

Red Hibiscus



Hibiscus acetosella

- **Use:** Most people grow Hibiscus plants for their showy flowers – the exotic ones you envision on tropical islands. There is one species, however, that is more noted for its interesting foliage than the flowers. It is a bold addition to the garden, with deep red-purple foliage that makes a great contrast with green and silver-leaved plants. This tender perennial subshrub, native to tropical East Africa, is hardy only to zone 8 or 9 but is easily grown as an annual in colder climates. It is not often referred to by a common name but you may see it listed as African rosemallow, false roselle, maroon mallow, cranberry hibiscus or red leaved hibiscus.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Grow in full sun in ordinary soil.
- **Growth:** Grows rapidly 5' tall and 2.5' wide in a season.
- **Hardiness:** Zone 8a –9a Annual/ Tender Perennial; Very heat tolerant!
- **Foliage:** Deciduous; Leaves are usually maroon (brownish-red), and are palmate (palm shaped)
- **Flower:** Flowers are usually maroon (brownish-red) or crimson. These inconspicuous flowers are about 2 inches. Unlike most flowers, this plant generally does not bloom in spring and may not even bloom in summer: instead, blooming generally in late summer, fall, and sometimes in winter (short day plant), this plant gives color into your garden when you probably do not have many flowers growing.



This is a nice addition to the back of a mixed border. The shrubby habit of this plant makes it a good choice for a seasonal hedge, an attractive annual specimen plant, or for contrast in the mixed border or cottage garden. It can also be used as a specimen plant for late summer interest. Plant with petunias or Verbena bonariensis 'Meteor Showers'