



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



NAGKESAR

(MESUA FERREA)



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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 6–7.5).

Planting:

Dig a pit 2×2×2 ft.

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

Plant saplings carefully and water immediately.

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



Initial Fertilizer:

Apply organic compost or 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 in 5 L water).

Add vermicompost or organic compost (2 kg per plant) every 3 months.

Sunlight: Full sunlight preferred; partial shade tolerated.

Watering: Moderate; water deeply once a week.

3 Flowering Stage (3–5 years onwards)

Flowering Season: Mainly February to May, producing fragrant white flowers with yellow stamens.

Pre-flowering (Jan–Feb):

→ Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or bone meal, 100–150 g/tree) to stimulate flower buds.

During flowering: Top-dress with 2–3 kg compost and mulch with dry leaves to retain moisture.

4 Mature Tree Maintenance (5+ years)

Annual Feeding (pre-monsoon):

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

Pruning: Light pruning after flowering to remove dead branches and maintain canopy.

Watering: Deep watering every 10–15 days during dry months; avoid waterlogging.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Full sunlight for optimal flowering.
- ✓ Soil: Well-drained loamy or sandy loam soil.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; drought-tolerant once mature.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives in tropical and subtropical climates (20°C–35°C).
- ✓ Spacing: Plant 8–10 ft apart in gardens.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Rarely affected; occasional leaf spot → treat with neem oil.
- ✓ Growth: Slow to medium growth; can reach 30–50 ft tall with dense canopy.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

- 🌱 Bloom Booster: Apply bone meal or single super phosphate 2–3 weeks before flowering.
- 🌱 Mulching Tip: Use dry leaves or compost to retain moisture and enrich soil.
- 🌱 Pruning Hack: Remove old or weak branches post-flowering → encourages new shoots and more blooms.
- 🌱 Container Hack: Young saplings can be grown in large pots for first 1–2 years before transplanting.
- 🌱 Fragrance Hack: Slightly reduce watering before flowering → intensifies flower aroma.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Flowering Season: February to May (late winter to early summer).

Flower Color & Aroma: White petals with prominent yellow stamens; highly fragrant.

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

Plant Height & Spacing: Can grow 30–50 ft tall; plant 8–10 ft apart.

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

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

Type & Lifespan: Evergreen ornamental tree; lifespan 50+ years with proper care.

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