



Botanical name: *Arachnothryx leucophylla* syn *Rondeletia leucophylla*

Common name: Panama Rose, Bush Pentas

Family: Rubiaceae

Origin: Mexico to Panama

Height: 1.5m to 3 m in cultivation

Habit: Perennial shrub

Flower: Individual flowers are narrow tubes with 4 bright pink lobes arranged in the shape of a crow and bent abruptly outwards at right angles 2cm x 1cm. They are arranged in a cluster (cymose inflorescence) 5cm wide. Flowers are fragrant especially after sunset. Blooms mainly in winter and spring but also sporadically in the rest of the year.

Fruits: Small, dry whitish covered in hairs and indehiscent containing many seeds.

Leaves: Lanceolate to narrowly ovate 10-12cm x 2cm. Leaves are attached to stem without intervening stalk (sessile) and arranged oppositely on the stem. The upper leaf surface is dark green and hairless, while the lower side is whitish and covered in short, white hairs).

Climate: Warm sub-tropical to tropical

Soil: Fertile preferably acidic to neutral moist soil.

Aspect: Full sun to light shade

Cultivation: Mulch with compost to avoid soil drying out or roots overheating. Fertilize preferably with slow release high phosphorus low nitrogen fertilisers to encourage abundant blooming.

Prune: Prune by 2/3 after main bloom period in spring as new blooms are produced from new growth.

Drought/Frost: Heat, humidity, salt tolerant. Frost and cold tolerant to 0°C

Propagation: It produces seed, but usually and easily by semi-woody cutting in late spring or early summer, and air layering.

Pests/Diseases:

May have issues with root rot if plants are kept too wet or in boggy soil. Other than this there are no general garden pest or disease issues.

NOTES:

- Butterfly, bee and beneficial insect attracting.
- Grows up to 6m in the wild

Source:

<https://www.nparks.gov.sg/florafaunaweb/flora/2/3/2391>

<https://www.monaconatureencyclopedia.com/arachnothryx-leucophylla-2/?lang=en>