

Botanical Name: Aeonium arboreum 'Atropurpureum'

Common Name: Purple aeonium

Type of Plant: dicot; shrub Character evergreen

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape an open, upright low shrub, with a few to several erect succulent branching stems supporting distinctive terminal rosettes of tongue-shaped fleshy leaves

Height 1' - 3' Spread equal Growth Rate slow

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full/partial sun in warm coastal sites; more shade inland

Soil prefers well-aerated sandy soils; tolerates dry clay

Hardiness some frost (zones 15-17, 20-24); foliage dies back in frost

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, whorled in rosette fashion at the ends of the stems; very fleshy; oblong-obovate, 2"-3" long, dark maroon towards the tips, fading to green at the base

Flowers yellow, bisexual, 1/2" diameter, in open panicle cymes; April - June

Fruit a small follicle

Propagation: softwood (succulent) stem cuttings or seed

Usage: a distinctive small accent shrub, valued for its unusual form and showy leaf rosettes; excellent as a container plant; good for foliage color and textural contrasts - best used in warm sub-tropical-theme gardens

Landscape Care:

Watering an infrequent deep soak - allow the soil to dry out between irrigations; avoid constantly wet soil conditions

Fertilizing little needed - excessive feeding results in spindly, weak-structured plants

Pruning none required - remove old flower stalks after blooming

Pests/Diseases root-rot, stem rot in wet poorly drained soils; snails and slugs feed on the fleshy leaves

Special Conditions avoid direct summer sun at hot inland locations

Origin: Morocco Family: Crassulaceae