



# Quick Guide to Growing and Caring of *Plumeria punica*

**Name:** *Plumeria Punica (P. caracasana)*

**Family:** Apocynaceae

## Background Information

- Known as Bridal Bouquet or Fiddle Leaf Plumeria. Gets its name because when in full bloom the plant resembles a floral bouquet
- Originates in Panama, Colombia and Venezuela and is commonly seen throughout the Caribbean
- Popular throughout South Florida.
- USDA Hardiness Zones 9-15

## Soil

- pH preferred alkaline 6 to 6.8, well drained loam or sand
- Containers: Potting soil with cypress or perlite to provide drainage

## Growth rate & habits

- Relatively fast grower especially when planted in the landscape
- Trunk bare near the ground and forms a dense crown
- Cold hardy but not tolerant below 40°F

## Height/Spread

- Maximum height to 11 feet
- Maximum spread to 8 feet
- Can be kept lower by hand pruning

## Flowering/Leaves

- Months: April through December in south Florida
- Flowers
  - White with a yellow throat, no fragrance
  - Long blooming period averaging approximately 185 days
  - 5 overlapping petals up to 3 ½ “ across
- Leaves/Stems/bark
  - Semi-deciduous to deciduous in extreme drought conditions or cold winter
  - Bark is smooth and stems exudes a white sap when cut

## Cultural Management

- Lighting
  - Full sun/ indirect light
- Temperature
  - Likes the heat, will defoliate in cold weather
- Irrigation
  - Maintain on the moist side and do not allow to dry out



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UpClose....Plumeria Punica  
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### Nutritional Requirements

- Low nutritional needs
- Fertilize every three months with a balanced controlled release fertilizer (CRF)

Code	Product	Type	Duration	Apply	Rate	Comment
	Harrell's 20-5-10	CRF	3-4 months	Incorporate or topdress		Use to finish plant and promote blooms
	Harrell's 15-6-11	CRF	10-12 months	Incorporate or topdress		Use at time of planting, long term nutrition
	Harrell's 0-0-18	CRF	9 months	Topdress		Use in winter to relieve stress and maintain green foliage

### Common Pests & Insects

- Aphids
  - Frangipani caterpillar
  - Mealybugs
- *All rates are calculated per 4 gallons of water in a backpack unless otherwise specified. Always double check label and use protective clothing*

Code	Active Ingredient	Trade or Brand	Rate	Method	Comment
	<b>APHIDS</b>				
	Acephate	Orthene	6tbl	Spray	
	<b>FRANGIPANI CATEPILLAR</b>				
	Permethrin	Astro	2oz	Spray	
	Carbaryl	Sevin	2oz	Spray	
	Bacillus Thuringiensis (BT)	Thuricide	9 tsp	Spray	
	<b>MEALYBUGS</b>				
	Imidacloprid	Bounty	2tsp	Spray	
	Acephate	Orthene	6tbl	Spray	
	Pyriproxyfen	Distance	1/2oz	Spray	
	Abamectin	Avid/Ardent	1/2tbl	Spray	

### Common Diseases

- Rust (Coleosporium) ..... Promotes leaf loss. Plumeria Punica (P. caracasana ) is highly resistant to Coleosporium but can occur occasionally

Code	Active Ingredient	Trade or Brand	Rate	Method	Comment
	<b>GENERAL PREVENTATIVE</b>				
	Azoxystrobin	Heritage G	4lbs/m <sup>2</sup>	Topdress	Apply in Spring



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Code	Active Ingredient	Trade or Brand	Rate	Method	Comment
	<b>RUST (Cleosporium)</b>				
	Mycobutanil	Eagle 40WP	See label		
	Propiconazole	Spectator	See label		

### Pruning

- Best time to prune is in January or February
- Top or Crown: Hand prune about three inches from the top to promote branching and canopy density
- Bottom/Trunk: Can be cut back hard to within 6 inches from the bottom to promote a dense bushy plant

### Uses

- Plant in containers for uses around patio (in well lighted areas)
- Garden or Landscape as an accent plant



### Salt Tolerance

- High, can be planted near the beaches and coastal areas

**Invasive:** No

**Self-sowing:** No



**Propagation:** Vegetative by cuttings Spring through fall

### Varieties of Plumerias spp or frangipani

- Plumeria rubra.....most common and the most fragrant of the frangipani. Used in traditional Hawaiian leis
- Plumeria obtuse.... Pagoda or white frangipani
- Plumeria alba.... West Indian Jasmine

### Growing Program

The growing program described below is based on a seasonal program used by professional growers for Plumeria grown in containers. The program can be used as general guideline if your Plumeria is in the landscape. In south Florida, Plumeria can be grown from March through October with ease. During the late fall and winter, especially if they are harsh, they will tend to lose their foliage.

For a complete and detailed culture guide on propagating, growing and caring of Plumeria punica and other plant varieties refer to the *Manual of Nutrition, Pest and Disease Management* at [www.maakprop.com](http://www.maakprop.com)



## Quick Guide to Growing and Caring of Plumeria punica

### Growing Program Chart

At Time of Planting	Code	Product	Rate	Comment
Nutrition		Harrell's 15-6-11		10 month control release fertilizer
Insecticide		Criterion		Systemic Insecticide, 3-4 month coverage
Fungicide		Heritage G		Systemic fungicide, 3-4 month coverage
Cultural				
SPRING	Code	Product	Rate	Comment
Nutrition				
Insecticide		Criterion		Systemic Insecticide, 3-4 month coverage
Fungicide		Heritage G		Systemic fungicide, 3-4 month coverage
Other		<i>Preventative Spray</i>		<b>Aphids</b>
Cultural				
SUMMER	Code	Product	Rate	Comment
Nutrition				
Insecticide		Criterion		Systemic Insecticide, 3-4 month coverage
Fungicide		Heritage G		Systemic fungicide, 3-4 month coverage
Other				
Cultural				
FALL	Code	Product	Rate	Comment
Nutrition		Harrell's 0-0-18		Potassium for over wintering, 9 month coverage
Insecticide		Criterion		Systemic Insecticide, 3-4 month coverage
Fungicide		Heritage G		Systemic fungicide, 3-4 month coverage
Other		Preventative Spray		<i>Cleosporium</i>
Cultural				
WINTER	Code	Product	Rate	Comment
Nutrition				
Insecticide				
Fungicide		Heritage G		
Other		Preventative Spray		<i>Cleosporium</i>
Cultural				

### How to use the Growing Program Chart

If you are planting the Plumeria, start with step 1 "At Time of Planting", wait three (3) months and then begin the program with the instructions for the corresponding season of the year.

If your Plumeria is already planted or in the ground already, begin the program with the instruction for the corresponding season of the year and continue from there.

*Find the month of the year you are in when you begin and follow-up program on months indicated (example: Started in April, then summer treatment is July, Fall treatment is October and so on...)*

Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall
January	April	July	October
February	May	August	November
December	March	June	September