

We hope you enjoy your new plants!

How to Grow a Tropical Hibiscus Shrub *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*

Upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant “breathe”. Remove tape & newspaper, then water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

ENVIRONMENT: Tropical Hibiscus thrives in the sunny, hot & humid climate of USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 9,10,11 and South Florida. They will not reliably survive outdoors north of Zone 10. Day or night temperatures below 50 deg F can kill the plant because they typically grow in tropical places.

HIGHLY RECOMMEND not overwintering, except for Zone 9,10,11. **Treat as an annual and replace this plant each year.**

Site the shrub at least 3 ft. away from the house or other structures, where blossoms can fall without being in the way, as they can stain pavers or concrete, plus they are banana-peel slippery when wet on the ground.

SOIL: They like a nutrient rich, non-compacting soil with good drainage.

To Plant Outdoors: Dig saucer shaped hole. The ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 10 in. tall by 24-30 in. wide. Place plant in hole & adjust for aesthetics. Hold in place while adding more soil, until the hole is completely filled. Push soil down until firm. Do not plant the shrub deeper than it has already been growing. Water well immediately after planting. Mulch evenly to a depth of 2-3 inches being sure to stay at least 4 in. away from its trunk.

LIGHT: Plenty of sunshine is necessary to produce blooms. Make sure to place your Tropical Hibiscus in an area that is bright and sunny, a site with 6-8 hrs of bright light. Try to keep the plant out of windy areas.

WATER: They should be watered regularly with a bit of time to dry out in-between each watering. They detest cold, rainy weather as well as cold, wet soil. The soil should ideally be just moist, not soggy or waterlogged. Avoid saucers with standing water under your Hibiscus plant because this can cause root rot and leaf drop. To test and see if you need to water, place your fingers on top of the soil, if it is dry to the touch, it is time to water again. Avoid using cold or excessively hot water; the plant prefers a water temperature around 95 deg F.

FEEDING: Like other plants, Hibiscus gather nutrients from the air and soil. A regular watering regime will quickly deplete the soil of any nutrients. To get lots of flowers, you'll need to fertilize the plant in spring & summer & autumn with a slow release, high phosphorous fertilizer or a specially formulated Hibiscus fertilizer.

MAINTENANCE: Hibiscus flowers open daily and last just one day, after which they die and fall off. Your plant will probably have flowers which opened during transit, fell off & started to rot.

THIS IS NORMAL. Simply remove all wilted or unsightly flowers and keep grooming daily, while occasionally trimming the branches to desired overall shape.