

Okinawan Hibiscus



Okinawan Hibiscus

Hibiscus makinoi

Height: 7 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Spacing: 4 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 8a

Other Names: Makino's Hardy Mallow

Description:

This bold garden shrub features showy pale pink flowers with cream centers, from dark pink buds over attractive, fuzzy green, maple-shaped leaves; ideal for the mixed garden border or massed; dies back to ground in colder zones, re-emerging in spring



Okinawan Hibiscus flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Okinawan Hibiscus features showy shell pink round flowers with buttery yellow eyes at the ends of the branches from early to mid fall, which emerge from distinctive rose flower buds. Its tomentose lobed leaves remain bluish-green in colour with distinctive light green veins throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Okinawan Hibiscus is a 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 plant 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 butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Self-Seeding

Okinawan Hibiscus is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

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Planting & Growing

Okinawan Hibiscus will grow to be about 7 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 feet apart. 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 does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. 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 rich soils. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Okinawan Hibiscus 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.