



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



PURSLANE
(PORTULACA OLERACEA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting / Seed Stage

Soil: Sandy, well-drained soil; tolerates poor soils.

Planting: Sow seeds directly in garden beds or pots in spring or summer.

Lightly cover seeds with soil; water gently.

Watering: Keep soil lightly moist until seeds germinate (3–7 days).

 Initial Fertilizer: Add 1–2 tsp compost or organic matter per square foot at planting.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage

Feed every 4–6 weeks with balanced NPK fertilizer (10:10:10) diluted to half strength.

Sunlight: Full sun for compact growth and vibrant flowers.

Watering: Moderate; avoid waterlogging.

3 Flowering Stage

Flowering Season: Summer to early autumn (March–September).

Pre-flowering: Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer to encourage blooms.

During flowering: Deadhead spent flowers to stimulate continuous flowering.

4 Mature Plant Maintenance

Fertilizer: Light feeding every 6–8 weeks with organic compost or liquid fertilizer.

Pruning: Trim long stems to maintain bushy growth.

Watering: Drought-tolerant once established; water 1–2 times per week in hot climates.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Light: Full sun for best flowering.
- ✓ Soil: Sandy, well-drained; tolerates poor soil.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; allow soil to dry slightly between watering.
- ✓ Temperature: Thrives in 20°C–35°C.
- ✓ Propagation: By seeds or stem cuttings.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Rare; sometimes aphids or mealybugs → neem oil spray recommended.
- ✓ Growth Habit: Low-growing, spreading succulent; height 6–12 inches.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

-  Bloom Booster: Full sun + Phosphorus-rich fertilizer enhances flower color and frequency.
-  Container Hack: Ideal for hanging pots or borders due to trailing habit.
-  Deadheading Tip: Remove spent flowers regularly → promotes continuous blooms.
-  Edible Use: Leaves are nutritious; can be eaten raw in salads or cooked.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: Spring to Summer (March–July), depending on climate.

Flower Type: Trumpet-shaped, red, pink, white, or bi-color flowers.

Plant Type: Succulent shrub with thick caudex; drought-tolerant.

Watering Needs: Moderate; allow soil to dry between watering cycles.

Temperature: 20°C–35°C; frost-sensitive.

Special Feature: Can be grown as bonsai; long-lasting, vibrant flowers.

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