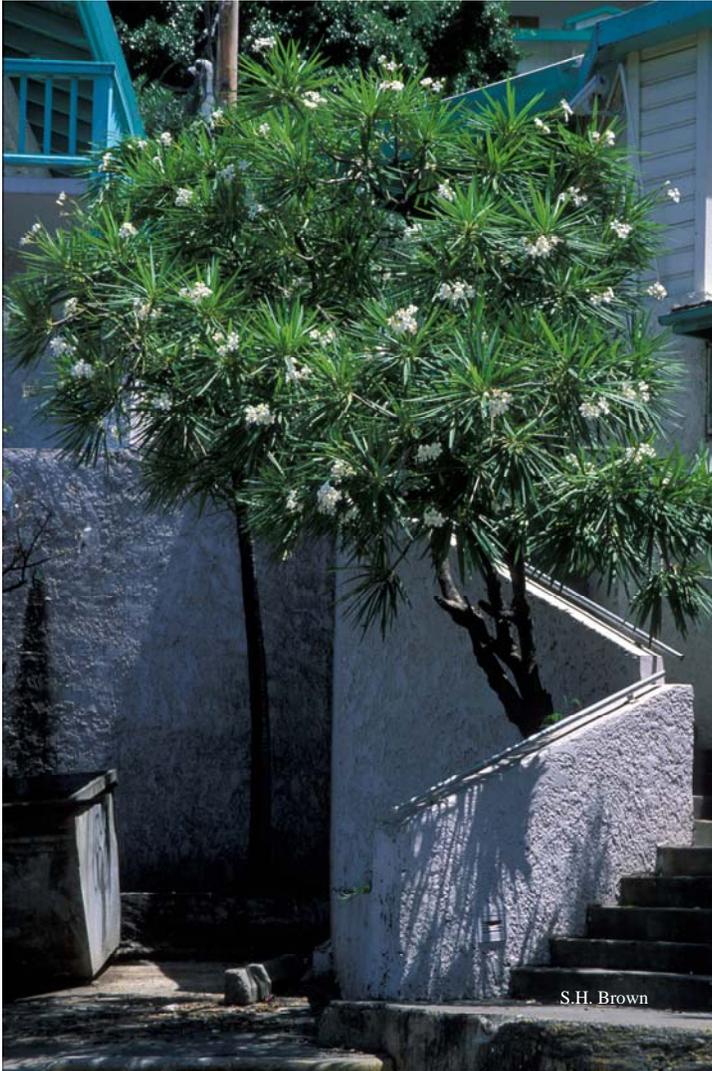


Plumeria alba

White Frangipani, Milk Tree, Caterpillar Tree, Pagoda Tree
Wild Frangipani, Alheli

Apocynaceae

Flower Display: B



Cruz Bay, St. John, US Virgin Islands

Mid September



Cruz Bay, St. John, US Virgin Islands

Mid September

White Frangipani

Syn: *P. hypoleuca*

Origin: Western Caribbean

Zone: 10b – 12b, 35°F minimum

Growth Rate: Slow

Flowering Month(s): January - September

Flowering Days:

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Messiness: Medium

Salt Tolerance: High

Drought Tolerance: High

Nutritional Requirements: Low

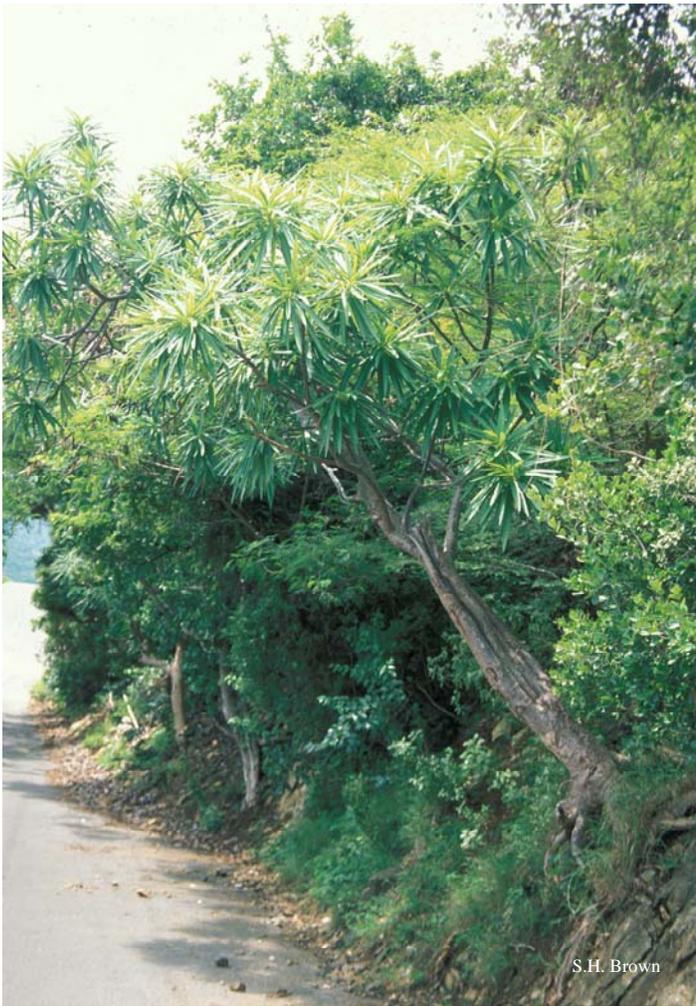
Potential Pests: Frangipani Caterpillars,
Rust, Scales

Typical Dimension: 15'x10'

Uses: Container, Garden, Park, Parking Lot,
Patio, Seaside, Streetscape

Hop aboard a ferry in the Virgin Islands, and from the blue water of the Caribbean, carefully scan the hills for patches of white. On the verdant hills, *Plumeria alba* is easily identified in the distance. Most likely, it is the only white, in a carpet of green. On Tortola, it hangs precariously, in pure rocks, on seaside cliffs. This species appears to be the 90-pound weakling of the Plumeria species. However, this slenderest of Plumerias has a tough skin, and is very tolerant of seaside living, brazen sun and city life. The flowers are very fragrant. They have five, waxy-white, overlapping petals with a yellow center. This bi-color flower pattern is a common feature among different species and cultivars of Plumerias. However, what most distinguishes *P. alba* from other species is its long narrow lance-shaped leaves that are rolled under at the margins. It has

upright branches that are crowded at the tips with these notable leaves. The tree is sparingly or thickly branched and sometimes symmetry is achieved. The wood is brittle and frangible. When broken or punctured the branches and leaves exude a copious amount of white, milky sap. *P. alba* is suited for tight spaces and also works well as a free standing specimen or as part of a shrubby border. It is an uncommon tree in cultivation, but should be planted more. Water infrequently, and not at all in the rainy season, or when dormant. Fertilize in March and July. White scale insects may be a problem on the inflorescences and leaves. Control these insects with several applications of insecticidal oil.



Tortola, British Virgin Islands

S.H. Brown

Early October



S.H. Brown

Nassau, Bahamas

Early June



S.H. Brown

Nassau, Bahamas

Early June



S.H. Brown

St. John, US Virgin Islands

Late July

Leaves: Simple, alternate, oblong to elliptic, thick and leathery, many to 14 inches long and 1 ½ inches wide, strongly recurved margins, hairless on upper surface, whitish below, many lateral veins almost at right angle from the midribs

Flowers: Salverform, five waxy-white petals, with yellow centers, arranged on cymes on branch tips

Fruits: (Not shown). Follicles, brown long-pointed, usually borne in pairs

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Tropical Flowering Trees List
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