



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



IXORA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Planting Stage (First Month)

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

At planting → Add bone meal (25 g per plant) OR neem cake (50 g per plant).

Growth Stage (New Plants / Young Shrubs)

Every 20–25 days → Apply liquid fertilizer (NPK 19:19:19, 2 g/litre water).

Add vermicompost (200–300 g per plant) once a month.

Flowering Stage (Year-Round, Peak: Summer–Monsoon)

Every 15 days → Use phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1–2 g/litre water).

Add banana peel fertilizer or wood ash once a month for vibrant blooms.

Maintenance Stage

Refresh soil every 3–4 months with compost + sand.

Avoid too much nitrogen → leads to leafy growth but fewer flowers.

2. Caring Tips

-  Sunlight – Loves 6–8 hours of direct sunlight; can tolerate partial shade.
-  Watering – Keep soil slightly moist; water 2–3 times a week. Avoid waterlogging.
-  Soil – Slightly acidic soil (pH 5.5–6.5) suits best; add leaf mold or cocopeat to reduce alkalinity.
-  Pruning – Trim lightly after each flowering cycle to encourage more branching.
-  Pests – Watch for aphids, mealybugs & scale insects; spray neem oil once in 15 days.
-  Container Growing – Use 14–18 inch pots with proper drainage.



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3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Acidic Soil Hack → Sprinkle buttermilk, coffee grounds, or diluted vinegar (½ tsp/litre water once a month) → helps Ixora bloom better.
- 🌿 Banana Peel Trick → Natural potassium booster → brighter & bigger flower clusters.
- 🌿 Deadheading Hack → Remove dried flower clusters to promote new blooming.
- 🌿 Pruning Hack → Regular light pruning makes Ixora compact & bushy.
- 🌿 Multi-Color Tip → Plant different varieties (red, yellow, pink, orange) together → stunning year-round color display.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌸

Year-round flowering in tropical & subtropical regions.

Peak bloom: March–June (summer) & August–October (post-monsoon).

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