

Plumeria History & Basics

The plumeria is a low-water-use, semi-deciduous, flowering small tree or shrub native to tropical Central and South America. The genus *Plumeria* includes seven different species with hundreds of unique cultivars. A member of the *Apocynaceae* plant family, the Plumeria may have been named after 17th century French botanist Charles Plumier.

The plumeria is most commonly known for the use of its fragrant blooms in leis in the Hawaiian Islands, though it also has a long history of use in graveyards in countries around the world. It has many common names in different parts of the world, a few being Frangipani, Crow-flower, Temple Tree and Egg Flower. The plumeria has also been recorded by many cultures throughout history as having various medicinal and religious uses.

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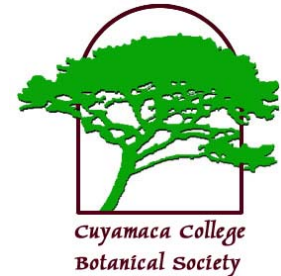
**the Southern California
Plumeria Society**

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www.socalplumeriasociety.com



CARING FOR
YOUR
NEW PLUMERIA



Choosing a Location

When choosing a location for your new plumeria, whether in a container or in the ground, keep in mind that it will need full sun or at least a minimum of 6-8 hours of direct sunlight for good blooming. An ideal soil for your plumeria would be fast-draining with a slightly acidic pH of 6.5-7.

Also keep in mind that plumeria are not cold hardy; damage may occur to your plant if it is exposed to near or below freezing temperatures. If you live in an area that encounters occasional freezes, it may be best to keep your plumeria in a container and relocate it to a protected indoor location as needed.

During winter, place potted plumerias where they will not collect water during dormancy. An overwinter location under an overhang or even in a garage or shed is ideal.

Watering Your Plumeria

Plumeria prefer a fast-draining soil. Plumerias do not need much water and cannot tolerate cold wet soils or standing water. If your Plumeria is in a container, do not use a catch basin underneath it.

Due to the plumeria's low-water-use nature, it is important that the soil be allowed to dry out between waterings. Once soil is completely dry give your Plumeria a deep and complete soaking. Be sure to provide your plumeria with enough water during hot summer months as lack of adequate water may cause a dormant or shocked state and may even cause flowering to be aborted.

Do not overwater your plumerias. The number one way people kill their plumerias is overwatering.

Fertilizing

To encourage your plumerias to bloom, you may need to use a high phosphorous fertilizer. Using a 10-52-10 fertilizer at a rate of 1-2 teaspoons per gallon of water 2-3 times per year will suffice, though a weaker dilution at more frequent intervals will also bring good results.

If your plumeria will be planted in the ground, a 3-12-12 fertilizer will work well applied at a rate of 1 pound per inch of trunk diameter. Spread the fertilizer evenly to the drip line of your Plumeria. Depending on your soil type, two or three of these applications per year should yield good results.

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