

Specialty
Tropicals

Care Instructions

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis (HIB-)

Species & Common Names:	Hibiscus rosa-sinensis; Tropical Hibiscus
Origin:	South-Pacific Island of Vanuatu
Characteristics:	Tropical Hibiscus grow as bushy shrubs to small trees, producing large, showy blossoms that last for a single day. The leaves are glossy and dark green, and the central trunk becomes woody as the plant ages.
Temperature:	As you'd expect from their South-Pacific origins, Tropical Hibiscus prefer warm, sunny conditions. They grow best where temperatures stay above 50°F, and they suffer and may die when exposed to temperatures of 35°F or less. In zones 9-12, they're typically hardy outdoors; elsewhere, they need to be brought inside for the winter.
Potting and Soil:	Hibiscus rosa-sinensis likes a relatively rich soil mixture, something suitable for potted plants or garden beds.
Light:	Tropical Hibiscus will be happiest in full sun. They can tolerate partial shade, but will flower less without the benefit of extended sun exposure.
Water:	Hibiscus prefer to be evenly moist at all times. If they dry out too much or their roots are sitting in standing water, they often drop flower buds and leaves due to stress. Outdoors, they need to be watered regularly during dry weather, keeping the soil moist to the touch an inch or more below the surface.
Humidity:	Hibiscus tolerate a range of humidity, but do best with consistently warm, moist surroundings. Humid conditions Spring-Fall will help with growth and flowering.

Feeding:	Hibiscus are steady feeders and appreciate an application of slow-release fertilizer designed for flowering potted plants every month or so during the growing season. We recommend a fertilizer labeled for roses and flowering shrubs, typically an 18-24-16 or 15-30-15 N-P-K ratio, applied according to label directions.
Other Things to Know:	Hibiscus blossoms are incredible and varied in their colors and shapes. Though the flowers only survive a single day, they will last just as well picked and tucked behind an ear as on the plant. A blossom or two floating in a shallow bowl of water makes an impressive display, too!
VERY IMPORTANT:	Your Hibiscus rosa-sinensis will arrive potted and actively growing during warm weather. Simply remove the packaging and set it in a warm, sunny area and water until the soil is thoroughly moist. As the plant grows, watch for signs of roots coming from the bottom of the pot. When this happens, your plant needs to be moved up to a larger pot. Eventually, most H. rosa-sinensis will need a 3 gallon or more pot when fully grown.