Scarlet Rose Mallow

Hibiscus coccineus

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 3 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 5b

Other Names: Swamp Hibiscus

Description:

This bold garden perennial features very showy red flowers with hemp-like leaves; tolerates wet soil so it is ideal for pond side planting; do not allow to dry to wilting point



Scarlet Rose Mallow flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Scarlet Rose Mallow features bold red star-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from early summer to early fall. Its small serrated lobed compound leaves emerge red in spring, turning green in color throughout the season.



Scarlet Rose Mallow foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Landscape Attributes

Scarlet Rose Mallow is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Self-Seeding

Scarlet Rose Mallow is ideally suited for growing in a pond, water garden or patio water container, and is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Water Gardens
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens



Scarlet Rose Mallow
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Scarlet Rose Mallow will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 3 feet. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. As an aquatic plant, it requires a suitable water garden environment and will benefit from special planting and ongoing care practices; consult one of our in-store experts for further details and instructions. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Scarlet Rose Mallow is a fine choice for the water garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when grown in outdoor pots and containers, aquatic plants like this one will require a special growing environment that meets their requirement for consistent moisture.