



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



DELPHINIUM



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Sowing / Planting Stage (Sept–Nov in India)

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

Sow seeds in seed trays or small pots, lightly cover with soil (0.25 inch).

Keep soil moist and shaded until germination (10–14 days).

Transplant seedlings when they have 3–4 true leaves.

At planting → Add vermicompost (100 g per plant) or slow-release fertilizer (NPK 14:14:14).

Vegetative Growth Stage (2–6 weeks after transplanting)

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

Pinch tips lightly → encourages bushier growth at lower nodes.

Stake plants early → Delphiniums grow tall (up to 1.5–2 m).

Budding & Flowering Stage (Nov–Feb / Winter bloom)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1–1.5 g/litre

water every 12–15 days) → promotes strong spikes and larger blooms.

Remove faded flowers → encourages rebloom in some varieties.

Mulch around base → retains moisture & prevents root stress.

Post-Flowering / Dormant Stage (March–April)

Cut back old flower spikes after blooming.

Reduce watering → let foliage die back naturally.

Apply compost to enrich soil for next season.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Needs 6–7 hours of direct sunlight.
- ✓ Watering – Regular, moderate watering; avoid waterlogging.
- ✓ Soil – Deep, fertile, well-drained, slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6–7).
- ✓ Temperature – Thrives in cool climates; sensitive to extreme heat.
- ✓ Spacing – 12–18 inches between plants.
- ✓ Support – Tall spikes require staking.
- ✓ Pests – Aphids, slugs, and powdery mildew → neem oil or fungicide sprays.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌿 Staking Hack → Stake plants early → prevents tall spikes from bending or breaking.
- 🌿 Deadheading Trick → Remove faded blooms → encourages rebloom and stronger spikes.
- 🌿 Mulching Tip → Cocopeat or straw → retains moisture and protects roots from heat.
- 🌿 Bloom Booster → Apply bone meal or banana peel powder monthly → stronger stems and bigger flowers.
- 🌿 Succession Planting → Sow seeds every 2–3 weeks in cool areas → continuous bloom season.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Winter to early spring perennial (Nov–Feb).

Peak Bloom: Dec–Jan.

Colors: Blue, purple, pink, white, bi-color.

Fragrance: Mild, pleasant.

Type: Perennial flowering plant; 1–2 m tall with vertical flower spikes.

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