



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



SWEET PEA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Sowing Stage (Oct–Nov in India)

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

Sow seeds directly in soil or pots; soak seeds overnight before sowing to improve germination.

Add vermicompost (100 g per sq. ft.) at sowing.

Vegetative Growth Stage (2–4 weeks after germination)

Feed every 15–20 days with balanced fertilizer NPK 19:19:19 (1–1.5 g/litre water).

Provide support (trellis, net, or bamboo sticks) for climbing.

Pinch the growing tips once plants are 6–8 inches tall → encourages bushier growth.

Budding & Flowering Stage (Dec–Feb)

Switch to high phosphorus & potassium fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1.5 g/litre

water every 12 days) → encourages more blooms.

Apply bone meal or banana peel fertilizer monthly → improves flower size and fragrance.

Deadhead faded flowers regularly → prolongs flowering.

End of Life Cycle (March–April)

Plant dies with rising temperatures → collect seeds for next season.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Needs 4–6 hours of sunlight, preferably morning sun.
- ✓ Watering – Keep soil consistently moist; avoid waterlogging.
- ✓ Soil – Fertile, well-drained, slightly alkaline to neutral soil (pH 6–7).
- ✓ Support – Essential for climbing; can grow on fences, trellises, or strings.
- ✓ Spacing – 6–8 inches between plants for airflow.
- ✓ Pests – Aphids and powdery mildew can appear → spray neem oil as needed.

3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Trellis Hack → Plant near a fence or vertical support → blooms reach full height.
- 🌿 Pinching Tip → Pinch tips early → bushier plant with 2–3x more flowers.
- 🌿 Mulching Hack → Use straw or cocopeat → keeps roots cool in winter.
- 🌿 Succession Planting → Sow seeds every 2–3 weeks → continuous blooms.
- 🌿 Seed Saving Hack → Collect mature pods → dry and store for next season.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Winter annual (Oct–March).

Peak Bloom: Dec–Feb.

Colors: Pink, purple, red, white, blue, bicolor varieties.

Fragrance: Sweet, strong scent, perfect for bouquets.

Type: Annual climbing vine (1–2 m height).

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