



Oleander Flowers

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Kerala has banned the use of **Oleander flowers** (*Nerium Oleander*) (**locally known as Arali**) in temple offerings after a woman died from accidentally chewing poisonous oleander leaves.

- Oleander, also called **rosebay**, is a widely cultivated plant found in **tropical**, [subtropical](#), and [temperate](#) regions around the world.
 - It is popular for its ability to **withstand drought** and is commonly used for **landscaping** and **ornamental purposes**.
- Oleander as a Traditional Medicine:
 - [Ayurveda](#) prescribes this for treating **chronic and obstinate skin diseases**, including [leprosy](#).
 - The **Bhavaprakasha (a renowned treatise on Ayurveda)** has mentioned it as a **poisonous plant** and recommended its use in the treatment of infected wounds, skin diseases, microbes and parasites, and itching.
- The plant contains **cardiac glycosides (a type of chemical)**, including **oleandrin, folinerin**, and **digitoxigenin**, which can have **pharmacological effects** on the heart.
 - **Symptoms of oleander toxicity include** nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, rashes, confusion, dizziness, irregular heartbeat, slow heartbeat, and in extreme cases, death.



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