

Horticulture Challenge 2023

Hibiscus Common Problems (notes from "Picture This" and American Hibiscus society)

Hibiscus do best with a soil pH of 6.5 to 6.8 and use of a complete fertilizer. As a general rule established Hibiscus may be given ¼ cup to ½ cup of 6-6-6 or 7-2-7 once a month. They do best in temperatures between 60 – 90 F.	
Why so few buds?	Remedy
Not enough sunlight	Move plant to sunnier location
Soil fertility is insufficient	Mix slow release potassium fertilizer into soil in early spring and spray quick acting liquid fertilizer on the leaf surfaces once a week
Improper pruning may result in fewer buds	Leave 2 or 3 nodes on branches when pruning
Why do leaves yellow and fall off?	Remedy
Drought or burning under high temperatures (above 90F).	Move potted plants to shaded area and add water
Magnesium deficiency – yellowing mainly between leaf veins. May be caused by combination of too much watering and acidic soil, or by high potassium fertilizer	Magnesium may be mixed into the soil or diluted with H2O for foliage spray
Iron Manganese deficiency – yellowing starts from the leaf margins and extends between leaf veins. Starts because soil is too alkaline or is watered with hard water for extended period.	Water with rain water and protect with acidic culture media. Apply fertilizer with iron and manganese.
It is natural for some large leaves on bottom of plant to yellow and drop. If this continues to the top of the bush, it is a problem. This can be caused by excessive fertilization or poor drainage.	
Why do buds fall off?	Remedy
Drought or poor water drainage	Drainage improvement
High-temperature burn	Potted plants should be shielded from intense sunlight in the heat of day
Insufficient fertility	Fertilize and water regularly
Thrips can enter the buds to feed	Tap buds against a piece of paper & treat if thrips are found
Insects may lay eggs and larvae then feed on buds	Treat early in summer to prevent this
Tips for planting Hibiscus in ground	
Planting in ground	
Best in raised garden beds so they have adequate drainage, avoid heavy sticky soils.	
Keep Hibiscus in plastic pot and plant pot and all into the ground. It will be easier to bring Hibiscus inside when it turns cold.	