



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



BERGERANTHUS



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1 Planting / Early Growth Stage

Soil: Extremely well-draining mix — avoid moisture retention. Ideal mix:

40% coarse sand or perlite

40% garden soil

20% compost or cocopeat

Pot: Use a shallow terracotta pot with a large drainage hole.

Propagation: By leaf or stem cuttings, or offsets (baby rosettes).

Planting Time: Best in spring (February–April) or early winter (October–November).

💧 Initial Fertilizer: Mix a handful of compost or vermicompost into the soil during planting.

2 Active Growth Stage (March–August)

Feed once every 6–8 weeks with a diluted liquid succulent fertilizer (NPK 10:10:10) at half strength.

Sunlight: Place in full morning sun for 4–6 hours daily.

Watering: Water only when the soil is completely dry — typically once every 10–15 days.

3 Flowering Stage (September–January)

Flowering Season: Late monsoon to winter, depending on temperature and light.

Use Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 5:10:10) or banana peel compost once a month to enhance flowering.

Avoid overwatering — dry conditions encourage more blooms.

Temperature: Keep between 15°C–28°C for best results.

4 Dormant Stage (Peak Summer or Excess Humidity)

Growth slows during extreme heat or heavy rain.

Stop fertilizing and reduce watering to once every 3–4 weeks.

Move the plant to a shaded, well-ventilated area to avoid root rot.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Light: Prefers bright light or full morning sun; avoid harsh afternoon rays.
- ✓ Soil: Sandy, well-draining mix to prevent root rot.
- ✓ Watering: Follow the “soak and dry” rule — only water when soil is fully dry.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives in 15°C–30°C; cannot tolerate frost or excess rain.
- ✓ Humidity: Prefers dry air; not suited for overly humid environments.
- ✓ Container: Terracotta pots are ideal for moisture balance.
- ✓ Propagation: Easily through offsets or leaves.
- ✓ Pests: Rare; may occasionally attract mealybugs — treat with neem oil spray.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

-  Flowering Hack: Give full sun exposure + phosphorus fertilizer monthly to boost blooms.
-  Watering Trick: If leaves look wrinkled → time to water.
-  Soil Hack: Add crushed charcoal or pumice to improve drainage.
-  Color Boost: Exposure to mild sunlight stress enhances leaf color and shape.
-  Container Tip: Don't use deep pots — roots prefer shallow, airy soil.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: September to January (post-monsoon to winter).

Flower Colors: Bright yellow, occasionally white.

Bloom Duration: Each bloom lasts 3–5 days; plant blooms repeatedly.

Light Needs: Full sun or very bright light.

Watering Needs: Minimal; drought-tolerant.

Temperature: 15°C–30°C.

Special Feature: Opens flowers in sunlight and closes them at dusk; perfect for sunny windowsills and balconies.

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