



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting Stage (October–November in India)

Soil Mix:

40% garden soil + 30% compost (or cow dung manure) + 20% river sand + 10% cocopeat.

Bulb Preparation:

Soak bulbs in a fungicide solution or neem water for 30 minutes before planting.

Planting Depth:

2–3 inches deep with pointed side up.

Spacing:

5–6 inches apart in beds or one bulb per 6–8 inch pot.

Add bone meal (25 g) or FYM (100 g) per pot at the time of planting for strong root initiation.

2 Root & Shoot Growth Stage (Nov–Dec)

Keep soil slightly moist but never soggy.

Fertilize every 15 days with liquid NPK 19:19:19 (1 g/litre water) or seaweed extract to promote leaf and root growth.

Provide bright indirect sunlight or mild morning sun.

💧 Watering Tip:

Water when the topsoil feels dry; avoid wetting the bulbs directly.

3 Budding & Flowering Stage (Jan–Feb)

Switch to phosphorus and potassium-rich fertilizer:

→ NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34 (1 g/litre every 10–15 days).

Add banana peel compost or bone meal once a month for fuller, fragrant blooms.

Support the flower spike with a small stick if it grows tall.

Deadhead faded flowers but keep leaves intact for photosynthesis.

4 Post-Flowering Stage (March–April)

Stop fertilizing after blooming ends.

Gradually reduce watering; let leaves turn yellow and dry.

Once leaves are fully dry, lift the bulbs carefully.

Clean and store bulbs in a cool, dry, and airy place (wrapped in paper or sawdust) for the next season.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Prefers bright, indirect light or morning sunlight (4–5 hours).
- ✓ Soil: Well-draining, sandy-loamy soil; avoid clayey soils.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; allow soil to dry slightly between watering.
- ✓ Temperature: Ideal 10°C–20°C; avoid extreme heat (>28°C).
- ✓ Container Growing: Perfect for 6–8 inch deep pots or shallow ceramic bowls.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Watch for bulb rot, aphids → use neem oil spray every 15 days.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌱 Cold Start Hack: For early blooms, refrigerate bulbs (wrapped in paper) for 4–6 weeks before planting.
- 🌱 Rebloom Trick: After the first bloom, feed with mild compost and let leaves mature naturally — this stores energy in the bulb for next season.
- 🌱 Fragrance Boost Tip: Place pots in bright light indoors during flowering to intensify scent.
- 🌱 Drainage Hack: Always ensure pots have holes; stagnant water causes bulb rot.
- 🌱 Storage Tip: Store bulbs in a breathable cloth bag with dry sand to prevent fungus.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Planting Time: October–November

Flowering Season: January–February

Peak Bloom: Late January

Colors: Blue, pink, white, purple, yellow

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