How to graft Plumeria kit

Description:

This kit contains almost all of the necessary components for the home gardener/grower to perform slant grafts on frangipani/plumerias. We prefer to graft during the growing season using the slant graft as it’s the simplest of grafts with the graft attaching in just a few weeks if performed correctly. For best results we highly recommend grafting from the second month of Spring through to the middle of the last month of Summer.

Kit contents

• 1 x Sydney Frangipani custom made grafting board
• 2 x 250ml Sydney Frangipani Gardening Antiseptic Spray
• 1 x Instructions (This document)
• 2 x Rolls of grafting tape
• 1 x Pkt of 10 Aluminium Id tags
• 12 x Zip ties

Items not included that you will also need:

• A very sharp non-serrated carving knife (Wiltshire Stay Sharp carving knife preferred)
• A host plumeria plant which we will call the “Rootstock”
• A fresh cut plumeria green growth tip cutting which we will call the “Scion” of same diameter
• Plenty of paper towel (We always recommend using renewables like bamboo paper towel)

Important information on where you should set up to graft:

• Select a clean & tidy shaded area.
• If grafting onto a tree, graft late in the day or early morning when the sun is low in the sky.
• For potted plumeria use a bench or table.
How to graft Plumeria step by step

Step 1  Check that you have everything

- Sydney Frangipani custom made grafting board
- Sydney Frangipani Gardening Antiseptic Spray
- Grafting tape
- Zip ties (cable ties)
- Host plumeria plant (rootstock)
- Scion (fresh cutting) of the same diameter
- Sharp carving knife
- Side cutter pliers
- Paper towel
- Suitable area to graft
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 2  Remove the leaves and visualise where you are going to cut and join both parts together

Cut all of the leaves from the scion and the rootstock at this point. Hold up the cutting (scion) against the plant to be grafted (rootstock) see picture below to determine where the thickness of both is exactly the same so you know where to cut.

Visualise where you will make your cuts on both
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 3 Cleaning the Rootstock

Clean the rootstock (plant to be grafted) by spraying the stem with the Sydney Frangipani Garden Antiseptic spray all the way around and wipe dry with some paper towel. (don't forget to check out how much dirt is on the paper towel!) Always Repeat process until no more dirt is evident on the paper towel. This step is critical to success as many grafts rot due to bacterial infection.

Spray to kill bacteria and prevent infection  Thorough cleaning is critical to success
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 4  Cleaning the Scion

Clean the Scion (cutting to be grafted) by spraying the cutting with the Antiseptic spray all the way around and wipe dry with some paper towel. (don’t forget to check out how much dirt is on the paper towel!) Repeat process until no more dirt is evident on the paper towel. This step is critical to success as many grafts rot due to bacterial infection. Once your scion is clean, lay it down on a clean piece of paper towel.

Cleanliness helps greatly at this stage  Dirt removed after cleaning twice
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 5  Clean/sterilise your knife

Spray both sides of the knife blade well with Sydney Frangipani gardening antiseptic spray & wipe dry with paper towel. **Always wipe in a direction away from yourself and only wipe from the NON-CUTTING edge side of the knife. Please take your time and exercise extreme care not to cut yourself.**

Step 5 Cleaning is critical to success
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 6 Making your cuts

Place your grafting board behind the branch you want to cut Step 6 picture (A) and using a “Carving motion” cut the piece off the rootstock (plant) on a long narrow angle or slant Step 6 picture (B). It is very important to carve the piece and not to chop the piece as the cambium layer is compressed when chopped and this misalignment can cause the pieces not to fuse/join.
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 7  **Re-cut the rootstock after a few minutes to reduce sap flow**

Re-cut the rootstock on the same narrow angle approximately 4-5mm further down using the “Carving motion” to remove a thin disc. This technique greatly reduces the sap flow and the removed disc can be used to measure the proposed scion cut.

![Step 7 picture](image-url)
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 8  Cutting the Scion to the same angle
Lay your thin disc on your grafting board and use this to measure how long you need to make your cut on the scion (cutting)

Step 8 picture – use the disc to gauge the length of the proposed cut to the scion
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 9  Using the thin disc as a measurement tool

Using the carving motion, cut the same angle on the base of the scion to match the thin disc previously cut from the rootstock. **Lay the cut scion next to the thin disc piece cut from the rootstock to measure the length of the scion cut.** If the length of the cut and the angle doesn’t match the rootstock then either the rootstock or the scion can be recut to match the other one.

Step 9 picture - Thin disc and the scion cut should match perfectly
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 10 Attaching the scion to the rootstock

Using a zip tie provided in kit, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** to secure the graft **lower** than the correct position and tighten **See Step 10 picture (A)** Add two more zip ties above & below the first one to secure & tighten. **The grafted piece (scion) should still be in the wrong/lower position at this stage. See Step 10 picture (B).**
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 11 Adjusting the graft to the correct position

To adjust the scion to the correct position so there is a perfect match, wiggle the scion just a little bit and tighten the zip ties as you go. **This will cause the scion to slide upwards.** Repeat this process until you achieve a perfect meeting of the cambium layers see **Step 11 picture (B).** Wipe away any sap that has been squeezed out during the tightening and adjustment process with paper towel that has been sprayed with Sydney Frangipani Gardening Antiseptic spray. Add a further zip tie if required. See **Step 11 picture (B)**
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 12  Cutting the zip ties short and disinfect

Cut the zip ties short with side cutter pliers as per the Step 12 picture (A) below. Lightly spray the entire area all the way around with Sydney Frangipani Gardening Antiseptic spray all the way around to kill any introduced bacteria during grafting and allow to dry for 5 minutes. See Step 12 picture (B)

Step 12 picture (A)  
Step 12 picture (B)
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 13  Wrapping the graft with tape

Using the grafting tape provided in the kit, start wrapping the graft nice and tight to keep the graft from becoming infected and to help support the zip ties from any possible movement. The tape roll will squeak when its wrapped tightly so keep listening for this as an indicator. When you are happy with the amount of wrapping applied start to wrap downwards and finish by leaving a tag of tape at the base of the graft so that it can be found easily when its time to unwrap. See Step 13 picture (C).
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 14  Labelling and allowing the graft to heal

Now it’s time to label your graft so using a marker pen and something to write on, label the tag with the scion cultivar and the date it was grafted. Now move your plumeria to an area free from rain as its important not to allow the graft area to get wet until it has healed. **IMPORTANT - always keep graft dry until healed.**
How to graft Plumeria (continued)

Step 15  Removing the tape and zip ties

Once new growth has been observed from the graft, usually after about two weeks
the tape can be removed. This is simply just unwinding it all off. Once all the tape
has been removed, spray the entire area with Sydney Frangipani Gardening
Antiseptic spray all the way around to kill any residual bacteria.

After a further week or two the zip ties can be removed by gently cutting through
them with side cutter pliers. Special care needs to be taken not to scratch the
plumeria at this point. If a scratch occurs simply spray with Sydney Frangipani
Gardening Antiseptic spray.

INSERT HAPPY DANCE HERE : )  CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GRAFT

Appendix

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Growth</td>
<td>Term for recent fresh growth. Usually these branches/tips are green</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rootstock</td>
<td>Term used for the host plant or plant which has the roots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scion</td>
<td>Term used for the small piece of plant material which is attached/grafted to the Rootstock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambium layer</td>
<td>Outer layer of Plumeria which carries all of the food to the upper branches</td>
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