

## Scientific Name:

*Nerium oleander*

## Common Name:

- Oleander
- Rosebay
- Nerium

## Distinct Features:

- **Growth:** A large, evergreen shrub or small tree that typically reaches heights of 2-6 meters. It has a dense, bushy habit and can be trained into a small tree form.
- **Leaves:** The leaves are linear, lanceolate, and glossy, measuring about 5-20 cm long. They are dark green on the upper surface and lighter green underneath, arranged in a spiral pattern on the stem.
- **Flowers:** The flowers are large, showy, and tubular, typically found in clusters at the ends of the branches. They can be pink, white, red, or yellow, depending on the cultivar. They bloom throughout the summer and attract various pollinators.
- **Fruits:** The fruit is a long, narrow capsule that contains several seeds. The capsules are elongated, about 5-10 cm long, and turn brown when mature, splitting open to release the seeds.
- **Bark:** The bark is smooth, grayish-brown, and can become more textured and fissured as the plant matures.

## Cultural Importance:

- *Nerium oleander* is often used in landscaping and ornamental gardens due to its attractive flowers and hardy nature. It is commonly found in Mediterranean regions and warmer climates.
- Despite its beauty, the plant is highly toxic if ingested, and this has led to its use in folklore and traditional medicine, albeit with caution.

## Uses:

- **Ornamental:**
  - Oleander is widely planted for its showy flowers and ability to tolerate drought conditions. It is commonly used in gardens, parks, and along streets as an ornamental shrub.
- **Medicinal:**
  - In traditional medicine, parts of the plant have been used for their supposed therapeutic properties. However, due to its toxicity, caution is advised, and it is not recommended for medicinal use without professional guidance.

- **Cultural Symbolism:**
  - In some cultures, oleander is associated with love and beauty, while in others, it symbolizes caution due to its toxic nature.

### **Picture Description:**

- **Whole Plant:** A large, evergreen shrub or small tree with a dense, bushy habit and showy clusters of flowers.
- **Leaves:** Linear, lanceolate leaves that are glossy, dark green on the upper surface, and lighter underneath, arranged in a spiral pattern.
- **Flower:** Large, tubular flowers in various colors (pink, white, red, yellow) found in clusters, blooming throughout the summer.
- **Fruit:** Long, narrow capsules that contain several seeds, turning brown when mature and splitting open.
- **Bark:** Smooth, grayish-brown bark that becomes more textured with age.

