



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



PANSY
(VIOLA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Sowing / Planting Stage (Oct–Dec in India)

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

Sow seeds on soil surface, lightly cover with 0.25 inch soil.

Keep soil moist but not soggy; germination takes 10–15 days.

Transplant seedlings when 3–4 true leaves appear.

At transplant → Add vermicompost (100 g per plant) or slow-release NPK 14:14:14 (1 tsp per pot).

Vegetative Growth Stage (2–4 weeks after transplanting)

Feed every 15 days with liquid NPK fertilizer (19:19:19, 1 g/litre water).

Pinch young shoots to promote bushy growth and more blooms.

Maintain even moisture; avoid waterlogging to prevent root rot.

Budding & Flowering Stage (Dec–March)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1–1.5 g/litre water every 12–15 days) → larger, more vibrant blooms.

Add bone meal or organic compost once a month → enhances flower quality.

Remove faded flowers (deadheading) → encourages continuous blooming.

Post-Flowering / Seed Collection Stage (March–April)

Allow some flowers to go to seed → for next season sowing.

Remove dried plants and replenish soil with compost for the next cycle.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Needs 5–6 hours of direct sunlight, tolerates partial shade in hotter areas.
- ✓ Watering – Regular but moderate; keep soil moist. Avoid wetting leaves excessively.
- ✓ Soil – Fertile, well-drained, slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6–7).
- ✓ Temperature – Ideal range 10°C–25°C; sensitive to extreme heat.
- ✓ Spacing – 6–8 inches between plants.
- ✓ Container Growing – Works well in pots (6–8 inch) and window boxes.
- ✓ Pests – Aphids and slugs are common → neem oil or organic pest control.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌱 Pinching Trick → Pinch tops → promotes bushier plants with more flowers.
- 🌱 Deadheading Hack → Remove old blooms → extends flowering season.
- 🌱 Mulching Tip → Dry leaves or cocopeat → keeps roots cool & soil moist.
- 🌱 Bloom Booster → Foliar spray with Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) once a month → healthier leaves & more vibrant blooms.
- 🌱 Succession Planting → Sow every 3–4 weeks → continuous blooms through winter.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Winter annual (Oct–March).

Peak Bloom: Dec–Feb.

Colors: Purple, yellow, white, blue, pink, bicolor.

Fragrance: Mild or none.

Type: Annual bedding flower; grows 15–25 cm tall with compact bushy growth.

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GST NO. 27ENHPD4122G1ZB

