

HOPSEED BUSH

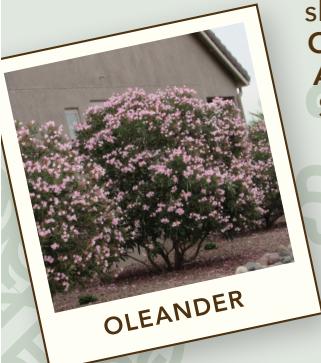
ALTERNATIVE TO OLEANDERS



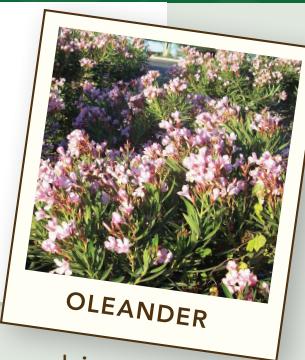
We Beautify the World

Nerium oleander, commonly known as Oleander, is a widely used ornamental shrub in the Desert Southwest. Originally from the Mediterranean, **OLEANDERS** have massively influenced our Desertscape here in Phoenix.

We see it as a hedge, trained as a tree, and an ornamental plant; this plant is overused in the landscape, making neighborhoods look mundane. **It is used because of its fast growth rate, drought resistance, pest resistance, and beautiful blooms**, to name a few. A plant that has all those characteristics should be planted more, right? Sadly, **OLEANDERS ARE HIGHLY LETHAL AND HAVE BEEN USED AS SUCH SINCE ROMAN TIMES**. All parts of the plant are highly poisonous to humans and animals, from its stems, leaves, blooms, and seeds. Ingesting a burning Oleander is also toxic, even if it is dried.

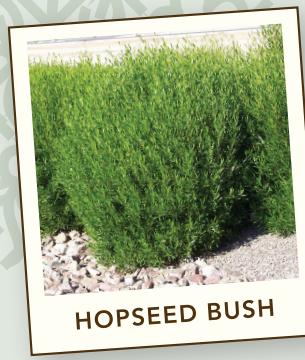


OLEANDER

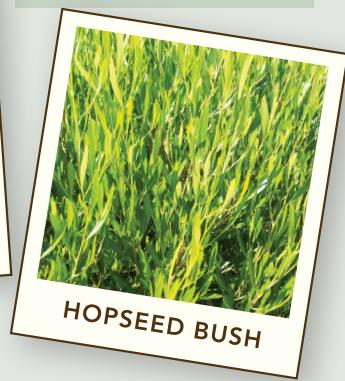


OLEANDER

HOPSEED BUSH can be left as natural, as native plants don't require pruning. Plant in well-drained soils and choose your planting location wisely, as this shrub can grow fast with frequent and plentiful irrigation.

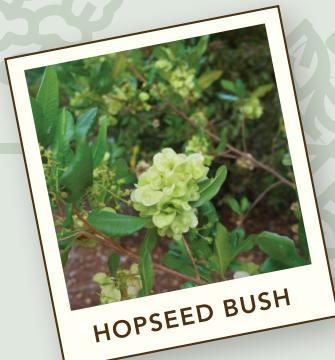


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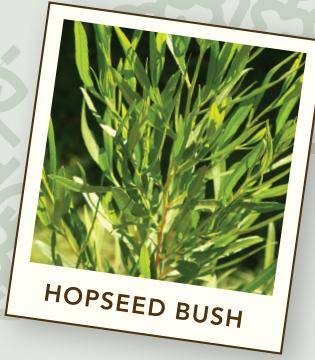


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A native shrub alternative to Oleanders is the **HOPSEED BUSH**. Only mildly poisonous from its fruit, the Hopseed bush, scientific name *Dodonea viscosa*, has the same growing habits as an Oleander. Even though it doesn't have the showy flowers of an Oleander, its green foliage is enough to create a great ornamental shrub or create a privacy screen as a hedge. It is fast-growing and can be as tall as fifteen feet and ten feet wide.



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CITATIONS:

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