

Technical Guide:

TRADEWINDS® FLOWERED HIBISCUS



Handling Prior to Sale

Always keep the root medium slightly moist. Water often enough so that plants will never wilt. This may be daily under high-light conditions. Weekend-duty staff should watch plants closely.

TRADEWINDS® Hibiscus

Tradewinds® Hibiscus are bred for beauty and performance with compact plant habits for containers or landscape, and superior branching and high bud count for abundant flowering all season long. Healthy foliage is an attractive, glossy green to showcase the blooms.

Everblooming Tradewinds® Hibiscus require relatively high light and temperature, water and fertilization for maximum flowering and to reduce leaf and bud drop. The following information is provided to assure success with the flowering product.

Product Specifications

- Flowered tropical hibiscus are available in three pot sizes: 6" most of the year; 4.5" and 10" for spring sales.
- Buds are developed, so that plants are ready for immediate sales or within a few days after benching in a warm, bright greenhouse environment.
- Our entire variety listing is available in 6", but the variety offering in 4.5" and 10" is selective based on performance in those container sizes.
- Please visit www.KeepsakePlants.com for product specs and packing information for each size.

General Cultural Information

Unpacking

- Hibiscus are not box tolerant! Unpack immediately upon receipt or extensive bud drop, leaf yellowing or leaf drop may occur. If you can't bench immediately, at least remove them from the box.
- If delivery occurs at night, unpack the

following morning. Do not let them sit over a weekend in the box, or you run a high risk of bud drop and/or yellow foliage!

- It is not unusual if some of the small buds drop in transit, especially with longer transit times. There may also be some leaf yellowing upon receipt or within a few days of receipt.
- **Upon opening the box lids, there might be minor mold ("fuzz") visible on buds that closed in transit. Manually removing those buds is important. Any remaining mold/fuzz will dry up quickly with air movement and light.**
- Eliminate plant damage when unpacking. Open flaps at each end of the bottom of the box. Then lift the box away from the plants.
- Do not reship box material!
- Replace any unattached care tags. They contain important information for consumers.
- Holding areas for hibiscus must be in a BRIGHT greenhouse for continuing future bud development, which is maximized by light and warm temperatures.
- Place plants in a bright greenhouse with at least 3,000 to 4,000 footcandles of light. Foliage houses, plant holding areas or packing/shipping buildings are not bright enough.
- Water plants thoroughly after unpacking, and continue to keep them well watered. Plants can dry down a bit, but do NOT let them dry out.

Bumping up to a Larger Container

- Containers, particularly 6" are generally pot bound. Disrupt the root ball by cutting an X on the lower inch of the ball and spread the four flaps to encourage roots to grow out into the new media.
- Some light reduction for a few days until the root system re-establishes itself, will minimize wilting and possible leaf drop.

If wilting occurs, bud drop and yellow foliage will follow.

- If plants are held longer than one week, include fertilizer with each watering. Feed 200 ppm with 20- 10-20 N-P-K and keep plants warm to maintain healthy foliage and continue bud development.
- Minimum night temperature is 62°F. Otherwise, flower development is delayed. Bud initiation and development “stops” at temperatures 55°F or less. Day temperatures up to 100°F will not delay flowering.

Bud Drop

Some bud drop is normal in transit. A week of acclimation will help insure that any bud drop that occurs is in your greenhouse, and not at your customer’s place of business.

Pest Control

Whiteflies:

- Distance EC (eggs, nymphs, sterilizes adults)
- Flagship 25 WG (nymphs, adults)
- Judo
- Orthene TTO mixed with Tame EC (adults, nymphs)
- Talstar GH (adults)
- Talstar GH mixed with Azatin EC for added nymph control (adults, nymphs)
- Tristar 8.5 WSP (eggs, nymphs, adults)

Aphids:

- Decathlon WP Dursban 50W
- M-Pede
- Orthene TTO Talstar GH
- Tristar 8.5

Spider Mites:

- Avid EC
- Floramite
- Hexigon
- Judo
- M-Pede soap
- Pylon
- Tetrasan

There are few disease problems on Tradewinds® Hibiscus.

Avoid overhead watering to prevent occasional bacterial or fungal leaf spot diseases.

Basal Stem and root rot from Phytophthora can be a problem. Chipco Aliette, Heritage, Orvego, Micora, or Subdue MAXX drenches after planting are useful in controlling this fungal disease.

Before using any pesticides, be sure that they are registered for use in your state. Check with your local county extension agent or state university extension service. See label for use rates and application methods. Always follow label directions since the label is the law.

Reshipping to Customers

- Be sure root medium is well watered.
- Hibiscus, although everblooming, produce flowers which only last one or two days. Ship to point of sale when buds are enlarged but still tight. The largest buds should open in three days.
- Remove dead flowers.

Retailer Care

- Do not let plants wilt. Keep soil moist at all times.
- Provide a bright location in the display area.
- Hibiscus are everblooming. Flowers continue to develop when proper conditions are provided. After opening, flowers roll up and then drop. In the North, hibiscus will usually

stop blooming in winter when light intensity is reduced and day length is much reduced. Flowering resumes again in March or April.

- For best continuous flowering, encourage consumers to place container plants in sunny locations facing south or west. Use the warmth from sunny patio floors or driveways for added warmth. Be sure to keep the containers well-watered. Consumer care and handling sheets are available upon request.
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Key Points to Remember

- Unpack and bench immediately.
- Plants should never be allowed to wilt.
- New flower buds will continue to form only if proper light, temperature and watering conditions are met.



Tradewinds® Hibiscus in production in Alva, Florida

TRADEWINDS® Hibiscus

View 25+ varieties and more at
www.TradewindsHibiscus.com



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