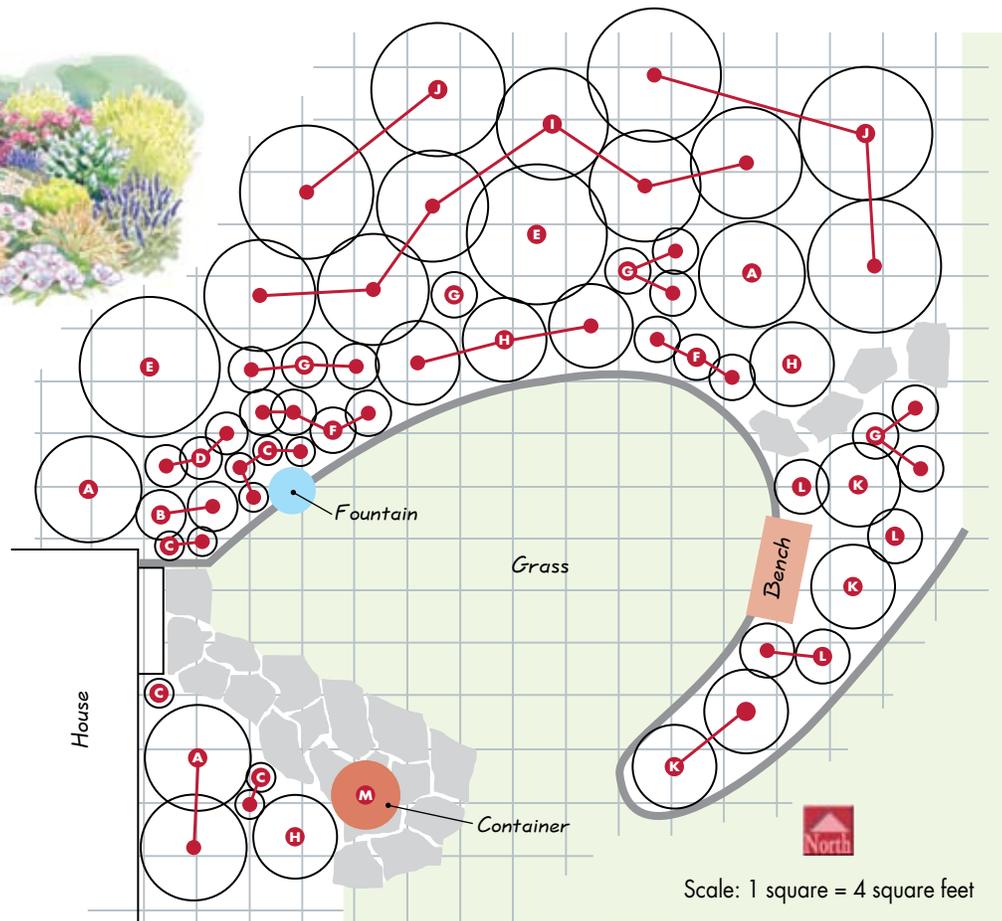




HARDY HIBISCUS BORDER

With such a wide range of sizes, hardy hibiscus can play many roles in the garden. Their late bloom season gives any garden a dash of tropical color just when the other flowers start to lag.

Here's a pretty, full-sun garden plan with hardy hibiscus and some equally floriferous garden companions. The speedwell starts off the flowers in late spring to summer. Other blooming plants, along with the hibiscus, ensure flowering will continue well into the cool days of autumn.



Code	Plant Name	No. to Plant	Blooms	Type	Cold/Heat Zones	Height/Width	Special Features
A	Hydrangea <i>Hydrangea paniculata</i> 'Little Lamb'	4	White; summer to fall	Shrub	3-8/8-1	6-8 ft./ 4-6 ft.	White flowers in 9-in.-long cone-shaped panicles persist into winter; yellow to purple-tinged fall foliage
B	Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus</i> Luna™ Pink Swirl	2	White and pink; summer	Perennial	5-10/10-1	24-36 in./ 18-24 in.	A compact hibiscus covered with many 8-in.-diameter flowers; prefers moist soil; attracts butterflies
C	Lilyturf <i>Liriope muscari</i> 'Variegata'	9	Purple; late summer	Perennial	5-10/10-1	12-18 in./ 12-24 in.	Grasslike green leaves with cream-yellow edges; mow in early spring to remove dead foliage
D	Canna <i>Canna</i> 'King City Gold'	3	Yellow; summer	Bulb	7-11/12-1	48 in./ 18 in.	Large yellow flowers with red-spotted throat; deep-green foliage; lift and store rhizomes in fall in zones 6 and colder
E	Japanese barberry <i>Berberis thunbergii atropurpurea</i> 'Rose Glow'	2	Yellow; spring	Shrub	4-8/8-1	3-6 ft./ 4-7 ft.	Rose-pink leaves with red splotches; tiny red berries form in fall, attract birds and often last through winter
F	White coneflower <i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Fragrant Angel'	7	White; summer to fall	Perennial	5-9/9-1	36 in./ 24 in.	Fragrant white flowers with orange centers attract butterflies; leave cones on plants through winter to feed finches
G	Speedwell <i>Veronica longifolia</i> 'Blauriesin' (Blue Giantess)	10	Blue-violet; late spring to summer	Perennial	4-8/8-1	3-4 ft./ 1-2 ft.	Deadhead to prevent self-sowing; may require staking if grown in shade or fertile soil; deer-resistant
H	Japanese spirea <i>Spiraea japonica</i> 'Gold Mound'	5	Pink; early summer	Shrub	4-8/8-1	3-4 ft./ 3-4 ft.	Shear lightly after bloom for possible rebloom; tiny gold leaves turn yellow, orange or red in fall; cut back hard in late winter
I	Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus</i> 'Pink Elephant'	6	Pink; summer	Perennial	4-10/10-1	5-6 ft./ 4-5 ft.	Up to two dozen 12-in. ruffled flowers on plant at a time; keep soil moist; attracts butterflies
J	Zebra grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i> 'Zebrinus'	5	Pink-white; late summer	Perennial	5-9/9-1	5-8 ft./ 4-6 ft.	Horizontal gold bands on leaves; may need staking in shade; cut plant back to the ground in late winter
K	Dwarf fountain grass <i>Pennisetum alopecuroides</i> 'Hameln'	4	Pink-white; late summer	Perennial	3-9/9-1	2-4 ft./ 2-4 ft.	Flower spikes turn tan in fall; forms compact clumps; may not flower in shade; cut back plant hard in late winter
L	Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus</i> 'Pinot Grigio'	4	White; summer	Perennial	5-9/9-1	24-30 in./ 18 in.	From the dwarf Splash series; 9- to 10-in.-diameter white flowers edged with pink; compact habit
M	Hibiscus <i>Hibiscus</i> 'Pinot Noir'	1	Dark red; summer	Perennial	5-9/9-1	24-30 in./ 18 in.	From the dwarf Splash series; 9- to 10-in.-diameter flowers; compact habit; attracts butterflies