



Panama Red Hibiscus

Hibiscus acetosella 'Panama Red'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Ruby Hibiscus, Red Shield Hibiscus, Rose Mallow

Description:

This bold plant features foliage similar to Japanese maple; dark red emerging foliage matures to deep burgundy; red flowers bloom sporadically; ideal foliage plant for the mixed garden border or containers

Ornamental Features

Panama Red Hibiscus features subtle red round flowers at the ends of the stems from late summer to early fall. Its glossy lobed leaves emerge dark red in spring, turning burgundy in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Panama Red Hibiscus is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Self-Seeding

Panama Red Hibiscus is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Water Gardens
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens



Panama Red Hibiscus foliage
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Panama Red Hibiscus will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It is quite adaptable, preferring to grow in average to wet conditions, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Panama Red Hibiscus is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.