

# Sedums

Very easy to grow, drought tolerant, and hardy in most areas of the country (zones 3 - 9), sedums are long-time favorites. The most common varieties are 'Autumn Joy' and 'Autumn Fire'. Their green leaves and deep rose flowers are a common sight in many gardens each autumn - along with the butterflies which enjoy the open flower clusters.



The leaves of taller varieties of sedum come in more than just green: some are variegated like 'Samuel Oliphant' while others are a dark blue-purple such as 'Maestro'.



While the taller varieties range from 24" - 30" in height, much shorter varieties like *S. caudicola* and *S. sieboldii* top out around 2" and 6" - 10", respectively.



There are also sedum varieties that bloom mid-summer such as the very low growing groundcover types and *S. kamtschaticum* var. *ellacombeanum* which blooms yellow.



No matter their stature, all sedums have fleshy leaves which store water, making the plants very drought tolerant. Nearly all sedums prefer full sun to light shade. The groundcover types are the only ones that can handle shadier conditions. All sedums do best with well-draining, average to poor soil - a richer soil actually causes poor, straggly growth. As a final benefit, birds enjoy the seeds throughout the late fall and winter, so leave the seed stalks on the plants until you see new growth in the spring.