

AUGUST 2015

The GREENLEAF

NEWSLETTER



**HOURS: MON - SAT 8:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.
SUN 10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M**

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“We Are Sedums ... and we like it when it’s

HOT!”

By Jeff McCauley



Relatively easy to take care of and with a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and textures to choose from, it’s no wonder succulent Sedums have been the talk of the town for the last 2-3 years.

They like it on the dry side with well-drained soil. Some Sedums are more winter hardy than others, but they all like the insulation of warm soils. Our native soils usually don’t drain well enough to keep Sedums happy, so they need to be planted in a soil mix with expanded shale (or just expanded shale by itself).

Sedums are all about the presentation. Plant selection, type of planting container, and display location are all important components for an eye-catching Sedum garden. I have seen them planted in distressed coffee cans, old pallets, hand-honed rock planters from the Big Bend area, and pieces of driftwood. There are so many different kinds of Sedums. Each has their own uniqueness, allowing you to combine different textures as well as different growth habits, such as upright or trailing.

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AUGUST 2015 TIMELY HINTS

PLANT...

- ◆ Wildflowers!! Now is the perfect time to put wildflower seed out. We carry a great selection of **Botanical Interests®** seed packets!
- ◆ Container grown plants, such as various Annuals, Perennials, Shrubs, and Trees. Remember to hand-water daily for the first 10-14 days to help get them established. And as a reminder – the larger container plants will continue to need hand watering as long as there is no measurable rainfall.
- ◆ Replace dead or worn-out looking plants in your containers. Just pull out the old one and pop in a fresh vibrant one to enhance containers until you do a fall makeover.

PRUNE...

- ◆ Trim spent blossoms, flower stalks, and ugly foliage on perennials. This will encourage another round of fall growth and blooms.
- ◆ Pick-prune to maintain shape on shrubs and shrub-roses, such as 'Knockout' and 'Drift' Roses.

FERTILIZE...

- ◆ Use **Osmocote**, **Colorscapes**, **Color Star**, and even **Superthrive** on container plants to keep them happy and blooming in the heat. Use **Palm Food** on palms to give them a boost during the warm weather.

WATER...

- ◆ **Please continue to be 'Water Wise'**. Summer's heat is finally here -- so be watchful. Check your landscape often and water if it is dry and needs it. Use a **Moisture Tester** and probe around if you're uncertain. This handy gadget could save you hundreds of dollars.
- ◆ Check your colorful container plantings daily. They may or may not need water. Hanging baskets and container gardens tend to dry out quickly in summer's brutal heat. Water in the mornings to give your plants the water they'll need throughout the day.

PESTS...

- ◆ For bagworms and webworms, use **BT (bacillus thurengensis)** to take them out.
- ◆ Scale is a nuisance! When temps are over 90°F, we suggest a non-organic systemic insecticide to control scale. We carry two product brands that can kill these pesky critters. Their active scale control ingredient is imidacloprid.
- ◆ **Serenade** is a great organic control for a broad range of fungal problems and we feel it is one of the safest products out there.

OTHER BITS & PIECES...

- ◆ Maintain 2" to 3" of mulch in planting beds to conserve moisture and moderate soil temperatures. You should have no bare soil in beds. **Take advantage of this month's Special on Bagged Mulch!**
- ◆ Now is a good time to plan for fall plantings. Fall has the best weather (and nursery stock!) so get those ideas on paper now.
- ◆ During August heat we all appreciate shade. Make note where to plant that tree to provide shade to your patio or home. Mark the spot so when you plant in the fall the tree will give you shade next summer. (Remember, the sun will have moved by fall, so make note now of the best location.)
- ◆ Check on your newly planted trees during summer's heat. Download our **Summer Survival Tips for Trees** under the section **Plant Care** on our website: www.SHADESOFGREENINC.com



(Continued ...)

By Jeff McCauley

We Are Sedums

Succulents make a great addition to a patio or table-scape display. I hate to say it, but the artificial Sedums look pretty darn good, too. My daughter recently got married and we used them in the decorations on the tables and in the boutonnieres.

We carry a great selection of Sedums throughout the year. Come check them out! And while you're here, choose a colorful container to compliment your unique Sedum garden.



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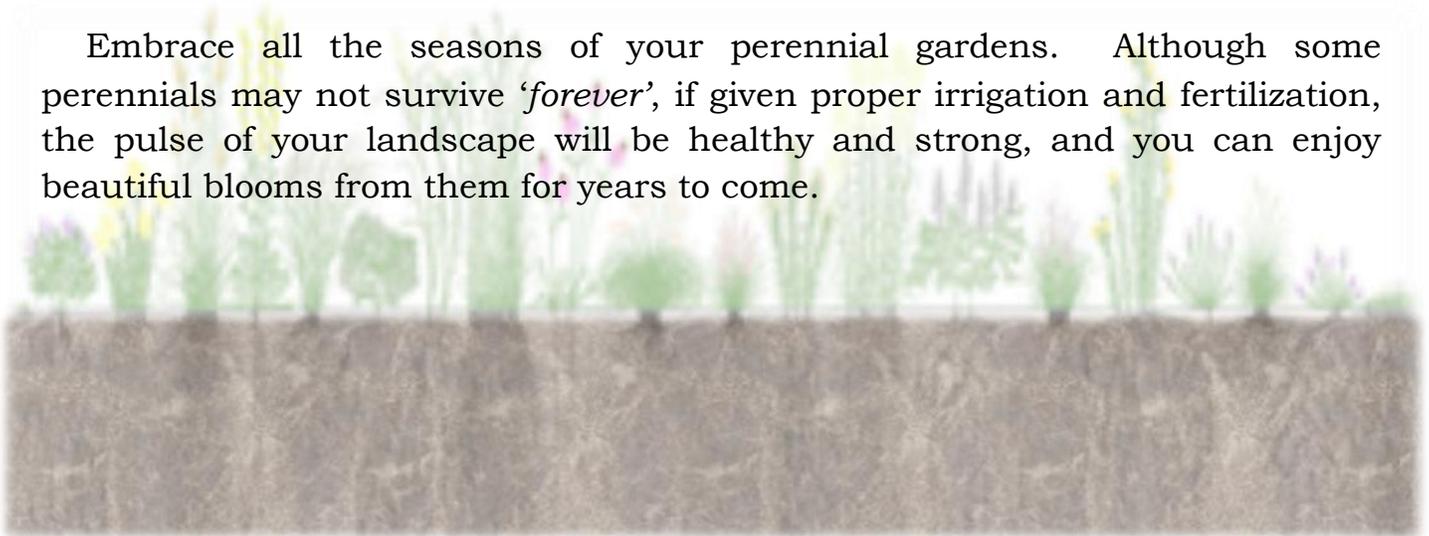
The Pulse of Your Landscape

By Karin Todd

Perennials should be an integral part of your landscape. Resilient and determined to survive, perennials are plant varieties that grow and bloom, go into dormancy for the winter, and re-grow and bloom again come spring. Some Perennials stay evergreen, while others die back to the ground depending on the winter conditions and each plant's cold-hardiness.

All perennials change with the changing of the seasons. Spring brings tender shoots frantically reaching up and out to the light and the spring rains. New growth races skyward with foliage and emerging buds. The warmth of the longer days of summer has them bursting with color, beckoning pollinators to tend their blooms. It's a frenzy of activity during the blooming season. Some perennials even show-off with multiple blooming cycles! Depending on the species, they'll grow tall and full, or reach and stretch their creeping tendrils looking for prime real estate. Perennial growth slows with the cooler temperatures of fall. Blooms fade, seed pods open, and future generations of plants fall to the ground or are carried away by various means of transport. As foliage withers and dies and perennials go into their winter slumber, remember that activity is still underway in the soil. Nutrients are being stored in the root systems to feed tender shoots that will want to frantically reach skyward come spring.

Embrace all the seasons of your perennial gardens. Although some perennials may not survive *'forever'*, if given proper irrigation and fertilization, the pulse of your landscape will be healthy and strong, and you can enjoy beautiful blooms from them for years to come.



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For Promotions and Events!

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