Elsie's Gold Stonecrop

Sedum 'Elsie's Gold'



Elsie's Gold Stonecrop in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 inches

Spread: 20 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3

Other Names: Autumn Stonecrop, Showy Stonecrop

Description:

This upright variety produces large, oval blue-green and gold variegated foliage; deep pink blooms crown each plant in late summer; a drought-tolerant perennial that does best in poor soils, an excellent choice for late summer color in the garden border



Elsie's Gold Stonecrop foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Elsie's Gold Stonecrop has masses of beautiful clusters of hot pink flowers at the ends of the stems from late summer to mid fall, which emerge from distinctive shell pink flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive succulent oval leaves remain bluish-green in color with showy gold variegation and tinges of creamy white throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Elsie's Gold Stonecrop is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading 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.

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.

Elsie's Gold Stonecrop is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Elsie's Gold Stonecrop will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 20 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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.

Elsie's Gold Stonecrop is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.