

HOW TO GROW HIBISCUS

Hibiscus is an annual plant with trumpet-shaped flowers and sparks of pollen that is native to India and Malaysia. It also grows in tropical regions including China, Thailand, Sudan, Nigeria and Mexico. These flowers are quite attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds mainly attributed to its wide range of colors from white to red, pink, yellow and orange. It belongs to the Malvaceae family with over 200 species. It grows in full sun or partial shade that prefers moist, well-drained soil. The flowers, seeds, leaves and stems are all used for culinary, cosmetic and medicinal preparations. In traditional medicines, it is used to lower blood pressure, stimulate diuretic effects, reduce high cholesterol, etc. Gardeners love to add hibiscus in their garden due to its versatility as flower, cosmetics and medicine.

Planting Procedure:

Step 1: Planting Hibiscus

A. If you plan to grow them outside, choose hardy hibiscus variety as they are likely to survive in different weather conditions.

B. You may either purchase young plants or purchase hibiscus seeds from garden centre. If you choose to grow from hibiscus seeds, germinate them by wrapping them in a moist napkin or paper towel. Put them in a plastic bag and check on the seeds every few days. Once they have started to sprout, they are ready to be planted. If you are a beginner, it is good option to buy young plants instead.

C. Prepare the soil by filling in standard potting mix and adding in some compost to help balance the soil pH.

D. Plant the hibiscus. Once the sprouts have sprouted, it is best to transfer sprouted seeds to a pot and allow them to grow in the pot until they are big enough to transfer to the ground. Choose a pot that is at least 8 inch in size. Prepare the soil by gently pushing the roots about 0.5 inch below the soil's surface with your fingers. Once they are stable enough, you may transfer them in the garden.

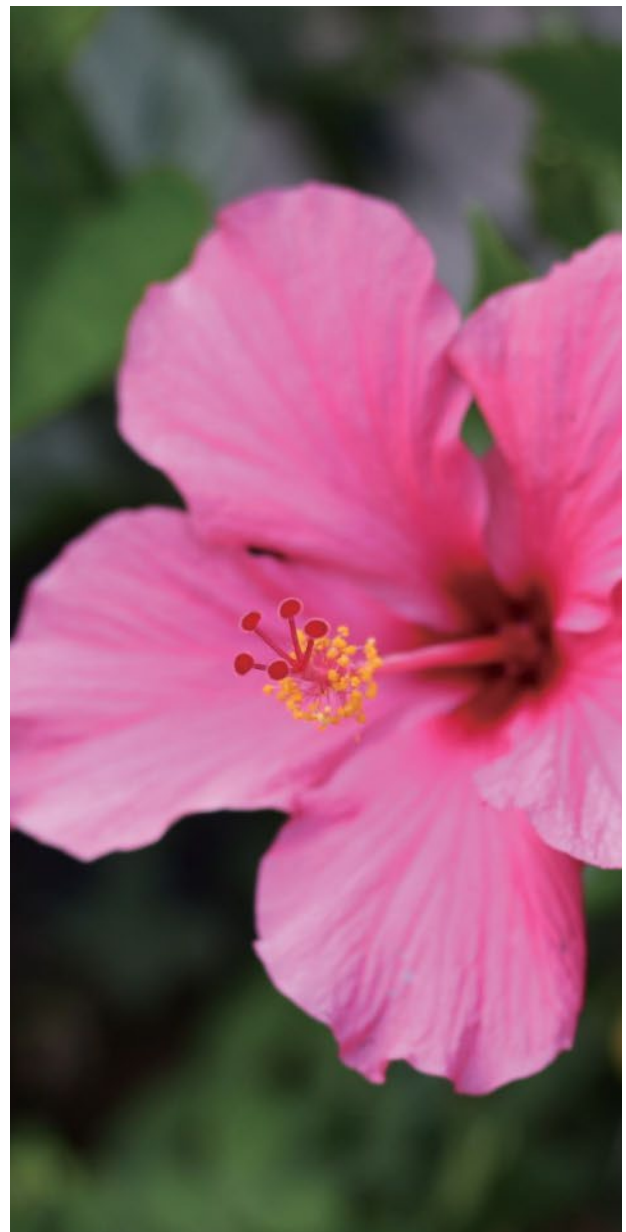
Hibiscus Care Tips

A. Choose a location that gets 6 hours of sunlight everyday for the plants to thrive.

B. Make sure the pots have drainage holes in the bottom so the soil doesn't get too wet which may lead to root rot.

C. Hibiscus plants require weekly fertilizing during seasons of spring, summer and fall. You may use water soluble fertilizer, mix it with water and pour or spray it to the soil.

D. During winter season, prune the sub-branches that appear from the main plant. This method will yield more multiple flowers to bloom once the weather becomes warmer.





Keeping Hibiscus Warm During Winter

- A. During winter, move potted plants close to your house to keep them warmer.
- B. Apply a layer of mulch over the soil to keep the plants warm.
- C. Purchase some frost cloths to cover them in order to maintain warm temperature.
- D. Water with warm water with temperature about 35°C to keep them warm and healthy.

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