

Red Rum Tree Mallow



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Lavatera 'Red Rum'

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ☉

Hardiness Zone: 6b

Other Names: Rose Mallow

Description:

Large, fuchsia-red saucer-shaped flowers late spring to fall; does not tolerate cold, drying winds; fast growing and easy to maintain; cut back to the ground in spring

Ornamental Features

Red Rum Tree Mallow features showy fuchsia flowers with dark red centers along the branches from late spring to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its tomentose lobed leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Red Rum Tree Mallow is an open multi-stemmed 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 is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Red Rum Tree Mallow is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Red Rum Tree Mallow flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Red Rum Tree Mallow in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Red Rum Tree Mallow will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. Although it is technically a woody plant, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Red Rum Tree Mallow is a fine choice for the 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 growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.