



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



PETUNIA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

🌱 Sowing / Transplanting Stage (Oct–Nov in India)

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

At planting → Add bone meal (20 g per plant) + cow dung compost (250–300 g per plant).

🌱 Vegetative Growth Stage (Nov–Dec)

Every 15 days → Apply liquid fertilizer NPK 19:19:19 (1.5–2 g/litre water).

Add vermicompost (100–150 g per plant) monthly.

Pinch top shoots when plant is 4–5 inches tall → makes it bushier.

🌱 Bud Formation Stage (Dec–Jan)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizers (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1.5–2 g/litre water every 10–12 days).

Add banana peel fertilizer or wood ash once a month.

🌸 Flowering Stage (Dec–March, peak bloom)

Continue P & K fertilizers every 10 days.

Spray Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) once in 3–4 weeks → more flowers & brighter colors.

Deadhead (remove dried flowers) regularly → encourages new blooms.

🌱 Post-Flowering Stage (April)

Plants decline in summer heat. You can compost them or save seeds for next season.

2. Caring Tips

- ✅ Sunlight – Needs 5–6 hours of direct sunlight daily.
- ✅ Watering – Water 2–3 times per week; do not overwater (roots rot easily).
- ✅ Soil – Well-drained, slightly acidic soil.
- ✅ Pruning – Pinch and deadhead regularly → keeps plant compact and blooming.
- ✅ Container Growing – Perfect for hanging baskets, railing pots, and 10–12 inch containers.
- ✅ Pests – Aphids, whiteflies → treat with neem oil spray every 15 days.



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🌿 3. Pro Hacks 🌿

🌿 Deadheading Hack → Removing dry flowers quickly → continuous blooming.

🌿 Banana Peel Fertilizer → Boosts potassium → long-lasting blooms.

🌿 Pinching Trick → Early pinching = bushy plant with 2x more flowers.

🌿 Liquid Compost Tea → Diluted cow dung tea or vermicompost tea every 2 weeks → best

organic bloom booster.

🌿 Hanging Basket Hack → Petunias love trailing → hanging pots show maximum flowers.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌸

Season: November to March (winter annual)

Peak Bloom: Dec–Feb.

Duration: 3–4 months of continuous flowers if maintained.

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