Roselle is a highly edible plant that is related to okra. Roselle leaves are used in food preparation, while the calyx and flowers are used as a flavoring, coloring, and for making teas. The calyx is also used in making wine, jam, juice, jelly, and syrup and is also used as a spice. This plant’s deep root system gives it good drought tolerance. Its bright red stems and red veined leaves make quite a statement in the garden. This plant does not do well in the shade and needs plenty of sunlight to thrive.

**Type:** deciduous herbaceous perennial

**USDA hardiness zones:** 8 through 11

**Uses:** specimen; container; edible

**Origin:** not native to Florida

**Height:** 2 to 3 feet  
**Spread:** 2 to 3 feet

**Plant spacing:** 2 to 3 feet

**Light requirement:** full sun

**Soil tolerances:** slightly acid to slightly alkaline; clay; loam; sand

**Drought tolerance:** medium

**Soil salt tolerances:** low

**Invasive potential:** low

**Pest resistance:** root-knot nematodes are the major pest

Photo: Joanne Celinski, NC State Extension