

# HIBISCUS

Caring for a hibiscus plant (whether it's tropical or hardy) means giving it the right balance of sun, water, soil, and nutrients. Here's a straightforward guide to keeping your hibiscus healthy and blooming:

- ☀️ 1. Light Tropical Hibiscus: Needs 6–8 hours of direct sunlight daily. Ideal for bright patios or sunny indoor windows. Hardy Hibiscus: Also loves full sun but tolerates partial shade. Tip: If indoors, place it near a south- or west-facing window.
- 💧 2. Watering Hibiscus loves moisture but hates soggy roots. Water when the top inch of soil feels dry. In hot weather, you might need to water daily. In cooler months or indoors, reduce watering frequency. Tip: Use well-draining pots with drainage holes. Don't let water sit in the saucer.
- 🌱 3. Soil. Use well-draining, slightly acidic soil. A mix of potting soil + perlite or sand works well. Avoid heavy or clay soils unless amended.
- 🌡️ 4. Temperature & Humidity Tropical hibiscus: Prefers 60–90°F (15–32°C). Below 50°F (10°C) = trouble. Bring indoors if temps drop. Likes high humidity – mist it if indoors and dry.



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🌱 5. Fertilizing Hibiscus is a heavy feeder, especially when blooming. Use a balanced fertilizer (like 10-10-10 or 20-20-20) or one high in potassium to encourage flowering. Fertilize every 2–4 weeks during the growing season (spring to fall). Avoid: High phosphorus fertilizers (too much "P" in N-P-K) – they can damage hibiscus roots.

✂️ 6. Pruning. Prune in early spring to shape and encourage new growth. Remove dead or weak stems regularly. Pinch off tips during growing season to make it bushier.

🐛 7. Pests & Diseases. Watch out for: Aphids, Spider mites. Whiteflies, Mealy bugs. Treat with neem oil, insecticidal soap, or strong water spray. Avoid overwatering to prevent root rot and fungal diseases.

❄️ 8. Overwintering (for tropical types) If temps drop below 50°F (10°C), bring indoors. Reduce watering and stop fertilizing in winter. Bright light indoors is essential to avoid leaf drop.

🔄 9. Repotting Every 1–2 years, or when roots are crowded. Best done in spring. Use fresh, well-draining soil when repotting.

💡 Extra Tips Yellow leaves? Could mean overwatering, underwatering, or stress. No blooms? Try a potassium-rich fertilizer and check light levels. Pinch off spent flowers to encourage more blooms (deadheading).