



# HENDRY HERALD

**JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER**  
of the **AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY**

**WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW** [hendrychapterhibiscus.com](http://hendrychapterhibiscus.com) SEPTEMBER 2024

## **Q. NEW PLANTING LOOKS SAD. WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PLANT A HEALTHY PLANT PROPERLY?**

### **A. VALERIE COSTA'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR IN-GROUND PLANTING**

This is what I do:

Dig a hole twice the size of the root ball

Fill the hole with water

Put plant in the hole- I gently loosen some of the roots if they are tightly root bound; otherwise just put the plant in the hole. Add good soil, a little bit of granular fertilizer and mycorrhizae (to aid in healthy root development)

Put the plant no lower than the level that it was in the pot. I often place the plant a little higher than soil level as the ground will settle.

Water well.

I give newly planted hibiscus water twice a day for the first couple of days and then once a day for the a few more days unless it rains

## **DON'T FORGET HY'S WAY FOR THE SUMMER MONTHS**

In this hot weather hibiscus need at least an inch of water twice a week.



To determine if your sprinkler is delivering that amount place several cups in the garden area and run the sprinkler for 15 minutes. If there is now 1/2 inch of water in the cup you need to run the sprinkler for a half of an hour to deliver one inch of water to the area. Also to determine if you are getting water to the plant take an 18 inch stick (like a plant stake or dowel rod) and stick into the ground to see how deep you are watering by the wetness on the stick. With hot weather it is important to have at least 3 inches of mulch to keep roots cool and the garden area watered. Do not fertilize until you have watered the plants and water again after fertilizing to avoid burning the roots. If you have leaves that are chewed, use snail bait (from Lowes, Home Depot or local hardware). Remember if there are ants on you plants you may have aphids. If so, treat with horticultural oil or horticultural soap and repeat twice one week apart to kill the new generations. Most important, after all your work on your garden, sit and enjoy your garden with a cool drink and relax.

**A garden shows that you have faith in the future. HY LANS**

**EVEN THOUGH THIS ADVICE HAS BEEN PRINTED BEFORE, IT CAN'T BE SAID TOO OFTEN**

## **SHOW SEASON-PERMANENT ENTRY NUMBERS**

Now is the time to apply for your Permanent number to enter blooms in shows.....DEADLINE FOR PERMANENT NUMBERS DUE OCTOBER 31st! IF YOU ARE GOING TO SHOW BLOOMS AT ANY OF THE MANY CHAPTERS SHOWS, THIS NUMBER IS INVALUABLE.

Contact **FRANK SULLIVAN** at [f.sully@comcast.net](mailto:f.sully@comcast.net) to apply for your permanent show entry number.

**You will never win if you never begin."** HELEN ROWLAND

**You will not always be strong, but you can always be brave."** SIMONE BILES

# WHY YOU NEED HIBISCUS GARDEN VARIETIES! CATHY DUNN



If your garden is anything like mine, the past few weeks have been a little frustrating. We've had an abundance of rain which appears to encourage everything (including weeds) to grow rapidly, but the rain also seems to prompt some of my hibiscus to develop yellow leaves which suddenly appear and then fall on the ground. I think that combined with the steady heat we've also endured lately, the environment has been quite stressful on our divas. I've had very few blooms since gall midge has established itself on many of my plants; it is almost useless to try to drench because the ground is saturated, and by the time I had my last drench applied it rained within 2 hours (and it wasn't forecast to rain!) I suspect that drench was just a waste of time and money based on the lack of results.

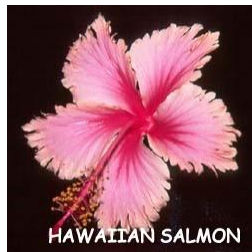
Thankfully there are many bright spots provided by the garden varieties of hibiscus that I have strategically interspersed with my tropical hybrid plants. When I look out and see the sweeping branches of Albo, Hawaiian Salmon, Orange el Capitolio and Schizopetalus loaded with colorful blooms I can almost overlook the green plants that have no blooms!

Over the years, garden varieties have been bred for durability, easy propagation, dense shape and size, and strong blooms. These varieties are also less susceptible to disease and bugs. Some of the garden varieties that you can still purchase today were developed more than 40 years ago, attesting to their sturdiness and reliability. Garden varieties are available at big box stores like Home Depot and Lowe's, as well as local nurseries such as Scott's Nursery on Bayshore Drive in North Ft. Myers and Bob's Botanicals in Ft. Myers.

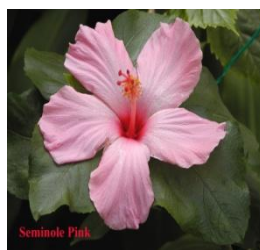
One of the few negatives for purchasing garden variety hibiscus is that growers often use Cycocel, a growth regulator to keep plants small and constantly blooming. Cycocel is used on most bedding plants that you see in nurseries to improve the plants' durability for shipping and handling. The problem is that the recommended application rate for hibiscus is about 20% of the 'normal' strength used for other plants, and the hibiscus invariably receives an excess dose of the Cycocel. The effect on hibiscus is very negative; the plant is stressed by constant blooming and can actually die as the Cycocel wears off. You may have experienced this when you purchased a seemingly healthy garden variety hibiscus at a nursery only to have it die within 2 or 3 months. If the plant does survive, growth is often leggy, and the plant produces smaller and less frequent blooms. I've noted that the garden variety hibiscus that I have purchased at local nurseries such as Scott's and Bob's Botanicals seem to be less influenced by Cycocel.

What are some of the garden varieties that you should incorporate in your garden? Some of my favorites include the varieties I cited earlier, as well as President, Anderson's Double Red, Seminole Pink, Orange Key, Elephant Ear (White Kalakua), Sylvia Goodman, Dainty White, Fiesta and Tropicana. There are also beautiful varieties with variegated foliage that add interest to the garden: Snow Queen, Red Hot and Cooperii.

We usually have plants of these garden varieties at our meetings to give away. If you have a chance to take home one of these plants, please don't give up that opportunity! That small Hawaiian Salmon or Albo will be a sturdy plant in your landscape in 6 months, and a treasured abundant bloomer for years to come. I know that I sometimes scoffed at these plants, but now that I have towering garden varieties loaded with blooms, I'm a believer! Do yourself a big favor and plan to add some of these gems to your hibiscus garden!



## BEAUTIFUL GARDEN VARIETIES



## SEPTEMBER'S MEETING

We will be kicking off the 2024-2025 Season at our meeting on **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**. The theme for the meeting is "This is YOUR Chapter!" and you'll learn about how we fit into both the American Hibiscus Society (AHS) and the local horticultural community, information on our finances and budget, topics for our upcoming meetings and the goals we have set for the coming year. The meeting will start with our Mini Show at 1:30 and we'll have some great plants to give away! Water and soft drinks will be provided; bring a snack to share. Plan to be with us to learn more about your chapter and how you can participate in our growth! CATHY DUNN, President

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER from CATHY DUNN

Somehow, September always seems to be the beginning of the year to me! I guess that is because for most of my life, I was either starting school in September or sending my children off to school. And September now marks the beginning of our 2024-2025 Season, which I hope will be a time of learning and fun for our Chapter. We have planned programs for the upcoming season to involve our members in learning new skills, improving their success with plants, and increasing their success showing blooms at our shows. One of my goals is to increase our outreach through social media to encourage participation at our 2 sales and to attract new members to our chapter. Enthusiastic and engaged members are key to all our efforts, and I encourage each of you to feel free to contact me with your comments, questions and suggestions. This is YOUR Chapter, and I want each of you to understand our goals, participate in our programs, and work to expand our chapter's membership. Working together with a strong sense of commitment and enthusiasm, we will have a meaningful year and a successful chapter!



### **\*\*LITTLE POEM FOR SENIORS: SO TRUE IT HURTS!\*\***

Another year has passed, and we're all a little older. Last summer felt hotter and winter seems much colder. There was a time not long ago when life was quite a blast. Now I fully understand about 'Living in the past

We used to go to weddings, football games, and lunches. Now we go to funeral homes and after-funeral brunches.

We used to go out dining and couldn't get our fill. Now we ask for doggie bags, come home, and take a pill.

We used to often travel to places near and far. Now we get sore asses from riding in the car.

We used to go to nightclubs and drink a little booze. Now we stay home at night and watch the evening news.

That, my friend, is how life is, and now my tale is told. So, enjoy each day and live it up Before you're too damned old!

P.S. Yes, I am thankful to live till I'm this old... and really thankful I can laugh about it

### Insect Repellent Plants

from DRIFTWOOD

Allow Driftwood to help you create an insect-repellent container garden to enhance summer entertaining by incorporating plants like basil, lavender, and citronella, which repel mosquitoes, flies, gnats, and wasps. These plants add beauty and fragrance while keeping bugs away.

Place containers around patios, dining areas, entryways, and seating spots to form natural barriers against insects. Use small pots as table centerpieces and hanging baskets for added protection. Regularly maintain your plants and combine different varieties for a more effective and attractive setup.

Check out our social media for more information on bug-repelling plants, including lemongrass and citronella. With these strategically placed plants, you can enjoy a bug-free outdoor experience.

## Weekly Tip:

---

Once the heat of summer is turned up, mulch decomposes more rapidly, leaving just a thin layer to do all the hard work of retaining soil moisture, holding down weeds, and keeping your garden looking beautiful. Now is the time to water well, especially on days without a good rain, pull any weeds that have taken hold, and spread a fresh 2 to 3 inches of mulch on your ornamental beds. The investment of time and materials now will guarantee fewer hours working in the garden for the rest of the season and more time admiring it!

## October Sale Varieties - OCTOBER 19 - 200 PLANTS!

The James E. Hendry Chapter of the American Hibiscus Society will hold its next sale on **Saturday, October 19th at Rotary Park, 5505 Rose Garden Road, Cape Coral, FL. 9 AM – 2 PM.** We will have 10 plants each of 20 varieties – plan now to choose your favorites to add to your collection!

Acapulco Gold	Marianne Charlton
Bayou Rose	Midnight Tryst
Blackberry Jam	Moonlight Madness
Blue Jean Baby	Moorea Princess Oksana
Crown Jellyfish	Quasar
Dark Princess	Queen of Dreams
Early Morning	Saffron Moon
Gator Magic	Swamp Cloud
Jolanda Gommer	Sweet Pink
Liams Rainbow	Tahitian Tau

You can view pictures of all the varieties on our website:

<https://hendrychapterhibiscus.com/october-sale/>

**You can't make a cloudy day a sunny day, but you can embrace it and decide it's going to be a good day after all."**

**"Every day brings new choices."** MARTHA BECK

## REPOTTING by AN EXPERT, BUDDY SHORT

Here is a quick review of the steps I take when I repot one of my plants. Remember this is my method. If your method is working for you then by all means keep doing what you are doing:

I'm moving a 1 gallon plant to a 2 gallon pot.....I go through the same routine when I'm moving from a 2 gallon to a 3 gallon .....

1. I remove the plant from the pot and examine the bottom roots. I then gently unraveled or rough up the bottom roots.
2. I then place approximately 2 to 3 inches of potting mix in the bottom of my new pot and sprinkle in some of our chapter granular fertilizer.
3. Next I shake the pot until I no longer see any of the fertilizer.
4. I then place the plant in the new pot and fill in with my potting mix of choice and sprinkle in some more granular fertilizer over my top layer and shake in.
5. My final two steps are to cover the top of my mix with some pine bark mulch. Currently I'm using a very fine mulch (Soil Conditioner) put out under the trade name Gardenese. This keeps my plants looking nice and neat and in my opinion keeps them cooler throughout our summer.
6. My last step is to examine my labels to make certain I can still "easily" read my markings. If not then you know the next step.

Again this is my method to best maintain my plants during our extremely hot months of June, July, August, and even September. If your plants are struggling in our summer heat then either find them some shade or do something to help them maintain some moisture throughout these dreaded months. Topping them off with some mulch will help

Good Growing, **BUDDY**



## JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER MEETING 11 AUGUST 2024

President CATHY DUNN called the meeting to order at 1:50 pm. She led the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed four guests, and recognized past presidents PATRICIA MYERS and BETH MEEHAN.

\* **JEH Sunshine:** JACK BERNATZ tragically lost his grandson Jack. WANDA SCHMOYER has been hospitalized for hip surgery. KAY JANSSEN is not very well at age 97. They need healing thoughts and prayers.

\* **2024-2025 JEH Membership Directory and Hy's Way book:** New membership directories will be mailed with September 2024 Newsletter. Hibiscus book by **DR. HY LANS** is being reprinted and will be released for purchase in October 2024. It is titled HIBISCUS FOR YOUR GARDEN, IN-GROUND AND CONTAINER, MONTH-BY-MONTH HIBISCUS CARE.

\* **JEH October Plant Sale:** Reminder from CATHY that our next plant sale will be held at Rotary Park in October.

\* **Gifts from PATRICIA MYERS:** JEH Past President PATRICIA MYERS donated to CATHY DUNN her hibiscus motif goblets, ceramic dishes, and tote bag. To AHS Historian BETH MEEHAN, PATRICIA donated her AHS DVD, "The Seed Pod 1956-2006."

\* **Program — Grafting Workshop** CATHY successfully encouraged all to join in our second summer hands-on workshop — Grafting Hibiscus. Scion wood and rootstock were provided free of charge. All attendees participated.

Instructors BETH MEEHAN and VALERIE COSTA explained and demonstrated grafting techniques, tools, and tips that they learned from expert grafters Carl Powell and Sean Mohme.

### **BENEFITS OF GRAFTING:**

1. Create a "backup" of highly valued plants.
2. Gain a big head start in growth over cuttings; grafted plant usually buds in three months.
3. Save rare cultivars when hibiscus nurseries go out of business.
4. Transport cultivar cuttings from anywhere to create new living plants here in JEH.

### **GRAFTING SUPPLIES:**

Box cutter blade, Exacto knife, or sharp folding knife (e.g., Swiss Army knife)

"Genuine Parafilm Tape" (stretchy, self-sticking)

"Elmer's Glue" (white glue, not School Glue)

"Hefty brand Sandwich Bags, 150 per box" for extra space at bottom of the bag

Twist ties

Following hands-on workshop, VALERIE advised us to always sterilize grafting blades or knives with hydrogen peroxide or another sterilizing agent to prevent cross contamination.

The meeting adjourned around 3:45 pm. Submitted by Secretary KATHLEEN DUBIN

## MORE HOT WEATHER WATERING TIPS from DRIFTWOOD GARDENS

Make hot weather watering easier and more efficient with the proper practices and tools:

- If you haven't already, install soaker hoses. You'll be glad that you did and so will your plants.
- Replenish mulch around plants to a depth of 2 to 3 inches.
- Have watering cans on hand for spot and container watering.
- A water wand attached to the end of your hose will help significantly to get the water where it's most needed - the base of the plants.
- A good time to water is during the early morning hours of a sunny day.
- Keep track of precipitation with a rain gauge.
- Pay extra attention to plants in containers and hanging baskets, as they tend to dry out faster and with greater frequency.

If you'll be away on an extended vacation or just for a few days, make arrangements with a trusted friend or neighbor to "plant sit" while you are away. There's nothing worse than worrying about your garden while you're away - except coming home to crisp plants

Life's three simple rules:

If you do not go after what you want, you'll never have it.

If you do not ask, the answer will always be no.

If you do not step forward, you'll always be in the same place.

# READY FOR THAT NEXT HURRICANE? FROM RIVERLAND NURSERY

## Plan Ahead to Protect Plants!

Hello friends! Along with our first hurricane scare of 2024 comes the need to ensure your landscapes are protected from strong storms. However, weaker storms may wreak less havoc assuming you have taken the necessary steps to help prevent major damage. Here are a few tips to help save your plants (and money) during and after a hurricane:

- Thin out dense canopies, remove cross branches, and remove dead wood from large trees
- Remove any staking material from trees before storm impact to avoid tree trunks snapping - allow the tree to blow over, and then stand up and re-dig after the storm
- Lay decorative/clay containers on their sides against the house to avoid breaking
- Small shrubs and flowers that sustain damage should be cut back and pruned to shape - spraying with a foliar fertilizer can help provide critical nutrients to plants that are flushing out
- After the storm, remove any dead plant material from the landscape - insect and fungal issues can develop if decaying plant material is left in your planting areas
- 
- **As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of....it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.**

## CARING FOR YOUR GRAFTED PLANT

1. Keep the plant in an area with bright, indirect light. **Do not place the plant in full sunlight.**
2. Spray leaves of the rootstock daily with a combination of Clonex Liquid (use 1-2 teaspoons per quart of water in a spray bottle) and Orca Great White (Use 1/2 teaspoon per quart of water). \*See note below
3. Monitor the moisture in the rootstock pot daily; don't let it dry out completely, but don't overwater.
4. After 2 weeks, you might see new growth on the scion (the cutting you grafted to the rootstock). Once you see leaves emerging, you can **carefully** remove the plastic bag, still keeping the plant out of direct sunlight. \*Be patient; sometimes it takes up to 4 weeks for new growth to develop on the scion.
5. After one week in indirect sun, you can move your plant to a sunnier (**NOT full sun**) location. Monitor it closely to ensure that there is no sun damage.
6. Once the bag is removed you should spray the leaves on the scion **daily** with the Clonex/Orca solution.
7. Once the scion has developed more leaves, you can uppot to a 6" pot.
8. As the scion establishes more leaves, you can begin removing some of the leaves on the rootstock. The rootstock leaves help pull nutrients up through the plant, so you do not have to be in a hurry to remove these leaves; if you remove them prematurely you risk encouraging root rot. Start by removing a few leaves from the rootstock every week; your goal is to eventually remove all the leaves on the rootstock and cut back the stem close to the graft. Continue regular feeding for the rootstock plant to
9. encourage growth.

**It is also important to continue to take cuttings for rootstock.** Pride of Hankins and Albo are great sources for rootstock. Try to vary the diameter of the cuttings you take. Remember that you need good wood to use for grafting, not green branches, so you may have to cut several branches close to the trunk of your rootstock plant to get sufficiently thick cuttings. **You will need at least 4-6 weeks for cuttings to root and be used as rootstock**, so plan ahead and maintain an inventory of rootstock plants!

\*A 1 Qt. bottle of Clonex liquid is available on Amazon for \$23. A 1 Qt. bottle of Orca Great White is available on Amazon for \$47; a 4 oz. jar of Orca powder is available for \$30. Alternatively, you can purchase another mycorrhizal product such as a 2.2 pound bag of Xtreme Gardening Mykos Pure Mycorrhizal Root Enhancer for \$25 on Amazon. Marsha Crawford recommended this product and I agree that it is excellent for all your hibiscus plants. Both Clonex and mycorrhizal products are essential to grafting/cuttings and general maintenance of your plants, so you are not purchasing these products solely for grafting. **Make sure you keep these products inside and not in your garage or lanai because of the possibility of product deterioration due to heat.**

**SEPTEMBER 8 - CHAPTER MEETING - 1:30-GARDEN CENTER**