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## ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE

Environmental Horticulture #EH407



### HIBISCUS PRODUCTION AND CONSUMER CARE

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#### INTRODUCTION

- Common name: Rose mallow
- Scientific name: *Hibiscus spp.*
- Native to warm temperate, subtropical, and tropical regions around the globe
- Plants grow from 3-6' in height
- Alternate oval flowers with a toothed margin
- Large trumpet shaped flowers with five or more petals
- Blossoms range from white to pink, red, purple, or yellow
- Hardy to zone 5

#### GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Grows well in full sun and moist, well drained soil

- Prefers slightly acidic media containing some organic material
- Feed once in spring with a handful of all-purpose organic fertilizer
- Mulch for protection in winter

#### PROPAGATION

- Best propagated from softwood cuttings taken in spring
- Take cuttings that are pencil thick and about 6'' in length
- Insert cutting into good potting mix and provide a humid environment; roots will form in about a month
- Can be raised from seeds
- Germination takes 7-10 days at 70-80°F
- Space plants 3 feet apart

## DISORDERS

- Aphids
  - Foliage curls and discolors
  - Dislodge with a hard spray of water
- Bacterial leaf spot (*Xanthomonas sp.*)
  - Small, blister like spots enlarge and run together
  - Increase air circulation
  - Remove infected leaves

## CONSUMER CARE

- Plants tend to dominate a garden wherever they are located
- Use as a focal point in a sunny location
- Plants will self-sow readily once established

## CULTIVARS AND SPECIES

- *Hibiscus*
  - 'Blue River II': large white flowers
  - 'Fantasia': rose pink ruffled flowers with red eyes

- 'Fireball': bright, burgundy red flowers
- 'Kopper King': white flowers with red eyes
- 'Lady Baltimore': cone shaped pink flowers with red centers
- 'Lord Baltimore': wide brilliant crimson flowers
- 'Plum Crazy': plum flowers, dark purple foliage
- *Hibiscus moscheutos*
  - 'Disco Belle Pink': wide pink flowers
  - 'Disco Belle Red': wide bright red flowers
  - 'Disco Belle White': wide white flowers

## References

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hibiscus>  
<http://www.yardener.com/Hibiscus.html>  
[http://www.plantanswers.com/hibiscus\\_propagation.htm](http://www.plantanswers.com/hibiscus_propagation.htm)

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