PLUMERIA POTPOURRI

The Plumeria Society of America

October 2022

PSA Luau and Social

5001 E NASA Rd 1, Seabrook TX 77586

Set your calendars for October 9th, 2022, 2PM till 5PM for the PSA Luau and Social. We will have live entertainment and a guest speaker in addition to a lei making class. (Bring your blooms)
I will be smoking a Whole Hog; we will also have Chicken and a plethora of sides as well as non-alcoholic beverages.
RSVP required; this is a PSA Member plus 1 event.
RSVPs are due October 1st 2022 please use the events email below.
Events@theplumeriasociety.org

Thank you,
John T. Burford
PSA President 2022-2023

President's Corner

Wow, Wow, Wow, what a summer we have had, extreme heat waves followed by lots and lots of rain!! Can you all believe its Fall already! I would like to salute and thank everyone who volunteered and assisted the PSA with our two incredible sales!! Your assistance was a blessing!

I hope to see you all at our October 9th Luau and Social, we will not have the October 11th meeting.

Luau location is the Landolt Pavilion, 5001 E NASA RD1, Seabrook TX (Same location as outdoor sale in 2021)

We will have live entertainment and some of the best Hawaiian BBQ you could hope for! The PSA has started the preparation for our Fall 2023 International Plumeria Conference, we are planning to host the conference in Southern California. Details will follow with committee opportunities and volunteers needed!

Starting in January 2023, we will start broadcasting our meetings on YouTube, we will have designated channel so please keep your eyes open for that email. Also, starting in January we will be sending more content via email in addition to our Newsletters!

Thank you all again for your support of the PSA.

John T. Burford
PSA President 2022-2023

Growing Plumeria from Seed

by Tex Norwood, Florida Colors Nursery

Growing plumeria from seeds can be a rewarding and exciting way to add new cultivars to your collection. But to grow plumeria from seed you must know something about caring for plumeria seedlings.

You can germinate seeds between wet paper towels sheets use other methods of germination other than planting straight in plugs or soil. In order to prevent damage to the roots, you should plant the seedling as soon as you see any roots emerge. Leaving them too long or allowing them to dry out could damage or even kill the new seedling.

A seed is a seedling as soon as it germinates. When you plant a seed, the first leaves to emerge are called cotyledons. These leaves will look different from leaves that will grow later. The cotyledons are believed to be able to perform photosynthesis. It will help the seedling to grow if they are receiving some indirect sun. The purpose of cotyledon leaves is to provide stored food to the seedling for a short period of time. Typically, after three or four true leaves have formed the cotyledons will dry up and fall off. The seedling needs daylight to generate energy through photosynthesis that will help feed the plant for the rest of its life. Slowly

Carols Orange Marmalade

Merlin's pod parent is Camelot

Merlot's pod parent is Clare Corre

introduce your seedling to more and more direct sunlight over a week or two. (CAUTION: The more direct sunlight a seedling gets will require more water and care to make sure it doesn't wilt or get sunburnt.)

Forms of Plumeria Pollination

Plumeria have both male and female parts. Plants with flowers having both male and female reproductive parts are called **hermaphroditic**. This is where a plant can pollinate itself, and when this happens it is called self-pollination.

Right now, I would say 99% plus of all plumeria seeds produced are pollinated by nature. My overall goal is to grow seedlings to bloom and establish a reliable seedpod parent to use with cross-pollination projects. I'm fortunate to have a company like Florida Colors Nursery with a real need to grow seedlings for root stock and new plumeria for future sales. Keep in mind that most seedlings will not be outstanding enough to grow for marketing if you are planning on raising them to sell. And many will not have the root system needed to use for grafting. (Note: Seedlings with dark trunks and leaves do not typically make good root stock.)

What Are Plumeria Pollinators?

Just like animals, flowering plants need to mate. But how can an organism spread its genes without being able to meet up with others of its species? Enter the pollinators. Pollinators are insects of specific types that visit Plumeria flowers and take away their pollen. Pollen is a sex cell of plants and is essential for reproduction. As pollinators move from flower to flower, they deposit the collected pollen, basically allowing the plants to mate.-

Pollinators come in all shapes and sizes and include species of insects, birds, and mammals, but plumeria has very few actual pollinators. Pollinators are often adapted to pollinate specific plants and have a hard time visiting other flowers. A few insects that are specially adapted for gathering pollen from plumeria are the Sphinx moth, thrips, and tiny ants.

Self-pollination by humans is the most common practice by using a dead pine straw needle or a piece of fishing line and twirl or twist in throat of the flower around the antlers. The act of transferring pollen grains from the anthers of a plumeria flower to the stigma of the same plumeria flower.

Cross-pollination by humans is achieved by removing ALL the pollen from one plumeria flower's antlers and then transferred to a different plumeria flower's stigma.

In all cases above the pollen must be viable and the stigma must be ready to receive the pollen. The transfer requires practice and is timed correctly to achieve pollination. Usually early morning or late evening is the best time.

Plumeria Seed Selection

IT'S EXTREMELY RARE FOR PLUMERIA SEEDS TO GROW TRUE TO ITS PARENT(S). This is a very important fact to know. The good news is, you can expect plumeria seeds to inherit some of its parent's characteristics possibly going back as far

as 7 generations. The bad news is most will inherit the less desirable characteristics. So, the selection of which seeds you want to grow is very important.

Selecting healthy seeds is imperative, if you are going to spend a lot of time and energy growing plumeria seeds, you deserve to have the best chance of success possible.

The selection of plumeria seeds may be based on characteristics such as the size of the plant, color of flower, blooming traits, etc. But selection can also be done to keep seeds of plumeria that suffered less attacks by insects or diseases.

Growing Plumeria Seedling Need Space

After you find the perfect seeds from a trusted source. You are ready to think about time and space. Not only to germinate them, but to grow them until you need them for rootstock or until they bloom. You will also need to commit to 3 – 5 years or longer of care. Seedlings need the same care as your mature plumeria or maybe more. If you plant 50 seedlings, look at the space 50 mature plants would take. Remember to take into consideration storing for winter, if you are in an area that freezes or gets frost.

Germinating Plumeria Seeds

If a plumeria seed is not allowed to germinate (sprout) within some certain length of time, the embryo inside will die. Some plumeria seeds have been known to germinate after 12 years. It is best to plant within a few months of being dispersed. It is believed a few cultivars, such as Dwarf Singapore Pink and Stenopetala, will lose viability as they dry out and should be planted as soon as possible.

Assuming the seed is still viable, the embryo inside the seed coat needs something to get its metabolism activated to start the embryo growing. The process of getting a plumeria seed to germinate is simple.

Plumeria seeds lack true dormancy. The seeds are ready to sprout. All they need is moisture to get their biochemistry activated, and temperature warm enough to allow the chemistry of life to proceed.

Place the seed in soil with the fan part of the seed sticking up out of the soil and water well, keep the soil moist. The seed will start the germination process within hours and produce its first root in a day or two, and you will see the seed leaves start to emerge within 5-10 days, sometimes longer.

Seed Viability Testing

Testing the viability prior to planting can be a resource and time saver. The viability of plumeria seeds can be checked by using one of several methods. Quick check: By simply feeling the seed to see if it feels firm and thicker in the center of the seed, there is a good chance it is viable. Or, drop the seed in a bowl of lukewarm water and allow to set for several hours, as the seed coating softens and absorbs water it will sin k in the bowl. If a seed sinks, there is a good chance it is viable. If it floats it is a good chance it is not viable.

Germination Methods

There are many methods to germinate plumeria seeds. Don't be afraid to experiment with them all to find the one or ones that works best for you in your growing environment.

The seed cotyledon, which forms in the embryo of seeds before germination, stores food for the embryo. Along with the endosperm, the cotyledon nourishes the new growth of the plant. It is the part of the seed that emerges from the seed cover, during germination. It grows upward, turning into a set of seed leaves as the seed germinates. The seed leaves will use some photosynthesis to nourish the newly forming plant further. The seed leaves will fall off after true leaves form.

Growing plumeria Seedlings

After true leaves form, a seedling's growing needs change. As the seedling grows it will need more room for roots to grow, more sunlight, warmth, moisture, and nutrients. The first three months of a seedling's life is important for faster development.

Pots

Giving seedlings more room to grow and more nutrients is required to help seedlings grow at an optimum rate and reach maturity sooner.

The first step is to provide the root system with more room to grow. I typically will use 1-gal black nursery pot to start. I will only keep the seedling in a 1 gal pot for less than 9-12 months and then move to a black plastic 5.5 or 7.5 gal. squat pot. The black pots provide better heat transfer from the sun to the soil and the squat pots resist falling over in the wind.

• Good drainage is important for plumeria, so be sure the pot you choose has plenty of holes to allow water to drain.

• Clay pots are good to allow excess moisture to dissipate, but most only have one drain hole

Potting Soil

Garden soils are generally unsatisfactory to grow plumeria in containers. This is primarily because soils do not provide the aeration, drainage, and water holding capacity required. To improve this situation several "soilless" growing media have been developed. The following is a description of some of the most used amendments for growing plumeria in containers.

Transplanting seedlings

After your seedlings have been transplanted to pots or put in the ground (3-5 months), it is important to start treating your seedlings as young adults. For me this means, watering as soon as needed, fertilizing with micronutrients, adding organic matter and adding bio-stimulates to enhance the roots system and overall maturity of

the plant. At the same time, I provide additional nutrients (if needed) to keep the plant growing healthy and pest free. The goal is to allow the plumeria to mature as much as possible in the shortest amount of time. It is important to understand the concept of "allow the plumeria to mature". Maturity will happen naturally if it gets a balanced diet of nutrients, organic matter, bio-stimulates, moisture and heat without overdoing or under doing any one factor.

Transplanting seedlings

When you transplant your seedlings into pots, it's time to begin fertilizing with a balanced granular fertilizer containing micro-nutrients. I suggest slow-release Excalibur 11-11-14 or similar.

Fertilizing seedlings is very important to development and growth. Fertilization should begin soon after your seedlings grow their first "true" leaves. The first leaves that emerge from the seed are called the cotyledons. They're rounded with smooth margins. The second set of leaves to develop is the "true" leaves. They look very similar to the foliage of the mature plumeria. When the first 2 sets of "true" leaves have fully emerged, it's time to start providing your seedlings with nutrients and move your seedlings to the next stage in their care.

When the "true" leaves arrive, your seedling will have developed roots and need nutrients and sun to help convert the nutrients into plant food. There are lots of different potting mixes you can use, but I suggest ones that contain 1/3 pine bark, 1/3 peat, 1/3 perlite with Mycorrhizae. Potting soils with nitrogen will cause your seedlings to grow lanky. Lack of sunshine will also cause your seedlings to grow lanky.

Suppose your seedlings get stressed from heat, too much rain, or insects. It's beneficial to use a quick-release granular fertilizer or a liquid fertilizer. I suggest Excalibur BOOST 10-12-14 or Bioblast 7-7-7. You can use Excalibur BOOST every two months and Bioblast every two weeks. Choose a product

formulated for use on seedlings.

If you haven't started your seedlings in full sun, you will need to introduce them gradually. Begin by placing them in a shady spot outdoors for just a few hours. Slowly leave them outside for more extended periods and expose them to more sunlight until they are in full sun for at least 6 hours per day. This hardening off process is significant to young seedlings and helps them gradually adjust to brighter light levels, wind, and fluctuating outdoor temperatures.

NOTE: If you live in a region with extremely hot temperatures you may need to use shade cloth or less exposure to the hot sun.

Plumeria Seedlings and Dormancy

During dormancy, plumeria stop or slow down growth to conserve energy until better cultural conditions present themselves. This happens naturally as seasons and weather changes.

Plumeria seedlings will not go into full dormancy if kept in a warm and moist environment. I've noticed that our seedling will slow down, but most will not lose all their leaves for the first two and sometimes three years. However, they will go dormant if they are in unfavorable conditions or slow down their metabolic processes to a minimum to retain resources until conditions are more favorable. Plumeria naturally do this when there is a lack of water, heat and or enough light.

General observations:

Worth noting patterns I have seen over the years.

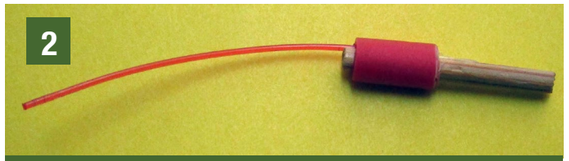
- The most common characteristic I observed that has been passed down to plumeria seedlings from a parent is the growth habit.
- Large seeds usually produce larger seedlings and small seeds usually produce smaller plumeria.
- Dark colored seedlings generally produce darker seedlings than lighter colored seeds.
- When seedlings have dark leaves and/or a dark trunk, there is a better chance of getting a flower with nice color. But I have seen dark trunks and dark leaves on seedlings that produced white flowers. The reverse is also true.
- Not enough sun will cause seedlings to grow lanky.
- Too much nitrogen will cause seedlings to grow lanky.
- Seedlings require more moisture than mature plumeria. So keeping the soil moist is important to seedling development.
- Keeping seedlings from going dormant by keeping them watered and warm will allow for faster development and blooming.

Biology of plumeria breeding

by Richard Criley, University of Hawaii

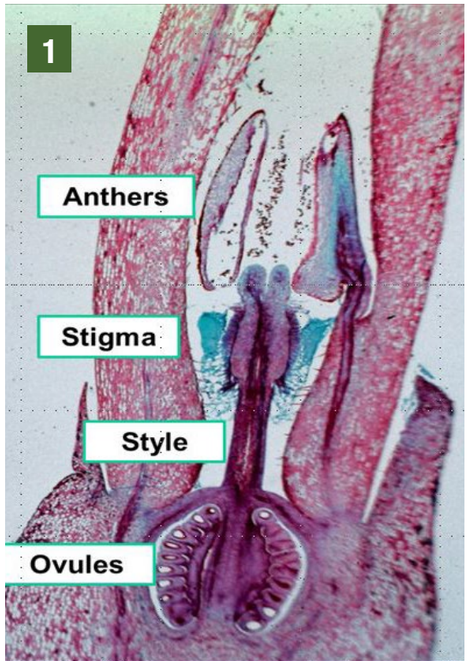
There are many reasons to try to breed new plumerias. New colors, flower forms, fragrances, plant growth habits, disease resistance are typical objectives. Plumeria trees are generally not prolific seed-setters except for some of the species. When observing a pair of seed pods (botanically known as follicles), the question arises, "What pollinated that?" The fragrance is a possible draw for pollinator insects, but there's no reward as there's not a nectar source in the throat of the plumeria flower, and pollen is not abundant. Some plumeria flowers have a sharp bend just above the point of attachment to further complicate things.

Take a look at a microscopic longitudinal section of a plumeria flower (1). Down at the base of the petals the anthers (pollen-bearing structure) are positioned just above the pistil, which receives the pollen and conducts it to the ovules. There are two parts to the pistillate structure that give rise to the follicles that we see as the seed pods. There is not a lot of room between the anthers and the pistil, and the typical tool (2) used to try to pollinate the plumeria flower is likely to dislodge the flower's own pollen onto the stigma, creating self-pollination rather than introducing new pollen. In this image, the swollen portion of the stigma on the sides is where pollen should be applied, according to Bill Moragne, who developed his method back in the 1950s. (See also Jim Little's book Growing Plumerias in Hawaii.)

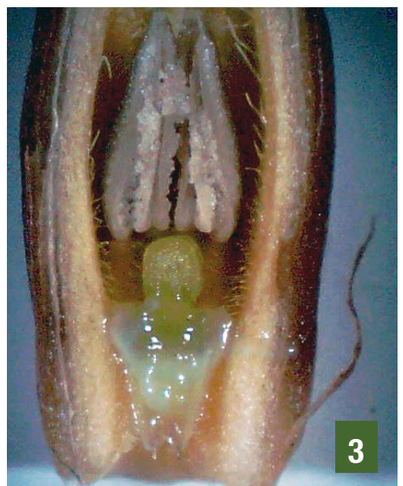


A tool used to transfer pollen down the throat of a plumeria flower

A successful hybridization requires that pollen from a different plant come in contact with the stigma structure, then grow down the style to fertilize the ovaries. Given the close relationship of the anthers to the stigma, most seedpods have probably developed as a result of self-fertilization. One must remove the anthers before they shed pollen onto their neighboring stigma. On the other hand, the anthers must be shedding pollen in the flower that will be used as the male parent. A curious feature is the swollen tissue just below the stigmatic lobes (3). Like the stigma of oleander which has been shown to accept pollen on this lateral tissue, the plumeria similarly accepts pollen there. Apparently it grows into the style more readily.

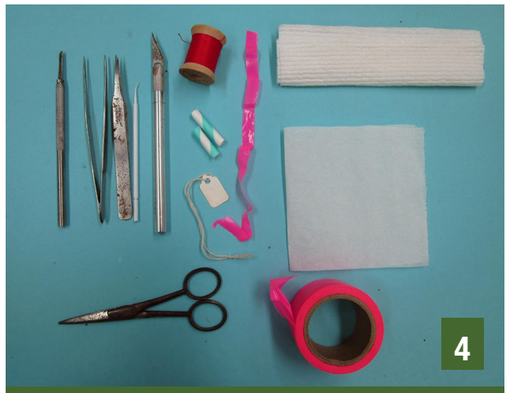


Longitudinal section of the sexual organs of a plumeria flower.

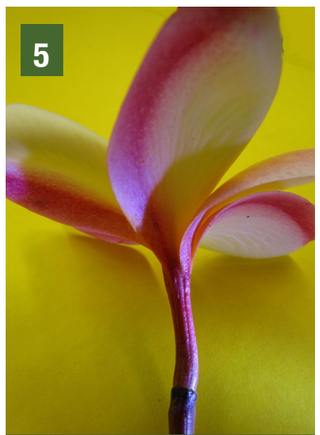


Anthers and upper portion of the pistil.

The plumeria breeder must assemble a set of tools (4) that allows her or him to work on very small features. The pistil is about 1 or 2 millimeters in size and embedded in the pedicel of the flower (what's called an inferior ovary). For cutting, an Exacto knife with a No. 11 blade works well and is less expensive than a surgeon's scalpel. A fine-pointed tweezer is needed to remove the anthers and expose the stigma. The tweezers can also be used to manipulate pollen transfer but a very tiny brush is easier to use.



Some of the tools the plumeria breeder will use include scalpel, tweezers, fine brush, Exacto knife, scissors, thread. Sections of paper straw,paper tags, ribbons of flagging tape, paper towels, tissue paper, flagging tape.



Select newly opened flower

Flower choice: The female parent is usually chosen the day that it opens (5) while the male parent will be on its second (or maybe third) day after opening. Begin by using the tip of the knife to score the base of the petals just above their juncture with the pedicel (6). Latex will flow copiously. Blot it up with bathroom or facial tissue until flow ceases. Failure to do this may allow the latex to flood over the stigma and prevent pollen from reaching it. Avoid latex flow onto the anthers that will be the male contribution to the act.

Score the base of the flower just above the junction with its pedicel (stem). Soak up latex with a tissue.

Once the area can be worked without latex interference carefully strip the petals down to this cut point and remove them (7). Usually the an-

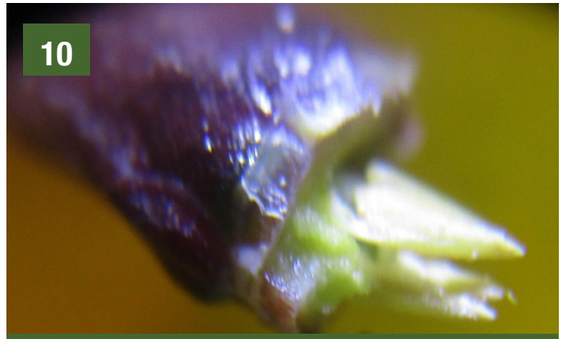
Strip the petals down to the cut and remove them, exposing the anthers.

Use tweezers to remove the anthers.

thers are exposed. Use the tweezers to remove the anthers (8). Use the knife blade to trim away the petal base to expose the stigma and its gelatinous-looking swollen collar (9).

Similar steps are taken with the flower that will be the male parent, but the anthers are allowed to remain (10). A hand lens can be useful to determine if pollen is being shed. Pollen

Cut away the base of the petals and anthers to expose the pistil.

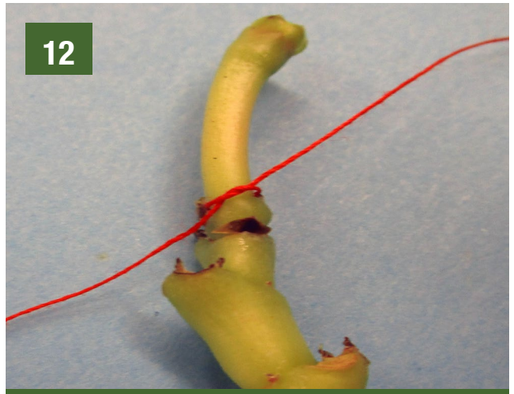


The anthers remain on the flower that will serve as the pollen parent.

transfer can be executed two ways (11), both requiring a steady hand. A tiny brush can be used to remove pollen from the anthers of the male flower and transfer it carefully to the sides of the stigma. Alternatively, try brushing the anthers of the male flower onto the stigma and its sides. There is a risk of breaking the delicate tissues with either approach, so mastering technique is important.

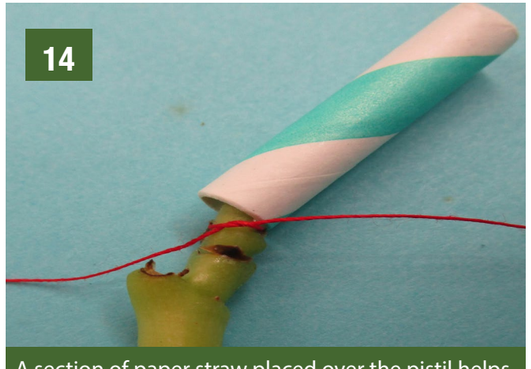
Pollen can be transferred either directly from open anther or using a tiny rush.

Once successful pollen transfer is made, it is important to be able to identify the flower you pollinated. A strand of red thread tied about the pedicel (12) ensures that you can find the flower again and a length of flagging tape tied to the peduncle (stem of the inflorescence) helps you find that particular cluster again (13). For the few days following pollination, one can protect the exposed stigma with a short length of a paper soda straw (14). It is less likely that foreign pollen would fall on it than the delicate tissues would dehydrate, and the straw helps prevent that. One could also stick



Pollen can be transferred either directly from open anther or using a tiny rush.

A length of flagging tape at the base of the flower cluster helps you find it again.



A section of paper straw placed over the pistil helps prevent its drying out while pollen germinates.

Developing follicles

a tiny piece of moist cotton in the straw (prepare straws in advance).

Success is observing two swollen protuberances (15) developing 3 weeks after pollination. Then it becomes all the more important that you can keep track of your work with flagging tape and thread. You can also use small jeweler's tags to identify the parental lines. It can take as long as 9 months to mature into a seedpod (16) ready to open with seed that you will follow anxiously to its flowering.

Mature seed pod.

There are many unanswered questions. Why don't we have a higher success rate for our plumeria breeding efforts? Is there a "best" time of day to make pollinations? Is there a best season of the year to focus our efforts? Does the presence of many other flowers on the inflorescence inhibit a successful "take" because of hormones later flowers in the cluster produce? Among some answers: Dr. Kauahi Perez found that some plumerias produce very few fertile pollen grains. Dr. Criley has observed that some plants seldom, if ever, produce seedpods (reds in

particular), while others are good seed bearers. Jim Little recommends counting back 9 months from when your seed pods open to find a good time of year to attempt hybridizing plumerias. Keep records and share your results.

Dr. Criley recommends a target for breeding is to use the rust resistance shown in some species plumeria (all white with a yellow throat) to try to develop colored forms (with P.rubra) with rust resistance. Another objective is to insert color into the different flower types of the species. Plumerias 'Isabella' and 'San Germain' are thought to be species and are rust-resistant. They should be tried as female parents. The species stenopetala, cubensis and alba have unusual qualities that would be interesting to have as colored forms in the landscape. Our late friend, Luc Vannoorbeeck, had success using pudica as a parent in interspecific crosses. A few hybrids exist between rubr a and obtusa. There is apparently a dwarfing gene in obtusa as witness the popular Dwarf Pink Singapore and its progeny.

Microscopic section (Figure 1) prepared by Setapong Lekawatana. All other images by the author.

Plumeria Seeds

by Joe Malinak

Plumeria Seeds, exciting and fun to grow. It seems these days many plumeria enthusiasts are growing seeds including myself. There are numerous ways to germinate seeds and perhaps an article all to itself, but I'd rather share my experience albeit limited. I say 'limited' because I narrowly focused my seed journey using only Tropical Aurora and Purple Serendipity seeds from Dr. Kukiat Tanteeratarm. .

The seed bug bit me six years ago and has consumed most of my time with Plumeria. I equate growing plumeria seeds to dating and marriage. Just like meeting that special person and being filled with excitement in your new relationship, seeds are fun, exciting and seem to draw you in, each day checking on their progress. They look so cute in that little pot, and 'lookie here, the leaf has different shading'. A plant only a parent could love. Every little nuance is observed and shared with anyone who will listen.

As time marches on, the newness of the any relationship requires focus and work, forgiveness and constant attention and lots of giving. Same with those cute seedlings that now require, up potting, and up potting, more fertilizer and lifting and moving, and lifting and moving, and did I mention lifting? Those cute little seedlings in the one gallon pots now require three gallons, and then 15 or 20 gallon. Wait a minute there!!!!!! So when I started my hundreds of seeds, did I ever consider the amount of effort required? Obviously, the answer is absolutely not.

Everyone has a goal in growing seeds, some grow for graft stock, or like most of us, growing


JM Cleopatra

Bravado

Midas Touch


Baby Diva


Keepsake


'Noname"

the next plumeria that is so great and so magnificent, people will sell their Mercedes to come up with enough cash to buy a cutting. Your name will be displayed in every Plumeria Publication till eternity!!!!!! The latter was my naive goal starting out.

So I initially started with 200+ Tropical Aurora seeds and an equal amount of Purple Serendipity seeds. I was focused, I had my eye set for a Tropical Aurora look alike or better yet, one better. (sorry Dr. Kukiat, forgive me. lol)

I later learned again how naïve I was. The big growers in Thailand sow thousands of seeds to obtain that 'killer bloom'. Me with my meager 400+ seedlings stood a 10-15% opportunity of greatness. Odds weren't in my favor. But, I marched on. As time went on, my enthusiasm began to suffer a bit, having to up pot hundreds of seedlings to one gallons and then to three gallons. I was thinking my wife was right, I am crazy!!!! Half of my summer was focused on up potting.

But then I was rewarded with my first new bloom, and that's the magic. Having the seedlings pop out those new blooms provided the energy I needed to get me back on track.

Over the past five years, I had approximately 120 Tropical Aurora seedlings bloom and 60 Purple Serendipity seedlings bloom. Of the 180 blooming seedlings, I feel I have about 10 -12 seedlings that I consider 'worthy'. The remaining were perdominately Pinks, but some Whites, Yellows and even a few Reds.

So what have I learned? A few thoughts below;

You never know what you'll get from a seed, it's a crap shoot. That being said…..

Growing seeds is no different than growing a cutting. Some flourish and some do not. I was devastated when I lost a Seedling that was 'THE BLOOM of all BLOOMS'. I loved on that poor plant till I loved it to death. It was a hard lesson to learn. But with Xanax, and years of therapy I am much better now.

So far my 120 Tropical Aurora seedlings that bloomed look nothing like the parent, not even remotely close. Some do look like the grandparents though, being Penang Peach. Penang Peach is the parent of Tropical Aurora and those seeds are highly sought after. Several had the petal shape, and coloring of Penang Peach. I still have hope I will have that break thru bloom.

The Purple Serendipity seeds follow the rule above regarding grandparents and have the traits of Charlotte Ebert. However I have had several seedlings resemble Purple Serendipity. So Purple Serendipity seedlings did have traits of the parents too. Several of my Purple Serendipity seedlings were large, brilliant yellow center, and various shades of Pinks, Chartreuse, and Violet. (like JM Cleopatra)

My 'unscientific' finding suggests when growing seeds, the grandparents of the host play a big role to the offspring. Something to consider when starting seeds. Know as much of the Seed Host as possible to at least give you an idea what the off springs might look like. This is something I

never knew or considered. It would be great if the PSA could take the science and analysis of seed growing further.

Also, seed growing takes patience and lots of work and space. It's something that can get out of hand quickly, do make sure you're prepared for all the up potting and the resources required like pots, soil mixes and definitely space. Like I said earlier, half of my summer is spent on up potting.

When my seedlings first bloomed I kept them all, feeling I invested time and sweat in each one and they all looked special. Six years later, if the initial bloom doesn't show promise……. 'Adios my little friend'. I spoke to several LARGE Seed Growers and asked how often an initial bloom from a new seedling changes from year to year. Their responses were all identical. RARELY. So keep this in mind, a healthy blooming seedling will maintain its characteristics year after year in the right environment. I am sure there are those that disagree, and everyone has their opinion. I personally observed this on my seedlings, no real changes from year to year. After saying this please keep in context, a bloom that first opens in my Greenhouse in January, will most likely look different in August being planted outdoors, because the light in my Greenhouse is not as strong as outdoors in the middle of summer. My Greenhouse, although works well, does not have the light intensity of natural sunlight and light is filtered thru the Greenhouse panels. But a strong, healthy Plumeria blooming with the light intensity of outdoors will maintain its traits and coloration from first bloom cycle to the next. I have observed this. So there are always caveats.

Plumeria Society of South Texas

by Randy Snyder

Califonia Sunset - Botanical Gardens

Hello from the Plumeria Society of South Texas, or PSST as it is often called. We are honored to have a chance to be part of the PSA's newsletter and will use this article to provide a little information on the PSST and of course to talk about our love for plumerias.

The PSST was founded in 1993. We had several founding members who stayed active in the PSST for over 25 years and sadly recently lost one of our early members and a great plumeria enthusiast who some PSA members may have known, John Balcar this past June. The early members of the PSST set up a partnership with the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Corpus Christi and established a plumeria grove at the Botanical Gardens which has become one of the premier attractions at the Garden. At one point there were over 100 plumeria trees in the collection and PSST members have volunteered countless hours over the years tending to the grove. This includes digging up every tree in the fall for winter storage in a greenhouse and then replanting the collection each spring, usually in late February or early March. This was no small feat as many of the trees were over 20 years old at one point with a trunk diameter over 6" inches.

Since the February 2021 freeze, the Plumeria grove at the Botanical Gardens has had a total update of plumerias. We lost 93 of our plumerias, with only 3 surviving. The last two summers have been spent on replacing the grove with new plumerias either by purchases or donations by our

PSST Sale 2022

members and members of the PSA. Thank you to Mike Kennedy and Elaine Lockwood Williams from PSA for your donations. Our inventory is currently at 83 plumerias in the grove and next year we plan to add 4-5 more that are currently rooting, so this will bring the inventory to almost 90 plumerias. Many have been blooming all summer and the grove is truly a beautiful sight. We encourage anyone that comes to the Corpus Christi or South Padre Island area to include the South Texas Botanical Gardens and Nature Center as one of the sights you visit. It is a wonderful facility and both child and pet friendly.

The PSST currently has a membership of around 80, which is a number we are very proud of given the challenges many volunteer organizations have faced over the past couple of years. It is amazing how an appreciation for the beauty of the plumeria flower and joy people receive by working with the trees can bring people together. Between meetings and maintaining the plumeria grove and personal collections, our members stay very busy. We completed our annual summer sale on July 30th. While it cannot compare to the sheer size of the PSA's sales, it was a highly successful event where almost 400 plumerias were sold in 4 hours. We are looking to the future with high hopes as we share our love of plumerias with each other and the Corpus Christi community.

Botanical Gardens Corpus Christi

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

JOIN US ON facebook

Joining the PSA ...

www.theplumeriasociety.org

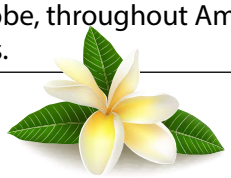
Click on "Join the PSA" tab at the top of the home page.
To join by mail, select PDF.
To join online, select Online Form (Paypal).

When joining by mail, send a check to:
The Plumeria Society of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 22791
Houston TX 77227-2791, USA

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.



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