

Plumeria (Frangipani)

Easy to grow although they look delicate. A member of the oleander family, they are found in tropical climates, often growing next to cactus on slopes in Mexico. The plants were taken to Hawaii in 1860 where almost all of the hybridizing has taken place.

SUBJECT TO FREEZING

They need to be moved into area protected from frost in winter and stored dry. If they are grown in the garden they can be dug up, bare rooted and stored in a warm, dry place for the winter, and planted out again when the weather warms in the spring.

BEAUTIFUL AND FRAGRANT

Grows to small tree size up to 15-20 feet. Needs at least one-half day full sun for good blooms. Protect from wind by staking large branches. Excellent subject for container planting. Plumerias do not have a large root system. Therefore, they can remain in the same pot for several years without damaging the plant. They will branch naturally after they bloom. Plumeras are subject to spider mites and flower thrip if grown in shady areas. Likes reflective heat from driveway or pool deck. Water once weekly or twice weekly when above 90 degrees, less often in the ground. Stop watering when plant goes dormant (usually in November or December) or when leaves drop. Resume watering in spring when new growth starts and after danger of frost.

Fertilize twice monthly during active growing season with high phosphorus fertilizer(shultz 15-30-15, foxfarm tiger bloom, growmore hawaiian bud and bloom)

Many colors of the rainbow are available, with some having sweet fragrances and others having spicy fragrances and one smelling like peaches. Most fragrant are whites and yellows, guillot's sunset, candystripes, and makaha rainbow. Over 100 colors are now available.

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