




spring

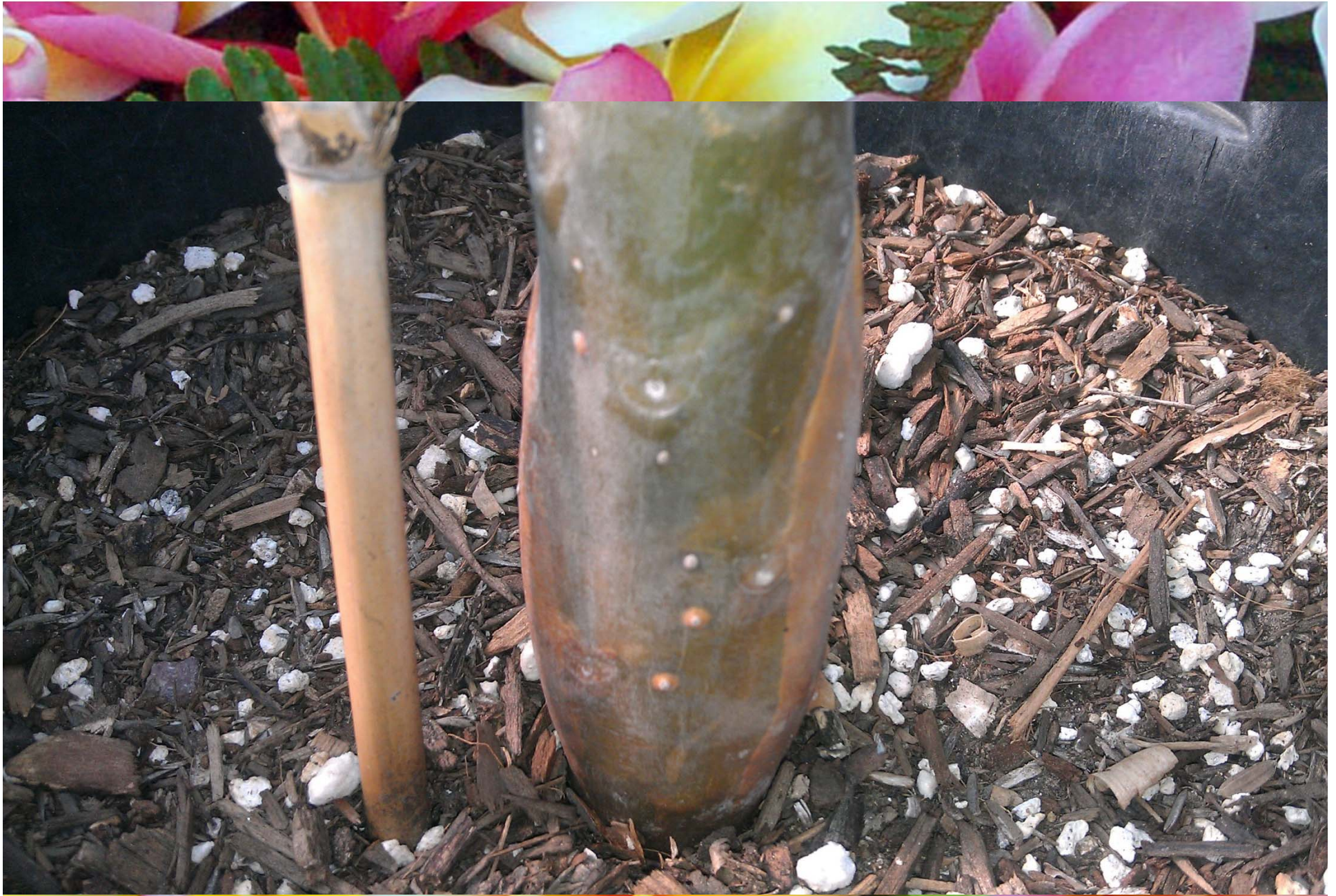
A bright yellow spray bottle of sunscreen is the central focus, positioned on a sandy beach. The bottle is angled towards the left. In the foreground, several white starfish are scattered on the sand. The background features a clear blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny, emphasizing the theme of sun protection.

Prevent Sunburn

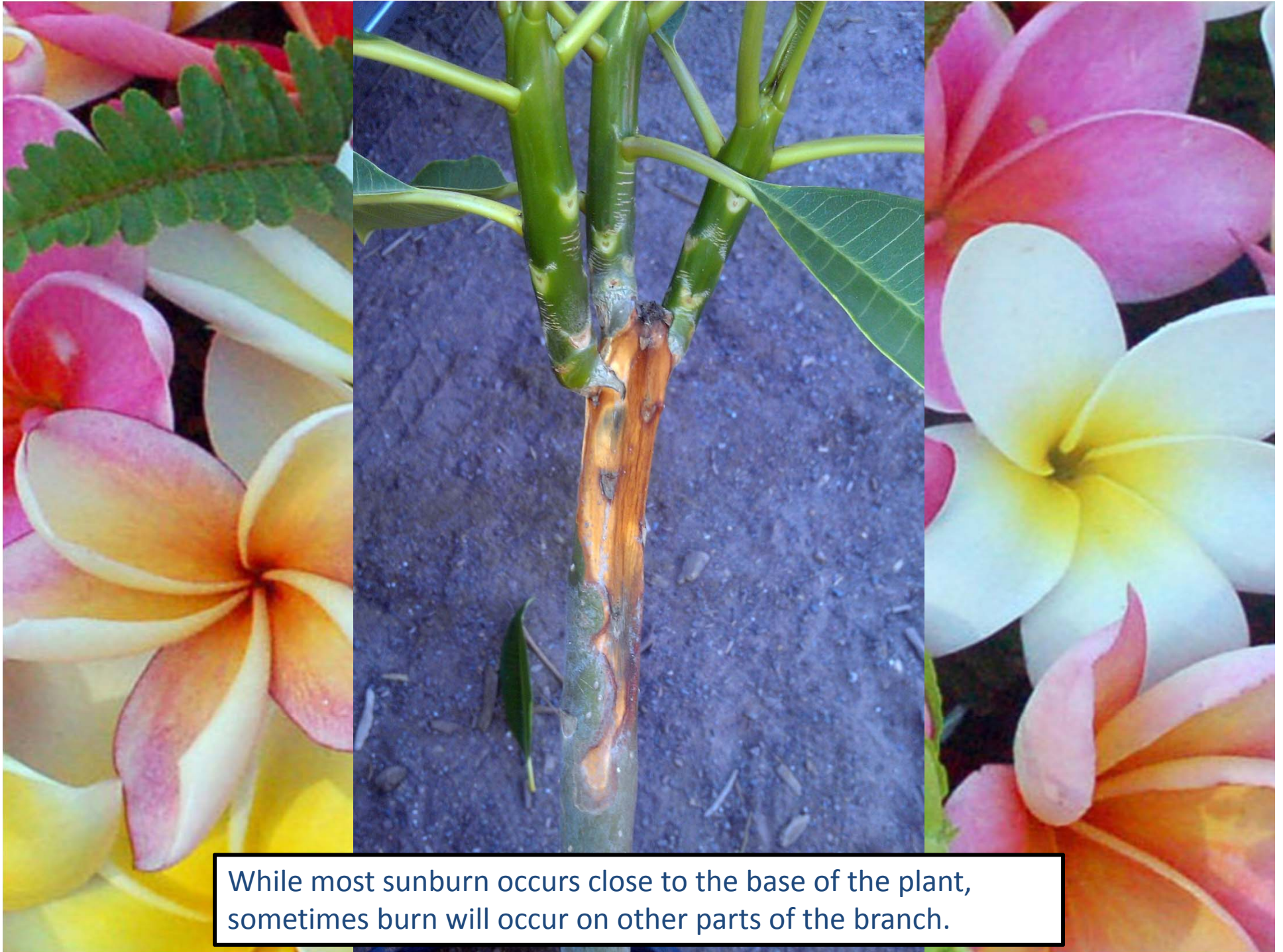
The main issue I want to focus on is sunburn. Our plants are most susceptible to it in the spring, since they don't have leaves to shade their trunks and they're weaker as they wake up.



Here is sunburn damage. As you can see sunburn typically burns off the bark and cambium layer down to the wood ring. This will not always kill a plant, as long as...



...there is enough live matter on the other side of the plant.



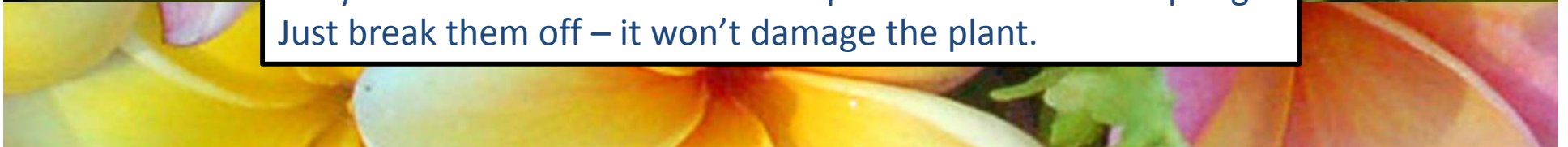
While most sunburn occurs close to the base of the plant, sometimes burn will occur on other parts of the branch.



Young, developing inflos are very susceptible to burning in warming temps in spring. Keep these in shade until they are more developed.



Early season blooms are also susceptible to burn in the spring. Just break them off – it won't damage the plant.



A close-up photograph of a black plastic pot filled with dark brown soil. A wooden stake is inserted into the soil, and its lower portion is wrapped in crinkled aluminum foil. The foil is shiny and reflects light. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Foil

Here are ways to protect your plants from sunburn...

Toilet paper roll



Shade cloth



Feed Your Soil!

I do this around mid-February to ensure a couple of rains will soak it in the ground, thus creating a nutrient-rich soil environment for our awakening plants...

Top Dressing:
Kellogg Patio Plus
Used coffee grounds
Worm castings
Composted horse manure





First Feeding:

Sul-Po-Mag

Seaweed Extract

SuperThrive

Fish Emulsion

Later: Epsom Salt

I do this when I first see leaves starting to emerge. No chemical fertilizer yet (not until leaves have fully opened). These organics will support the plant's infrastructure and help the plant wake up stronger...

Watering in Spring

- Let the rain do the job
- Very little hand watering
- Make sure to water during hot spells



HAPPY GROWING!!