



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



COLUMBINE



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Germination & Seedling Stage (Oct–Dec for Indian climate)

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

Sow seeds shallowly and cover lightly with cocopeat.

Maintain moist soil and semi-shade until germination (takes 3–4 weeks).

When seedlings are 2–3 inches tall → transplant into larger pots or flower beds.

 Fertilizer at transplanting:

Add vermicompost (50–100 g per plant) or bone meal (25 g) to promote healthy roots.

Vegetative Growth Stage (Jan–Feb)

Feed every 15 days with liquid organic fertilizer (compost tea or seaweed extract).

If using chemical fertilizer → NPK 19:19:19 (1 g/litre water) every 20 days.

Maintain moist, well-drained soil — do not let it dry out completely.

Provide morning sunlight and light afternoon shade for optimal growth.

Budding & Flowering Stage (Feb–May)

Switch to phosphorus-rich fertilizer:

→ NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34 (1 g/litre every 15 days).

Add organic bloom boosters: banana peel compost, bone meal, or cow dung manure once a month.

Deadhead wilted flowers to encourage more blooms.

Post-Flowering Stage (June onwards)

After flowering, cut back stems to promote new growth.

Apply a mild compost dressing (vermicompost or cow dung manure) every 45 days.

In colder areas, mulch with dry leaves during monsoon or winter.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Prefers partial to full sunlight (4–6 hours direct light).
- ✓ Soil: Moist, loamy, well-drained soil (pH 6–7).
- ✓ Watering: Keep soil consistently moist, not soggy. Water when topsoil feels slightly dry.
- ✓ Temperature: Ideal range 15°C–25°C; not suitable for intense summer heat.
- ✓ Container Growing: Best in 8–10 inch pots with good drainage holes.
- ✓ Spacing: 12–15 inches apart if in beds.
- ✓ Pests: Watch for aphids, caterpillars → use neem oil spray if needed.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌿 Light Hack: Give morning sun + afternoon shade for best color intensity.
- 🌿 Blooming Hack: Remove old flowers regularly → boosts continuous blooming.
- 🌿 Soil Health Tip: Mix leaf compost → improves fertility and mimics its natural forest habitat.
- 🌿 Propagation Hack: Let some seed pods dry on the plant → self-seeds easily for next season.
- 🌿 Heat Protection: In hot regions, keep pots under green shade net during summer.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Sowing: October–December.

Flowering Season: February–May.

Peak Bloom: March–April.

Colors: Pink, purple, blue, yellow, red, white.

Height: 1–2 feet.

Type: Perennial (can regrow for 2–3 years in cooler climates).

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