

Plumeria 'AZTEC GOLD'

By Milton L. Pierson

The Plumeria Society of America, Inc. in 1998 officially registered the Plumeria cv. 'Aztec Gold' as one of only 16 registered since the original 51 named cultivars were registered. 'Aztec Gold' is most likely a hybrid developed through open pollination in Mexico. The seed parents are both unknowns. 'Aztec Gold' has a unique fragrance of ripe peaches, possibly the first plumeria with this peach fragrance. The flowers average 4" (10cm) in diameter and have elliptical moderately overlapping petals with rounded tips. The blossom color is slightly changeable, at first appearing strong golden yellow with medium pink bands sometimes showing through from back to the front but always on the back. The color fades to white at the outer edges in the sun. The flower texture is medium with a very good keeping quality. The tendency to fade is moderate. Petal type



Fig. 1. Photo of an entire inflorescence. (Photo by Rick Stone, taken in his greenhouse on Feb 23, 1999)



Fig. 2. Photo of an entire inflorescence. (Photo by Ray Cosgrove)

is wide obovate with a rounded tip. Fragrance is peach and intensity of fragrance is strong. Flowers are long lasting and have a long blooming period (April-October). 'Aztec Gold' is one of the earliest bloomers of all plumeria and is great for leis. Leaves are olive green and have a rigid texture. They are oblanceolate in shape with an acute tip and average 35 cm in length and 12 cm wide. Leaf petioles are green with a red tint. The plant is deciduous with fair to good branching but has a fairly rangy growth habit. Some plants of 'Aztec Gold' grow upright while on others, the limbs tend to droop then sweep back upward. There may be more than one form, or the drooping may be a result of cultural conditions. When the plant is allowed to become too dry during the growing period, it is unable recover to the fully upright position. Its tendency to set seed is moderate.



Fig. 3. Photo of an individual flower. (Photo by Glen Stokes)