



Emerald Goddess Gardens

emeraldgoddessgardens.com

Botanical Name	Hibiscus rosa sinensis
Common Name	Strawberries & Cream
Mature Size	2' to 3' x 3'
Bloom Color	Creamy White Pink Throat
Bloom Period	Summer
Bloom Form	Classic Single
Water	Moderate
Light	Best in Full Sun
USDA Zone	10 & South
Fragrance	None
Uses	Specimen, accent, hedge, potted culture
Special Features	Compact growth habit, showy flower



***Hibiscus rosa sinensis*, or Tropical hibiscus** are a large species of flowering tropical shrubs. This species has perhaps the largest number of bloom color variations of any plant, as there are literally thousands. Some are tough hardy plants suitable for a variety of landscape uses and others are delicate hothouse prizes that are not for the novice gardener.

Strawberries & Cream is an uncommon hybrid cultivar that is a showy bloomer, but grows a little slower and somewhat smaller than the average. This trait makes it a very good choice for porch and patio pots. Unfortunately it also means that it is not widely grown commercially and therefore is seldom found in the chain stores or retail garden centers.

The flowers are medium, coffee saucer sized classic hibiscus singles that are creamy white with strawberry red throats. It has many of the best features of tropical hibiscus; showy flowers, is a prolific bloomer, and the plant has dense glossy green foliage, and has a fair degree of disease resistance, and will tolerate light shade.

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

Hibiscus can be grown as potted plants indefinitely. For the best results in the landscape here's a few basic guidelines:

- Plant in fertile, well draining slightly acid soil. Amending plant zone with good organic material is beneficial.
- Provide supplemental irrigation
- Feed regularly with a high quality slow release bloom boosting plant food..
- Prune after flowering to encourage branching.
- Monitor for signs of disease or insects and treat accordingly.
- Protect from frost and freeze.

For quick answers to your growing or planting questions, just email us at service@emeraldgoddessgardens.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 repotted 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 gell.
- 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 fertilizes 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.