

Plumeria Potpourri

The Plumeria Society of America INC.

July 12th 2022

*In-Person and Virtual Meeting using
Zoom*

*Speaker: Tex Norwood
Topic: Seed and Seedling Research*

July 2022

Mary Moragne P 3

Vicki Jenkins P4-5

Mike Janson P6

Dr. Richard Criley P7-10

Florida Colors
Plumeria Nursery

Presidents Corner:
John T Burford
jtburf@swbell.net

WOW, is it hot enough for us all yet?

So, I hope you all made it out for one of the GREATEST Plumeria Society of America sales ever! We had the highest number of volunteers ever on hand thanks to the efforts of every board member, other volunteers and sellers!! Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!

I am looking forward to seeing you all again July 23rd!!

All sellers had the most incredible displays of Plumerias you could have imagined, from exotic Tai varieties to the so loved Celedine. The PSA gained around 30 new members thanks to a wonderful donation of Pink and White NOIDS from Houstonian Sherri B. and John Clark. Sherri and John donated close to 200 large Plumeria and the PSA gave each person who joined at the June 11th sale one. Thank you again Sherri and John! More will be available at our July 23rd sale!!!

Just a reminder we are a 100% volunteer organization, we are working hard behind the scenes to improve and streamline several processes, from membership acknowledgements to Cultivar Registration. Please be on the lookout for a greatly improved and up to date website coming soon!!

Please add this email to your contacts, jtburf@swbell.net. All official communication from the PSA will be sent from this 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



In Memory of Mary Moragne 6/25/2002

Mary Moragne Cooke was a dear friend to all Members of the Plumeria Society of America and was an amazing friend and community person to Hawaii whom she gave so much. Most of you will know Mary by the plumeria named in her honor....Mary Moragne the daughter to the late William Moragne Sr and Jean Sr Moragne.



'Mary Moragne' #181
Registered with the Plumeria Society of America



Grafting by Vicki Jenkins

Grafting

The hardest part of grafting is taking that first step. Once you take the plunge and reap the rewards you will want to kick yourself for waiting so long. It's like having an instant life support system for your cuttings or tiny pieces which I will be focusing on.

No one taught me to graft. I searched for information and eventually decided how I wanted to approach the task. The slant graft is the method I chose. I used the staples from the beginning but didn't have grafting tape so tried beige painters masking tape and it worked. I used it for the first year of my grafting endeavors and was thrilled. I use Parafilm grafting tape now. I like it because there is no adhesive.



The tools I use are a sharp knife with a narrow back. I prefer the kuhn rikon paring knife. (not serrated) I have a set of crock sticks handy to keep it sharp. I prefer 1/2" Parafilm grafting tape. Staples which I have shot out individually from an open stapler before I begin, I usually use 4.... a small cutting board... A spray bottle of alcohol for tools and plants... scissors for cutting tape although you can tear it apart.

I've been using a wooden spatula to put behind the host plant to make the cut but found the base of my crock sticks was steadier when I realized I had failed to pack it for the demonstration.

A question that comes up often is what to use for root stock. I use one year (minimum) preferably two years or older seedlings or rooted cuttings from a very robust pink or white plumeria. I'm often asked about using Celadine and my answer is no. I've found it difficult to root in Houston. Other experienced plumeria growers share my opinion.

At the Plumeria Society I demonstrated grafting tiny pieces of Grapette and Thai Tornado on one seedling with two petite limbs. I like both Plumeria and thought the color combo would look good together when they mature enough to bloom. Both Scions were too small to root.



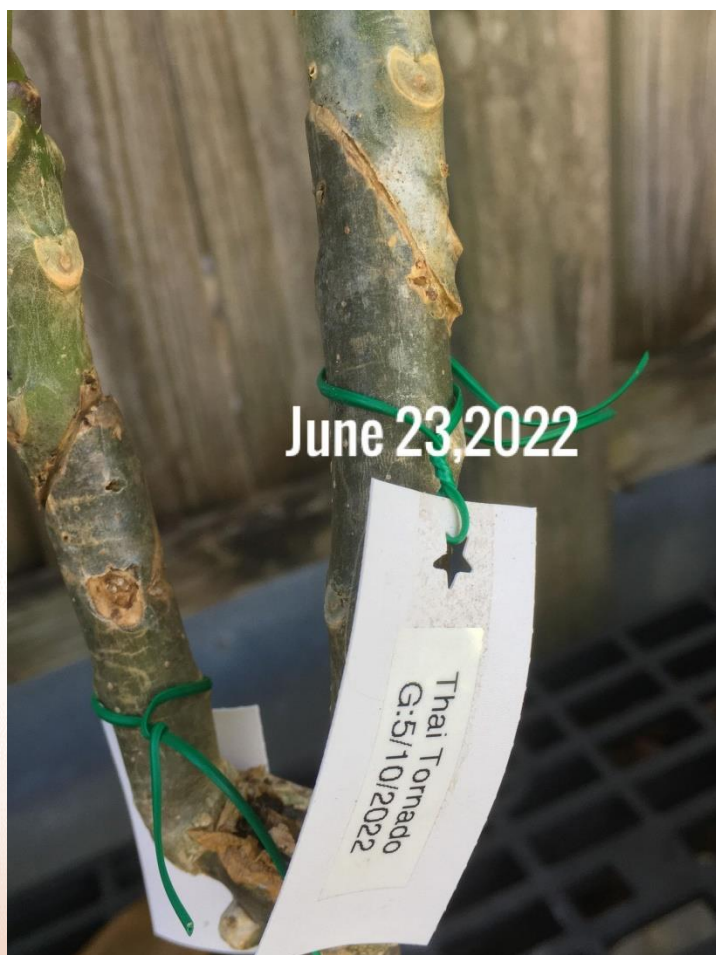
I made approximately a 45-degree cut on both host plant and scion after spraying both with alcohol. I put them together and secured with staples which had already been removed by pushing the in with my fingers. I usually use four staples the secure top, bottom and both sides.

Continued p5

Then I use the grafting tape stretching as I go. Some people prefer to stretch it before they begin. Either way is fine.

I can usually tell within two weeks if the graft was successful. If you start getting leaves that's a good sign. If you feel softness at the graft site, notice this tip is dull or have buds popping out below the site it's time to investigate.

The Grapette graft wasn't a good connection. It was only attached at the top. Although there is a chance it would continue to grow, I felt redoing it was my best option, so I recut both pieces and reattached. As you can see from the photo, The second graft was successful.



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Do you graft? By Mike Janson

Do you graft? I graft I leaving three to four leaves on the scion. As a graft union usually takes in 7 days, the plant will benefit from the leaves. I like to graft in the grey area, and I stay away from grafting in the green area.



I root the seedling tops to be used for future grafting stock. In June/July they root quickly. I have successfully grafted a green seedpod and had it mature and produce viable seeds.



I lose less than 5% of the plants throughout the year, but I grow and graft 10%+, so I always end up with a positive outcome. Having so many plants, I get to see new varieties bloom every week from June through November. Six to seven months of growing is what we get in Texas. With only half a year of growing time, I strive for quantity and new varieties

Some alternative grafting techniques.

Richard Criley, Emeritus Professor, University of Hawaii

PSA members recently were treated to hands-on demonstrations of a grafting technique known as speed grafting or splice grafting by Vicki Jenkins, Lisa Berger, and Mike Janson. In this technique slant cuts (60 degrees is ideal) are made in the stock and scion, and the exposed faces are matched and fastened together. Key to this and most other techniques is the two pieces need to be of the same diameter so that the cambium zones are in contact. They are held in contact by tying them tightly together with plastic grafting tape or, sometimes, with electrician's tape. A problem with the latter (or athletic adhesive tape) is possible damage when the tape is removed, often taking bark with it. Splice grafts can be performed on potted rootstocks or understocks or on branches of existing plumeria trees in the landscape.

In splice grafts the single face affords a certain amount of cambial contact. A technique known as wedge grafting affords somewhat more contact and potential for a solid union. It is a little more challenging to make two cuts to form a wedge with similar length faces. The wedge cuts also have several variants: besides the normal V-shaped base to the scion, the cuts can be reversed. A single bud taken from the side of a stem can replace the tip of the understock stem using a wedge cut. A wedge can be cut down the side of a stem and a scion with unequal wedge faces inserted in the cut; this is less common for plumeria because of the thickness of the stems.

Why graft when plumeria roots readily as a cutting? Some plumeria varieties do not root readily. Sometimes you want to rescue a piece of a plant that doesn't have much left to it, and the few inches of tip may be all you have to work with.

Grafting can give you a faster result because one part is already rooted. For some collectors with limited space, having more than one variety on an established tree allows more diversity in the collection. And don't forget the bragging rights.

One of the first persons to demonstrate plumeria grafting in the U.S. was Ampol Orrungro. The technique had long been used in Thailand by nurserymen. The first set of photos accompanying this article were taken during a demonstration of his wedge grafting technique.

In this photo, the plumeria shows the incompatibility between the rootstock and the scion that was grafted onto it. This can be considered objectionable by purists and used as an argument against grafting. It is also possible that the union may be weak and subject to breaking in strong winds or if nudged by machinery



Wedge graft on plumeria



Ampol demonstrates his grafting technique: The top is removed from a recently rooted understock. A wedge-shaped cut is made about 1-1/2 inches deep. The scion has been selected to match the understock diameter and maturity and a similar wedge is made at its base. A good fit is shown by no gaps between stock and scion.

Following tying the graft union, the scion can be anchored to a stake and then covered with a plastic bag to prevent drying out. Small leaves can remain on the scion; large ones should be removed.



Wedge graft



Plastic bag enclosure to prevent desiccation

Grafting tool for wedge grafts



Grafting tools of different types make cuts that can perfectly match in the stock and the scion. Just flip it over to make the opposite cut. Some plumerians have crafted their own tools to make matched cuts.

Fit scion and stock together and tie with plastic tape



The wedge-shaped scion fits the wedge-shaped cut made by the grafting tool. It is held in place by grafting tape or wide rubber grafting bands. This technique can be used on potted rootstocks or on branches of trees. In the latter, a splint made of a poly pipe cut in half lengthwise can support the scion while it heals.

Without a grafting tool, this fruit cutting tool can be impressed on a stock or scion to show where you can use your knife to make cuts that will match.



Wedge Grafts



Wedge grafts can be made using pieces of a stem. Left: a 3-inch scion with normal wedge cut. Middle: an inverted wedge graft. Right: Two wedge cuts on an interstock. One can see already that the interstock is not going to grow as much as the understock – a sign of some incompatibility. It is always well to know the vigor of the two parts of the combination to avoid over-growth of the scion by the understock or vice-versa. Another technique practiced in Thailand to gain more plants from a single length of stem is the single bud graft.



Excise a single bud by a wedge-shaped cut.



Insert bud into a similar wedge-shaped cut at the top of the stem.



Using grafting rubber bands anchored by pins thrust into the stem, cover the bud tightly. Remove when bud shows signs of expansion.



Single bud graft after 8 weeks



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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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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.
John and Christie Ingwersen, Jungle Jack's, Vista, CA

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Our Facebook page now has 4,970+ members
from all over the world—a great place to ask a question or show off your blooms.



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Penang Peach

2022 PSA Officers and Directors

Join the Plumeria Society

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 Members 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...

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

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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 PSAmembership 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 7:00 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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