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Cryptostegia grandiflora

[Synonyms : *Nerium grandiflora*]

PINK ALLAMANDA is an evergreen twining climber. Native to Madagascar it has pale magenta flowers.

It is also known as India rubber vine, Lombira rubber-vine, *Pala* (Malayalam), *Palai* (Tamil), Palay rubber vine, Purple allamanda, and Rubber-vine.

Latex and fibre are extracted from the stems.

Warning – all parts, particularly the sap, are poisonous and can cause diarrhoea, painful and severe gastroenteritis, vomiting and death. It is also poisonous for livestock.

Grandiflora is made up of Latin *grandis* (large) and *-flora* (flowered) components.

Pink allamanda was introduced to Europe in 1824.

The Palay rubber obtained from the stems of pink allamanda is said to be of equal quality to that harvested from what some say is the best natural source in the world, the *Hevea* species found in the wild near the Amazon in South America. Although during World War II the vine was heavily cultivated commercially, today it is rarely grown on such a scale.

This climber is capable of causing environmental havoc outside its native land. In Australia particularly, it is creating concern as in some places it has smothered trees and shrubs and formed impenetrable thickets. This in turn affects not only the animal and birdlife and alters the natural vegetation but can also change the habit of bush fires.