

THE “OTHER” SUCCULENTS

The other end of the succulent chart

By: Ursula Nanna 11/19/10

DELOSPERMA: or Ice Plant, has wonderful low-growing foliage with long time eruptions of lasting flowers. From magenta to yellows, from white to peach, these papery blooms are very hardy and pretty. This plant is indigenous to S. Africa and can be grown in zones 4-9. They accent the Desert Garden giving just the right splash of color.

They require full sun and water as needed. Delosperma root easily and are unique in that their flowers open during the day and close in the evening or on cloudy days.

There are mystical powers associated with this plant. The Zulu tribe would rub the ‘leaves’ on their weapons to assure success in battle. Others say if one possesses this plant they will have the ability to know what their enemy is planning...in advance.

SEDUMS: commercially known as Stonecrop, is a Northern Hemisphere plant. They have tiny dainty but profuse flowers of red or yellow, silvery blue gray or intense green. They offer charm to the garden in every season and are hardy to 4. This very tolerant plant propagates at a whim by having a piece just touch the soil. Discard pieces very discriminately.

Did you know that the “leaves” of all stonecrop are edible? Let me know how that goes

The plant has been used to treat epilepsy and skin disease or to induce a miscarriage. They are even used as a roof covering...ya, that to. European Sedums are: acre; album; dasyphyllum; and reflexum.

Sedums require full sun with watering as needed in soil of good drainage.

SEMPERVIVUMS: hens & chicks, hardy Alpine plants, are plump rosettes of ‘leaves’ forming a crowded mound. These are the most xeric of this group of succulents with thousands of cultivars offering something for everyone.

These plants are beautiful planted around rocks or in the cracks of dry stack and serve well as border plants. They will thrive in all sorts of soils. They form very tight matts resisting many weeds but Bermuda is its arch-rival.

Because of their plump-leafed colors, Sempervivums offer a whole new level to ‘companion’ planting. They serve as accents highlighting an area or just stand beautifully on their own.

There are greens, oranges, yellows, silvers, spider-web types, and artichoke forms too. They propagate easily and require little attention. Plant in full sun and water as needed but not wet.

JOVIBARBAS: is a small genus of 3 species: *J. globifera*; *J. heuffelii*; and *J. hirta* hailing from the Balkans to the Southern Alps. They are closely related to *Sempervivums*. *Jovibarbas* can be grown in as little as 4 hours of sun. They (*globifera*), exhibit an interesting growth habit and because of this habit, some they are called 'rollers'. The new baby 'chicks' grow mounded on the mother rosette and when mature, roll off to begin a family of their own. This makes *Jovibarba* different from *Sempervivums* because *Semps'* rosettes form under the mother and their flowers are out and down rather than up. Also, they do not produce offsets on stolons but from very tight clusters.

These plants are 'monocarpic' or once blooming, because after the bloom, the rosette dies.

Jovis make excellent container plants.

Jovibarbas are hardy to Zone 3. As with all succulents, water discriminately...as needed, in full sun. Always plant in a well draining soil.

ROSULARIAS and OROSTACHYS: other closely related plants to *Semps* and *Jovis*. *Rosularias* are not hardy in our area. They produce beautiful bell-shaped blooms and they hail from Turkey and the Himalayas. They require whatever is in this area soil to grow and prosper.

Orostachys are rare and seldom found in our area except in nurseries specializing in this plant.