



HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL



Pages 4 - 5
**JANET LIM'S
 EXHIBITION
 OF CHINESE
 BRUSH PAINTING**



Page 6
EVIL WEEVILS!



Pages 1 - 3
THE ELUSIVE WHITE
A celebration of the white Hibiscus



Pages 7 - 8
**TAHITIANS IN
 THE NEWS!**

Page 14
**THE SECRETS OF
 COLLOIDAL SILVER**



Pages 15 - 20
**IHS MEMBERS'
 PHOTOS**



Pages 9 - 11
**ROOTING IN
 WATER BEADS**

**and
 more!**

THE ELUSIVE WHITE

John Prince



CHRISTMAS EVE 2011
Photo by John Prince

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.



BYRON METTS
Photo by Márta Lestyán

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
(Amber Suzanne 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.



'JANET' (LIM HONG ENG)

Chinese Brush Painting Artist

Exhibition - 'Dare to be Different'



Hibiscus Art Exhibition by Janet HIE Lim

Claymore Room, Tanglin Club, 12th Mar (Sat) 10am-5pm

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!





© 2010 Streetdirectory

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.



'Serenade in Pink'

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



WEB LINK

Link to the full article on Janet Lim's art in H.I. No. 62.

Evil Weevils

THE HIDDEN MENACE OF VINE WEEVIL GRUBS



Adult vine weevil



5 mm



©rhs.org.uk

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 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.

Originaire d'Asie et des îles du Pacifique, l'hibiscus rosa-sinensis est le tiare aute des Polynésiens. Son nom vient du grec hibiskos, l'ancienne appellation grecque de la guimauve. Rosa sinensis signifie en latin Rose de Chine, et fait allusion à une origine chinoise.

En Australie, les premiers hibiscus ont été introduits au début des années 1800, mais leur culture s'est développée plus tard, lorsque des plants ont été importés de l'Inde pour l'aménagement paysager de Brisbane.

L'hibiscus s'est développé à Hawaï à la fin du XIX^e siècle, avec des plantes venues de Chine qui ont été croisées avec des espèces indigènes hawaïennes. Mais c'est surtout en Floride que l'hibiscus a pris son essor sur le continent américain.

En Polynésie, la vraie aute simple rouge, existe depuis fort longtemps à Tahiti. En 1769, on la retrouve sur les dessins de Sydney Parkinson, qui accompagna James Cook lors de son premier voyage, et quelques spécimens séchés sont conservés au British Museum, à Londres. Les anciens Tahitiens jalonnaient avec des plants de aute rouge les sentiers qui conduisaient aux cols entre les vallées. Maurice Jay raconte lors de sa traversée de Papeete à Mataiea : *"Lorsqu'on hésite dans une vallée, on monte dans un arbre et l'on scrute longuement la mer de verdure qui recouvre le flanc de la montagne. On peut avoir la chance d'apercevoir un bouquet de fleurs rouges à demi noyé dans la brousse. Teie te ea ! J'ai trouvé le chemin."*

Le docteur Johnstone introduit à Tahiti, en 1845, le aute rouge double et de nombreuses espèces



■ Vahine à l'hibiscus.

d'hibiscus rosa-sinensis de différentes couleurs. À partir de 1998, de nouvelles variétés provenant de Floride et d'Australie seront introduites avec l'aide de Richard Johnson, un Américain résident à Punaauia. Dick, pour les amis, est un fervent passionné d'hibiscus et créa l'International Hibiscus Society. Son ami, Talo Pambrun, 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 s'amusa à greffer des branches de fleurs de couleurs différentes. Son élève, Capo de Moorea, a pris la relève et propose à la vente de nombreux hibiscus aux couleurs variées. Dick Johnson s'est plutôt spécialisé dans l'hybridation d'hibiscus et a créé de nombreuses nouvelles variétés aux formes et couleurs extraordinaires, qu'il a toutes baptisées du nom "Tahitian" (voir photos ci-contre).

UNE FLEUR SYMBOLIQUE PLEINE DE VERTUS

La fleur d'hibiscus est traditionnellement portée dans les cheveux par les Polynésiennes. La tradition raconte que si la fleur est portée à droite, la femme est célibataire ou disponible pour une relation. Par contre si la fleur est à gauche, elle est mariée ou en relation.

La fleur d'hibiscus présente des propriétés émollientes et adoucissantes. Les fleurs sont utilisées fraîches ou cuites à l'eau en

cataplasmes, en gargarisme, ainsi qu'en infusion ou décoction. Les racines de l'hibiscus rosa-sinensis servent pour les traitements contre la toux et les feuilles comme un laxatif. Les fleurs peuvent également être utilisées en cas d'infection intestinale par un type de E. coli.

La fleur de l'hibiscus rosa-sinensis est une vraie merveille de la nature. Elle s'utilise en anti-oxydant pour la peau, en tonique pour la perte de cheveux ou les cheveux grisonnants et pour de multiples traitements capillaires. Les pétales d'hibiscus étaient utilisés pour fabriquer une teinture noire qui servait de cosmétique pour se noircir les sourcils. Le jus des pétales est utilisé en Inde pour cirer les chaussures.

MARIAGE DES HIBISCUS

La plupart des hibiscus vendus à Tahiti sont des "variétés de jardin" communes qui ont été propagées par boutures, marcotages ou greffes. Mais il est également

possible de créer de nouvelles variétés d'hibiscus hybrides par pollinisation artificielle croisée. Dick Johnson, hybrideur spécialiste, explique qu'il suffit de transporter le pollen des étamines d'une plante que l'on définira comme "père" sur les stigmates du pistil d'une plante porteuse que l'on définira comme "mère" pour obtenir une fécondation croisée porteuse, mais d'une inconnue totale. Si la pollinisation est réussie, les pétales de la fleur mère tombent après quelques jours, et le fruit commence à se développer. Il lui faut environ deux mois pour arriver à maturité, mais malheureusement, souvent le futur fruit tombe avant de se développer correctement. Le fruit s'ouvre et laisse apparaître de petites graines noires qui peuvent être plantées dès qu'elles sont sèches, ou conservées pendant plusieurs mois. Il est préférable de planter en pots toutes les graines de la capsule, afin d'obtenir le plus grand nombre possible de jeunes plants hybrides et de faire la sélection ultérieurement. Les graines vont germer, et six à 18 mois plus tard elles vont produire une plante avec une fleur ayant les qualités des deux plantes parentes. Cette fleur est génétiquement unique. Certaines peuvent être spectaculaires, et d'autres moins belles que celles de leurs parents.

Car, comme on peut le constater sur la photo du mariage entre les variétés Grand Hyatt (mère porteuse) et Sylvester Memory (père pollinisateur), la variation entre les semis d'une même gousse est très grande. Cette variation touche toutes les caractéristiques de la plante, sa taille, son feuillage, la taille de la fleur et surtout ses couleurs. Les photos d'hibiscus hybrides que nous vous présentons mettent bien en évidence cette grande variété. C'est un travail fastidieux. Seuls des hybrides de grande qualité peuvent prétendre à un futur valable. Une sélection rigoureuse ne retiendra qu'un cultivar à développer sur environ mille semis réalisés. Patience et ténacité sont les règles d'or des hybrideurs sérieux.



■ Le mariage de l'hibiscus.

■ Retrouvez d'autres découvertes et légendes sur le site Tahiti Heritage : www.tahitiheritage.pf ou sur la page Facebook de Tahiti Heritage : facebook.com/tahitiheritage2



Tahitian Purple Splendor IHS HOTY



Tahitian Baby Bonfire - IHS HOTY



Tahitian Spotted Sun - IHS HOTY



Tahitian Taii - 1st runner up IHS HOTY



Tahitian Purple Passion



Tahitian Sunset Cyclone



Tahitian All Aglow



Tahitian Amber Sun



Tahitian Antique Rainbow



Tahitian Belle Rainbow



Tahitian Black Rainbow



Tahitian Brown Sunset



Tahitian Bronze Passion



Tahitian Brown Sensation



Tahitian Carnival



Tahitian Cherry Blossom



Tahitian Cherry Moon



Tahitian Cherry Star



Tahitian Christmas Angel



Tahitian Green Tiger



Tahitian Grenadine



Tahitian Rainbow Marvel



Tahitian Summer Passion



Tahitian Holiday



Tahitian Imperial Blossom



Tahitian Imperial Mountain



Tahitian Imperial Queen



Tahitian Imperial Reflections



Tahitian Imperial Topaz



Tahitian Incredible

"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!





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!



Have you watched these 'How To' videos?
JUST PRESS THE BUTTONS!

**NICKING
SEEDS**

**GRAFTING
HIBISCUS**

POLLINATION

**AIR
LAYERING**

**PROPAGATION
FROM
CUTTINGS**

**COCONUT
COIR MIX
RECIPE**

© The Tenacious Gardener

ICRAR

Recording new Hibiscus Hybrids for Posterity

By Ian Rabenda



International
Hibiscus Society

Approved Hibiscus
rosa-sinensis Cultivars

2014



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.

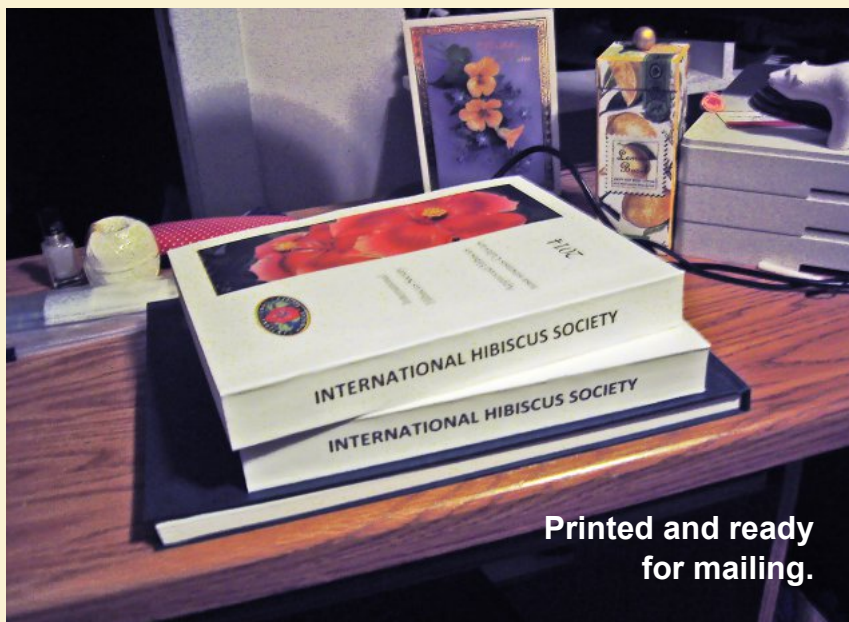
The full electronic version of the 2014 approved Hibiscus cultivars can be viewed via this link (large file!):-



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:-



Printed and ready
for mailing.

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

Colloidal Silver Secrets

BY GAIL CAHI



Gail lives on the outskirts of Cape Town, South Africa where she and her son, Malcolm, run the Plantgrow Nursery at Penhill, Western Cape.



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

© Gil T Photography



DRAGON'S BREATH

(Bonnie B x Blushing Romance)
Hybridized by Dale B Dubin

VELVET QUEEN

(Divine Grace x Unknown)
Hybridized by Pushpa Suresh

Photo by Pushpa Suresh



CREME DE LA CREME

(Rainbow Christie x Strobe)
Hybridized by Charles Black
Photo by Tatyana Sokolova

JOAN HINGERTON



(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 TAUUI

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



ZOEY

(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

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM LOGGING IN TO THE REGISTRATION FORM

*Helpful
tips*

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.



INTERNATIONAL HIBISCUS SOCIETY

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A+ A A-

Username

Password

LOG IN

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Forgot your password?

Forgot your username?

Create an account

Link to change
your **password**

Link to change your
username

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Go to Top

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)

Baked Perfection www.bakedperfectioncookies.com

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 teasp)

(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/374F° 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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