

Emerald Goddess Gardens
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Botanical Name	Hibiscus rosa seninsis
Common Name	Hoochie Coochie
Mature Size	3'x3'
Plant Family	Malvaceae
Bloom Color	Red
Bloom Period	Perpetual
Boom Form	Medium Classic Hibiscus Fancy Single
Water	Moderate
Light	Protect from direct hot sun
USDA Zone	Zone 10, 11
Fragrance	None
Uses	Feature, Standard, Potted
Special Features	Large Fancy Flowers



Hibiscus rosa seninsis or *Tropical Hibiscus* are attractive, flowering tropical shrubs that have perhaps the largest variation of bloom color as any species, there are literally thousands with new hybrids constantly being introduced. Among the most popular ones are those classed as 'Exotics'. This class has larger, fancier flowers than the classic landscape types.

Hoochie Coochie is a medium sized fancy bright red flower with a slightly ruffled outer petal edge the bright red fades into a blue toned lavender lined dark maroon red throat. This cultivar is part of the Cajun Hibiscus Line developed by renowned breeders, Bobby Dupont and Robert Gerlich, who have turned their focus in their hibiscus breeding program to not only producing new hybrids with lush, exotic, and unusual flowers, but also tough, resilient, strong growing plants.

It blooms on a full, branching bush with large glossy leaves, and a strong root system, although it can be grown in the tropical landscape with good care, it will probably produce larger flowers and live longer as a potted plant. It is a bit more fussy and temperamental than some others, requiring close attention to irrigation with care not to over water, and can be prone to leaf spot when conditions are hot and humid.

Direct planting of 4 inch plant material into the landscape is not recommended so we suggest potting into a larger pot and allowing the plant to develop a larger root system before setting it out in the landscape within the recommended USDA Zone Range.

Tropical Hibiscus can be grown as potted plants indefinitely, but when permanent placement is to be in the landscape, then when the new pot has filled with roots and the plant has grown larger, here are a few hints for successful

- Plant in fertile, well draining, slightly acidic soil
- Locate in the full sun.
- Provide regular irrigation, good quality plant food, and be rewarded with lush tropical blooms and foliage. Take care not to over-water,
- Feed a good quality, slow release, bloom boosting plant food 2x yearly.
- Monitor for symptoms of pests or disease and treat promptly and appropriately per the label directions of the spray.
- Prune regularly after flowering for shape.
- Protect from frost and freeze.
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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

Care of Your New Hibiscus Plant

Here are a few basic guidelines for handling and caring for your new tropical hibiscus plant:

Direct planting of 4 inch starter size Tropical Hibiscus directly into the landscape is not recommended. So, for the best results with your new hibiscus plant we suggest that it be re-potted into a larger pot and allowed to grow larger until the new pot is filled with roots before setting out.

- Immediately unpack, remove the wrappings and shipping gel and discard the gel.
- Re-pot the new plant into a 6 inch to 10 inch diameter pot that can drain easily and thoroughly.
- Use a good quality commercial potting media.
- Apply a high quality, slow release plant food according to the label directions. Do not use hot, all chemical fertilizers like 6-6-6 or 10-10-10.
- Locate so that the plant can receive direct, full spectrum light for several hours daily, but is protected from hot, direct afternoon sun.
- Maintain consistent and uniform moisture in the soil. Take care not to over water.
- Packing crystals may be reused to conserve water, but do so with caution as they hold 6000 times their weight in water.
- If reusing the crystals, mix and incorporate them thoroughly throughout the potting media.
- Be sure the pot can drain and that the bottom of the pot does not sit submerged in water for more than a day.
- Supplement feed with a water soluble plant food every 2-3 weeks according to the label directions.
- Prune or pinch lightly and often when the plant is young and actively growing to strengthen the central stalk and encourage branching and build uniform shape.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze.

Tropical Hibiscus and many other tropical and subtropical plants can be grown as potted plant indefinitely and can be successfully wintered over indoors in colder climates, so long as they are moved indoors well ahead of temps into the 30's, are maintained in warm environment (minimum 40°F) with adequate, full spectrum light, and consistent soil moisture is maintained.

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This plant is intended for use as an ornamental, decorative item only. Emerald Goddess Gardens does not recommend, endorse nor offer the product for any other use.