

8516 BANDERA ROAD  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78250  
(210) 680-2394



2585 THOUSAND OAKS  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78232  
(210) 494-6131

# Growing Desert Rose in San Antonio: Care Guide

## Quick look at Desert Rose (*Adenium obesum*):

- Desert Rose are tropical plants.
- Slow growing plant. Be patient, it's worth it.
- Bloom colors: red, pink white, in solids and different variations and patterns.

## Needs for Desert Rose in San Antonio, Texas

### Light Exposure:

- Morning sun/afternoon shade, or filtered light all day during summer.
- Bright light in winter.
- Indoors desert rose should be placed in a south or west-facing window.

### Soil:

- Desert rose **MUST** have well-draining soil
- Choose a potting mix that is highly organic, lightweight and extremely porous.
- Cactus potting mix is great for desert rose
- Adding expanded shale to the mix helps it with drainage.

- Make sure pots have drainage holes.

### **Watering:**

- Spring through summer fall, offer regular watering, but allow the soil to dry out somewhat between waterings.
- In fall, start to pull way back on your watering.
- In winter, stop watering and allow the desert rose to go dormant.
- overwatering can cause root rot. Use you finger and poke into soil to feel if it needs water.

### **Fertilizing:** (Desert Rose produce gorgeous, oleander-like blooms)

- In spring, once weather warms up, offer desert rose a low nitrogen fertilizer that also contains micronutrients.
- FoxFarm Tiger Bloom is a good option.
- Sometimes blooms come before leaves begin to regrow in spring!

### **Temperature:**

- These tropical plants prefer a temperature range OF 60° - 90°F. They must be moved in for protection once temps hit 50°F.

## **Winter Protection and Dormancy**

### **Winter Protection Outdoors:**

- Protect from freezing temperatures. These plants can't tolerate cold.
- Plant in pots so plants can easily be brought inside during forecasted freezes.
- Plants left outside must be covered with frost cloth (2 layers best), and should be placed on the south side of the house, under a roof or patio roof if possible.
- If plants are damaged by frost, branches can be pruned back in early spring.

### **Winter Protection Indoors:**

- If you plant desert rose in pots, you can easily move them in out of the cold.
- Place plants in a south or southwest facing window.

- If you choose to keep desert rose inside for the winter, **stop watering** so you can force desert rose into dormancy (will lose leaves and that's ok).
- Allowing plant to go dormant through winter, offers better spring growth and flowering.

#### **Adjusting to Outdoors when Spring Returns:**

- Once day and night temps are consistently above 60°, the plants can be brought back outdoors for spring and summer.
- Be sure to gradually acclimate desert rose to full sun exposure. Offer it a part shade area for about a week, before exposing to full sun.