



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



GARDENIA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Planting Stage (Feb–April or July–Aug in India)

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

Add at planting: cow dung compost (200–300 g per plant) + bone meal (20 g).

Plant in well-drained, slightly acidic soil (pH 5.5–6.5).

Vegetative Growth Stage (First 1–2 months)

Feed every 15–20 days with balanced NPK fertilizer 19:19:19 (1–1.5 g/litre water).

Add vermicompost (100–150 g per plant) monthly.

Water regularly to keep soil moist but not soggy.

Budding & Flowering Stage (3–6 months after planting)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizers (NPK 10:26:26 or 13:40:13, 1.5–2 g/litre

water every 12–15 days).

Add banana peel fertilizer / bone meal once a month → improves flower size and fragrance.

Spray Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) monthly → enhances leaf health and flower production.

Dormant / Resting Stage (Winter: Nov–Jan)

Reduce watering to once a week.

Stop chemical fertilizers; just add organic compost once a month.

Prune lightly to shape the plant and remove dead branches.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Needs 4–6 hours of indirect sunlight; avoid harsh afternoon sun in hot regions.
- ✓ Watering – Keep soil consistently moist; do not overwater, as roots are sensitive.
- ✓ Soil – Well-drained, slightly acidic, rich in organic matter.
- ✓ Spacing – Keep 2–3 feet apart in beds; use 10–12 inch pots for container growing.
- ✓ Container Growing – Use 10–12 inch pots with good drainage.
- ✓ Pests – Susceptible to aphids, mealybugs, and scale insects → neem oil spray every 15 days..

3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Banana Peel Fertilizer Hack → Boosts potassium → bigger, more fragrant flowers.
- 🌿 Mulching Trick → Mulch with cocopeat or dry leaves → retains moisture and acidity.
- 🌿 Pruning Hack → Prune after flowering → encourages bushier growth and continuous blooms.
- 🌿 Fragrance Maximizer → Place plant in morning sun + afternoon shade → stronger aroma.
- 🌿 Acidity Trick → If leaves turn yellow, add alum (small pinch in water) → corrects pH.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Mainly summer & monsoon (March–September).

Peak Bloom: April–July.

Flower Colors: Creamy-white, waxy, very fragrant.

Fragrance: Strong, sweet, intoxicating.

Type: Evergreen perennial shrub.

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