



Common Names:
Rose Mallow, Hardy Mallow

Plant Type: Perennial

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Height: 2-5 ft.

Width: 2-5 ft

Bloom Time: Late Summer

Hardiness Zone: 5-9

Hardy Hibiscus

Hardy hibiscus is a perennial in the Mallow family (Malvaceae). The hardy species are typically hybrids of *Hibiscus moscheutos*, which are native to Southern and Eastern North America. This perennial should not be confused with its more tropical cousin, *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, which is likely native to the tropical regions of Asia.

In northern climates, hardy hibiscus is often one of the last perennials to emerge from winter dormancy, so much so that a gardener may believe the plant has died. But give it time! It will rise again in late spring and grow quickly into an impressive specimen. Although considered an herbaceous perennial, the hardy hibiscus takes on a more shrub-like form as it grows. The leaves of hardy hibiscus range from a light green to a red-bronze, with broadly shaped or delicately lobed leaves depending on the variety. The most stunning features of these plants are the large, bold flowers that can be up to 6-10 inches wide. Flower colors range from whites to reds to pinks, often with contrasting throats.

Hardy hibiscus grows best in full sun with moist soil, though it will tolerate drought once established. It is generally considered deer resistant and is tolerant of black walnut. The leaves can be damaged by Japanese beetles and the hibiscus sawfly larvae. It's best to cut back stems in spring to about 6 inches from the ground. Cutting too close to the ground can allow water to gather in the stem and freeze the crown.

References:

<https://ngb.org/year-of-the-hardy-hibiscus/>

https://aggie-hort.tamu.edu/ornamentals/cornell_herbaceous/

https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/hibiscus_moscheutos

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