

**SUNNY CITIES PICO HIBISCUS – GROWING AND CULTURAL GUIDE FOR
4 – 4.5” POT PRODUCTION- BOSGRAAF GREENHOUSES, INC. 2011.2012**

ORDER INFORMATION: ROOTED LINERS IN 105 CELL TRAY

Minimum order: 4 trays or 420 plants (8 trays or 840 plants = 1 full box)
Box size: 23” x 23” x 21” – holds 8 individually boxed trays
Box weight: 35 – 40 lb. (6 – 8 trays)
Boxing charge: \$0.75 per tray or \$6.00 per 8 tray box
Availability: October 3, 2011 – March 12, 2012
Lead time: 9 weeks - Shipped: FOB Hudsonville, Michigan
Royalty . Care tags: Both included in the price (1 tag per plant)

Varieties available – Pico apricot, orange, pink, red, yellow, white (6 colors)

Marketing - sales and pot sizes

1. **Flower size is close to hibiscus bred for larger pots but flowers heavier.**
2. Combination pots using 2 or more colors can be very striking. For example, red and white planted together or pink and apricot in color combination.
3. **4” or 4 ½” pot production is a great option for spring sales and is the main reasons for introducing this series.** Multiple cuttings in 6”,8”, or 10” are also a good option. Some use the “ Pico Series” in 5” pots.
4. Growers should really consider 10” and 12” hanging baskets (3 cuttings per 10” and 4 per 12”). Two to three pinches are recommended .

Growing techniques:

1. **Two weeks after planting** spray with 250 ppm of **Florel** and pinch at 3 . 4 weeks. The first pinch should leave 4 to 5 leaves or nodes. **Florel is optional but really helps the lower breaks to grow evenly with the upper breaks.**
2. **Spray a second time 5 – 7 days after pinching** with 250 ppm of **Florel**.
3. Pinching may be done 3 – 4 weeks after planting when roots are formed. When pinching a 2nd or 3rd time, leave 1 to 2 nodes and then pinch.
4. A Cycocel spray of **250-400** ppm will help tone and promote an even bud set. This is suggested at weeks 5 and 8 after the pinch. The rate of Cycocel depends on the amount of growth. “Picos” can be grown with little Cycocel.
5. A single or double pinch is all that is needed for 4” to 4 ½” pot production.

Soil: Use a peat moss based soil with a PH of 5.5 to 6.0.

Fungicide: A fungicide drench within 1 week provides additional plant protection.

Fertilization and PH (4.8 to 5.8 achieved with higher nitrogen feeding – see below)

1. Increase feed levels from 200 to 300 ppm of nitrogen (20-10-20 adding **Iron Chelate** at 4 oz. per 100 gallons to prevent chlorotic upper leaves).
2. Also use a calcium – magnesium feed during the 1st 8 weeks after pinching at the rate of 100 ppm. Finish the last 2-3 weeks at 200 ppm using both feeds.

Insecticide: A weekly spray keying in on potential whitefly and mites is advised.

Flowering: Flowering time averages 9 to 10 weeks after pinching.

Temperature: Temperature is the most important factor for root development and plant growth. Second most important: hibiscus are heavy feeders.

Light levels: Grow with maximum light in the winter adding shading for summer heat. Picos flower by natural day length unless low light & temperature exists.

Sunny Cities Pico Hibiscus flowers freely even in lower light conditions.

Enjoy this great tropical hibiscus series !!!!

