Spreading Stonecrop

Sedum divergens

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 6 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Other Names: Pacific Stonecrop, Old Man's Bones Stonecrop

Description:

A spreading variety with bright yellow flowers held atop round foliage that is light green and red; a drought-tolerant plant useful for hot sunny sites; a great choice for containers, edging and rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Spreading Stonecrop is covered in stunning clusters of yellow star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from early to mid summer. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive succulent round leaves remain lime green in colour with showy cherry red variegation throughout the year. The red stems are very colorful and add to the overall interest of the plant.

Landscape Attributes

Spreading Stonecrop is a dense herbaceous evergreen perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.



Spreading Stonecrop
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Spreading Stonecrop foliage
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.

Spreading Stonecrop is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Spreading Stonecrop will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an evegreen perennial, this plant will typically keep its form and foliage year-round.

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 species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Spreading Stonecrop is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.