

Sedum ternatum
Wild, Woodland, or Three-leaved Stonecrop

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

This lovely ground cover, the most widespread [native](#) member of the Sedum family in eastern North America,* favors rocky banks, cliffs, and woods. Its tiny, slightly-fragrant, starlike flowers rise in showy clusters above succulent foliage in the spring.



Ground Cover	Mat under Red Maple, Flowers, Fruit	
Height: ½ foot		
Spread: ½ to ¾ foot		
Bloom Color: White		
Characteristics		
Spreading, semi- evergreen , herbaceous perennial		
Succulent, glabrous light-green leaves arranged in whorls of three; upper leaves on fertile, taller shoots may whorl in groups of three or alternate		
Starlike flowers with four white petals, four light green sepals, & eight red-purple anthers arranged in helicoid cymes from April to June followed by follicles whose seeds are carried on the wind		
Green or pink stems root at nodes to form new plants		
Attributes		
Tolerates light shade, drought, air pollution, rabbits		
No serious pests or diseases; deer seldom severely damage; eastern chipmunks may eat roots		
Forms dense mats but easy to control growth and remove unwanted plants		
Stems, leaves edible** until they flower; tender enough to eat raw when very young, otherwise cook briefly		
Attracts various bees and less often wasps, flies; larval host of Variegated Fritillary butterfly		
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for	
Soil Requirements : Average, well-drained	<i>Delosperma</i> spp. - Iceplant	
Light Requirements : Partial Shade	Lysimachia nummularia - Creeping Jenny	
Water Requirements : Moist	Vinca minor - Periwinkle	
Once established, little maintenance is needed	<p>*In the Mid-Atlantic, it is native in DC, rare in DE, and scattered mostly in the southern half of PA. In VA, it is common in the mountains and the Piedmont and rare in the Coastal Plain. In NoVA, it is unreported in Arlington County, Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax City.</p> <p>**Can upset stomach if eaten in quantity</p>	
Use in rock gardens or under trees and shrubs		
Hardiness : USDA Zones 3-8		
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria		

Images by Elaine Mills, private garden, Arlington, VA