



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



BLUEBELL



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Bulb Planting Stage (Oct–Nov in India / Early Winter)

Soil mix: 40% garden soil + 30% compost + 20% sand + 10% cocopeat.
Add at planting: cow dung compost (200 g per sq. ft.) + bone meal (20 g).
Plant bulbs 2–3 inches deep with 4–6 inches spacing.

Vegetative Growth Stage (Nov–Dec)

Feed every 15–20 days with balanced NPK fertilizer 19:19:19 (1 g/litre water).
Keep soil moist but not soggy.
Mulch lightly with dry leaves or cocopeat → retains moisture and warmth.

Budding & Flowering Stage (Jan–Feb / Peak Bloom)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1–1.5 g/litre water every 12 days).
Add banana peel fertilizer or bone meal once a month → boosts flower size and color.
Remove faded blooms → encourages bulbs to store energy for next season.

Post-Flowering / Dormant Stage (Feb–March)

Gradually reduce watering → allow leaves to yellow naturally.
Dig out bulbs if needed, dry in shade for 7–10 days, then store in cool, dry place for next season.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Prefers 4–6 hours of morning sun; avoid harsh afternoon sun.
- ✓ Watering – Keep soil moist but well-drained. Avoid waterlogging.
- ✓ Soil – Loose, sandy-loam, slightly acidic soil.
- ✓ Spacing – 4–6 inches between bulbs for proper airflow.
- ✓ Container Growing – Use 6–8 inch pots with good drainage.
- ✓ Pests – Rare, but check for aphids or bulb rot → neem oil & proper drainage.

3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Bulb Storage Hack → Dry bulbs after flowering, store in dry sand → ensures next year's bloom.
- 🌿 Mulching Trick → Straw or dry leaves retain moisture and protect from frost in winter.
- 🌿 Deadheading Hack → Remove spent flowers → more energy stored in bulb.
- 🌿 Succession Planting → Plant bulbs every 2–3 weeks → continuous flowering for potted arrangements.
- 🌿 Flower Boost → Epsom salt spray (1 tsp/litre water) once a month → deeper color and stronger spikes.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Winter bulb (Oct–Feb).

Peak Bloom: Jan–Feb.

Colors: Blue, violet, purple, occasionally white variants.

Fragrance: Mild to sweet aroma.

Type: Bulbous perennial; can naturalize and bloom year after year.

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