

San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month July 2001 - *Adenium* and *Plumeria*

Adenium and *Plumeria* are both members of the *Apocynaceae*, and are relatives of *Pachypodium*, *Amsonia*, *Carrisa*, *Oleander*, *Thevetia* and *Vinca*. The *Apocynaceae* is home to many showy flowering plants used for ornamental and medicinal purposes. *Oleander* is a staple of much of Southern California Gardening, *Vinca* is used world wide, and *Thevetia*, and *Carrisa*, although not as often seen, are spectacular shrubs.



Adenium are native to Africa, while *Plumeria* to the Caribbean and Central and Tropical South America. *Adenium* are easy to grow, requiring only good fertilizer, and lots of water when in growth, and protection from cold and damp when dormant. Several growers place their plants in their garages in late fall to force dormancy, and protect them from cold and damp. *Adenium* hybridization for the caudex shape and flower color is being undertaken in many locations. One of the best hybridizers is Bill Hagblom of our club, and the pictures that are on this page are from his plants and web site. Go there to see these and many others in full color.



Plumeria flowers are as spectacular as *Adenium*, and a *Plumeria* Society specializing in the hybridization and registration of these flowers exists. A *Plumeria* Society branch meets locally at the South Coast Arboretum.



Plumeria are a bit more cold sensitive than *Adenium*, but can be grown in the ground in frost free areas. When grown in pots, they need the same protection as *Adenium*.



Plumeria are easily started from cuttings. Branch cuttings 6 to 8 inches long are simply potted up. Growth usually starts in a few weeks, and a good root system can be obtained in a single growing season. Cuttings can even be started in the ground, simply by inserting the cut branch into damp soil. Although *Plumeria* are succulent plants, and the trunk and branches contain water storage cells, they are not nearly as succulent as *Adenium* and benefit greatly from frequent watering when growing.

Bill Hagblom's photos can be seen at:
<http://albums.photopoint.com/j/AlbumIndex?u=40951&a=270498&f=0>

Tom Glavich June 2001