

Plumeria species - Frangipani

Plumeria are easy to germinate and grow from seed however as the great bulk of Plumeria in their multitude of colours are hybrids, there is no guarantee that the seed will produce a plant that is true to form to the parent. This can only happen through vegetative propagation, that is, from cuttings.

Propagation

When to sow: At any time when the daytime temperature is in excess of 20°C or at any time in a greenhouse. Plumeria is a tropical species and germinates best with a daytime temperature in the early to mid 20°C and ideally night temperatures should also not go below about 16°C.

Growing medium: Plumeria like a rich, moist but well-drained growing medium, use a good quality commercial potting mix with some added sharp sand to about 10% to increase drainage will be satisfactory. Start your plants in plastic pots about 50cm in diameter with the soil/medium to a few centimetres below the top of the pot. Pot on as needed.

Pretreatment: Soak your seed in warm water overnight.

Sowing: Sow your seed with the papery wing vertical and with the heavier end in the growing medium. Sow so that the seed is about halfway into the medium, that is, with half the wing sitting above the soil. Keep the medium moist but not damp. Place your seed container in a warm sunny position. Germination at 20°C+ should occur within 14 days. Germination at lower temperatures can be slower and patchy.

Grow on as desired. Protect your young seedlings from slugs and snails.