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That Fabulous Plumeria Fragrance

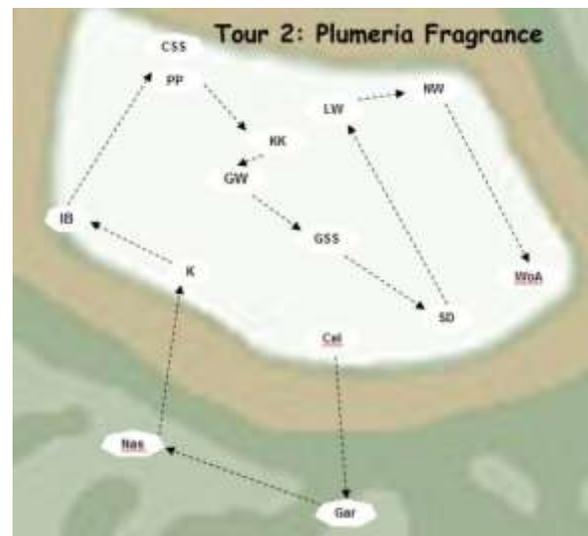
In addition of colorful flowers, plumeria are well known for their excellent scent. The alternative name "Frangipani" comes from a sixteenth-century Italian marquis who invented a plumeria-scented perfume. However, there is no single plumeria fragrance, and some varieties have no scent at all!

Think about your own sense of smell. Unless you work in an industry where a sense of smell is important - like wine making - the average person can only describe about 2 dozen fragrances. Scent descriptions are cultural – 'curry with a bit of floral' assumes that you know what curry spice smells like. Everyone's sense of smell is different, and sometimes men smell a particular fragrance that women don't smell at all, and vice versa.

Most people are familiar with the lemony sweet scent of Celadine, but in fact there are many different plumeria fragrances. Among them: nutmeg, peach, floral, black pepper, sun tan lotion, coconut, fresh cut cedar, candy, popcorn, and ginger root, but there's also some that smell like sweaty socks with a touch of onion, or cat urine! Lucky for you, we don't have those varieties blooming in the grove... at least not yet.

Let's take a walk through the grove, and experience some of the better known plumeria fragrances.

- **Celadine:** her powerful lemony scent is familiar to anyone lucky enough to wear a lei. Her yellow white flowers are used to make the floral necklaces associated with Hawaii and the Pacific islands.
- **Gardena:** named for a Southern California city where this white flower is popular, her fragrance is distinctly lilac. However, if you didn't grow up in an area where lilacs are common, you'd probably describe it as floral.
- **Nassau:** not all red plumeria have a fragrance, but this propeller shaped bloom is known for its strong nutmeg scent.
- **Kimo:** this beautiful flower is quite a chameleon, as its color and shape changes with the temperature. The strong lime and ginger fragrance is consistent, and a personal favorite.
- **Irma Bryan:** take a good long sniff – it's hard to detect the soft spicy fragrance. Most red varieties do not have any fragrance.



- **Penang Peach** and its seedling, **California Sunset**: these blooms have an excellent ripe peach fragrance.
- **King Kalakaua**: do you smell her fragrance? I personally can't smell anything, but others have told me she smell wonderful.
- **Gee Whiz**: these pretty white and pink blooms have an outstanding perfume, and this tree produces many seed pods.
- **Guillot's Sunset**: this prolific bloomer has sometimes spicy, sometimes rose scented rainbow flower, making it an old favorite.
- **Sundance**: the lovely striped petals are easily identified by the spicy scent.
- **Large White**: of all the plumeria grown today, white blooms are usually very fragrant. These impressive flowers have a powerful perfume. Stop at the other large white flowers in the grove – Nellie's White and Wings of Angels – and you'll notice that they all smell a bit different from each other.

Please don't break off branches! Some plumeria are difficult to grow, and damaged trees die when uncaring visitors snap pieces off. An abused tree is sad sight, especially when plumeria are readily available in stores or from friends.

Take your time and stroll through the rest of our grove, and enjoy the many blooms. As more trees are planted, mature and bloom, this walking tour and other, more in-depth tours will be expanded. Enjoy!