Topic: Cold Damage on Hibiscus

**Question:** What is the problem with my hibiscus? Sparse (dying) at the top and great at the bottom?
Loretta, email

**Answer:** It’s hard to tell by looking at the picture, but one of several things could have occurred; insect feeding, disease infection or cold damage. If the top is dead, you should remove it. It is apparent that the plant is trying to rejuvenate itself as a shrub and not as a tree as was its previous form, so it was most likely cold damaged.

Useful Link:
Hibiscus Insect Problems

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. For native plants click on Publications A-Z.