



Kalanchoe

Kalanchoe blossfeldiana

A succulent that flowers for months and asks almost nothing — as long as you let it dry out and give it a genuinely dark winter night.

Reblooming

Six weeks of long, dark nights bring it back into bloom

FULL SUN

ROOM TEMP

REBLOOMS

LOW WATER

EASY CARE

LONG LASTING

DAY TO DAY

Light

The brightest spot you have — a sunny window, six to eight hours of bright light. In a dim room it gets tall, floppy and spindly.

Water

Let the mix dry out between waterings, then water thoroughly. It is a succulent and stores water in its leaves. Never let the pot sit in a saucer of water.

Food

Nothing while it is in flower. Once it is growing again, once a month with ordinary houseplant food.

Temperature

10–21°C / 50–70°F by day, 7–18°C / 45–65°F at night. Cool nights make the flowers last noticeably longer. Keep it above 7°C / 45°F — it is not frost hardy.

Humidity

Average household humidity. No misting or pebble tray needed. Avoid wetting the leaves, which marks them.

WHEN THE FLOWERS FINISH

Snip off the spent clusters and keep it as a leafy houseplant. To reflower it needs long nights: from about 1 October to 1 March give it 14–16 hours of complete darkness every night for six weeks — a closet or unused room in the late afternoon, back to the window each morning. Even a lamp or streetlight during those hours stops it setting buds. Once buds show, day length no longer matters.

IF SOMETHING LOOKS WRONG

Mushy stems at soil level, leaves dropping

Root rot from watering too often or a pot with no drainage. Let it dry much further between waterings.

White powdery film on the leaves

Powdery mildew from crowding and still humid air. Improve air movement.

Never flowers again after the first flush

It is getting light at night. It needs six weeks of genuinely uninterrupted long nights.

Cupped, reddened leaves

Heat stress above ~30°C / 86°F.

GROWER REFERENCE

Production and finishing figures. If you are keeping this plant on a windowsill, everything you need is on page one — this page is for the trade.

Media pH	5.7–6.2.
Media EC	No numeric target published. Guidance is to hold EC at the higher end of normal when temperatures exceed 25°C / 77°F, to prevent soft stretched plants.
Substrate	Well-drained, structurally stable, permeable peat-based substrate.
Fertilizer	0.5–1.0 g/L of a commercial blend. N:P:K 3:1:3 through vegetative growth and bud formation, switching to 2:1:4 during flowering. CRF alternative: 1 tsp/pot of 18-9-13 applied 3–4 weeks after potting.
Light	50–55 klux (550–600 W/m ²) during growing, roughly 4,600–5,100 f.c. Reduce to under 12 klux for the first 1–3 days of propagation, then increase gradually.
Temperature	18–20°C / 64–68°F day and night alike. Below 16°C / 61°F growth is delayed and plants may fail to flower; above 30°C / 86°F they go soft and stretched. Powdery mildew is most aggressive around 25/15°C.
Relative humidity	70–85%. Higher levels and rapid fluctuations invite disease and weak growth.
Irrigation	Medium frequency at medium-high volume, allowing moderate dry-down. Avoid overhead watering, which causes leaf distortion, and avoid cold water.
Photoperiod	Obligate SHORT-DAY plant. Minimum 14 hours uninterrupted darkness; 5–6 weeks of short days for induction, 7.5–11 weeks from start of short days to first open flower depending on cultivar.

DISORDERS & PESTS

Powdery mildew (*Sphaerotheca humulis* f. sp. *fuliginea*), oedema from excess humidity, leaf distortion from overhead irrigation, heat-stress cupping and reddening, root rot from overwatering. Aphids, thrips, mites, mealybugs.

GROWN BY

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Three generations of family growing since 1962.

The florist kalanchoe is named for Robert Blossfeld, the German hybridizer who introduced it to the trade in 1932 from northeast Madagascar; modern doubles can carry 26 petals in a single bloom.

Sources

- Selecta North America, Kalanchoe culture guide
- NC State Extension; Clemson HGIC