



SEED OF THE MONTH:

Common Name: Plumeria, Frangipani

Scientific Name: Plumeria (various: rubra L, P. obtusa L.)

Family: Apocynaceae (Dogbane)

Genus: Plumeria

Spacing: 10' apart w/12-15'feet away from foundations

Height: Up to 30'

Sun Exposure: Full Sun

Bloom Color: may be Yellow

Bloom Time: March to October. Seedlings take three years or more to produce flowers.

Harvest: Prune to keep the canopy low, this will not only encourage new growth but make harvesting of flowers more convenient. To harvest the flowers, grasp individual blossoms at the base and remove them from the plant with a gentle tug. Please note, the white milky sap (latex) that appears when the flower is picked is an irritant to human mucus membranes. Wash hands after harvesting

Other Details: Plumeria flowers are most fragrant at night and lures the sphinx moth which will pollinate them. The trees reach full maturity in about five years. Plumeria can be grown in large tubs which will simplify care when trimming and fertilizing.

Soil Requirements: It requires full sun and does best in well drained, slightly acidic soil. It has moderate wind and salt tolerance.

Water Requirements: Over watering and not enough sun will rot its' root system. Water one to two times a week.

Propagation Methods: Seeds germinate in about two weeks.

Transplant seedlings to individual pots when one or two pairs of true leaves have developed, and move the plant to a larger container until it's large enough to plant out. They may also grow by slip as well as grafting.

Known Uses: It was first introduced to the Hawaiian Islands in 1860 due to its high production of long lasting fragrant flowers and relatively low maintenance requirements, it became popular for planting in cemeteries and home gardens. It is easy to grow in hot, dry areas and is found in Hawaii from sea level to 2,000 ft elevation. Plumeria flowers are excellent lei flowers and are especially common and traditional for home-made leis.

Seed packet goes here