

Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Adenium obesum
Common Name	Desert Rose
Plant Family	Apocynoideae
Mature Size	2.5 to 3 feet
Bloom Color	Pink, White, Yellow, Red
Bloom Period	Warm
Boom Form	Five Petal Bell Bodied Single
Water Requirements	Little
Light	Full Spectrum
USDA Zone	9,10, 11
Fragrance	None
Uses	Rock garden, potted
Special Features	Unusual caudex stalk, prolific showy bloom



The **Desert Rose** (*Adenium obseum*) is an unusual looking, tropical succulent plant that is native to the Africa and Arabia.

Gardeners everywhere fell in love with this plant in the early to mid 1980's when it began to make an appearance in the up and coming garden centers of the large chain stores. The eye catching bounty of showy, long lasting, pink flowers and the fat, unusually shaped, bonsai like trunks stopped gardeners in their tracks.

Over the next several years, hundreds of hybrids were developed with flowers of varying shades of pink, red and white, were introduced with varying degrees of success, but as the chain store market matured and suppliers for the market began to gravitate toward plants that could be massed produced cheaply, brought to market with minimal labor and care, and shipped in trucks nationwide year round, the beautiful Desert Rose, while still popular, was not well suited for that demand, so today it has again become a hard to find rarity in many areas.

One of the most interesting features of the Desert Rose is the fat bulbous shape of the trunk. Over time the trunk will enlarge, forming a bulb just above the surface of the soil. This feature, called a caudex is structure that holds extra water in reserve that the Desert Rose can use in times of severe drought.

The peak blooming period is typically in the late Fall, when the plants produce masses of flowers with bell shaped bases and large five petaled faces over the span of several weeks. Buds open slowly and flowers last for several weeks once fully open.

- Pot or plant in a course, free draining media. A mix specifically for cacti and/or succulents is recommended.
- Clay pots are helpful for encouraging drying between watering, but not an absolute requirement
- Protect from frost or freeze
- Avoid over watering
- Treat any signs of fungus (typically a sign of over watering) promptly.
- Locate in full, direct light.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Care of Your Cactus or Succulent Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter sizes plants or plugs directly into the landscape is not recommended, with a few exceptions. So, for the best results with your new plant we suggest that it be re-potted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

- Immediately re-pot the new plant into a 6 to 10 inch diameter (a 6 inch pot is the recommended size for starter plugs) that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial specialty cacti and succulent potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. DO NOT use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light all day.
- Take care not to over water. The primary cause of problems with cacti and succulents is becoming saturated with too much water.
- Moisture crystals can be recycled for other plants if desired, but do not use them for cacti and succulents.
- Be sure excess irrigation water can drain out of the pot quickly and completely. Do not allow the bottom of the pot to sit submerged in water.

Most cacti and succulents can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the upper 30's (F), are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40 degrees F) with adequate, full spectrum light, air circulation, and are not over crowded or over watered.

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Toxicity information generally known in the horticultural trade and gardening circles, if known, is provided for reference purposes only. Medical and/or Horticulture experts in the field of Plant Toxicology should be consulted for specific and reliable information.

This plant is intended for ornamental, decorative use only. Emerald Goddess Gardens tm does not recommend, endorse, or offer the product for any other intended use.