



PLANT FACT SHEET

Hibiscus syriacus L.

GENUS *Hibiscus* FAMILY Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Syrian Hibiscus, Blue Hibiscus, Rose of Sharon

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers, Leaves - tea, Seeds - oil, Flowers - tea

The young leaves are boiled and eaten with oil and salt.

They are used for tea.

The flowers can be eaten. They are used in soup.

The calyces or the flower are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub 3-4 m high. It spreads 1.2-1.8 m wide. It loses its leaves in cooler climates. The leaves are oval with teeth around the edge. They are small and hairless. The flowers are purple with crimson centres. The flowers are bell shaped and can be single or double. They are produced in the axils of leaves. There are a range of cultivated varieties.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. In the tropics it grows at high altitude. It is frost hardy but flowers are damaged by frost. It suits hardiness zones 5-9. At Anvers Chocolate factory. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seeds and cuttings.

NOTES

There are about 220 *Hibiscus* species. It is also used as a medicine.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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