

INVESTIGATIONS INTO PLUMERIA FLOWERING

Based on work on other flower crops showing regrowth and flowering following cut-back, we attempted to time plumeria ('Common Yellow') for winter flowering by cutting back during the summer. Ten plants were cut back to leave 8- to 12-inch stubs on July 1, July 22, and August 15. Half of each treatment was placed in front of silver-painted boards to provide more total light.

Regrowth was longest on the earliest cut-back, but no treatment showed early flower bud development, nor did the reflector appear to influence earlier flowering.

That year, however, on 72 breaks developing on the 15 plants in front of the reflector, there were 21 inflorescences while on 70 breaks on the other group, only 15 inflorescences developed. During the next year, the plants in front of the reflector produced 29 inflorescences on the original breaks plus 12 more on the shoots produced below some of the 21 inflorescences of the year before, for a total of 41 inflorescences. The plants without the reflector has 19 inflorescences and none on breaks which subtended the previous year's inflorescences.

The reflector apparently was responsible for doubling the number of inflorescences produced in two seasons following a severe cut-back. The actual amount of light could not be accurately measured but it was estimated that there was about 33 percent reflectance.

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