



For the joy of gardening!

Estabrook's

HARDY HIBISCUS CARE

LIGHT

Hardy hibiscus, or perennial rose mallow, flowers best in full sun. Light partial shade is tolerated, but dark foliage colors and abundant bloom benefit from direct sun. Give each selection generous space; mature height and width vary considerably among compact and tall hybrids.

WATER

Keep the root zone consistently moist during establishment and active growth. Water deeply during dry periods, especially as buds form. Repeated wilting can cause leaf loss and dropped buds. Containers need frequent checks. These moisture-loving plants need more reliable water than many drought-tolerant border perennials.

SOIL & PLANTING

Plant at nursery depth in moisture-retentive soil, with the crown at or just above the surrounding surface. Allow room for a broad clump and avoid burying stem bases. Spring planting gives roots time to establish before winter. A light mulch around the plant conserves moisture without covering new shoots.

FEEDING

Use compost or a balanced spring feeding if needed, following fertilizer directions. Container plants may need additional feeding during active growth. Avoid fertilizing a dry root ball or trying to wake a dormant crown with extra fertilizer. Consistent watering supports the large leaves and flowers.

SEASONAL CARE

Old stems die back each winter. Cut them down in spring before new shoots develop, taking care not to damage the crown. Mark the location: hardy hibiscus is among the last perennials to emerge. Remove faded flowers for tidiness while preserving unopened buds on the stems.

HELPFUL TIPS

Be patient with a bare-looking crown in late spring; slow emergence alone does not indicate winter loss. Check cultivar hardiness and protect newly planted roots with winter mulch after the ground cools. Watch for Japanese beetles and aphids. This guide covers hardy perennial hibiscus, excluding tropical hibiscus and woody Rose of Sharon.