

Hibiscus species

The species prefers full sun or light shade and can take a range of soils including swampy sites. It is at its best where temperatures do not go below about -3°C , although it can survive lower temperatures. Pests are generally few but, in common with the exotic cultivars, Hibiscus Beetles can be a problem. These can be controlled by placing white ice cream containers with detergent water among the Hibiscus plants and putting fresh water and detergent in the containers every few days. Harlequin bugs may also be noticed and, although they draw sap from the plants, they are rarely a serious problem.

Propagation

Propagation from seed is straightforward with scarified seed. Seed can be abraded/thinned with sandpaper between finger and thumb or nicked with a sharp knife in the outer curve of the seed. Soak overnight in initially warm water before sowing. Cuttings also strike readily, particularly if cuttings are taken on an angle through a node and rooting hormone is applied to their ends

Sow seed in a good potting mix that is well-draining. Sow on the surface of your media and cover lightly.

Maintain media in a moist but not damp state.

Prick individual seedlings out at the second leaf stage and grow on as desired. Plant out in a sunny position.