

# PLANTING & GROWING INSTRUCTIONS

When you receive your young seedlings they will need to recover from the stress of shipping. We have left as much of the foliage as possible on your plants. Once you plant them they will straighten up rapidly. Plant them as soon as possible. When two or more plants are joined together they may be separated for planting if you desire. Planting them together will only help create a bushy full plant more rapidly. Plant your seedlings about 1 to 2 inches deep in the ground or planter. Keep watered and moist until they are well established. (About 1 -2 weeks) After they are established you can fertilize them with a well balance time-release fertilizer (20-20-20 or 14-14-14, etc.) You can find many recipes for the many uses of your new plants on the web simply by 'Googling' the name.

Gardeners who love plants with striking color may find themselves drawn to the cranberry hibiscus (*Hibiscus acetosella*). This African native produces green or deep red to burgundy, maple like leaves that thrive in warm temperatures. Reddish-purple, trumpet shaped, 2-3 inch wide flowers appear in late fall and last through the winter. Known also as false roselle, red leaf hibiscus or maroon mallow, the cranberry hibiscus grows best in full sun and fertile, fast-draining soil. Hardy in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 9 through 11, cranberry hibiscus grows very quickly and requires spacing of 4 to 10 feet.

1. Water the cranberry hibiscus when the top 2 to 3 inches of soil becomes dry. Water the surrounding soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches using a garden hose. Never allow the soil to become soggy. Check the plant periodically for signs of wilting stems or leaves when temperatures reach 90 degrees or higher. Water the cranberry hibiscus immediately if you discover drooping foliage.
2. Fertilize the cranberry hibiscus in the spring, just after the first flush of new growth appears. Apply a nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium slow-release fertilizer at a rate of 1 tablespoon per square foot of soil. Spread the fertilizer in a band, just outside the perimeter of the shrub. Mix the granules into the top 1 to 3 inches of soil using a rake. Water the area thoroughly. Fertilize the cranberry hibiscus every four months during the growing season.
3. Spread a 1-to-3-inch layer of mulch around the base of the cranberry hibiscus using a rake. Keep the mulch 4 inches away from the shrub's trunk.
4. Prune the cranberry hibiscus two to three times during the growing season to keep its size under control. Cut out any dead, damaged or diseased stems using a pair of pruning shears. Make each cut at a 45-degree angle, 1/4 inch above a leaf bud, growth node or lateral stem. Cut back any straggly or extremely vigorous stems to shape the plant into a pleasing rounded habit. Gather all fallen leaves and removed branches, placing them in a plastic garbage bag for transport. Collecting the plant material will prevent the spread of unwanted seeds, which will start growing in your landscape if they come in contact with the soil. Discard the removed plant material in a trashcan or on top of a compost heap.
5. Examine the plant's leaves each time you water, looking for signs of insect damage such as holes and discoloration. Watch for miniature webs, a sign of spider mites, or tiny, green to brown aphids. Spray a steady stream of water on infested leaves to wash away the insects. Treat large infestations with insecticidal soap or neem oil. Remove any damaged foliage or stems.

## Tip

- Plant cranberry hibiscus shrubs in the warmest part of your garden for increased leaf and stem color.

**Roselle plant care** is relatively easy. Sow your seeds or **plant** your cuttings or seedlings in sandy loam that receives full sun and water regularly. Little to no fertilization is necessary. You should weed around them in the very beginning, but the **plants** grow vigorously and will shade out weeds on their own soon enough.

Cranberry hibiscus is both sweet-tart tasting and highly nutritious. Red Cranberry Hibiscus deep red leaves resemble those of a maple tree.

You can enjoy cranberry hibiscus by:

- using in recipes
- eating raw
- steeping in hot water to make a tea

It is high in B vitamins which give you more energy throughout the day and vitamin C which boosts your immune system. Research indicates that antioxidants found in cranberry hibiscus lowers cholesterol, improves the functioning of your liver, and helps fight cancer. Its' use has also been associated with reducing stress, lowering blood pressure, and helping with indigestion. Originally from Africa, cranberry hibiscus grows well in Central South Florida, or as a patio or indoor plant by a brightly lighted window.

For more information including picture galleries, natural techniques & remedies for your garden, and our newsletters with additional natural plant pesticides and fungicides visit our website: [www.adeniumplumeriaplants.com](http://www.adeniumplumeriaplants.com).

Feel free to email us at [info@plantniche.com](mailto:info@plantniche.com) with any questions or requests you may have. Thank You.