



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Frangipani or Cacalosúchil

*Plumeria acutifolia* var. *rubra*

**DESCRIPTION:** Frangipani is native to warm tropical areas of the Pacific Islands, Caribbean, South America and Mexico, as far north as central Sonora. In tropical regions it may reach a height of 30' to 40' and half as wide. They can grow to be large shrubs or even small trees in mild areas of the U.S. Their widely spaced thick succulent branches are round or pointed, and have long fleshy leaves in clusters near the branch tips. Leaves tend to fall in early winter since they are deciduous and sensitive to cold. In most of Arizona Frangipani should be grown in containers. However, in milder climates it can be grown outdoors in the ground, where they make a small beautiful landscape trees. The real payoff comes during the early summer through the early fall months, when very fragrant clusters of showy, waxy white flowers occur.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** They make beautiful potted plants for the patio or greenhouse.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** When temperatures dip into the low 40's they may be stored in their containers or uprooted carefully trying to take as much root as possible and stored over winter in a garage where temperatures are kept above freezing. As soon as temperatures rise outdoors they can be brought out and planted again. They will resume growth, leaf out and begin to grow as if nothing happened.



**Sun tolerance:** Best in light shade, at least for the afternoon.



**Watering and feeding:** Water Plumerias deeply, but infrequently, let soil dry out somewhat before watering again. Begin to reduce the frequency of watering in mid-October, as the cool season approaches. Stop watering after all the leaves have fallen and the plant has gone dormant. Plumerias should be fed beginning in spring when growth begins. To encourage the most blooms a switch to a high phosphorous fertilizer in early May and fertilize every 2 to 3 weeks through the end of August.



**Soil requirements:** For container planting use a coarse, well-draining potting soil, such as cactus mix or potting mix with perlite, pumice, or sand.



**Pruning:** None necessary.