



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



DAHLIA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Planting Stage (Oct–Nov in India)

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

At planting → Add bone meal (25–30 g per plant) + cow dung compost (500 g per plant).

Plant tubers 4–6 inches deep; ensure good drainage.

Vegetative Growth Stage (Nov–Dec)

Every 15–20 days → Apply liquid fertilizer (NPK 19:19:19, 2 g/litre water).

Add vermicompost (200–300 g per plant) once a month.

Pinch the top of young plants after 4–6 leaves → promotes bushy growth.

Bud Formation Stage (Dec–Jan)

Shift to high phosphorus & potassium fertilizers (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 2 g/litre water every 10 days).

Add banana peel fertilizer / wood ash monthly.

Reduce nitrogen → too much = tall plants but few flowers.

Flowering Stage (Jan–Feb, peak bloom)

Continue P & K fertilizer every 10–12 days.

Spray Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) once in 3–4 weeks → bigger, brighter flowers.

Support tall varieties with sticks to prevent bending.

Post-Flowering Stage (Feb–March end)

After flowers fade, reduce watering.

Cut stems down & allow tubers to rest in soil OR lift & store in dry sand for next season.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Needs 6–8 hours of full sunlight.
- ✓ Watering – Water 2–3 times a week; keep soil moist but never soggy.
- ✓ Soil – Fertile, well-drained, slightly acidic soil.
- ✓ Pinching – Pinch side shoots until plants are 1–1.5 ft tall → more flowers.
- ✓ Container Growing – Grow in 12–14 inch pots (mini varieties for pots; giants need bigger space).
- ✓ Pests – Spray neem oil against aphids, thrips & caterpillars.

3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Bud Control Trick → For giant dahlias, keep only 1–2 buds per stem. For cluster flowers, let all buds grow.
- 🌿 Banana Peel Fertilizer → Adds potassium → longer-lasting, brighter blooms.
- 🌿 Support Hack → Always stake tall dahlias early → prevents stem breakage.
- 🌿 Mulching → Use dry leaves or cocopeat → maintains moisture & keeps tubers cool.
- 🌿 Storage Hack → Lift tubers after season, dust with fungicide, store in sand/sawdust → reuse next year.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌸

Season: December to February (winter bloom).

Duration: Flowers last 4–6 weeks with care.

📍 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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