



Tree Mallow

Lavatera maritima

Height: 8 feet

Spread: 10 feet

Sunlight: ☉ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9a

Other Names: syn. *Lavatera bicolor*, Rose Mallow

Description:

Large, pale pink to white flowers, with striking fuchsia centers from summer to fall; does not tolerate cold, drying winds; fast growing and easy to maintain; cut back to the ground in spring in colder areas

Ornamental Features

Tree Mallow features showy shell pink flowers with white overtones and fuchsia centers along the branches from mid spring to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its tomentose lobed leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

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

Tree Mallow is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Tree Mallow flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Tree Mallow will grow to be about 8 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 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 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 will benefit from an application of bonemeal and/or mycorrhizal fertilizer at the time of planting. 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 species is not originally from North America.

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.