



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



CROWN OF THORNS



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1 Planting / Early Stage (March–April)

Soil: Well-draining, sandy soil — ideal mix:

40% garden soil

30% river sand or perlite

30% organic compost or cocopeat

Pot Size: Start with a 6–8 inch pot with good drainage.

Propagation: Stem cuttings (allow them to dry for a day before planting).

💧 Initial Fertilizer: Add a handful of compost + 1 tsp bone meal at planting time.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (April–June)

Feed once every 4 weeks with balanced liquid fertilizer (NPK 10:10:10) at half strength.

Sunlight: Full sun (minimum 5–6 hours daily) for compact growth and vibrant bracts.

Watering: Water deeply only when the top 1–2 inches of soil are dry.

3 Flowering Stage (July–October)

Flowering Season: Nearly all year in warm regions; peak bloom in summer and post-monsoon.

Switch to Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 5:10:10) once a month.

Alternatively, feed with liquid seaweed or banana peel fertilizer for natural blooming support.

Deadhead faded flowers to encourage new blooms.

4 Dormant/Resting Period (November–February)

Growth slows during winter.

Reduce watering frequency to once every 10–12 days.

Suspend heavy fertilizing; give a light feeding of organic compost or vermicompost once

in 6–8 weeks.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ **Light:** Loves full sunlight; blooms best in 5–8 hours of direct sun.
- ✓ **Watering:** Drought-tolerant; allow soil to dry between watering.
- ✓ **Soil:** Well-drained sandy mix; avoid waterlogging at all costs.
- ✓ **Temperature:** Thrives between 18°C–35°C; protect from frost.
- ✓ **Humidity:** Prefers dry air; ideal for Indian climates.
- ✓ **Pruning:** Trim long or leggy stems after flowering to maintain shape.
- ✓ **Container Growth:** Excellent for terrace gardens and sunny balconies.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

-  **Bloom Booster Hack:** Add a pinch of bone meal or potash monthly for more vibrant bracts.
-  **Watering Tip:** Avoid overhead watering to prevent stem rot.
-  **Cutting Hack:** Allow stem cuttings to dry for 24 hours to prevent sap rot before planting.
-  **Location Trick:** Place near a south or west-facing window for maximum light indoors.
-  **Soil Refresh:** Re-pot every 2 years with fresh soil mix to keep it nutrient-rich.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: Almost year-round, with peak blooms March–October.

Flower Colors: Red, pink, yellow, white, peach.

Bloom Duration: 2–3 months per flush.

Light Needs: Full sun or bright light.

Watering Needs: Low; drought-tolerant once mature.

Temperature: 18°C–35°C.

Special Feature: Long-lasting colorful bracts, minimal care, and thorny ornamental stems — perfect for low-maintenance gardens.

 Plot No. 24/2 Balaji Lucky Point, Old Cotton Market Road,
Shree Agro Agencies, Balaji Lucky Point, Amravati, Amravati,
Maharashtra, 444601

 +91 9284008858

 support@nookandnature.in

 www.nookandnature.in

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