



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



THANKSGIVING CACTUS

(SCHLUMBERGERA TRUNCATA)



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting / Early Growth Stage

Soil: Well-draining potting mix with equal parts garden soil + compost + perlite/cocopeat.

Planting Time: Ideal in late spring or early summer.

Propagation: Through stem cuttings; root easily in moist soil.

 Initial Fertilizer: Add organic compost (1 tbsp per pot) or slow-release NPK (10:10:10) at planting time.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (April–August)

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

Sunlight: Bright, indirect light — direct sunlight can scorch leaves.

Watering: Water when top 1 inch of soil is dry; prefers consistent moisture (not soggy).

3 Pre-Flowering & Bud Formation (September–October)

Reduce watering slightly to mimic dry season, helping buds form.

Feed once with Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 5:10:10) or bone meal to encourage blooms.

Maintain cooler temperatures (15°C–20°C) and 12–14 hours of darkness at night to trigger flowering.

4 Flowering Stage (November–January)

Fertilizer: Stop heavy feeding during bloom; only use mild organic liquid feed (like seaweed extract) once in 3 weeks.

Watering: Keep evenly moist but never soggy.

Temperature: 15°C–22°C — avoid cold drafts or sudden temperature drops.

5 Post-Flowering / Dormant Stage (February–March)

Allow the plant to rest; reduce watering frequency.

Resume light feeding with balanced fertilizer when new growth appears in spring.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Light: Bright, indirect sunlight (east or north-facing window is ideal).
- ✓ Watering: Keep soil slightly moist; reduce during dormancy.
- ✓ Humidity: Loves moderate humidity; mist occasionally.
- ✓ Soil: Well-draining, airy mix (use sand or perlite).
- ✓ Temperature: Prefers 15°C–25°C; sensitive to frost and heat.
- ✓ Propagation: Stem cuttings in spring.
- ✓ Container Growth: Perfect for indoor pots, hanging planters, and shaded balconies.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

-  Bloom Booster Hack: To trigger flowering, give 12–14 hours of darkness daily for 3–4 weeks before November.
-  Watering Hack: Use rainwater or filtered water — sensitive to high mineral content.
-  Humidity Trick: Keep a water tray near the plant to maintain moisture around it.
-  Pinching Tip: After flowering, pinch the stems to encourage branching and fuller growth.
-  Repotting: Every 2–3 years in fresh, well-draining soil mix.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: November to January (Thanksgiving to New Year).

Flower Colors: Pink, red, orange, white, magenta, or bi-color.

Bloom Duration: 4–6 weeks per cycle.

Light Needs: Bright indirect light; avoid direct sunlight.

Watering Needs: Moderate; prefers humidity.

Temperature: 15°C–25°C ideal for buds and blooms.

Special Feature: Indoor winter bloomer; low-maintenance and air-purifying.

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