Red Stem Crassula

Crassula rubricaulis



Red Stem Crassula foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9b

Other Names: Red-stemmed Crassula

Description:

A lovely, small multi-branched shrub with attractive green foliage, usually edged with bright red, becoming fully deep red in full sun; white flower clusters appear in summer; a wonderful choice for patio containers and rock gardens

Ornamental Features

Red Stem Crassula features showy clusters of white star-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches from early to mid summer. It has attractive dark red-tipped green foliage with hints of purple. The small succulent pointy leaves are highly ornamental and remain green throughout the winter. The red stems are very effective and add winter interest.

Landscape Attributes

Red Stem Crassula is a multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, and can be pruned at anytime. 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.

Red Stem Crassula is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Red Stem Crassula will grow to be about 20 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It has a low canopy. It grows at a slow rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years.

This shrub 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. Like most succulents and cacti, this plant prefers to grow in poor soils and should therefore never be fertilized. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets. It can be propagated by division.

Red Stem Crassula makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 grown in a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.