

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis

CLASSIFICATION:

Kingdom:	Plantae
Division:	Magnoliophyta
Class:	Magnoliopsida
Order:	Malvales
Family:	Malvaceae
Genus:	<i>Hibiscus</i>
Species:	<i>rosa-sinensis</i>
Vernacular name:	Gurhal



PLANT PROFILE:

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis, known colloquially as the Chinese hibiscus, China rose and shoe flower, is an evergreen flowering shrub native to East Asia. It is widely grown as an ornamental plant throughout the tropics and subtropics. The flowers are large, generally red in the original varieties, and firm, but generally lack any scent. Also many colors are available in a single, double or multi-shades including white, yellow, orange, red, pink, salmon, purple, etc. *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, is the national flower of Malaysia. The leaves are alternate, simple, ovate to lanceolate, often with a toothed or lobed margin. The flowers are large, conspicuous, trumpet-shaped, with five or more petals. The fruit is a dry five-lobed capsule, containing several seeds in each lobe, which are released when the capsule dehisces (splits open) at maturity.

USES:

To induce abortion, ease menstrual cramps and to help in childbirth. To treat headaches. A preparation from the leaves is used to treat postpartum relapse sickness, to treat boils, sores and inflammations. Good for hairs. Hibiscus flowers are reported to possess anti-fertility property by ancient Ayurvedic texts. It is also used for the worship of Devi and especially the red variety takes an important part in tantra.