

Adenium obesum – Desert Rose

This is a stunning succulent with a thick and in some cases contorted Caudex (swollen trunk) that flowers in a wide variety of colours from the standard pink, white, yellow, red, burgundy and even some doubles with single as well as two tone flowers!

Adenium is a low maintenance, sun loving plant that required at least 6 hours a day for the trumpet shaped flowers to put on their show from Spring to Summer and makes a great potted plant for outdoors or indoors if given enough light, it also makes a fantastic Bonsai specimen.

Keep the potting media moist but not wet during the growing period and fertilise monthly with a half strength 20-20-20. Reduce watering in Winter and stop feeding – often Adeniums will lost their leaves during the colder months but will re-shoot once the warmer weather starts.

Adeniums are an excellent feature plant for the tropics and subtropics, on a patio or in the garden.

Propagation

Seed - There are a few different media mixes that are popular, or you could use a good quality cacti and succulent premix if you would prefer with some added vermiculite, perlite or peatmoss to improve drainage and deliver extra nutrients.

Other mixes could include but are not limited to;

Media 1 – 50% peat moss or coir and 50% sand or perlite

Media 2 – 1 part potting media/soil, 1 part sand and 1 part pebbles or gravel

Use a shallow pot or tray placed in an area with bright indirect light at a temp of 25 - 30°C.

Sprinkle seeds over the surface and cover with a thin layer of sand.

Use a spray bottle to saturate the growing media evenly with water and repeat on alternate days until the seeds sprout.

Expect germination to occur within a week, sometimes longer and continue misting every couple of days.

Seedlings should be large enough to transplant into individual containers in 1 month.

Cuttings - When you start Adeniums from cuttings, the resultant plant will not develop a thick caudex / trunk above the ground, this will develop below soil level and can later be exposed without harming the plant.

Cuttings taken should be at least 15cm long and after cutting allow to dry for 48 hours.

Use a very well drained media (as mentioned above).

Dust with rooting powder and mist to water and follow directions as listed above for placement and watering.