

Plant Profile

Name: Roselle



Notes: Flavor notes of leaves have been described as: citrusy, sour, tangy. Great as an addition to salads, curries, and stir-fries. Flower calyx used in beverages, sauces, jams, and other preserves.

Can be propagated from cuttings. Set in water until roots form, then transplant into soil.

Seed saving: Let seeds dry naturally on the branch until brown, but before they open and drop seeds. Calyx cut from stem can be dried in a paper bag in a warm room. Store seeds in a cool, dark place in an air-tight container.

When to Plant: Spring – March-May

Common Name: Roselle

Alternate Names: Jamaican Sorrel, red sorrel, roselle hibiscus, Florida cranberry

Botanical Name: *hibiscus sabdariffa*, Member of the *Mallow* family.

Physical Description: Shrubby plant with attractive foliage and flowers. Leaves are lobed and reddish-green.

Annual Biennial Perennial

Propagation: Seed Cutting Graft

Other:

- **Soil:** sandy loam, well-draining
- **Water:** keep moist, but not wet.
- **Sun:** full sun
- **Zone/Temp:** sub-tropical/tropical, frost-sensitive
- **Spacing:** 3'–6'

Germination: 7-10 days with soil 75°. Plant seed ½" deep, 6-8 weeks before last frost, then transplant into ground.

Growing Season: Spring – late fall when grown as an annual. In tropical climate, grows as perennial.

Days to Harvest: (4-5 months) Blooms when days get shorter. Harvest calyx 7-10 days after blossom expires. Harvest young leaves all seasons.

Care: trim, Prune, other: Trim early to promote bushiness, staking taller plants may be required.

Nutrients/Fertilizer: No extra fertilizer needed if grown in rich soil. Can use an all-purpose fertilizer monthly if needed.

Companion Plants: Roselle need plenty of space to branch out. Best grown alone in a sunny location.

Pests & Diseases: Susceptible to root-knot nematodes. Organic matter and crop rotation helps reduce pest pressure.