CHARACTERISTICS OF ADENIUM SPECIES

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A. somalense	Mostly large erect trees; some shrubs	Huge, conical trunk; globular & underground in sandy soil	Short? Deciduous	Poor	Mostly star-shaped, pink or red edge fading to center; nectar guides strong, often extend partly onto petals; anther appendages us. exserted	Variable	Fast growth
A. swazicum	Small to medium shrub, mostly weak spreading stems	Small, but with big roots	Short; deciduous	Excellent	Medium, round, petals us. Overlapping; solid color, mostly pink; anther appendages deeply inserted; throat dark, no nectar guides.	Mid-summer to fall	Hardy to 28° in open; 20° under cover

TRAITS OF SOME ADENIUM HYBRIDS

TAXON	PLANT FORM,	CAUDEX SIZE	DORMANCY	COLD	FLOWERS	SEASON	NOTES
	SIZE	relative to plant	REQUIREMENT	TOLERANCE			
obesum modern cultivars	Medium shrubs; often weak stems	Small to medium	None	Poor	Round, large; wide range of colors; doubles	Best cultivars flower year round	Fast growth
obesum X swazicum	Medium shrubs; floppy (or erect) stems	Small to medium; often huge roots	None	Good	Large, round; intense solid colors	Often year round	Fast growth
obesum X crispum	Medium shrubs, erect to floppy stems	Small to large	Short to none	Poor?	Medium; often strongly striped & spotted	Often year round	Slow growth
arabicum X obesum	Large to huge; usually erect	Large to huge	Short to none	Very good	Large, round; deep pink to red	Spring to year round	Fast growth
arabicum X crispum	Medium; erect	Very large	Short to none	Good?	Small, narrow petals; tend to be striped	Spring to year round	Moderate growth
arabicum X obesum X crispum	Medium to large; erect	Large	Short to none	Good	Medium to large; pink to red; often striped	Spring to year round	Fast growth



- 1. Maximum size in cultivation at about 10 years of age: Very large/tall = 5 X 5 feet or more; large/tall = 3-5 feet tall & wide; medium = 2-3 feet tall & wide; small/short = 1-2 feet tall/wide; miniature = less than 1 foot. Dwarf = small compact variants of the typical species or hybrid.
- 2. Caudex size relative to plant size, in cultivation.
- 3. Sturdy stems = little or no pruning needed to maintain upright form. Weak stems = tend to droop. Most adeniums develop floppy terminal twigs in old age.
- 4. Dormancy is a slowing or cessation of growth. Plants may retain leaves and may flower during dormancy. Only *A. "obesum"* (Kenya-Tanzanian populations) and some forms of *A. "arabicum"* have no dormancy under tropical conditions.
- 5. Flower diameter: **Small** = <2 inches; **medium** = 2-3"; **large** = 3-4".
- 6. Flowering season is for plants kept in tropical warmth over winter. Forced winter dormancy delays flowering into spring & summer.

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