

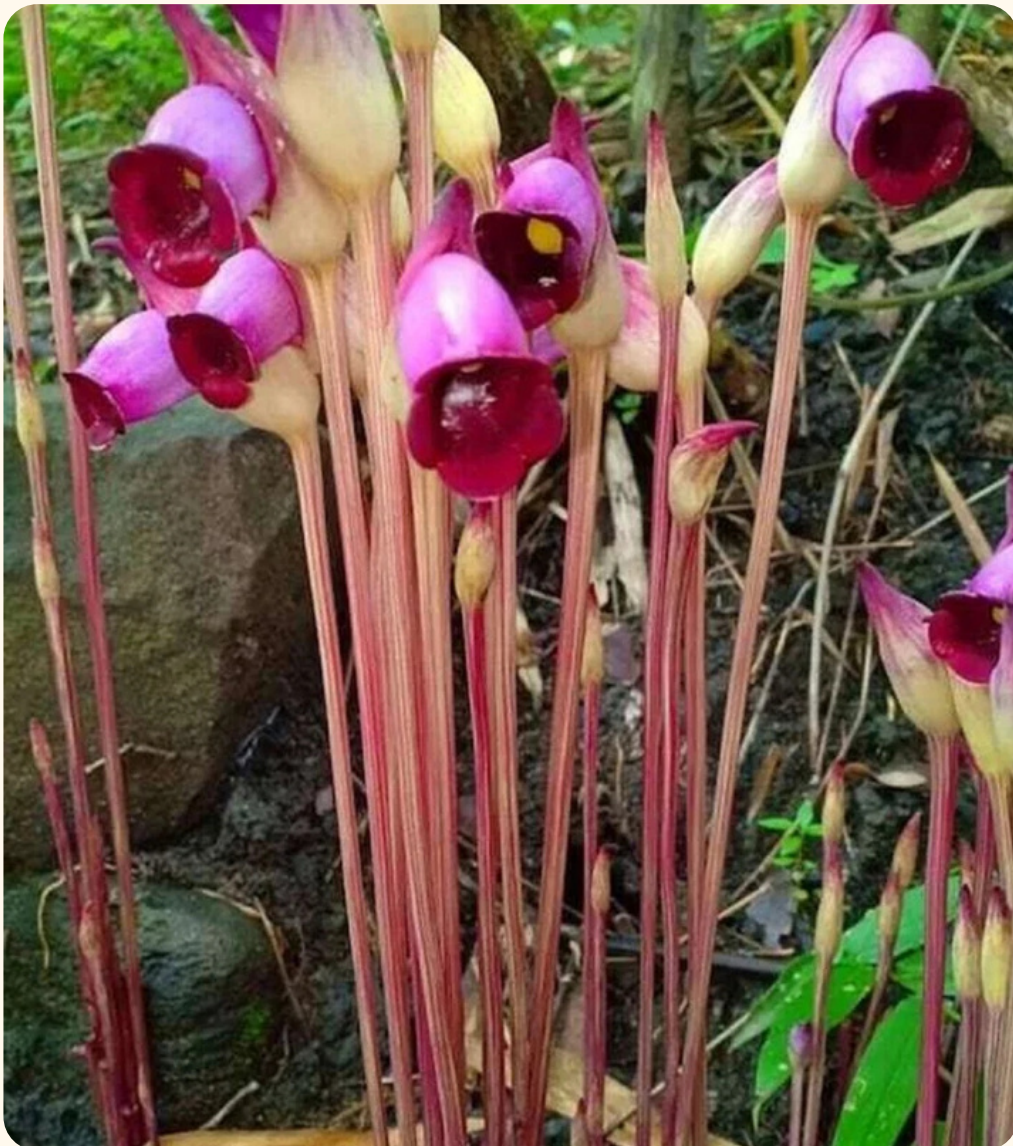


Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



FOREST GHOST FLOWER

(MONOTROPA UNIFLORA)



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1. Planting & Soil

Soil: Moist, humus-rich, forest soil with abundant mycorrhizal fungi.

Habitat: Found in dense, shady forests with high humidity.

Planting: Cannot be traditionally transplanted easily because it depends on a symbiotic relationship with forest fungi.

2. Growth & Care

✓ Sunlight: Full shade; thrives under thick forest canopy.

✓ Watering: Naturally receives forest moisture; in cultivation, high humidity and misting may help.

✓ Temperature: Cool, temperate regions 15°C–25°C.

✓ Soil Nutrition: Depends entirely on mycorrhizal fungi; does not perform well in standard garden soil.

✓ Propagation: Rarely grown from seeds outside its natural forest habitat because seeds require fungal association to germinate.

3. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: June to September (monsoon season), coinciding with humid, shaded forests.

Flower Color & Appearance: White, translucent, drooping flowers; waxy appearance giving it a “ghostly” look.

Height: Typically 6–12 inches tall.

Special Notes: Flowers are pollinated by small forest insects; the plant dies back to the root after seed dispersal.

Lifespan: Perennial in the wild, but each shoot lives only a few months; the root survives underground.



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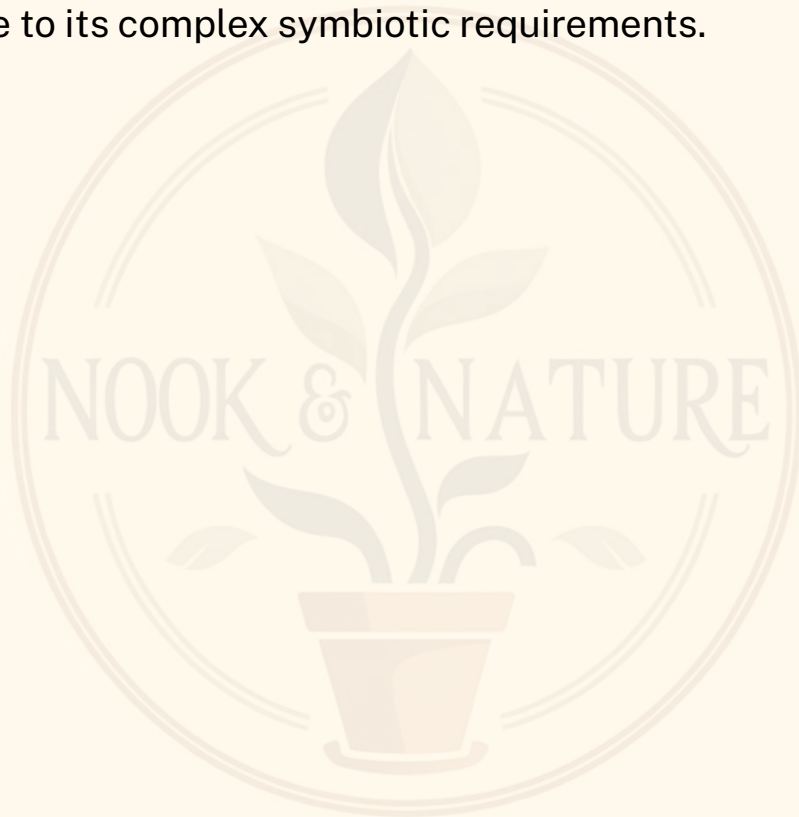
4. Interesting Facts

Called “Ghost Flower” because it is completely white and lacks chlorophyll.

Lives as a mycoheterotroph, extracting nutrients from fungal networks connected to tree

roots.

Rarely cultivated due to its complex symbiotic requirements.



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