

Post/News Lawn & Garden Topics
2007 Featured Perennials
Stonecrop (*Sedum* sp.)

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Stonecrop - *Sedum* sp.

Sedums are a tough-as-nails perennial that offer many seasons of interest. Coming in many shapes, sizes, colors, and textures, sedums can vary from tall and upright to low growing and spreading. These hardy succulents have thick fleshy leaves making them ideal for the water conscious garden. Flowering can range from spring to late fall, and attracts bees and butterflies to your yard. As an added bonus they are rabbit and deer resistant.

Creeping varieties grow to form low spreading mats, great for covering slopes or as a groundcover in perennial beds. One particular variety that has gained substantial popularity is Angelina Sedum (*Sedum rupestre* 'Angelina'). Discovered in Croatia, this exciting new introduction is a hardy Zone 4-11 fast growing groundcover that reaches 3-6" tall and a spread of 18". The plant displays bright gold foliage throughout the spring and summer months, accompanied by yellow flowers in the spring. During fall and winter its tips turn a dramatic bronzy-orange adding winter appeal. Plant along a rock wall or in a container to enjoy its beautiful cascading habit.

Upright varieties form substantial clumps with stout upright stems holding massive flower heads that start their development in summer and explode with color in fall. They are excellent as cut flowers or dried flowers, and if left on the plant, provide winter interest. Sedum 'Purple Emperor' is a new variety introduced from England in 2002, hardy from Zone 4-9, reaching a height of 12-15" tall and a spread of 24". This plant is sure to capture your attention with it's rich dark purple foliage appearing almost black, and clusters of dusty pink flowers blooming summer well into late fall. Best when planted in masses or groups for an added dramatic effect.

With tremendous importance being placed on water conservation, and an easy low maintenance yard, Sedums are definitely worthwhile perennials providing something for every gardener.



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