

Rose of Sharon or Althea (*Hibiscus syriacus*)

This large growing flowering shrub becomes everyone's favorite each summer when they are loaded with huge colorful flowers. They make a bold statement in the landscape with their mature size averaging 8' to 10' in height and 6' to 8' in width. When it is needed, pruning is simple and should be done early each spring before the new growth starts (flowers are formed on new growth in the spring). They grow best in well drained soil and are adaptable except for very dry or wet soils. To bloom well they should be positioned where they receive lots of sun. Easy to grow and hardy in Zones 5 thru 8, Althea makes a great fast growing flowering hedge, plus it has been proven to be deer resistant.

Varieties we grow:



Aphrodite – an introduction from the U.S. National Arboretum, the selection boasts **large single dark pink flowers**. The wide flower petals produce a very full flower, an improvement on other single flowered pink selections.

Freedom – the largest flowered **double red** selection we know of! Double flowered selections have a reputation for being hardier than the single flowered forms and this one has proven to be very tough.



Lavender Chiffon – This newer selection comes from England and is unique with its **large, single lavender flowers adorned with a large lacy center** that creates an anemone-like bloom. It has proven to be one of the most vigorous growing of all hibiscus selections.

Red Heart – this selection has **white flowers with a red center** and has proven to be the hardiest single flowered form. It has even been seen growing successfully in Vermont.



- Jeff Thompson
Pennsylvania Pride Grow Team