

## Tips for Success

**Water:** Water your plants immediately after planting. Then wait until growth occurs to water again. In the summer, Hibiscus tend to be heavy drinkers during the hottest, sunniest part of summer. If plants are in containers, this may mean watering every day.

**Hardy Hibiscus:** Nothing says tropical quite like a Hibiscus! But these winter Hardy Hibiscus can handle winter temperatures well into the negatives, allowing gardeners across the country to bring the tropics to their gardens every single year. This hibiscus can remain outdoors year round and will produce new growth and new flowers every summer. No more dragging the tropical hibiscus into the house each winter. And because these Hardy Hibiscus are relatively short, they rarely need staking. The enormous flowers on these plants will transport you to your favorite island destination year in and year out. Their fast growing, bushy habits makes them wonderful along walkways, mixed into the perennials flower beds, in containers on the patio, or anywhere you want to bring the look of the tropics.

**Dark Foliage:** What makes these Hibiscus so alluring in the garden is the contrast between the dark foliage and the large, colorful flowers. To ensure the foliage remains as dark as possible, they need to be planted in a very sunny location, offering about 6-8 hours of full sun per day. If in too much shade, the plants may get leggy, as well as losing some of the darkness to the foliage.

**In the Garden:** Over time these beautiful plants will grow into shrubby proportions. They are fantastic for anchoring a flower bed, for planting at corners around the garden, in front of the home, near the mailbox, or in a container on the patio next to your reclining chairs. Bring the look of the tropics throughout your garden with these Hardy Hibiscus.



# PHILLIP WATSON | *Designs*

PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



## Dark & Handsome Hardy Hibiscus

*Hibiscus moscheutos hybrids*

### Phillip Watson Designs is fulfilled by Roberta's Inc.

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-800-428-9726** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: [plantquestions@robertasinc.com](mailto:plantquestions@robertasinc.com).

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll free number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at [RobertasUniqueGardens.com](http://RobertasUniqueGardens.com).

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.

"Magic isn't so much  
what you create,  
it's what you notice."

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Perennials

## Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Perennial

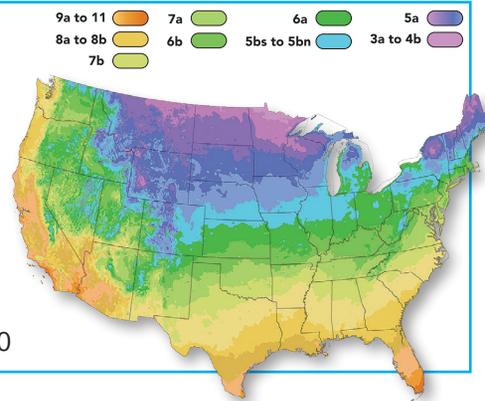
 **Light/Sun:** Full Sun

 **Mature Height:** 24-36"

 **Mature Spread:** 18-24"

 **Bloom Time:** Late Summer to Fall, by second season

 **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 5 to 10



## Plant Caretaking

**Upon Arrival:** Please take bare roots out of the box upon arrival. Store in packing materials until ready to plant. Plant as soon as possible, within about two weeks of receiving, when the nights are routinely above 40F.

**Planting Depth & Spacing:** Dig a deep enough hole so that the entire root fits easily in the hole and so that the crown of the plant is about 2-4" below the surface of the soil. Space plants about 18-24" apart in the garden.

**Potted Plants:** Make sure your container has holes to allow excess water to drain. Place one plant in a container that is 18-24" wide, or you may plant multiple together in a larger container.

**Soil Preparation:** If your soil is clayish, amend it with standard potting mix to improve drainage. They prefer fertile, moist soil that drains well.

**Watering:** Water upon planting and then wait to water again once you have seen new growth occur. Once it is growing, to determine if your plant needs water, put your finger in the top of the soil and if the top inch is dry, it is time to water. It is important to make sure young plants do not experience long periods of dryness. However, they also do not like soggy conditions. During the hottest times of summer, you may need to water almost everyday, especially if they're in containers. If they dry out too much, the foliage may wilt a bit, but after watering they should plump back up.

**Fertilizer:** Use PWD Time Release Fertilizer once you have seen new growth occurring.

**Pet Considerations:** Ensure your pets do not consume plants.

**Pruning & Grooming:** Make sure to remove spent flowers during the bloom season to encourage new flower formation. Likewise, any foliage that yellows during the summer should be removed so that the plant can most effectively use its energy resources. New foliage will continue to sprout all summer.

**Winter Dormancy:** After the first heavy frost, cut all shoots back to about 4" above the soil. They will be dormant during the winter. If you live where winters stay warm, you may trim your plants back in early spring to encourage fresh growth.

## Planting Steps

**Step 1** Remove roots from their back and keep in packing materials until you are ready to plant them. Plant as soon as possible.

**Step 2** Select a sunny location in the ground or choose an 18-24" container to plant in. Dig a hole deep enough so that the entire root system can easily fit in, generally 6-8" deep.

**Step 3** Place the root in the hole deep enough so that the crown of the root will be about 2-4" below the new surface of the soil. To determine where the crown is, hold the bare root in your hand and you will notice many smaller roots emanating in the same direction, with a single thicker stem going in the opposite direction. The crown is the part where the bottom roots meet with the stem. When planted some of the stem may be sticking up out of the ground. Do your best to spread the roots out in the ground when planting. Refer to image to see where the crown is.



**Step 4** Back fill the hole with soil or potting mix. Water in very well, but do not water again until you see new growth.

**Step 5** It can be helpful to add a 1-2 inch layer of mulch around the root after planting to help hold moisture in.

