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Tropical Hibiscus

Hibiscus produce big, colorful, trumpet-shaped flowers over a long season.

Other common names for this plant include Chinese hibiscus and tropical hibiscus.

Hibiscus are deciduous with dark green leaves. Flowers may be up to 6 inches in diameter, with colors ranging from yellow to peach to red.

They can grow to be 15 feet tall in frost-free areas!

Hibiscus can be planted singly or grown as a hedge plant, they can also be pruned into a single-stemmed small tree.

They flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and butterflies.

They like full sun and well-drained soil.

They adapt well to growing in containers, if you so choose.

Plant in the spring, summer, fall, spacing 3 to 6 feet apart. Dig a hole only as deep as the root ball and 2 to 3 times as wide. If your soil is in very poor condition, amend the soil you've removed from the hole with a small amount of compost.

Feed twice a month during the growing season and prune as necessary to control plant size and cut back errant branches. Hibiscus are sensitive to cold and should be protected when temperatures dip into the 30's; container-grown plants should be brought indoors.

Check plants periodically for pests such as aphids, white flies, and mealybugs.

Use a horticultural oil or insecticidal soap to control these pests.