

I would like to share our vision of the best Plumeria care regimen for all plumeria growers. I hope the following helps you with your goals and plans for 2017.

The goal is to know what, when and why, so you can improve every year by giving your plumeria the best growing conditions. Making a plan and documenting all adjustments will allow you to look back and hopefully determine where you can make improvements.

At the beginning of each season, we examine what we did last year and try and determine how we can improve our methods and products. The following is an outline of what we're planning for our 2017 Care Regimen at Florida Colors. 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 make a plan to protect you plumeria from cold weather, just in case you get caught.

## Before your spring growing season starts

**I highly 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, but locked up or that you need micro nutrients.**

## Removing damaged branches and roots.

**When:** Prior to putting them out for spring.

**What:** Start by checking your plumeria for signs of insects, 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 to help 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:** Prior to 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 prior to 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:** Suggest - Year-Round Spray Oil

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

**Why:** By treating with Year-Round Spray Oil or similar you kill the insects and 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.

## Plumeria waking up from Dormancy

**When:** As soon as you see sign of your plumeria waking up and if the weather allows.

**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.

**How:** Soak your bare rooted plants for about 1 hour. Soak your potted plants from bottom up or drench. Drench your in ground plants with 1 to 2 gals.

**Why:** A bio stimulate helps the overall health of the plants and the root activator give 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 when they need additional soil to top off the pot.

**What:** A good well balanced and well draining soil. I prefer to use soil without any fertilizers and a good decomposed natural mulch without additives.

**What we suggest:** Promix BX Mycorrhizae or similar soil mix (specially to start out the season or a mixture of 1/3 Canadian Sphagnum Peat Moss, 1/3 coir and 1/3 Perlite - horticultural grade.) or a similar soil mix

**How:** The goal is to provide new soil to add back washed away nutrients to the roots. Gently shake of 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 bottom and 1"-2" on top of pots depending on the pot size. This adds some organic mater as it decomposes and helps keep the weeds out and moisture in.

**Why:** Fresh soil provides aeration, retains moisture and adds back nutrients that were washed out. Over the course of time, the organic materials that the soil less mix is made from break down and decompose to the point where you will loose the drainage and aeration properties that are inherent in soil less container medias. When that happens, discard the old soil to the compost pile or to the garden and refill the container with fresh soil mix.

**Mulching** - in ground plants – use 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. In the ground, I cover the ground around the trunk with natural mulch partially decomposed up to 12" deep each year.

**Watering** – Always water well for the next two or three days.

## First fertilizing – Granular

**When:** At the beginning of the growing season

**What:** Use a balanced granular slow release fertilizer with micro nutrients.

**What we suggest:** Excalibur VI (6 month) and IX (9 month) with a NPK of 11-11-13 and micro nutrients designed specifically for Plumeria or a similar fertilizer

**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 produces healthy plants. We have found that a balanced NPK fertilizer with micro nutrients produce very healthy growth, promotes blooming, bloom size and seed production. It is very important to not 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:** From every two weeks to every month.

**What:** A Balanced fertilizer with micro nutrients.

**What we suggest:** Bioblast with micro nutrients and a NPK of 7-7-7. We also spray with Vitazyme every time we spray with fertilizers or similar fertilizers.

**How:** Foliar feeding.

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