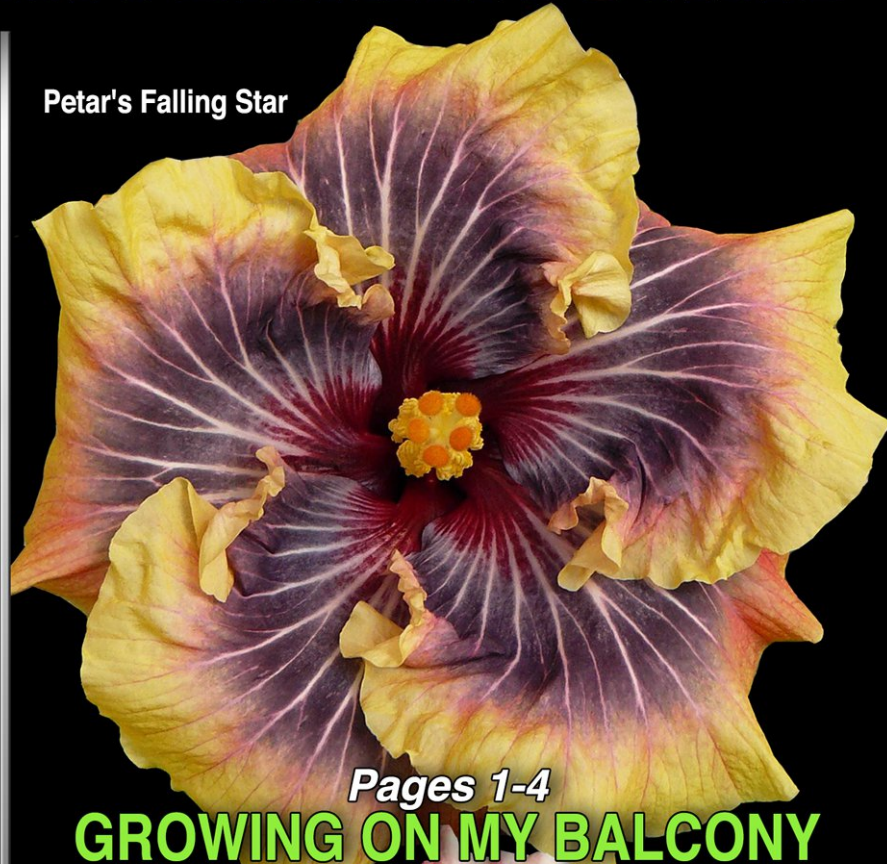




HIBISCUS INTERNATIONAL

Petar's Falling Star

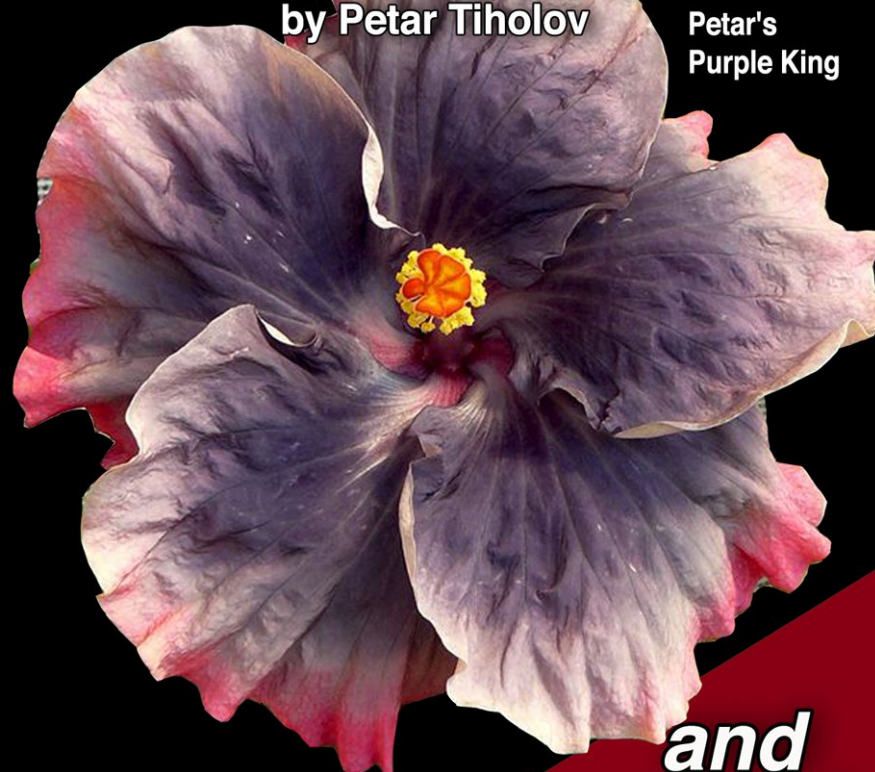


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GROWING HIBISCUS ON MY BALCONY IN BULGARIA

Petar Tiholov

Aerial view of Burgas, Bulgaria



Petar lives in Burgas, a city on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. The city is surrounded by the Burgas Lakes and located at the westernmost point of the Black Sea, at the large Burgas Bay. Burgas has a humid subtropical climate although snow is possible in the winter. The highest temperature was recorded in August 2003, at 42.8 °C and the lowest at -17.8 °C in January, 1952.

Petar is a hybridizer, and the long, warm summers in Burgas are ideal for growing Hibiscus on his balcony and he has been thrilling us with gorgeous photos of his CVs for many years.



Petar is a wonderful example of someone who has used the confines of his balcony to create a little corner of gardening paradise high above the busy streets below.

In just this relatively small space, Petar grows a large number of Hibiscus - and even hybridizes them to create new varieties.

During the coldest months of the winter he brings them indoors, but as soon as the sun begins to shine again, out they go. The photo on the left here was taken at the end of April and the plants are already growing strongly.

Petar says that every spring he prunes a lot of his Hibiscus, cutting them down to a manageable size and also shaping them from the sides. He encourages them to grow tall and upright to save room.

In summer the plants on his balcony, which faces south-east, enjoy around 8-9 hours sunlight.



Also in spring Petar repots most of his plants by changing only part of the soil, but keeping them in the same pots. Using the same pots instead of increasing the size helps to reduce the footprint of each plant so that they can be clustered together.

The supporting sticks which to which the tallest plants are tied are 190 cm.

During the growing season Petar feeds his Hibiscus with White Kristalon (NPK- 15-5-30) once a week. It certainly does the trick because, as you can see, his plants are very lush and healthy.

IHS member George Crouchet commented: "Just shows hibiscus enthusiasts that with limited space, growing these gorgeous plants and blooming their exotic flowers can be achieved."

As mentioned above, Petar feeds his Hibiscus once a week with White Kristalon.



YaraTera KRISTALON WHITE LB (15-5-30 + Mg, S, B, Mo , Cu , Fe, Mn and Zn) is a water soluble NPK fertiliser for liquid feeding.

Contains a full range of chelated micronutrients.



Some of Petar Tiholov's superb CVs are shown here ..



CARIBBEAN SOPHISTICATION
(Night Runner x Tahitian Sophistication)
Hybridized by Petar Tiholov
Grown by Adil Demirboga.



GREY HEART
(Moorea Silver Storm x Night Runner)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S AUTUMN PASSION
[Not Registered]
(Night Runner x Tahitian Purple Passion)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S FIRE PASSION
[Not Registered]
(Russian Firebird x Tahitian Purple Passion)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S DEVIL TREASURE
[Not Registered]
(Soul Connections x Devil's Eye)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S NIGHT STORM
(Moorea Silver Storm x Night Runner)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S RED LOVE
[Not Registered]
(Moorea Rita [Not Registered] x Nightmare)
Hybridizer Radmila Klobasova, grower Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S PURPLE KING
[Not Registered]
(Purple Pashmina x Taiwan Dark King)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S SUMMER TIME
[Not Registered]
(Moorea Silver Storm x Puppy)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S TRANQUILITY

[Not Registered]

(White Diamonds x Sea of Tranquility)
Hybridizer Radmila Klobasova, grower
Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S TROPICAL NIGHT

(Moorea Silver Storm x Night Runner)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S SUMMER TIME

[Not Registered]

(Night Runner x Moorea Silver Sun)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S FRENCH GIRL

[Not Registered]

(Blueberry Thrill x Shiva)
Hybridised and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S CHRISTMAS PASSION

[Not Registered]

(Night Runner x Tahitian Purple Passion)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



PETAR'S FALLING STAR

[Not Registered]

(Moorea Silver Sun x Taiwan Dark King)
Hybridized and grown by Petar Tiholov



When he is not relaxing on his balcony indulging his passion for Hibiscus, Petar Tiholov is an opera singer and Assistant Director at the Opera House in Burgas.

On the left is a photograph taken during a performance of La Traviata, by Verdi. Petar is in the role of Dr. Grenville.

PLANTS UNDER STRESS

Overwatering will damage your plants!

Adil Demirboga



This is what happens when your Hibiscus plants swim in a pool of water for more than 24 - 48 hours. The leaves start to get yellow rapidly and fall off. This is a sign of stress and the Hibiscus is telling us that something is not OK.

Hibiscus plants are very sensitive to change so that they react almost instantly to any difference in their environment such as weather, soil condition, pest infestation etc., usually by yellowing and dropping the leaves. It is not generally a serious problem if adequate conditions are reestablished soon.

.....

1) Roots are Critical to Plant Life: Roots are the primary source for your plant's water, food, and intake of oxygen. While the roots of a plant take up water, they also need air to breathe. Overwatering, in simple terms, drowns your plant. Healthy soil allows for oxygen to exist in the space between particles of soil. If there is too much water, or if the soil is constantly wet, there are not enough air pockets around the roots. This results in a reduced oxygen supply and plants are not able to 'breathe'.

2) Leaves Turn Brown and Wilt: When plants have too little water, the leaves turn brown and wilt. This also happens when plants have too much water. The biggest difference between the two is that too little water will result in your plant's leaves feeling dry and crispy to the touch, while too much water results in soft, limp leaves.

3) Water Pressure Begins to Build: Water pressure begins to build in the cells of leaves when the roots absorb more water than they can use. Cells will eventually become damaged and die.

4) Stunted Slow Growth: Stunted slow growth accompanied by yellowing leaves is also a symptom. Leaves falling off often accompanies this symptom. If your plants have yellowing leaves and old leaves, as well as new leaves that are falling at the same accelerated rate, you are overwatering.

Check your soil regularly. Don't be afraid to push your finger about an inch or two down into the soil to check the moisture. If the soil feels moist and you observe some of the signs above, it's a good indication that you need to reduce your watering.



A NEW SPECIES OF HIBISCUS FOUND IN FIJI

By Dr. Lex Thomson

The Island of Ovalau, Fiji



Dr. Lex Thomson is a forest scientist who has worked extensively in Fiji, the region and elsewhere. He is Associate Adjunct Professor (Agroforestry) at University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland and is a citizen of Fiji and Australia. He is passionate about the conservation of Fiji's flora and fauna.



During 2017 a new species of Hibiscus in section Lilibiscus was found on the island of Ovalau in Fiji. The species had been collected in 1854 by William Milne, a Scottish botanist on board the H.M.S. Herald, a US Exploratory Expedition vessel, but was considered to be 'H. rosa-sinensis'.

During a visit to Ovalau in April 2017 the author was made aware that a wild Hibiscus was growing amongst rocks on Mt Tomuna at Vei Senitoa – or 'place of Hibiscus' in Fijian. The species was subsequently collected in June but the main population at Vei Senitoa had been buried by landslides associated with Tropical cyclone Winston – the strongest storm to ever make landfall in the Southern Hemisphere – and the species is critically endangered in the wild.

The Ovalau Hibiscus is distinguished from other Fijian Hibiscus species, such as *H. storckii*, by its funnel-shaped flowers with conspicuously spirally-arranged, overlapping narrow petals. It shares floral and foliar traits with Mascarene Island species, especially *H. genevii*, including narrowly tri-lobed juvenile and intermediate leaves. The Ovalau Hibiscus likely represents an early or ancestral species of Lilibiscus in the South Pacific Islands.

The new species is being described in the journal Pacific Science and is to be named in honour of Dr Luca Braglia for his research on genetic relationships in Hibiscus.

Right: *Hibiscus storckii* near Qeleni Village, Taveuni, Fiji. It is so nice to relocate this spectacular and highly endangered cloud forest species and known only from a handful of individuals in the wild.

Below: Elsewhere, General Courtigis has similarly brilliant red flowers to original *H. rosa-sinensis*. However General Courtigis is likely an early hybrid (mid 19th Century) involving *H. boryanus*, which would have contributed the heterophyllous foliage and the very long bracts (epicalyx). General Courtigis seems to have a different provenance to many of the other early *Hibiscus* that made it to Europe, first appearing in Paris (and may well have come from French-connected Indian Ocean islands such as Mauritius or Reunion Is) rather than the South Sea Islands (including Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji).





'CHICKEN FOOT' LEAVES

黃家興

This interesting photo was posted by Allen Huang (whose name is shown above in the original Chinese). Allen lives in Changhua, Taiwan where he grows Hibiscus.

Most of us who grow Hibiscus from seed will have observed that occasionally a plant will have deeply indented, palmate leaves.

Often called 'chicken foot' leaves, they usually disappear as the plant matures, as seen here on the right where the original lower leaves are palmate and the upper, mature leaves are a normal mature Hibiscus shape.

Sometimes chicken foot leaves never disappear. One such CV is 'Juicy Lucy' whose leaves are always palmate.



Left and above, Juicy Lucy (Athena (Graff) x Orange Key) and her palmate leaves.



PETE WINS BEST IN SHOW

In England!

Peter Jenkins



Well! This may be a first for the UK! Peter Jenkins took his High Voltage along to a local plant show in West Sussex, England and won 'Best Flower Exhibit in Show'. I'm sure the judges had probably never seen anything quite like it and it was described as a 'greenhouse plant in flower'. These Hibiscus are still very rare in the UK. You sometimes see a few Graff hybrids from Denmark on sale .. but that's about it. Congratulations Pete!

Hibiscus are still very rare in the UK. You sometimes see a few Graff hybrids from Denmark on sale .. but that's about it. Congratulations Pete!

	FIRST PRIZE
BEST FLOWER EXHIBIT IN SHOW	
Class	44
Description	GREENHOUSE PLANT IN FLOWER
Exhibitor's name and address	PETER JENKINS
Gardener (if any)	

AIR LAYERING

(ALSO KNOWN AS MARCOTTING)

Dijana Bilos



Air layering (marcotting) is a type of plant propagation that involves the rooting of part of a branch while it is still attached to the parent plant.

Dijana Bilos, who lives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, posted her method of air layering and in the photo above she shows all her tools etc neatly laid out and ready to start the job.

The little tub with the pink top contains rooting hormone. When choosing a rooting hormone for your Hibiscus, make sure that it is a high strength IBA recommended for hardwood cuttings. A weaker rooting hormone will have little, or no, effect.

Left: 1) Using a sharp craft knife Dijana has made a clean, upward diagonal cut into the chosen branch. This exposes the cambium (the green layer under the bark) which the roots will spring from. She has only cut about a third of the way through the branch because the fibrous white core is where the plant's water and nutrients are drawn up to the leaves.



2) A toothpick holds the cut surfaces apart.



3) The area is then smeared with rooting hormone.



4) Some sphagnum moss is arranged on a piece of plastic film. After sprinkling more rooting hormone over the moss the plastic is wrapped around the branch - probably easiest if done horizontally over a table.



5) The finished bundle tied firmly above and below.



6) This variation on the method looks much easier. A small plastic bag with the bottom end trimmed away to form a tube has been slipped over the branch and secured below the cut.



7) The plastic bag, which forms a cup, can then be gently filled with the sphagnum moss /rooting hormone mix and tied firmly.



8) The whole bundle is then wrapped in aluminium foil in order to allow the roots to form in darkness.



9) Depending on your climate, after 4 to 6 weeks you should have sturdy roots like these. The branch can now be removed and is ready for planting.

The Weird and the Wonderful

THE SKELETON FLOWER



Skeleton flower, *Diphylleia Grayi*, is a unique flower whose petals turn transparent when it's splattered with raindrops. It grows on moist, wooded mountainsides and can be found in only three parts of the world, in colder regions of Japan, China and the Appalachian Mountains in the USA. The flowers come out in late spring, with large, fuzzy green, umbrella-like foliage topped with small clusters of pretty white petals that turn transparent when it rains.

A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTY

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



綺麗的紫霧琉璃

KIREI PURPLE HAZE LAZURITE

[Unregistered]

Parentage and Hybridizer unknown

Photographed by 劉婕宇



**BLACK JACK
(DUPONT)**

(Dark Continent x Bob Harkins)
Hybridized by Dupont Nursery
Photo by Anjali Blakely



D J O'BRIEN

(Parentage unknown)
Hybridized by Dewey Lynn M
Photo by Tetet Tagle



**DARK GRAY MOONLIGHT
IN THE CITY**

灰濛城裡的月光

[Unregistered]
Hybridizer and Parentage unknown
Photo by Lee Ming



CREME DE LA CREME

(Rainbow Christie x Strobe)
Hybridized by Charles Black
Photo by Tanya Odessa

SPACE ODDITY

(Rainbow Christie x Fifth Dimension)
Hybridized by Charles Black
Photo by Thomas Narolewski



DRAGON'S BREATH

(Bonnie B x Blushing Romance)
Hybridized by Dubin Dale B
Photographed by Anjali Blakely





MOOREA ROAD TO INFERNO

(Moorea Orlando Sunrise X
Moorea Pentru Tine)
Hybridized and Photographed
by Charles Atiu



EYE OF THE STORM

(Gator Pride x Rum Runner)
Hybridized by Dupont Nursery
Photographed by Lilu Inda Paradise

PAYUAN THE GREEN MILE



(Moorea Delphina
x Moorea Timeri Beauty)
Hybridized by Cheng Yu Pan
Photographed by Aneela Lee



RED VELVET CAKE

(Nightmare x Climax)
Hybridized by Barry and Susan Schlueter
Photographed by Anna Shcherbak

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2 COLORS

though it is a design of the impressive total unevenness design, it is easy to coordinate what kind of item -- a little -- the tank top of length length The unevenness dyeing design

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Monsanto ordered to pay \$289 million in world's first Roundup cancer trial

In August a California jury found Monsanto liable in a lawsuit filed by a man who alleged that the company's glyphosate-based weed-killers, including Roundup, caused his cancer and ordered the company to pay \$289 million in damages.

The case of school groundskeeper Dewayne Johnson was the first lawsuit to go to trial alleging glyphosate causes cancer. Monsanto, a unit of Bayer AG following a \$62.5 billion acquisition by the German conglomerate, faces more than 5,000 similar lawsuits across the United States. The jury at San Francisco's Superior Court of California deliberated for three days before finding that Monsanto had failed to warn Johnson and other consumers of the cancer risks posed by its weed killers. It awarded \$39 million in compensatory and \$250 million in punitive damages.

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