



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Pavonia lasiopetala

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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Common name

Rose mallow

Range

Dry, shallow limestone, rocky woods and slopes in south, central, and west Texas; also occurs southward into Mexico.

Life cycle

Perennial

Growth habitat

Small shrub from one to four feet tall, and up to three feet wide. Prolific rose-colored flowers with bright yellow filament tube in center. Alternate leaves are heart-shaped, and covered with soft hairs. Fruit is a capsule containing five seeds.

Bloom period

Intermittently throughout the summer until frost

Soil preference

Well-drained, limestone soils

Exposure

Full sun

Propagation

Seeds can be collected from the capsule when it turns brown, but before it becomes dry and splits. Dry seed thoroughly before storing, and dust with fungicide. Sow and lightly cover seed with no more than 1/4 inch of soil. Germination may be staggered, due to differences in seed coat thickness, but usually you will see results in 2-3 weeks.

Pavonias can also be propagated by softwood cuttings, taken in summer or fall. Cut a stem three to six inches long, just below the node. Remove all but the top leaves and place in vermiculite. Rooting hormone is recommended. Protect fall cuttings from cold until spring.



Maintenance

Cut back the shrub each year to encourage bushy growth. It may tend to become leggy during the growing season, so additional pruning may be necessary. Water intermittently to ensure blooming.

Miscellaneous

Pavonia makes an excellent choice for landscaping. It will freely seed itself in a bed. Able to survive the summer heat, its profusion of brilliant flowers adds a colorful touch to a dry landscape.