

Scott's Plumeria "Cheat-Sheet"

Plumerias must have direct sun and well-draining soil. With those two things in mind, here is a timetable, which will encourage your plumerias to produce more blooms and branching (which means more blooms!)

Early April: At first sign of new leaf growth fertilize with 10-10-10

End of April: When about 6 to 8 leaves have developed apply a bloom-booster in the form of a foliar spray. I use MegaGrow found at <http://www.megagrow.com>. Apply early morning or early evening to avoid burning of leaves. Two weeks after MegaGrow apply Messenger (foliar spray) found at <http://www.edenbio.com>

Early June: Start looking for rust, spider mites and whiteflies under leaves. If leaves are heavily infested, remove them, place in trash bag and apply treatment to new growth. Treatment: I use Neem Oil (insecticide, miticide and fungicide) found at Home Depot or Lowes. I also use a systemic fungicide for turf and ornamentals containing "Bayleton" fungicide ("google" the word Bayleton and you will find it). For whiteflies and mites you can use about 2 drops of liquid dish soap and water in a spray bottle. You may have to apply treatments (under leaves) more often (every 2 weeks) as the problem increases throughout the season.

End of June: Fertilize soil with 10-10-10

End of July: Spray MegaGrow and 2 weeks after that spray Messenger. You can start to take cuttings.... see August.

August: Rust, spider mites and whiteflies will be getting worse. Follow the steps above. Now is a good time to trim back. If you do take cuttings and want to pot them, let the cuttings dry out 5 to 10 days. Use a well draining soil such as cactus mix or a 50-50 mix of soil and perlite (mine even grow in this Florida sand we have). Place the cutting in about 6 to 8 inches into the soil. You may have to stake it up. Soil should be moist to begin with and then only water every two weeks until new growth appears. When you see leaves the root system has started. You can place the plant in shade then move to filtered/direct sunlight when 6 to 8 sets of leaves have grown.

Early September: For me, September is my biggest bloom month. It seems to be their finale before going dormant. With the dwindling sun light plumeria will start to drop leaves with the approach of dormancy.

End of September: Fertilize soil with 10-10-10

Early October: Spray with MegaGrow then Messenger 2 weeks after that. This will be the last application of both MegaGrow and Messenger for the season.

November through March: Plumerias are dormant during this period. If you live in an area of freezing temperatures you want to be careful. If it gets below 32 degrees for 2+ hours you will need to cover your plant. I've seen people uproot their plumeria and bring them inside bare-root.

Plumeria will need very little to no water during the winter months. If there is no rain I will water once per month.

I hope you enjoy these tropical beauties!