

Hibiscus

Summerific®



ZONE HARDINESS 4 – 9

NUTRITION

pH: 6.0 – 6.5

EC: (2:1 extraction method) 1.0 – 2.0

Moderate to high fertilization.

TEMPERATURE for forcing from a G1 Bare-root

Forcing/Growing on: 65 F Night – 72 F Day

Holding: 65 F Night – 72 F Day

WATERING

Keep the soil evenly moist. Never allow plants to wilt or lower leaf loss, bud abortion and reduced quality will result.

TIMING

Bare-root to 2 Gallon/3 Gallon: 11 – 14 weeks with one bare-root plant per container. Summerific® *Hibiscus* are traditionally grown as a summer crop. A typical planting date would be Week 14 for finishing in Week 26.

VERNALIZATION

No vernalization should be needed. Flowering is a function of long days.

PLANTING

Plant immediately. Avoid leaving these in the shipping boxes for more than a week.

Bare-root *Hibiscus* should be planted even to the crown of the plant. Plant immediately upon receiving the plants.

When growing perennials, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media as opposed to annual growing mixes that traditionally tend to be heavier in peat. Bark adds weight and stability to the growing mix and tends not to compress and shrink over time, thus adding the longevity that can be needed on long-term crops such as perennials.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

During forcing, plants should be given as much light as possible. Plants should be spaced such that they do not shade each other. High light intensities promote better branching and more flowers per plant, while producing shorter plants.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Shoots will emerge from the soil line within seven to 10 days after transplant. Once the shoots are 3 inches tall, they can be pinched, leaving 4 – 6 leaves per branch. An additional pinch may be needed 4 – 5 days later on any growing tips that may have been missed during the first pinch. Allow for at least six weeks from pinching until the desired bloom date.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Drench the plants with 5ppm – 7.5ppm Bonzi® (paclobutrazol) when the plants put on another 4 – 6 inches past the last soft pinch. Sumagic® (uniconazole) sprays at 7.5ppm or a tank mix of Cycocel® (chlormequat) at 1000ppm + B-Nine® (daminozide) at 3750 are effective but may require multiple applications seven days apart. 'Cranberry Crush' is the most compact of the five varieties, while 'Cherry Cheesecake' is the tallest and may require two drenches or more pinching.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Aphids, Caterpillars, Japanese Beetles, Mealybugs, Scale, Spider Mites, Thrips and Whiteflies can be observed on *Hibiscus*. In addition, a routine scouting program should be implemented to prevent foliar diseases such as Leaf Spots and Rusts.

OTHER TIPS

Do not move pots outside until holding temperatures can be maintained. Cooler temperatures will slow growth and cause the plants to turn yellow or in some cases even wilt. Once warmer conditions can be maintained, *Hibiscus* benefit greatly from the extra air movement, causing the stems to build up strength for shipping and handling.



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The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.