

Hibiscus Is An Attention Getter

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

There aren't many shrubs that bloom at this time of year, so those that do tend to be real attention getters. Here and there, in gardens in this area, there are some tall bushy shrubs that are now staging a spectacular display.

Some of these shrubs are laden with big white flowers. Others have pink or rose or lavender-blue blossoms.

The handsome shrubs are known by several names. Some people call them Rose - of - Sharon. Others know

them as Althea or shrubby Althea. To the botanist they are Hibiscus Syriacus.

They are, indeed, a close relative of the tropical hibiscus which is a popular plant in Florida and Southern California and on tropical islands where local beauties like to tuck the blossoms in their hair.

Unlike the tropical hibiscus, which can be grown here only as a greenhouse plant, the shrubby Althea is hardy and can withstand our winters. It is a native of China and India and was brought to this country in colonial times.

The shrubs ultimately can grow 10 to 15 feet tall. However, they can be kept to

Tile Floors For Basement Renovation

Space in basements is too valuable to be used only for storage. How much more useful to turn it into a room the whole family can enjoy!

One of the advantages of a downstairs living area is its isolation from the rest of the house: it can be used as a refuge from activities elsewhere in the home, or as the entertainment center.

Because the family room gets a great deal of wear, the Better Floors Council recommends installing a flooring of tough, long-lasting vinyl asbestos tile. It is low in price, easily installed by a handy homeowner, and maintenance is minimal.

Because resilient floor tile is a permanent flooring, the council advises giving careful thought to pattern and color—pick something you'll like for a long time or that will go with decorating changes in other furnishings. Embossed vinyl asbestos tile patterns are particularly suited for recreation rooms—such designs as pebble, mosaic and traveling, as well as wood and brick patterns work well here. But vinyl asbestos is made in many designs, from the traditional Spanish/Moorish to Early American to contemporary.

Tile can be used to divide the room according to activity by installing different colors. A conversation grouping around a fireplace can be defined with darker or lighter tile.

Since vinyl asbestos tile designs are available in many colors, your choice is wide.

three or four feet in height by pruning. Since they flower on new growth, produced each year, if pruning is done early, blooms are not sacrificed.

Pruning is not required, though. If the plants are left alone without much pruning, the flowers will be numerous but on the small side. Pruning will result in larger flowers.

For biggest blooms prune the previous year's shoots back considerably in early spring before growth begins. Leave only three or four buds on each shoot.

For a time in spring the plants will look rather stark and stubby, until the leaves come out and growth begins. The resulting flowers, however, are unusually large and handsome.

These shrubs may be a little tender and difficult to get started. When they are small they should have some winter protection. Once they are established they need no special care.

Shrubby Althea grow and flower best in full sun. They need a moderately well drained soil — not too moist and not too dry. They are relatively resistant to diseases and insects.

These tall shrubs with their spectacular blossoms can be used where a screen or background is needed. They are especially effective when used as a background for a flower bed. Because they can be sheared and because they have dense twiggy growth they are suitable for use as hedge plants.

Althea flower for a long period of time beginning in

July and continuing until frost. The white flowered forms are very attractive, but the striped blossoms which cling to the plant for a while before dropping tend to be a bit unattractive.

This fault is not apparent in the pink, rose, red, mauve or blue forms, nor in the attractive bicolor forms. In addition to the single flowered varieties there are also varieties with double flowers.

Closely related to the shrubby Althea or Rose - of - Sharon are perennial hibiscus. These are shrubby looking plants that grow four to six feet tall, but the tops die back to the ground each winter.

However, the roots live for many years and new shoots grow each spring. Among the most spectacular of these are

the giant hibiscus (Hibiscus Grandiflorus) which have huge blossoms that can be a foot across.

The colors include white, pink, and various shades of red. Like the shrubby kinds, these hibiscus grow best in full sun in moist but well-drained soil.

Because of the giant size of their bright blossoms these make a striking accent plant. Clumps tend to grow larger and produce more stems and blossoms each year.

One of the newest kinds which was an "All-America" silver medal winner a couple of years ago is a variety known as Southern Belle. The white or rose flowers have a contrasting red "eye" in the center of each huge bloom.

Hollyhocks are annual or biennial forms of hibiscus.

Although their flowers are not as large, they exhibit the same typical bell forms and come in a wide range of colors.

The tall spikes can add a great deal of interest to the garden. They can be used for good advantage along a fence or garage wall, or at the back of a mixed flower border.

Completing the family circle is Okra, a member of the hibiscus family that is grown for its edible pods. Although this is primarily grown in the south, it can be grown in gardens in this area, too.

In addition to using the green pods in soups and vegetable dishes, the pods can be grown until they are mature and dry. These, they are interesting in dried both

WE INSTALL
ARMSTRONG
SOLARIAN
ALL LABOR & MATERIAL
FREE ESTIMATES
CERAMIC TILE
WALLS & FLOORS **49¢** SQ. FT.
PEEL & STICK
79¢ SQ. FT.
MisterTILE 9300 TELEGRAPH RD. #255-2225
HOURS: DAILY 9-9

Westland GARDEN CENTER and NURSERY
If planning the landscape design for your home presents a problem, just bring in the dimensions of the area and we will design a layout for you at no charge. Bring in a picture if you have one.
Open: 8-8 Weekdays
8-6 Sunday
32593 CHERRY HILL WESTLAND • 721-6610

Jackson LANDSCAPE & NURSERY SALES
Specialists In
• Landscape Design
• Landscape Planting
• Quality Nursery Stock
• Prairie Film Patios
"We Guarantee Our Work"
HOURS: MON.-SAT. 8 a.m.-7 p.m.
42350 GRAND RIVER NOVI **349-4950**

DO-IT-YOURSELF and \$AVE \$
ALUMINUM SIDING, FACTORY SECONDS
FREE INSTRUCTION BOOK! STEP-BY-STEP EASY DO-IT-YOURSELF
12 Earth Tone Colors
12 Styles of Siding
44 Accessory Moldings
WEEKLY SPECIAL \$15.50 Ea.
ASTOR SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
AVOCADO SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
BROWN SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
CHOCOLATE GRAY SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
CREAM SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
NEARLY BLACK SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
GOLD SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
GREEN SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
LT. GRAY SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
REDWOOD SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
YELLOW SIDING \$18.75 Ea.
WHITE SIDING \$17.75 Ea.
TRAILER SKirting 1" x 4" \$2.00 Ea.
VERTICAL TRAILER SKirting \$2.10 Ea.
COLORED TRAILER SKirting \$2.00 Ea.
TRAILER SKirting 1" x 4" \$2.10 Ea.
TOP RAIL OR FROST CAP \$1.50 Ea.
2" WIDE ALUMINUM GUTTERS \$1.195 Ea.
2" TRACK ALUM. STORM WINDOWS \$1.50 Ea.
STYROFOAM INSULATION \$1.50 Ea.
ALUMINUM FOR 500 Sq. Ft. \$1.95 Ea.
ALUM. CUPOLA & WEATHERVANE \$218.00
ALUMINUM BRASS 8" \$218.00
ALUMINUM BRASS 12" \$218.00
WHITE ROLLS OF FLAT STOCK 8" x 28" x 50' 144
ALUM. WALLS 1" to 2 1/2"
8 to 50 ft. 8 to 4 Saturday No Sundays
FREE SIDING LOUVER WITH PURCHASE
FLAT ROCK
Aluminum Sales, Inc.
14544 Telegraph Road, Flat Rock
Just 1 mile South of Flat Rock
TELEPHONE **782-9890**

SALE PRICED SAVE NOW
REDWOOD FENCE
HORIZONTAL WEAVE - WOOD LIFE TREATED
4'x8'.....12⁹⁵
5'x8'.....14⁹⁵
ROOFING CERTAINTED SELF-SEALING SHINGLES
NEW SPRING COLORS
349 Bundle
3 Bundles cover 100 Sq. Ft.
10.47 Per Sq.
ALUMINUM SIDING
Less Dealer With
23²⁵ 27²⁵
Per Sq. Per Sq.
GET PRICES-YES MAKE SURE ONE IS OURS!
GARAGES GARAGES
Grade marked const. and st. lumber • Self-Seal Shingles • Trim • Windows • Over 30 Styles and Sizes

Andersen Windows
Buy Now and Save
We Carry Most Popular Sizes In Stock
OWENS-CORNING FIBERGLAS
Blanket Insulation
KRAFT-FACED
Full Thick 3 1/2" x 15"
4⁵⁹ Bundle
PICNIC TABLES
Price Includes Hardware and Seats
34⁹⁵ 8' SIZE
ZONOLITE
The Perfect Pouring Insulation
3 Cu. Ft. Bag
149 PER BAG

LUMBER & BUILDING SUPPLIES
MAKE YOUR HOME MORE LIVABLE WITH A
NEW KITCHEN
HAAS QUALITY CABINETS

REDWOOD CONSTRUCTION GRADE
FOR ALL YOUR OUTDOOR BUILDING
REDWOOD 2x4-8 **1⁶⁹**
4x6 - Lin. Ft. **59¢**
ALL ABOVE FENCE GRADE
DIMENSION LUMBER
ASSOCIATION GRADE STAMPED CONSTRUCTION AND STANDARD
ECONOMY
2"x4"
8'
79¢ EA.
PLYWOOD SHEATHING
CD-EXTERIOR
1/2" 4'x8' 4.89
1/2" 4'x8' 5.99
1/2" 4'x8' 7.49
1/2" 4'x8' 9.49
PARTICLE BOARD
4'x8' 1 to 25 25 up
3/4" 4.39 4.29
1/2" 4.89 4.79
3/8" 5.19 5.09
3/4" 6.49 6.39
REDFORD CASHWAY LUMBER
DIVISION OF ERB LUMBER
ROYAL OAK 548-2153 803 E. Main St.
LIVONIA 261-5110 11970 Farmington Rd.
WARREN 775-7000 24820 Schoenherr
8 to 5 DAILY, FR. 8 to 3
8 to 5 DAILY - 8 to 3 THURS. & FR.
JAN. 8 to 12 MON. & TUE.
JAN. 8 to 12 MON. & TUE.

DRYWALL
4'x7' 3/8" **1.69**
4'x8' **1.79**
1/2" **1.89**
4'x8' **1.99**