# Red Mallow

***Pavonia missionum***



*Red Mallow flowers*
*Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder*

Height: 6 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 9

**Description:**

A graceful evergreen shrub that is similar to hibiscus; produces attractive orange-red flowers from winter to summer over contrasting, aromatic dark green foliage with scalloped edges; a great addition to borders or large containers

**Ornamental Features**

Red Mallow features showy clusters of scarlet round flowers with orange overtones and gold centers at the ends of the branches from late winter to mid summer. It has dark green foliage with grayish green undersides. The serrated lobed leaves remain dark green throughout the winter. The brick red branches add an interesting dimension to the landscape.

**Landscape Attributes**

Red Mallow is an open multi-stemmed evergreen shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition.

This shrub will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Red Mallow is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

**Planting & Growing**

Red Mallow will grow to be about 6 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub does best in full sun to partial shade. It is very adaptable to both dry and moist growing conditions, but will not tolerate any standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is not originally from North America.

Red Mallow makes a fine choice for the outdoor landscape, but it is also well-suited for use 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 a container, it may not perform exactly as indicated on the tag - this is to be expected. Also note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.