

Discover the Flora of Our Campus

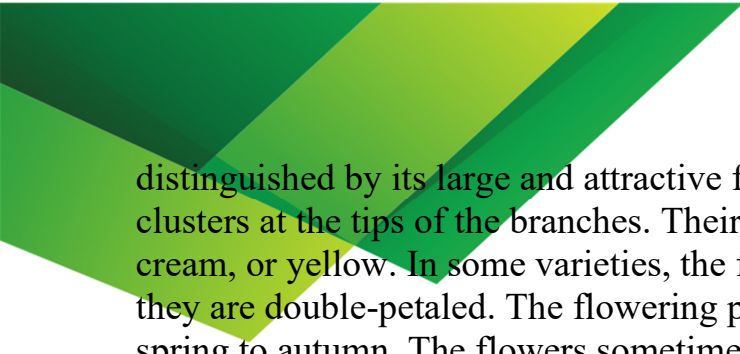
Nerium oleander

Nerium oleander is an evergreen, ornamental shrub known for its abundant flowering. The plant is especially recognized for its tolerance to hot and dry climates, its long flowering period, and its brightly colored flowers. In Azerbaijan, particularly on the Absheron Peninsula, it is widely used in parks, gardens, and roadside landscaping. Because it is resistant to salty winds and drought, it is well adapted to the Caspian coastal climate.

Common oleander typically grows as a densely branched shrub or small tree reaching 2–6 meters in height. Its stem becomes woody over time, forming a grayish-brown bark. The leaves are long, narrow, thick, and leathery in texture. They are dark green in color and are usually arranged oppositely or in whorls of three along the branches. The thick structure of the leaves makes the plant highly drought-resistant.



Nerium oleander is mainly



distinguished by its large and attractive flowers. The flowers are arranged in clusters at the tips of the branches. Their colors can be white, pink, deep pink, red, cream, or yellow. In some varieties, the flowers are single-layered, while in others they are double-petaled. The flowering period is very long and can last from late spring to autumn. The flowers sometimes emit a light pleasant fragrance.

This plant is native to the Mediterranean and Middle Eastern regions. In nature, it is mainly found in hot and dry areas. In Azerbaijan, it is especially widespread in Absheron. In Baku and surrounding areas, it is one of the most commonly used ornamental shrubs in parks, boulevards, roadside plantings, and courtyards. It thrives in Absheron conditions due to its resistance to salty winds from the Caspian Sea and intense summer heat.

From an ecological perspective, oleander is well adapted to dry and urban environments. Its strong root system helps stabilize soil. Its flowers can serve as a nectar source for bees and some insects. Its dense branches can also provide shelter and nesting places for birds.

From a decorative standpoint, *Nerium oleander* is a highly valuable plant. In warm climates, it is widely used for hedges, park landscaping, and street planting. Its evergreen nature and long flowering season make it one of the most popular ornamental shrubs.

However, one very important characteristic of oleander is its toxicity. All parts of the plant—including leaves, stems, flowers, and even its sap—contain toxic compounds. Because it contains powerful substances affecting the heart, ingestion can be dangerous for humans and animals. Therefore, caution is recommended when handling the plant.

One of its interesting features is that oleander continues to bloom profusely even under harsh conditions. Even in the dry and windy environment of Absheron, it remains covered with bright flowers throughout the summer, making it one of the symbolic ornamental plants of Baku's landscape.

