



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



KARABI

(HIBISCUS ROSA-SINENSIS)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

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

Soil: Well-drained loamy soil rich in organic matter (pH 6–7).

Planting:

Dig a pit 1×1×1 ft.

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

Plant saplings and water immediately.

Watering: Keep soil moist for the first 2–3 months.

Initial Fertilizer:

Apply organic compost or cow dung (1–2 kg per plant) for healthy root establishment.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–2 years)

Feed every 2 months with:

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

Add vermicompost or organic compost (500 g–1 kg per plant) every 2–3 months.

Sunlight: Full sunlight (6–8 hrs/day) is ideal.

Watering: Moderate; water deeply once or twice a week.

3 Flowering Stage (2–3 years onwards)

Flowering Season: Year-round in tropical climates, with peak blooms from March to June.

Pre-flowering (Feb–March):

→ Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or bone meal, 50–100 g per plant) to stimulate bud formation.

During flowering: Top-dress with vermicompost (500 g per plant) and mulch to retain moisture.

4 Mature Plant Maintenance (3+ years)

Monthly Feeding:

→ Liquid fertilizer or compost tea (NPK 10:10:10) during flowering season.

Pruning: Remove weak or dead branches regularly to maintain shape and encourage blooms.

Watering: Deep watering 2–3 times per week; reduce in winter.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Full sun is best for vibrant blooms.
- ✓ Soil: Well-drained loamy soil enriched with organic matter.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; avoid waterlogging.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives in tropical and subtropical climates (20°C–35°C).
- ✓ Spacing: Plant 3–4 ft apart for shrubs or hedges.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: May be affected by aphids, whiteflies, or fungal infections → treat with neem oil or fungicide.
- ✓ Growth: Fast-growing; can reach 6–10 ft tall as a shrub.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

- 🌱 Bloom Booster: Apply phosphorus-rich fertilizer or bone meal 2–3 weeks before expected flowering.
- 🌱 Fragrance Hack: Slightly reduce watering before bud formation → enhances flower vibrancy.
- 🌱 Mulching Tip: Mulch with dry leaves or cocopeat around the base → retains moisture and improves soil fertility.
- 🌱 Pruning Hack: Regularly prune to promote lateral growth and continuous flowering.
- 🌱 Container Hack: Grow in large pots with trellis support for balconies or terraces.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Flowering Season: Karabi blooms year-round, with peak flowering from March to June, producing large, vibrant, trumpet-shaped flowers in colors like red, yellow, orange, pink, and white.

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

Flower Color & Aroma: Bright, colorful flowers; some varieties mildly fragrant.

Plant Height & Spacing: Can grow 6–10 ft tall; plant 3–4 ft apart in gardens or hedges.

Watering Needs: Moderate; keep soil moist during early growth, drought-tolerant once mature.

Temperature: Thrives in tropical/subtropical climates (20°C–35°C).

Type & Lifespan: Evergreen ornamental shrub; lifespan 10–15 years with proper care.

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