

Hibiscus

(Rose of Sharon)



ZONE HARDINESS: 5 – 9

NUTRITION

pH: 5.8 – 6.2

EC: (2:1 extraction method) 1.0 – 2.0

Moderate to high fertilization is recommended. 200ppm – 300ppm N. *Hibiscus* are very heavy feeders. Light colored foliage coloration and yellowing of veins is an indication for underfeeding.

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

Forcing/Growing on: 60 F Night – 72 F Day

Holding: 40 Night – 50 F Day

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement. Crops can be slow to break dormancy in spring until warmer temperatures return.

WATERING

Moderate to Moist: Best if planted in well-drained soil. *Rose of Sharon* does not like to be extremely wet or dry. Water thoroughly without oversaturating, keep moist during root development, allow soil surface to dry before watering after the crop is rooted to the edge of the pot.

TIMING

28 Liner to True 1 Gallon: 12 – 14 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 10 for finishing in Week 22 – 24. If a larger size is desired, we recommend planting these in the fall and doing additional bulking prior to dormancy. Planting a 28 count liner into a 2 – 3 gallon and bulking in the summer is also a great way to finish a larger high-quality spring crop.

Quick Turn™ Liner to True 1 Gallon: 8 – 10 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 22.

Quick Turn Liner to 2 – 3 Gallon: Planting a Quick Turn liner into a 2 – 3 gallon container and bulking in the fall is also a great way to finish a larger high-quality spring crop.

VERNALIZATION

A cold treatment is required on *Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon)*.

PLANTING:

Hibiscus perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium.

When growing Shrubs, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark-based media as opposed to an annual growing mix 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 Shrubs.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

During early spring forcing, plants should be given as much light as possible. Long days induce flowering. Crops should be spaced such that they do not shade each other. Un-spaced plants can stretch, require additional pruning, and lead to an undesirable look on the retail bench.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Hibiscus benefit from frequent light pruning rather than hard pruning. A hard shearing can shut down growth for 3 – 4 weeks.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Trimming and pruning is used mostly on *Hibiscus (Rose of Sharon)* to control plant height. Cultural practices such as good air movement in an open environment can help control plant height and assist in finishing a high-quality crop.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

Aphids and Whiteflies are the most prevalent insects associated with *Hibiscus*. Scout and spray preventatively in April and May to prevent outbreaks in June and July when insects are more actively growing. We recommend implementing a good IPM program as well as early releases of Biological control to help aid in the control of insect populations.

SPECIAL NOTES

When growing larger containers such as 3 gallons, it is best to bulk them in the summer/fall the year before they are to be sold. This allows additional root growth as well as additional pruning. Any surplus 1 gallon containers can easily be bumped into 3 gallon containers in the fall or early spring for spring sales.



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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.