



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



BAKUL



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

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

Soil: Well-drained loamy soil, rich in organic matter (pH 6–7.5).

Planting:

Dig pits 2×2×2 ft.

Mix soil with 2–3 kg compost or cow dung + 50 g neem cake.

Plant saplings carefully and water immediately.

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

💧 Initial Fertilizer:

Apply organic compost or well-rotted cow dung (2–3 kg per sapling) for healthy root establishment.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–3 years)

Feed every 2–3 months with:

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

Add vermicompost or organic compost (2 kg per plant) every 3 months.

Sunlight: Full sunlight preferred; partial shade tolerated.

Watering: Moderate; water deeply once a week.

3 Flowering Stage (3–5 years onwards)

Flowering Season: February–May (late winter to summer).

Pre-flowering (January–February):

→ Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or bone meal, 100–150 g/tree) to stimulate flower buds.

During flowering: Top-dress with 2–3 kg compost and mulch the base with dry leaves or cocopeat.

4 Mature Tree Maintenance (5+ years)

Annual feeding (pre-monsoon):

→ 5–10 kg compost + 100–150 g bone meal per tree.

Pruning: Light pruning after flowering to remove dead branches and maintain canopy shape.

Watering: Deep watering every 10–15 days during dry months; avoid waterlogging.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: 4–6 hours of sunlight per day.
- ✓ Soil: Well-drained loamy soil enriched with organic matter.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; avoid waterlogging.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives in 20°C–35°C, tropical to subtropical climates.
- ✓ Spacing: Plant 2–3 ft apart for shrubs, 4–5 ft for hedges.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Occasionally affected by aphids or mealybugs → neem oil spray.
- ✓ Growth: Fast-growing climber; can be trained on trellises, fences, or as bushy shrubs.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

- 🌱 Seed Germination Hack: Soak seeds in water for 24 hours before sowing → improves germination.
- 🌱 Flowering Booster: Apply bone meal or single super phosphate 2–3 weeks before flowering.
- 🌱 Mulching Tip: Use dry leaves or compost around the root zone → retains moisture and enriches soil.
- 🌱 Pruning Hack: Remove old and weak branches post-flowering → encourages new shoots and denser flowering.
- 🌱 Fragrance Hack: Slightly reduce watering before flower bud formation → increases fragrance intensity.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Flowering Season: Bakul blooms mainly from February to May, producing small, cream-white, highly fragrant flowers.

Planting Time: Best planted during monsoon (June–August) for optimal establishment.

Flower Color & Aroma: Cream-white flowers with intense fragrance, often used in perfumes, garlands, and religious offerings.

Plant Height & Spacing: Can grow 15–20 ft tall; plant 8–10 ft apart in gardens.

Watering Needs: Moderate; keep soil moist during early growth, drought-tolerant once mature.

Temperature: Thrives in tropical and subtropical climates (20°C–35°C).

Type & Lifespan: Evergreen ornamental tree; lifespan 40–50 years with proper care.

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