



HOMESTEAD GARDENS

Plant FINDER

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Panama Red Hibiscus

Hibiscus acetosella 'Panama Red'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8a

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 color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Panama Red Hibiscus is an herbaceous perennial 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 ideally suited for growing in a pond, water garden or patio water container, and is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Panama Red Hibiscus foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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

Planting & Growing

Panama Red Hibiscus will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 5 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. As an aquatic plant, it requires a suitable water garden environment and will benefit from special planting and ongoing care practices; consult one of our in-store experts for further details and instructions. 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 water 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 grown in outdoor pots and containers, aquatic plants like this one will require a special growing environment that meets their requirement for consistent moisture.