The broadleaf stonecrop, known botanically as *Sedum spathulifolium*, is one of several sedum species native to Oregon. Horticulturally, it is one of the best, with many cultivars and color forms readily available at most nurseries. These plants are rarely labeled as natives, so you have to look for the specific names—check out some of the cultivars I refer to later in the article. They work well in rock gardens, raised beds, or any location that has full sun and good drainage. For some great pictures of one wild location in British Columbia, check out the following site at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden: [http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/potd/2006/02/sedum_spathulifolium.php](http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/potd/2006/02/sedum_spathulifolium.php).

*S. spathulifolium* grows in many locations in Oregon, from coastal soils and rocky areas to the Columbia River Gorge, and to other locations in the Cascade and Siskyou Mountains. Those from the Cascades and other inland sites tend to be dark green, while most of the coastal forms are gray or whitish, often highly ornamental—some with red coloring as well. Some of the cultivars to look for are ‘Cape Blanco’, ‘Campbell Lake’, ‘Blood Red’, ‘Moon Glow’ (in photo), ‘Purpureum’, and ‘Carnea’ or you just might prefer the plain green ones. All perform well in garden settings.

Nursery sources describe this species as “spreading but not invasive” or “well-behaved,” both terms I would agree with from personal experience. It is hardy to most of Oregon and, once established, requires little if any supplemental water. Yellow flowers in June attract native butterflies, some of which use the species for the caterpillar host stage.

If you are interested in looking at the distribution yourself, check out the Plant Atlas function at the Oregon Flora Project, a nonprofit organizations using resources of the herbarium at OSU. Here is the link: [http://cladonia.nacse.org/platlas/jclass/OPAJava20.htm](http://cladonia.nacse.org/platlas/jclass/OPAJava20.htm). If this is too long to use, type in “Oregon Flora Project” on your web browser. To use the plant atlas, you have to use botanical names—find “Sedum” in the genus list and double-click it to bring up the species names. Scroll to “spathulifolium” or any of the other native species and add them to the map options form, then generate the map.