



Enviromat

care and maintenance

Compared with many garden occupants, Enviromat is remarkably easy to care for. The propagation has been done for you, there's no need for daily watering and it doesn't need mowing or trimming. However, it's important to remember that low maintenance is not the same thing as no maintenance. To get the best possible performance from your Enviromat – particularly if it's on a roof – it does need a simple, twice a year, maintenance regime with a little bit of extra TLC during periods of prolonged drought.

Enviromat is remarkably easy to care for and surprisingly versatile.

Feeding: Sedum plants are very economical when it comes to fertiliser, however when they're growing in a shallow growing medium they do benefit from a twice-yearly application of Enviromat Natural Green Roof Feed. Ideally this should be done in early spring when temperatures begin to rise, and again in early summer to encourage flowering. See *pages 23-24* for more information.

Watering: In general, Enviromat is more likely to be damaged by too much watering than by too little. Sedum plants hate to have perpetually soggy roots. Having said that, Enviromat will tolerate heavy rainfall as long as it has proper drainage. If Enviromat is installed on a roof, it's vital to ensure that drainage outlets are cleared out at least once a year.

Enviromat will survive for a month or so with no watering and so most of the time, the British weather will absolve you of all watering duties but there are situations in which extra help is needed. Don't worry if the leaves turn red and appear to shrink, this is the plants' natural response to drought. However, if the leaves start to look wrinkled and rubbery then the plants need a good watering.

Weeding: Enviromat is supplied with a dense covering of plants making it difficult for the majority of weeds to find a space to germinate. However, there are always a few opportunists. If you have installed Enviromat to our recommendations with waterproof material beneath the Enviromat build-up, you will find that in high summer, the sedum plants will revel in the hot dry conditions whilst any imposters will languish and die. Any really persistent weeds can be pulled out by hand.

Bare Patches: When Enviromat leaves the production fields, approximately 95% of the matting will have a dense covering of plants. Occasionally though, small areas of the growing medium may become visible. Over time, the sedum plants will spread and fill in those patches. It is possible to speed up the process by breaking off little pieces of plant material from more dense areas and pressing them on to the bare patches. Within weeks, the 'sprouts' will have grown roots and established themselves.

Pests and Diseases: There are very few pests and diseases that affect Enviromat. It doesn't taste nice, so won't be eaten; it can't be dug into, so cats aren't interested; insects like Enviromat but rarely damage it and the thick waxy coating on the leaves deters fungal diseases, so Enviromat is remarkably trouble-free.

Enviromat Care Calendar

Spring (March/April)

- Clear drainage outlets.
- Ensure roof structure is in good condition, paying particular attention to any mastic sealing and mortar pointing. Any areas that need repairing should be attended to appropriately.
- Remove any debris and fallen leaves etc.
- Hand weed unwanted plants/tree saplings.
- Apply Enviromat Natural Green Roof Feed and water in immediately with a sprinkler or hand-held spray gun. For sloping roofs, an additional application may be needed in early summer.
- Use sedum cuttings taken from abundant areas to repair any bald patches, pressing them gently into the substrate and applying a light sprinkling of sand mixed with compost. A gentle watering will speed the establishment of the cuttings.

Autumn (October/November)

- Clear drainage outlets.
- Ensure roof structure is in good condition, paying particular attention to any mastic sealing and mortar pointing. Any areas that need repairing should be attended to appropriately.
- Remove any debris and fallen leaves etc.
- Hand weed unwanted plants/tree saplings.
- Remove any plant encroachment towards drainage outlets and other unwanted areas.