Oleander

Nerium oleander

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 8a

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. It has grayish green evergreen foliage. The narrow leaves remain grayish green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

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

This is a high maintenance shrub 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

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Planting & Growing

Oleander will grow to be about 15 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 feet. It tends to be a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist locations, and should do just fine under average home landscape conditions. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. 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.