

Hibiscus (Tropical)

Tropical hibiscus are deciduous shrubs with dark green leaves that produce huge, colorful, trumpet-shaped flowers with five or more petals. The plants can grow 10 to 15 feet tall. They are native to warm-temperate, subtropical and tropical regions throughout the world.

The flowers of a hibiscus plant may be up to 6 inches in diameter, with a wide range of colors. Hibiscus can be planted singly or grown as a hedge plant; they can also be pruned into a single-stemmed small tree. The flowers are attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.

Tropical hibiscus are sensitive to cold and should be protected when temperatures dip below 45 degrees Fahrenheit. Container grown plants should be brought indoors in cold weather.



Hibiscus Care

With its sturdy shape and colorful blossoms, Tropical Hibiscus is a popular choice for container plants and summer gardens. The large, colorful blooms create an eye-catching display during the summer, creating the look of a tropical paradise. Hibiscus is the main flowering tropical plant purchased by homeowners in the northeast, and with proper care and maintenance, they will provide you with color and beauty in and around your home.

Tropical hibiscus plants are very vulnerable to environmental changes. Moving them indoors or out, repotting, and changes in their care can cause hibiscus to become stressed. Even minor changes that you might not notice can cause some problems.

Sunlight Tropical Hibiscus like a lot of direct light, but under a blazing sun from dawn 'til dusk with temperatures in the 90s will reduce their blooming and cause some leaf burn. Give them a little shade during the heat of the day and they will reward you with more blooms.

Watering Too much or too little water is a primary cause of yellowing hibiscus leaves. Tropical Hibiscus need lots of water, but they don't like to be soggy. Water more often during heat waves, and less when it's cool or overcast. Make sure the plant doesn't sit in water and that the soil is not constantly wet. Organic matter in the soil and mulch on top help to maintain a constant level of moisture in the summer. In pots or not, good drainage is very important!

Yellow Leaves The leaves of Hibiscus turn yellow for basically two reasons: The leaves are old and the plant is discarding them or the plant is under some stress. Sometimes yellow leaves (from stress) are indicative of a problem and sometimes it simply indicates a temporary discomfort the plant is having.

Temperature Temperatures below 45 degrees or over 85 degrees can cause bud and leaf drop. The plants usually recover once temperatures return to a 75- to 85-degree range if frost injury doesn't occur.

Insects Aphids, thrips and mites may feed on the leaves, causing holes, wilting and discoloration. Treat these unwanted pests with an insecticidal soap that doesn't contain oil or use a wettable powder Malathion pesticide.

Growers

J&R Exotic Foliage



Standard Hibiscus

Greendale Nursery



Exotic Hibiscus

Railroad Nursery



Tradewinds Hibiscus



LIGHT

FULL SUN

6-8 hours of direct light per day.



WATER

KEEP MOIST

Do not allow the soil to dry out.



HARDINESS

ZONE 10

Intolerant of temps below 40 degrees F.



GROWTH HABIT

UPRIGHT

The plant has an upward growth habit.



MATURE SIZE

10 to 15 FEET

Potted plants will remain 2-5 feet tall.



BLOOM

SUMMER

Produces blooms throughout the year.



PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

Hibiscus need well-drained but moist soil. Improve it. Soil with a pH near 6.8 provides for the best growth. Use a potting soil formulated for tropical plants in pots. Use a pot that has bottom drainage so excess moisture doesn't lead to root rot. Re-pot the plant into a pot one size larger when the roots fill the old container.