



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



MAGNOLIA

(MICHELIA CHAMPACA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Planting Stage (Feb–April or July–Sept)

Soil Mix:

→ 40% garden soil + 30% compost + 20% sand + 10% cocopeat.

Add at planting:

→ Bone meal (50 g) + well-rotted cow dung (2 kg per plant).

Ensure partially shaded to full-sun spot with good drainage.

Growth Stage (First 3–4 months)

Feed every 20–25 days with a balanced fertilizer (NPK 19:19:19, 2 g/litre water).

Water deeply but avoid waterlogging.

Mulch with dry leaves or cocopeat to maintain soil moisture.

Flowering Stage (March–October)

Switch to a phosphorus- and potassium-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 13:40:13, 2 g/litre water every 15–20 days).

Add bone meal or banana peel fertilizer (once a month) to enhance blooming and fragrance.

Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) foliar spray monthly → improves leaf color and bud formation.

Resting Stage (Nov–Jan)

Water once every 10–15 days (depending on temperature).

Stop chemical fertilizers; apply organic compost (500 g per plant) once a month.

Prune lightly to maintain shape and remove dry branches.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Prefers bright sunlight to partial shade (minimum 5–6 hrs/day).
- ✓ Watering – Moderate; keep soil evenly moist, not soggy.
- ✓ Soil – Slightly acidic, well-drained loamy soil (pH 6–6.5).
- ✓ Spacing – If planted in open ground, keep 10–15 feet apart (tree grows 20–40 ft tall).
- ✓ Container Growing – Dwarf or hybrid varieties can be grown in 24-inch pots.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases – Watch for mealybugs and leaf miners; control with neem oil spray every 15–20 days.

3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Banana Peel Fertilizer Hack → Provides potassium for stronger blooms and better fragrance.
- 🌿 Coffee Grounds Trick → Add small amounts to soil once a month for acidity and nitrogen.
- 🌿 Seaweed Extract Spray → Once a month improves flower size and plant immunity.
- 🌿 Pruning Hack → Prune lightly after flowering season to encourage branching and new buds.
- 🌿 Fragrance Maximizer → Place in slightly humid, bright areas – heat and moisture release stronger scent.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Mainly from March to October (warm months).

Peak Bloom: April–June.

Colors: White, yellow, cream, and golden-orange (depending on variety).

Fragrance: Strong, sweet, intoxicating — especially in the evening.

Lifespan: Long-lived perennial tree (can live over 40 years).

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