

Plumeria Care Card

Plumeria rubra & P. obtusa · frangipani · melia

Ka'ala Lush Nursery

Grown with aloha · Wai'anae, O'ahu

Quick answer: Plumeria (frangipani, called melia in Hawaiian) needs at least 6 hours of direct sun, fast-draining soil, and deep but infrequent watering — let the soil dry out between drinks. Feed with a high-phosphorus fertilizer during the growing season for maximum blooms, and propagate from cuttings that have been allowed to dry and callus before planting.

Light	Full sun — 6+ hours for heavy blooming	Blooms	Spring through fall; fragrant lei flowers
Water	Deep and infrequent; let soil dry between waterings	Size	Small tree, prunable; happy in large pots
Soil	Fast-draining — cactus mix or sandy soil with perlite	Pets	Milky sap is irritating — keep pets from chewing
Feeding	High-phosphorus fertilizer (like 10-30-10) in the growing season	Best spot in Hawaii	The sunniest, best-drained corner of the yard

Care essentials

How much sun does a plumeria need? Plumeria bloom in proportion to the sun they get. Six hours of direct sun a day is the minimum for good flowering; eight or more is better.

How often should I water plumeria? Water plumeria deeply, then leave them alone until the soil is dry again — roughly once a week in hot weather for potted plants, and often not at all for established trees in the ground during Hawaii's rainy season. Plumeria store water in their thick, succulent branches and are far more likely...

What fertilizer makes plumeria bloom? Use a fertilizer higher in phosphorus (the middle number) during the growing season — something like 10-30-10, applied monthly from spring through early fall. Phosphorus drives flower production; high-nitrogen lawn fertilizers give you lush leaves and no blooms.

How do you grow plumeria from a cutting? Plumeria cuttings root best when you let them rest first. Take a 12–18 inch cutting from a healthy branch tip, strip off most leaves, and let the cut end dry and callus in a shaded, dry spot for one to two weeks.

Why does my plumeria have orange spots under the leaves? Orange-yellow powdery pustules on the undersides of leaves are plumeria rust, a fungal disease that thrives in Hawaii's warm, wet months. It looks alarming but rarely kills a tree — heavily rusted leaves yellow and drop early, and the tree pushes clean new growth.

Quick FAQ

- **How long does a plumeria cutting take to root?** Usually 4–8 weeks in warm weather. New leaves emerging is the sign roots have formed. Callus the cutting for 1–2 weeks before planting and keep the mix only barely moist while rooting.
- **Why isn't my plumeria blooming?** The usual causes, in order: not enough direct sun (needs 6+ hours), high-nitrogen fertilizer (switch to a bloom formula like 10-30-10), the plant is too young (cuttings typically bloom in 1–3 years), or heavy pruning...
- **Is plumeria sap poisonous?** The milky sap is irritating to skin, eyes, and stomachs — wear gloves when pruning and keep pets and kids from chewing branches. It's a nuisance-level toxin, not a deadly one, but wash it off promptly.

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Plants by appointment in Wai'anae, O'ahu — email kaalalush@gmail.com to arrange a pickup

Just a little 'ohana nursery — mahalo for growing with us!