

Plumeria Potpourri

The Plumeria Society of America INC.

March 8th 2022

In-Person and Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Speaker: Linda M. Ohara

Topic: Disease and Insect Control

March 2022

Kim Orsak p3-7

Dana Seymour p8

Nebels Rainbow 8/24/21

Presidents Corner –
psapresident2022@gmail.com

Well, it looks like the Ides of March are upon us! Soon we will roll our clocks forward and welcome Brighter mornings and longer days. We all know what that means. Time to pull your precious Plumerias out of winter storage and get them ready for Blooms, Blooms and more Blooms!!

Kicking off this new growing season the PSA will hold a bulk product sale to PSA members only. This sale excludes plants, the PSA is assisting you with discounts on the various products Kim Orsak discussed in her January Organic Gardening Discussion. Look for a full list of products and their associated cost as well as the details of the sale in the later section of this Newsletter.

Please add this email to your contacts, paspresident2022@gmail.com all official communication from the PSA will be sent from that email address. Also, check your emails for a copy of the “My Plumeria Journey”. We would love to publish your history with Plumeria.

Thank you,

John T. Burford

My Plumeria Journey: Your Name Here!!

Approximately how many plumerias do you have now?

What soil mix do you use?

What fertilizer(s) do you use?

What’s your preferred rooting method?

Do you protect them during the colder months of the year?

Do you need to protect them from too much heat/sun during the summer?

Do you grow seedlings?

Do you graft?

Any tips you’d like to share on growing or grafting?

Any story about plumerias you would like to share?

Growing Plumeria Organically

I was asked to speak at the January Plumeria Society of America meeting about growing plumerias organically. However, as I reflect on the presentation it really summed up how I grow plumerias. The products are important but understanding the process and the WHY are equally important.

I am not a Botanist or Entomologist; I am a gardener and a student of nature. I am always learning and trying new things. Many of my experiments reward me with great results, while others leave me scratching my head and tossing a plant into the trash.

My journey into the world of organic gardening has yielded strong, robust, blooming plants that are more resistant to disease and pests. My intention in this article is to share some of the products and techniques I use in the growing process.

I began growing plumerias about 25 years ago when my mother-in-law handed me my first "stick". As a newbie, I carefully followed the PSA Fertilization schedule. During this time my plumerias got plumeria food, my hibiscus got hibiscus food, my blooming plants got Super Bloom and everything else got a balance 15-15-15. Organic products were used in the vegetable garden as a safety measure for my family against harmful pesticides and fertilizers. My gardening shelf in the garage looked like a pantry for plants. After a few years, I noticed an obvious difference between the soil in my raised vegetable garden and the soil in my flowerbeds and pots. The organic soil was dark, rich and full of life. The other soil was gray and compacted. My research began...

Plumeria, like all plants love sinking their roots into nutrient rich soil. Healthy soil is at the heart of organic gardening.

You've all heard the old garden adage, "It's better to dig a five-dollar hole for a fifty-cent plant than to dig a fifty-cent hole for a five-dollar plant."

Dirt is something that holds up plants. Soil is a living network of organic matter and minerals. What you grow is only as good as the soil you grow it in! The microbial life in the soil, along with air, water, and sunlight provide nutrients for the plants. A good plant won't grow in bad dirt, but a poor plant will grow in good soil.

We are fortunate to live on Gulf Coast on Tiki Island, which has a wonderful microclimate for raising plumeria. My plumeria season usually begins at the end of February. Plumerias either go into pots or are directly planted into the flowerbeds. Many of the potted plumeria are plunged into flowerbeds or larger pots. All plants get a fresh start; that is not to say I ever throw any soil out. I recycle and amend soil from the previous year. This soil, along with a quality cactus/succulent soil or a natural organic potting soil make up the basic growing medium for all potted plants. (I use **Kellogg's Palm, Cactus and Citrus Organic** and **Nature's Creation Potting Soil with Mycorrhizal Fungi.**)

I begin by pouring my soil into a large 20-gallon tub. Next comes the perlite. If I am repotting plumeria with stronger developed root systems I blend a 70:30 soil to perlite ratio, while newly rooted cuttings get a 60:40 soil to perlite ratio. I do not add perlite to my flowerbeds. Next come the amendments: bone meal, compost, Lava Sand, Azomite or Greensand, and Growin' Green.



A brief description about each soil amendment can be found below:

Perlite is a volcanic material that retains water and air on the surface. The water and air remain available to the microbes and plants. The perlite increases the oxygen in the soil and allows the plants to drain. Perlite is also a great medium for rooting plumeria cuttings.

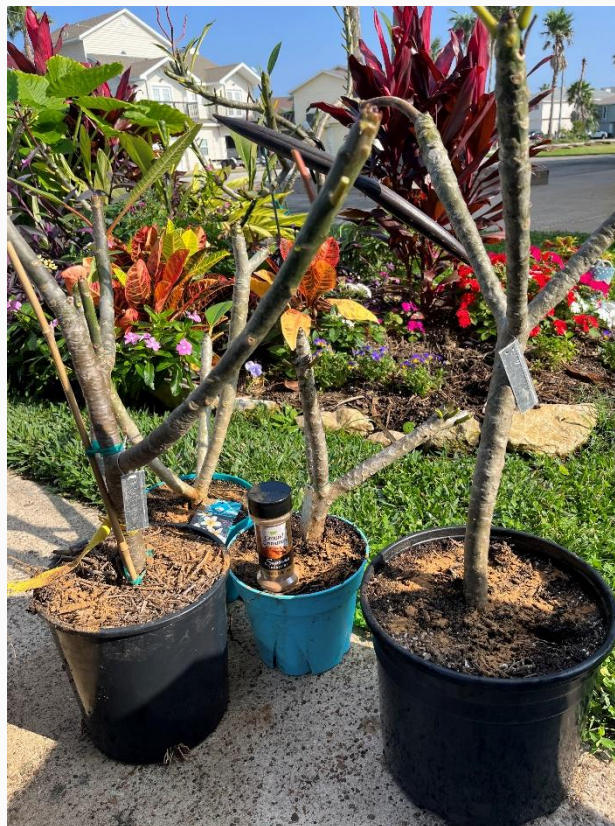
Bone Meal is a slow-release nutrient and a great source of phosphorus. It promotes stronger root growth, and makes bigger, stronger, beautiful flowers. After doing a little research, I decided to add a little extra bone meal to a few of my plants that seemed to drop buds during the 2020 season. The result was remarkable. Corona Surprise, Nebels Rainbow and Firestorm all held their blooms and had beautiful bouquets during the 2021 growing season. Although there are multiple variables to consider, the bone meal was the only major change. I add a couple of cups to each tub of soil planting mix.

Lava Sand holds moisture in the soil without shutting out oxygen, keeping nutrients until plants are ready to use them. It also contains a paramagnetism that adds a charge to the soil that stimulates microbial activity. I broadcast the Lava Sand into my flowerbeds and lightly work it in. Lava Sand breaks down very slowly over several years. I add a little more each year, increasing the benefits.

Azomite enhances soil structure, increases root growth, and replenishes over 90 trace minerals that have been depleted from our native soil. Micronized Azomite is in a form that is most available to plants. I add 2 cups to each tub of soil mixture and sprinkle on the ground at the base of each plant in the flowerbed.

Fertilizers provide nutrients to help plant growth. I use a lot of the Medina products because they work and are readily available; however, there are lots of other great organic choices.

I amend the soil with **Medina Growin' Green** at the beginning of each season and follow up with a liquid fertilizer every two or three weeks. The **Growin' Green** slow-release fertilizer is derived from Humate, poultry manure and molasses.



I use a hand-held fertilizer spreader to broadcast it every 3 months. It might seem like feeding 200 plants with a liquid fertilizer would take a long time, especially every 2 to 3 weeks, but I get it done quickly. I use 6 five-gallon buckets. It's like an assembly line. Each bucket gets approximately 2 ounces of **Medina Liquid Fish**, 2 ounces of **Medina Hasta Gro for Plants** and 1 ounce of **MicroLife Maximum Bloom**. (And no... I do not measure. It's like bloop, bloop... bloop, bloop... bloop). Then I fill the buckets up with water and use a small pitcher to distribute the amazing elixir to all plants.

Garrett Juice is an amazing product. It is great for starting seeds, assisting with transplant shock, stimulating roots, fertilizing soil and foliar feeding. It is a wonderful source for getting plants to set buds and produce flowers. I use Garrett Juice as a foliar feed, and like a vitamin on stressed plants.

Epsom Salt balances the soil and helps the plant take in nutrients. It increases chlorophyll production and improves bloom yield. I sprinkle Epsom Salt on at the base of each plumeria at the beginning of each month and water in.

Corona Surprise 10/2021



Liquid Seaweed & Molasses foliar spray is one of the most important things I do for my plumerias. I spray every 2-4 weeks throughout the year. Seaweed builds the BRIX level in the plants. It is an excellent source of trace minerals and contains hormones that simulate root growth and branching. Seaweed is a chelate working to make other fertilizers and nutrients available to the plant.

Molasses stimulates bacteria and microbial life in the soil. I use a hose-in sprayer to apply the Seaweed and Molasses. I add 6 ounces of Seaweed and 2 ounces of Molasses to my sprayer. Then I fill the sprayer with water to dilute the solution. This allows the liquid to flow freely and prevents the sprayer from clogging. Next, I set the sprayer on 2 or 3 ounces per gallon and spray away!

Before I enlighten you on the products I use as pesticides and fungicides I want to emphasize the importance of **Practicing Preventative Care**. Frequent foliar sprays of seaweed, garlic and molasses build the BRIX in your plants. Insects and disease are the symptom; not the cause. Nature is designed to clean up its own mess. Poor soil equals weak, spindly plants. Healthy soil leads to healthy plants with high BRIX levels that are stronger, bigger, colder hardy, and insect- and disease-resistant.

Garlic Spray is a fungicide and pesticide. It deters thrips, mosquitos, aphids and white flies, to name a few. Garlic prevents powdery mildew and black spot. My flowerbeds and yard get sprayed monthly with garlic. I add the garlic to my seaweed and molasses foliar spray at the beginning of each month.

Neem Oil is an insecticide, fungicide and miticide. I use Neem selectively and never when it is hot outside. Neem has a short shelf life so be sure to date your bottle. It will begin losing effectiveness after six months.

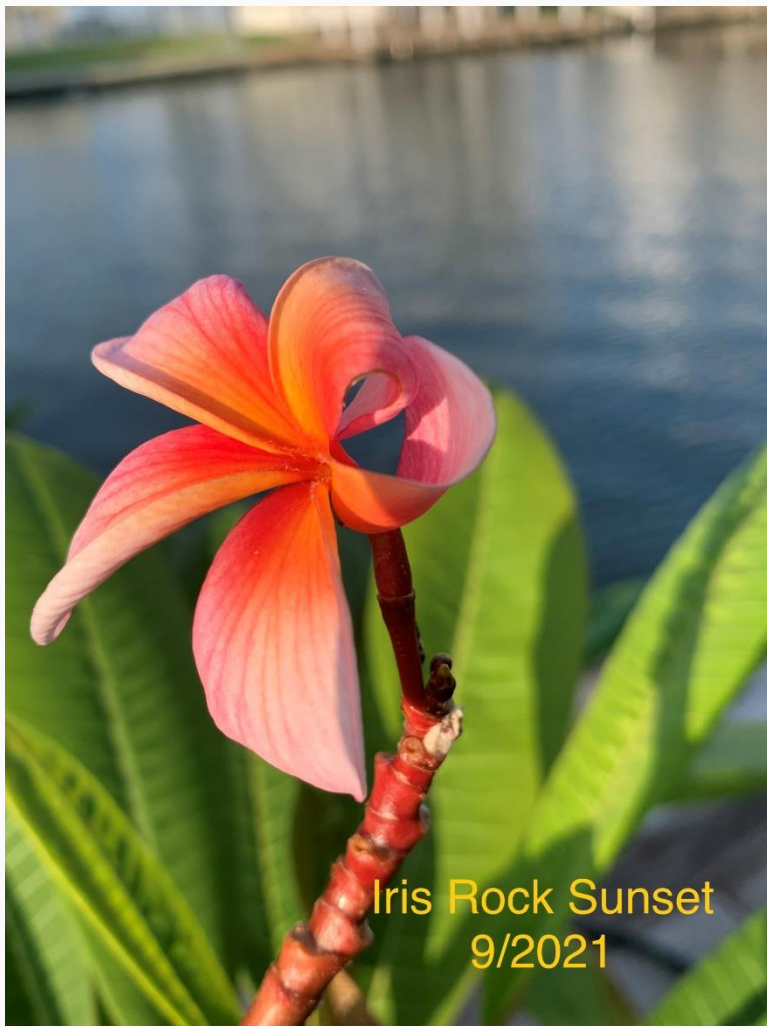
Insecticidal Super Soap (Bonide) controls major insects and pests. It is my "gun in the garden". I walk my yard every morning with my coffee in one hand and my Super Soap in the other. The active ingredient, **Spinosad**, is safe for your family and pets. It will kill spider mites, mealy bugs, white flies, ants, leaf miners and many other predators. One squirt at the onset of a problem is all you need. Broadcasting pesticides kills beneficials, so be careful.

Orange Oil is an effective, great smelling ant killer. You can rid your potted plumeria of ants by mixing 1 teaspoon of orange oil to a gallon of water. To kill ants in a mound, drench the mound with a mixture of 2 tablespoons of orange oil to 1 gallon of water. Orange Oil, 20% Vinegar, a little molasses and a couple of drops of dish soap will destroy weeds. Add 2 ounces of orange oil to 1 gallon of 20% vinegar, a little molasses and a couple of drops of dish soap (2 Tbsp to 1 quart of vinegar) and spray the foliage. Do not drench the soil. Weeds usually die quickly. They die faster in warmer weather. Do not store the mixture, and make sure to clean the spray nozzle well.



Whole Ground Cornmeal stimulates beneficial fungus called **Trichoderma**. The Trichoderma fungi controls rust, black spot, root rot and prevents seedlings from damping off. It can be used as a preventative and a curative in your garden. In March of 2021 I broadcasted whole ground cornmeal in all of my flowerbeds in an effort to kill spores from the previous year's rust. I also sprayed all of the plumeria with cornmeal tea (1/2 cup of cornmeal in a sock soaked in 1 gallon of water over night). I did not have any rust in 2021.

Cinnamon is an amazing multipurpose product. It helps prevent bacterial and fungal infections. I interchange cinnamon and sulfur on the ends of fresh cuttings. It is important to apply to the mother plant and the cutting. Cinnamon is also a pesticide. It kills fungus gnats and deters ants, rats and mice. As I put plumerias into winter storage, I shake a generous amount of cinnamon onto the top of each potted plant, and sprinkle over large buckets of bare rooted plants. Cinnamon is cheap! I purchase it at the Dollar Tree.



Hydrogen Peroxide (3%) is an anti-fungal agent, and percolates compacted soil. It also does an amazing job of cleaning algae from most surfaces. I pour 1 bottle of peroxide into my birdbath once a month to clean algae. It is harmless to birds and other animals.

Alcohol (91%) is a non-negotiable for cleaning your garden tools. Clean your tools each time you move to a new plant. Alcohol can be used to clean cuttings before adding sulfur or cinnamon to the cut end. I have also used alcohol to kill mealy bugs. It literally melts them away.

SUPERthrive is a super vitamin. It is great for transplants and perfect for stressed plants. Superthrive revives plants that are in really bad shape. It is great for soaking plumeria cuttings in prior to planting them in the rooting medium. I use as a soil drench and a foliar spray.

Organic gardening is a healthy approach for you, your family, your pets and your plants. Like any change, the transition can be challenging; however, once you have an organic system in place, your plants will thrive, use less water and will be more pest- and disease-resistant.

Happy Gardening!

Kim Orsak

My Plumeria Journey - Dana Seymour, Seabrook TX

Approximately how many plumerias do you have now? Including seedlings, I have over 70 plants now.

What soil mix do you use? I use a mix of perlite and miracle grow cactus soil.

What fertilizer(s) do you use? Excalibur or Microlife Ocean Harvest.

What's your preferred rooting method? Add some rooting hormone and stick it in the dirt!

Do you protect them during the colder months of the year? I usually remove mine from the ground when temps near 40. My husband recently built a greenhouse for me, so my potted plants go into the greenhouse while the larger plants go into our garage.

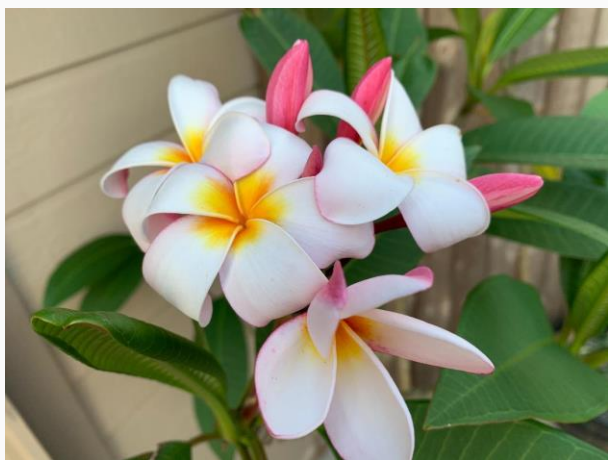
Do you need to protect them from too much heat/sun during the summer? No, I have found they love the heat and sun here in Seabrook.

Do you grow seedlings? Yes, my first try at seedlings was in 2017. I gifted all but one. I currently have about 20 seedlings that I started in May/June 2021. Anxious to see what kind of blooms they produce.

Do you graft? I have never tried to graft.

Any tips you'd like to share on growing or grafting?

Any story about plumerias you would like to share? My journey started in 2009 while in Hawaii. I brought home a stick that said it was red flowers. I lost that plumeria to a freeze some years ago BUT since moving to Seabrook and discovering the annual plumeria sale, my collection has grown substantially. During COVID, I joined several Facebook plumeria groups and I also joined the PSA. I have learned so much over the past couple of years from members of the PSA as well as the groups.



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Upcoming Meeting Topics

March 8, 2022. Insect and Disease Control

May 10, 2022. Plumeria Grafting in person demo.

July 12, 2022. Seed Pod Propagation Methods

October 11, 2022. Yearend winterizing

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 PSA BULK Sale Items below.**

Product	Price	Quantity
Lava Sand, 6# bag	\$8.15 each	
Green Sand, 6# bag	\$8.15 each	
Medina Fish Blend, 1 gal	\$27.75 each	
Hastagro, 6-12-6, 1 gal	\$20.75 each	
Garrett Juice+, 1.5-2.2-1.5 1 gal	\$19.50 each	
Medina Liquid Seaweed, 1 Gal	\$19.00 each	
Molasses, 1 gal	\$10.75 each	
Sluggo Plus, 1# bag	\$12.65 each	
Orange Oil, 1 quart	\$23.73 each	
Garliccide Hose-Rts, 1 quart	\$15.00 each	
Insect Super Soap, RTU 1 quart	\$10.25 each	
Corn Meal 4# bag	\$8.11 each	

Orders for Bulk Sale items will be taken from March 10th until April 15th. I will send all PSA members the above list, you can simply mark your selected product/s the quantity you desire and tally up the total. Payment can be mailed to the PSA P.O. Box or pay through PayPal. All orders must be paid for in advance. Product pick up will be May 21st and 22nd at Gulf Coast Plumeria in Dickinson TX . Thank you all for the wonderful year so far.
 John

The PSA is proud to announce Jungle Jacks in addition to all our New Sponsors. Please mention these ads when you purchase from them all!

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The fragrance of brightly colored Plumeria blooms evokes memories of tropical vacations and warm summer days in the garden. The colors of Plumeria (or Frangipani, as they are also known) range from vibrant rainbows to brilliant white, and each bloom emits a lovely fragrance. Renowned for their beauty, you can weave blooms into leis or gently float them in a bowl of water. Now you can grow your own exotic plumerias in a home garden or on your patio. We're proud to offer many amazing, unique hybrids grown from our own seeds in Thailand.
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The Plumeria Society of America.

Our Facebook page now has 4,620+ members from all over the world—a great place to ask a question or show off your blooms.



Texas Longhorn

2022 PSA Officers and Directors

MEMBER INFORMATION

Our new website is easier to navigate and to find information about plumeria care, cultivar registration, society news, events, and much more! Since the website is new, please check for updates and to see added features such as the flower identification database and a members only newsletter archive! Below is the current Member Only login and password information that will be needed to access the website's newsletter archive.

Log in: psamember

Password: Scottpratt93

Twitter feed: [@Plumeriasociety](https://twitter.com/Plumeriasociety)



Joining the PSA...

www.theplumeriasociety.com

Click on "Join the PSA" tab at the top of the home page.

To join by mail, select PDF.

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When joining by mail, send a check to:

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 22791

Houston TX 77227-2791, USA

Dues are \$35 per year

Purpose of The Plumeria Society of America

1. Promote interest in and increase knowledge of plumeria hybridization, propagation, and culture of plumerias.
2. Share this knowledge with hobbyists interested in plumerias.
3. Provide a register for recording, identifying, and classifying by name new types and varieties of plumerias.
4. Encourage and unite plumeria enthusiasts around the globe, throughout America, and across the seas.

When does your PSA membership expire?

Your newsletter envelope mailing label has your membership expiration date.

2022 PSA Calendar

March 8th ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting

May 10th ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting

June 11th Show & Sale I—Clear Lake

July 12th ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting

July 23rd Show & Sale 2—Clear Lake

October 11th ZOOM meeting and in-person meeting

- Meetings are held at Cherie Flores Garden Pavilion, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston, Texas.
- Meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. You're welcome to come 30–45 minutes before the meeting for snacks and chat.
- We have a raffle, guest speakers, and more.
- Non-members are always welcome!
- Join us to learn about plumeria care and collecting.
- Bring plants, cuttings, etc. for door prizes! These can be anything, not just plumerias.

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