



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



DAHLBERG DAISY

(THYMOPHYLLA TENUILOBA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

🌱 Sowing / Planting Stage (Sept–Feb in India)

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

Sow seeds directly on the soil surface; cover lightly with fine soil or cocopeat.

Keep soil moist until germination (takes 7–10 days).

Transplant seedlings when 2–3 inches tall, spacing 6–8 inches apart.

At transplanting → Add vermicompost (50–100 g per plant) or NPK 14:14:14 (½ tsp per pot).

🌿 Vegetative Growth Stage (2–4 weeks after transplanting)

Feed every 15 days with liquid fertilizer NPK (19:19:19, 1 g/litre water).

Keep soil lightly moist — avoid overwatering, as it causes root rot.

Provide full sunlight for healthy, compact growth.

🌸 Budding & Flowering Stage (Nov–April)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1 g/litre water

every 12–15 days).

Add bone meal or banana peel compost once a month for rich blooming.

Deadhead spent flowers → continuous flowering.

Mulch base lightly to retain soil moisture.

🌱 Post-Flowering / End of Season (April–May)

Collect seeds from dry flower heads for next season sowing.

Remove old plants and rejuvenate soil with compost.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Loves full sun (6–8 hours daily).
- ✓ Watering – Moderate watering; let topsoil dry slightly between watering.
- ✓ Soil – Light, well-drained sandy soil with neutral pH (6.5–7.5).
- ✓ Temperature – Thrives in 20°C–30°C; tolerates heat and light drought.
- ✓ Spacing – 6–8 inches apart.
- ✓ Container Growing – Perfect for 6–8 inch pots, hanging baskets, or window boxes.
- ✓ Pests – Rare; occasionally aphids or whiteflies → neem oil spray if needed.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌿 Sunlight Hack → More sunlight = more flowers. Keep in open sunny areas.
- 🌿 Deadheading Tip → Remove dry blooms → encourages fresh ones.
- 🌿 Low-Maintenance Trick → Once established, water only when topsoil feels dry.
- 🌿 Compact Growth Hack → Pinch back young plants → bushier shape.
- 🌿 Soil Health Tip → Mix a handful of sand → ensures proper drainage and avoids root rot

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Winter to early summer annual (Nov–April).

Peak Bloom: Jan–March.

Colors: Bright yellow.

Fragrance: Mild, fresh.

Type: Annual herb; grows 15–25 cm tall; excellent ground cover or pot plant.

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