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SPECIES

Hibiscus rosa sinensis

COMMON NAME

Rose mallow, Chinese hibiscus, China rose, Shoe flower

ORIGIN

East Asia

DESIGN USE

It is widely grown as an ornamental plant throughout the tropics and subtropics.



HEIGHT

2.5-5m

SPREAD

1.5-3m

FORM

Is a bushy, evergreen shrub or small tree with glossy leaves and solitary brilliant red flowers.

FLOWERS

The 5-petaled flowers are 10 cm (4in) in diameter, with prominent orange-tipped red anthers.

FLOWERING PERIOD

Summer and autumn



CLIMATIC TOLERANCES

As it does not tolerate temperatures below 10 °C (50 °F), in temperate regions it is best grown under glass. However, plants in containers may be placed outside during the summer months or moved into shelter during the winter months.

HORTICULTURE

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis is one of many plant species with a genetic characteristic known as polyploidy, in which there are more than two complete sets of chromosomes, unlike most other species. A side effect of polyploidy is a condition where the phenotype of the offspring may be quite different from the parent, or indeed any ancestor, essentially allowing possibly random expression of all (or any) of the characteristics of all the generations that have gone before. Because of this characteristic, H. rosa-sinensis has become popular with hobbyists who cross and recross varieties, creating new named varieties and holding competitions to exhibit and judge the many resulting new seedlings and often strikingly unique flowers. To add to the genetic opportunities, Hibiscus rosa-sinensis has been successfully hybridized with the cold-resistant Hibiscus moscheutos and several other North American hibiscus species, producing cold-hardy hybrids.



REFERENCES

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hibiscus_rosa-sinensis

