



HINES HORTICULTURE®

Media contact:

Kristin Grilli
Garden Media Group
610.388.9330

Kristin@GardenMediaGroup.com

ESCAPE TO THE TROPICS WITH THE BAHAMA BAY HIBISCUS™ COLLECTION

From rooftop gardens in Boston to backyard barbecues in Minneapolis, topical plants are turning up in the most unexpected places



Houston, TX — September 2007 — Gone are the days when gardening in the north meant relegating plant selections to boxwoods, hostas and cold-hardy perennials. Thanks to advances in breeding, tropical beauties like hibiscus, heleconia and even bougainvillea can be successfully grown in gardens situated well above the Mason-Dixon Line.

Hines Horticulture, the leading operator of commercial nurseries in North America, has announced the national release of one such breakthrough. Scheduled to arrive in stores this spring, the Bahama Bay™ Hibiscus series promises to be one of the most sought-after new plant collections of the season.

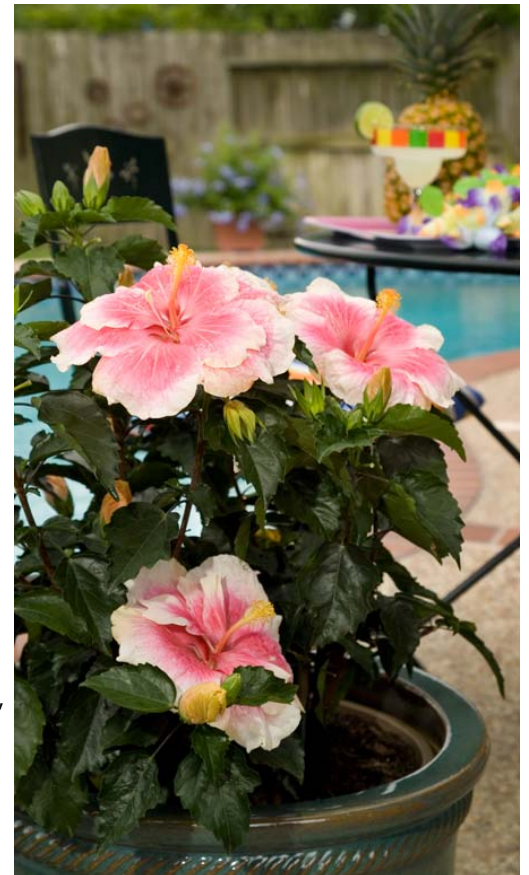
“Demand for tropicals is heating up,” said Paul Winski, New Products Manager at Hines Horticulture. “Breakthroughs in tropical breeding, like the Bahama Bay™, allow gardeners all over the country the opportunity to enjoy a more diverse landscape.”

Bahama Bay™ Hibiscus is a series of nearly two dozen hibiscus with enormous bi- and tri-colored blooms that feature lush, dark green foliage. With hard-to-forget names like ‘Goin Steady’, ‘Heartbeat’ and ‘Big Bird’, the plants have personalities all their own, and are a perfect fit for gardeners who have caught on to the tropical explosion.

Bahama Bay™ Hibiscus are truly unique from other hibiscus because the plants are produced on their own roots instead of grafted, making them a much more attractive plant for consumers to enjoy with their full, dark green foliage with a compact habit. But it’s the blooms that let the plant speak for itself. Stunning and enormous, vibrant multi-colored blooms cover Bahama Bay™ Hibiscus all season that are breathtaking in the landscape

Gardeners in tropical climates, zones 7 to 9, can enjoy the hibiscus’ massive, multi-colored blooms almost year round. For those gardening in cooler climates, Bahama Bay™ will bloom abundantly during the summer months.

“These hibiscus make excellent container plants for cooler climate gardeners,” said Winski. “We recommend that gardeners in the north grow the Bahama Bay™ as container plants in the summer and then bring them inside in the





winter where they can be easily over-wintered if placed in a bright, sunny location.

Further south, Bahama Bay™ can be grown in a patio garden or integrated into the landscape and used in mass plantings.

Bahama Bay™ hibiscus are considered a subtropical perennial and require full sun. The flowers do best when planted in well-drained soil and fertilized regularly.

For more information on the Bahama Bay™ series, visit www.bahamabay-hibiscus.com.

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About Hines Horticulture: Hines Horticulture is the leading operator of commercial nurseries in North America, producing one of the broadest assortments of container-grown plants in the industry. The Company sells nursery products primarily to the retail segment, which includes premium independent garden centers, as well as leading home centers and mass merchandisers. Learn more at www.hineshort.com.

EDITORS NOTE: High resolution photographs available upon request.