

Plumeria rubra

Plumeria rubra, commonly known as frangipani or red frangipani, is a species of flowering plant native to Mexico, Central America, and Venezuela.

Kingdom: Plantae
Clade: Tracheophytes
Order: Gentianales
Family: Apocynaceae
Genus: *Plumeria*
Species: *P. rubra*



Common Names

Hindi: Champa
Tamil: Arali
Telugu: Deva Gandhamu
Malayalam: Arali
Kannada: Deva Ganneru
Marathi: Chafa
Bengali: Kath Champa

Characteristics Features

Size: *Plumeria rubra* is a small deciduous tree or shrub that typically grows up to 610 meters (2033 feet) tall, though some cultivars may be smaller.

Leaves: The leaves are leathery, oblong to elliptical in shape, and arranged alternately along the branches. They are typically dark green and glossy.

Flowers: The flowers of *Plumeria rubra* are large, fragrant, and starshaped, with five overlapping petals. They can range in colour from white with yellow centres to shades of pink, red, or orange. Some varieties have a mix of colours or are bicolored.

Fragrance: The flowers are highly fragrant, especially in the evening, attracting pollinators like moths and butterflies.

Latex: Like other members of the Apocynaceae family, *Plumeria rubra* produces a milky latex sap that is mildly toxic and can cause skin irritation.

Uses of *Plumeria rubra*

1. Ornamental Uses:

Plumeria rubra is widely cultivated as an ornamental plant in tropical and subtropical gardens and landscapes. It is prized for its beautiful, fragrant flowers and attractive foliage.

It is often grown as a specimen tree, in containers, or as part of a mixed shrubbery.

2. Lei Making:

In Hawaiian culture, *Plumeria rubra* flowers are used to make leis (garlands). The flowers are strung together in intricate patterns to create fragrant and decorative necklaces or headbands.

3. Traditional and Cultural Uses:

In various cultures across its native and cultivated range, *Plumeria rubra* flowers are associated with symbolism, rituals, and religious ceremonies.

In some traditions, the flowers are used in offerings, while in others, they symbolize beauty, love, and devotion.

Cultivation

Plumeria rubra thrives in full sun and well-drained soil, preferring a warm, tropical climate.

It is propagated from seeds, cuttings, or grafts. Cuttings are a common method due to their ability to produce plants with characteristics identical to the parent plant.

The tree is drought tolerant once established but benefits from regular watering during dry periods, especially when flowering and producing new leaves.

Plumeria rubra is not only prized for its aesthetic appeal and cultural significance but also for its ability to attract pollinators and enhance biodiversity in gardens and natural landscapes.