



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



LANTANA CAMARA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

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

Soil: Well-drained loamy or sandy soil, slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6–7.5).

Planting:

Dig a pit 1×1 ft.

Mix soil with 1–2 kg compost + 25 g neem cake.

Plant saplings and water immediately.

Watering: Keep soil moderately moist for first 2–3 weeks.

 Initial Fertilizer:

Apply vermicompost or cow dung (250–500 g per plant) at planting.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–6 months)

Feed every 2 months with:

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

Sunlight: Full sun is ideal; Lantana thrives in hot conditions.

Watering: Moderate; water once or twice a week depending on rainfall.

3 Flowering Stage (6 months onwards)

Flowering Season: Blooms year-round in tropical climates, peak from March to June.

Pre-flowering: Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26, 25–50 g per plant) to enhance flower production.

During flowering: Top-dress with vermicompost (250–500 g) and mulch to retain moisture

4 Mature Plant Maintenance (1+ year)

Annual Feeding:

→ 1–2 kg compost + 50 g bone meal per plant before peak flowering season.

Pruning: Trim after flowering to encourage bushy growth and continuous blooms.

Watering: Once or twice a week; drought-tolerant once mature.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ **Sunlight:** Full sun for vibrant blooms.
- ✓ **Soil:** Well-drained, slightly acidic to neutral.
- ✓ **Watering:** Moderate; tolerant to drought but grows better with regular watering.
- ✓ **Temperature:** Thrives in tropical/subtropical climates (20°C–35°C).
- ✓ **Spacing:** Plant 2–3 ft apart for hedge or border planting.
- ✓ **Pests/Diseases:** Occasionally affected by aphids or whiteflies → neem oil spray recommended.
- ✓ **Growth:** Fast-growing shrub; can reach 3–6 ft tall with dense foliage.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

-  **Bloom Booster:** Apply phosphorus fertilizer or bone meal 2–3 weeks before peak bloom.
-  **Pruning Tip:** Trim back hard after each flowering cycle → encourages lateral growth and more blooms.
-  **Mulching Hack:** Use dry leaves, grass, or cocopeat around base to retain soil moisture.
-  **Container Hack:** Can grow in large pots; ideal for balcony gardens.
-  **Flower Color Hack:** Lantana flowers change color with age — regular pruning keeps colors vibrant.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: Year-round, peak bloom from March to June.

Flower Color: Multi-colored clusters — yellow, orange, red, pink, purple combinations.

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

Height & Spread: Can grow 3–6 ft tall; plant 2–3 ft apart.

Watering Needs: Moderate; drought-tolerant once mature.

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

Type & Lifespan: Evergreen ornamental shrub; lifespan 5–10 years with proper care.

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