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## Spectacular Sedums

It's getting late in the gardening season - early and mid-season bloomers are going, going...soon to be gone...but you're not ready for the blooms to end - enter the late blooming group of perennials known as Sedums or stonecrops. No garden should be without a few of these easygoing but hardworking plants.



The genus *Sedum* is comprised of approximately 400 succulent species native to primarily rocky, mountainous regions of the Northern Hemisphere.

Sedums are a great choice for Southwest gardens as they grow best in poor to average, well-drained soil and need only little to moderate water once established. They prefer full sun to light shade.

The appeal of Sedums lies not just in the blooms but in their attractive foliage. The fleshy, succulent foliage ranges from blue-green, to gray-green, to burgundy. The foliage of many groundcover sedums remains attractive all year.

Sedums are particularly striking with ornamental grasses, and other late-blooming perennials such as Black-eyed Susan, Coneflower, and Asters.

There are varieties of Sedums for every part of the garden:

### **Upright**

Upright sedums have large, juicy leaves that give these plants a strong presence in the garden. The dome-shaped flower heads appear in mid-late summer in shades of white or pink but as fall approaches the color deepens and warms. Blooms are visited by butterflies and bees who appreciate the late-season nectar and birds enjoy the seeds if you let the seed heads stand over winter.



*S. spectabile* 'Brilliant' has large, bright pink flowers and light green foliage; grows 18 – 24" tall x 18" wide.

'Autumn Delight' (a sport of 'Autumn Joy'), has striking chartreuse leaves with thin blue-green margin; cream-colored buds open to light pink flowers; grows 18 – 24" tall x 22 – 24" wide.

'Autumn Joy' is a well-loved perennial; large deep rose flower clusters deepen to bronze as they age; light green foliage; grows to 24" tall x 18 – 24" wide.

### **Trailing and Mounding:**

This group of sedums is excellent for the front of a border, tucked between rocks or into a rock wall, and even in containers.

'Red Cauli' is a real eye-catcher: an arching mound of gray-green leaves that flush purple as the season progresses; clusters of small pink buds open to pink flowers that age to red and are followed by maroon seed heads; grows 14 -18" tall x 18" wide.

'Vera Jameson' sports spreading purplish stems, mahogany-purple leaves that deepen in color in fall, and rose-pink flowers; grows 6 – 8" tall x 12 -18" wide.



### **Groundcover:**

Low-growing, spreading, and evergreen- what more would you want from a groundcover?

'Coral Carpet' has small, almost needle-like foliage that emerges coral-colored, matures to green, then turns reddish-bronze in winter; small white to pale pink flowers are held above the foliage; grows 3 – 6" tall and spreads indefinitely.

'Coral Reef' has green, red-edged leaves carried in tight rosettes and tiny, star-shaped white to pink flowers that are held on stems 4 – 5" above the foliage; foliage turns reddish bronze in winter; grows 3 – 6" tall and spreads indefinitely.

'Bronze Carpet' has foliage tightly cupped foliage that emerges bronze, changes to green as it matures, finally turn reddish bronze in winter; small white to pale pink flowers are held above the mass of foliage; grows 3 – 6" tall and spreads indefinitely.

