HOMESTEAD GARDENS
Plant FINDER
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Purple Emperor Stonecrop

Sedum 'Purple Emperor'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 2b

Other Names: Autumn Stonecrop, Showy Stonecrop

Description:

An exceptional perennial featuring rich reddish-purple foliage all season long and showy rose-pink flowers that emerge from deep purple buds in late summer; incredibly showy in a mass planting, prefers poor soils and dry conditions

Ornamental Features

Purple Emperor Stonecrop has masses of beautiful clusters of pink flowers at the ends of the stems from late summer to late fall, which emerge from distinctive dark red flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive large succulent round leaves emerge dark green in spring, turning burgundy in color throughout the season. The deep purple stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Purple Emperor Stonecrop is a dense herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.



Purple Emperor Stonecrop flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Purple Emperor Stonecrop in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Purple Emperor Stonecrop is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting



Purple Emperor Stonecrop
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Purple Emperor Stonecrop will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Purple Emperor Stonecrop is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.