

HIBISCUS

CULTURE GUIDE

SOIL: Use a peat based sphagnum mix – ph of 5.5 – 6.5

PLANTING/ FUNGICIDE: Plant in wet soil and drench with fungicide for additional protection

GROWING TECHNIQUES:

- 1) Two weeks after planting spray with 250 ppm of Floral and pinch at 3/4 weeks. The 1st pinch should leave 4 to 5 leaves or nodes. Spray Floral again 5-7 days after pinching.
- 2) When pinching a 2nd or 3rd time, leave 1 to 2 nodes to create an even table with shoots.
- 3) Growers can build height gradually as needed for the size of pot.
- 4) A Cycocel spray of 500 - 1000 ppm will help tone and promote an even bud set. This is suggested at weeks 4,6, and 8. Frequency / rate of cycocel depends on the growth.

TEMPERATURE AND LIGHT LEVELS:

- 1) Ideally the average day/night temperature must be at least 68 to 70 F. Temperature is the most important ingredient for root development and plant growth. Second most important : Hibiscus are heavy feeders.
- 2) Grow with maximum light levels in the winter months. Shading is necessary at higher light and temperature levels. Sunny Cities flower with natural day – length.

FERTILIZATION and PH (4.8 to 5.8 achieved with higher nitrogen feeding – see #2 below)

- 1) After pinching increase nitrogen from 200 to 300 ppm of nitrogen (20-10-20 adding iron chelate at 4 oz. per 100 gallons to prevent chlorotic upper leaves).
- 2) Also use a calcium – magnesium feed also during the first 8 weeks after pinching at rate of 100 ppm. Finish the last 3-4 weeks at 250 ppm using both feeds.

PEST / DISEASE PREVENTION: Spray for mite and whitefly using fungicide occasionally.

FINISHING OPTIONS – POT SIZES:

- 1) 6” to 6.5” – use 1 cutting or 2 cuttings spread, pinch leaving 5 to 6 nodes, then a 2nd pinch leaving 2 nodes. Crop time is 15 to 17 weeks (with 2 pinches).
- 2) 7” to 8.5” – use 3 cuttings 2 - 3 pinches. Crop time is from 16 – 18 weeks.
- 3) 10” pot – use 4 cuttings and 3 pinches. Crop time is 19 to 22 weeks.
- 4) 12” to 16” pot – use 5 cuttings and 4 to 5 pinches. Crop time is 22 – 28 weeks.
- 5) 7” to 8” tree – ask for special instructions.
- 6) 4” to 5” Pico Series– use 1 cutting per pot.