



Hibiscus 'Ballet Slippers'



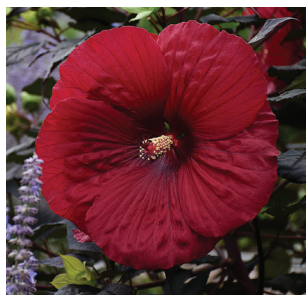
Hibiscus 'Berry Awesome'



Hibiscus 'Cherry Choco Latte'



Hibiscus 'Dark Mystery'



Hibiscus 'Holy Grail'

HIBISCUS (Rose Mallow) *Big Statements* *for the Garden*

Bob Lyons and Melinda Zoebner

Big, bold, colorful, and flamboyant flowers...that's what most people imagine when they think hibiscus. Well, they wouldn't be wrong. After all, their first introduction to hibiscus may have been in tropical Florida or Hawaii where they grow outdoors, year round, as garden shrubs. Beautiful as they may be, they are not even close to being cold hardy in our area. However, that doesn't mean that northern gardens cannot be graced with the elegance and flamboyance that characterize the tropical members of this genus. With over 650 hibiscus species, many are both native to and cold hardy throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland.

We're pleased to present a collection of perennial, native *Hibiscus moscheutos*, its selections and hybrids, as well as the native *Hibiscus coccineus*. Ornamental features include distinctive, large flowers, often measuring 6" or more in diameter, with red or softer pink petals, bicolors, and even pure white flowers. Individual flowers last only a day or two but the plant produces lots of them to extend the flowering season to several weeks. Flowering for wild species usually starts in mid to late summer, which is true for most cultivars. Shorter varieties, however, flower earlier in the summer. Overall plant habit can be variable, ranging from a commonly expected 6-8' tall to less than half that in newer, dwarf cultivars.

Perhaps the most surprising feature about these *Hibiscus* is their versatility for variable site conditions. In the wild, they normally inhabit moist to wet soils, hence the common name "Swamp Hibiscus," but they also thrive in average garden soil that sometimes flirts with drought. They are an obvious choice for rain gardens but also perform well in perennial borders. It is very important to understand that hibiscus emerge comparatively late in spring, waiting instead for the ground to warm up. They should not be mistaken for dead just because their new shoots have yet to emerge compared to surrounding perennials. Full sun is best, and while shadier conditions won't kill the plant, it will result in reduced flowering and a weaker plant stature. For cultural and aesthetic reasons, cut their stems back to stubs in winter because it is highly unlikely that any above ground stems will survive.



Hibiscus 'Kopper King'



Hibiscus 'Mars Madness'



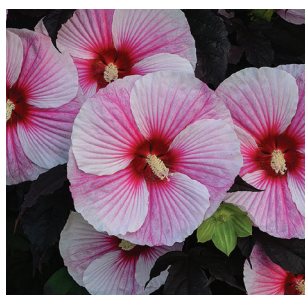
Hibiscus 'Midnight Marvel'



Hibiscus 'Mocha Moon'



Hibiscus 'Party Favor'



Hibiscus 'Starry Starry Night'



Hibiscus 'Summer in Paradise'



Hibiscus 'Vintage Wine'



Hibiscus coccineus



Hibiscus moscheutos

Latin Name	Common Name	Mature Size	Light	Soil	Pot Size	Price
------------	-------------	-------------	-------	------	----------	-------

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Ballet Slippers' Rose Mallow		4	○	☞☞	2 g	\$12
---	--	---	---	----	-----	------

Huge 7" wide, ruffled white flowers, with deep red eye, blush pink edge; late summer–early fall; overlapping petals create pinwheel effect; 4–5' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Berry Awesome' Rose Mallow		4–5	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
---	--	-----	---	----	-----	-----

Ruffled, lavender-pink, 7–8" flowers with a red eye; late summer–early fall; deep midnight green foliage; 4–5' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Cherry Choco Latte' Rose Mallow		4	○	☞☞	2 g	\$12
--	--	---	---	----	-----	------

White, intense pink-veins, 8–9" flowers, notable large red eye; dark olive-green foliage with bronze highlights; compact habit; 4' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Dark Mystery' Rose Mallow		5	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
--	--	---	---	----	-----	-----

Large, 8–9" white flowers, dark pink veins, cherry red eye; dark, wine-purple foliage; 5' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Holy Grail' Rose Mallow		4–5	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
--	--	-----	---	----	-----	-----

Deep red flowers, 8–9" diameter; dark, near-black foliage; midsummer–early fall; 4–5' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Kopper King' Rose Mallow		3–4	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
---	--	-----	---	----	-----	-----

White-light pink flowers; 10–12" flowers, red veins, bright red central eye; midsummer–late fall; copper-red foliage; compact habit; 2–4' spread; hybrid of *H. coccineus*, *H. moscheutos*, and *H. laevis*.

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Mars Madness' Rose Mallow		4–5	○	☞☞	3 g	\$12
--	--	-----	---	----	-----	------

Magenta red 6–8" flowers, deeply impressed veins; maple-shaped leaves; new leaves emerge copper-purple, turn dark-olive, copper highlights; billowy habit; 6' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Midnight Marvel' Rose Mallow		4	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
---	--	---	---	----	-----	-----

Glossy, black-red buds open to 8–9", deep scarlet flowers; midsummer–early fall; dissected, maple-like foliage, thick/leathery; compact habit; 4' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Mocha Moon' Rose Mallow		4	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
--	--	---	---	----	-----	-----

Stunning combination of dark foliage and 7–8" pure white, slightly ruffled flowers; scarlet eye bleeds into overlapping petals; midsummer–early fall; 5–6' width. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Party Favor' Rose Mallow		5	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
---	--	---	---	----	-----	-----

Heavily ruffled, cotton-candy pink, 8–10" flowers, deep magenta eye; summer–fall; 3–4' spread.

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Starry Starry Night' Rose Mallow		3–4	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
---	--	-----	---	----	-----	-----

Pale pink with darker pink speckles and veins on 7–8" flowers; mid–late summer; near black, maple-like leaves; upright clump; 3–4' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Summer in Paradise' Rose Mallow		3–4	○	☞☞	3 g	\$12
--	--	-----	---	----	-----	------

Deep red buds open to 7–8" hot cerise red flowers; midsummer–early fall; medium green, maple-like leaves accented by olive-green edges; 3–4' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus</i> 'Vintage Wine' Rose Mallow		4	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
--	--	---	---	----	-----	-----

Near-black buds open to 7" wide, scarlet flowers, darker red eye; midsummer–early fall; dark green, heart-shaped leaves; dense upright clump; 5' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus coccineus</i> Scarlet Rose Mallow		3–6	○	☞☞	2 g	\$12
---	--	-----	---	----	-----	------

Scarlet-red flowers, 3–5" diameter; showy center staminal column; early–late summer; 2–3' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> Rose Mallow		3–7	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
--	--	-----	---	----	-----	-----

Hollyhock-like shaped 4–6" flowers, commonly white, occasionally pink or rose color, dark contrasting eye; midsummer–early fall; 2–4' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'Fantasia'		3	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
---------------------------------------	--	---	---	----	-----	-----

Rosy-pink, 8–9" flowers, darker eye; midsummer–fall; maple-like, purple-tinted foliage; 2–3' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'Lady Baltimore'		4–5	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9
---	--	-----	---	----	-----	-----

Overlapping, satiny pink, 6–10" flowers, red eye; mid to late summer; compact, well-branched; 3' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'PAS304889'						
Luna™ White Rose Mallow		2–3	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9

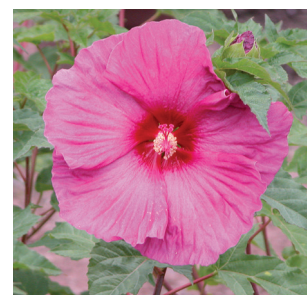
Overlapping, clear white, 8" flowers, large cranberry-red eye; midsummer until frost; extremely heat tolerant once established; compact, low habit; 2' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'PAS351671'						
Luna™ Pink Swirl		2–3	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9

White 8" flowers, pink overtones, red eye; mid–late summer; extremely heat tolerant once established; upright habit; 2' spread. N

<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i> 'PAS490714'						
Luna™ Rose Mallow		2–3	○	☞☞	1 g	\$9

Deep rose pink, 8" flowers, ruby red eye, yellow stamens; extremely heat tolerant once established; compact, well-branched habit; 2–3' spread. N



Hibiscus moscheutos 'Fantasia'



Hibiscus moscheutos 'Lady Baltimore'



Hibiscus moscheutos 'PAS304889'



Hibiscus moscheutos 'PAS351671'

Hibiscus images courtesy of: Walters Gardens ('Ballet Slippers', 'Berry Awesome', 'Cherry Choco Latte', 'Dark Mystery', 'Holy Grail', 'Mars Madness', 'Midnight Marvel', 'Starry Starry Night', 'Summer in Paradise', 'Vintage Wine'); Creek Hill Nursery ('Kopper King', 'Mocha Moon', 'Fantasia', 'Lady Baltimore', 'PAS304889', 'PAS351671'; Melinda Zoehrer ('Party Favor'); Robert Lyons (*H. coccineus*); Emily Slingerland (*H. moscheutos*)