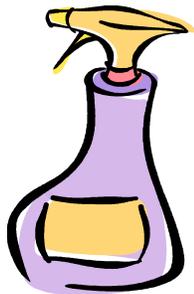


## Spring Plumeria Tune-up

With Spring coming upon us pretty fast and the temperatures warming up at night, you should get your Plumerias ready for the season and for blooming. When temperatures at night rise above 50 degrees, its time to pull the Plumerias out of their winter beds.

Here are a few ideas to help you:



Pull all your Plumerias out of their winter home, clean out any old leaves from the pots, and inspect them for insects. If you find insects or tiny spider webs, spray them with a solution of water and a tiny squirt of dish soap. Soak the area well and repeat each week until they are gone. This should rid the plant of minor pests. Inspect for broken branches and trim them at 45 degree angles.



Initially, set them all out in the sun on a warm patio or concrete driveway. At this time of year, they will enjoy the warmth. Later, you can acclimate them to the area you want to keep them over the summer months.



Re-pot any Plumerias that you feel might be pot bound or are not solid in their pots. Go up to the next larger pot size. Check the roots for rotting. If they are rotted, you will see black when you snip a root. The roots should be creamy white when snipped. Pull the Plumeria out of its pot and brush off excess soil. Add the Plumeria to fresh, clean soil. Stake for stability at this point - and remember to tag it. We use cactus soil - "Super Soil" - Palm & Cactus Mix - in the red bag. You can find it at Home Depot.



Give your Plumerias a good watering. Initially, water deeply until it runs from the bottom of the pot. Then let them drain and water one more time.



After watering, you can then mix up some high middle number blooming fertilizer at 1/2 strength and water it in. Some high middle number fertilizers are, Hawaiian Bud & Bloom, Miracle Grow, Bloom Booster, or any other fertilizer with a high middle number. You can also try some Seaweed fertilizer if you like or foliar fertilizer for leaves. But remember to give your Plumerias only 1/2 strength. Full strength can burn the plant and yellow your leaves. Then fertilizer at every watering during the first growing months.



Move your Plumerias to a sunny spot that gets at least 6 hours of sun per day. Plumerias need lots light and sun to bloom. Plumerias can be put in full sun if they are acclimated to it in the Spring.



If you plan on putting your Plumerias in the ground this year, do it now (Spring). Plumerias love to be in the ground. They grow and bloom much better than in the black pots we like to start them in.

Pots in Arizona dry out quickly and lose nutrients quickly. You will have to really tend to your potted Plumerias much more than if they are planted in the ground. They can always be dug up for winter storage later.

When planting in the ground, make sure your soil is turned up and add, if possible, some type of rich potting soil, manure, or other amendment. Our desert soils are not the best, but their sandiness does help with drainage. Dig a hole a couple inches larger in diameter than your root system. Plant, fill, and water. If you can add timed irrigation, Plumerias love this. They get very used to that bit of water each day.



These Springtime tips will get your started for the year.

Hope they are helpful. Happy growing!