



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



ZINNIA



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

🌱 Sowing / Planting Stage (Feb–April in India)

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

At planting → Add cow dung compost (200–300 g per plant) OR vermicompost (100–150 g).

🌱 Growth Stage (Seedlings – 3–4 weeks old)

Every 15–20 days → Apply liquid fertilizer NPK 19:19:19 (1.5–2 g/litre water).

Pinch the tip after 4–6 leaves → encourages branching & more flowers.

🌱 Budding Stage (1–1.5 months after sowing)

Switch to phosphorus & potassium-rich fertilizer (NPK 10:26:26 or 0:52:34, 1.5–2 g/litre

water every 10–12 days).

Add banana peel fertilizer / wood ash monthly for vibrant blooms.

🌸 Flowering Stage (April–June, peak bloom)

Feed every 10–12 days with P & K-rich fertilizer.

Spray Epsom salt (1 tsp/litre water) once a month for better color & flower size.

Deadhead (remove dry flowers) → keeps plant blooming.

🌱 Post-Flowering Stage (June–July)

Plants complete their life cycle after 3–4 months → collect seeds for next season.

2. Caring Tips

✅ Sunlight – Needs 6–8 hours of direct sunlight daily.

✅ Watering – Moderate watering (2–3 times per week). Avoid wetting leaves → prevents fungal infections.

✅ Soil – Well-drained sandy-loamy soil.

✅ Spacing – Keep 8–10 inches distance between plants for airflow.

✅ Container Growing – Best in 10–12 inch pots or garden beds.

✅ Pests – Watch for aphids & powdery mildew → spray neem oil every 15 days.



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3. Pro Hacks 🌿

- 🌿 Deadheading Hack → Regularly cut dried flowers → keeps plant flowering longer.
- 🌿 Pinching Trick → Early pinching → bushy plant with 2x flowers.
- 🌿 Seed-Saving Hack → Collect dry flower heads → store seeds for next season.
- 🌿 Companion Planting → Grow near marigold & basil → reduces pests naturally.
- 🌿 Cut-Flower Tip → Zinnia lasts long in vases → cut early morning when half-bloomed.

4. Blooming Pattern in India 🌸

Season: Summer annual (Feb–June).

Peak Bloom: April–May.

Duration: 2–3 months of continuous flowers.

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