



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



SHANKHPUSHPI

(CONVOLVULUS PLURICAULIS)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting / Sapling Stage (Monsoon: June–August)

Soil: Well-drained sandy or loamy soil with organic matter (pH 6–7.5).

Planting:

Dig a shallow pit or prepare raised beds (6–8 inches deep).

Mix soil with 2 kg compost or cow dung + 25 g neem cake per sq. ft.

Plant saplings or stem cuttings and water lightly.

Watering: Keep soil slightly moist during establishment (first 2–3 weeks).

 Initial Fertilizer:

Organic compost or cow dung (1 kg per sq. ft. area) at the time of planting.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (1–2 months after planting)

Feed every 4–6 weeks with:

→ Liquid organic fertilizer or NPK 10:10:10 (5 g per liter of water).

Add vermicompost (250–500 g per plant) monthly for lush green foliage.

Sunlight: Full sunlight (minimum 5–6 hours/day).

Watering: Moderate; avoid standing water.

3 Flowering Stage (2–3 months onwards)

Flowering Season: Mainly from March to September, extending longer in warm regions.

Pre-flowering (Feb–March):

→ Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or bone meal, 25–50 g per plant) to boost flower production.

During flowering:

→ Top-dress with vermicompost (250 g/plant) and water regularly.

Avoid excessive nitrogen at this stage — it promotes leaves over flowers.

4 Mature Plant Maintenance (After 6 months)

Annual Feeding:

→ Apply organic compost (1–2 kg per sq. ft. area) before monsoon.

Pruning: Trim lightly after each flowering cycle to encourage fresh shoots.

Watering: Once or twice a week depending on soil moisture.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight: Full sunlight to partial shade; thrives best in 5–7 hrs of sunlight.
- ✓ Soil: Sandy loam or red soil with good drainage.
- ✓ Watering: Moderate; drought-tolerant once mature.
- ✓ Temperature: Prefers 25°C–35°C, common in tropical/subtropical climates.
- ✓ Spacing: Plant 12–18 inches apart for ground cover or beds.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Rarely affected; sometimes attacked by aphids — use neem oil spray.
- ✓ Growth: Spreading herb up to 1–1.5 ft tall with creeping branches.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

- 🌱 Root Growth Hack: Mix a pinch of bone meal or seaweed fertilizer into the soil for stronger roots.
- 🌱 Flower Booster: Apply liquid phosphorus fertilizer or banana peel compost tea once a month during blooming.
- 🌱 Pruning Tip: After flowering, trim 2–3 inches of top growth → encourages continuous flowering.
- 🌱 Mulching Tip: Use cocopeat or dry leaves → keeps soil moist and promotes healthy roots.
- 🌱 Container Hack: Ideal for pots or herbal garden beds; use 8–10 inch pots with drainage holes.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Flowering Season: Blooms mainly from March to September, extending till October in southern India.

Flower Color: Small blue, white, or violet conch-shaped flowers, each lasting a few days.

Planting Time: Ideal during monsoon (June–August) for best root establishment.

Watering Needs: Light to moderate; prefers slightly dry soil between waterings.

Temperature: Grows best between 25°C–35°C.

Plant Type: Low-growing perennial herb, lifespan 3–5 years with proper care.

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