WHY HARD PRUNE HIBISCUS?

HIBISCUS *HIBISCUS ROSA-SINENSIS* is a popular landscaping shrub and small tree used for its outstanding blooms throughout our Southwest Florida landscape. Few Florida shrubs can match this South Asia native for the impact it makes in our gardens. Hibiscus are well suited for constantly warm and humid climates. Southwest Florida's subtropical climate sometimes has variations which affect these tropical plants and proper plant management is needed maintain hibiscus and extend its life span. Proper pruning is one of the most important cultural methods used to achieve this.

FALL AND WINTER temperatures in the 40s and 30s cause leaf yellowing and leaf drop on Hibiscus during this time of year in Southwest Florida. This is almost an annual occurrence in this region. Hibiscus will appear bare following the leaf drop. During this period the plants have slowed their growth down considerably. Growth does not begin to resume until the night temperature are consistently in the 60s. In this area this begins in late spring.

IN LATE SPRING, a reduction prune of stems of a third of their length is performed to encourage new fresh growth. The Hibiscus will plant will become much fuller with new leaves and branching which was encouraged by this pruning. This pruning also removes leaves and buds previously damaged by insect activity such as from pink hibiscus mealy bugs. Another benefit of the late spring pruning is that it helps equalize the root to shoot ratio of the Hibiscus plants. During frequent rainy season storms over the summer months, high winds often uproot Hibiscus that have not been properly pruned. A more compact Hibiscus is much less likely to be uprooted.

IN CONCLUSION, Hibiscus are a great addition to your Southwest Florida landscape. With proper pruning at the correct time of the year these plants can perform well and add the outstanding color impact they are known for. Greenscapes, with our professional management strives to bring out the full potential of your landscape.

Greenscapes Team