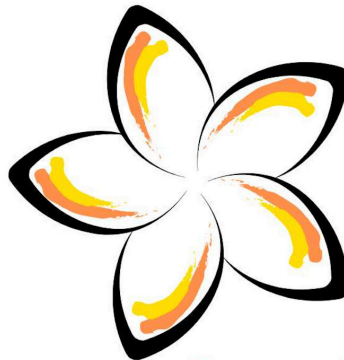




# SAVE THE DATE



## IPC23

INTERNATIONAL

PLUMERIA CONFERENCE

SEP 28-30 | LA ARBORETUM

### March 2023

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## President's Corner

Oh my, we are getting so close to springing into spring it is incredible. I know if you are like me these crazy spring like weather days have my green thumb getting itchy for gardening therapy!! Just be careful, as most in Texas know Mother Nature is still the lady calling the shots! Seeing crazy storms and near freezing Temps during spring break is not out of the norm for Northern and Central Texas as well as the Gulf Coast.

As you browse this issue of the newsletter take note of our International Plumeria Conference announcement, the IPC2023 is coming up in late September 2023. The new location is the beautiful Los Angeles Arboretum located in Arcadia California. [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org) I along with the entire PSA Board of Directors are looking forward to the long overdue IPC2023 and seeing you all there!

Mark your calendars for our two Shows and Sales coming up, the first is June 10th, our second one has been moved to Aug 5th this year! I challenge you all to bring a new Plumeria enthusiast and show them what our local growers have to offer them.

Thank you all again for your support of the PSA.

John T. Burford  
President 2022-2023







## **International Plumeria Conference 2023 (IPC23)**

September 28-30

(Thursday afternoon thru Saturday evening)

Los Angeles Arboretum & Botanic Garden

It has been seven years since the previous IPC, so it's time to gather together again from around the world!

The 3rd International Plumeria Conference is sponsored by the Plumeria Society of America and run by mostly Southern California volunteers.

We are fortunate to hold our conference at the Arboretum, a gorgeous 127-acre natural and historic wonder with plant collections including rare and endangered species from all over the world. Plus, the renowned, curated Plumeria Grove!

Our featured speakers are notable, experienced plumeria growers covering a wide range of climates and skills. Our keynotes are renowned in this field and will bring vital, practical information to conference attendees.

The event also includes full access to one of the most beautiful and expansive botanic gardens throughout the event, a guided tour through the Arboretum's spectacular 120-tree Plumeria Grove, an authentic Hawaiian luau, and the opportunity to meet fellow plumeria growers from around the world.

Follow the conference for updates and/or to volunteer:

@plumeriaconference2023

[www.IPC23.com](http://www.IPC23.com)





Many plumeria growers have a varied approach to fertilizing, and that can result in inconsistent growth and blooming. I believe that a standardized feeding regimen can greatly reduce your work, while improving your plumerias' health at the same time.

Depending on who you talk to, you may receive a lot of advice about feeding, with recommendations such as "use bloom busters" or even a specific brand every two weeks," to "weekly". My recommendation is to base one's feeding regimen upon the needs of the plumeria, and to manage that regimen in terms of nutrient formula, feeding frequency, and nutrient concentration.

Some basic rules to follow:

- Choose a formula that is nutritionally complete. That is, one containing all the macronutrients and micronutrients needed by plumeria.
- Control your application rate by the amount of nitrogen, letting the other nutrients 'fall in line' according to the formula.
- The formula should be appropriate for the plumeria you grow and your watering requirements.
- Avoid very high-nitrogen formulations, as they can cause excess vegetation growth be detrimental to flowering.
- Avoid high phosphorus formulations, as they tend to build up in the soil, lock out other nutrients and stress the plants.
- Use one formulation exclusively for at least one growing season and assess how your plants are doing. If there's a problem, analyze the potential deficiency based upon the observed symptoms.
- Have your soil test to determine what nutrients your existing soil contains and what nutrients you need to add.



I'm a believer in a constant feeding program with slow a released fertilizer containing micronutrients adjusted for your regions weather and your watering requirements, as opposed to the binge-and-starve routine of only adding fertilizer every "nth" month or "nth" watering.

### **I base this on three factors:**

- In nature, the plumeria' food supply may be meager, but it is more-or-less always present, especially for plumeria grown in the grown.
- Plumeria need a certain amount of nutrition to grow and bloom. Frequent dilute feedings are less risky than a single, highly-concentrated one.
- A slow-release fertilizer reduces the likelihood of fertilizer burn.

Our research has shown us that plumeria grow and bloom the best when fed a somewhat balance and complete fertilizer. I want to share the best Plumeria care regimen for me in South Florida. I hope the following helps you with your goals and plans.

The goal is to know what, when, and why, so you can improve every year by giving your plumeria the best possible growing environment. Planning and documenting any adjustments from the previous year will allow you to look back and hopefully determine where you can make improvements or where you made mistakes.

At the beginning of each season, I examine what we did last year and determine how to improve our methods and products. The following is an overview of what we do yearly for our Care Regimen. Please keep in mind your growing environment and how

it differs from South Florida Zone 10B. The start of your plan should correspond to when you are past the threat of a frost or freeze. You should also have a plan to protect your plumeria from cold weather, just in case you get a unsuspected frost or freeze.

### **Before your spring growing season starts.**

I suggest getting a Soil Test to determine what nutrients your soil has or doesn't have. The more you know about your soil and environment, the better decisions you can make about caring for your plumeria. The soil test will indicate what nutrients are present and if any nutrients are locked up. It will also tell you if you need micronutrients. It is less important if you are using fresh purchased potting soil.

### **Start by checking and removing any damaged branches and roots.**

- **When:** Before putting them out for spring.
- **What:** Start by checking your plumeria for branch or root rot, soft branches, bent branches, or broken branches.
- **How:** Cut all damaged branches until you see all white when possible. Trim roots until you see white or green.
- **Why:** Remove dead, damaged, and diseased branches and roots help to prevent insect & decay organisms from entering the plumeria. Eliminate crossing branches to prevent damage caused by their rubbing against each other.

### **Checking and Spraying tips for insects**

- **When:** Before putting them out for spring from storage or as leaves and blooms start



to grow.

- Greenhouses & pots, you should have been controlling pest all winter. But it is still a good idea to treat before taking out. I suggest you spray two weeks before taking them out and again right after taking out for Spring.

- In the ground, I suggest you start spraying as soon as you see the leaves emerging. (Do not spray in direct sunlight or on dehydrated plants)

- **What:** Checking for signs of insects, I suggest using - Summit Year-Round Spray Oil, or an organic insecticide.

- **How:** Spray or mist to cover the entire plant.

- **Why:** By treating with Year-Round Spray Oil or similar, you kill the insects and the insects hatching from eggs. Giving your plants a good healthy start. Horticultural oil controls insects without synthetic chemicals.

Mites including Rust Mite / Spider Mite (also eggs), Scales including Black Scale, California Red Scale, Whitefly and Blackfly (also eggs), Sooty Mold.

- **Did you know that spider mites go dormant in cold weather?**

### **Plumeria waking up from Dormancy**

- **When:** As soon as you see signs of your plumeria waking up or as you are removing them from storage.

- **What:** Soak your plumeria roots with a mixture of water, root activator, and a bio stimulate to help give them a kick-start.

- **What we suggest:** A mixture of Vitazyme and Carl Pool's Root Activator (FYI a root activator will attach to the soil and a root stimulator will get washed out).

- **How:** Soak your bare-rooted plants for about 1 hour. Soak your potted plants from the bottom-up or drench. Drench your in-



ground plants with 1 to 2 gals.

- **Why:** A bio stimulate helps the plants' overall health, and the root activator gives the roots a kick-start with what they need to wake up and start growing as soon as possible.
- **Watering** - Water heavy for the first two days and water-heavy every other day for the first week. After that, water as needed.

### Re-potting or adding soil

- **When:** In the Spring or when they outgrow their pots or need additional soil to top off the pot.
- **What:** A good, well-balanced, and well-draining soil. I prefer to use soil without added fertilizer and a good decomposed natural mulch without additives.
- **What we suggest:** ProMix BX Mycorrhizae or similar soil mix (a mixture of 1/3 Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss, 1/3 coir, and 1/3 Perlite - horticultural grade.) or a similar soil mix.
- **How:** Gently shake off as much of the old soil as possible and fill in with fresh soil. Water in well and add more soil as needed. I also like to add decomposed natural mulch, 1"-2" in the bottom and 1"-2" on top of pots depending on the pot size. This adds some organic matter as it decomposes and helps keep the weeds out and moisture in.

### Caution: Always sterilize any soil that had dead plants.

- **Why:** The goal is to provide fresh soil to add back depleted nutrients. Fresh soil provides aeration, retains moisture, and adds back nutrients that were washed out or used up by the plumeria. Over time, the organic materials that the soilless mix is made from will breakdown and decompose to the point where you will lose the drainage and aeration properties inherent in soilless container media. When that happens, discard the old soil to the compost pile or the garden and refill the container with fresh soil mix.
- **Mulching** - in-ground plants – use a decomposed mulch to add nutrients and organic matter as the mulch decomposes. The mulch on the top also helps keep weeds down and helps retain moisture. I cover the





ground around the trunk with natural mulch partially decomposed up to 12" deep each year for plumeria planted or plunged in the ground. Allow several inches of distance around the trunk to minimize trunk rot.

- **Watering** – Always water well for the next two or three days. Then water when the soil is almost dry. A moisture meter is good tool to have.

### Fertilizing – Granular

- **When:** At the beginning of the growing season.
- **What:** I use a balanced granular slow-release fertilizer with micronutrients.

### • Of course what I suggest:

- Excalibur VI for areas with a growing season of 5-7 months (6-month NPK of 11-11-14) with micronutrients designed specifically for Plumeria.
- Excalibur IX for areas with a growing season of 8-10 months (9-month NPK 11-11-13) with micronutrients designed specifically for Plumeria.
- Excalibur BOOST for time when you need fertilizer at different time during the growing season. (2-3 months NPK 10-12-14) with micronutrients designed for use when transplanting, after grafting, when your plumeria are stressed and it works great on seedlings when first transplanted into pots.



- **How:** Mix in with the soil, usually in the top 1"- 2" and water well.

- **Why:** Granular fertilizer is designed to feed your plumeria from the roots. Healthy roots ultimately produce healthy plants. We have found that a balanced NPK fertilizer with micronutrients produces very healthy growth, promotes blooming, bloom size, and seed production. It is imperative not to add any fertilizer high in nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, or anything else unless you know your plumeria needs it.

### **Foliage Fertilizing – Thru out the growing season.**

- **When:** When your plumeria looks stressed from damage, insects, drought or after a heavy rain event. I also spray a couple of days before an event when we want our plumeria to look their best for the guest.

- **What:** A Balanced fertilizer with mi

- **What we suggest:** Bioblast with micronutrients and an NPK of 7-7-7. I also spray with Vitazyme (a bio-stimulate) every time we spray with fertilizers or similar fertilizers.

- **How:** Foliar feeding or drench.

- **Why:** This is used to improve the overall health from the top down and give the leaves and blooms nutrients during stressful times.

I encourage you to you to experiment with different products, but always keep records to better determine what works best for you! I hope this information helps you with your plumeria growing experience.



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# Bringing My Plumeria Out of Dormacy



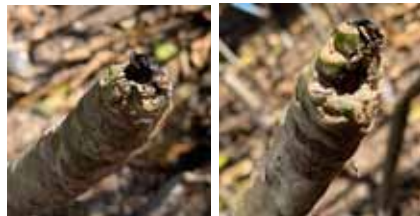
by Irene Jones, Southern California

In Southern California, in-ground plumeria are commonly left in place over winter. Plumeria in pots are often left outside in a sheltered area or taken inside the house/grarage. As the new season starts, the first step is to assess the trees and potted plants for damage. Four kinds of damage often seen are ...

- 1) Rot at the base of the plant coming up from the roots. It's possible remove the top portion and root the branch(es) if cuts can be made to clean, white tissue.
- 2) Rotten branches. Need to remove before rot spreads to other branches.
- 3) Rotten tips. Need to remove to clean white tissue before rot spreads down the branch.
- 4) Excessive shrivelling/dehydration. It's questionable as to whether hollowed branches can be saved.



These are in-ground trees growing in Southern California in February. Some have lost their leaves and some haven't. The remaining leaves will fall off or I will remove them by the end of March, as old leaves usually have insects on them. New leaves will come from the branch tips.



These are examples of branches with rotted tips. When I cut off the rot, I found it was already traveling down to the main branch, so more cuts were needed to remove all of the rot.



Seed pods are a bonus! And it's usually best to mark them with a colored tie so they can be watched for development and not accidentally cut off when taking cuttings from a tree. There are a lot of seedpods on my trees this winter. Most are healthy (top photo) and developing nicely. However, the photo below shows a seedpod with the stem rotting. Most likely the seedpod will fall off the plant.





I also assess old inflos. Some inflos will rebloom in the spring like the first photo below. Other inflos will rot and need to be removed before the rot goes down into the branch. I either cut or knock off the ones that are rotting.



For dry plumeria pots coming out of winter storage, I water with rain water (if possible). As the soil is very dry, it usually takes a few waterings for the soil to absorb the water. Additives like a root stimulant and/or liquid kelp are helpful. I do not fertilize until there are developing leaves. When I do fertilize, I use Best's 12-24-24 once or twice a year and a time-release formula by Osmocote 15-9-12. There are many good fertilizers on the market and everyone has their favorite. For potted plants especially, it's important to fertilize well in the spring and summer as nutrients are lost with watering.



I grow seedlings over winter and try to keep them developing without heat mat or lights. Some go dormant and some keep their leaves. I fertilize lightly and keep the mix moist.



**Observation on Bag Rooting:**  
I bag rooted a bunch last fall. I didn't use a heat mat and kept them outside in an unheated greenhouse over winter. One-third of them rooted in the bags without bottom heat.

**<http://www.thePlumeriasociety.org>**

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**



### **Joining the PSA ...**

**[www.theplumeriasociety.org](http://www.theplumeriasociety.org)**

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

To join by mail, select PDF.

To join online, select Online Form (Paypal).

When joining by mail, send a check to:  
The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.

P.O. Box 22791

Houston TX 77227-2791, USA

Our Meeting dates are as follows.

### **Dues are :**

\$35.00 Digital and \$50.00 Printed.

### **Meeting dates are:**

Jan 10th

March 14th

May 9th

July 11th

October 10th

### **Sale dates are:**

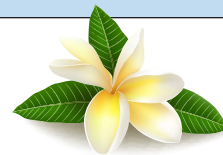
June 10th

Aug 5th



### **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.



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