

# Southern California Plumeria Society

*Incorporated 2000*

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## **POTTING MEDIUM:**

Plumerias need very good drainage. Use a good draining soil with Redwood or other compost. Bandini Redwood Soil Builder mixed with Pumice will give good results. Other good soil mixes are; Soil Prep Potting Soil or Lomex. I have found Plumerias will grow in poor soils and still produce an acceptable plant. If your soil drainage is poor, plant your Plumeria in a raised planter bed with a good draining mix.

## **EXPOSURE:**

Plumerias like full sun. Some Plumerias will not bloom if they do not have sufficient sun light. For good blooming, 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight is needed.

## **INSECTS:**

APHIDS, cause leaves to curl. 1 Tablespoon of Malathion to a gallon of water will control the aphids. More than one application may be required. Spray under the leaves.

MITES, will cause spotting on the leaves. Check with your local garden center for control products.

WHITEFLY, can be controlled with a strong stream of water. A small amount of dish soap in water will also do a good job of controlling the whitefly. If you use a chemical to control any insects read the CAUTION statement on the label and:

Always follow the directions on the container.

## **Summer Care and Flowering**

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*Your Plumeria has three basic needs, Water, Sunlight and Food. If you provide this, they will reward you with many lovely blooms.*

## **WATER:**

Water is very important to your Plumeria. Your plant must have enough water in the summer months. Without adequate water your Plumeria will go into a suspended state or dormancy. The plant will abort flower stalks and the leaves will drop. Allow Plumerias to go dry in between watering, then a deep soaking is in order. Watering depends on the daytime temperature and humidity, a good balance is essential. Plumerias do not like standing water, do not use a catch bowl under a potted Plumeria. When the plant drops its leaves in the cool fall and winter months, **DO NOT WATER**, only enough water is necessary to keep the soil slightly moist. If the temperature in your environment drops to 32 the plant may be bare rooted and stored in a freeze protected area. The plant can be replanted in the spring and will do well.

## **SUNLIGHT:**

6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight is needed for good blooming of your plumeria. Some varieties require some shade from the hot inland sun in the summer months.

## **FERTILIZATION:**

To encourage blooming, Plumerias need a high phosphorus fertilizer. Refer to the AN. P. K. numbers on the bag. The AP is the **Phosphorus** content. Superbloom, Superphosphate and Hi-Bloom are some examples. You can use a 10-52-10 water soluble fertilizer at a rate of 1 to 2 teaspoons per gallon of water. A weaker solution and using it more often gives very good results if your plants are in pots. For plants in the ground, a 3-12-12 will work well. Apply at a rate of 1 pound per inch of trunk diameter, spread evenly to the drip line of the plant. Depending on your soil type 2 to 3 applications a year is sufficient.