

Plumeria 'CERISE'

By Milton L. Pierson

The Plumeria c.v. 'Cerise' has large clusters of intense magenta, star-shaped flowers with a tiny golden center and long, narrow, pointed petals. It blooms quite freely and always seems to be in bloom. The flowers have a sweet, permeating fragrance.

'Cerise' flowers are considered one of the best reds but do fade to pink with red sides in the sun.

'Cerise' was officially registered in the 1980s as one of the original 51 named cultivars to be registered by the Plumeria Society of America, Inc. They have described Plumeria 'Cerise' flowers as moderate red with a small, brilliant, moderate yellow center and strong red bands on the back. The petals are narrow and elliptical with a twisted, pointed tip and slightly overlapping. Flowers are 3-1/4 - 4" (8-10cm) in diameter and have a slight sweet fragrance. Keeping quality is fair.

The color on top is Red-Purple 63A. The central (base) color is Yellow 9A, but is frequently barely visible. The bottom has A Red-Purple 59C stripe on the left, then Red-Purple 59D with a small



Fig. 1. Photo of an individual flower. (Photo by Michael

Anders, *Plumeria101.com*)

white patch in the lower right.

The flowers are 10 cm wide and texture is delicate with an average keeping quality. The tendency to fade is moderate. Petal type is elliptical with a pointed tip.

Fragrance is sweet Plumeria and intensity of fragrance is mild. Leaves are light green with a slightly red border and have a rigid texture. They are oblanceolate in shape with an acuminate tip and average 34.5 cm in length and 10 cm wide. Leaf petioles are green. The plant is deciduous with fair branching and an upright, rather lanky growth habit. Its tendency to set seed is average. The seed parent is unknown and pollen parent is unknown as well.



Fig. 2. Photo of an entire inflorescence. (Photo by Michael Anders, *Plumeria101.com*)