



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



GULMOHAR



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Seed / Sapling Stage (June–August – Monsoon)

Propagation:

→ Soak seeds in warm water overnight before sowing to soften the hard seed coat.

Soil Mix:

Garden soil : Compost : Sand = 2 : 1 : 1

Ensure good drainage.

Planting Pit:

Size: 2×2×2 ft

Mix 2–3 kg organic compost + 50 g neem cake per pit.

Watering:

Keep soil moist until sapling establishes (first 2–3 months).

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–2 years)

Feed every 45 days with:

→ NPK 19:19:19 (15–20 g in 5 L water).

Add vermicompost (2–3 kg) or cow dung manure around the base.

Keep in full sunlight; partial shade reduces growth.

Water deeply once a week during summer; skip in heavy rain.

3 Flowering Stage (3–5 years onwards)

Flowering Season: April–June (summer).

Pre-Flowering Feeding (Feb–March):

→ NPK 10:26:26 or Bone Meal (150–200 g/tree) → encourages buds.

During bloom: Add compost (3–5 kg/tree) and mulch the base with dry leaves or cocopeat.

After flowering: Apply vermicompost + neem cake (once) to rejuvenate soil.

4 Mature Tree Maintenance (5+ years)

Once yearly (Feb–March):

→ 10–15 kg organic compost + 200 g bone meal/tree.

Pruning: Light pruning post-flowering to maintain shape & remove dead twigs.

Watering: Deep watering every 10–15 days in summer; minimal in winter.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Needs full sun (6–8 hours/day) for best growth and flowering.
- ✓ Soil: Loamy, well-drained soil — avoid waterlogging.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; drought-tolerant once established.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives in 25°C–40°C tropical climate.
- ✓ Spacing: Keep 10–15 ft between plants (large spreading canopy).
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Resistant, but check for mealybugs or caterpillars — use neem oil spray.
- ✓ Height: Grows up to 30–40 ft tall with a wide umbrella-like crown.

3. Pro Hacks

🌱 Seed Germination Hack:

→ Scarify seeds (rub lightly with sandpaper) + soak overnight = faster sprouting.

🌱 Flower Booster:

→ Add banana peel compost or bone meal before flowering season for vibrant color.

🌱 Soil Reviver:

→ Mix neem cake + wood ash around roots once a year to boost nutrients.

🌱 Pruning Hack:

→ Avoid heavy pruning; light trimming post-bloom keeps shape and promotes next season's buds.

🌱 Mulching Tip:

→ Add dry leaf mulch during summer to retain moisture and suppress weeds.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Planting Time: June–August (monsoon)

Flowering Season: March–June

Flower Color: Bright golden yellow in long drooping clusters

Height: 30–40 ft (mature)

Type: Deciduous ornamental tree

Lifespan: 50–60 years

Fragrance: Mild sweet scent

Fruit: Long cylindrical pods with medicinal seeds



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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