

Hibiscus syriacus

'Bluebird' Rose of Sharon

Zone: 5-8

Height: 12'

Width: 8'

Crown: Upright, erect
Growth Rate: Slow
Soil: Loam, sand, clay
pH: Acidic
Drainage: Well drained, some wet
Drought: Moderate tolerance
Breakage: Susceptible



As you can see, 'Bluebird' isn't really blue. Well, it is when the flower is furrowed up just before it opens, but as soon as it opens, it becomes this pale lavender pink with this bright red center design and the staminal tube protruding. Not that it isn't gorgeous, it just ain't blue.

Hibiscus do best in a medium, acidic, well drained soil. They also appreciate regular watering and occasional fertilizer. Hibiscus are slow to caliper up when grown in a tree form. In fact, some varieties are so slow they never will caliper up. And they sucker. So it's best to grow them as multi-stem trees. We know there is a demand for tree form, but can you make money on a plant that may take 5 or 6 years to get to the point that it will hold its head up without a stake. If you do need tree form, make sure your liners are at least 1" caliper. They'll never make it otherwise.

There seem to be few if any pest or diseases. However, gophers love the roots during the winter. They will move down a row and de-root each plant.

Robinson Nursery offers 'Bluebird' in several sizes of bare root shrubs.