



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



KALPAVRIKSHA

(FICUS RELIGIOSA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

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

Soil: Well-drained loamy soil, slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6–7).

Planting:

Dig a pit 2×2×2 ft, mix with 2–3 kg compost + 50 g neem cake.

Plant sapling carefully and water immediately.

Watering: Keep soil moist for first 2–3 months to establish roots.

💧 Initial Fertilizer:

Organic compost or well-rotted cow dung (2–3 kg per sapling).

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–3 years)

Feed every 3–4 months with balanced NPK 19:19:19 (15 g per plant).

Add vermicompost or cow dung (2 kg per plant) to enrich soil.

Sunlight: Full sunlight.

Watering: Moderate; water deeply once a week.

3 Flowering Stage (3–5 years onwards)

Flowering Season: Small, inconspicuous flowers appear from February to May.

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

Mulch base with dry leaves to retain moisture and provide nutrients.

4 Mature Tree Maintenance (5+ years)

Annual feeding (pre-monsoon):

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

Prune lightly to remove dead branches and maintain canopy.

Water deeply every 10–15 days during dry months.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Requires full sunlight for strong growth.
- ✓ Soil: Loamy, well-drained soil.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; drought-tolerant once mature.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives in tropical and subtropical climates (20°C–35°C).
- ✓ Spacing: Plant 15–20 ft apart for proper canopy development.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Occasionally affected by leaf-eating insects → neem oil spray.
- ✓ Growth: Slow-growing; can reach 50–70 ft tall with a wide canopy.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

Mulch around the base with organic matter to improve soil fertility.
Avoid overwatering; Kalpavriksha prefers moderate soil moisture.
Light pruning of lower branches improves canopy structure.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Flower Type: Small, greenish, inconspicuous flowers that develop inside fig-like structures.

Flowering Season: February–May, coinciding with pre-monsoon.

Fruit Development: Flowers turn into small figs, providing food for birds and wildlife.

Planting Time: Best planted during monsoon (June–August) for optimal growth.

Plant Height & Spacing: Can grow 50–70 ft tall; plant 15–20 ft apart in gardens or avenues.

Watering Needs: Moderate during early years; drought-tolerant once mature.

Type & Lifespan: Evergreen / deciduous large tree; lifespan hundreds of years in ideal conditions.

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GST NO. 27ENHPD4122G1ZB

