



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



BOUGAINVILLEA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Planting / Establishment Stage (0–2 months)

Mix soil: 40% garden soil + 30% sand + 20% compost + 10% cocopeat.

Add bone meal (30–40 g per plant) OR cow dung manure (1–2 kg per plant).

Growth Stage (Before Flowering)

Every 20–25 days → Apply liquid fertilizer (NPK 19:19:19, 2 g/litre water).

Add neem cake (50 g per plant) once every 2 months for root health.

Flowering Stage (Peak: Feb–May, Sept–Nov)

Every 15–20 days → Apply low-nitrogen, high-potassium fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34).

Once a month → Add banana peel fertilizer or wood ash for vibrant bracts.

Maintenance / Dormant Stage (Extreme summer & monsoon)

Fertilize lightly (once a month) with organic compost.

Avoid overfeeding → too much nitrogen = lots of leaves, few flowers.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Needs 6–8 hours of direct sunlight for heavy blooming.
- ✓ Watering – Water deeply but less frequently; allow soil to dry slightly between waterings. (Overwatering → no flowers).
- ✓ Soil – Well-drained sandy or loamy soil; poor soil often makes bougainvillea flower more.
- ✓ Pruning – Light prune after each flowering cycle to encourage new shoots. Heavy prune in Jan–Feb.
- ✓ Container Growing – If in pots, choose big & wide containers (minimum 18–20 inches).
- ✓ Support – Provide trellis or wall support for climbing varieties.

3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Stressing Hack → Stop watering for 7–10 days → plant feels stress → bursts into bloom after next watering.
- 🌿 Banana Peel Fertilizer → Boosts potassium → brighter bracts.
- 🌿 Epsom Salt Spray → 1 tsp/litre water once a month → deep green leaves + better blooms.
- 🌿 Root Pruning Hack (for pots) → Every 2–3 years, trim 20% roots & refresh soil → keeps plant blooming.
- 🌿 Less Nitrogen Rule → Avoid urea & nitrogen-rich fertilizers → they only promote leafy growth.
- 🌿 Summer Care → Mulch soil with cocopeat/dry leaves → retains moisture.

📍 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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