



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



RANUNCULUS

(PERSIAN BUTTERCUP)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting Stage (Oct–Nov in India)

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

Corm Preparation: Soak corms in lukewarm water for 4–6 hours before planting.

Planting Depth: 1–2 inches deep with the “claw” facing down.

Spacing: 4–6 inches apart.

Add bone meal (20 g per plant) or organic compost (50 g per pot) at planting.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (Nov–Dec)

Fertilize every 15 days with balanced NPK 19:19:19 (1 g/litre water).

Keep soil evenly moist but avoid waterlogging.

Provide bright, indirect sunlight; partial shade in hot regions.

3 Budding & Flowering Stage (Jan–Feb / Winter Bloom)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizer:

→ NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34 (1 g/litre water every 12–15 days).

Mulch lightly to maintain soil moisture and moderate soil temperature.

Deadhead faded blooms → promotes energy storage for corms.

4 Post-Flowering Stage (March–April)

Reduce watering gradually; allow foliage to yellow and die naturally.

Lift and store corms in a cool, dry, ventilated place for next season.

Add dry sand or sawdust while storing to prevent fungal infection.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Full sun to partial shade (4–6 hours).
- ✓ Soil: Fertile, well-draining, sandy-loamy soil (pH 6–7).
- ✓ Watering: Keep soil moist during growth; reduce after flowering.
- ✓ Temperature: Ideal 10°C–22°C; sensitive to high heat.
- ✓ Container Growing: Works well in 6–8 inch pots.
- ✓ Spacing: 4–6 inches apart.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Watch for aphids, slugs, and fungal rot → neem oil or fungicide spray.

3. Pro Hacks

- 🌱 Pre-Soak Hack: Soak corms before planting → faster sprouting and stronger roots.
- 🌱 Deadheading Trick: Remove spent blooms → encourages new blooms and stronger corms.
- 🌱 Mulching Tip: Cocopeat or dry leaves → retains moisture and keeps bulbs cool.
- 🌱 Drainage Hack: Use sandy soil or grit → prevents waterlogging.
- 🌱 Storage Tip: Store corms after foliage dies naturally → ready for next season.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Planting Time: October–November

Flowering Season: January–March

Peak Bloom: February

Colors: Red, pink, yellow, orange, white

Height: 6–12 inches

Type: Perennial bulb (grown as annual in plains)

📍 Plot No. 24/2 Balaji Lucky Point, Old Cotton Market Road,
Shree Agro Agencies, Balaji Lucky Point, Amravati, Amravati,
Maharashtra, 444601

📞 +91 9284008858

✉ support@nookandnature.in

🌐 www.nookandnature.in

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