

TREC-LI-2004-08

Using SmartGrow and optimizing fertilizer application to Improve Hibiscus Production

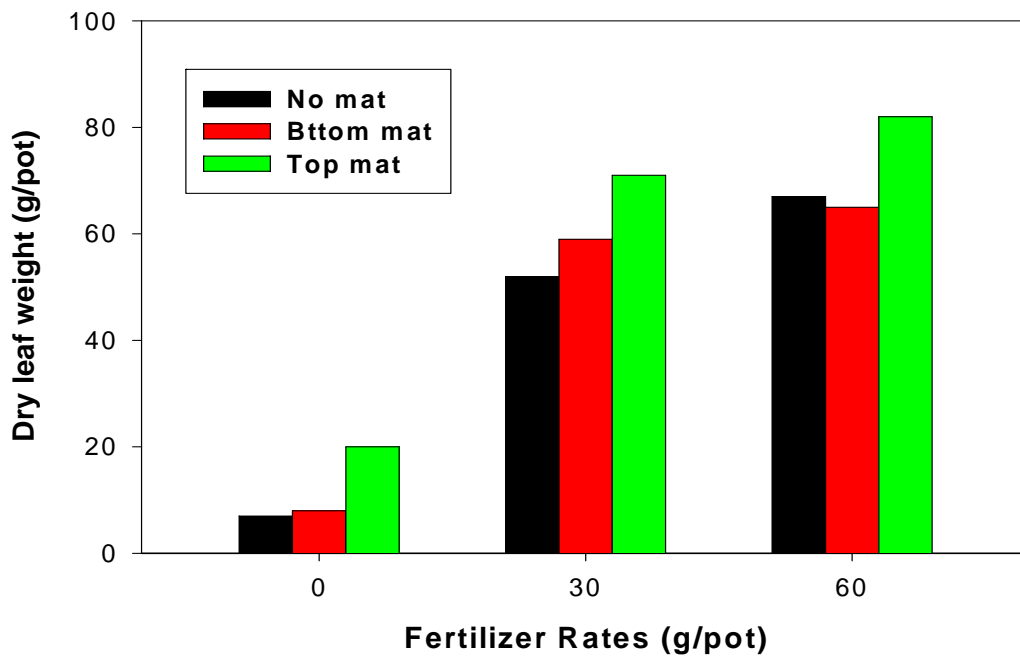
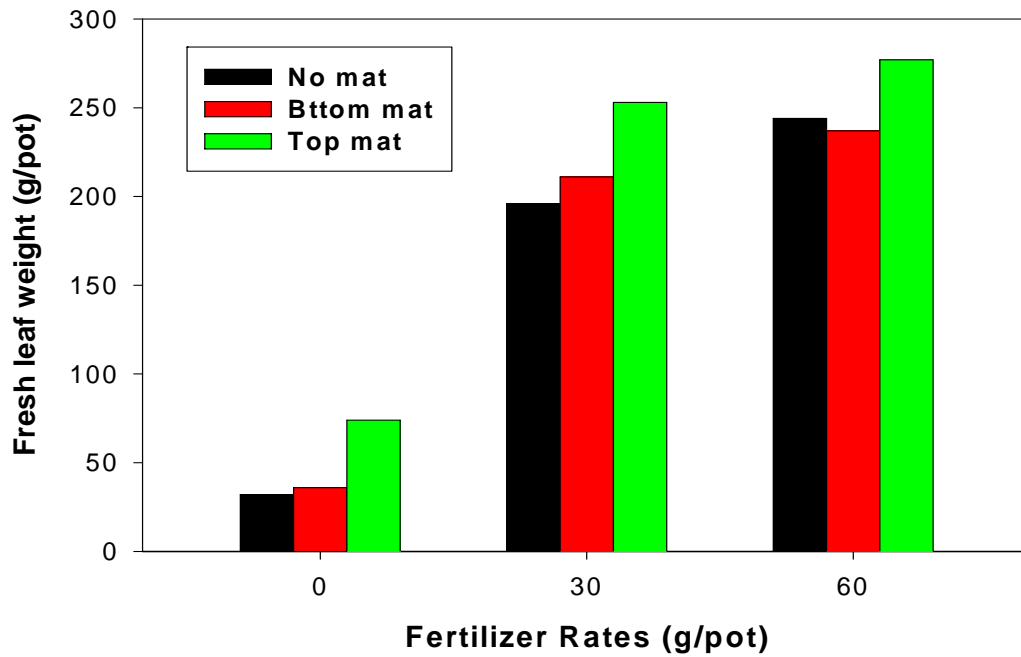
Tested at J&R Exotic Foliage
18250 SW 232nd St
Homestead, Fl 33170

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18905 SW 280 Street, Homestead, FL 33031

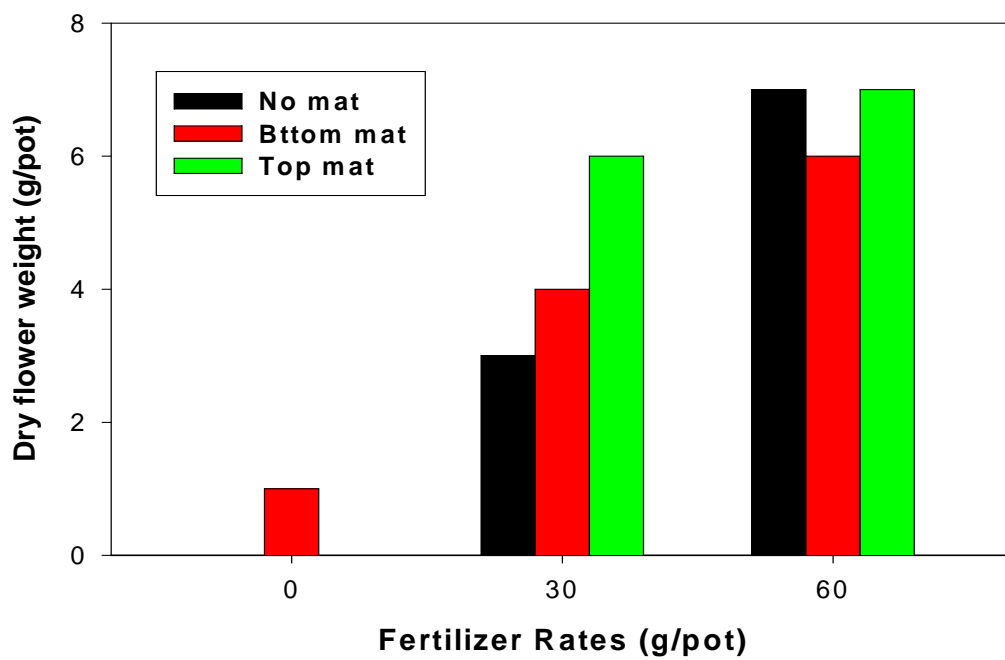
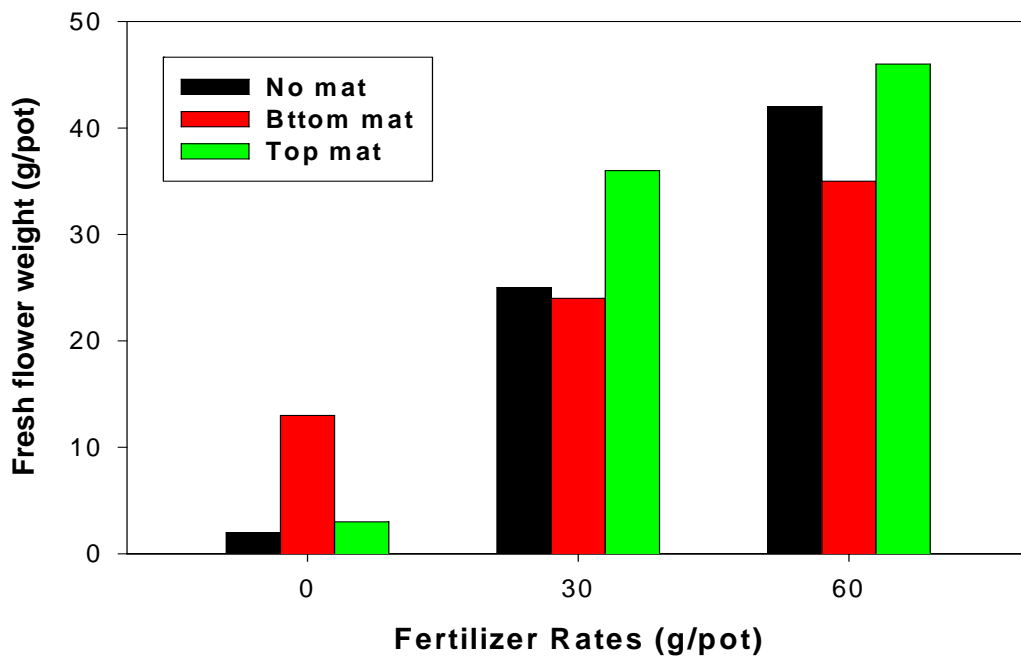


July 22, 2004

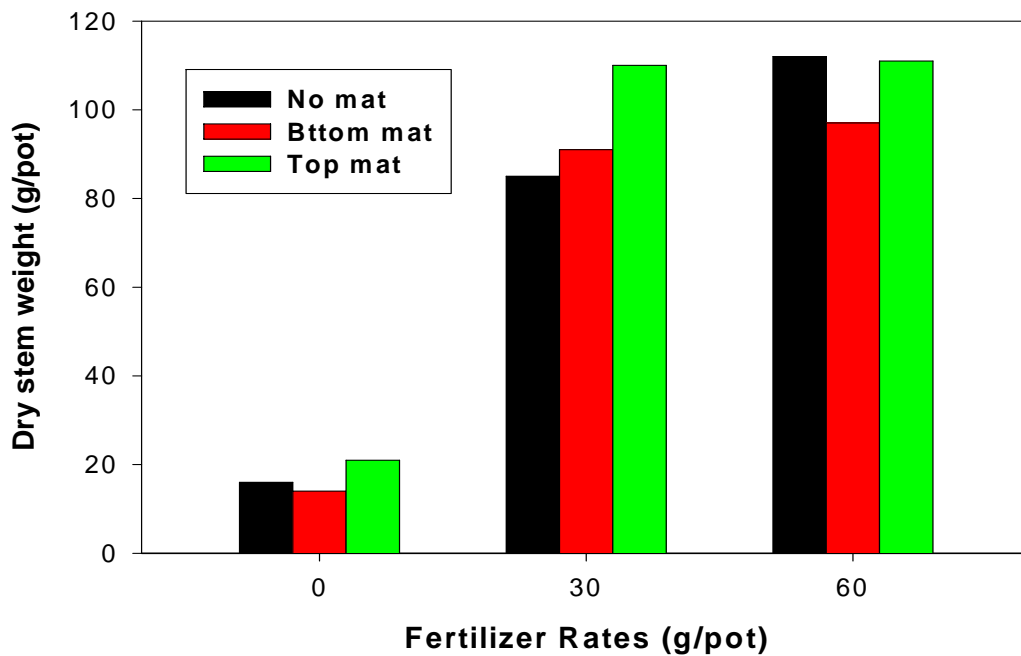
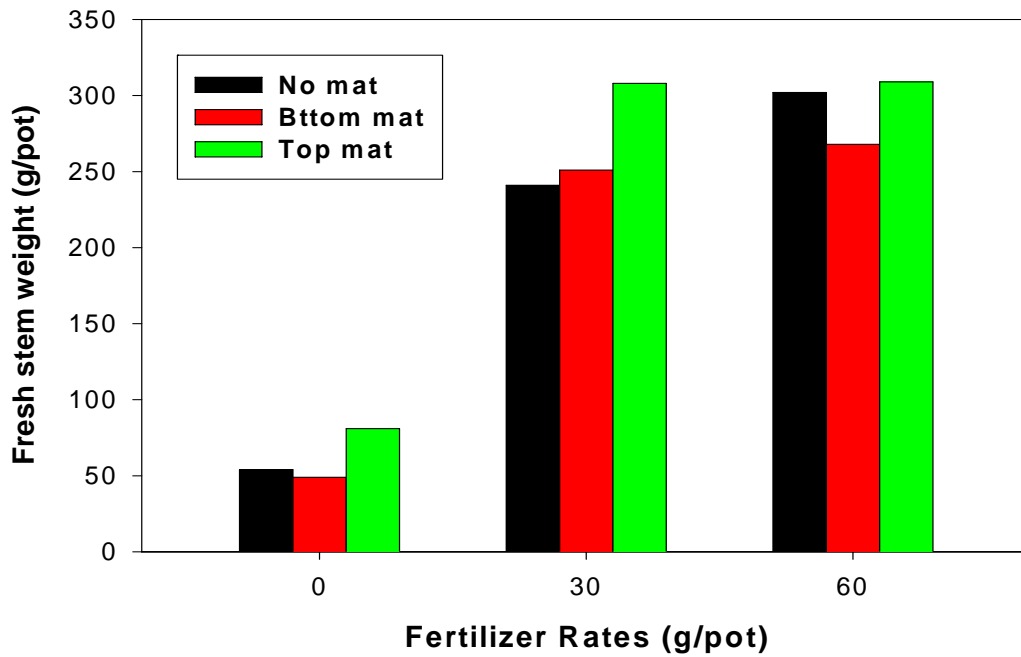
EFFECTS OF FERTILIZER RATES AND SMARTGROW MAT ON PLANT GROWTH



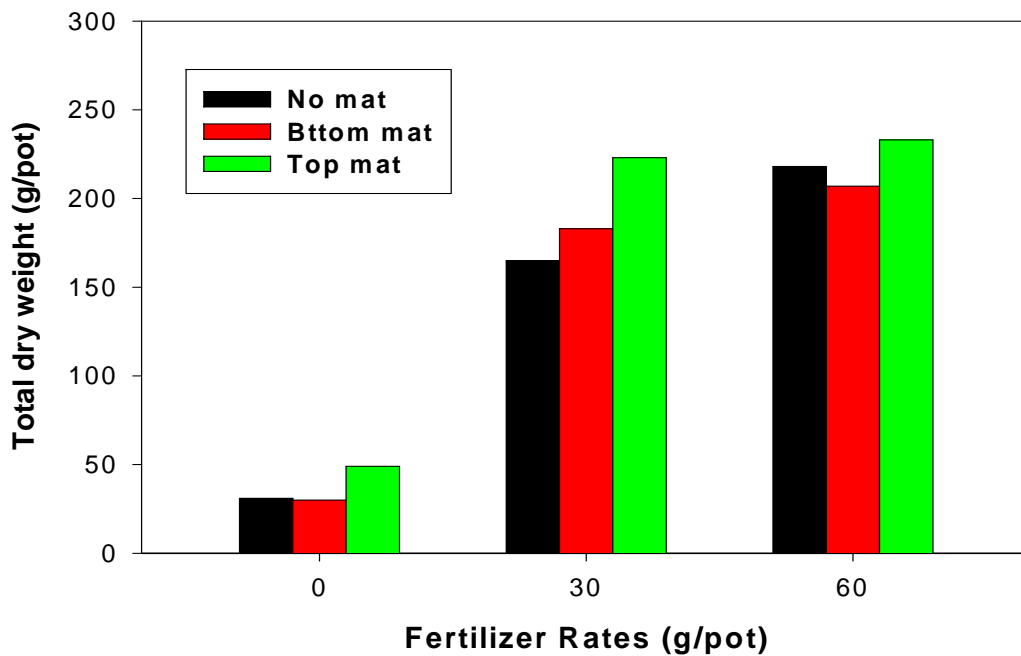
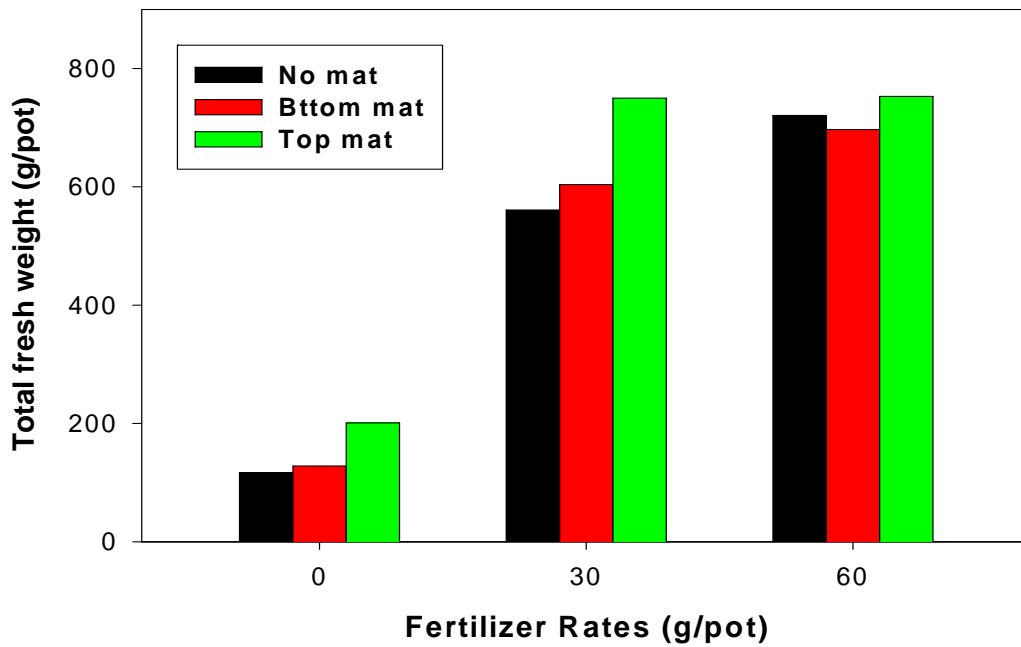
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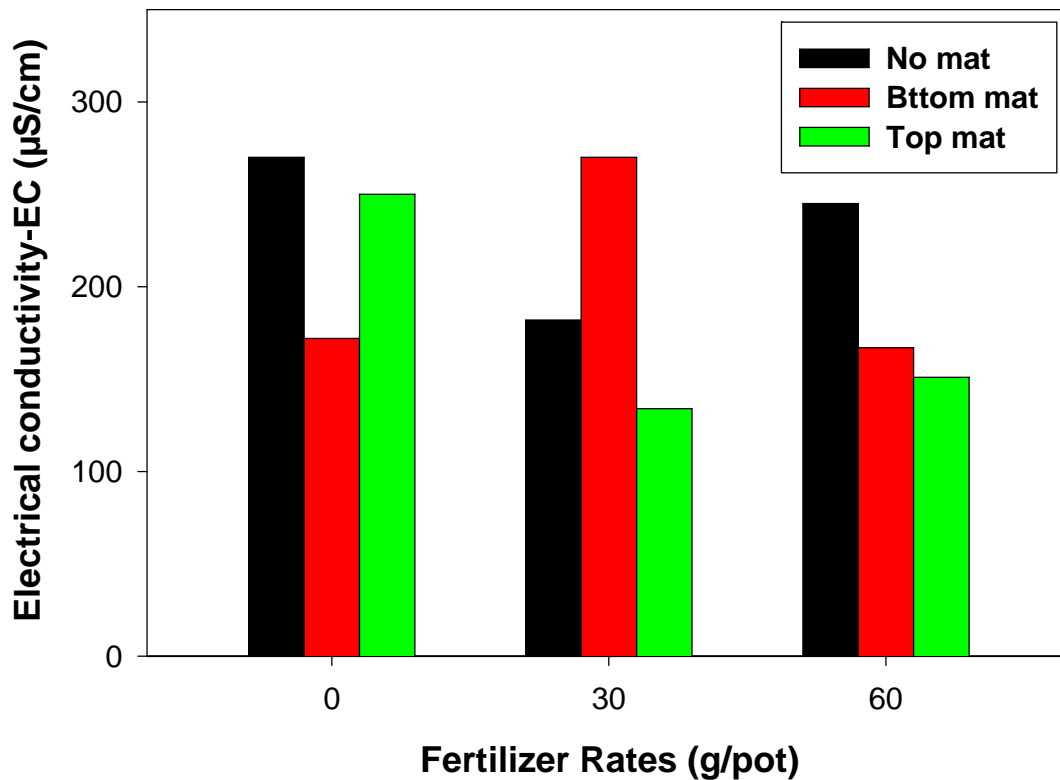
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LOW EC VALUES FOR FERTILIZER TREATMENTS (30 AND 60 GRAMS/POT) MAY INDICATE THAT:

**PLANTS UPTAKE MORE NUTRIENTS WITH MAT ON TOP
LESS POTENTIAL LEACHING OF NUTRIENTS WITH MAT ON TOP**

UF RECOMMENDATIONS

8 MONTH HIBISCUS FIELD TRIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**USING SMARTGROW MATS ON TOP OF POT AND
APPLYING 45 GRAMS OF FERTILIZER/POT WILL
PRODUCE:**

- **NATURAL WEED SUPPRESSION SUCCESS
FROM
90%-100%**
- **LESS EVAPORATION AND MORE WATER IN
CONTAINER.**
- **LESS FERTILIZER LEACHING LOSS**
- **ENOUGH NUTRIENTS FOR FULL
PRODUCTION
CYCLE**
- **HEALTHY HIBISCUS WITH DARK GREEN
LEAVES AND MORE FLOWERS**

PICTURE GALLERY



Beginning of University of Florida field trials.



Picture taken 11/1/03. University of Florida randomized test plot. Includes containers with no fertilizer and no mat, with mat on top and with mat on bottom; containers with 60 grams with mat on top, with mat on bottom and no mat; containers with 30 grams with mat on top, mat on bottom and no mat.



University of Florida randomized plants test after first tissue & soil sample tests.