

# **MARSH HIBISCUS**

**Hibiscus moscheutos**

***AKA crimson eyed rose mallow, swamp rose-mallow, wild cotton***



**Description:** The red, white, pink, flowers are extremely large, easily exceeding six inches in diameter, and are produced on tall plants with large ovate, toothed leaves. They bloom from August to frost.

**Natural Habitat:** Wet open areas, marshes, swamps and shorelines near both fresh and brackish water.

**Size:** 7 feet in height

**Growth Rate:** Fast

**Light:** Full sun to partial shade

**Planting and Care:** The plant prefers light (sandy), medium (loamy) and heavy (clay) soils and requires well-drained soil. The plant prefers acid, neutral and basic (alkaline) soils but prefers moist to wet soil - can tolerate irregular to regular inundation up to 3" deep. Each flower lasts only one day. Spent flowers should be removed routinely to maintain quality appearance. Requires fertilizer due to it's rapid growth in early summer and may require staking.

**Ornamental Value:** Amazing show of color and grace- very ornamental.

**Landscape Usage:** This plant is suitable for mass planting, borders, next to streams or ponds, hedges, in a container or as a specimen.

**Commercial/Traditional Uses:** Used in the treatment of dysentery, lung ailments and urinary ailments. An infusion of the dried stalks has been used in the treatment of inflammation of the bladder.

**Wildlife Benefits:** Hummingbirds and bumble bees often visit flowers for nectar, and they help the plant by pollinating it. Seeds are eaten by birds including ducks and Northern Bobwhites.