



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



MOSS ROSE

(PORTULACA GRANDIFLORA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting / Seed Stage

Soil: Sandy, well-drained soil; tolerates poor soil.

Planting:

Sow seeds directly in garden beds or pots in spring or summer.

Lightly cover seeds with soil; water gently.

Watering: Keep soil lightly moist until seeds germinate (7–10 days).

 Initial Fertilizer:

Mix 1–2 tsp compost or organic matter per square foot at planting.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage

Feed every 4–6 weeks with balanced water-soluble fertilizer (NPK 10:10:10) at half strength.

Sunlight: Full sun for compact growth and abundant blooms.

Watering: Moderate; avoid waterlogging.

3 Flowering Stage

Flowering Season: Summer to early autumn (March–September); blooms are vibrant and continuous in hot weather.

Pre-flowering: Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 5:10:10) to encourage flower formation.

During flowering: Remove spent flowers to stimulate new blooms.

4 Mature Plant Maintenance

Fertilizer: Light feeding every 6–8 weeks with organic compost or liquid fertilizer.

Pruning: Trim trailing stems to maintain shape and promote branching.

Watering: Moderate; drought-tolerant once established.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ **Light:** Full sun for best flowering and compact growth.
- ✓ **Soil:** Sandy, well-drained; tolerates poor soil.
- ✓ **Watering:** Moderate; allow soil to dry slightly between watering.
- ✓ **Temperature:** Thrives in 20°C–35°C; sensitive to frost.
- ✓ **Propagation:** By seeds or stem cuttings.
- ✓ **Pests/Diseases:** Rare; may occasionally get aphids → neem oil recommended.
- ✓ **Growth Habit:** Low-growing, trailing succulent; spreads rapidly; height 4–6 inches.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

-  **Bloom Booster:** Full sun + phosphorus-rich fertilizer → vibrant and continuous blooms.
-  **Container Hack:** Ideal for hanging baskets, rock gardens, or borders.
-  **Deadheading Tip:** Remove faded flowers regularly → ensures continuous flowering.
-  **Soil Hack:** Sandy soil with added compost retains moisture while preventing root rot.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: March–September (summer to early autumn); year-round in warm climates.

Flower Color: Red, yellow, pink, orange, white, and bi-color varieties.

Plant Type: Low-growing succulent; trailing habit.

Watering Needs: Moderate; drought-tolerant once established.

Temperature: 20°C–35°C.

Special Feature: Excellent ground cover, rock garden plant, and ornamental balcony plant.

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