



HIBISCUS SHOW BLOOM PREPARATION

By Marti Graves

[Lone Star Chapter/American Hibiscus Society](#)

Hibiscus Show season is here. Start fertilizing for larger, more frequent blooms: a good hibiscus fertilizer with Epson Salts (1 tbl. per gallon) at the start of the season, not for each show.

A week before a show, we foliar feed (spray leaves and buds) with Space City fertilizer mixed at 1 tbl. per gallon of water with 1 tbl. fish emulsion, 1 tbl. liquid seaweed and 1 tbl. potassium nitrate.



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Three days before a show we drench (water well until it runs through pot) with the same solution. Yes, all our plants are in pots to help control fertilizer and for easy moves for sun conditions and temperature conditions in winter.

Friday before a Sunday show, record buds on each plant you think will open on Saturday or Sunday. If they begin to open, pick them. Place, in a cone, in your refrigerator crisper. Sunday morning, pick all buds you think will open, even if they look tight. Place in a cone and then in the container to go to the show. Put the container in the car or in the sun. Do not place back in refrigerator. Heat will help them open.

At the show, place tight buds still in cone in sun to help them open. Cone helps protect edges from brushing up against another bloom or objects that could damage them. Reds bruise easily and turn black when touched. Try to arrange cones in the container so cone sides or points touch each other not the open end. They will move in transport but this should help minimize damage.

At the show, take blooms out cones. Place carefully on the provided block and wire. Amateurs should be able to handle task of filling out cards at the show.

Then watch the judging and count your gold ribbons! It is fun and can be very rewarding.