Tree Mallow

Malva sylvestris

Plant Height: 3 feet

Flower Height: 4 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 5a

Ornamental Features

Tree Mallow features bold spikes of purple round flowers rising above the foliage from mid summer to late fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its crinkled round leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Tree Mallow is an herbaceous perennial with a rigidly upright and towering form. Its relatively coarse texture can be used to stand it apart from other garden plants with finer foliage.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding

Tree Mallow is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens



Tree Mallow flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Tree Mallow in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Tree Mallow will grow to be about 3 feet tall at maturity extending to 4 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 4 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.