



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



ORCHID



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting Stage / Potting (Anytime, optimal: Feb–April)

Medium: Orchids grow in well-drained, airy medium — mix of coconut husk chips, charcoal, perlite, and bark.

Pot Type: Transparent plastic pots with holes for drainage and root aeration.

Planting Tip: Gently remove old medium from roots; trim dead roots.

💧 Fertilizer at Planting:

Apply slow-release orchid fertilizer or 1/4 strength NPK 30:10:10 for root establishment.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (Feb–June / Monsoon)

Feed every 2 weeks with balanced water-soluble fertilizer NPK 20:20:20 (½ strength).

Keep medium moist but not soggy; orchids hate stagnant water.

Provide bright, filtered sunlight (avoid direct afternoon sun).

Maintain humidity 60–80% and moderate temperature (20°C–28°C).

3 Flowering Stage (Varies by species, usually Winter–Spring)

Switch to bloom booster fertilizer:

→ High phosphorus fertilizer NPK 10:30:20 (½–1 g/litre, every 2 weeks).

Support long spikes with sticks or clips.

Remove faded flowers to encourage the next flowering cycle.

4 Resting / Dormancy Stage (Post-flowering)

Reduce fertilization and watering gradually.

Allow medium to dry slightly between watering.

For seasonal orchids (like Cymbidium), maintain cool night temperatures to encourage next bloom.

Avoid repotting during bloom; best done after flowering or in early growth phase.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Bright, indirect sunlight (50–70% shade for sensitive species).
- ✓ Soil / Medium: Loose, airy, and well-draining orchid mix.
- ✓ Watering: Water once or twice a week; increase in summer, reduce in winter.
- ✓ Temperature: Ideal 18°C–28°C day / 15°C–20°C night.
- ✓ Humidity: 60–80%; mist leaves occasionally.
- ✓ Container: Transparent plastic or clay pots with drainage holes.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Mealybugs, aphids, fungal infections → neem oil or systemic fungicide.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌱 Bloom Booster: Apply phosphorus-rich fertilizer 4–6 weeks before flowering.
- 🌱 Humidity Hack: Place orchid pots on trays with water & pebbles → increases ambient humidity.
- 🌱 Light Trick: Use filtered sunlight → prevents leaf burn and encourages blooms.
- 🌱 Airflow Tip: Maintain good ventilation → reduces fungal infections.
- 🌱 Repotting Hack: Repot every 2–3 years or when medium decomposes → healthier roots and flowers.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Planting / Potting: Anytime, optimal Feb–April

Flowering Season: Varies by species (most: Winter–Spring)

Colors: White, pink, purple, yellow, red, green, multicolor

Height: 15–60 cm (varies by species)

Type: Epiphytic, lithophytic, or terrestrial perennial

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