

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20250

**NOTICE TO NURSERYMEN OF THE NAMING AND RELEASE FOR  
PROPAGATION OF  
USS ARIZONA, A NEW EVERGREEN TROPICAL HIBISCUS CULTIVAR**

The Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, hereby releases to nurserymen a new evergreen compact ornamental *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* cultivar, 'USS ARIZONA,' which is recommended for trial by nurserymen and professional horticulturists as a summer flowering container plant nationwide or as a flowering landscape shrub in cold hardiness zone 10. 'USS ARIZONA' was selected for its exceptional vibrant orange flowers and outstanding appearance in containers, particularly for production in the South and for marketing nationwide as a summer flowering accent plant for patios, pools, or other outside areas.

'USS Arizona,' tested as HRS05-04, resulted from a cross of two polyploid *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* clones, 'Caroline' x 'Cherie.' 'Caroline' (PP11,796) is characterized by glossy foliage, dense symmetrical plant habit and numerous orange flowers. 'Cherie' is marketed extensively as a flowering pot plant due to outstanding production traits and prolific yellow-orange flowers. 'USS Arizona' is intermediate between the two parents for most horticultural traits.

'USS Arizona' is a tropical shrub (USDA Cold Hardiness Zone 10) grown as a container plant for the beauty of its uniform phosphorescent orange (Red Group 40A) flowers of moderate size (11-14cm) and dark green foliage. Plants of 'USS Arizona' are semi-compact, upright spreading with prolific flowering from spring to fall in temperate regions. Old flowers abscise freely with no production of seed pods, even when pollinated. Ultimate plant size is dependent on container size and environmental conditions with plants in a #3 nursery pot growing to 1.0 meters high x 0.5 meters wide within 6 months under optimum conditions. Under tropical landscape conditions plants should mature to approximately 3 meters high x 1.5 meters wide. The phenotype may be affected slightly by changes in cultural practices and environmental conditions such as light intensity, temperature, and nutrient level.

'USS Arizona' may be propagated by softwood stem or branched-shoot cuttings under intermittent misting systems. The best rooting material should be taken from actively growing stock plants. The response of the clone to growth regulators has not been researched.

'USS Arizona' is well suited to a variety of landscape uses such as a specimen plant, a color accent in shrub borders, a contrast plant in mixed annual planters, as a background planting in perennial beds, or as a containerized accent plant for pools and patios. Plants perform best in partial shade in the South or full sun in the North with moderate moisture and fertility. Its broad

environmental adaptation and tolerance of common insects and diseases make it an ideal plant for low maintenance plantings.

**Signature:**

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