



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



CRANE'S-BILL



1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting / Seedling Stage

Soil: Well-drained loamy soil with compost; pH 6–7.5.

Planting Time: Best planted in early spring or after monsoon (August–October).

Propagation: Through stem cuttings or seeds.

Watering: Keep soil moist but not soggy until roots establish.

 Initial Fertilizer: Add well-rotted cow dung compost or organic manure (1 part) + garden soil (2 parts) at planting.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–2 months after planting)

Feed every 3–4 weeks with balanced liquid fertilizer (NPK 10:10:10).

Keep the soil evenly moist; avoid overhead watering to prevent fungal spots.

Sunlight: Prefers 4–6 hours of direct morning sun and partial shade in the afternoon.

3 Flowering Stage

Flowering Season: Winter to spring (November–April) in most Indian climates.

Pre-flowering: Use Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 5:10:10) to boost blooms.

During flowering: Add liquid seaweed or bone meal once every 15 days for sustained flowering.

Deadheading: Remove spent flowers regularly to encourage continuous blooms.

4 Maintenance Stage

Fertilizer: Use organic compost every 6–8 weeks to maintain soil fertility.

Pruning: Cut back leggy growth after flowering to promote compact shape.

Watering: Moderate; allow topsoil to dry between watering.

Re-potting: Every year in fresh soil mix before the flowering season.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Light: Full sun to partial shade (ideal in Indian winters).
- ✓ Soil: Well-drained, rich in organic matter.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; avoid overwatering.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives between 15°C–28°C; dislikes extreme heat.
- ✓ Propagation: Cuttings or seeds.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Watch for whiteflies, aphids, and powdery mildew → treat with neem oil.
- ✓ Container Growth: Excellent for pots, hanging baskets, and borders.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

-  Bloom Booster: Mix bone meal + seaweed extract before flowering for vibrant color.
-  Sunlight Hack: Place in bright morning sun and shade during peak afternoon.
-  Deadheading Tip: Regularly pinch off wilted flowers to extend blooming.
-  Foliage Health: Spray diluted neem oil once a month to prevent fungal spots.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: November to April (best in cool, dry weather).

Flower Colors: Pink, purple, red, violet, and white — often with vein patterns.

Plant Height: 10–18 inches (varies by variety).

Watering Needs: Moderate; drought-tolerant once mature.

Temperature: 15°C–28°C; ideal for Indian winters and hill stations.

Special Feature: Long blooming period, aromatic leaves, and excellent for balcony gardens.

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