



Hibiscus: Queen of Flowers

Cynthia G. Manor
July 12, 2021

Hibiscus: Queen of Flowers

By Cynthia G. Manor

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Edition Notice

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Introduction

Hibiscus plants are magnificent, easy-to-grow shrubs. They are known for their large colorful blooms, with hues of red, pink, yellow, white, purple, orange, and mixtures of colors.

Two major categories of this plant are:

- ["Tropical Hibiscus" on page 5](#)
- ["Hardy Hibiscus" on page 7](#)

The biggest difference between them is where they best grow. Tropical hibiscus grows best in warm, tropical areas, while the hardy hibiscus is adapted to grow in comparatively cooler regions.

The table below highlights some of their general differences.

Characteristic	Tropical	Hardy
Hardiness Zones¹ See "Glossary" on page 11	9 to 11	5 to 8
Leaf drop	Evergreen	Perennial
Overall Size	4 to 10 feet all 5 to 8 feet wide	Up to 15 feet tall 4 to 8 feet wide
Bloom Colors	Shades of salmon, peach, orange, yellow, purple, lavender blue, white, multi-color	White, pink, red, bi-color
Bloom Size	5 to 8 inches wide	Up to 12 inches wide
Leaf Features	Dark green, lobed, glossy	Medium green, heart shaped

¹A hardiness zone is a geographic area defined to encompass a certain range of climatic conditions relevant to plant growth and survival.--Wikipedia

General Hibiscus Care

Light

Hibiscus plants thrive on light. They can be grown in more shaded areas, but they will not bloom as much as they normally would when they receive at least several hours a day of full light. However, direct sunlight should be avoided during high temperatures.

Soil

The ideal soil condition for hibiscus plants is moist, well-drained soil.

Water

Hibiscus plants require daily watering, especially when they are actively growing and blooming. The soil should not be allowed to completely dry out. However, during cooler seasons, too much water can cause root rot, which, if left untreated, can kill the entire plant.

Fertilizer

Hibiscus plants can grow well without fertilizer.

If fertilizer is used, the best type is a slow-release or water-soluble balanced fertilizer, according to [Gardening Know How](#).

Tropical Hibiscus

Fast Facts

Botanical Name	Hibiscus rosa-sinensis
Common Names	Chinese Hibiscus Hawaiian Hibiscus Rose Mallow Shoe Flower
Varieties	Beachside Bubbly Tequila Sunrise South Pacific Sipper
Native Range	Tropical Asia, China
Light	Full sun to part shade
Water	Medium
Maintenance	Medium

Source: [Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

Costa Farms Tropical Hibiscus Gallery



Tequila Sunrise



Beachside Bubbly



South Pacific Sipper

Hardy Hibiscus

Fast Facts

Botanical Name	Hibiscus moscheutos
Common Names	Swamp Rose Mallow Swamp Mallow Sea Hollyhock Common Rose Mallow
Varieties	Brandy Punch Luna Red Midnight Marvel
Native Range	Southern and eastern North America
Light	Full sun
Water	Medium to wet
Maintenance	Low

Source: [Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

Costa Farms Hardy Hibiscus Gallery



Luna Red



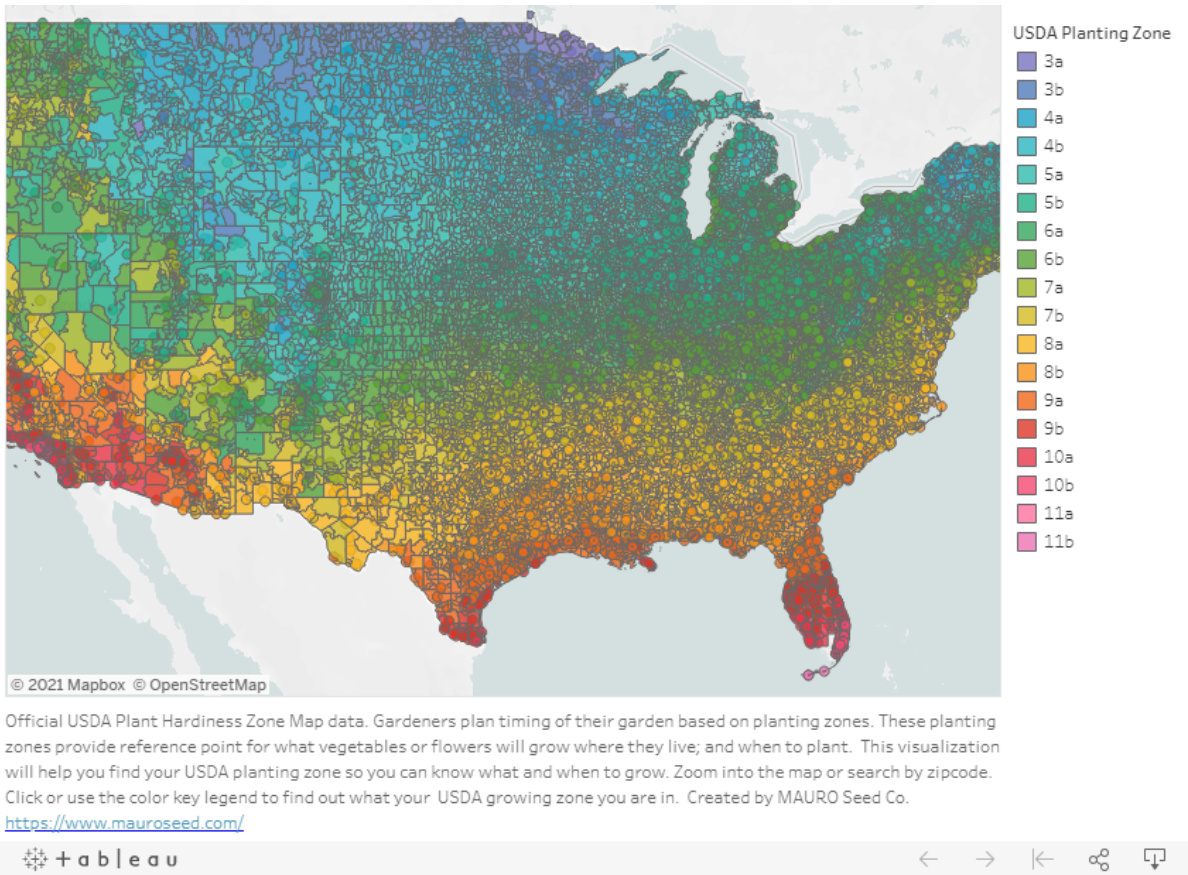
Brandy Punch



Midnight Marvel

Appendix

USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map



Source: [Mauroseed](https://www.mauroseed.com/) website via [Tableau Public](https://public.tableau.com/).

Hardiness Zone Chart

Zone	Avg Last Frost	Avg First Frost	Avg Growing Days
1	May 25	August 25	92
2	May 15	September 1	109
3	May 15	September 15	123
4	May 15	October 1	139
5	May 1	October 15	168
6	April 15	October 15	183
7	April 1	October 31	213
8	March 15	November 15	245
9	February 15	November 30	290
10-13	No Freeze	No Freeze	365

Source: [Mauroseed](#) website.

Glossary

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Hardiness Zones

A hardiness zone is a geographic area defined to encompass a certain range of climatic conditions relevant to plant growth and survival.--Wikipedia

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Tropical hibiscus 1



Hibiscus: Queen of Flowers

About this Text

This document provides a brief overview hibiscus plants, categories, and care tips.

About the Author

Cynthia Manor is a retired government professional with over 20 years of IT experience in the areas of reporting, data, and end user support.

She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin (1993) with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts - English major, with a business management minor. Since this time, she has furthered her education at Austin Community College (ACC) and University of Maryland Global College (UMGC).

She has a Web Developer Specialist Certificate from ACC. She graduated in 2020 with a BS in Digital Media and Web Technology.

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Her hobbies include gardening, digital art, poetry, music and enjoying retirement.