

MALVACEAE

mal-vay-see-eye

My Bloomin' Thing

Jan Davis

April 19 2016

Master Gardener Trainee



MALVACEAE

CLASSIFICATION - Angiosperms

*flowering plants growing as
trees, shrubs, bushes, herbs,
flowering plants*

FAMILY *Malvaceae*

COMMON *Mallow family -*
NAME *approx 243 Genera*
 4225 species



Family Members Include...

Hollyhock	- Alcea
Okra	- Abelmoschus esculentus
Cotton	- Gossypium
Jute	- Chorcorus hirtus
Rose of Sharon	- Hibiscus syriacus
Marshmallow	- Althea officinalis
Kapok	- Ceiba pentandra
Silk Floss Tree	- Ceiba Speciosa
<u>Hibiscus</u>	- Hibiscus rosa-sinesis



Shared Traits...

Dicot- bi-sexual-superior ovary

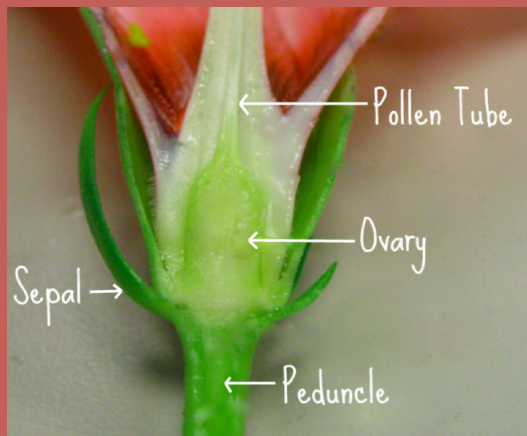
Five overlapping petals

Leaves alternate, palmated, usually veined

Stamens fused into a tube surrounding pistil

Can be annuals, biennials and perennials

Grown in various habitats throughout the world



History

- ❖ ***Eight species, the ancestors for ALL hibiscus***
- ❖ **Brought on ships by Dutch and English in 17th and 18th centuries**
- ❖ **Hibiscus rosa-sinensis was named by Carl Linnaeus in 1753**



H. arnottianus
H. kokio
(Hawaii)



H. rosa-sinensis
(China)



H. schizopetalus
(Madagascar)



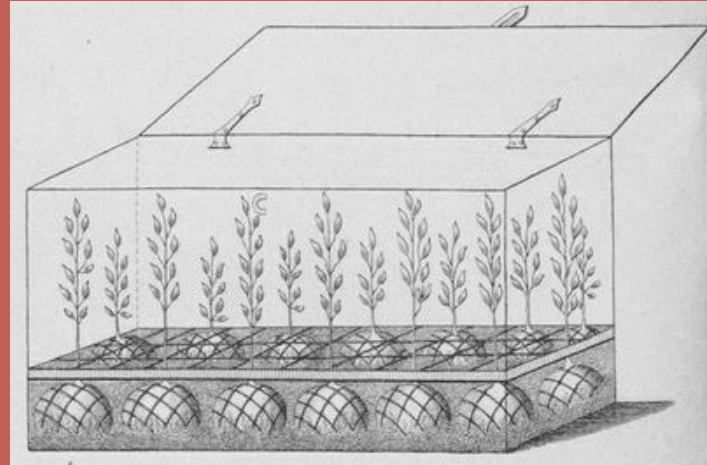
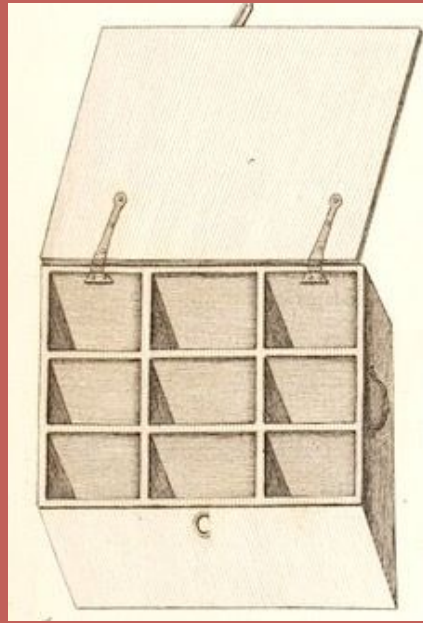
H. geneviève
H. fragilis
H. liliflorus
(Mauritius)



H. storckii
(Fiji)



History (cont' d)



How did
the
plants
survive long
ocean
voyages?



Growth Habit of Hibiscus

- ❖ *Perennial, vase-shaped shrub or small tree*
- ❖ *Life expectancy can range from 5-50 years.*
- ❖ *Leaves have toothed margins.*
- ❖ *Trumpet shaped flower with bottle brush-like stigma (invites pollinators), no fragrance*
- ❖ *Variety of bold and gorgeous colors, more than 200 hybrid species*
- ❖ *Petals overlap, forming a whorl, encloses 5 fused petals, forming a tube*
- ❖ *Plant blooms year round in US Zones 9-11 if conditions are favorable.*



Habitat and Care

Hibiscus is tropical, grows very well in San Diego's sub-tropical climate

Hibiscus does not tolerate cold and do best in temperatures from 60 to 90 degrees.

Sun loving, Hibiscus likes slightly acidic, moist, well-drained soil

Growing Hibiscus along a south facing wall is optimal

Seasonal pruning out of old wood promotes more vigorous growth.



Pests

Hibiscus are tempting targets

- Aphids
- White Flies
- Mealy Bugs
- Spider Mites
- Grasshoppers
- Ringspot virus



1992 Major Infestation of
Giant Whiteflies

Various approaches to
prevention and
abatement of pests
hard water spraying
herbicidal soaps



Currently two natural enemy parasitic wasps
from Mexico



Uses and References

- ❖ **Edible/Medicinal:**
Teas, powders, dietary supplements, Wine. Used to treat Hypertension, lower cholesterol, relieve menstrual cramps, treat diabetes, as diuretic, and treat lice
- ❖ **Food for reptiles**
San Diego Zoo maintains large number of hibiscus plants for their reptile residents.
- ❖ **Old Testament, Roman Empire.**
Job speaks of “mallow eaten in time of famine”
”Anyone taking a spoonful of mallows will be free of disease”
(Pliny)



Lore and Legend of Hibiscus

❖ Hawaii State Flower



❖ India “JAPA” (Prayer)



❖ Philippine Children



❖ Malaysia National Flower...
“BUNGA RAYA”
flower celebration !!



Hibiscus **HAIKU**

Jazzy Hibiscus

***Flowers trumpet hot notes
in***

Nature's orchestra



