



Perennial Hibiscus (*Hibiscus moscheutos*) Care Guide

FarWest 
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WHAT YOU NEED TO PLANT PERENNIAL HIBISCUS

Plant in 6+ hours of full sunshine, for abundant blooms July thru frost. Perennial hibiscus are very late to emerge with new green growth- late May to early June is normal.

Soil Amendment- EB Stone Planting Compost (30% EBS to 70% native soil)
Rich, well-draining soil with plenty of organic matter is the goal. Bark mulch to go on top of the soil for moisture retention of shallow roots.

Root Starter- Fertilome Root Stimulator or Espoma Biotone when planting.



Fertilizing- Perennial hibiscus are heavy feeders- we recommend applying a mostly balanced fertilome Gardener's Special (11-15-11) or fertilome Rose Food (14-12-11) in May and again in late June or early July. You can also apply a slow release like Espoma Plant Tone (5-4-4 anytime during the growing season

Watering- deep water when planted and regular watering throughout the growing season. A good deep watering in **late fall and early spring** is recommended in Idaho.

Pruning Perennial Hibiscus:

Perennial (hardy) hibiscus looks like a pile of dead, brown, or beige woody stems and dried seed pods during winter. The plant dies back completely to the ground after the first hard frost, appearing lifeless, while its root system stays dormant beneath the soil to regenerate new growth in late spring. Cutting Back: Cut dead stems back to about 2-4 inches from the ground in late Fall, after the first hard frost.

Key Winter Characteristics:

- Dormancy: All foliage turns yellow, then brown, and falls off.
- Stems: The stalks become dry, woody, and hollow.
- Appearance: It looks like a barren shrub or dead sticks sticking out of the ground.
- Timing: They are notoriously late to emerge, often not showing new growth until late May or June.



Winter Care & Tips:

- Protection: While hardy, a layer of mulch helps insulate the roots.
- Marking: Because they emerge so late, mark the spot so you do not plant something else there in early spring, if you don't leave the old dried stems on the plant fall thru late spring.