HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL

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and more!
On Christmas Eve 2011 this beautiful white Hibiscus bloomed for the first time.

It is actually a seedling grown from seeds sent from Moorea and the cross is Tahitian Lavender Rainbow x Moorea Blanc (L).

I call this flower 'Christmas Eve 2011' - which is as close as I will ever get to a White Christmas here where I live in New Zealand!

Nobody seems to be interested in breeding whites ...

Probably the most famous white Hibiscus of all is the beautiful Byron Metts which was created by Dale B. Dubin and registered in 2002. The parents were Great White x Cherry Blossom. The snow white petals have a wonderful heavy texture which makes the blooms excellent for flower arrangements.

The flowers are a huge 8-9 inches.

All white flowered Hibiscus have the potential to display touches of either pink or yellow. Byron Metts can have a yellow blush in cool weather, but on hot summer days the white positively glows.
Richard Johnson made the following comment about breeding whites: "I don’t think it is a matter of lack of interest in developing white. It is more that they are just hard to come by. I’m guessing that I have now produced more than 10,000 [probably a lot more] hybrids and I have never had a pure white. I have come close but nothing as nice as what John Prince has. As I understand it white results when the bloom reflects all colors in the visible light spectrum. If it absorbs a few of the visible light frequencies, then it is not a pure white."

DAINTY WHITE
Photo by Corazon Costelo

‘Dainty White’ is a very rare, early garden variety Hibiscus that blooms with hundreds of pure white 3” mini blooms per day. The bush grows very vigorously, very fast and very tall with many branches. It then develops a graceful weeping shape that makes a huge bush covered with white flowers like a snowstorm of hibiscus flowers. ‘Dainty White’ is a sport or a natural genetic mutation of its mother Hibiscus, ‘Dainty Pink.’ Both varieties were either collected or hybridized in the early 1950’s by Florida growers Norman Reasoner and L.K. Thompson, who were known recipients of Hibiscus specimens sent back to the United States by Ross Gast in his journeys around the world in search of native Hibiscus species.

(This information about Dainty White is reproduced from the Hidden Valley Hibiscus website)
A search of the white colour group on the International Hibiscus Society's database found 303 CVs in this category. Most of them are not all white, but here are a few which are. Byron Metts is in the parentage of two of them.

HVH GHOST
(Saffron x Berried Treasure)
Hyb. Charles Black

TOM JOBIN
(Great White x Byron Metts)
Hyb. Elizabeth Jordan

MIGALOO
(Anna Elizabeth x Amanda Jane)
Hyb. Allan and Elaine Little

IVORY COAST
(Admirer x C J)
Hyb. Dawn Conrad-Shew

MOOREA MANATUAHERE
(Moorea Dusty Silver x Tahitian Sophistication)
Hyb. Charles Atiu

WHITE PICARDY
(possibly a sport of Picardy)
Hyb. Not applicable

LOVE POTION
(Byron Metts x Toronto)
Hyb. Conrad Nursery

This wonderful photo of Love Potion was taken by Brad Daniels and submitted to the IHS Facebook group.
In Hibiscus International No. 62 we featured the Chinese brush paintings of Janet Lim who lives in Singapore. It is with pride that we can announce that Janet recently held her first exhibition of her work - and all of the paintings on display were of Hibiscus!
Janet's exhibition was held at the prestigious Tanglin Club, one of Singapore's oldest and most prominent social clubs which was founded in 1865. By the late 1930's its ballroom had the reputation of having the best dance floor on the island and the Club band was a focal point of attraction. The highlight of Singapore's social calendar was The Tanglin Ball which is still held yearly.

Janet compiled a book to accompany the exhibition entitled 'Dare To Be Different' which showcases her art pieces.

'Serenade in Pink'
Otiorhynchus sulcatus, commonly known as 'vine weevil', is native to Europe but also commonly found in North America. It is a PEST.

If your seemingly healthy plant suddenly falls over, the culprits may be vine weevil grubs which have eaten the roots. They are especially dangerous to plants grown in pots where a clutch of the large, fat grubs can destroy the roots of a plant in a very short time.

The adults will nibble leaves during the spring and summer, but it is the grubs which cause the major damage.

If you see one of the flightless adults wandering around near your potted plants ... act quickly!

Vigilance is the best defence for vine weevil. All vine weevil adults are female and each one can lay several hundred eggs during spring and summer. Adults can be trapped with sticky barriers but, if you do see one, check the roots of all nearby potted plants.

Biological control by nematodes is available, but it is much quicker to use acetamiprid (e.g. something like Bug Clear Ultra Vine Weevil Killer) as a liquid drench applied to the compost.

This insecticide gives protection against the grubs for up to four months. Treatment in mid- to late summer will control the young larvae and prevent damage occurring later in the autumn to spring period.
Festival de couleurs pour les hibiscus

**DÉCOUVERTE** - Cette semaine, Tahiti Heritage vous transporte au milieu de fleurs aux couleurs extraordinaires, des hibiscus rosa-sinensis, et vous dévoile quelques petits secrets de leur création.


En Australie, les premiers hibiscus ont été introduits au début des années 1800, mais leur culture n’a véritablement commencé qu’après l’arrivée des premiers colons européens. En Australie, on retrouve des variétés de hibiscus, qui sont présents sur le continent américain.

En Papouasie, la famille des hibiscus est très importante. En effet, le hibiscus est utilisé dans la médecine traditionnelle et en cuisine. La fleur est utilisée pour assaisonner les plats, et la tige est utilisée pour faire des tissus.

Le hibiscus est également une fleur à haute valeur économique. Les graines de hibiscus sont utilisées dans la fabrication de thé et de cosmétiques, et le fruit est utilisé dans la fabrication de confitures et de jus.

**Vahine à l’hibiscus.**

Le lecteur Johnstone introduit à Tahiti, en 1945, le hibiscus double et de nombreuses espèces d’hibiscus rosa-sinensis de différentes couleurs. À partir de 1990, de nouvelles variétés provenant de Floride et d’Asie seront introduites, avec l’aide de Richard Johnson, un Américain résidant à Punaauia. Dick, pour les amis, est un fervent passionné d’hibiscus et créé l’International Hibiscus Society. Son ami, Talo Panorm, a multiplié les plantes en greffant ces nouvelles variétés d’hibiscus hybrides et en utilisant comme porte-greffe de vieilles variétés d’hibiscus plus résistantes. Sur la même plante, il a réussi à greffer des branches de fleurs de couleurs différentes. Son âme, Capo de Mo, a pris le relais et propose à la vente de nombreux hibiscus aux couleurs variées. Dick Johnson s’est fait populaire, et son hibiscus est aujourd’hui vendu dans de nombreux pays du monde.

La fleur de l’hibiscus rosa-sinensis est une fleur de beauté qui est utilisée dans la décoration et la médecine. Elle est utilisée pour faire des tisanes et des infusions, et elle est également utilisée en cosmétologie.

La fleur de l’hibiscus Rosa-sinensis est une fleur de beauté qui est utilisée dans la décoration et la médecine. Elle est utilisée pour faire des tisanes et des infusions, et elle est également utilisée en cosmétologie.

**MARIAGE DES HIBISCUS**

Le plupart des hibiscus vendus à Tahiti sont des "varietés de jardin" communes qui ont été propageées par boutures, marcots ou greffes. Mais il est également possible de créer de nouvelles variétés d’hibiscus hybrides par pollinisation artificielle croisée.

Richard Johnson, un hibiscus hybride spécialiste, explique qu’il suffit de transporter le pollen des étamines d’une plante que l’on définit comme "père" sur les stigmates du pis-til d’une plante porteuse que l’on définit comme "mère", pour obtenir une fécondation entre les por-teurs, mais d’une incroyable totale. Si la pollinisation est réussie, les pétales de la fleur mère tombent après quelques jours, et le fruit commence à se développer. Il faut environ deux mois pour arriver à maturité, mais même ment, souvent le fruit tombe avant de se développer correctement. Le fruit comporte aussi une espèce de graine noire qui peut être plantée dans le sol pour produire de nouvelles plantes. Les graines voient peuvent être utilisées comme des graines de pois, mais elles sont beaucoup plus petites que les graines des plantes parentales. Cette fleur est généralement considérée comme unique. Certaines peuvent être spectaculaires, et d’autres micros petites que celles de leurs parents.

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"I woke up this morning to find a friend had posted this article on my personal FaceBook timeline. I knew this was pending but it happened fast, as I was only contacted a few days ago. Actually too fast as there are a number of errors that were too late to correct. The only major one was that I only aided in the importation of hibiscus after 1998, but I was not the importer and those mostly came from California, some from Australia but none from Florida, although others have imported from Florida. Otherwise it is certain a colorful article." Richard Johnson
ROOTING HIBISCUS CUTTINGS IN 'WATER BEADS'
Karin Johansson

Water crystal gel or 'water beads' is any gel which contains a large amount of water. Water beads are usually composed of a water-absorbing polymer such as a polyacrylamide. It is sometimes referred to as super absorbent polymer (SAP) or, in dry form, as slush powder.

The non toxic, multicoloured gel beads absorb water and release it to the plant gradually. There is no standing water in the container ... just the fully hydrated gel beads.

IHS member Karin Johansson, who lives in Sweden, shared photographs of a method that she has experimented with for rooting Hibiscus cuttings.

Karin decided to see whether Hibiscus cuttings could be rooted in water beads (which she calls 'crystal beads'). She experimented by putting Hibiscus cuttings in both plain water AND water beads and found that only the cuttings in water beads actually rooted.

The experiment was conducted during the long, dark days of Sweden's winter months without using any extra lighting beyond that which her windows could provide, nor was there any extra heat provided. The photos speak for themselves!

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This photo shows how Karin used a plastic bag to enclose both plant and container. This helped maintain a moist atmosphere and constant temperature around the cutting.

The photos below show two views of a successfully rooted cutting after about 3 months of sitting in the water beads. You can clearly see that one of the roots has actually grown right through a 'bead'. This Cutting looks extremely healthy and is now ready to be transferred to compost. Given good light and reasonable warmth, it should make rapid progress.
Water beads are bought dry as granules the size of peppercorns and need to be hydrated. Simply put the beads into water and allow them to soak overnight to a ratio of one packet of beads to 50 parts water. You can add more water or pour out any extra when the beads have expanded.

The beads absorb water but do not leach it out and they remain rubbery until they eventually begin to dry out and shrink. In use, they would probably need to be rehydrated approximately every 7-9 weeks.

Coloured water beads are decorative but may not be colourfast so be careful not to leave them in contact with tablecloths etc. Colourless water beads are available.

Of course, the product is not edible and should be kept away from small children and pets!
One of the duties of being the official Hibiscus Registrar (ICRAR - International Cultivar Registration Authority Registrar) is to compile and print a hard copy document describing every new cultivar registered. Two copies are printed and these are mailed to the International Society for Horticultural Science at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England and the Royal Botanical Gardens in Ontario, Canada.

The document containing all Hibiscus rosa-sinensis cultivars registered in 2014 was finalised and sent out in January this year.

Perhaps 'document' is the wrong word to use for what is really a substantial book containing 360 pages of text, plus 124 pages of photographs, documenting a total of 2174 new hybrids.

The full electronic version of the 2014 approved Hibiscus cultivars can be viewed via this link (large file!):-

Ian Rabenda describes the new book on this YouTube video:--

An article about ICRA/ICRAR appeared in HI No. 63 and can viewed via this link:-
Has your seed pod dropped off too soon?

**RESCUE IT!**

by Mariabel Baradi

Mariabel lives in Bauang, La Union, Philippines.

Don’t throw those premature seed pods away!

Just push them into some damp soil and leave them to ripen.

1) Seed pod pressed into compost.
2) After about a week the pod has ripened.
3) The rescued seeds.

Photo of a perfect Hibiscus seed pod shared by Rodrigo Joseph Bautista
PLANT HEALTH

Add 125ml of approximately 15ppm strength to 1 litre of water and use as a plant spray to counteract fungi, moulds, rot and most plant diseases.

Treating the soil around the plant roots, makes them grow more vigourously and will produce healthy plants.

SEED GERMINATION

Soaking seeds in colloidal silver before planting, increases germination and reduces mold growth in sprouts. In addition, small amounts of colloidal silver diluted with pure water can be sprayed on soil. The plant may absorb the microscopic silver particles and become more resistant to soil-based pathogens.

CUT FLOWERS

These can last up to 10 days longer when a capfull (+/- 5 - 10ml) is added to the vase.

Colloidal silver definitely works as I use it quite often. When I make a new batch I rinse all the bottles & caps out with colloidal silver before bottling it up and then use the colloidal silver which I have used as a bottle rinse on my plants on the patio which seem to need a bit of a boost ! ! !

Shown here is a bottle of the colloidal silver that I make & sell .....
A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY

A selection of fabulous photos shared by members of the International Hibiscus Society

CARIBBEAN BURNING HEART

([C’est Bon x Cosmic Dancer] x Georgia’s Pearl)
Not registered
Photo by Adil Demirboga
DARK STAR
(Cherry Cola x Black Rainbow)
Hybridized by Matthew and Barbara Martindale
Photo by Gil T Friedman

VELVET QUEEN
(Divine Grace x Unknown)
Hybridized by Pushpa Suresh

DRAGON'S BREATH
(Bonnie B x Blushing Romance)
Hybridized by Dale B Dubin

Photo by Pushpa Suresh
CREME DE LA CREME
(Rainbow Christie x Strobe)
Hybridized by Charles Black
Photo by Tatyana Sokolova

JOAN HINCERTON
(Grey Lady x Pink Floton)
Hybridized by Joe and Roberta Ludick
Photo by Junko Yamamoto
WAHINE

(Harvest Moon x Hot Mustard)
Hybridized by Allan and Elaine Little
Photo by Martin Atanasov

TAHITIAN TAUI

(Tahitian Cherry Blossom x Tahitian Rainbows)
Hybridized by Richard Johnson
Photo by Brad Daniels
ZOEE

(Lilly Torbert x Alexis)
Hybridized by Joe and Roberta Ludick
Photo by Todd Alvis

TAIWAN FORMOSA SNOW LANTERN

Not Registered
Photo by Aneela Lee
TAHITIAN PURPLE PASSION
(Tahitian Green Gold x Jolanda Gommer)
Hybridized by Richard Johnson
Photo by Aneela Lee

DRAMA QUEEN
(White Diamonds x City Slicker)
Hybridized by Pushpa Suresh
Photo by Shyamala Madappa
There are a number of reasons if you are having difficulty registering your cultivars. Please try these hints below first:

1. Often the difficulty is because a password or username has been forgotten. Please use the links on the login page to create a new password or username to solve the problem. Sometimes after changing a password, it takes more than one attempt before the new password or username takes effect. Make a few attempts before moving on.

2. Recently we discovered that the browser Firefox was blocking access to the registration form. This seems to be related to older versions of the browser. Update the browser to the current version and test it. If this does not solve the problem, try a different browser such as Google Chrome to see if this solves the issue.

3. If you are still unable to register please contact me here - keswinwood@gmail.com giving me as much detail about your problem as possible. Often I can solve the problem easily but, please note, I DO NOT have access to your password.
HIBISCUS COOKIES
Try these easy to make Hibiscus shaped treats!

Shaped cookie cutters are available on Ebay (see inset photo)

255g plain flour (1.8 cups)
125g caster sugar (1/2 cup super fine sugar)
125g margarine (1/2 cup)
1 teaspoon ground ginger (1.2 US tsp)
(or 30g / 1/4 cup cocoa, or rind of a lemon)
1 1/2 tablespoons milk (1.8 US tbsp)

1) Cream margarine and sugar together
2) Beat in dry ingredients and milk
3) Knead into a smooth ball
4) Roll out 5mm (1/4 inch) thick and cut
5) Arrange on baking tray leaving spaces
6) Oven bake 15 mins at 190°C/374°F° centre shelf

ICING - Place 200g (1.6 cups) icing sugar in a bowl and drizzle in teaspoons of boiling water one at a time mixing well. When creamy, add a few drops of food colour … and get creative!

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