

Common Portulaca, *Rose moss*

Rose Moss is a low, fast-growing succulent native to Brazil, which is usually grown as an annual plant for colour displays. Tolerant of all conditions in Arriyadh, it is often seen as an edging or filler plant. Reaching only 15 cm in height, it has fleshy stems and cylindrical leaves about 3 cm long, arranged alternately, or in small clusters with pointed tips. The small, rose-like flowers, with a whorl of leaves at their base, have very bright colours and are often seen as mixed cultivars of pink, magenta, orange, red, yellow and white. The striking flowers, opening only in full sun, are in bloom throughout the summer and later, and new colours are regularly being cultivated. The plants tolerate heat and drought, but are more attractive with regular watering; overhead irrigation, which damages flowers, should be avoided. The Rose Moss grows in poor, sandy or gravelly, well-drained soils. Propagated by seed or cuttings, even chopping a plant into tiny pieces and spreading them on a sandy loam bed is possible. Pests are generally not a problem, but plants can be severely damaged by frost. Maintenance requirements are not high, except for weeding and the eventual replacement of plants. *P. grandiflora* is a good groundcover for small garden areas, patios, hot slopes, rock gardens and containers.



GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: slow-growing
Humidity	: extremely arid, very arid, semi-arid, semi-humid
Propagation	: direct sowing, sowing and pricking out
Maintenance	: low

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: resistant
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: low
Salinity/ppm	: moderate (3000 ppm)
Hardiness	: 0°C

SHAPE

Type	: annual, biennial, perennial
Height	: 0.1 m-0.15 m
Spread	: 0.2 m-0.3 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: yellow, white, pink, red, violet, purple, yellow
Size	: 2 cm
Period	: June - October

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: capsule
Fruit size	: 0.6 cm
Toxicity	: inedible