Hibiscus Pests and Color Attractants
March 22, 2008

**Question:** We would like to plant some red hibiscus for a low shrub around an oak tree. We have some pink hibiscus shrubs. However they tend to have a lot of disease that I have to trim off. Your thoughts would be appreciated.

- Vicki, e-mail

**Answer:** Switching flower color will do nothing to ensure immunity from disease and insects. Most of the pests occur on leaves and stems. Flowers are usually affected by thrips and psyllids before they open when no color is expressed. Your pink, red, orange, yellow, white and lavender hibiscus shrubs share equally in the pain.

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by e-mailing brownsh@leegov.com. Visit his web page at [http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/hort/GardenHome.shtml) “Garden Doctor” video clips [http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/Video.shtml](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/Video.shtml) and flowering trees information at [http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsA_Z.shtml](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu/Hort/GardenPubsA_Z.shtml)