

## Cardinal Red Oleander

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### Cardinal Red Oleander *Nerium oleander 'Cardinal Red'*

Height: 15 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Red Cardinal Oleander, Rose Bay

#### Description:

A popular tropical shrub grown for its vivid red flowers in summer; very useful to fill in open areas quickly, also often used as a patio plant; pruning required to maintain strong structure; all parts of this plant are known to be toxic

#### Ornamental Features

Cardinal Red Oleander features showy clusters of red star-shaped flowers at the ends of the branches from late spring to late summer. Its narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the year.

#### Landscape Attributes

Cardinal Red 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

Cardinal Red Oleander is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



*Cardinal Red Oleander flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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### Planting & Growing

Cardinal Red 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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. 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 is a selected variety of a species 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.

Cardinal Red Oleander is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Its large size and upright habit of growth lend it for use as a solitary accent, or in a composition surrounded by smaller plants around the base and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.