

BELL COUNTY MASTER GARDENER

Tip of the Week
By Ursula Nanna
"Texas Superstars"

As a certified Texas Superstar, Moy Grande red hibiscus boasts the largest flower in the world according to Texas A&M Horticulture Department. The flowers are brilliant red and 8 – 11" in diameter. Moy needs full sun and grows 3 – 4' tall and attracts many hummingbirds and butterflies. This cousin to Hollyhock, Turk's Cap, and Okra loves well drained soil. Although drought tolerant, Moy performs better with ample watering in a well drained soil.

Dr. Moy researched and developed this hardy Hibiscus at the San Antonio Botanical Center.

Flare Rose Mallow was developed in Tennessee and bears fuchsia colored large flowers. It exhibits the characteristics of Moy Grande is deciduous and root hardy meaning it may freeze to the ground in winter. The tops should be pruned in late winter and new shoots will appear in the spring. By mid-spring Flare will again develop into a breath-taking plant. Very few plants give such enjoyment with so little care.

The first rose to be chosen as a Texas Superstar is Belinda's Dream. This is quite an accomplishment, especially in the humidity of Central Texas. Most roses succumb to black spot, powdery mildew, spider mites, and/or beetles leaving the rose looking poorly from late spring to early fall. Most roses require pesticide sprays, fungicide sprays, and miticides, but not Belinda's Dream! She shines through even in our alkaline soils.

Belinda is as hardy as she is attractive and enjoyable with wonderful double flowers on a backdrop of blue-green foliage.

Belinda achieved her Superstar status in 2002; she does well in full sun with one spring pruning and ample watering. Belinda will grow 5' tall and 3 – 4' wide. Sit back and enjoy this rose in your garden!

Have any questions about gardening in Central Texas? Contact ask.bcmga@gmail.com



Moy Grande Hibiscus



Belinda's Dream Rose