

NEW Luna Hibiscus

No Pinching Needed to Finish Big, Bushy & Well-Branched Plants!

- Save time and money while you produce an impressive plant with big retail appeal! **Luna** Hibiscus branches much better than other seed and vegetative varieties on the market, without any pinching needed.
- In ground beds, **Luna** puts on an excellent show, making a neat little hedge with many large, eye-catching flowers. Garden height is 2 to 3 ft. (60 to 90 cm); spread is about 2 ft. (60 cm)
- Works well in large containers, too!
- Quick crop time – 13 to 14 weeks from seed in Summer, 16 weeks in Spring.
- Very responsive to PGRs.
- A “Hot Summer Survivors” selection! Heat-loving **Luna** Hibiscus is also drought-tolerant in the garden once established.
- Hardy to USDA Hardiness Zone 5. Plants die all the way to the ground, then usually do not start growing until late May when the soil warms up. Overwintered plants will bloom from mid-July on, with flowering decreasing in cooler Fall weather.
- Great multi-purpose crop fits well into annual, perennial and nursery programs.
- Contact your local distributor or call PanAmerican Seed at 800 231-4868 for ordering information on **Luna** Hibiscus.

Luna Colors:

NEW Blush *White flowers with a blush pink rim and dark red eye; 6 to 7-in. (15 to 18-cm) diameter.*

NEW Red *Deep burgundy red; 7 to 8-in. (17 to 20-cm) diameter.*

H. moscheutos

Approximate Seed Count: 2,835 S./oz. (100 S./g.)

Germination

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.3 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

Plug Tray Size

The recommended plug size is 200-cell or larger plug.

Sowing

Cover the seed with plug media. Seed can be germinated in a germination chamber or directly on the bench. When germinated in a chamber, the plug trays should be moved out as soon as radicle emergence occurs, to prevent seedling stretch.

Temperature

Germinate at 68 to 75°F (20 to 24°C). Germination is slower but more uniform at the lower temperature range.

Humidity

As long as the soil is kept evenly moist, high air humidity is not required for germination.

Light

Light is not required for Stage 1.

Plug Production

Temperature

Keep air temperature at 68 to 75°F (20 to 24°C) and soil temperature at 68°F (20°C) from germination to transplant.

Light

Supplemental lighting is not required, but will decrease total crop time.

Fertilizer

At radicle emergence, apply 50 to 75 ppm N. Increase to 100 to 150 ppm N as leaves develop.

Moisture

Keep soil media evenly moist. Do not allow the seedlings to wilt.

Plant Growth Regulators

A Cycocel spray at 300 ppm applied 10 days after sowing can be used if needed. This treatment will reduce the plug height by about 50% and make the foliage darker green as compared to non-treated plugs.

Growing On To Finish

Container Size

Luna Hibiscus is best suited to quart, gallon or larger containers.

Media

Use a disease-free, peat-based, soilless medium with a pH of 6.0 to 6.5 and a medium initial nutrient charge (EC 0.75 mmhos/cm with a 1:2 extraction).

Temperature

Days: 70 to 80°F (21 to 26°C)

Nights: 68 to 70°F (20 to 21°C)

Warmer growing conditions result in shorter crop times. Do not allow temperatures to drop below 68°F (20°C). Plants can become chlorotic and sensitive to pesticide spray (phytotoxicity) when grown at cooler temperatures.

Light

Keep light levels as high as possible. Plants grow best under full sun.

Photoperiod

Luna Hibiscus requires a minimum of 12 hours of daylength to flower. Flowering is faster when daylength is 14 hours or longer. Supplemental lighting should be used under shorter days.

Watering

Keep media moist. Consistent soil moisture is important and plants should not be allowed to wilt.

Fertilizer

Feed plants weekly at 200 to 250 ppm N in a complete fertilizer.

Pinching

Pinching is not needed. **Luna** Hibiscus branches very well without pinching.

Plant Growth Regulators

A tank mix of B-Nine at 2,500 ppm and Cycocel at 750 to 1,000 ppm has been tested and shown effective in the PanAmerican Seed research facility in Elburn, Illinois. Apply PGRs 2 weeks after transplant. Repeat application 2 weeks later if necessary. To determine the best rate for your conditions, we recommend that you run an in-house trial.

Common Problems

Insect: Thrips, aphids, spider mites.

Disease: No serious problem.

Crop Scheduling

Germination: 3 to 5 days

Finish time for 200 plugs: 3 to 4 weeks

Transplant to flower: 9 to 13 weeks

Total crop time (quarts & gallons): 12 to 16 weeks

The shorter crop times occur under warmer growing temperatures and longer daylength.

In The Garden

Plant **Luna** Hibiscus in full sun locations (at least 6 hours of direct sunlight). When planted in a row, **Luna** Hibiscus makes a hedge 2 to 3 ft. (60 to 90 cm) tall and about 2 ft. (60 cm) wide. **Luna** Hibiscus can also be used in larger patio containers. Water and fertilize regularly with an all-purpose fertilizer for best results. If the foliage turns light green, it is an indication that it needs to be fertilized.

Luna Hibiscus are perennial to USDA Hardiness Zone 5. Plants die back all the way to the ground in the Winter, then usually do not start growing until late May when the soil warms up. Overwintered plants will flower from mid-July on, with flowering decreasing in cooler Fall weather.

PanAmericanSeed

PanAmerican Seed Co.
622 Town Road, West Chicago, Illinois, USA 60185-2698
630 231-1400 Fax: 630 231-3609 www.panamseed.com

™ denotes a trademark of and ® denotes a registered trademark of Ball Horticultural Company in the U.S. It may also be registered in other countries.

© 2003 Ball Horticultural Company Printed in USA PAS03006 REV. 4/03