Purple Aeonium

Aeonium arboreum 'var. atropurpureum'

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8

Other Names: Purple Stonecrop, Black Tree Aeonium

Description:

A gorgeous purple succulent that is known for shorter branching and displays lovely reddish purple rosettes; has a full form and is a vigorous grower perfect for rock gardens, accenting, or containers

Ornamental Features

Purple Aeonium has clusters of yellow star-shaped flowers from early to late summer. Its attractive succulent oval compound leaves emerge purple in spring, turning deep purple in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Purple Aeonium 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 usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Purple Aeonium is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Purple Aeonium
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Purple Aeonium will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 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 prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in 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 type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. 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 Aeonium 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.