



Know What You Grow!



Hollyhock

Scientific Name: *Alcea rosea*

Recommended Varieties:

- **Chater's Double, Summer Carnival**
- **Silver Puff**-rust resistant
- **Celebrity, Queeny, Majorette** - shorter varieties

Diseases: Rust and mildew can infect hollyhocks in moist, crowded settings. Carefully clip away the damaged leaves and throw them away. Always water hollyhocks from below; keeping their leaves dry will help keep rust and mildew under control.

[Wisconsin Horticulture Extension](#)

Growing Information

Biennial/Perennial

Many varieties are biennial and take two years from seed to flower. Some bloom the first year, and other varieties are short-lived perennials.

Ideal Planting Window

August-September

Plant from seed or transplant seedlings.

Growing Guidance

Prepare a bed, mixing in plenty of compost. If purchasing hollyhocks at the nursery, transplant carefully, trying not to disturb the roots.

Starting from seed gives more choices in plant variety. Start hollyhock seeds in two-inch cell packs or pots.

Seeds can be sown directly in the ground. If direct planting, sow groups of three or four seeds, 2-3 feet apart. Press seeds into the soil and cover lightly with soil, if at all.

[NAPA MG Column](#)

Further Information: [How to Grow Hollyhocks](#)



Flower Facts

- Hollyhocks are bland, but they are edible. They can be added to salads or used as an edible garnish.
- Hollyhocks are sometimes called **outhouse flowers** because they were often planted to hide unsightly outhouses.
- The woody stems can be used as firewood.
- Hollyhock roots have been used in traditional herbal medicine.
- The plant is a source of food for some butterflies, worms, and insects.
- In the language of flowers, hollyhock symbolize fruitfulness.
- Former American president, Thomas Jefferson, once bred a variety of hollyhock that was dark red.
- Lotion made from the flowers can heal sunburn and dry skin.
- The hollyhock is related to the hibiscus.

[Fun Flower Facts About the Hollyhock](#)

Photos: Creative Commons, UCANR

Additional Resource:

Sunset Western Garden Book

Contact Information



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Pollinators/Beneficial Insects

These towering flowers can reach up to ten feet and are hummingbird heliports in colors ranging from lemon yellow, apricot, and blush pink to almost black.

Bumble bees are also attracted to Hollyhocks, especially the single petal varieties in yellows and pink tones.

Plant these tall flowers at the back of a garden bed or along a fence.

[Buzz About Bees](#)

Suggested Uses

Companion Planting For:

Hollyhocks will happily grow alongside any plants that match their cultural requirements of full sun and well-drained soil.

Set yarrow, bellflowers, and daisies in front of hollyhocks—they will never compete because they like dry soil.

Tall cactus zinnias, marigolds and sunflowers share hollyhock's love of sunshine. Like hollyhocks, none of these plants require heavy fertilization.

Other Uses:



Create a Hollyhock Doll

Making hollyhock dolls is an old-fashioned craft that has been enjoyed by children for generations. In fact, the dolls have been popular for centuries!

Directions: [Better Homes & Gardens](#)