



Hibiscus International

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST :

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Tah. Brown Starfire



Tah. Copper Queen

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hi Friends:

Since our last edition of H.I. we have had good news and bad, but this is par for the course, i.e., progress comes in bits and spurts and sometimes we take a step backward before taking several steps forward.

Firstly the bad news:

Our multi language publications of H.I. were short lived since there was little to no feed back that it was appreciated by our readers. Hence, the foreign language editors didn't feel it was worth the effort it took to do those translations into French, Spanish and Portuguese.

We are having problems with our host being blocked by Costa Rica. By the time you read this we will have hopefully dealt with this problem.

Regarding the good news:

On the positive side, the resumption of the IHS Auction under the direction of Kes Winwood, was an unqualified success. We essentially doubled our small treasury with the proceeds, and we are now in the process of organizing the next quarterly auction the end of October. Assuming you are reading this before that date, we are seeking seed donors for lots of 5 seed for the auction. If you are able to assist, please contact Kes at Kes Winwood keswin@wightman.ca

Likewise, our on line registration form has been streamlined due to great efforts by Joseph Dimino assisted by Ian Rebenda. Considering that Joseph's health is failing, this was a major and greatly appreciated effort. Ian reports that due to these changes, many of the problems of filling out the form in the past have been eliminated vastly reducing the amount of effort on behalf of those reviewing the submissions.

Otherwise, all seems to be function properly. The BOD is deliberating on issues, sometimes a bit slowly, but that is mostly a case of things not having been clearly defined. The mail list is bristling with communications and the sharing of loads of great cvs and seedlings. We certainly have a continuous parade of color thanks to the participation of our members.

The HOTY committee is currently deliberating on the selection of the 2004 candidates with a number of really nice candidates from different hybridizers.

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Unfortunately, the participation as of late in the SOTY program from which the top 10 candidates are selected for HOTY trialing has been disappointing. With great hybridizers in our membership it is a real shame so few take the time to send in their entries - shame on you. I don't know how to resolve this, but something needs to be done to get more participation.

All in all, we are doing well and continue with our contributions to the hibiscus world.

Happy Hibiscus Growing To All

Dick Johnson, President

EDITORS REPORT

I hope you enjoy this 3rd issue of the Hibiscus International [July to September], Vol. 9 No 3—Issue 40, which I have produced for you to learn something of what is required to produce good plants and flowers, and an article from Francoise of France on how she grows hibiscus in her great green house which she and her husband have built on their property.

The article on pruning is based on what is required here in Australia, so the members and affiliates in the northern hemisphere will have to adjust to the time in their country when it is going to be spring. Also an article on Dorothy Brady Sports,

I have had requests to write an article on Bloom Description and Size and plant sizes and you will find that article on pages 10, 11 & photos of the different types of blooms on page 12.

The next magazine will be due out in January 2010 and my e-mail address is _____

jpu11707@bigpond.net.au

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Web Address— www.internationalhibiscussociety.org

E-mail Address— InternationalHibiscusSociety@yahoogroups.com

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SPORTS FOUND ON DOROTHY BRADY

On this page are illustrated the sports which have been found on Dorothy Brady plants. These sports are created when a bush will send out a new branch, on which, will appear a totally different coloured flower, and you have to let this branch grow big enough to be able to get enough wood to be able to graft it on to some rootstock, and then you have a new variety. Do not take all of the branch in case the graft or cutting does not take, because once you take the whole branch you have lost the sport for ever, if you only take a small piece and it fails, then you have to wait for the branch to grow again to be able to take another piece, providing the sport is worth while keeping and then you can register it as a new bloom. The new bloom will stay as a new variety. Make sure you mark the branch so you can know where the sport has come from while it is not in flower.

These pictures are of flowers which have been found on Dorothy Brady



This is Dorothy Brady, bred by Foster E Brady, of Australia, from Surfrider X Kona, which has thrown out so many sports, and we have all started to call them the Brady Bunch. The genes must very unstable, for this plant to have thrown so many sports over the years. compare the difference in the colours of these sports which follow.



Foster Brady was the first sport found on Dorothy Brady by the Brady's in West Australia



Ken-Mer Rhapsody was the next one found by Ken & Merle Rogerson here in Queensland at Caboolture

Continued on next page



Calypso Dancer was next and was found by Jim & Ruth Purdie here in Brisbane Australia



Cockatoo was the next found by Birt Hardy and grown by David Hopkins



Gan-Mor Gloriana was the next and was found by Wally Morgan Maryborough Australia



Apricot Delight was next and found by Jim & Ruth Purdie of Brisbane Australia



Robyn's Delight was also found by Jim & Ruth Purdie Brisbane Australia



Guy Mitchell was next and was found by Les Beers in Sydney NSW Australia



Brash One was found by the Ashworths of Melbourne Victoria Australia



Fandango and the photo was supplied by Wally Morgan



Glowing Delight found by Wally Morgan Maryborough Australia



Orange Delight found by Wally Morgan Maryborough Australia



Ruby's Delight photo supplied by Wally Morgan



Dorothy Brady Sports all together photo supplied by Wally Morgan

PRUNING

By Jim Purdie

This month we will look at the subject of pruning your plants, as this is advisable here in Australia seeing that this is the month that spring arrives and the plants begin to wake from their winter sleep and the sap begins to flow causing the plants to start getting new shoots and if you prune the bush at this time you will get a good shaped bush and better flowers. People in the southern states should wait until the danger of frosts has passed and in the Northern Hemisphere you will have to adjust the month to coincide with your spring.

This condition is brought about by a few things. The most important being that the daylight hours begin to get longer as the sun on its journey begins to get closer to your country, where ever you may live, be it in the northern or southern hemisphere, and as the sun gets closer, the weather begins to warm up and this causes the sap to flow and in so doing it causes the roots to start drawing more nourishment from the surrounding soil, and the plant goes into growing mode and new shoots begin to appear at the eyes, as opposed to the bare sticks we have been looking at during the winter.

We prune our plants for a variety of reasons, and I have listed the most important reasons to get a better bush.

- 1 To train into a desired shape.
- 2 To maintain the bush to a manageable size, and open up the bush to the sun by pruning away the middle branches which have grown into the middle thus blocking out the air and light.
- 3 It helps in the control and to be able to see any attacks of insects.
- 4 It will encourage stronger growth, as when you shorten the branches when you prune them, it will cause the plant to send out more branches, and as I always say more branches, more flowers.
- 5 It will get rid of old and weak branches, and those which grown in a criss cross fashion causing a cluttered plant, as well as those that have grown out of shape.
- 6 If you prune your plants in the spring you help the bush to promote larger and better blooms of good shape and size. Hibiscus thrive on being pruned in the spring, and you do not have to get a step ladder to see the flowers as the branches get too long. When you prune the tops of the branches, it causes the plant to start shooting down lower and instead of bare sticks you will see a plant covered in nice green leaves, and more branches, and "more branches more flowers".

This happens because when you prune the tops off, it stops the growing cycle from the tip. Whenever I start to prune I try to think how the bush grows, and prune the plant according to the way it grows, by that I mean if the plant is an average grower, I will prune off about a third of the bush, if the bush is a tall fast grower I will prune off about a half, and if the plant is a slow low grower, I will just prune off the tips, otherwise it takes too long to recover if you give it a hard prune, and you will miss out on the flowers for the season and have to wait until next year to see some blooms.

I always cut off the low lying branches, usually leaving a 12 inch space under the bush, which allows you to keep under the bush clean and also if there are low lying branches, and a flower appears it drags in the dirt and there is a danger of snails causing damage to the petals.

I prune just above an outward pointing eye, using a slanting cut away from the eye, so any water will run away from the eye, and also encourages the new shoot to grow outwards instead of into the middle of the plant, and as I always try to end up with a pruned bush which is in the shape of a vase.

Make sure your secateurs are kept clean and sharp, so that they will give a clean cut, and I like to dip my secateurs into some alcohol or methylated spirits between bushes to prevent spreading disease.

Some members do not prune all the branches at one time so they are able to have blooms while they wait for the new growth to flower. These remaining branches can be pruned once the new growth commences flowering.

If you are growing in pots this is a good time to think about a root prune at the same time as you prune the top of the plant, and repot into some fresh potting mix, with some slow release fertilizer included in the mix, either into the same size pot if it is the biggest you want to go to, or the next size pot if it is in a small pot. Do not make the pot size too big, When the bush is putting out a lot of new growth this is when I apply a fertilizer high in nitrogen to promote the new growth, and apply this until you see new buds starting to form and then I use a fertilizer higher in potash than nitrogen to promote flowers instead of nice green leaves.

A fertilizer I recommend after you have pruned the plants in the ground is as follows; 2 ice cream [2 litre] cans of Blood & Bone, 2 of Super Phosphate, 1 of Sulphate of Potash, 1/2 can of Magnesium Sulphate [Epsom Salts] , 1/4 can Sulphate of Iron, mix all this all together and apply a good handful around each bush. Then I cover this with a good mulch about 2 to 3 inches thick to keep the roots cool in the hot weather to come and also to prevent the loss of moisture. Later when the blooms appear I use Cultiplex Gold with my fertigator and apply it from the hose attached to the 5000 litre tank with an electric pump.

If you follow these instructions you will be well on your way to seeing a healthy bush and plenty of flowers.



Garden has been pruned



Photo shows the garden after the plants have regrown



Old plant which has been pruned by a half to rejuvenate the bush



Young plant which has been pruned by a third

ARTICLE FROM FRANCOISE LEVAVASSEUR

I live in France and until 2001, I knew only Hibiscus fluently commercialized in Europe, settled as "European type ". It is incidentally, in a magazine, that I discovered the existence of the Tropical Hybrids. Love at first sight was immediate and did not weaken since!

Although I am in a very sunny region all year "The French Riviera", hibiscus in pot could not support the winter nocturnal temperature that can sometimes go down under 0°C (32°F).

To palliate this disadvantage I have a greenhouse of 80 m² (861 sq feet) which contains about 500 pots (among which about 350 different varieties), it is a lot for the surface that I have, but I do not resist the desire to get new ones. Considering this quantity of plants they are in residence there all year long. Heated, lighted in winter, over-shadowed at 50 % from end of the spring to autumn.

All hybrids are grafted, which was not a slim affair at first... of course I did not know how to graft! I benefited great help of Wally Morgan who patiently taught everything to me on this subject and I can tell you that he has a lot of patience!

Fertilized at small doses at every watering and sprayed every week with sulphate of magnesium, nitrate of potassium, insecticide if need. Generally, I struggle against the spider mites that love this hot and dry atmosphere that reigns permanently, the advantage is at least that I never have problem of fungus!

It is always with so much happiness and admiration that I discover the new hatchings of these sumptuous flowers every day.

If you read these lines, it is because I address to convinced enthusiasts who know what it is possible to feel in front of so much beauty.

Indeed, my hibiscuses live under very privileged conditions that each of you may not be able to reproduce.

But, bear in mind that what matters first of all is passion, love and care you bring to your "comrades" that will make the difference.

Francoise



Francoise 861 sq Ft greenhouse with 500 plants



Kiss of Death



Midnight Frolic



Tahitian Lion King



Tahitian Tau



Trademark



Some of the blooms in Francoise's Greenhouse



Francoise outside her greenhouse



Patricia M & Bride's Bouquet



Kaleidoscope



More photos of the blooms in Francoise's greenhouse



Jolanda Gommer in Francoise's Greenhouse

DESCRIPTIONS AND DEFINITIONS

BLOOM TYPES

1: CARTWHEEL OVERLAP SINGLE: Petals completely overlapped to tips giving a regular circular appearance.

2: REGULAR SINGLE: Petals separated for less than half the distance from edge giving a regular scalloped appearance to edge, most singles fall into this type.

3: WINDMILL SINGLE: Petal narrow and separated for nearly their entire length.

4 FRINGED SINGLE: Edges of petals split and fringed, Staminal column long and pendulous.

5: CRESTED SINGLE: Basic type may be any of the above, but normal bloom exhibits petaloid on end of staminal column forming a perfect crest. This does not include many varieties that may occasionally show a malformed crest.

6: CRESTED SEMI-DOUBLE: Loose double appearance with petaloid arising from staminal column. Stigma usually present.

7: CUP AND SAUCER: Outside guard petals follow a single form. Centre tuft of petaloid all arise from the centre and are distinctly separated from guard petals.

8: SEMI-DOUBLE: Loose petal formation with few petals that may be twisted or quilled. All petals form from base of bloom. Staminal column may be missing.

9: FULL DOUBLE: Many petals and petaloid in a tight formation giving a full ball shaped appearance. Staminal column usually missing. No flat under petals standing out. Sometimes with five florets in centre.

10: **DOUBLE:** Many petals and petaloid in a tight formation, giving a ball type appearance on top of a flat circle of petals, which stand out. Staminal column usually missing.

11: **FLUTED:** Can be single or double, petals are soft on edges.

12: **HOSE-IN-HOSE:** a layer of flat petals on top of five base petals (as one flower on top of another).

BLOOM DESCRIPTION

RUFFLED: Frilly, ruffled edges on plants.

TUFTED: Small upstanding creases on inside edge of petals.

CRESTED: This refers to petaloid that occurs on the style tip of some single blooms. Also sometimes occurring on some semi-doubles

CRIPPLED: This term refers to a bloom that will occasionally have a wide separation in the base petals thus interrupting their symmetry.

SELF-COLOURED: Means simply that the portion of the bloom referred to is the same as the main colour of that bloom.

EYE: The part of the bloom at the base of the petals.

ZONE: The area adjacent to the eye portion.

STIGMA PADS: The five small velvety coloured pads on the tip of the staminal column which receive pollen to produce seeds.

STAMINAL COLUMN: The long thin column extending from the centre of the bloom with stigma pads at the end. In doubles this part may not be entire.

OVERLAY: Refers to colour that appears to be laid over another more prominent colour.

OVERLAPPED: Petals lap over one another.

RECURVED: The outer edge of the petals curve backwards.

TEXTURE: This is the relative thickness of the bloom.

SPORT: A natural mutation on a branch of a Hibiscus bush resulting in a different coloured bloom, which can be grown as a new variety.

BLOOM SIZE

In a regularly watered and fertilized garden, the approximate sizes of the blooms are:

MINIATURES: Less than 12cm (5 in.) in diameter.

MEDIUM: 12cm to 15cm (5 to 6 inches) in diameter.

LARGE: 15cm to 20cm (6 to 8 inch) in diameter.

EXTRA LARGE: Over 20cm (8 inch) in diameter.

(NOTE: A miniature sized bloom does NOT necessarily mean a miniature sized bush! Some miniatures grow on quite tall bushes).

BUSH HEIGHT

Approximate heights for bushes are :

LOW: Under 1 m (3 feet).

MEDIUM: 1m to 1.5m (3 to 5 feet).

AVERAGE: 1.5m to 2.15m (5 to 7 feet).

TALL: Over 2.15m (7 feet).



Single Cartwheel



Single Windmill



Single Regular



Crested Single



Semi Double



Full Double

Thank you to the Australian Hibiscus Society Inc. for the use of these photos and the previous text re identification of blooms and size

TPC WINNERS 2009-2



French Toast winner of the TPC 2009-2



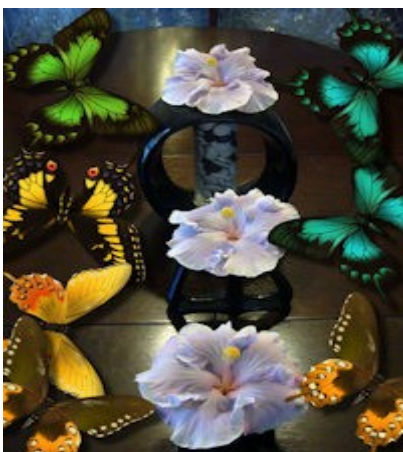
West Coast Jewel won second place



Early American won third place



Amazing won fourth place



Beautiful Companions
Won fifth place