

How Much Water & Sunlight Is Good For Desert Roses

How much water do you give a desert rose? How often do you water desert roses? What's the temperature range for desert roses? When we're growing desert roses from seeds, these are the frequently asked questions. If you're wondering the same thing, then let's find out together.

We'll go through this process from baby seeds to grown-up desert roses plants to see how much sunlight and water they need in this timeline below:

Seeds

[https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20\(18\)/just-sowed-adenium-seeds.jpg](https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20(18)/just-sowed-adenium-seeds.jpg)

If you get adenium seeds, try soaking them in water for 24 hours to compensate for moisture loss during shipping & increase germination rate.

For the first 7-10 days, keep your growing medium moist & not soggy. At this point, we don't bring them out to full sun yet. Semi-sunlight (semi-shade) for about 2-4 hours a day is good for the babies.

5-10 Days

[https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20\(18\)/7-day-old-adenium-seedlings.jpg](https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20(18)/7-day-old-adenium-seedlings.jpg)

After about 5 days, you will see a curvy green stem sprouting up. It's adorable! We try to keep the moisture high so they can easily crack out from their shells.

After 10 days, the little sprouts will now stand taller with some tiny green leaves. If the brown shells do not drop, you can just leave them as-is. They may fall off later as the tree grows.

In some cases, the brown shells act as "sunscreen" or shade cloth. When they eventually fall off, then possibly the area covered by the shell will be paler than the rest of the adenium body around. Just like somebody wearing sunglasses for a long time.

1 Month Old

[https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20\(18\)/one-month-old-adenium-seedlings.jpg](https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20(18)/one-month-old-adenium-seedlings.jpg)

When the plants are about 1 month old, they will have about 4-5 leaves. If you notice that the leaves are a bit saggy & dull, then mist them lightly.

If they are full, glossy & green, you don't need to water them at all. They can still survive & it's best that we not overwater them at this point.

It's not really good to water them when the temperature is too high. Also, don't let any water droplets stay on the tips of the leaves. It will cause sunburn & browning.

The best temperature range for your desert rose plants now is 35C (95F) highest in the daytime & 23C (73.4F) lowest at night. Within this range, the plants will grow well.

For the seedlings that you've seen above, I've actually been applying some stuff called EM (effective micro-organisms). It's like fertilizer, but sustainable and powerful. It has given the desert roses very strong growth from what I've seen so far. You can learn more about it here:

>> [Making EM Effective Micro-organisms At Home](#)

6 Pairs of Real Leaves Stage

When they develop 6 pairs of real leaves (not counting the first 2 leaves or cotyledon), you can re-pot them into a bigger pot. Make sure to leave no air pockets in the soil mix. Because it may take longer for the roots to develop & grab on.

After re-potting, mist the plants. They are now stronger & more ready to go outside. About 6-8 hours of sunlight will be great for their development.

Now, our babies are about 2 months old. We can keep them in these pots for about 5 months before they grow bigger. Check the plants every 7-10 days, if the soil is *totally* dry, then water them.

Otherwise, pretend they are not there & do not disturb. When watering, make sure the soil drains well & the water does not sit around. Otherwise, it can cause root rot. Keep going this way until they reach about 6-7 months old.

6-7 Months Old

At this point, you can transplant the desert roses into bigger individual pots for the roots to grow out more. Again, we leave no air pockets in the new soil (it makes newer roots harder to grab on the soil because of the space created).

With the same idea, you check the soil & if it's bone dry, give your plants some water. You can also look at their leaves. If the leaves are quite curled, pale & the caudex is a bit shrunk, then your plants may be thirsty.

If your leaves are turning yellow or you see spots popping up on the caudex, it may be a sign of overwatering. This may cause root rot. When you see this, cut the water amount immediately. Cut out the rotted part, let it dry out under the sun for several days & replant the adenium into the soil.

1 Year Old

[https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20\(18\)/one-year-old-seed-grown-adenium.jpg](https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20(18)/one-year-old-seed-grown-adenium.jpg)

Congrats, you and your adenium have made it this far! Desert roses grown from seeds are usually

healthier than those grown from cuttings. Thus, many can produce flowers within the first & a half year. During this growing phase, make sure you give them lots of water, especially if you live in a very hot climate.

When leaves are getting bigger, you can water them every three days. When flowers start forming, water them daily. Always remember to have a well-draining soil so water can exit out easily.

Placing the plants in full sun at this point will tremendously help their growth, flower & seed pod formation. You can keep going this way as your desert rose grows bigger.

Growing On & On

And those are the watering & sunlight guidelines for your adenium from seeds to 1 year old. It's not too complicated, right. Remember to be flexible in your approach depending on the weather, soil or adenium species. If you have any questions, please let us know. Have fun & enjoy this exciting process.

It's good to also take note of the life cycle of adenium. It goes from:

- Leaves & branches - needs nitrogen at this stage
- Flowers - needs more potassium & phosphorous for this stage

Take note to feed them accordingly for optimal results in each stage.

[https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20\(19\)/adenium-life-cycle.jpg](https://files.zenyrgarden.com/Images/Adenium%20Desert%20Rose%20Blog/Post%20(19)/adenium-life-cycle.jpg)

Thanks:

- [Hoa Su Viet](#)