



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Sedum x 'Autumn Joy'*¹

Edward F. Gilman, Terry Delvalle²

Introduction

Sedum x 'Autumn Joy' is probably a cross between *telephium* and *spectabilis* (Fig. 1). It has been deemed by some as one of the best perennials available to the gardener. This 1 1/2- to 3-foot-tall, clumping plant has fleshy, gray-green leaves that are oblong to ovate-oblong in shape. These toothed leaves reach a length of 2 to 3 inches, with a width that is half as wide. Dense clusters of pink terminal flowers emerge in late summer. These pink flowers will age to a coppery pink and then to a rust color in the fall.

General Information

Scientific name: *Sedum x 'Autumn Joy'*

Pronunciation: SEE-dum

Common name(s): 'Autumn Joy' Sedum

Family: *Crassulaceae*

Plant type: herbaceous

USDA hardiness zones: 5 through 9 (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: year round

Planting month for zone 8: year round

Planting month for zone 9: year round

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: cut flowers; accent; border; edging; mass planting; attracts butterflies

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out of the region to find the plant

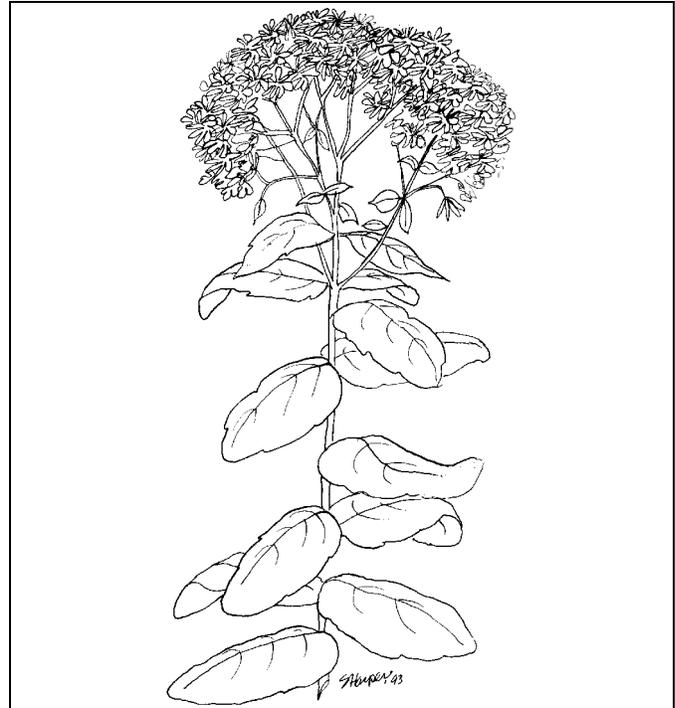


Figure 1. 'Autumn Joy' Sedum.

Description

Height: 1 to 1.5 feet

Spread: 2 to 3 feet

Plant habit: round

Plant density: dense

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Terry Delvalle, extension agent, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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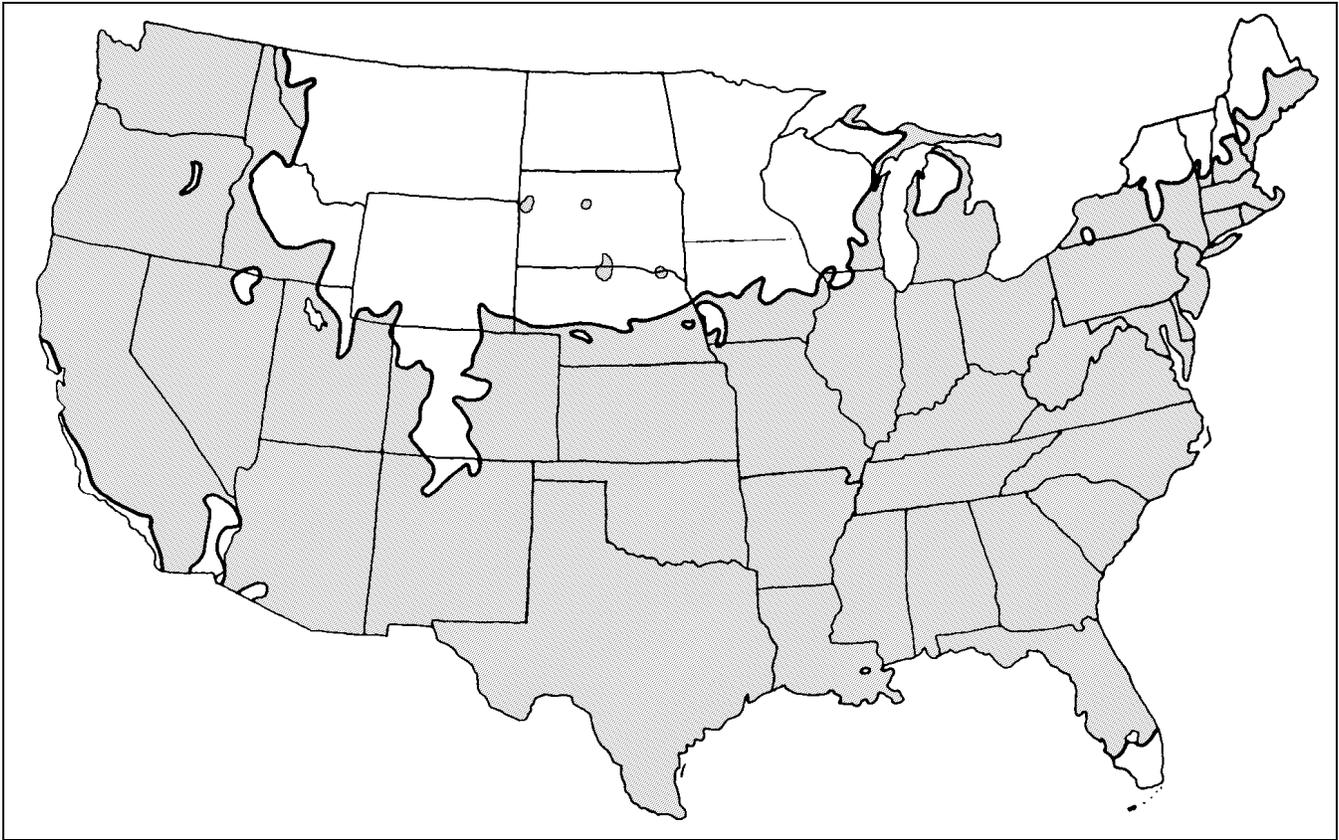


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite
Leaf type: simple
Leaf margin: dentate
Leaf shape: oblanceolate; obovate
Leaf venation: pinnate
Leaf type and persistence: deciduous
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches
Leaf color: green
Fall color: no fall color change
Fall characteristic: not showy

Flower

Flower color: pink
Flower characteristic: summer flowering; fall flowering

Fruit

Fruit shape: unknown
Fruit length: unknown
Fruit cover: unknown
Fruit color: unknown
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
Current year stem/twig color: not applicable
Current year stem/twig thickness:

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun
Soil tolerances: acidic; slightly alkaline; sand; loam; clay;
Drought tolerance: high
Soil salt tolerances: unknown
Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable
Winter interest: no special winter interest
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

Use and Management

They attract bees and butterflies when planted in the garden, and are also great for dried flower arrangements. *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' presents a nice massed display and is good in rock gardens. It can be used to border a path or walkway.

Sedum x 'Autumn Joy' will grow best in full sun and in any soil that is well-drained. It will tolerate drought and salt. This perennial will be frozen to the ground in the winter but regrowth should occur from the roots. It does not spread in the garden or invade surrounding landscapes.

There are many *Sedum* species adapted to southern landscapes. Another one of interest is *Sedum* acre (Golden-Carpet/Gold Moss).

This perennial is propagated by division or cuttings.

Pests and Diseases

No pests or diseases are of major concern.