

# SOUTH COAST PLUMERIA SOCIETY



## MISSION STATEMENT:

Educate the membership in the culture, development, hybridization, propagation and research of Plumeria (aka, "Frangipani") Promote interest in and increase knowledge of Plumeria, share this knowledge, and provide a forum for the South Coast Plumeria Society members.

## Editor's Notes:

Hoping you all had a great July 4<sup>th</sup>. Because of the holiday and everything else planned in the next few weeks we decided against a July meeting. We have to have some time to work in the garden! Flowers are popping out. I see lots of lovely posts on the FB page. Lots of color and both favorite and new varieties. So here is what is going on:

LA County Arboretum Plumeria Festival with speakers, vendors, tours of the collection of over 100 varieties, entertainment, food and Plumeria themed cocktails (Friday night,) Promises to be a good time!

Garden Tours Visit members' gardens on 2 days this year **July 27<sup>th</sup>** and **Aug 16<sup>th</sup>**. July tours are Kenny Lam, Trace Westcot, David Lopez and Manny Rivas. Addresses and information will be sent be email to members' email. As this is one of the big "Perks" of membership- please do not share the info publically. Aug tours are Tammy Cox, Cody Bean, Alan Vogel, and Richard Ingrassia.

Annual Flower Show Our August meeting is the annual flower show. **August 3**. Rules and information will be forthcoming. Keep talking to those plants!



Sherman Gardens Aug 23 & 24 Annual Hibiscus and Plumeria event in Orange County's beautiful gardens. Wide range of displays and vendors.



**Sherman**  
LIBRARY & GARDENS  
2647 E. Coast Hwy.  
Corona del Mar, CA 92625  
Visit our website at [thesherman.org](http://thesherman.org)

With all the event coming up soon, we will need extra help setting up and picking up, especially the flower show. Please let us know if you are available, or just show up and pitch in.

Members' Last name A- L, please bring snack to share for August meeting/ flower show.

A couple beauties:



C Star Marmalade :posted by Roxanne Munoz. Thanks Roxanne!



JJ Atlantis Posted by Anita Dorsey De Leon

## Jim McKibben's Presentation: June 2025



### Aphids

Aphids: soft-bodied, sap-sucking insects that form large destructive colonies. There are more than 1,350 known species of aphids in North America and more than 5,000 species worldwide.



Treatment: Natural - Ladybugs or Praying Mantis.

Larger infestations use insecticidal soap or Neem oil. Multiple treatments needed. Spray infected areas with worm casting tea. Spray with water to dislodge.

### Mealybugs

Mealybugs are a family of tiny, soft-bodied scale insects that suck the fluids out of your plumeria.



Treatment: Natural - Ladybugs or Praying Mantis.

Large infestations - use insecticidal soap or Neem Oil  
Spray infected areas with worm casting tea

### Whiteflies

Tiny winged flies that are one of the most common pests on plumeria. Large infestations of these tiny flies can quickly suck the juices out of the leaves and branches of plumeria, resulting in the death of the plant.



Treatment: Beneficial insects are best; Ladybugs, lacewings, phytoseiid mites, and spiders. Worm castings are a strong natural deterrent. Spray affected areas with worm casting tea. Neem oil also works. Spray with water to dislodge.



### Spider mites

Spider mites are a group of sap-sucking tiny red spiders that develop large colonial groups. They are noted for the sticky silk webs that can quickly envelop the leaves and branches.



Treatment: Rubbing alcohol mixed with water (1:4) to spray affected areas. Insecticidal soaps and Neem Oil are also good. Spray affected areas with worm casting tea.

### Leafhoppers

Leafhoppers and sharpshooters are small (<3/8") sap-sucking insects. They have tissue piercing mouthparts that allow them to suck the fluids out of the leaves and branches. In addition to the damage done by sucking the juices, they often introduce bacteria and viruses into the host plant.



Treatment: Check the undersides of leaves. Although tiny you can often spot them as they jump at your approach. Natural predators are best; ladybugs, praying mantis, lacewings, etc. Use Neem oil or insecticidal soap for larger infestations.

### Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers are a group of herbivorous insects that can quickly destroy a grove of trees. Individually, a single grasshopper will damage or chew through a few leaves on your plumeria, but in larger numbers they can strip a tree of leaves in a day or two. There are more than 600 species of grasshoppers.



Treatment: Nolo bait (also called grasshopper bait) is a specially treated wheat bran that can be applied to the area around the base of the tree. It contains a microsporidium fungus, *Nosema locustae*, that is deadly to grasshoppers and similar insects. The fungus does not harm the plant or other animals.

### Scale Insects

37 types of scale insects are found in North America. They are quite variable in appearance. They are soft shelled or armored. Many have a waxy external shells and all can suck the sap out of the plumerias.



Treatment: Beneficial insects are best. Neem oil and insecticidal soap also work but need multiple treatments over several weeks to eliminate all stages of scale development. Spray affected areas with worm casting tea.

### Caterpillars

Caterpillars are the larval stages of butterflies and moths. Since many species of Lepidoptera are beneficial pollinators of plumeria and food crops. We want to protect the good and eliminate the bad.



### Infestations

Rust-Orange or rust colored fungus pustules on leaves and branches  
Powdery mildew-a white fungal film on plumeria leaves and branches  
Black tip rot-black fungal infestation found on leaves and tips of branches  
Dark leaf spots-caused by a bacteria (*Xanthomonas*)

Treatment for all fungal and bacterial infestations are similar:

Remove infected leaves ASAP

Use a fungicide:

Triadimefon

Bonides's Fung-onil Multi-purpose Fungicide

Ortho's Max Garden Control Concentrate

Spectracide's Immunox Multi-Purpose Fungicide

### Rust on plants

Orange or rust colored fungus pustules commonly found on leaves and branches



Treatment: Baking soda added to Neem oil; mix 4 tsp/1 oz /1gallon of water plus ½ tsp detergent (Dawn)

Remove and destroy infected leaves ASAP.

Treat with a fungicide; Bonide's Fung-onil Multi-purpose Fungicide, Ortho's Max Garden Disease Control, Spectracide's Immunox Multi-Purpose Fungicide

### Powdery Mildew

Powdery mildew is a white fungal film that develops on plumeria leaves and branches.



Treatment: Baking soda spray 1tsp/ 1 qt. water. Fungicide spray: i.e. Triadimefon, etc. Remove affected leaves and destroy ASAP

### Black tip rot

Black tip rot is a fungal infestation that forms on the tips of plumeria branches causing stunted growth and potentially death to the growing branch.



Treatment: Remove affected parts of the plant if possible. Treat with a fungicide, i.e. Triadimefon, etc.

### Beneficial Insects

**Beneficial Insects** are natural predators of the insect pests that attack and destroy our plumeria

**Ladybugs** – Brightly colored hard-shelled beetles that devour aphids and scale insects

**Praying Mantis** – Alien looking predatory insects that devour aphids, scale insects, and mealybugs

**Lacewings**-Delicate looking members of the Family Chrysopidae. They feed primarily on pollen, nectar, and honeydew. They also feed on mites, aphids, and other insect pests.

**Dragonflies**-Beautiful flying predators that consume mosquitos, gnats, thrips, and other nuisance flying insects.

Thanks Jim.