



Cooperative Extension Service
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

*Sedum x 'Autumn Joy'*¹

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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

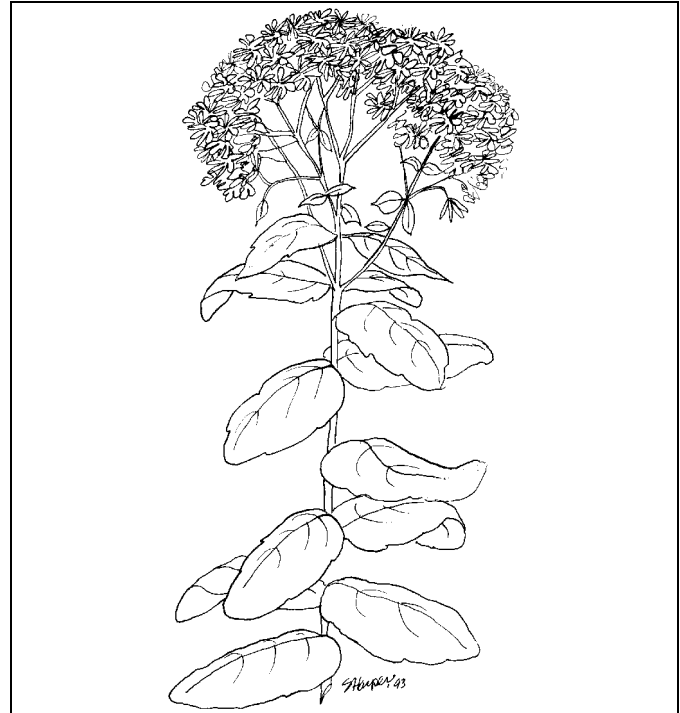


Figure 1. 'Autumn Joy' Sedum.

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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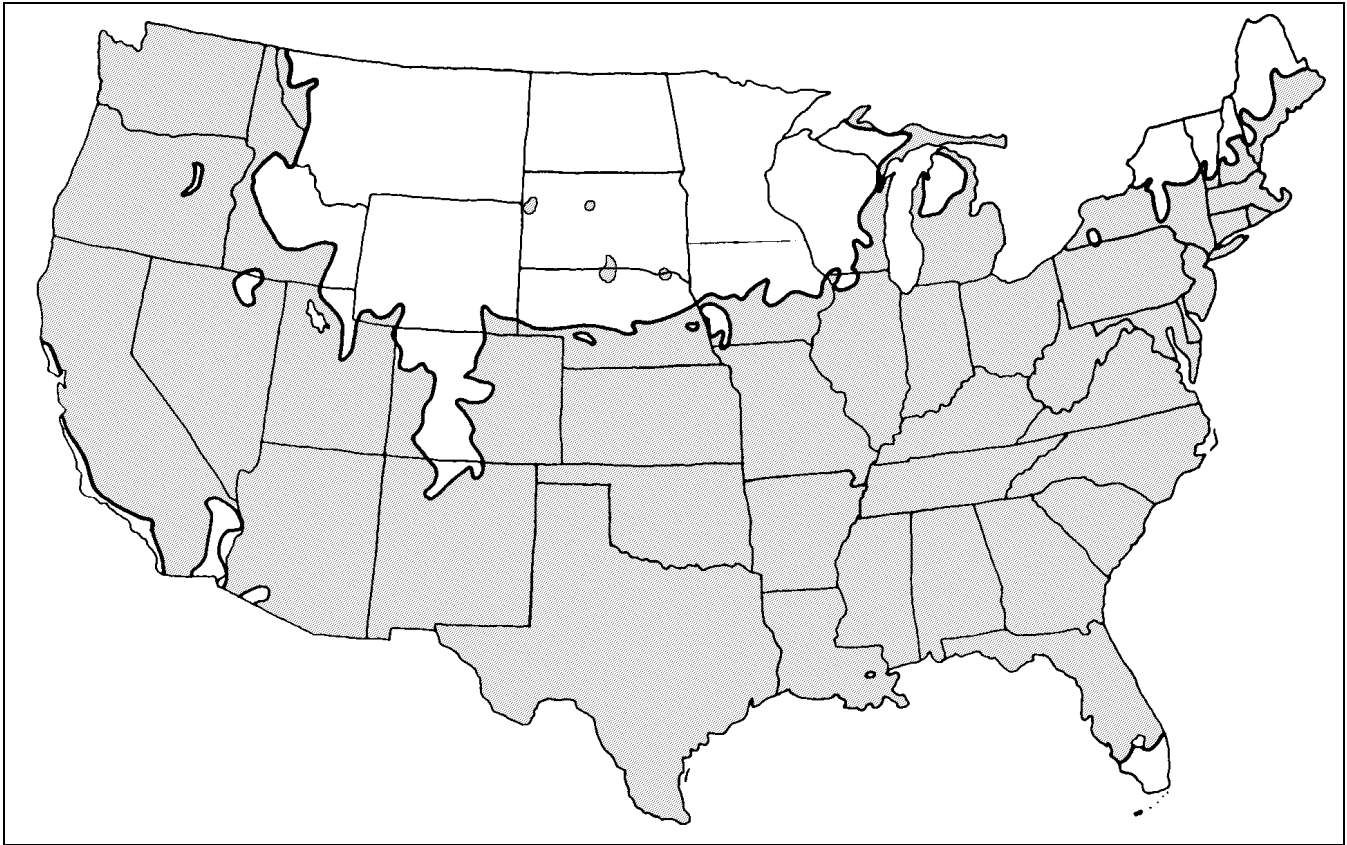


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

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.