



Guide to Kalanchoe Care

Kalanchoe plants (*Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*) are tropical plants, native to Madagascar. They have thick fleshy leaves and colorful clusters of small flowers. They naturally bloom in spring, but are commonly forced to bloom late in the season, for the holidays. With a few care tips, you can encourage Kalanchoe to bloom again. They grow outdoors year round in southern Florida, and they can be successfully grown indoors in the north during the winter and moved outdoors to light shade for summertime. A mature plant may reach 12 to 18 inches tall and wide, depending on pot size.



Taking Care of Your Kalanchoe

Soil

Provide well draining soil by mixing half regular potting soil and half cactus mix or perlite. A hole in the bottom of the flower pot for drainage is crucial.

Temperature

The best indoor temperature range is 55 to 80° F. It can be moved to an outdoor location during the summer months, but avoid direct sunlight that can scorch the leaves. It is not picky about humidity levels due to the thick succulent leaves being about to store moisture.

Light

Provide bright, indirect light from an East or West facing window. More sun is tolerated in fall, winter and spring, but direct sunlight in summer is too hot and can scorch the leaves.

Watering

Saturate the soil, then allow the plant to dry to about 50% before watering again. If you touch the soil and feel any moisture, hold off on watering until it feels dry. Be careful of over-watering. Too much water can cause root rot.

Fertilizing

Fertilize once a month with a well balanced houseplant fertilizer. Hold off fertilizing in wintertime.

Reblooming

Kalanchoes can rebloom during the shorter days and longer nights between October and March. Make sure it receives 12-14 hours of darkness per day starting in early October. Reduce watering. After about six weeks, return to normal light location and resume regular watering. This should help form new flower buds.

*Kalanchoe leaves and flowers are toxic to animals. Keep away from cats, dogs and livestock.