

How to Care for a TROPICAL HIBISCUS Shrub

Hibiscus rosa-sinensis

SELECT SITE:

Light Requirements: Full Sun – must have 6-8 hrs of direct sunlight each day to thrive and bloom prolifically

This shrub will grow larger to 6-8 ft. tall by 4-5 ft. wide; Space 36 in. away from other plants or structures

Tolerates a wide range of soils, prefers neutral garden soil.

Versatile Plant for a TROPICAL garden:

Anywhere a pop of color is desired: Mixed Border. Near the home foundation.

Large container planting. Accent plant for perennial garden.

Ideal USDA Plant Hardiness Zones: 9,10,11 --- treat as an annual and replace each year if grown in the cool Northern climates

PLANT PREP:

Open box upon arrival, remove packing materials to let the plant “breathe”. Remove plastic bag, tape, and newspaper. Water well. There are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot so do this outside where the extra water will drain away.

HOLE PREP:

Dig saucer shaped hole. The depth is determined by measuring the height of the roots from root flare to bottom. The width is 2-3 times the root ball diameter. Using these calculations, the ideal hole for the new bush will be approximately 10” tall by 24-30” wide.

PLANTING:

Put garden soil in a wheelbarrow or on a tarp. Mix the garden soil with equal amounts of mulch, peat moss, and potting soil. Place plant in hole and 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” away from its trunk.

FUTURE MAINTENANCE:

Water regularly, especially during first year, to promote strong root development. Never let soil dry out completely nor excessively overwater to extent that soil is continually boggy.

If desired, fertilize in spring when new growth begins. Apply 2 tbsp. of an all-purpose slow release fertilizer upon the ground in a band around the plant at least 6” away from its stem. Repeat fertilizer regimen every 3 months.

No pruning needed to achieve natural shape; prune periodically to remove dead or diseased branches.