

Scarlet hibiscus is a native plant to Florida. It comes in white and red, and the petals are spread out like a star. It grows 4 to 8 feet tall and has thin leaves, its zone is 10b. It belongs to the malvaceae family, and the scientific name is *hibiscus coccineus*.

The scarlet hibiscus is important to its ecosystem because it attracts the rose mallow bee. It provides food for the rose mallow bee because it provides pollen. Also because the bee can pollinate it, the plant can create seeds to reproduce. The scarlet hibiscus also attracts moths and butterflies. It is actually a host plant to the gray hairstreak, painted lady, and checkered skipper butterflies as well as four moth species.

It grows in wet areas like marsh areas and wetlands, but it can also grow in dried soils as well. The flowers appear in mid-to late summer. There are different names for the scarlet hibiscus like marsh hibiscus and swamp mallow. Scarlet hibiscus is a perennial that comes back every year.

I chose this shrub because when you say hibiscus you think of a tropical place like Florida.

Because this plant grows in wet areas, you can find it in wetlands and swamps, that is part of the natural habitats in Florida. I also wanted a flower and this one has a very pretty flower. I had a hibiscus once and it was a really awesome plant.

*Sources*

*Hibiscus coccineus*. Florida Native Plant Society (FNPS). (2020). Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://www.fnps.org/plant/hibiscus-coccineus>

Knox, G. W., & Schoellhorn, R. (2020, December 13). *Hardy Hibiscus for Florida landscapes*. UF IFAS. Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/EP245>

UF IFAS. (2021, January 5). *Hibiscus*. Hibiscus - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/hibiscus.html>