



HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL



Pages 2-3
2018 HIBISCUS CALENDAR

By Pushpa Suresh & Shyamala Madappa

Little Ballerina | Shyamala Madappa

Page 7
A PEEK INSIDE THE DUPONT NURSERY
Todd Alvis



Pages 8-11
GROWING HIBISCUS IN ENGLAND
Peter Jenkins



Pages 20-21
USING HYDROGEN PEROXIDE ON SEEDS
Doug Entz



Pages 12-17
CELEBRATING BEAUTY



Pages 4-6
HOW TO DISPLAY HIBISCUS FLOWERS FOR A SHOW

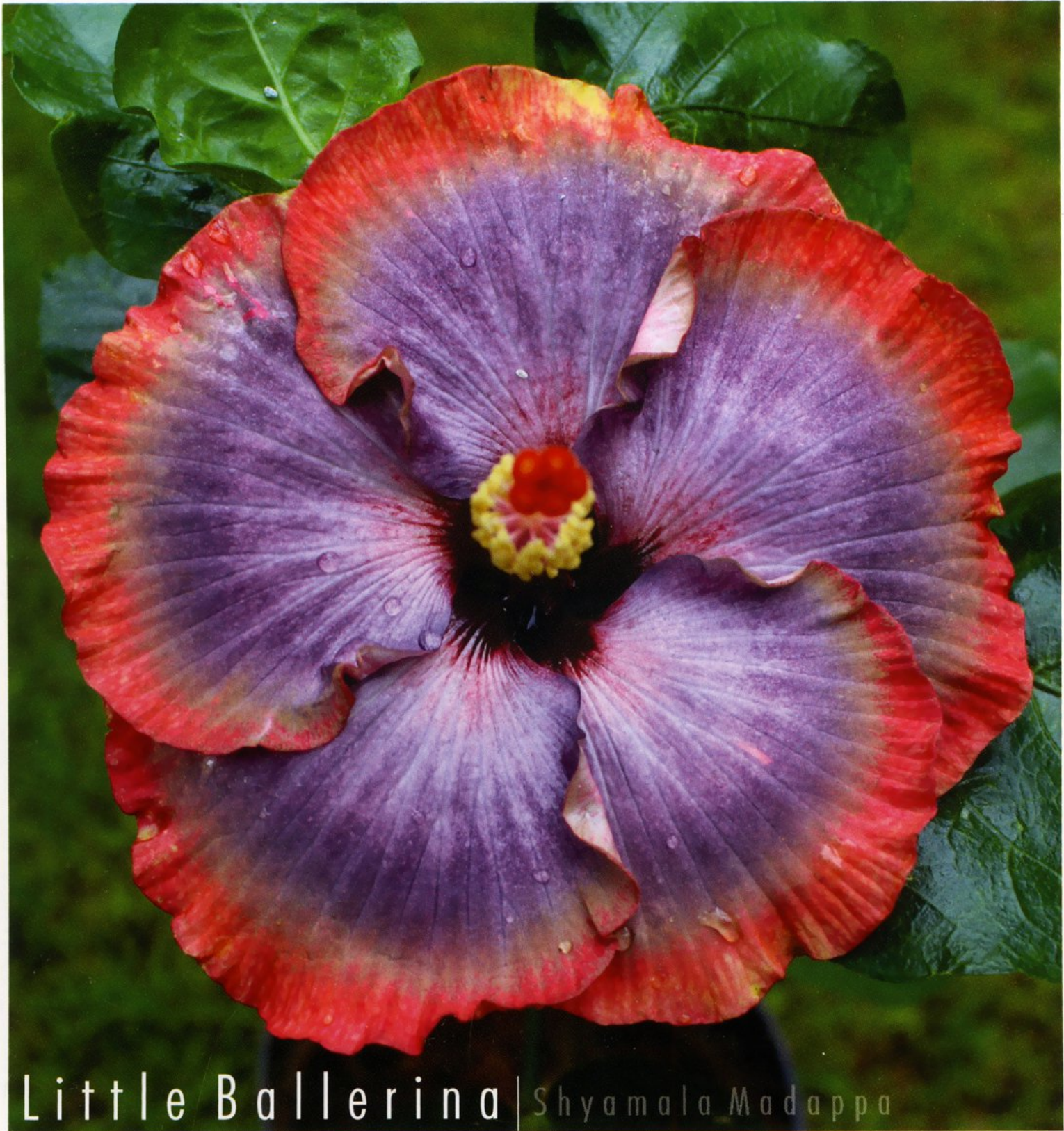
by Todd Alvis

and more!

**Merry
Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Once again Dick Johnson delighted us with photos of his stunning Tahitian Christmas tree (fresh flowers supplied daily!). Thank you Dick for sharing this vision of delight with us at Christmas 2017!



Little Ballerina | Shyamala Madappa

2018

www.pushyam.in

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Sun	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24
Mon	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25
Tue	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26
Wed	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27
Thu	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28
Fri	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29
Sat	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30

This beautiful back-to-back 2018 desk calendar was designed by Pushpa and Shyamala to celebrate their new website (www.pushyam.in) which will go live soon!



Mount Meru | Pushpa Suresh

2018

www.pushyam.in

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Sun	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	30 2 9 16 23	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	30 2 9 16 23
Mon	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	31 3 10 17 24
Tue	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25
Wed	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26
Thu	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27
Fri	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28
Sat	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29



HOW TO DISPLAY HIBISCUS BLOOMS

By Todd Alvis



Do not put your Hibiscus blooms in water to keep them longer. The best way I know of to display Hibiscus is described here. Your blooms will last all day and sometimes may even last a couple of days. The above photo was taken at about 3 pm and most of the blooms are still looking great!



Left: I pull blooms at this stage (i.e. early morning) so that they have not yet been exposed to ultraviolet light. This preserves their color.

Right: I insert a 6" metal wire which you can buy at Hobby Lobby (or other DIY, florist or craft type outlets) and cut to size. Insert the wire off-center as shown because the stub of the stem itself gets soft and is likely to break off.



Top left: Todd and Janelle Alvis of Louisiana, USA.



If you want the blooms to open more quickly, then you can use this trick.

Carefully tear off the green part (calyx) that is holding the petals up (see left). With less support the bloom will open faster now (see right). Now you can insert the wire.



As you prepare the blooms one by one, stick them upright into styrofoam blocks and let gravity do the rest. Within half an hour the blooms should be open. The photo (left) shows the blooms right after they have been wired and stuck upright.



These are the same blooms half an hour later.



If you want to force a bloom to open you can remove the green part (calyx) and then blow into the heart of the bloom.

Another trick is to use a quick drop and then pop it upwards which should open it instantly.

Do you have a comment, a suggestion or an article that you would like to submit to Hibiscus International? Then contact the editor here - we would love to hear from you!

[EDITOR'S EMAIL LINK](#)

HIBISCUS TRIONUM

*Photo by Anna Liza
(Las Piñas, Philippines)*

Hibiscus trionum, commonly called flower-of-the-hour, bladder hibiscus, bladder ketmia, bladder weed, modesty, puarangi, shoofly, and venice mallow, is an annual plant native to the Old World tropics and subtropics. It has spread throughout southern Europe both as a weed and cultivated as a garden plant. It has been introduced to the USA as an ornamental where it has become naturalized as a weed of cropland and vacant land, particularly on disturbed ground.

The plant grows to a height of 20–50 centimetres (7.9–19.7 in), sometimes exceeding 80 centimetres (31 in), and has white or yellow flowers with a purple centre.

The flowers of the Hibiscus trionum can set seed via both outcrossing and self-pollination



A Visit to THE DUPONT NURSERY

By Todd Alvis



Photo ©Todd Alvis



Bobby Dupont

Photo © Dupont Nursery 2017

Once a year Bobby Dupont opens up his nursery to the American Hibiscus Society members and has a big sale and cooks for all of us. It is always a great day with lots of friends - all with a common interest.

Located in the heart of South Louisiana, Dupont Nursery is a premier commercial bedding plant nursery, wholesale distributor, and exotic Hibiscus hybridizer. It is the home of the Cajun Hibiscus.

Since retiring from the florist industry in 1995, Bobby Dupont has been on an unrelenting mission to create new and dramatic cultivars of tropical Hibiscus.

A chance meeting brought Bobby together with Father Robert Gerlich, an avid Hibiscus breeder. Their friendship - and their breeding efforts - quickly grew. Today at the nursery, Bobby tests new seedlings from his and Father Gerlich's now extensive breeding program. With thousands of Hibiscus seedlings under his care, Bobby carefully chooses only the best and brightest to add to Dupont Nursery's full line of Cajun Hibiscus.

[Click here for a link to
The Dupont Nursery.](#)



GROWING HIBISCUS IN ENGLAND

Peter Jenkins



©Littlehampton Live

Peter Jenkins lives in Littlehampton, a seaside town on the Channel coast of Britain, where he grows and hybridizes some beautiful CVs. One of the drawbacks of growing tropicals in a northern country is the darkness of the long winter months which are also wet and cold - a difficult environment for Hibiscus but, by trial and error, Pete has learned to adapt well as is evident from the photo below. Here we see a selection of his mature plants enjoying a lovely sunny summer afternoon outside.





Leaving delicate Hibiscus CVs outside during cold, stormy weather is not an option in the UK so, when the weather is bad, the Hibiscus either go indoors or into the greenhouse (see above).



Keeping plants huddled together in the greenhouse for warmth can encourage insect pests and diseases so Pete has to keep a close watch on plant health.

But when the plants are blooming it is always a delight to have them indoors where they can put on a glorious display whatever the weather!

Every year Pete starts new plants from seeds. His seed sowing season begins in October under grow lights and here are some of his neatly labelled seed trays.



With plenty of indoor warmth and grow lights the seedlings soon sprout and do well in spite of the dark, frosty weather outside. As the weather warms up in spring they will be ready to start growing strongly - and some might even flower before winter sets in again.





Pete also grows plants from cuttings sent to him from other parts of the world. Here are two such plants looking healthy and strong and growing on their new roots.

After much experimenting, he now places his cuttings in a mix of 75% perlite and 25% seed compost. The cuttings are then placed in a heated propagator and kept at about 27C/80.5F with high humidity, and sprayed with a very fine mist once each day.

Judging by the sturdy new roots (see right) his method is very successful!



IHS member **Patty Hyn of Georgia, USA** shared her tip for rooting cuttings. The ones shown here are just over one month old. They were started in water with sphagnum moss added and grown under lights that were timed for 16 hours on per day. The temperature was in the 60's (F) but she thought they would probably root more quickly in higher temperatures. She said: "In water alone they seem to root more slowly for me but with sphagnum they are going as fast as three weeks to first roots so I am very pleased. I have used no rooting hormone on these." Shown are Pride of Hankins cuttings.

A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY

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



MOOREA SILVER SUN

(Topaz Glory x Tahitian Prince)
Hybridized by Charles Atiu
Photographed by Aneela Lee



MAUI DANCER

(Enlightenment x Maui Masterpiece)
Hybridized by Charles Black
Photo by Thomas Narolewski



LUCK BY CHANCE

(Bob Carran x Unknown)
Hybridized by Pushpa Suresh
Photo by Chris Chang



EYE OF KALI

(Light My Fire x Bonjour)
Hybridized by Dupont Nursery
Photo by Todd Alvis



SUDARSHANA CHAKRA

[Not registered]
Parentage unknown
Photo by Prabhakar Kamath



SNOW AND SKY

[Not registered]
Parentage unknown
photographed by Monika KS

© Monika KS



TAIWAN DARK KING

(Dreamscape x Barry Schlueter)
Hybridized and photographed by Linda Lee



PETAR'S NIGHT QUEEN

[Not Registered]
(Nightmare x Voodoo
Queen)
Hybridized and
photographed by
Petar Tiholov

TAHITIAN IMPERIAL SMOKE

(Smokey Mountain
x Moorea Imperial Blossom)

by Richard Johnson



HIGH HEAVEN

(High Voltage x Heaven Scent)
Hybridized by Charles Black
Photo by Malou Lopez-Urbano



PACIFIC ARIA

[Not Registered]
Parentage unknown
photo by Chiahao Chan



The Weird and the Wonderful

MEET ENCEPHALARTOS WOODII

The Lonliest Tree in the World

©powo.science.kew.org

It survived the dinosaurs, but there is only one left.

One day in 1895, while walking through the Ngoya Forest in Zululand, southern Africa, a botanist named John Medley Wood caught sight of an interesting tree. It stood on a steep slope at the edge of the woods and looked unusual with its thick, multiple trunks and what appeared to be a splay of palm fronds on top. From a distance it looked almost like a palm tree, and Dr. Wood, who made his living collecting rare plants (he directed a botanical garden in Durban) had some of the stems pulled up. One of them was sent to London.

That little tree stem was then planted in a box and left in the Palm House at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew where it remained alone, and growing slowly, for the next 98 years.

Named *Encephalartos woodii*, in Dr. Wood's honor, it is a cycad, and cycads are *dioecious*, which means you need both male and female trees in order to reproduce. In 2004, *E. woodii* sprouted a cone (see above photo) to signal that he was ready to reproduce but, although he has his clones to keep him company, there is no known female *E. woodii* and he will forever be unable to reproduce in the natural way.

Somehow *E. woodii* survived the catastrophe that wiped out the dinosaurs, got through five different ice ages, learned to compete with larger, newer types of tree - conifers, leaf bearers and then a profusion of fruiting and flowering plants. It got pushed into smaller, then even smaller spaces until there were merely tens of thousands, then thousands, then hundreds and then, perhaps, just this one left.

E. woodii may be the very last specimen of its kind on our planet, certainly the last one to come from the wild. It is growing older and can produce no successors. Nobody knows how long it will live.

Left and above: Views of *Encephalartos woodii*.

[Click here to see a short video about *E. woodii*.](#)



©Dryas



Do you enjoy the relaxation of colouring in? Well here is a lovely design for you to print out and colour. Need some inspiration? Then click [HERE!](#)

Discussing an Experiment TREATING SEEDS WITH HYDROGEN PEROXIDE (H₂O₂)

With Doug Entz



Doug Entz, USA:

Hmmm ..

I wonder how seed germination without soil is going on my first try...? Shall we take a peak under the dome? All Cosmic Gold crosses. Question for people using this method, so far I have only used distilled water and H₂O₂, should I be adding some light fertilizer before they go from the cotton wool pads into soil?

Svetlana Kiseleva, Russia: I use water and H₂O₂ on a cotton disk - no fertilizer. I use some rooting hormone (powder) and put a little in the soil mix. After a month I add fertilizer.

Aimee Scicluna, Malta: What is the base that the cotton wool is on please?

Doug Entz: Plastic lids, then a layer of paper towel, then cotton pads. If I had to do over again, I would have done two layers of towel as this is the moisture reserve. I have to water every 12 hours with the current method. I may have forgotten to mention that they are all on a heat mat under a humidity dome.

Daryl Venables, Miami, Florida: I take my hat off to you, I have tried this method multiple times and failed miserably! One thing I would suggest as I use H₂O₂ with my method of germination, the brown root tip is a sign of H₂O₂ burn - use less in your formula.

Doug Entz: I am using 2 tsp per cup of distilled water ... too hot?

Daryl Venables: You definitely want to halve that and you may still want to keep a close eye on it. H₂O₂ in large quantities is used as an organic weed killer, so you want a very weak dilution, especially when dealing with young roots.

Andrea Esper, Germany: If you remove the shell of the seed, it is even easier for the seedling to germinate. After that, put the seedlings on top on moistened perlite or soil so that the root does not entangle in the cotton wool. In addition, the moisture in perlite or soil holds better and the seedlings do not



dry out. I also use H₂O₂, but only 3% solution. Of it only a few drops in an egg cup full of water. This method is great and the germination rate high.

From information found elsewhere: Because of its strong oxidizing properties, H₂O₂ can be used to disinfect tools or surfaces around your plants. It is also useful for surface sterilizing seeds as it has powerful anti-fungal properties. Some horticulturalists and users of hydroponics advocate the use of weak hydrogen peroxide solution in watering solutions. It releases oxygen that enhances a plant's root development and helps to treat root rot (cellular root death due to lack of oxygen) and a variety of other pests.

H₂O₂ breaks down into oxygen and water and so leaves no toxic residue.



While researching information about hydrogen peroxide I stumbled across this video which describes a method of seed germination (not necessarily Hibiscus) involving perlite, water, and H₂O₂ in a Ziploc bag. - Editor

Click here for a link to the video.



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