



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



CROCUS



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting Stage (Oct–Nov in India)

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

Bulb Preparation: Soak bulbs in lukewarm water for 4–6 hours before planting.

Planting Depth: 3–4 inches deep with pointed side up.

Spacing: 3–4 inches apart in beds or pots.

Add bone meal (20–30 g per sq. ft.) or FYM (50 g per pot) at planting for root development.

2 Root & Leaf Growth Stage (Nov–Dec)

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

Keep soil moist but well-drained; avoid waterlogging.

Provide bright indirect sunlight.

3 Budding & Flowering Stage (Jan–Feb)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizer for blooms:

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

Deadhead spent flowers to encourage bulb energy storage.

Mulch lightly around base to maintain soil moisture and temperature.

4 Post-Flowering Stage (March–April)

Reduce watering gradually; allow foliage to yellow and dry naturally.

Lift bulbs after foliage dies back.

Store bulbs in cool, dry, and ventilated space until next season.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Full sun to partial shade; morning sunlight is ideal.
- ✓ Soil: Well-drained, sandy-loamy, slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6–7).
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; avoid waterlogged soil.
- ✓ Temperature: Best 10°C–20°C; cannot tolerate hot summers.
- ✓ Container Growing: Perfect for shallow pots (6–8 inch) or rock gardens.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Watch for bulb rot or fungal infections → neem oil or fungicide.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌱 Early Bloom Hack: Pre-chill bulbs in refrigerator (4–6 weeks) before planting to simulate winter.
- 🌱 Deadheading Trick: Remove spent flowers → ensures next year blooms.
- 🌱 Drainage Tip: Use sandy soil or add grit to avoid water stagnation.
- 🌱 Mulching Tip: Light mulch keeps soil cool and conserves moisture.
- 🌱 Bulb Storage Hack: Store in breathable cloth bag with dry sand after foliage dies.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Planting Time: October–November

Flowering Season: January–March

Peak Bloom: February

Colors: Red, white, blue, purple, pink

Plant Height: 8–12 inches

Type: Tuberous perennial (grown as an annual in Indian plains)

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