

'MARS MADNESS' HIBISCUS

Hibiscus 'Mars Madness'

NOTE: Patented Plant PP#27838: Propagation Restrictions Apply



Characteristics

- Type: Herbaceous perennial
- Zone: 4 to 9
- Height: 4' to 4.5'
- Spread: 6' to 6.5'
- Bloom colors: Red
- Bloom time: Mid-Summer - Early Fall
- Flower: 6" to 8" blossoms, top to bottom
- Sun: Full sun to part shade
- Water: Medium to wet
- Maintenance: Low
- Attracts: Hummingbirds, Bees
- Deer Resistant

Culture

This Walters Gardens Hibiscus introduction is out of this world with its unique foliage and flower color combination. Dark olive green leaves have copper highlights, with the newest leaves emerging coppery purple. The large, maple-like leaves are broadly smooth and form a full, billowy habit. Huge 6-8" flowers open flat and are magenta red in color. Each flower has a small, darker red halo with overlapping petals and deeply impressed veins. Flowers are produced from the top to the bottom of the plant, rather than only at the top like some older cultivars. 'Mars Madness' is a later blooming Hibiscus and will extend the color of your late summer - early fall garden. Each individual flower is in bloom for only one day, but one or more flowers usually open each day, in succession, over a long mid-summer to early fall bloom period.

Noteworthy Characteristics

Hybrid hardy hibiscus are vigorous, sturdy, erect but sometimes shrubby, woody-based perennials that typically grow to 4-8' tall. Hybrid hardy hibiscus cultivars are often the result of complex breeding work involving multiple species native to the U.S. Hybrids are winter hardy to USDA Zones 4 or 5 which significantly distinguishes them from the many tropical to semi-tropical hibiscus on the market today. Each disc-shaped flower (to 6-10" across) features five flat showy overlapping petals (each to 3-4" long) in a variety of colors which surround a prominent and showy central staminal column. Individual flowers remain in bloom for only one day, but one or more flowers usually open each day, in succession, over a long mid-summer to early fall (sometimes to first frost) bloom period. Each plant can produce up to 250 flowers per growing season. Heavily, deeply-cut, irregularly serrate, glossy dark green leaves have reddish stems.

Problems

Some susceptibility to leaf spots, blights, rusts and canker. Japanese beetles, sawflies, whiteflies and aphids are occasional insect visitors. Japanese beetles can severely damage foliage if left unchecked. Leaf scorch will occur if soils are allowed to dry out. Healthy plants grown in the proper environment usually do not need staking. Deer tend to avoid this plant.

Garden Uses

Borders. Specimen, group or mass for landscape accent. Temporary hedge. Useful in low spots or wet areas in the landscape. Effective along streams or ponds.