

THE SUITABILITY OF SOME SPECIES OF *SEMPERVIVUM* L. FOR THE GREEN SPACE ARRANGEMENT

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Sempervivum L. is a genus from the Crassulaceae family. It includes 40 species of evergreen, perennial, succulent, pubescent and monocarpic plants that grow up to 35 cm tall and develop stolons. The leaves are fleshy, ovoid or elongated with a sharp top, also shiny or matte, pubescent with glandular hairs and rarely hairless, ciliated on the edges, the base ones being disposed in a rosette, and the stem ones alternately. The rosettes are dense and have a diameter of 1-15 cm. The floral stem is pubescent, erect and unbranched. The inflorescence is corymbiform. It has hermaphrodite and actinomorphic flowers. The fruit is an elongated follicle.

Sempervivum genus is spread from Maroc to Iran, Turkey, the northeastern part of the Sahara Desert and the Caucasus, the mountains of Iberia, the Alps, the Carpathians and the Balkan Mountain range. It vegetates in the cracks of the rocks. In the spontaneous flora of The Republic of Moldova is found only *Sempervivum ruthenicum* Schnittsp. & C.B. Lehm., endangered species (EN), included in *The Red Book* of the Republic of Moldova (2001, 2015), *ex-situ* cultivated in the Institute of „Alexandru Ciubotaru” National Botanical Garden (NBGI). In addition to the species mentioned above, in the collection of the Ornamental plants' laboratory of NBGI, another 11 taxa (species and cultivars) are cultivated, such as: *Sempervivum globiferum subsp. allionii* (Jord. & Fourr.) 't Hart & B. Bleij; *S. arachnoideum* L.; *S. arenarium* W.D.J. Koch; *S. calcareum* Jord; *S. grandiflorum* Haw.; *S. montanum* L.; *S. ruthenicum* Schnittsp. & C.B. Lehm.; *S. tectorum* L.; *S. x hybridum* 'Red Papaver'; *S. x hybridum* 'Noir'; *S. x hybridum* 'Shadow'.

Specific taxons of *Sempervivum* are ornamental plants by habitus and plant. These forms, in combination with other plants, wonderful decorations in rock formations. They can be planted on walls, roofs, in pots or as a ledge plant. The advantages of using these plants are the fact that they do not have competition in the realization of the aesthetic effect and are resistant to the harsh conditions of the environment (frost, drought, poor soil, strong insolation etc.). Within the units of green spaces, the taxons of *Sempervivum* can go with many other plants, succulent plants inclusive, some of which are: *Sedum* L.; *Euphorbia* L.; *Rosularia* (DC) Stapf; *Dianthus* L.; *Tymus* L. etc. The companion species need to meet some requirements, such as: not to show vigorous growth so as to overwhelm or shade *Sempervivum* species; to have almost matching ecological requirements and to resist in the same cultivation conditions.

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