

How to care for a Kalanchoe



If you're new to houseplants, the Kalanchoe is a great one to start with. They are easy to care for and can tolerate a variety of environments.

Kalanchoes are very low-maintenance plants that grow beautiful flowers! Kalanchoes grow many different coloured flowers, so there is always a Kalanchoe with colours that work for you and your living spaces! The best part about these plants? They grow best if you forget about them! It's better to forget to take care of these plants for weeks than to water them every week.

In this plant care guide, we will look at the basics of caring for a Kalanchoe, so you can keep your plant healthy and looking beautiful!

How often should I water my Kalanchoe?

The Kalanchoe is a succulent-like plant with thick, fleshy stems and leaves. These stems and leaves store a lot of moisture, so they can keep themselves hydrated for several weeks before you need to water them.

How often you'll need to water them depends on the type of Kalanchoe you have and the potting mix and container size. Most Kalanchoes need to be watered every one to two weeks. It's important to let the potting mix dry out completely before watering again. If you're unsure whether or not your plant needs water, try sticking your finger into the top inch of potting mix. If it feels dry it's time to water your plant.

How do I prevent overwatering my Kalanchoe?

Preventing overwatering in Kalanchoe plants is important to keep them healthy. They are succulents that store water in their leaves and need less water than most other plants. Overwatering can lead to root rot and other issues.

Here are some tips to prevent overwatering:

1. Check the soil before watering

Only water your Kalanchoe when the top inch of the soil feels dry. Stick your finger into the soil; if it feels dry at about an inch deep, it's time to water. If it still feels moist, wait a few more days before checking again.

2. Use well-draining soil

Make sure your Kalanchoe is planted in well-draining soil that allows excess water to escape quickly. A cactus or succulent potting mix is ideal because it is formulated to prevent water retention. (in another section you say general potting mix?)

3. Ensure proper drainage

Use pots with drainage holes at the bottom. This is important for allowing any excess water to drain out, preventing water from pooling at the bottom of the pot, which can cause root rot.

4. Water thoroughly but infrequently

When you do water, do so thoroughly until water runs out of the drainage holes, then allow the soil to dry out between waterings. This mimics the natural dry and wet cycles the plant would experience in its native habitat.

5. Be mindful of seasonal changes

Kalanchoe plants typically need less water during the winter months when they're dormant. During this time, reduce the frequency of watering.

6. Monitor environmental conditions

The amount of light, humidity, and temperature can all affect how quickly the soil dries out. Plants in brighter light may need watering more frequently than those in lower light conditions.

7. Use the right container size

A pot that is too large for your Kalanchoe will hold more soil and moisture. The right-sized pot will help to avoid too much water retention in the soil.

Remember, when in doubt, it's usually better to underwater a succulent like Kalanchoe than to overwater it.

What type of light does a Kalanchoe need?



Kalanchoes might need to be watered as if they're succulents, but they don't enjoy the bright direct sunlight a regular succulent likes. Kalanchoes prefer bright, indirect sunlight. If you can't provide bright, indirect sunlight, they will also do fine in an area with filtered sunlight or partial shade.

Avoid placing your Kalanchoe in direct sunlight, because it can scorch the leaves. If you notice the leaves of your Kalanchoe starting to turn yellow, it's a sign that it's getting too much sun. Try moving your plant to a location with less direct sunlight.

The Kalanchoe prefers a bright spot because this helps it to get enough energy from the sun to grow its colourful flowers.

What are some signs that my Kalanchoe needs more light?

When your Kalanchoe doesn't get enough light, it shows signs like leggy growth - thin stems reaching for light, leaves turning pale or yellow, and slow growth. Not having sufficient light affects photosynthesis, which can slow down leaf and flower growth. To help, relocate your plant to a brighter spot for adequate indirect sunlight every day.

Can Kalanchoe plants tolerate cold temperatures?

Kalanchoe plants can handle cold down to 45°F (7°C) outside, ideal for warmer climates or indoor growth in cooler areas. For blooming and health, aim for 12-26°C (55-80°F). Freezing temperatures can harm them. Florist Kalanchoe thrives at 20-38°C (68-100°F) but needs protection from extreme cold to stay healthy.

So generally, these plants do tolerate slightly lower temperatures, but not below freezing.

What is the best way to fertilize my Kalanchoe?

Fertilizing your Kalanchoe is important for keeping it healthy and encouraging growth. Use a balanced houseplant fertilizer and apply it according to the package directions. It's best to fertilize your Kalanchoe every two to four weeks during the growing season.

The easiest fertilizer to use is a liquid fertilizer which you can add to the water when you water your plants. Your Kalanchoe can absorb this type of fertilizer quickly and it's easy to control the dosage of your fertilizer. By controlling the dosage of the fertilizer, you're less at risk of overfertilizing your Kalanchoe and accidentally killing it.

Can I move my Kalanchoe outside in the summer?

When you live in a place that gets nice and warm in the summer, you might wonder if you can move your Kalanchoe outdoors. If it stays above 12°C (55°F) during the night, you can keep your Kalanchoe outdoors!

When you choose to keep your Kalanchoe outdoors during the summer, there are a few things to keep in mind. Be sure to acclimate it to the outdoors slowly over seven to ten days.

Start by placing it in an area with indirect sunlight for a few hours each day. After 7 to 10 days, you can keep your Kalanchoe outdoors overnight.

Be sure to bring your Kalanchoe back indoors before the temperatures go below 12°C (55°F) during the night. Also, if you live in an area that can get quite a bit of rain, even during the summer, it might be better to keep your Kalanchoe indoors or place it in a covered spot.



When is the best time to prune my Kalanchoe?

If you're looking for an easy way to help shape your Kalanchoe, you should try to prune it. The best time to prune your Kalanchoe is in the spring before new growth begins. Use sharp, clean shears to remove any dead or dying leaves, stems, and flowers.

Pruning is important for your plant's health because dead or dying foliage attracts pests. Leaves and stems that aren't quite dead yet, also use precious energy from your plant. By pruning these dead and dying stems/leaves, you help to give the energy back to your plant to grow new leaves.

Are there any specific pruning techniques for Kalanchoe plants?

But how do you prune your Kalanchoe? There are a couple of ways you can trim your plant to achieve varying results. Here are some specific techniques and practices for pruning Kalanchoe plants:

Pruning leggy growth

For leggy Kalanchoes, targeted pruning can help. Cut most of the stems off where they start to bend or appear leggy. This encourages the plant to grow more compactly and can also be a way to propagate new plants if you choose to plant the cuttings.

Pinching back

To promote bushier growth, pinch back the tips of the stems. This technique involves removing the very tips of the stems with your fingers or pruning shears, which encourages the plant to branch out.

Removing dead or dying flowers

After the Kalanchoe has finished blooming, remove the spent flowers. This not only keeps the plant looking tidy but also redirects energy to foliage and new blooms.

General maintenance pruning

Throughout the year, remove any dead or yellowing leaves to keep your Kalanchoe healthy and prevent potential disease issues.

Encouraging blooms

If your goal is to encourage more blooms, make sure to prune right after the flowering period. This gives the plant enough time to recover and start the process of producing new buds.

When you use these pruning techniques, you're keeping your Kalanchoe healthy, vibrant, and blooming. Remember, each cut guides the plant's growth, so prune with a goal in mind to shape and care for your Kalanchoe.

How often do I need to repot my Kalanchoe?



You'll need to repot your Kalanchoe every 2-3 years when the roots start to become pot-bound, or when the potting mix starts to decompose. Repotting a Kalanchoe is easy once you know what to do. Just remove the plant from the pot, loosen the potting mix with your fingers, and replace it in a new pot that's one size larger. Be sure to use a potting mix that drains well.

When repotting, make sure to acclimate your Kalanchoe to its new pot slowly over seven to ten days. To acclimate it to its new environment, place the Kalanchoe in a partially shaded area and water it sparingly at first. Gradually increase the amount of water you give it and move it to a brighter location over a week or two.

Be sure to only repot your plant to a pot that's one size larger and not more than that. If you repot your plant in a pot that's too large, it's easy to overwater your Kalanchoe. The extra soil will stay moist for much longer because your plant isn't big enough to absorb it all from the soil. This puts the roots at risk of developing root rot.

Why has my Kalanchoe stopped blooming?



If you've been taking care of your Kalanchoe for a few months, perhaps even a few years, you might notice if your Kalanchoe stops growing. You've done everything right, but it just doesn't want to keep growing. But why?

There are a few reasons why your Kalanchoe may have stopped blooming. These are some of the reasons why:

- It's not getting enough sunlight
- It's not getting enough fertilizer
- It's too dry
- It's currently autumn or winter

If it's currently autumn or winter, your plant is resting and will start to bloom again in the spring. But if that's not the case, you can help your Kalanchoe to bloom again!

How can I get my Kalanchoe to bloom again?

You'll know your Kalanchoe isn't getting enough light if the plant starts to grow towards the light. If your Kalanchoe is getting enough light, the flowers will be straight up, because it's getting plenty of energy from the sun to grow. Your plant will look like it's stretched out. You can help it by putting it in a brighter spot. Just make sure it's not exposed to direct sunlight for more than 2 hours per day.

If it's currently spring or summer and your Kalanchoe is getting enough sunlight, you might need to fertilize your plant more. It's probably just starved for nutrients and will need a boost to start

blooming again. Use a balanced houseplant fertilizer and apply it according to the package directions. It's best to fertilize your Kalanchoe every two to four weeks during the growing season.

Finally, your plant may just need a little extra love. Make sure you're watering it when the soil feels dry to the touch and pruning it in the spring to encourage new growth.

How can I support the growth of my Kalanchoe during the winter months?

Looking after your Kalanchoe in winter involves tweaking your care routine to match the changing conditions. Make sure it gets enough light, either by positioning it near a south-facing window or using grow lights. Maintain a consistent temperature (55-80°F / 12-25°C) and avoid sudden changes. Water less often, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings to prevent root rot. Keep an eye on humidity levels and use a humidifier if necessary. Skip the fertilizer during winter to avoid salt build-up. And don't forget to keep an eye out for any plant pests.

By making these adjustments and following these steps, you'll help your Kalanchoe thrive until spring when it starts to grow again.

Is the Kalanchoe toxic for pets or children?

In general no. However, Kalanchoe plants can be harmful to pets and children if eaten. Dogs and cats may experience stomach upset, vomiting, and diarrhoea. It's best to keep these plants away to prevent accidental ingestion. Even small amounts can cause mild to moderate symptoms in pets, while larger quantities can lead to more severe effects.

For humans, especially children, there's a lower risk, but the plant's compounds can be harmful if eaten.

Conclusion

If you're ready for beautiful colours on a plant that you don't have to spend a lot of time on, you're ready to take care of a Kalanchoe! Caring for a Kalanchoe is easy once you know what to do. Just be sure to give it bright, indirect sunlight, water when the soil feels dry to the touch, and fertilize every two to four weeks during the growing season. If you notice the leaves of your Kalanchoe starting to turn yellow, it's an indication that it's getting too much sun. Move your plant to a location with less direct sunlight. With these tips, your Kalanchoe will thrive in your house!