## Hibiscus syriacus 'Diana'



The U.S. National Arboretum presents *Hibiscus syriacus* 'Diana', a rose-of-sharon introduction with a flower as lovely as the Greek goddess for which it is named. Beautiful, large, pure-white flowers produce little seed. Thus, 'Diana' will bloom continuously from late June until frost. This amazing shrub selection has excellent, dark green, pollution-resistant foliage. It tolerates extreme heat, drought, and poor soil, but will grow best in soil with moderate fertility and moisture. Recipient of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Gold Medal Plant Award in 1991.







## **U.S. National Arboretum Plant Introduction** Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit





## 'Diana' rose-of-Sharon

Botanical name: Hibiscus syriacus L. 'Diana'

(NA 32225; PI 347257)

Family: Malvaceae

**Hardiness:** USDA Zones 5–8

**Development:** 'Diana' resulted from the cross of a polyploid *Hibiscus syriacus* seedling with

white petals and red eye with a heavily ruffled, white seedling with the standard chromosome number. Originally, the polyploid parent was presumed

to be tetraploid and the other parent diploid, resulting in sterile triploid

offspring, but it is now understood that the polyploid parent was octoploid and the parent with typical chromosome numbers was tetraploid, resulting in hexaploid offspring. The cross was made by Dr Donald Egolf at the U.S. National Arboretum in 1963. The cultivar first flowered in 1964 and was

named and released in 1970.

**Significance:** 'Diana' is distinct because of its waxy, heavy-textured, wide-spreading,

ruffled, pure white flowers that remain open for more than one day, as well as for its heavy, dark green leaves, its dense branching, and its upright growth habit. In addition, since 'Diana' has reduced fertility, there is little seed production. This enables the plant to flower freely from late June until autumn,

a time when few woody plants are in bloom.

**Description:** Height and Width: 8 feet tall and 7-8 feet wide.

**Habit:** Deciduous, tall, upright shrub with dense branching to the base.

**Foliage:** Leathery, semi-glossy, dark green leaves are more tolerant to ozone

pollution and the first autumn frosts than those of other cultivars.

**Flowers**: Waxy, heavy-textured, wide-spreading, ruffled, pure white flowers remain open for more than a day. Bloom begins in late June and continues in

profusion until frost.

Fruit: A capsule. 'Diana' has reduced fertility, with little seed production.

**Culture:** 'Diana' is readily cultivated under diverse climatic and soil conditions, but

grows best in full sun to partial shade in a sandy loam with a pH of 5.5-7.0. It can endure extreme heat, drought, and poor soils. Flowering will be heavier

and growth more compact if planted in full sun.

**Propagation:** Roots easily from semi-hardwood cuttings under mist, 2000-3000 ppm IBA, in

4-6 weeks.

Landscape use: Specimen plant, small tree if trained to a single stem, pruned hedge, deciduous

screen, background for perennial border, container plant. Adaptable for use in

the home garden, parks, and business plantings.

**Availability:** Readily available from mail-order firms and retail and wholesale nurseries.

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