

# **ADENIUM/DESERT ROSE PLANTING & CARE INSTRUCTIONS**

## **Specification:**

- Germination temperature: 55-90 Degrees Fahrenheit.
- Germinate days: 10-25 Days.
- Suitable growth temperature: 60-100Degrees Fahrenheit.
- Light: Sunny or partially sunny location.
- Seed to Blossom: Approx. 180 to 290 Days.
- Height: 12 to 36 inches.
- Germination Rate: 80%.
- Moisture: Less Than 8%.
- Seed Longevity: 2 Years.
- Plant Type: Succulent shrub or small tree
- Growth Rate: Slow
- Light Requirements: High
- Flower Color: Pink; red; pink & white; red & white
- Flowering Months: February—November; best in Spring and Fall
- Leaf Persistence: Semi-Deciduous
- Salt Tolerance: Medium
- Drought Tolerance: High
- Soil Requirements: Wide
- Nutritional Requirements: Medium
- Pests: Occasional insects, mites, leaf spots
- Typical Dimensions: 4 x 3 feet
- Propagation: Cuttings; grafts; seeds
- Uses: Specimen plant; patio; flowering container plant; rock gardens, pool side
- Adenium, or desert rose, is becoming increasingly popular as many Asian and American growers have developed ways to cultivate the plant for wholesale distribution. These succulent plants tolerate neglect very well and reward owners with a long season of delicate red, pink, purple, multi-color or white flowers at the end of woody stalks.

## **How to Care For Your Desert Rose:**

- **Seeds** - If you purchased seeds, it is wise to soak them in a solution of Hydrogen Peroxide to 8 parts water for 3 to 4 hours before planting. Cover seeds with about ¼ inch of soil mix and water deeply.
- **Cuttings & Seedlings** – Your rooted and un-rooted cuttings and your seedlings normally come to you bare root without soil, or with all their leaves removed. Simply plant them in a good soil mixture about 2 to 3 inches deep and water them thoroughly initially. Then only water when the soil becomes almost dry. They should start to develop roots in 10 to 15 days and new leaves should start to appear in about 2 to 3 weeks.
- **Watering Desert Rose** - Desert rose plants prefer little water during the winter, when the plants hibernate. In the summer, when the growth is vigorous, the plants can be watered every day. The soil must drain well and not retain moisture. A mixture of 1/2 sand and 1/2 potting soil works well. Avoid getting the leaves wet.
- **Fertilizing Desert Rose** - Desert rose will welcome a liquid fertilizer during the warmer months when the plant is growing aggressively, but the fertilizer must be applied correctly. Water the plant first, then fertilize. Make sure that both the water and the fertilizer are able to drain completely. Fertilizing without first watering can burn the roots.
- **Light Requirements** - Place desert rose in a sunny window. These plants grow well outdoors as long as the nighttime temperatures don't get below freezing. In colder climates, bring the plants inside during the evenings and in the winter, or keep them indoors where they can get year-round sunshine.
- **Pruning Desert Rose Stems and Roots** - Since the flowers grow from the tips of the stalks, regularly trimming the plants to encourage more stalks to grow is the best way to get more flowers. Cut off the tip of each stalk just after the flower dies. Prune the roots by lifting them 2 to 3 inches and repot them every one to two years to allow the plant to display it's exotic caudex as it continues to grow. Wear heavy latex or rubber gloves-the sap is poisonous and easily absorbed into the skin.

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