

Aibika

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Botanical name: *Abelmoschus manihot* of the MALVACEAE (Mallow) family

Other names: Pele, Bele, Sunset Hibiscus, *Hibiscus manihot*



Tropical summary

Medium sized perennial bush that is easily pruned to shape and height. Can be grown as a hedge. Leaves vary in shape from cassava like to round and in colour from green to red.

Grows best in well drained, fertile soil, under partial shade. Regular watering, adequate supplies of high nitrogen fertilizer or well rotted compost and protection from strong winds encourage larger leaves.

Leaves and young shoots are eaten fresh or cooked.

Grown from cuttings and seed.

Numerous selections are available with various colours, leaf shapes and leaf textures. Leaves are readily attacked by grubs, beetles and grasshoppers.

Succulent leaf types are most at risk. This damage can be reduced by planting the crop under light (25%) shade cloth. Nematodes affect roots and their damage can be reduced by incorporating regular applications of compost to the site.

Further information on horticulture

DPI&F Business information centre on 13 25 23 – local call 8 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays. (non-Queensland residents, phone 07 3404 6999)
E-mail callweb@dpi.qld.gov.au

Gardening in the tropics

This information series is aimed at promoting gardening activities in Cape York Peninsula. The crop plants and gardening techniques outlined have been chosen with the specific requirements and constraints of the Cape York Peninsula Area in mind.

Disclaimer

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