



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



PHLOX



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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 directly in pots or seed trays, cover lightly with soil (0.25 inch).

Keep soil moist but not soggy until germination (7–14 days).

When seedlings reach 3–4 inches, transplant to beds or pots.

At transplanting → Add vermicompost (100 g per plant) or slow-release fertilizer (NPK 14:14:14).

Vegetative Growth Stage (2–4 weeks after transplanting)

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

Pinch off top shoots to promote bushy growth and more flower branches.

Maintain moist, well-drained soil. Avoid water stagnation.

Budding & Flowering Stage (6–10 weeks onward / Jan–April)

Switch to phosphorus and potassium-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1.5 g/litre water every 15 days).

Add bone meal or banana peel compost monthly to enhance bloom color and duration.

Deadhead faded flowers regularly to encourage new blooms.

Post-Flowering / End of Life Stage (April–May)

After blooming, allow some flowers to go to seed if you want to collect seeds for next season.

Remove dried plants after the season ends.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Prefers full sun to partial shade (4–6 hours daily).
- ✓ Watering – Keep soil evenly moist; water early morning or evening.
- ✓ Soil – Loose, fertile, well-drained soil; slightly acidic to neutral (pH 6–7).
- ✓ Temperature – Ideal range: 10°C–25°C. Sensitive to extreme heat.
- ✓ Spacing – 6–8 inches between plants for good airflow.
- ✓ Container Growing – Works great in 8–10 inch pots or hanging baskets.
- ✓ Pests – Watch for aphids and powdery mildew → use neem oil spray weekly.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌱 Pinching Tip → Pinch early shoots (after 4th leaf) → more branches, fuller bloom clusters.
- 🌱 Deadheading Hack → Regularly remove old flowers → promotes non-stop blooming.
- 🌱 Epsom Salt Boost → 1 tsp/litre water spray monthly → improves foliage color & flower size.
- 🌱 Mulching Trick → Use dry leaves or cocopeat → keeps roots cool & moist in warm climates.
- 🌱 Seed Saving Hack → Collect dry seed heads post-bloom → store in paper envelopes for next season.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Winter annual (Nov–April).

Peak Bloom: Jan–March.

Colors: Pink, red, purple, white, violet, multicolor.

Fragrance: Sweet, pleasant aroma (especially evening).

Type: Annual bedding flower; 20–40 cm tall depending on variety.

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