



COACHELLA VALLEY PLUMERIA

Caring For Plumeria in the Coachella Valley

Plumeria Cuttings

Your cutting is from a Plumeria grown in the Coachella Valley and is acclimated to our weather. Here are a few basic guidelines so your cutting gets off to a good start. The best time to plant your cutting is in the early Spring. Additional information at [Plumeria Care](#).

PREPARE THE SOIL

Our soil here in the Valley is dry and depleted of nutrients. To ensure optimal growth and bloom, we recommend a blend of 50% CACTUS MIX, 50% PERLITE with some COCO COIR. Moisten and mix well. If possible, let the mixture sit for a day. When planting, your soil mixture should be damp, not wet.

CACTUS MIX provides inorganic material to improve drainage and helps prevent root rot. PERLITE improves soil drainage, aeration and water retention. PERLITE also allows roots to penetrate the soil more easily and is pH neutral. COCO COIR retains water and releases it back into the soil as needed.

PLANTING YOUR CUTTING

Cuttings can be placed in a container or directly into your garden. Dig a hole approximately 12" wide and 12" deep (deeper and wider if your cutting is taller than 3'). Fill with prepared planting mix (some people mix this with some native soil.)

If using a container (one gallon minimum), fill it with your prepared planting mix.

Whether planted directly into your garden or into a container, bury the cutting 3" deep in the center of the container.

Lightly press down the soil mixture so that it slopes away from the stem. This prevents water from pooling around the stem. All new plantings should be staked. Staking allows the emerging tender roots to grow into your amended soil without getting jostled by the wind. The wider your stakes are placed, away from the cutting/stem, the better.

Depending on the shape and size of your cutting, you may need 1, 2 or 3 stakes to secure each of the multiple branches. The stakes can be bamboo, redwood or green plastic stakes. Place the stake near the branch you

want to secure and drive it at least 12" into the soil, deeper if your trimming is 3' or taller with many branches. Protect the skin of your cutting with a pool noodle or flexible garden tape wrapped several times around the stem. Secure the stem to the stake with green garden tape, zip ties or coated garden wire.

FEEDING YOUR CUTTING

If you have used our planting mix (see above), the pH of your soil will be 7 or 'neutral' which is ideal for plumeria. Plumeria need added fertilizer for optimal growth and bloom. Feed with a balanced fertilizer like Excalibur VI, specifically formulated for plumeria. There are the major nutrients needed – NPK, which stands for Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium. These are abbreviated on fertilizer bags or containers such as 12-12-12.

- **Nitrogen** stimulates plant growth by helping with photosynthesis. Yellow or stunted leaves suggest low nitrogen uptake.
- **Phosphorous** helps with root development, energy transfer and overall health of the plant. Older leaves which curl or distort may be a sign of Phosphorous deficiency.
- **Potassium** helps with the movement of water from the soil up through the plant to the leaves.

In addition, there are micronutrients available in your fertilizer. Absorption or uptake of these depends on the pH of your soil.

Use the recommended amount of fertilizer as directed on the bag. More is not better. Here is the valley we recommend fertilizing in February, June and September.

WATERING YOUR CUTTING

Soil texture affects drainage. Drainage affects root growth. Root growth is what you want.

Your cuttings, planted in your prepared, moistened soil, will not need to be watered until three new leaves are formed. Properly amended soil will allow water to move quickly through the soil. Allow your soil to dry almost completely before watering again. Use a water meter or your stick your finger into to soil. If soil particles stick to your finger, the soil is still wet and should be allowed to dry out more.

An average amount of water from a 1/2" drip irrigation system would be 3 to 6 minutes 3 times a day.

In the heat of summer, your Plumeria likes a Hawaiian shower. Gently spray a quick burst of water onto the plant, not the soil. The benefits of a Hawaiian shower are to cool and clean the leaves of your plumeria.

For more help, write CoachellaValleyPlumeriaSociety@gmail.com

Call 760-333-2766

FACEBOOK: Coachella Valley Plumeria

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