

Sedum spectabile - Showy Stonecrop (*Crassulaceae*)

Sedum spectabile grows in sun or light shade and blooms in late summer when other perennials have long since finished. The flower color of Showy Stonecrop depends on the cultivar grown. The bluish or grayish-green foliage is attractive early in the summer. It should be planted in a well-drained soil.

FEATURES

Form

- perennial
- to 2' tall x 1' wide
- upright columnar
- forms clumps



Culture

- full sun to partial shade
- performs best in full sun in moist, well-drained soils, but it is extremely urban tolerant especially of heat and drought; however, it is not tolerant of wet or poorly drained soils
- propagated primarily by rooted stem cuttings
- Orpine Family, with no diseases or pests of significance
- commonly available in containers

Foliage

- opposite to spiraled, but also alternate in some hybrids
- 3" long
- elliptical with crenate margins
- light green-gray or bluish
- attractive

Flowers

- terminal inflorescences on each stem
- up to 6" in diameter
- resemble broccoli (dense, flat cymes)
- Aug.-Sept.
- heads slowly changing from a light green to pink, red, or white coloration (depending on the cultivar) during July-Aug.

Fruits

- fruiting heads brown
- persistent (along with the entire plant) throughout winter and ornamental, especially against a snowy

background

Twigs

- upright, unbranched green stems

USAGE

Function

- short vertical focal point throughout the summer, autumn and winter

Texture

- medium to bold texture
- thick density

Assets

- thick light green-gray foliage
- upright multi-stemmed habit
- long flowering period
- winter effect

Liabilities

- must prune dead tops to the ground in late winter
- attracts bees when in flower (could be an asset)

Habitat

- Zones 4 to 9
- Native to China, Korea

SELECTIONS

Variants

There are various cultivars some probably of hybrid origin. The following list contains both cultivars and hybrids.

- Sedum* 'Herbstfreude' ('Autumn Joy') - Late summer or autumn, reddish to bronze flowers. One of the most commonly grown perennials. Very adaptable. "Clump-forming, bushy, deciduous perennial with unbranched, glaucous, mid-green stems bearing alternate, oblong to obovate, toothed, glaucous, dark green leaves, to 5" long. In early autumn, produces flat corymbs, to 8" across, of star-shaped flowers, 0.25" across, deep pink at first, then turning pinkish bronze to eventually copper-red." (AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants)
- Sedum spectabile* 'Brilliant' - Rose colored flowers, the plant may be used in light shade.
- Sedum spectabile* 'Meteor' - Bright pink flowers.
- Sedum spectabile* 'Stardust' - Creamy white flowers.
- Sedum alboroseum* 'Mediovariegatum' ('Variegatum') - The foliage is variegated with white and the flowers are pink.
- Sedum* 'Rosy Glow' - Red flowers combined with bluish-green foliage.
- Sedum* 'Vera Jameson' - Red foliage is combined with pink flowers.