Rose-of-Sharon, Shrub Althea
(*Hibiscus syriacus*)

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**Summary:**
- Foliage: Deciduous broadleaf
- Height: 10 feet
- Spread: 6 feet
- Shape: Upright
- Rose-of-Sharon is a large shrub with showy, relatively large single or double flowers bloom in summer. Flower colors include white, red, purple, violet, and blue.

**Plant Needs:**
- Zone: 5 to 8
- Light: Partial shade to full sun
- Moisture: Moist to dry
- Soil Type: Sandy, loam, or clay
- pH Range: 3.7 to 7.3

**Functions:**
- Suggested uses for this plant include border and mass plantings.

**Planting Notes:**
- Transplants readily.
- Tolerates wide range of soil pH.
- Salt tolerant.

**Care:**
- Blooms occur on current year's growth, so prune in early spring before new growth starts.
- Remove one-third of the wood, including the oldest branches and any weak growth, at ground level, annually.

**Problems:**
- Aphids are a problem on new growth.
- Susceptible to spider mites in hot, dry locations.
- Other problems include leaf spots, blights, Japanese beetle, and white fly.
- Will self sow and produce populations of seedlings in the vicinity of the parent plant(s).

**Alternatives:**
- Consult local garden centers, historic or public gardens and arboreta, regarding cultivars and related species that grow well in your area.
- There are numerous cultivars of *H. syriacus* in the trade. Cultivars of *Hibiscus syriacus*:
  - 'Blue Bird' has blue flowers.
  - 'Diana' has white flowers that do not produce viable seed.
  - 'Helene' has white flowers with a reddish-purple base.

**Comments:**
- This is a large shrub which flowers in late summer when few other shrubs are in bloom.
- Single or double flowers range in color from white to red to blue to all colors in between.
- Unless older portions of the plant are pruned regularly, the flowers will decrease in size.

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