

# SAXIFLORA

PLATE 10

**Sedum Sieboldii**  
(*Crassulaceae*)

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*Sedum Sieboldii*

## Sedum Sieboldii

Ever-popular among rock garden enthusiasts, the sedums are among the most dependable and easy to grow of low-growing plants. They are especially suitable for rock-work, as that is their natural home, and their rapid growth is frequently the cause of banishment from areas where more choice plants are grown. *Sedum Sieboldii*, however, is never weedy, but always forms a slow-growing, neat plant, and its display of carmine-pink flowers coming just before frost makes it one of the last flowers of the season. This Japanese species is the finest of all the sedums, its foliage just as attractive as the flowers, but it must be grown in a rather dry, thoroughly drained spot, preferably on miniature cliff-work. It grows equally well in sun or shade, but in the shade the red coloring on the stem and the leaf margin is faint if at all present. The fountain-like form of growth, however, is more pronounced than in the sun. Its liking for acid soil is evidenced by the manner in which it benefits from a mulch of used coffee-grounds, which is a popular but effective way of obtaining robust growth.

The variety *variegatum* has the leaves variegated with white; there is also a form with a central blotch of yellow and a green margin.

The species and varieties are easily propagated by cuttings.

In 1917, there was discovered on the cliffs of the southern coast of Yezo, Japan, a similar plant with opposite, stalked leaves, and a loose leafy inflorescence. When this plant was studied in England, it was found to differ still further from *S. Sieboldii* in having narrowly oblong sepals, not united at the base and carpels which were more narrow, longer-styled, and tapering at the base. It also flowered three weeks earlier, the flowers being darker colored. This plant, which Praeger named *Sedum caucicum* has not yet made its appearance in American gardens, but is surely worthy of introduction.

*Sedum Sieboldii* is a hardy perennial species, its stems growing anew each year from a cluster of tuberous roots. The stems are unbranched, at first arching in a fountain-like form, at length becoming prostrate, or even hanging if on cliff-work, reddish in the sun, and up to about ten inches long. The leaves are in whorls of three, nearly round, about one inch in diameter, abruptly narrowed to a very short stalk, a beautiful glaucous blue-green, the margins dark red or purplish, erose-sinuate. The inflorescence, borne at the end of each stem, is a much branched, compound cyme one to three inches across. The flowers are short-stalked, nearly a half inch across, the sepals triangular, blue-green, united at the base. The petals are carmine-rose,

lanceolate, pointed and spreading. The stamens also are spreading, the ones opposite the petals equalling them in length, the alternate ones slightly longer, all with pink filaments and purple anthers. The pistils are pink, upright, broadly ovate, abruptly narrowed at the base into a distinct stalk. The matured carpels are erect, green with red streaks.

E. J. ALEXANDER.