



Emerald Goddess Gardens

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Botanical Name	Hibiscus Rosa Seninsis
Common Name	Elephant Ear
Mature Size	2.5 x2.5
Bloom Color	Creamy White
Bloom Period	Spring/Summer/Fall
Boom Form	Crested Double
Water	Moderate
Light	Full Sun to Very Lt Shade
USDA Zone	9 & South
Fragrance	None
Uses	Accent, Hedge, Potted
Special Features	Slow growth, big flowers
Grower Notes	Prized collectors favorite



Elephant Ear Hibiscus is an older **Tropical Hibiscus** cultivar that is seldom grown commercial now, though it is one of the most popular and best loved of the *Exotic* hybrids, it is often quite difficult to locate. **Elephant Ear** or **Kalakaua** is a must have for new collectors and a great gift for a gardener who is just discovering *Tropical Hibiscus*.

It is a beautiful *Tropical Hibiscus*, but it's features of very large leaves, and slower growth make it less suitable for commercial chain store production than many others. The blooms are full, lush, and luxurious. The plant grows low and dense and while it will generally live longer, and perform better as potted plant, it is reasonably disease and nematode resistant.

Very large, lush, dark green, folded, serrated oval leaves show off large, double flowers with layers of softly ruffled and twisted petals in a muted, romantic, pastel, blended palette of white, cream, and barely there pale pastel shell pink. The pink tone will become more pronounced in cool weather.

Elephant Ear can be slightly fussy in its growing needs, requiring adequate air flow, minimal spraying, and careful attention to watering.

Left unpruned it will reach a mature height of about 2 to 3 feet, but is easy to maintain at lower heights. Frequent pruning is beneficial and helps the plant grow bushier and stronger.

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size plants is not recommended, so for the best results with your new plant, we recommend it be repotted and allowed to grow larger before setting out in the landscape within the recommended USDA Zone range.

- Plant in well draining, fertile, slightly acidic soil
- Locate in the full sun
- Prune for shape after flowering
- Feed a good quality slow release bloom boosting plant food twice yearly
- Protect from frost and freeze.
- Spray periodically during hot, humid weather to prevent pest and disease problems

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at emeraldgoddessgardens@gmail.com

If you don't know your USDA Planting Zone, you can check the map on our website site at emeraldgoddessgardens.com