Big Momma Turks Cap

Malvaviscus 'Big Momma'



Big Momma Turks Cap flowers
Photo courtesy of All Seasons Nursery

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 6 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 6b

Other Names: Wax Mallow

Description:

An interesting hybrid selection producing exceptional, large red flowers in summer through fall; cut back after plant enters fall dormancy; evergreen in warm, frost free climates

Ornamental Features

Big Momma Turks Cap features showy clusters of scarlet tubular flowers at the ends of the branches from early summer to early fall. The fruits are showy red drupes carried in abundance from mid to late fall. It has green foliage with grayish green undersides. The round palmate leaves remain green throughout the winter.

Landscape Attributes

Big Momma Turks Cap is a dense multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with a mounded form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Big Momma Turks Cap is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Big Momma Turks Cap will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 6 feet. It has a low canopy, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 30 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. 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 particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Big Momma Turks Cap makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its height, it is often used 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 a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.