Red Rum Tree Mallow

Lavatera 'Red Rum'



Red Rum Tree Mallow flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



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

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5b

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. It has green deciduous foliage. The fuzzy lobed leaves do not develop any appreciable fall color.

Landscape Attributes

Red Rum Tree Mallow is an open multi-stemmed deciduous shrub with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other landscape plants with finer foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance shrub, 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

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 a little leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 20 years.

This shrub 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 xeriscaping or the moisture-conserving landscape. 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 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.