

Frangipani Facts



Frangipani Facts #20, Spring 2008



## Frangipani Facts

### Features

Committee members	Page 4
Editors Report	Page 5
Acting Editors Report	Page 5
Presidents Report	Page 6
FSA Financial Statement	Page 7
FSA Annual Report	Page 9
Member Update	Page 11
Vic Spring Meeting	Page 11
Frangipani Quiz	Page 12
FSA 2009, Early Bird Raffle	Page 12
Trade Directory	Page 13
Henry Apples Dupree	Page 14
Vera's 100th Birthday Celebration	Page 15
Frangipani Book Review	Page 16
Frangipani Seed Pods	Page 17
Plumeria, Cultivars, Species, Genus	Page 18
Seedlings and Parents	Page 19
Growing P.obtusa 'Singapore' seedlings	Page 22
Seed Viability	Page 27
Seedling Article	Page 29
Seed Raising	Page 33
Don't Spurn White Seeds in Place of Bright Colours	Page 36
Mele Pa Bowman	Page 43
Cold Tolerant Frangipani's	Page 45
Visit with Dr Richard Criley to the University of Hawaii	Page 47
Raffle Donation Form	Page 59



Frangipani Facts, the journal of the Frangipani Society of Australia (FSA). Frangipani Facts is published four times per year, and is distributed to all FSA members via Internet File distribution – details will be provided via e-mail. For those members without Internet access the journal will be posted to their mail address. Distribution is via the Internet to keep membership costs down. All content in this magazine is subject to copyright.

## Frangipani Facts

### Frangipani Flower Image Index

A004	Page 19	Mayan Gold	Page 57
A004 Seedling	Page 19	Mele Pa Bowman	Page 44
Abigail	Page 6	Mele Pa Bowman Seedling	Page 44
Andaman	Page 19	Multi-Coloured Seedling	Page 1
Andaman Seedling #1	Page 19	Old Gold	Page 14
Andaman Seedling #2	Page 19	Orange 4 Seedling	Page 49
Bali Place	Page 58	Orange Seedling	Page 49
Boon Yen	Page 56	Pale Orange Seedling	Page 50
Can Cun	Page 58	Pink and White Seedling	Page 50
Cemetery Pink Seedling	Page 38	Pink Seedling	Page 51
Cerise Seedling	Page 48	Pink Seedling #2	Page 51
Daisy Wilcox	Page 4	Pinkish Seedling	Page 52
Dump Special	Page 37	Plumeria Obtusa Seedling #1	Page 24
Dwarf Singapore Peteite Pink	Page 54	Plumeria Obtusa Seedling #2	Page 25
Ella	Page 8	Queen Napranum	Page 57
Elsie	Page 26	Rainbow 2 Seedling	Page 52
Emerson's Pink Nova	Page 42	Rainbow Seedling	Page 53
Guillot's Sunset	Page 41	Red Seedling 2	Page 53
Indonesain Violet	Page 56	Rimfire	Page 21
J105	Page 5	Seedling 5	Page 54
Jack's Purple	Page 1	SG Dwarf Evergreen Pink	Page 56
Jeannie Moragne Jnr	Page 58	SG Purity	Page 39
Karaguar Star	Page 58	SG Scented Pudica	Page 40
KJ Booker	Page 29	SG White Orchid	Page 39
KJ Fuschia	Page 30	Sorbet Ripple	Page 28
KJ Powder Puff	Page 30	Theresa Wilder	Page 35
Lanna	Page 19	White Seedling #1	Page 36
Lanna Seedling	Page 19	White Seedling #2	Page 37
Leela	Page 20	White Seedling #3	Page 38
Leela Seedling #1	Page 20	White Seedling #4	Page 38
Leela Seedling #2	Page 20	Yellow Seedling 3	Page 55
Leela Seedling #3	Page 20	Yellow Seedling 5-7	Page 55
Leela Seedling #4	Page 20	Yunan	Page 20
Linda	Page 40	Yunan Seedling #1	Page 21
Madame Rainbow	Page 11	Yunan Seedling #2	Page 21
Madras Pink Seedling	Page 31		

Cover Pictures: Upper: Jack's Purple , Steven Prowse Sacred Gardens, Lower: Multi-Colour Seedling, Ken Johnson see article on page 47.

## Frangipani Facts

### Seed Viability

Seed propagation, not just for *Plumaria spp.* can be a very hit and miss operation brought about by several factors some of which we have no control. The all important germination of seed can be affected by the viability (it's ability to germinate) of the seed, environmental factors or human interference or a combination two or all these factors.

Today I am going to look at the seed and how do we know it is good or bad, in other words will it germinated and present us with a new and exciting plant?

Firstly it is very important to know the source of the seed, in other words do you know where the seed has come from and can the source be trusted? If it is a commercial source it gives you the ability to go back to the seed merchant and discuss your problem or never use them again.

Having received your seed you may look at the seed and think it looks "bad or no good". There are numerous ways, both commercially and by the backyard enthusiast, to test the seed and establish its viability.

#### Observation.

Believe it or not a very reliable way is just to look at the seed, if it is full and plump and of uniform colour you can, as a rule, take it that the seed is viable and you will get good results. An example of an exception to this is some *Fraxinus* the seed looks great but when you cut it open it is hollow. This method is only reliable if you are dealing with large seed if small seed is involved you would need a microscope.

#### Moisture.

Take a single seed and on a clean dry surface squash the seed. If the seed is viable your actions will leave a small moist spot where you squashed the seed. This is the best, easiest and quickest method to determine seed viability but the embryo is killed.

#### Peel the testa.

With *Plumaria* (Frangipani) take a seed and very carefully peel a small section of the testa away if the seed is viable you will see a lovely white cotyledon (seed) inside. The seed can then be sown, this method is a tried and proven to work with a very high germination rate. You will also need to treat the media with a suitable fungicide. Thanks to Dennis Schmidt for this method.

Don's method is similar to the "excised-embryo" method with this method the whole of the testa is removed very carefully so as not to damage the embryo. It is also the method used for testing seed with a long period of "after-ripening" before true germination takes place.

## Frangipani Facts

Cut seed.

In this method you cut the seed in-half and you should see a very clean white embryo, the seed is viable although you have killed this particular embryo.

Tetrazolium Test.

This method requires the seed to be soaked in 2,3,5-triphenyl-tetrazolium chloride (TTC). Living tissue changes the TTC to a red colour and the colour of dead tissue stays unchanged. The seed is lost in this test.

X-ray.

This method involves this doesn't tell you if the seed is viable but indicated the presence of or lack of and embryo, insect attack or other feature that may affect the seed ability to germinate.

This is a very quick overview of testing seed for viability. You may have one that is totally different to these and if it works then continue to use it.

Just remember it doesn't matter how viable the seed is it will not get 100% germination unless your environment, hygiene and cultural practices are correct as well.

David Grant



Marilyn Van Den Bergh, Sorbet Ripple