



Cultural Requirements for Plumeria

To acquire the best growth and blooms from your plumeria tree, it is essential to have a good balance of soil mixture, light, watering and fertilizing.

SOIL MIXTURE-The ideal soil mix would consist of loam and humus (organic) material, dirt and aggregates. The loam and humus with the dirt will give the mix structure and texture. This will optimize the usage of the fertilizer when given, thus enhancing the overall growth. Fast drainage is imperative, especially for younger plants. Use a substantial amount of aggregates for aeration and support for the roots—at least 30% of soil mix. Clay-type soils may be combined with store bought conditioners or potting soils.



LIGHTING-Plumeria thrives in bright, direct sunlight. The sunnier the area, the happier the plant will be. Insufficient amounts of sunlight will cause the plumeria to grow lanky with light green leaves. It can also cause only a few pale colored flowers to be produced, if any at all.

The plumeria goes through a dormant period during the winter season. It drops all of its leaves and shows no sign of external growth. However, this period of low light and low temperature enables the plant to gradually prepare itself internally for the next growing season. In early spring, a burst of new foliage will appear. The inflorescence will closely follow in late spring and through summer.

WATERING-Keep watering to a minimum. Overwatering will always lead to:

- Low metabolism within the plant's system, causing the rootlets to not develop and undoubtedly lead to poor health.
- Drowning occurs. This causes the plumeria to have an imbalance oxygen-to-water exchange which is necessary for growth.
- It creates an ideal condition for harmful fungi growth, eventually leading to root rot.
- Leads to poor development of buds and will ultimately lead to premature bud drop.

FERTILIZING-Plumerias responds well to fertilizer use.

During the first two years of a young plant's growing season, a fertilizer formulation of 10-30-10 will be fine. The development of strong adventitious roots is very important at this stage of the plants' life. After roots are well established, a balanced fertilizer of 20-20-20 or 13-13-13 will do fine. These fertilizers will allow the mature tree to produce larger, healthier flowers in greater numbers. It is always better to feed at a 'low and slow' rate – meaning, less than the recommended dosage over a longer period of time. One-shot highly concentrated dosages will burn the roots and in turn, eventually kill the plant.

WINTER PREPARATION-Dormancy begins at the first signs of winter, usually in early November. The leaves will turn yellow and will begin dropping off. At this time, you should stop all watering, fertilizing and any type of spraying. Due to the plant's lower rate of metabolism, the lighting may also be reduced. If possible, use a portable greenhouse to protect the plant throughout the winter. Moving a potted plant into the garage or basement will also work well. You should not repot or take the plumeria outside until the tips of the branches begin to push out new growth, recognized by the shiny bright green tip margins. It is safe to expose the plumeria to the outdoors only when daylight is longer and the temperature gets up into the 50's.

Setting the plumeria free from its winter confines will start a new season of total enjoyment and pleasures that will always accompany this treasured plant from Hawai'i!