

## Thai Red Roselle (Hibiscus)

HERB *Hibiscus sabdariffa*

### Thai Red Roselle

*Hibiscus sabdariffa*

This was the earliest variety in our trials. To speed germination, soak the seeds overnight in water, or abrade lightly with sandpaper. Practice 4-year rotation with cotton and okra.

**Culture:** Where the frost-free growing season is long, roselle may be direct sown once the soil warms to 75°F (3–5 weeks after last frost). Otherwise, transplant out 2–3 week-old seedlings grown in pots indoors. Handle gently to avoid damaging the tender roots. Provide well-drained soil. Too much nitrogen will reduce flowering.

**Harvest:** Snip off flowers and young leaves for salads. The bright red calyces may be harvested at any time and candied, boiled for sauce and jam, or dried for a “red zinger” tea.

**Seed Savers:** Wait until the seeds have turned dark brown to finish drying indoors.

Soil  
Temp.  
75–85°F

Sowing  
Depth  
½"

Final Plant  
Spacing  
12–18"

Final Row  
Spacing  
48–72"

Light  
Full Sun

Days to  
Emerge  
7–14

