

Nerium oleander

(Oleander)

Oleander is a wonderful easy-care, rounded or upright shrub or small tree from the Mediterranean region, with long, dark green leaves and an a single or double, sometimes fragrant flowers in shades of white, pink, red, or yellow. All parts of the plant are poisonous so care must be taken when locating Oleander near areas frequented by small children; burning of the trimmings will produce toxic fumes. Even chewing once or twice on a leaf or twig can send a person to the hospital. Growing well with only one yearly fertilization and springtime pruning, Oleander is one of the easiest shrubs to care for. Oleander survives drought well and is well-suited to growing on soil too poor for most other shrubs, even tolerating salt spray. It thrives in full sun, appearing too lanky and flowering little if planted in partial shade. The main pest can appear on the plant is the oleander caterpillar which can defoliate the plant within weeks. It is commonly planted in highway medians as a no-maintenance plant. Often trained into an attractive small tree, multi-branched Oleander also does well as a quick-growing screen or large specimen planting. Many cultivars are available single or double flowers, normal or variegated leaves, dwarf or normal sizes.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: Laurier rose, Laurose, Nérion

Arabic Name: دفلى

Pronunciation: NEER-ee-um oh-lee-AN-der

Plant Type: Shrub

Origin: Mediterranean region

Heat Zones: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16

Hardiness Zones: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

Uses: Screen, Hedge, Container, Wildlife, Street, Pollution Tolerant / Urban, Reclamation

Size/Shape

Growth Rate: Fast

Tree Shape: Upright

Canopy Symmetry: Symmetrical

Canopy Density: Medium

Canopy Texture: Medium

Height at Maturity: 3 to 5 m

Spread at Maturity: 3 to 5 meters

Time to Ultimate Height: 10 to 20 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Opposite

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Linear

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Rough

Leaf Scent: Unpleasant

Color(growing season): Green

Color(changing season): Green

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 10 - 20

Flower Type: Cyme

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: Pleasant

Flower Color: Red, Purple, White, Pink

Seasons: Summer, Fall

Trunk

Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage: Suspected to breakage

Number of Trunks: Can be trained to one trunk

Trunk Esthetic Values: Not Showy

Fruit

Fruit Type: Legume

Fruit Showiness: True

Fruit Size Range: 7 - 10

Fruit Colors: Black

Seasons: Summer, Fall

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: Yes

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: Yes

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Acidic, Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate, Low

Light Requirements: Full

Management

Toxicity: Yes

Invasive Potential: Yes

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: Yes

Pruning Requirement: Needed, to develop a strong structure

Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter: No

Surface Rooting: No

Life Span: 25-50 years

Edible Parts: None

Plant Propagations: Seed, Cutting

MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



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Bark Image



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Other Image