

Plumeria pudica

Bridal Bouquet, Fiddle Leaf Plumeria

Apocynaceae

Flower Display: A



S.H. Brown

Cape Coral, Florida

Late October

When well-dressed, *Plumeria pudica* looks like a bouquet of white flowers. It usually has one or two slender trunks that branch close to the ground forming a dense slightly spreading crown. A most beautiful Plumeria it is well suited for full sun at the edges of gardens, or lining walkways. Unlike other Plumerias, its leaves are often borne along its slender stems, and like other Plumerias, at the stem tips. The leaves are quite distinctive. They have a very short petiole, and are fiddle-shaped due to a pair of broad lobes above the middle. Also noticeably different from other Plumerias is the absence of fragrant flowers. The flowers are strikingly white, with a yellow throat, and are held at branch tips crowning the bevy of green leaves. It is a relatively fast grower to its maximum height. When grown from a single stem-cutting, prune about three inches or more off the tops of each stems in January or February of each year for three years to increase branching, canopy density, and maximum showiness. Trees purchased from garden centers generally need no pruning. This easily recognized Plumeria is commonly seen in the eastern Caribbean, where it grows under the harshest, as well as the most pampered conditions. It is now becoming popular in south Florida where it is erroneously touted as an evergreen. *P. pudica* is deciduous under extended drought conditions or during a particularly cold winter, and is also affected by the rust fungus that accelerates leaf loss. It is at times bothered by the occasional mealybugs and frangipani caterpillars. The caterpillars can be hand-picked and damage is kept to a minimum if discovered early. If properly placed, mature trees usually need no pruning. When broken, the stem exudes a white sap. The distinct advantages of *P. pudica* are its heavy foliage cover, extensive evergreen phase, and long blooming period averaging 185 days.



S.H. Brown

Fort Myers, Florida

Late July



San Fernando, Trinidad,
Southeastern Caribbean

Early June

S.H. Brown



S.H. Brown

Grenada,
Eastern Caribbean

Late May

Bridal Bouquet

Syn: *P. caracasana*

Origin: Panama,
Colombia, Venezuela

Growth Rate: Medium

Flowering Months:

April - December

Flowering Days: 185

Leaf Persistence: Semi-
deciduous to Deciduous

Messiness: Low

Salt Tolerance: High

Drought Tolerance:
High

**Nutritional Require-
ments:** Low

Potential Pests: Frangi-
pani caterpillars, rust,
mealybugs

Typical Dimensions:
11'x8'

Uses: Container, Garden,
Park, Parking lot, Patio,
Streetscape

Tropical Flowering Trees List

Questions/Comments:

Email: brownsh@leegov.com



Fort Myers, Florida

Late July

S.H. Brown



La Chorra, Panama

Early November

S.H. Brown

Note the rust fungus on the underside of the right leaf

Leaves: Simple, oblong to spatulate, very short petiole, with a pair of large lobes near the pointed tip, up to 13 inches long

Flowers: Salverform, white, 5 overlapping petals, with yellow throat, up to 3 1/2 inches across, and arranged on terminal cymes

Fruits: Follicles, dark brown, usually borne in pairs

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