



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



KACHNAR
(BAUHINIA VARIEGATA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

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

Soil: Well-drained loamy or sandy soil, rich in organic matter (pH 6–7.5).

Planting:

Dig a pit 2×2×2 ft.

Mix soil with 2–3 kg compost or FYM + 50 g neem cake.

Plant sapling and water immediately.

Watering: Keep soil moist but not soggy for first 2–3 months.

 Fertilizer at Planting:

Apply organic compost or cow dung (2–3 kg per sapling).

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–2 years)

Feed every 2–3 months with:

→ Balanced NPK 19:19:19 (10–15 g per plant dissolved in 5 L water).

Add vermicompost (1–2 kg) every 3 months.

Sunlight: Full sun for strong growth.

Watering: Moderate; water deeply once a week.

3 Flowering Stage (3–5 years onwards)

Flowering Season: February–April (late winter to early summer).

Pre-flowering (January):

→ Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or bone meal, 100–150 g/tree).

During flowering: Apply 2–3 kg compost per tree.

Mulch with dry leaves or cocopeat to retain soil moisture.

4 Mature Tree Maintenance (5+ years)

Once a year (pre-monsoon):

→ 5–10 kg organic compost + 100–150 g bone meal/tree.

Pruning: After flowering, remove dead or weak branches to maintain canopy shape.

Watering: Deep watering once every 10–15 days in dry months.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Full sunlight (6–8 hours/day) is ideal for abundant flowering.
- ✓ Soil: Well-drained loamy or sandy soil; tolerates poor soils once mature.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; drought-tolerant after establishment.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives in 20°C–35°C tropical and subtropical climates.
- ✓ Spacing: 10–12 ft apart for gardens or avenues.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Occasionally affected by caterpillars or leaf spot → neem oil spray.
- ✓ Growth: Medium-fast; grows up to 20–25 ft tall with spreading canopy.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌱 Seed Germination Hack: Soak seeds overnight in warm water → improves germination rate.
- 🌱 Flower Booster: Apply bone meal or single super phosphate before flowering season → encourages vibrant blooms.
- 🌱 Mulching Tip: Use dry leaf mulch around the root zone → retains moisture and prevents weeds.
- 🌱 Pruning Hack: Light pruning post-flowering → encourages new shoot formation and denser canopy.
- 🌱 Organic Pest Control: Sprinkle neem cake powder around the base → protects roots and improves soil fertility.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Flowering Season: Kachnar blooms mainly from February to April, adding vibrant pink or purple hues to gardens.

Planting Time: The best time to plant is June–August (monsoon).

Flower Colors: Shades of pink, purple, and magenta.

Plant Height & Spacing: Can reach 20–25 ft tall; plant 10–12 ft apart for proper growth.

Watering Needs: Moderate; keep soil moist during first 2 years, then drought-tolerant.

Temperature: Thrives in tropical and subtropical climates between 20°C–35°C.

Type & Lifespan: Deciduous ornamental tree with a lifespan of 25–40 years.

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