

# Nerium oleander

## COMMON NAME

Oleander

## FAMILY

Apocynaceae

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Persisting in the vicinity of old plantations.

## FEATURES

Much-branched shrub to about 4 m high. Leaves opposite and shortly petiolate, to 15 x 2.5 cm on flowering shoots, to 25 x 4 cm on suckering shoots. Large pink flowers with reddish-purple calyx. Flowers are usually single but can be semi-double. Fruits are uncommon, but are up to 18 cm long when produced.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Nerium is widely cultivated and over 400 varieties have been described, but there is just 1 species in the genus.

## FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

## LIFE CYCLE

Seed is only formed when 2 or more varieties are grown together.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1950

## ORIGIN

Mediterranean region, S.W. Asia

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

## TOLERANCES

Appears restricted to the warmest parts of New Zealand.

## POISONOUS PLANT

All parts of this plant are very poisonous.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nerium-oleander/>



Nerium oleander. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Hamilton Road, Herne Bay, Auckland.  
Photographer: John Sawyer