

### JOLANDA GOMMER AND HER FAMILY

**Dick Johnson** 



Jolanda Gommer (left) was created by Hendrik Gommer of Dalen, Netherlands and is named after his wife.

The offspring of a cross between Topaz Glory x Fifth Dimension, this large and colourful bloom was registered in 2005.

Below are just a few of the many seedlings I have produced using JG - mostly as a pollen parent.

One of the common features is the veining. Another is colour for nearly all JG's progeny come through with multiple colors and shades of lavender are common. Crossing some of these with Moorea Imperial Blossom or some of its progeny like Tahitian Enchantress, can emphasize some of those colors. As a result JG seedlings provide a wealth of possibilities for hybridizing.





















Hendrik Gommer, the hybridizer of Jolanda Gommer, owns a specialised plant nursery which is one of Europe's best sources of Hibiscus hybrids. Based in Dalen, Netherlands, his large selection includes many of Dick Johnson's famous Tahitians. The website can be accessed in several languages by clicking on the appropriate country's flag.





Use the live link below to take you directly to the Gommer website.



## The Attack of the Aphid

#### NO HIBISCUS IS SAFE FROM THESE HUNGRY PESTS!











APHIDS, also known as plant lice or greenfly, are one of the most destructive sap-sucking pests. Over 4,000 species are known worldwide and they can be found in a range of colours from white to black. Once they have found your plant they will quickly form colonies which feast on tender new leaves and growing tips.

Sap-sucking is not the only problem associated with aphids. They excrete a sticky honeydew which coats surrounding leaves and drops on your floor creating an ideal environment for fungus to grow in.

Also, some species of ants farm aphids by collecting the sticky honeydew so, if you have aphids, you could soon have columns of ants marching up and down the stems of your plants.

The aphid's natural enemies include ladybirds, hoverfly larvae, parasitic wasps, aphid midge larvae, crab spiders and lacewings.

Aphid colonies consist of wingless females that give birth to live young. Winged forms develop when overcrowding or other stress induces a move to another plant.

A good blast with the hose will dislodge most of the adults. You can also spray them with soapy water which both loosens the bugs and helps wash away the sticky honeydew.

Fortunately many of the readily available insecticides on sale at hardware stores and garden centres will kill aphids.

## HIBISCUS TOP 20 GOOD SEED SETTER LIST

### William J Huang



Cultivar Name	pod	pollen	Total
1. Topaz Glory	267	152	419
2. Georgia's Pearl	148	130	278
3. Rosalind	223	41	264
4. All Aglow	169	36	205
5. Miss Liberty	155	18	173
6. Saffron	137	32	169
7. Fifth Dimension	126	42	168
8. Moorea Abyss	123	26	149
9. Misfire	133	16	149
10. Herm Geller	42	97	139
11. Red Bomb	35	97	132
12. Wallflower	60	71	131
13. Creme de Cacao	108	20	128
14. Grey Lady	107	19	126
15. Dragon's Breath	24	94	118
16. Moorea Imperial Blossom	5	111	116
17. Midnight Blue	91	24	115
18. Elderberry	97	18	115
19. Sun Showers	16	95	111
20. Honey Do	25	84	109

The figures in this list were extracted from the International Hibiscus Society's CV search engine.

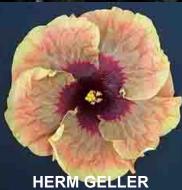
Use the push-button link below to visit the IHS CV search engine - an outstanding online resource!

CV SEARCH ENGINE









MISS LIBERT

## BLOOM MUTATIONS CAUSED BY HERBICIDE

**Dick Johnson** 



On the left is the normal flower and on the right is the temporary mutation which, depending on the cause (normally exposure to glyphosate herbicide - i.e. Monsanto's 'Roundup'), usually passes after a few blooms and reverts to normal. It can happen that some flowers

open the same day on the same plant showing the mutation while others don't, but that is uncommon. With severe exposure the new leaves can become deformed. They change form and become very thick which takes longer to grow out.





Fortunately, Hibiscus are quite tolerant to this herbicide, and I've never had any die from it that I know of.

Two particular cases are interesting. Once I tried to get rid of a Hibiscus of Sprinkle Rain and thoroughly treated the 2 ft bush. It didn't die and still persists today some 10 years later.

On another occasion I phoned and asked my wife to mist some young grafted plants. When I got home I discovered that she had used a

sprayer that contained glysophate. Again I didn't lose any plants that I thought were related to the accidental misting with the herbicide.

Some growers have reported that mutations can happen when there has been no known exposure to this herbicide and I have speculated that it could have been from the use of industrial recycled water, or perhaps graywater or sewage exposure, but that is purely speculative.



## PERDANA BOTANICAL GARDEN KUALA LUMPUR HIBISCUS PARK



The Perdana Botanical Garden, formerly known as Taman Tasik Perdana or Lake Gardens, is situated in the Heritage Park of Kuala Lumpur. Originally created as part of a recreational park but planted with collections of tropical plants, the gardens have been rehabilitated and turned into a Botanical Garden. The garden has not only botanical collections but also features that give the visitor the ambiance of being in a tropical rainforest, despite being in the middle of bustling Kuala Lumpur.

Among the many attractions are an Orchid

Garden and a Hibiscus Park which showcases the various species of Malaysia's national flower, the Bunga Raya (Hibiscus rosa-sinensis). Other attractions in the garden include a 4-metre (13ft) high waterfall, pools and fountains and a lovely colonial style building has been converted into an exhibition hall with a tearoom and a gallery.

A large pond in the Hibiscus Park features a flamboyant Hibiscus sculpture (above) which will take your breath away!



Daniela lives in Bacau, Romania. The city is situated in Western Moldavia at the foothills of the famous Carpathian Mountains. The Ghimes Pass links Bacau to the equally famous Transylvania.



On 10th March Daniela received an unregistered Hibiscus cutting from a good friend. She kept the cutting in water for two or three days and then decided to plant it. Because the leaves she had removed from the cutting were nicely shaped she stood them in a glass of water (with a piece of charcoal to keep the water clean). Of all the leaves she saved, only one stayed nice and green so, as it was pretty, she kept it in water.

Three months later on 25th June, Daniela refreshed the water as usual and, to her astonishment, discovered that it had produced a root!



# A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY

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



#### **PUSHPA SURESH**

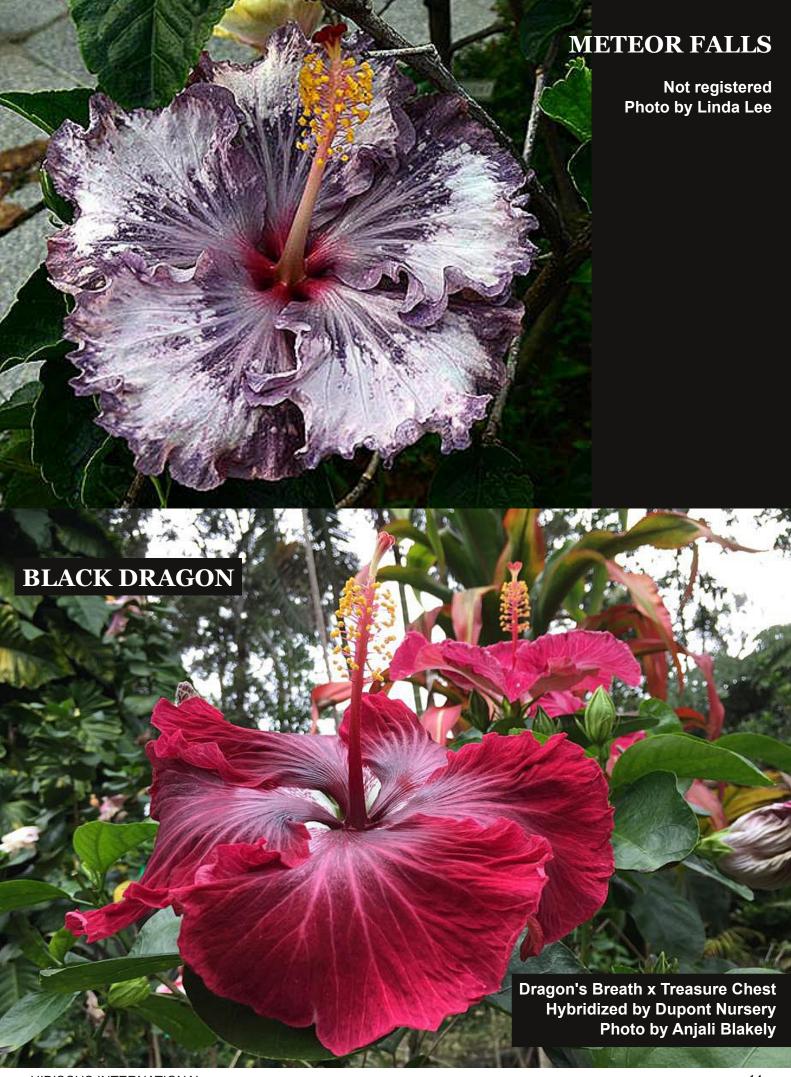
(Medicine Man x Taboo)
Hybridized by Barry and Susan Schlueter
Photo by Elena Flamenta



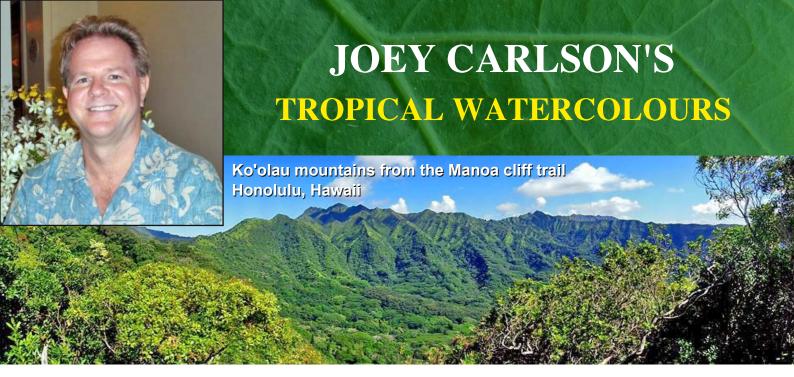












Honolulu artist Joey Carlson paints these stunning watercolors and we are honoured to have him as a member of the International Hibiscus Society! This one is called 'Hawaiian Orange'.





Above: 'Sea through the Jungle'

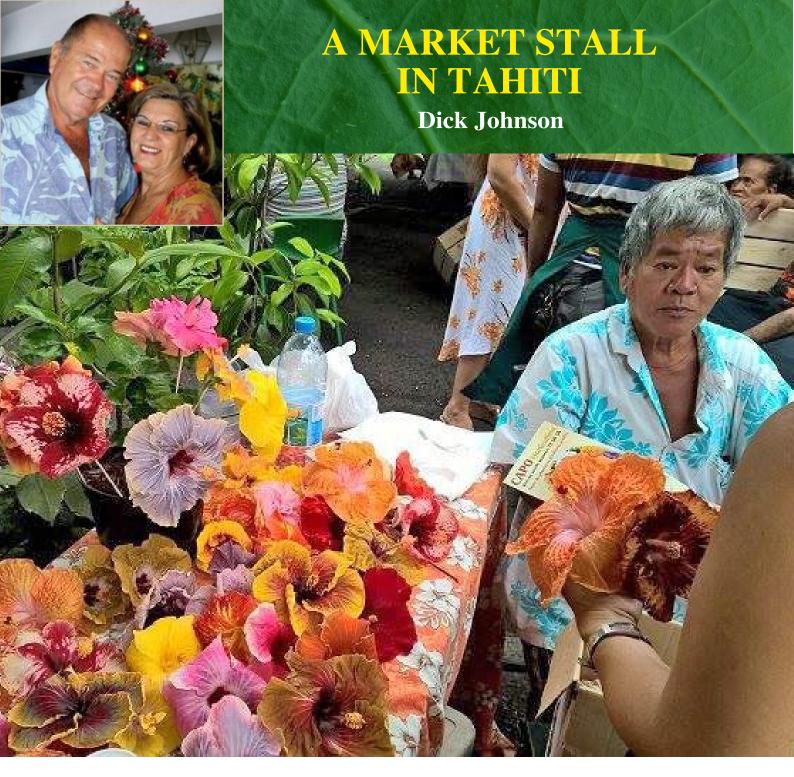


Left: 'Red Hibiscus'

Joey creates his magic on hot press (no texture in the paper) watercolour paper and each painting can take several months to complete.

Many of his paintings are for sale and he can be contacted via Facebook. More of his wonderful art can be viewed in his Facebook photo album. This is a link to his profile.





On the last Saturday of every month my friend Capo from Moorea sells Hibiscus at a local market here in Tahiti.

For several years now I have given him wood from some of my best varieties and, as a result, perhaps 75% of what he sells are my Tahitian hybrids. I give the wood gratis and he is kind enough to supply me with plants or replacements of mine that I have lost. It's a good arrangement and at the same time some of my hybrids get spread around the islands.

In this photo Capo is on the right talking with a client. There are only three or four on the table that I don't recognize as mine.



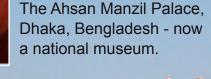
Above is Capo's main display. The majority are mine, except for Bold Idea and High Voltage (top left). The three smallest blooms are Moorea (Charles Atiu) hybrids (two bottom and one at the top). The lavender with the white eye (left, second from the bottom) and the orange to its right are Moorea (Laurent Giminez) hybrids, and also possibly the double orange with lighter rim.





## 'SADA JABAA' (AKA 'DAINTY WHITE')

**Alam Rahman** 







Alam Rahman, a freelance photographer, lives in Dhaka, Bangladesh where he took these lovely photos of a rare white Hibiscus which, in romanized Bengali, is called 'Sada Jabaa'.

Elsewhere in the world this delicate beauty is known as 'Dainty White'.



'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 is reproduced from the Hidden Valley Hibiscus website:-



#### **ALL RIGHTS RESERVED**

#### OFFICE BEARERS

President: Kes Winwood: Vice-President: Peter Moll: Sec./Treasurer: Dick Johnson

**BOARD MEMBERS** 

Eurasia (EU): Taner Turt: Petar Tiholov: Eurasia (Russia): Elena Tabuntsova

Indian Subcontinent: Pushpa Suresh: Oceania: Joseph Bautista

Africa: Gail Cahi : Orient: Bi Yu Jin

N. America: Damon Veach : S. America: Elizabeth Jordan : Australia: Sue Lansdown

Wild Card Reps: Wendy Williams: Doyle Williams

ICRAR: Ian Rabenda

PRESIDENT EMERITUS: Richard Johnson

Web Address - www.internationalhibiscussociety.org E-mail Address - InternationalHibiscusSociety@yahoogroups.com

I.H.S. PATRON - DAVID FRANZMAN