



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



CLITORIA
(BUTTERFLY PEA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Sowing Stage (Feb–May / Monsoon in India)

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

Soak seeds overnight in warm water → improves germination.

Sow seeds directly in soil or pots, 1 inch deep.

Vegetative Growth Stage (2–4 weeks after germination)

Provide support (trellis, fence, bamboo sticks) for climbing.

Feed every 15–20 days with balanced fertilizer NPK 19:19:19 (1–1.5 g/litre water).

Pinch tips → encourages bushier growth and more flowering.

Budding & Flowering Stage (6–8 weeks after germination / Mar–Sept)

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

water every 12–15 days).

Add bone meal or banana peel fertilizer monthly → enhances flower size and color.

Remove faded flowers → encourages continuous flowering.

Post-Flowering / Maintenance Stage (Sept–Feb)

Reduce watering during dry winter months.

Continue minimal fertilization once a month with compost or organic manure.

Prune to maintain shape and remove weak or dead shoots.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Thrives in full sun to partial shade (5–6 hours of sunlight).
- ✓ Watering – Regular watering; keep soil moist but not waterlogged.
- ✓ Soil – Fertile, well-drained soil; slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6–7).
- ✓ Support – Essential for climbing; trellis, net, or fences work well.
- ✓ Spacing – 1–1.5 feet between plants.
- ✓ Pests – Rare; occasionally aphids or whiteflies → neem oil spray.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌿 Natural Dye Hack → Flowers produce blue/purple water → used in teas or culinary recipes.
- 🌿 Pollinator Attraction Hack → Plant near vegetable gardens → attracts bees & butterflies.
- 🌿 Pruning Trick → Light pruning every 2–3 months → bushier plants & longer bloom season.
- 🌿 Companion Planting → Grows well with trellised vegetables like beans and cucumbers.
- 🌿 Edible Flower Hack → Flowers are edible; add to drinks or desserts for color & antioxidants.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Summer–Monsoon perennial vine (Feb–Sept).

Peak Bloom: May–Aug.

Colors: Deep blue, purple, sometimes white.

Fragrance: Mild, mostly ornamental.

Type: Perennial climbing vine; fast-growing, spreads quickly.

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