Oleander

Nerium oleander

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

A popular tropical shrub grown for its bright pink flowers in summer; very useful to fill in open areas quickly, also often used as a patio plant; can become somewhat sprawling if left unattended; parts of this plant are known to be toxic

Ornamental Features

Oleander features showy clusters of hot pink star-shaped flowers along the branches from early to late summer. Its narrow leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Oleander is a multi-stemmed annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and can be pruned at anytime. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects

Oleander is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens



Oleander flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Oleander flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Oleander will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under typical garden conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in poor soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is not originally from North America, and parts of it are known to be toxic to humans and animals, so care should be exercised in planting it around children and pets.