

Be-Still Tree, *Yellow Oleander*

At first sight, this shrub is often mistaken for an oleander, which is its most popular relative. Indigenous to tropical America, this plant became known as Yellow Oleander to all frost-free regions worldwide. In late spring until autumn, it grows funnel-shaped, fragrant flowers in yellow, salmon or orange about 5 to 8 cm in size. Inflorescences attract butterflies and scattered flowering occurs the rest of the year. A variety called ‘Alba’ features white flowers that contrast well with the lush green foliage. The leaves are lanceolate and often pendulous, with a glossy surface measuring about 15 cm in length. Odd-shaped, bulky pods are green at first, turning red and black when ripe. They grow two nut-like seeds which readily germinate. The other method of propagation is semi-mature cuttings planted in late summer. For the best appearance, the soil should be well-drained and fertile with frequent irrigation. Nevertheless, Yellow Oleanders take full sun, heat, salinity and even drought. In cultivation, they remain shrubs some 3 metres high, while they may grow as small trees to 6 metres in their homeland or under ideal conditions. In some regions, they are considered invasive. Very common and useful shrubs in Arriyadh, they are easy to grow and always have a lush appearance. They can be planted in containers, used as flowering hedges or trained as a specimen tree. Heavy pruning is tolerated and results in rejuvenated, lush growth. Wounds exude a milky latex that irritates the skin.



GENERAL

Origin	: sub-tropical, tropical
Vigour	: fairly fast growing
Humidity	: semi-humid, very humid, extremely humid
Propagation	: sowing and pricking out, cuttings
Maintenance	: moderate

CONDITIONS

Urban climate	: resistant
Dessication	: vulnerable
Stagnant water	: vulnerable
Irrigation	: medium
Salinity/ppm	: very high (7000 ppm)
Hardiness	: -3°C

SHAPE

Type	: shrub, tree
Height	: 2 m-6 m
Spread	: 2 m-6 m
Foliage	: evergreen

FLOWER

Colour	: yellow, orange, pink
Size	: 5 cm - 8 cm
Period	: June - November
Smell	: scented, strong, pleasantly scented, flower, sweet

FRUIT

Type of fruit	: drupe
Fruit size	: 3.5 cm
Toxicity	: highly poisonous