



SEED OF THE MONTH: March

Common Name: Desert Rose

Scientific Name: *Adenium obesum*

Family: Apocynaceae

Genus: *Adenium*

Species: *A. obesum*

Height:

2–3 ft.

Spacing:

3 – 4 ft. apart in ground.

Sun Exposure:

Full to partial sun

Bloom Color: This month's blossom is pink.

Bloom Time: Blooms off and on throughout the year. Fertilizing works best in the Spring and Summer and not at all during the Fall and Winter.

Other Details:

Pruning should be done once in early spring, before it begins to bloom. When pruning, you will want to cut off long, straggly branches. It should be repotted every 2-3 years. It doesn't mind crowded roots in a pot and the new pot should only be one to two inches larger than the last. Keep in mind that the white milky sap (latex) is poisonous and the plant should be kept away from children and pets. The Desert Rose is prone to scale, aphids, mealy bugs and spider mites.

Soil Requirements: Well drained.

Water Requirements: One time a week is sufficient whether it lives in the ground or in a container. For container growing use a well-drained succulent mix. I often use equal parts, mix, perlite, black cinder.

Propagation Methods:

The most popular way to grow Desert Rose is by seed. It can be grown by slip but often times does not get that desired bulb at the bottom as it does when it's grown by seed.

Known Uses:

The Desert Rose makes a great houseplant, that doesn't require a whole lot of care to keep beautiful. This is worth mentioning that the white milky sap is poisonous and should be kept away from young children and pets. If the sap gets on your skin, quickly wash it off right away.

Seed packet here