


Hibiscus moscheutos

Swamp or Eastern Rose-mallow

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic

While each of its flowers lasts only a day, Swamp Rose-mallow can be covered with up to 20 striking, saucer-shaped blooms at a time. This stately perennial is native* to wet areas like marshes, riverbanks, and moist meadows and woods scattered around the eastern United States.



Perennial	Plant, Flower, Seed Capsules
Height: 3–7 feet	
Spread: 4–9	
Bloom Color: White to pink with crimson eye	
Characteristics	
Shrubby, herbaceous perennial with multiple upright, sturdy stems from a single crown	
Large, alternate , ovate to lanceolate , toothed leaves, green above and stellate-canescens below	
Large, 5- petaled flowers (epicalyxes present), each with staminal column (anthers to the sides) surrounding style w/ 5 stigmas bloom July to Sep	
Brown loculicidal capsules persist through winter	
Spreads by seed capsules that can float on water	
Attributes	
Tolerates wet soil, heat, humidity, and drought after establishment; no serious pests or diseases; deer occasionally severely damage	
Winter interest of dried seed capsules	
Attracts bees, butterflies, hummers; larval host for ~29 lepidopterans	
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for
Soil Requirements : Rich to average	<i>Canna indica</i> - Canna Lily
Light Requirements : Sun, Partial Shade	Hibiscus syriacus - Rose of Sharon
Water Requirements : Moist, (occasionally) Wet	
Site away from wind and with good air circulation	
Pinch growing tips 4–8 inches for bushy plants and deadhead individual flowers; trim** dead stems to 12–24” so native bees can nest in hollows	<p>*In the Mid-Atlantic Region, it is native to DC, common in the Coastal Plain of DE and MD, and present in the southeast and southwest of PA. In VA, it is common in the Coastal Plain, frequent in the Piedmont, and infrequent in the mountains. In NoVA, it is not reported in Arlington County.</p> <p>**Learn more about Garden Cleanup for Pollinators: Trim Perennial Stems in Their First Winter.</p>
Use in pollinator and rain gardens, moist borders, containers, and by ponds	
Hardiness : USDA Zones 4a–9b	

developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria

Images by Mary Free, Green Spring Gardens and by Elaine Mills (capsules), Meadowlark Botanical Gardens



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