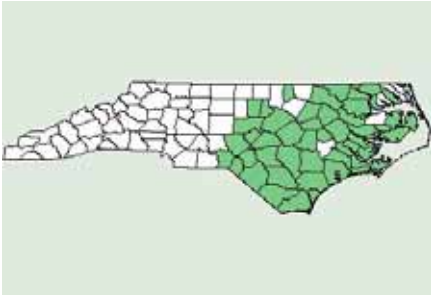


MARSH MALLOW

Kosteletzkya virginica

A past honoree as the NC Wildflower of the Year! Also known as Virginia saltmarsh mallow, Virginia fen-rose, Salt marsh mallow.



Description: A perennial member of the Hibiscus family with an open, airy shrub form. Each stem is clothed with fuzzy, light green, hibiscus-like 3 lobed leaves and an extensive root system. From midsummer through fall, seashore mallow is clothed with hundreds of beautiful 2" pale pink flowers with a central column of yellow stamens appearing profusely through summer.

Natural Habitat: In brackish, swampy areas or with shallow standing water.

Conservation Status: None noted

Size: 3-5' tall

Growth Rate: Fast

Light: Sun to partial shade

Planting and Care: Requires consistently moist soil; do not let dry out between watering.

Ornamental Value: Unique flower

Landscape Usage: An excellent garden plant if given good fertile soil rich in organic matter with a little sand added for drainage. They are also relatively late to arise in the spring and are good when inter-planted with early spring bloomers that fade in mid-summer.

Commercial/Traditional Uses: The earliest settlers boiled the roots with sugar making a juice and foams up into the confection.

Wildlife Benefits: Hummingbirds and butterflies are frequent visitors.