



SEED OF THE MONTH:

Common Name: Akiohala or Purple Hibiscus

Scientific Name: *Hibiscus furcellatus*

Indigenous: Kauai, Oahu Maui, Hawaii

Genus: Hibiscus aka: Mallow

Species: Furcellantus

Height:

8 feet

Spacing:

6 feet

Sun Exposure:

Full Sun

Bloom Color: Light purple/pink

Bloom Time: All year long

Other Details:

Although this plant naturally grows in marshes and other wet locations it does not need a damp environment to survive and is very drought tolerant in your landscape. Grows well in containers and ground. It's the only native hibiscus besides Hau that is indigenous to Hawaii. Unfortunately like many other mallows, mealy bugs, rose beetles and other garden pests enjoy making this plant their home and dinner. Placing this plant where it receives night light will minimize the rose beetle attacks.

Soil Requirements: Akiohala enjoys well drained soil that is not high in phosphorus and will do well with an occasional addition of magnesium and iron. When in doubt about what to add, think manure, it has everything your plant needs!

Water Requirements: Enjoys water but does not need a lot of it to survive. When growing in a pot, during the winter every 3-4 days and during summer daily. When growing in the ground, deep water 1-2 times a week.

Propagation Methods:

Grows by seed. Use gloves when removing seed pods as they are painfully prickly.

Known Uses:

Culturally Akiohala is used medicinally as a laxative and dye and the bark is used to make cordage. In your landscape it's used where a pop of color is needed. Akiohala blossoms area favorite attraction for beneficial insects.

Seed packet goes here