



SWAMP ROSE-MALLOW

Species at Risk

In Canada, Swamp Rose-mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) is a species at risk of becoming endangered and is classified as a special concern species. This species is only found within the Great Lakes region of Ontario which includes the shorelines of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

This aquatic plant is found near the edges of waterways usually in organic soil. This plant can grow up to 2 metres in height and may contain up to 8 blooms. The large pink or white petals and maple leaf shaped leaves make this species easily identifiable. This plant flowers from mid-July to mid-September.

Swamp Rose-mallow is found in early successional, semi-open wetlands which include deep-water and meadow marshes. It often shares habitat with cattails, *Phragmites* and other shoreline species.

Major threats to this species include degradation of wetland habitat, invasive species such as non-native *Phragmites* and hybridization with other *Hibiscus* species. Other threats include human activities such as ATV use, canoeing, boating, shoreline stabilization and protection, lawn maintenance, boat docks and high levels of herbicides, fertilizers, pesticides and heavy metals.

This species is often mistaken as an exotic plant because of its unique appearance; however, it is the only native *Hibiscus* in Canada.

It is illegal to search for, harass or capture a species at risk or destroy their habitat.

Picture courtesy of Rob Tervo

References: COSEWIC 2004. COSEWIC assessment and update status report on the Swamp Rose-mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) in Canada. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada. Ottawa. vii + 43 pp.

