



MG VIPR Report

Family: Malvaceae

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Kingdom: Plantae

Division: Tracheophyta

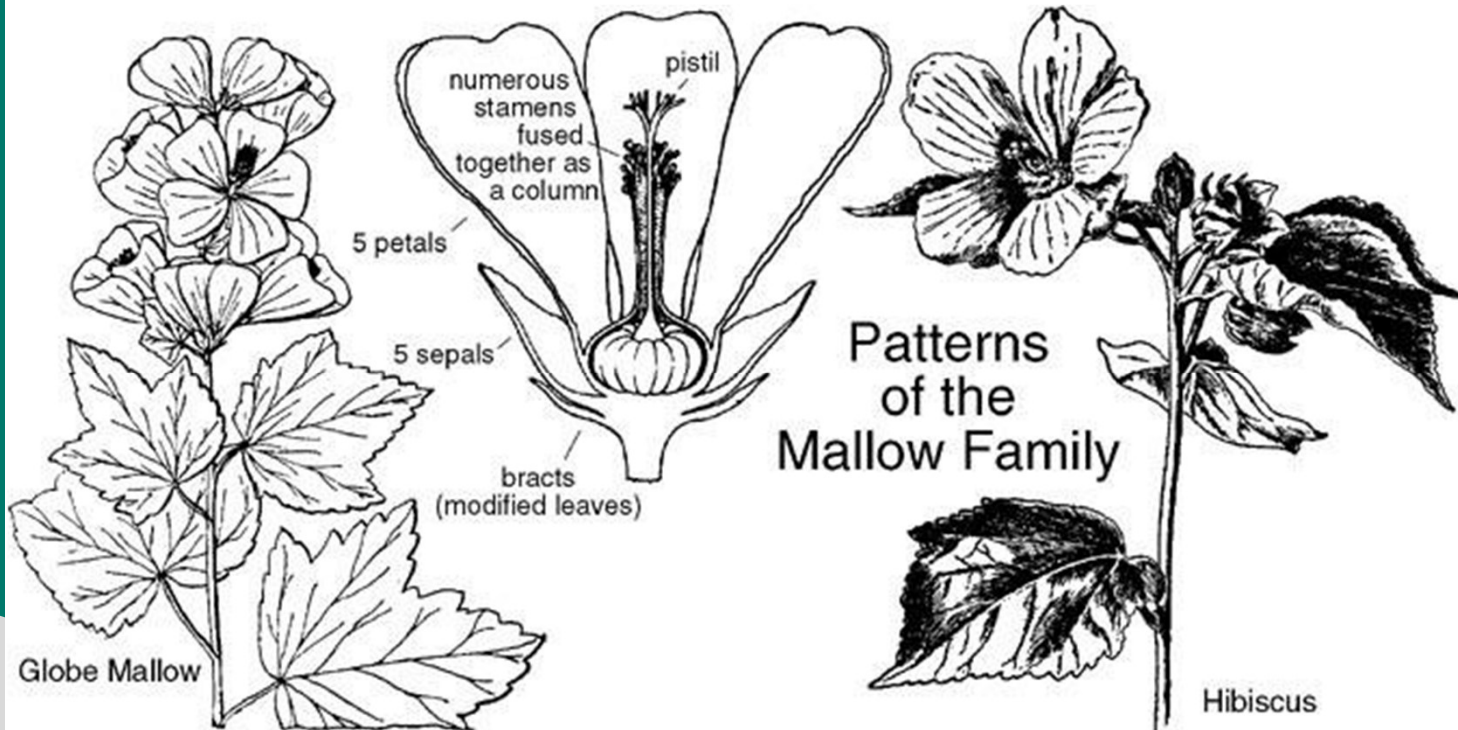
Class: Magnoliopsida (Dicotyledons)

Order: Malvales (has 10 Families)

Family: Malvaceae

Common Name: Mallows or Hibiscus Family

Family of flowering plants with ~ 243 genera and
~ 4,225 known species of
herbaceous plants, shrubs, and trees
found nearly worldwide in tropical or subtropical
climates. They are more numerous in the tropics.



Malvaceae a.k.a. Mallow, or Hibiscus Family

Pronounced: Mal va` se i, or
Mal va` se e

Leaves grow alternately
along stem & have
palmate veination.

The common
name “Mallow”
is from the
English version
of Latin word
malva, which is
taken from
Greek and is
referring to the
emollient
leaves of
certain species.



Common Traits of Mallows

Dicots - 5-petaled
flowers with fused
bracts below the sepals
(epicalyx - hibiscus &
cotton).

Monothealous antlers.
Stamens form a tube,
or column, surrounding
the pistil.



Mallow Family: Annual, biennial & perennial herbs, & shrubs, & trees.

Mallows



Mallow Family

Herbaceous plants.

Ornamental shrubs.

Trees, some parts of which are used for food.
Others have important economic uses.

Mucilage canals in most members (slimy).

Mostly deciduous, but can be evergreen in coastal or protected areas with mild winters.

All plants are edible, except cotton, which is poisonous.

Edible Plant uses as Food Crops

Cacao - cocoa bean seed - chocolate

Cola - kola nut - Coke

Durian - edible (?) fruit

Okra - a.k.a. ladies fingers

Marsh mallow plant -edible leaves,
stems, flowers, seeds, & roots -
“cheeseweed”annual broadleaf plant

Hibiscus - flowers, leaves & seeds





Includes 2/3 most important fiber crops in the world.

Economical Uses:	<u>Natural Fibers:</u>	<u>Cotton</u>	Kenaf	<u>Kapok</u>
	Wood Products:	Linden Tree, a.k.a. Basswood		Balsa
	Food:	<i>Baobab</i>	<i>Durian</i>	



Mallow Family

Many Ornamental Plant Types

Hibiscus - Rose of Sharon

Hollyhock

Tree Mallow

Floss-silk Tree

Linden Tree - perfume



Mallow Family

Plant Uses as Medicine

Many Malvaceae are used in traditional herbal teas and remedies for sore throats, bronchitis, etc.

Antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, anti-oxidant, & hepatoprotective

Baobab, *Hibiscus*, marsh mallow

*Check before using herbals.



Yellow `ilima - Mallow Family-Malvaceae,
Oahu, Hawaii. San Diego Botanical Gardens

Mallow Family



Malvaceae has *cultural* meaning

Book: “Leo’s Tree”

In Hawaiian culture, the

HIBISCUS

is a symbol of old royalty and communicates power and respect, beauty and joy.

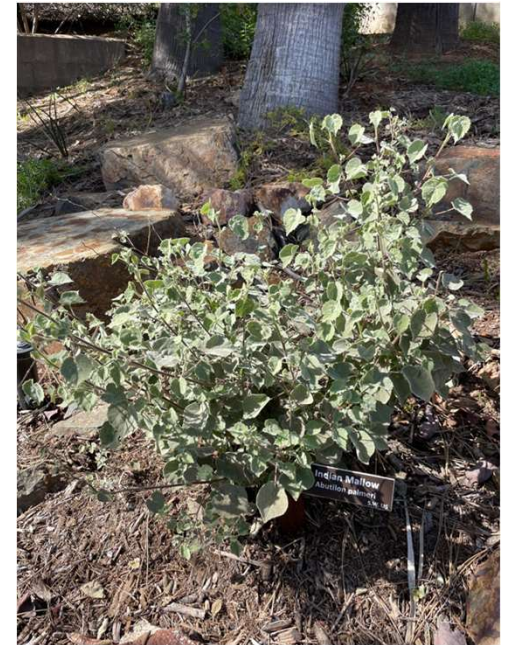
LINDEN TREE

A tree planted for every child.

Teaches how trees enrich our lives and how to take care of them.

Jewish holiday that celebrates trees:

Tu B'Shevat



Mallows at the Cuyamaca College Water Conservation Garden

Island Mallow-*Malva assurgentiflora* (left), & Indian Mallow-*Abutilon palmeri*.

Mallow Family

Roots, stems, leaves, flowers & fruit are all edible.

Interesting Facts...

Why is Durian fruit banned?

Seldom exported from Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, & Thailand.

Smells like Limburger cheese...or worse!

Banned from public transportation in some places, especially airplanes.

However, some people think it's a delicacy.

Kenaf is an annual herbaceous woody tropical plant grown for fiber (cellulose), but the seeds, leaves, and bark are edible. It is high in protein & is being researched as a meat substitute.

Malvaceae used to be classified into 4 families until recently when DNA studies showed evolutionary lineages.

VIPR Report: Malvaceae Family Resources

California Master Gardener Handbook, Second Edition. Chapter 8, pages 203 - 204. "Weed Science".

Encyclopaedia Britannica. "List of plants in the family Malvaceae".

Google, Google Photos

[ScienceDirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/malvales.*](https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/malvales)

[Wildflowers-and-weeds.com/Plant_Families/Malvaceae.htm](https://www.wildflowers-and-weeds.com/Plant_Families/Malvaceae.htm).