

Pavonia hastata

A small shrub to 1m with white to pink flowers with red centres. The flowers look a lot like our Hibiscus, only smaller. The leaves appear to be triangular. Best in full sun, most any soil will do. This plant will re-seed itself and is generally treated as an annual in colder climates. Suitable for containers and excellent in almost any type of soil and full sun to part shade. No fertiliser required.

Propagation

WHEN TO SOW – In warm areas or in a glass house sow seeds at any time. In frost prone areas after the danger of frost has passed.

WHERE TO GROW – full sun to part shade in any well-drained soil enriched with artificial or natural fertiliser. They respond well to rich soil. They are suitable for the garden, a rockery or in pots.

SOWING – place seeds in a cup of warm water, leave overnight then drain and sow. Fill a pot or tray with moist sandy soil, wet thoroughly and compress. Sow seeds thinly on the surface and cover with a thin layer of soil. Keep the soil moist. Cover with clear polythene until germination in about 2 - 5 weeks.

CULTIVATION – Thin the seedlings out if crowded, transplant or pot at 5cm. Disturb the roots as little as possible. Water in well and water regularly until established, thereafter as needed. Protect against snails and slugs during germination and seedling stage.

