

HIBISCUS 'TEXAS STAR' RED

Hibiscus coccineus



Characteristics

- Common Name: scarlet rose mallow
- Type: Perennial
- Family: Malvaceae
- Native Range: Southeastern United States
- Zone: 6 to 9
- Height: 3.00 to 6.00 feet
- Spread: 2.00 to 3.00 feet
- Bloom Time: June to September
- Bloom Description: Deep red
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium to wet
- Maintenance: Medium
- Suggested Use: Water Plant, Rain Garden
- Flower: Showy
- Attracts: Hummingbirds, Butterflies
- Tolerate: Deer, Wet Soil

Culture

Grow in average, medium to wet soil in full sun to part shade. Best in full sun or light shade. Plants may become leggy with diminished flowering in too much shade. Tolerates summer heat and humidity, but soil should be kept moist throughout the growing season. Only reliably winter hardy to USDA Zone 6, so it should be grown in a protected location with a good winter mulch in colder zones.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Hibiscus coccineus is a vigorous, sturdy, erect, woody-based perennial that typically grows 3-6' tall and features showy, hollyhock-like, 5-petaled, bright scarlet red flowers (3-5" diameter) borne in the upper leaf axils of the plant over a long, mid-summer to early fall bloom period. Each flower has a prominent and showy center staminal column. Hemp-like, palmately compound, deep green leaves (5-6" wide). Sometimes commonly called swamp hibiscus because it is native to marshes and swamps in Alabama, Georgia and Florida. Texas Star hibiscus can withstand most of our winters, barring any truly harsh freezes. Be sure to mulch well around the base of the plant to protect the roots from any out of the ordinary cold spells. As with other perennial shrubby plants, wait until temperatures begin to warm up in spring and then prune off all of the top growth down to the ground and you'll begin to see the new growth emerge from the roots.

Problems

Some susceptibility to blight, canker, rust, leaf spots, aphids, scale, whiteflies and Japanese beetle. Taller plants may need staking.

Garden Uses

A large plant for the rear of the perennial border, mixed border or courtyard. Also effective when grouped in moist locations such as along the edge of a pond or stream.