



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



BLUE POPPY

(HIMALAYANBLUE POPPY / MECONOPSIS)



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1. Planting & Soil

Soil: Moist, well-drained, humus-rich loamy soil, slightly acidic (pH 6–6.5).

Planting:

Best grown in cool climates or shaded Himalayan gardens.

Plant rhizomes or seedlings in early spring.

Watering: Keep soil evenly moist, but avoid waterlogging; sensitive to root rot.

2. Fertilizer Cycle

1 Establishment Stage (Seedling / First Year)

Apply organic compost or well-rotted cow dung (500 g per plant) at planting. Feed once a month with liquid seaweed extract for strong root development.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (Spring–Summer)

Fertilize every 3–4 weeks with balanced NPK 10:10:10 or organic fertilizer. Mulch with pine needles or leaf compost to maintain moisture and cool soil.

3 Flowering Stage (Second Year onwards)

Pre-flowering (spring): Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26) to stimulate bud formation.

Avoid excess nitrogen → promotes leaves but reduces flowers.

4 Post-Bloom Care

Reduce watering gradually after flowering to avoid fungal infections.

Mulch with organic matter to enrich soil for the next season.



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3. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Partial shade; avoid harsh direct sun.
- ✓ Temperature: Cool climates, ideally 10°C–20°C; sensitive to heat.
- ✓ Watering: Keep consistently moist; avoid waterlogging.
- ✓ Propagation: By seeds or rhizome division; seeds need cold stratification.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Susceptible to fungal infections, especially in humid areas; ensure good drainage.
- ✓ Growth Habit: Perennial herbaceous plant; grows 1–2 ft tall with delicate stems.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: Late spring to early summer (May–July) in Himalayan regions.

Flower Color: Striking sky-blue petals with yellow stamens at the center.

Height & Spread: 1–2 ft tall; spreads moderately via rhizomes.

Habitat: Cool, moist, shady slopes at 3,000–4,500 m altitude.

Special Note: Rare and difficult to cultivate outside its natural Himalayan habitat.

Interesting Fact:

Blue Poppy is extremely rare in the wild, and even small garden cultivation is considered a

prestigious achievement among horticulturists.

Its brilliant blue color is unmatched among Himalayan flowers, making it a prized ornamental plant.

 Plot No. 24/2 Balaji Lucky Point, Old Cotton Market Road,
Shree Agro Agencies, Balaji Lucky Point, Amravati, Amravati,
Maharashtra, 444601

 +91 9284008858

 support@nookandnature.in

 www.nookandnature.in

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