

that is part of their natural cycle. DO NOT let them freeze. When temperatures warm again in spring, water and fertilize *Adenium*. Flowers and foliage will reappear.

Pests: Mealybugs – Take samples to your local Extension agent to confirm identification and receive treatment instructions.

Outdoor Cultivation Information

Outdoor year-round planting: Okay for USDA Hardiness Zone 10B–12.

Soil preference: Well drained.

Light requirement: Bright sunlight for maximum flowering.

Water requirement: Irrigate regularly but provide drainage.

Drought tolerant: Yes.

Fertilizer requirements: Apply a well-balanced, slow-release pelletized fertilizer according to manufacturer recommendations during the summer.

Salt tolerant: Some salt tolerance.

Temperature preference: Hot, tropical 75°F–95°F.

Chill tolerant (55°F–35°F): Yes, but leaf yellowing and leaf drop may occur.

Freeze tolerant (below 32°F): No. See note about overwintering above.

Pests: Mites, Aphids – Take a sample to your local Extension agent to confirm identification and receive treatment instructions.

Origin: Sub-Saharan regions in Africa.

Notes: *Adenium obesum* specimens are often “lifted” (root washed) to enhance the caudex (Figure 2). *Adenium obesum* leaves are dark green and glossy compared to other *Adenium* species, such as *A. swazicum* or *A. arabicum* with their gray-green, velvet-textured leaves.

Availability: *Adenium obesum* is often seen in garden centers in 8–10-inch pots; larger sizes are available from specialty growers.



Figure 2. *Adenium obesum* 'Red' that has been “lifted” (root washed) several times to display the sculptural effect of its roots and caudex. Credits: R. J.Henny

Additional Resources

Rowley, G. 1999. *Adenium and Pachypodium*. Cactus File Handbook no. 5. Southampton, UK: Cirio Publishing Services.