



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



OLEANDER



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Planting Stage (Feb–April or July–Sept in India)

Soil mix: 40% garden soil + 30% compost + 20% sand + 10% cocopeat.

At planting → Add cow dung compost (300 g per plant) + bone meal (25 g) or neem

cake (30 g).

Plant in full sun and ensure good drainage.

Growth Stage (First 1–2 months)

Feed every 20–25 days with NPK 19:19:19 (2 g/litre water) or organic compost tea.

Once plants are established, reduce feeding frequency.

Water regularly but allow soil to dry between watering.

Flowering Stage (March–October; in South India, almost year-round)

Switch to high phosphorus & potassium fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 13:40:13, 2 g/litre water

every 15 days).

Add banana peel fertilizer or bone meal monthly for more blooms.

Spray Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) every 30 days → improves flower color and leaf shine.

Dormant Stage (Nov–Jan)

Reduce watering to once a week.

Add a light layer of compost once during winter.

Prune lightly to shape and remove dead or weak branches.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Thrives in 6–8 hours of direct sunlight; full sun = maximum blooms.
- ✓ Watering – Moderate; drought-tolerant once established. Water 2–3 times/week in summer.
- ✓ Soil – Well-drained sandy or loamy soil (pH 6–7.5).
- ✓ Spacing – Keep 3–4 feet apart (bushy growth).
- ✓ Container Growing – Use 12–14 inch pots for dwarf varieties.
- ✓ Pests – Usually resistant, but check for aphids, mealybugs, and spider mites → neem oil spray every 15–20 days.

3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Pruning Hack → Prune after main flowering flush (around Sept–Oct) → encourages new shoots and more flowers.
- 🌿 Drought Hack → Add mulch (dry leaves or coco husk) → retains moisture and reduces watering needs.
- 🌿 Propagation Tip → Very easy to grow from cuttings — root in water or soil during spring/summer.
- 🌿 Bloom Booster → Add wood ash or banana peel powder monthly for richer blooms.
- 🌿 Compact Growth Trick → Pinch new shoots regularly for bushier appearance

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Year-round in tropical climates; best bloom March–October.

Peak Bloom: April–July.

Colors: White, pink, red, yellow, peach (single & double varieties).

Fragrance: Light to none (some varieties are fragrant).

Type: Perennial evergreen shrub (lives 10–20 years).

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