.

Flagstone and Steps

Steps often require the hard-to-find large slabs of limestone in the range of 6 to 12 inches thick. Dimensions can be customized to any required size. They can be integrated into retaining walls and rockeries to give a natural, appealing look that could lead to another area of landscape.

Flagstones are regularly even in thickness (similar to unit pavers) and random in size, so that your project ends up looking professionally finished and natural. Large flagstones can be customized to your specific size requirements and shipped upon request.

Rockeries

Unique round-edged, weathered rockery stones and moss-covered, weathered limestone rocks can be the focal point of your garden or landscape project. These rocks can be used to enhance your project to give your landscaping a natural, flowing look, just as you would see in the wilderness.

Many of these rocks are embedded with fossils and usually have natural crevices, perfect for plantings of hens and chickens and sedum.

Waterfalls

If you are building a poolside paradise or a natural stream or river bed as part of your landscape, nothing looks better than a cascading waterfall. Waterfall rocks need full, rounded edges to look realistic and need to be fairly large. Similar to the retaining walls, these rocks need even dimensions to be stacked.

These rocks are sometimes incorporated into pool construction, to give the edges a natural look, and can even be used for diving rocks.

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