


# groundcover SEDUM

These water-wise perennials form a colorful carpet in the garden and flourish even in tough conditions.

 Many sedum leaves change color through the seasons, from bright green in summer to reddish hues in fall.

**t**he world of sedum is vast, with hundreds of varieties in different sizes and colors. But the short groundcover versions of this succulent-leaved plant are particularly good problem-solvers in the garden. Quick spreaders, they can be used to fill bare spots in a flowerbed (suppressing weeds in the process). They also work well as trailers along the edge of a pot or in a rock garden, where they wind gracefully around the stones. Wherever you plant them, these hardy, drought-tolerant plants will ask very little of you.

#### SEDUM FAVORITES

- 1** 'Lidakense' Pink flowers open in fall.
- 2** 'Vera Jameson' On the taller side, it reaches 8–12 inches.
- 3** 'Atlantis' Yellow flowers bloom in summer.
- 4** 'Tricolor' A pretty container edger, with frilly leaves.
- 5** 'Firecracker' Spreads especially quickly.
- 6** 'Little Miss Sunshine' Abundant yellow flowers in summer.
- 7** 'Blue Spruce' Can grow in part shade.

### Sedum 411

What you should know before you plant.



FULL SUN



LIGHT TO MODERATE



WELL-DRAINING SOIL



4"–12" TALL



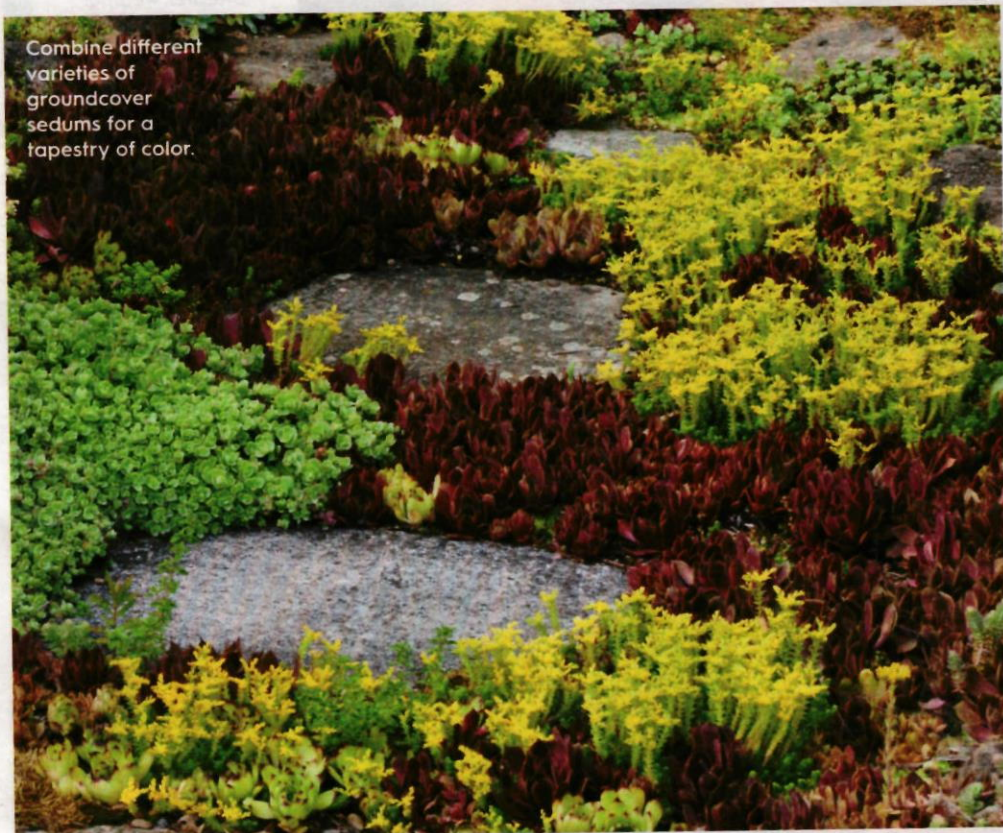
ZONES 3–9



**[POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY]**

**LATE-SEASON HEROES** SEDUM FLOWERS ARE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF POLLEN AND NECTAR, ESPECIALLY FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES IN FALL.

Combine different varieties of groundcover sedums for a tapestry of color.

**■ PLANTING**

Plant sedums in spring, summer, or early fall to allow them time to settle into the garden before winter. They thrive in lean, gravelly soil in a rock garden and on sunny slopes. Set plants in the ground with their crowns at soil level, spreading the roots gently. Firm the soil around them and water well. Continue watering new plants a couple of times a week for the first few weeks to encourage root growth. Poke

your finger in the soil: If it's moist, wait to water. Stop watering after frost. Fertilizer isn't necessary.

**■ MULCH**

Apply an organic mulch (compost or crushed autumn leaves) around but not touching the stems of plants to help conserve soil moisture and keep soil temperature even. Brent Horvath, a sedum hybridizer and the author of *The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums*, recommends

topdressing around plants with a 1-inch layer of sharp gravel (available at garden shops). It looks neat and improves drainage as it is incorporated into the soil.

**■ WINTER CARE**

The flower clusters of groundcover sedums disappear as plants continue to grow. If you like, clip off the spent clusters with hand clippers. In spring, new growth emerges at soil level around deciduous sedums, such as 'Lidakense'. Evergreen

sedums, such as 'Blue Spruce', produce fresh leaves along their stems.

**■ PESTS AND PROBLEMS**

In the right location and with proper drainage, sedums are practically care-free plants. Avoid overwatering. Deer are not likely to damage plants, but if they do eat leaves or flowers, the plants will survive.

**■ SOURCES**  
[bluestoneperennials.com](http://bluestoneperennials.com), [witsendgardens.com](http://witsendgardens.com) ■

**PLANT PARTNERS**

To play up their texture and forms, pair sedums with perennial flowers and ornamental grasses.

**BLUE FESCUE**

Ornamental grasses create a feathery backdrop for sedums' more structured shapes.

**CATMINT**

The silver foliage and soft purple flowers of catmint contrast nicely with a ribbon of sedum.

**DIANTHUS**

Try a bright pink dianthus like 'Firewitch' with green sedum; it will spread alongside it.