



LOVE'S TROPICALS
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Instructions for Growing Your Plumeria

The Plumeria you have purchased was started from a seed or cutting. There is 1/2" 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. When transplanting to a larger pot use a good soil like Cactus Mix (E.B. Stone brand) and 1/2 inches of rock at the bottom of pot. A granular Mycorrhizae supplement, Plant Success Granular, can also be mixed into the soil to stimulate healthy root development and provide supplemental time release fertilizer.

The growing season for plumeria in the Bay Area is from April/May through October/November. This plumeria was overwintered 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 the summer, you may need to water 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 we fertilize plumeria by soil drench method with Liquinox water soluble fertilizer (1 tbsp/gallon) every 1-2 weeks. It is recommended the soil is moist when fertilizing and not dry. In the spring we use the 10-10-5 formula then switch to 4-10-10 in July. At each watering Kelp Extract 1 tbsp/gallon and Hormex 1mL/gallon can be used to stimulate vigorous and healthy growth. Additionally, a-soluble Mycorrhizae and nutrient supplement containing Kelp Extract, Molasses Macro and Micro Nutrients Mycochum (1/2 tbsp/gallon) and Great White (0.5 tsp/gallon) or Recharge (0.5 tsp/2.5 gallon) can be added to the watering can every 1-2 weeks along with your Liquinox fertilizer, Kelp Extract and Hormex.

To help stimulate flower production we have also developed an advanced fertilization protocol that uses the above soil drench method plus 4 drops of a new advanced growth enhancer called Growers Secret Professional and 0.6 mL Mammoth P which are added to this protocol every 1-2 weeks. Beginning in September we switch from using Liquinox 4-10-10 to Liquinox Bloom 0-10-10, 1 tbsp/gallon, which contains no nitrogen. For superior results we also use a spray fertilizer protocol every week using kelp Extract, high phosphorous fertilizer* or Bloom, Spray Grow&Coco-Wet.

To help prevent pests, it is recommended that you use pesticide spray that contains Oil & 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 the soil starts to dry out. Moving 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 you removed any tanbark mulch, cut the leaves off and simply move the plant inside for winter with dry soil. It will not need watering again until spring (Mid-April) at which time one light watering and weekly misting of the growth tip is all that is necessary until leaves begin form. This may take 2-3 weeks. Once leaves have formed, water regularly as noted above.

*Hawaiian Bud and Bloom 5-50-17 – 1 teaspoon per gallon