

## Featured Perennial

# *Hibiscus moscheutos* - Hardy Hibiscus, Marsh Mallow, Rose Mallow

Submitted by: Michelle Heronema  
Garden Thyme



Photo Credit: Diana Reavis

<b>Botanic name:</b>	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>
<b>Common name:</b>	Hardy Hibiscus, Marsh Mallow, Rose Mallow
<b>Height:</b>	4 – 6 feet
<b>Width:</b>	4 – 5 feet
<b>Light:</b>	Full sun
<b>Water:</b>	Average - moist
<b>Soil:</b>	Tolerates a number of different soils
<b>Growth Habit:</b>	Upright, bushy
<b>How to use:</b>	Specimen plant, perennial borders

Every year I nervously wait for my hardy Hibiscus to start pushing up new green growth knowing fully well that I won't see any signs of life until mid-summer. In early spring as the rest of my plants are beginning to wake up and show signs of life I am convinced that this is the year that it won't return and I am going to have to replace it with some other boring plant. But each June in spite of my pessimism new green shoots begin to emerge from the ground. *Hibiscus moscheutos* is an absolutely stunning plant, the huge 6-8" flowers begin appearing in late summer and continue through the fall. While short lived, each flower only lives for 1 day, the vivid red, pink or white flowers cover the plant once it has begun to bloom. Native to swampy areas it can handle wet areas and doesn't want to dry out considerably between waterings. Bringing a touch of the tropics to Colorado this easy to care for perennial is a welcome addition to any landscape and will have friends and family wanting one for their yards. In spite of its tropical appearance *Hibiscus moscheutos* is hardy to zone 4 and comes back reliably up and down the front range. This large perennial works as a back drop in beds great as a single specimen planting or in groups. Once a hard frost has occurred cut the stalks back to about 2-3" and eagerly await the next summer.



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