



# HENDRY HERALD

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

**WHEN YOU GARDEN, YOU GROW** [hendrychapterhibiscus.com](http://hendrychapterhibiscus.com) **SEPTEMBER 2020**

I miss the 90's when bread was still good for you and no one knew what kale was.

## **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**

## **REPOTTING by AN EXPERT, BUDDY SHORT**

At the June meeting in 2017 I did a quick demonstration on repotting a plant. As a quick reminder to those that were present at the meeting and as a suggestion to those that were not there, 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.

For any additional questions please contact me at any time....Buddy

## Annual Hibiscus

FROM COSTA FARMS

While hardy perennial hibiscus and tropical hibiscus get most of the attention for their huge flowers, annual hibiscus (*H. acetosella*) is a standout for its fabulous purple foliage. You may not notice its reddish-pink flowers, and that's okay to let its leaves do the heavy lifting in your plant designs. Most varieties of this plant grow tall, so they're great for the back of the border and in large containers. Dwarf varieties (such as 'Little Zin', shown here) tend to stay much more neat and compact -- and can be grown in the front of the border.



**Design Tip:** Don't be afraid to pinch annual hibiscus to keep it full if you want a lush but tidy look. It responds well to regular pruning. Because it's a warm-weather perennial, you can also bring it in to enjoy through the winter if you have a bright spot for it.

### **Know Your Fertilizers - Three Major Elements and Others**

Copied from Redstick Gleanings, February 2015 written by DAMON VEACH

In the next several paragraphs I will be discussing basic knowledge of the three major elements in fertilizers today.

#### **Nitrogen**

Nitrogen is the most important element for our hibiscus plants. It is the most important element because it is present in larger percentages than other minerals. This large quantity of nitrogen is used for the formation of chlorophyll, a substance necessary for photosynthesis. Nitrogen also comprises portions of plant proteins, amino acids, enzymes, and vitamins. Nitrogen is very important for plant development and health. Nitrogen is also important because it stimulates the strongest growth response. Nitrogen is often used to enhance green color and increase or maintain high density, both of which improve the appearance. Response to nitrogen can be quick. Under good growing conditions, it can be within 15 to 24 hours following application. A plant that receives proper nitrogen fertilization generally has good color and density.

Very often nitrogen applications are made in excessive amounts or at times when they are not beneficial to the plant. Obvious results of excessive or improper timing of nitrogen applications are plants that are prone to various discolorations and even death. In addition, over fertilization especially with water-soluble forms of nitrogen can burn plants but if done correctly can be used in foliar spraying.

Problems that are not so obvious with over fertilization include reduced root and plant growth. Plants in pots that are deficient in nitrogen also exhibit distinctive symptoms. Older leaves at first become light green as nitrogen in these leaves moves into younger foliage. If nitrogen deficiency is allowed to continue, older leaves will turn yellow, becoming darker yellow-brown until they die.

#### **Phosphorus**

Phosphorus is not used in most fertilizers today, but with hibiscus small amounts are necessary, thus the small middle number in fertilizer packaging. Phosphorus is usually sufficient in most of our area soils, but in potted plants, it is needed.

Phosphorus deficiencies are rarely observed in established plants, unless the phosphorus level in the soil is extremely low or an unfavorable soil pH exists.

Because of the concern for excessive phosphorus in lakes and rivers from fertilizer, some states restrict the application of phosphorus fertilizer to established lawn care. In pots, this is not a concern.

#### **Potassium**

Potassium plays a vital role in healthy growth and development and is second to nitrogen in the amounts required for turf growth. Potassium is derived from potassium mines as the salt potassium chloride (KCl), also called muriate of potash or just potash. (This is the 60-0-0 that I use.) Potassium is involved in cellular metabolism, root development, environmental stress resistance, internal water management, and wear tolerance. Proper potassium fertilization has been shown to be associated with several key benefits. These include: Increased disease resistance. The increased disease susceptibility with low potassium levels is associated with thin, easily damaged cell walls and an accumulation of nitrogen and carbohydrates in the plant. This provides a favorable medium for pathogen activity.

Increased cold and heat tolerance.

Improved overall ability to endure stressful conditions. Acceptable levels of potassium cause an increase in thicker cell walls and increased vigor. It also brings out the deeper richness in the colors of the blooms. This is why it is important to use it especially prior to show seasons.

Increased root development. Higher amounts of potassium are recommended because of the benefits of developing a deeper, healthier root system. You just have to limit this use when summer arrives. This is why extra potassium is recommended in the spring.

### SUPERthrive

Consider using this to obtain the minor elements needed for growing healthy hibiscus. It is difficult to get just a drop, so my method of using some of the liquid fertilizer and pouring from a plastic cup is most likely in a range of a drop or two to a quarter teaspoon. I buy this by the gallon and use it even during the winter months but especially on my seedlings.

### Epsom Salt (Magnesium)

It is a well-known fact that magnesium (Mg) plays an important role in the formation of chlorophyll and in photosynthesis. Particularly during the early growth phases of our hibiscus, it may be difficult to identify magnesium deficiency simply by looking. Even if to the naked eye everything looks like a healthy early development, an unpleasant surprise may be hidden in the soil and may cause stunted development of the root system.

Particularly in case of detrimental soil conditions, such as compacted soil, sufficient supply of magnesium is extremely important for optimal root development. A lack of magnesium will result in a decrease of water absorption and diminished uptake of other nutrients.

A balanced supply of magnesium serves as a foundation for healthy early plant development.

### Other Fertilizers I Use

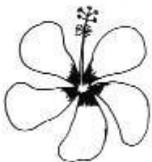
My base fertilizer that I use is a teaspoon of Space City Fertilizer (18-10-28) in a gallon of water. In the late winter and early spring I use also in the same gallon a teaspoon of the following - 0-0-30 nitrogen and 60-0-0 potassium.

Once the shows are over, I drop back to just the Space City Fertilizer. I also add a teaspoon of magnesium periodically, and I occasionally add a teaspoon of vinegar to lower the pH. I try to keep my potted plants in the 6.5 pH ratio as Baton Rouge water is around 7.5 pH. Good luck. And Happy Hibiscus Growing. Enjoy your beautiful flowers. DAMON VEACH, Former President of American Hibiscus Society

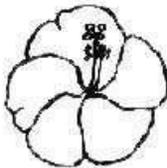
## HIBISCUS SHAPES as illustrated by CHRIS NOBLE

### SINGLES

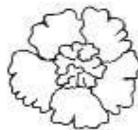
Windmill



Cart Wheel



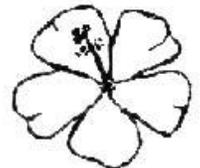
Cup & Saucer



Crested



Regular



### DOUBLES



HOPE YOU TAKE TIME TO  
LOOK THROUGH YOUR  
NEW MEMBER BOOK.

IF YOU FIND AN ERROR,  
PLEASE EMAIL  
[barbaramo@earthlink.net](mailto:barbaramo@earthlink.net)

Some artists of the 50's are revising their hits with new lyrics to accommodate baby boomers. Here's a few:

1. Herman's Hermits- Mrs. Brown you've got a lovely walker.
2. The Bee Gees- How can you mend a broken hip.
3. Bobby Darin- Splish Splash I was Having a flash.
4. Ringo Starr- I'll get by with the help from depends.
5. The Commodores- Once, twice, three times to the bathroom.
6. Marvin Gaye- Heard it from the Grape Nuts
7. Leo Sayer- You make me feel like napping.
8. Willie Nelson- On the commode again.
- 9- Procol Harem- A whiter shade of hair.
10. Johnny Nash- I can't see clearly now.
11. Helen Reddy- I am woman hear me snore.
12. Abba- Denture Queen.

WANT TO START EXOTIC HIBISCUS FROM SEEDS? from **MICKI DOUGHERTY**  
Member MICKI DOUGHERTY is willing to welcome two people at a time to her home (with a limit of six people) to learn how to prepare exotic hibiscus seeds for cultivation. A list of supplies needed will be sent to interested members. Respond directly to MICKI at (862) 226-2085 or [mickid4@comcast.net](mailto:mickid4@comcast.net) . Exotic hibiscus seeds hybridized and collected in 2020 will be provided free. Deadline to respond is September 8th. New members are encouraged and welcome. Details of pod and pollen parents provided with each seed.

### TOP 5 TIPS FOR A SAFER SUMMER FROM LCEC

1. Stay away from downed power lines.
2. Call before you dig #811. It's the law.
3. Never trim trees near power lines.
4. Have a storm kit ready for severe weather-water, non-perishable food items, can opener, first-aid supplies, essential medicines, battery-operated radio, candles and matches.

As I watch this generation try to rewrite our history, one thing I'm sure of....it will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

Have you ever listened to someone for a minute and thought "Their cornbread isn't done in the middle."

Apparently RSVP'ing to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time," isn't the correct response.

Do you ever get up in the morning, look in the mirror and think "That can't be accurate."

It turns out that being an adult is mostly just googling how to do stuff

DON'T FORGET YOUR 10% DISCOUNT at RIVERLAND and **GREEN THUMB HYDROPONIC STORE**

*Just present your member card and identify yourself as a member of the  
AMERICAN HIBISCUS SOCIETY, JAMES E. HENDRY CHAPTER*

# READY FOR THAT NEXT HURRICANE? FROM RIVERLAND NURSERY

## Plan Ahead to Protect Plants!

Hello friends! Along with our first hurricane scare of 2020 comes the need to ensure your landscapes are protected from strong storms. During Hurricane Irma, Riverland suffered serious damage despite our best efforts to prepare and plan for the worst. 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

If you need help or have questions on how you can best prepare your individual landscape for a storm, please call us at 239-693-5555. We'll be happy to provide insight and ideas to help save you time and money!

## ONE MAN'S JOURNEY INTO THE WORLD OF HIBISCUS DISCOVERY by DAMON VEACH

My hibiscus journey started back in 1983 at Fairchild Gardens in Florida. It happened as I was returning from Key West, one of my favorite vacation spots back in my younger years, and I picked up the brochures they had on display. As you can see by the date, it was a number of years ago. We had a small hibiscus group here in Baton Rouge where I live now, but it took a while for it to catch on. In fact, that original group split into two separate groups - Baton Rouge and Red Stick. I can recall loaning money to one of our members Michael Bernard from Acadiana so he could start a chapter in Lafayette. It was a loan that resulted in the outstanding chapter that they now enjoy in that part of the state of Louisiana. I wasn't involved in the actual formation of the New Orleans chapter, but I was there on the sidelines. I first met Father Robert Gerlich at a grafting session in Bobby Dupont's private greenhouse in Plaquemine. As you can see, we have all come a long way over the years. I actually met Bobby by accident. I saw this dark burgundy hibiscus growing in front of this nursery on my way back from the Bayou Sorrel area, and I stopped to see what it was. There was Bobby standing at the counter checking out all the hibiscus blooms he had in front of him. It was a mutual admiration society between us that started because of this flower. I had lots of hibiscus at one time. I would say well over 100 different varieties, but it just got to be too much work, and at the time I was still working full time at the Morning Advocate newspaper. I also recall one really cold winter when I lost several plants because my heater just couldn't overcome the sudden drop in temps. My interest just kept increasing, and I soon acquired a larger heater for my greenhouse which I had put on my patio in the back of my home on Bungalow Lane. It was a perfect fit, but, of course, I had to build another patio as the heat was just too much during the summer months so I couldn't sit in the greenhouse, and I had to install a fan just to keep my hibiscus happy. I'm not sure exactly when I started hybridizing, but one of my first efforts turned out to be Cool Brees. You can see by this who my favorite football player was at the time (and still is), and I can even recall where the plants were when this all took place. My back garden became more than just a place for pretty flowers. Bobby told me on one of his visits that I had a small nursery of my own right here at my home. From that time on, Bobby and I worked together not only as fellow hybridizers but as special friends. He has called me many times to just come down and see this new flower he had, and away I would go. It was on one of these trips that I saw this unusual bloom - and a beautiful one - on a plant which I knew was not right. However, that is when I learned what a sport can mean to a hibiscus grower, and I told Bobby to call it Who Dat before someone else got the name. And to think, that interest got started back in 1983 on my way back home from Florida. That American Hibiscus Society brochure I picked up was the beginning. I am blessed with so many charming events in my life, and most of them other than family memories came about because of this outstanding flower



## AUGUST MINI SHOW WINNERS ...

Singles: Puff's Dragon entered by **VALERIE COSTA**

Pod Parents

Rum Runner Cajun Powder Puff



Doubles: T. Solar Wind entered by Nancy Kopp

Pod Parents

Tahiti Red

Mary Wallace



Thanks to everyone who entered! They were all gold ribbon winners! We're going to take a break from virtual mini shows. Hopefully we can meet again soon and have LIVE mini shows!

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER from JACK BERNATZ

Hello All,

Hope the majority of you have customized your daily living to allow you to enjoy family & friends using new generation electronics, and new social distancing routines. In the absence of our monthly meeting, I have been really paying attention to our newsletter. I have been super impressed with the amount of information that is put out there for us. It is just an ongoing encyclopedia of everything you need to know or do to successfully Grow and Harvest beautiful Plants with gorgeous blooms. A huge thank you to Barbara Oster for all of Her labors in keeping us informed with the most current information.

We intend to continue Board Meetings using the Zoom App. We are currently in our summer vacation mode, and meeting when We need to keep our calendar current and to cancel events We cannot experience do to the Pandemic Issues.

In this month's newsletter, You will note that Micki Dougherty has put together an event You could attend, that explains how to plant and grow Exotic Hibiscus using seeds that She is willing to share with You. Thank You!, Micki

In addition to the Newsletter keep an eye on the Web Site ([www.HendryChapterHibiscus.com](http://www.HendryChapterHibiscus.com)) Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, Jack



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.



barbara oster, editor TERRY & ELAINE MARTIN MAILERS