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## **Instructions for Growing Your Plumeria**

The Plumeria you have purchased was started from a cutting, seed, or graft. There is 2-3" of lava rock with a felt barrier in the bottom of the pot to ensure drainage. The soil the plant was rooted in also has rocks to improve drainage. There is also a layer of tanbark on the top of the soil to insulate the feeder roots and help retain moisture on the hot days. Next spring, when transplanting to a larger pot use a good soil like Cactus Mix and 2-3 inches of rock at the bottom of pot.

The growing season for plumeria in the Bay Area is from April/May through October/November. This plumeria was over wintered in a greenhouse. This summer you can keep the plumeria in full sun. It would do well on a deck or patio however if you could set the pot on well-drained sandy soil the roots would like that best.

For watering during this summer you may need to water as much as every few days to once a week or longer. It depends on the heat and amount of water used by the roots. I recommend using a moisture meter and watering thoroughly every few days and then letting the soil dry (in the red zone) before watering again. It is said that plumeria don't like wet feet however prefer moist soil. Using the meter helps to prevent over watering, which can lead to root rot.

Plumeria are heavy feeders and during the summer months. You can fertilize the plumeria with a high phosphorous fertilizer\* every 2-3 week. It is recommended that the soil is moist when fertilizing and not dry. At each watering Kelp Extract 1oz/gallon and super-thrive 1mL/gallon can be used to stimulate vigorous and healthy growth. Additionally, a-soluble mycorrhizae (Great White) can be added to the watering can every 2-3 weeks (1 teaspoon per 2 gallons).

It is recommended that you use pesticide spray that contains Canola Oil and Soap, which is effective in killing Thrips, Mites, Aphids, White Flies and their eggs. Keep ants off the plumeria and spray once a month to prevent these pests.

As fall approaches discontinue regular fertilization and begin to reduce watering so that the soil starts to dry out. Moving that plant to a rain protected area is helpful by mid October. You want to avoid cold wet conditions and certainly no frost. It is recommended that you cut the leaves off and simply move the plant inside for winter with dry soil. It will not need watering again until spring, at which time one light watering and weekly misting of the growth tip is all that is necessary until leaves begin form. Then water regularly as noted above.

Please give me a call for more information on watering, preventing root rot and pest infestation.

Enjoy your new plumeria plant!

\*Superbloom by Greenlight (Lowes) – 1 scoop per 2 gallon every 2-3 weeks)