



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



ASHOKA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting / Sapling Stage (June–August – Monsoon Season)

Soil Type: Well-drained, rich loamy or laterite soil (pH 6–7.5).

Planting:

Dig pits about 2×2×2 ft, spacing 8–10 ft apart.

Mix organic compost (3–5 kg per pit) with garden soil before planting.

Watering: Keep the soil moist for the first 2–3 months after planting.

💧 Fertilizer at Planting:

Add vermicompost or well-rotted cow dung (2–3 kg per plant).

Optionally, add bone meal (50 g) for root development.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–2 years)

Feed every 2–3 months with:

→ Balanced NPK 19:19:19 (10–15 g per plant, mixed in 5 L water).

Maintain soil moisture; the Ashoka loves humidity and mild shade.

Apply organic compost (2–3 kg) before and after the monsoon each year.

Avoid direct scorching sunlight for young plants — partial shade is ideal initially.

3 Flowering & Fruiting Stage (3–4 years onward)

Ashoka flowers in late winter to early summer (February–April).

Before flowering, apply:

→ NPK 10:26:26 or bone meal (100–150 g/tree) in December–January.

Add organic compost (2–3 kg) after flowering (May–June) to rejuvenate the plant.

Water regularly during flowering to support bud formation.

4 Mature Tree Maintenance (5+ years)

Add 5–10 kg compost per tree once a year before the monsoon.

Deep watering once a week in dry months is sufficient.

Prune lightly after the flowering season to maintain shape and air circulation.



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2.2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Prefers partial to full sunlight; tolerates light shade.
- ✓ Soil: Rich, well-drained loam with good organic content.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate and consistent; avoid waterlogging.
- ✓ Temperature: Ideal range 20°C–35°C (tropical).
- ✓ Spacing: 8–10 feet apart for garden planting.
- ✓ Growth Rate: Moderate; grows 20–30 ft tall.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Generally resistant; can face aphids or leaf spot → treat with neem oil spray.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌿 Organic Boost: Add neem cake powder (100 g per plant) once a year → improves soil health & pest resistance.
- 🌿 Mulching Tip: Use dry leaves or compost mulch → keeps soil cool and moist.
- 🌿 Pruning Hack: Light pruning post-flowering → promotes dense canopy & next season's blooms.
- 🌿 Flowering Trick: Apply bone meal or single super phosphate in winter → encourages abundant flowering.
- 🌿 Spiritual Note: Planting Ashoka near homes or temples is believed to bring peace, prosperity, and emotional well-being.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Planting Season: June–August (monsoon)

Flowering Season: February–April

Colors: Yellow, orange, turning crimson-red with age

Height: 20–30 ft (evergreen tree)

Type: Ornamental, evergreen, sacred tree

Lifespan: 50–70 years

Cultural Importance: Sacred to Lord Buddha and Goddess Sita; symbolizes love and purity

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