

Real Estate

Grafted & crafted marvels

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We have already talked about Adenium or the desert rose which is a favourite with plant collectors for its unique caudex and beautiful flowers. The glory of this flowering plant increases manifold with grafting as its hybrid varieties are becoming increasingly popular these days.

Adenium hybrids bearing clusters of colourful multi-petal flowers and beautifully carved caudices are among the most sought after plants all over the world. The technique of grafting has made it possible to produce a number of mature plants within a short span of time to meet the demands of adenium enthusiasts.

Grafting of adeniums is an easy and enjoyable task which should be experienced by all plant lovers. As there are numerous adenium hybrids with beautiful flowers, there is always a temptation of having more and more of such plants.

Grafting is the best way to reproduce more adeniums of the same kind with an added advantage of a good caudex and without much labour. Large scale propagation of adeniums for commercial purposes is usually done through grafting only. Vigorously growing adenium obesum is normally used as a stock material for grafting. Grafting should be carried out during the growth period and this is the right time to graft. Both flat grafting and V-cut grafting are suitable for adeniums.

Some of the popular adenium hybrids are Red Rambo, Purple Viola, Sweet Blossom, Double Bonanza and Triple Amazing.

Hybrid adeniums should be bought only after seeing the colour of their flowers because many hybrids are being sold by different names, but end up giving the same flowers.

Multi-grafting an eye catcher



RIOT OF COLOUR: Grafting done with precision give healthy plants with flowers in different hues to jazz up your garden



To create a stunning and a masterpiece adenium having abundance of colours in a variety of flowers, adenium hybrids are multi-grafted on to each and every branch of a mature adenium obesum plant.

Graft to beautify variegated adeniums

Variegation in adenium occurs in the form of blotches and stripes due to mutation in leaf cells, which replaces the normal green portion of the plant leaf in different degrees with white, yellow, and cream or any other colour. With reduced green in the leaves, these plants do not remain as robust as their counterparts with full green leaves. Hence to have a robust variegated adenium with an oddity, it becomes imperative to graft it onto a vigorously growing adenium obesum.

Bonsai bounty

These floral adenium beauties are natural bonsai material and can be trained into bonsai in a comparatively short time. Select adenium having a broad root base and long branches. To give the desired bonsai shape to the plant flexible wires are used. For the branches to become softer and easier to wire it should be ensured that the plant is not watered for 4-5 days before wiring is done. Keep pruning the leaves periodically to create a good foliage effect.

Hybrids — a preferred choice

- Require small space and hardly any care.
- Water only in summers.
- Bear a natural bonsai character and hence need less time to be trained.
- Wide choice of hybrids to select from.
- Almost disease free except that the plants rot due to over watering.



Materials required for grafting adenium:

- Rootstock of at least a year -old seed grown adenium obesum in active growth with a well developed caudex; seed grown adenium forms a better caudex as compared to plants grown from cuttings.
- 4-5 cm of scion cutting in active growth from the desired adenium species which is required to be propagated; thickness of which should be less than the root stock thickness. Remove all the leaves except 1-2 at the top.
- A sharp knife sterilised in boiling water for about five minutes to avoid any infection.
- Plastic tape to hold stock and scion together.
- A transparent and a clean plastic bag to help create some humidity to promote better union.

Post grafting care

- Place the grafted plant in a shady and cool location.
- The compost should be kept moist till the sprouting of fresh leaves on the scion following which the plastic bag is removed.
- Gradually shift the plant to partial sunlight and later to full sunlight.
- Remove the tape after the grafting union has fused well. It usually takes about a couple of months.
- For good growth of scion, remove any sprouts coming from the root stock with a knife.