



Botanical name: *Medinilla magnifica*

Common name: Showy Medinilla, Rose Grape, Malaysian Orchid, Pink Lantern

Family: Melastomataceae

Origin: Philippines

Height: up to 3mtrs

Habit: Perennial Shrub. In the Philippines they grow as non-parasitic epiphytes in the forks of large trees.

Flower: Panicles of flowers up to 50cm long with large pink ovoid bracts. The individual flowers are up to 25mm in size and are pink or lilac in colour.

Fruits: Fleshy violet berries up to 1cm wide.

Leaves: Leathery, firm, ovate up to 20-30cm arranged oppositely on square stems.

Climate: Tropical to Warm Sub-tropical. It requires a high level of humidity and does not tolerate temperatures below 15°C

Soil: Prefers ericaceous (acidic) pH 6.1 – 6.5 well drained soil. Keep consistently moist. As an indoor plant use an open mix keep soil moist **not wet**, but do not let soil dry out between watering.

Aspect: Requires bright sunlight with shade at the hottest time of day. Requires protection when temperature drops below 15°C.

Seed: Remove seeds from fruit by crushing it. Rinse the “fruit gel” from the seeds in a bowl of water, leave for several days replacing the water daily. This is to remove tannins that inhibit germination ensuring that the water is replaced daily. Sprinkle seeds over soil raising mix, and cover with a layer of sphagnum moss or vermiculite to prevent damping off disease. Keep consistently moist until germination. It may take up to a month.

Pests/Diseases: Sometimes susceptible to spider mites, mealybugs, whitefly, root mealybugs, scale & thrips. Typical diseases associated with this genus are leaf-spot disease, botrytis, powdery mildew & root rot.

NOTES:

- Medinilla is name for José de Medinilla y Pineda, Governor of Mauritius 1820.
- The late King Baudouin of Belgium was a great lover of the Medinilla. He grew them in the Royal Greenhouses. Before the arrival of the Euro, the plant showed off on the 10,000 Belgian francs banknote.
- These plants do not have a large root system as they are epiphytes so they can be grown in a pot very successfully.
- The Medinilla genus has over 400 species. Here are a few that are readily available in

Prune: Cut stems to reduce length after flowering. But ensure to leave at least 2 leaves on the stem.

Drought/Frost: No/Tender

Propagation: Rumoured to be hard to propagate.

Cuttings: Taken from non-flowering stems with at least two leaves. Dip cutting into rooting powder and place into open moisture retaining potting mix. Keep cuttings moist.

our area: *M. myriantha*; *M. myriantha* "Pixie", *Medinilla speciosa*; *M. scortechinii* an orange flowered species, *M. miniata* a crimson species.

Source:

<https://www.thespruce.com/medinilla-showy-tropical-flower-1315765#toc-pruning-medinilla>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medinilla_magnifica#Cultivation

<https://dengarden.com/gardening/Medinilla-Magnifica-Favorite-New-Flowering-Plant-of-2012>