



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



CALENDULA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

🌱 Sowing / Planting Stage (Oct–Nov in India)

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

At planting → Add cow dung compost (200 g per plant) OR vermicompost (100 g).

Sow directly in beds/pots (doesn't like transplanting).

🌱 Seedling & Growth Stage (2–4 weeks old)

Apply liquid fertilizer NPK 19:19:19 (1 g/litre water) every 15–20 days.

Pinch tips once when 5–6 leaves appear → encourages bushy growth.

🌱 Budding Stage (Dec–Jan)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizers (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1–1.5 g/litre

water every 12–15 days).

Add bone meal (20 g per plant) or banana peel fertilizer monthly → boosts flower size.

🌸 Flowering Stage (Jan–March, peak bloom)

Feed with P & K fertilizer every 10–12 days.

Spray Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) once a month → vibrant color & longer blooms.

Regularly deadhead (remove spent flowers) → continuous flowering.

🌱 End of Life Cycle (March–April)

Plant dries out in summer heat.

Collect seeds from dried flower heads for next season.

2. Caring Tips

- ✅ Sunlight – Needs 5–6 hrs of sunlight, but also tolerates light shade.
- ✅ Watering – Moderate; keep soil slightly moist (2–3 times per week). Avoid overwatering.
- ✅ Soil – Fertile, well-drained sandy-loam soil.
- ✅ Spacing – Keep 8–10 inches apart in beds.
- ✅ Container Growing – Grows well in 8–10 inch pots.
- ✅ Pests – Watch for aphids & powdery mildew → spray neem oil monthly.



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3. Pro Hacks 🌿

🌿 Deadheading Hack → Removing spent flowers extends blooming period by weeks.

🌿 Mulching Trick → Light mulch with dry leaves → keeps soil cool & prevents weeds.

🌿 Companion Planting → Calendula repels nematodes & aphids → great with vegetables.

🌿 Medicinal Hack → Petals are edible → use in salads, herbal tea, or for skin ointments.

🌿 Seed-Saving Hack → Let some flower heads dry fully → save seeds for next year.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌸

Season: Winter annual (Oct–April).

Peak Bloom: Jan–March.

Duration: 3–4 months of continuous flowers.

Colors: Golden yellow, bright orange, pale yellow.

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