



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



TUBEROSE



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

Bulb Planting Stage (Feb–April or July–Aug in India)

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

At planting → Add cow dung compost (250 g per sq. ft.) + bone meal (25 g) + neem cake (30 g).

Plant bulbs 2–3 inches deep, 8–10 inches apart.

Vegetative Growth Stage (First 30–45 days)

Every 15 days → Apply NPK 19:19:19 (2 g/litre water) or vermicompost (200 g per plant).

Keep soil moist; don't let it dry out.

Remove weeds regularly for healthy roots.

Spike Formation Stage (45–70 days after planting)

Switch to high phosphorus & potassium fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 13:40:13, 1.5–2 g/litre water every 12 days).

Add banana peel fertilizer or wood ash → improves spike length and fragrance.

Flowering Stage (June–Sept, peak bloom)

Continue P & K feeding every 10–12 days.

Spray Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) once a month for strong spikes & lush foliage.

After every flush of flowers, lightly top-dress soil with compost.

Post-Flowering Stage (Sept–Oct)

Once flowering ends, let leaves stay till they yellow (they recharge bulbs).

Add vermicompost (100 g per plant) to strengthen bulbs.

In November, bulbs can be dug out, cleaned, and stored for the next season.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Sunlight – Needs 4–6 hrs of indirect sunlight (too much harsh sunlight burns leaves).
- ✓ Watering – Keep soil evenly moist, but never overwater. Water at soil level, not on the crown.
- ✓ Soil – Loose, sandy-loam, slightly acidic soil.
- ✓ Spacing – Plant 12–15 inches apart for airflow.
- ✓ Container Growing – Use 12-inch pots with drainage holes.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases – Susceptible to aphids, whiteflies, root rot → neem oil & good drainage are essential.

3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Banana Peel Fertilizer Hack → Boosts spike size, color & fragrance.
- 🌿 Mulching Trick → Mulch soil with dry leaves/cocopeat → keeps bulbs cool & moist.
- 🌿 Dead Spikes Hack → Cut spikes after blooming → helps bulbs store more energy.
- 🌿 Propagation Tip → Each bulb produces baby bulbs (offsets) → replant for next season.
- 🌿 Fragrance Boost → Epsom salt spray once every 3 weeks enhances aroma.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌻

Season: Summer–Monsoon (April–September).

Peak Bloom: June–August.

Duration: Each spike blooms for 10–15 days; plant flowers for 3–4 months.

Types:

Single Tuberose – Highly fragrant (used in garlands & perfumes).

Double Tuberose – Larger blooms, less fragrance (used for decoration).

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