

CAYMAN ISLANDS WILD TREES & SHRUBS

Family: MALVACEAE

Seaside Mahoe **Hibiscus pernambucensis*



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This ***salt-tolerant** shrub or small tree, native to the New World, grows in mangrove swamps and along the canal banks the Cayman dyke roads. The flowers are yellow or orange with **yellow centers**.

They turn to maroon before they die. There is a gland on the vein on the underside of the leaves. The underbark is fibrous, strengthens when wet and was used for making ropes, mats and coarse cloth in tropical regions.

Note: *Hibiscus pernambucensis* is often misidentified as *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, Sea Hibiscus or Mahoe, which has **red centers**, and is native to the old world.



MAHOE is derived from a Carib word and refers to any of various tropical trees and shrubs, mostly from the Mallow (Hibiscus) family, with a fibrous bast, (right). **BAST**- the fibrous or somewhat woody outer layer of the stems of certain plants, eg. Jute

