

**Botanical name:**  
**Genus: Hibiscus**  
**Species: rosa-sinensis**

**Common Name(s):** Hibiscus,  
Shoe flower

**Latin Family Name:** Malvaceae  
**English Family Name:** Mallow

### The plant

**Origin; country or region:** Native to Temperate and Tropical regions

**Growth habit:** A vigorous, sturdy, rounded, somewhat shrubby, hairy-stemmed, woody-based perennial

Depending on the species, hibiscus can grow in a form of evergreen bush or small tree

**Flower description:** Brilliant, showy and large blooms  
An edible flower.

**Blooming period/availability:** Flowers bloom all year, but they last only for 2-3 days

**Leaf/Foliage Description:** Glossy alternate leaves

**Usage :** Popular garden plant in India

#### STRENGTHS/OPPORTUNITIES:

Can brighten the garden with its beautiful blooms

Suitable for patios and spaces that have plenty of bright sun light

Flowers are used as 'votive' or 'offering' flowers in India

#### WEAKNESS:

Hibiscus have some serious pest problems-this has been a hinderance to their popularity

Hibiscus does not like cold and dry weather-the leaf size and flower size reduces

In extreme cold it will die

Plants should not be grown in very small pots



Better suited for the balconies & outdoor gardens (not as an indoor plant)

Hibiscus is usually cultivated for ornamental purposes, but it can be also used in human diet, as a cure for various disorders and as a source of natural dyes

### Care & Handling

**Longevity:** 5 years plus

**Water requirements:** Regular deep watering is advisable

**Light:** It is best to grow the flowering hibiscus in full sunlight

**Soil/Nutrition requirements:** A lot of their growth and performance depends on the soil used, good, well drained soil with lots of organic manure is recommended

**Special care/remarks:** Ground planting is best

Hibiscus is known as "shoe flower" in China because people use hibiscus to polish their shoes.

People in Polynesia use fibers from the bark of hibiscus tree to produce grass skirts.

Women in Tahiti and Hawaii wear hibiscus flower behind the right ear when they want to announce that they are single and ready for marriage

Married women wear hibiscus behind the left ear



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