

Heart Leaf Hibiscus - - in memory of Frank Wiseman

Article & photo by Camille M. Rich, South Texas Border Chapter, Steward of El Mesteño Ranch & Arboretum, Puerto Rico, Texas



Tulipán Del Monte, also referred to as the Heart Leaf Hibiscus, is a strikingly beautiful plant native to the Rio Grande Valley. Noted as being found in Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Starr Counties, it naturally grows among woodier shrubs and can be difficult to locate unless it is in bloom and its gorgeous, velvet-like petals are unfurled and on display for all to see.

After years of trying to grow this beauty from seed, I gave up. Much to my pleasant surprise, it came up years later in a pot filled with recycled potting soil, native seeds from some species that, now, escapes memory, and mulch from previous native seed-starting attempts.

This flower's beauty never fails to take my breath away as I marvel at its striking color and am mesmerized and dazzled by the visually fascinating intricacies of its overall structure. I hope that this image will bring a smile to your face and brighten your day!

For more information about this beauty:

Plants of Deep South Texas: A Field Guide to the Woody and Flowering Species, by Alfred Richardson and Ken King. Texas A & M University Press. College Station, Texas. 2011.

Wildflowers of Texas, by Michael Eason. Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon. 2018.