**Kalanchoe Blossfeldiana**

Edward F. Gilman

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**Introduction**

Kalanchoe is a dark green, succulent perennial with scalloped-edged leaves and large umbels of flower clusters held above the foliage (Fig. 1). The upright, many-branched growth habit and tolerance of low moisture conditions makes it ideal for groundcover use, rock gardens, raised planters, or containers.

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**General Information**

**Scientific name:** Kalanchoe blossfeldiana  
**Pronunciation:** kal-lan-KOE-ee bloss-fel-dee-AY-nuh  
**Common name(s):** kalanchoe  
**Family:** Crassulaceae  
**Plant type:** perennial; herbaceous  
**USDA hardiness zones:** 10 through 11 (Fig. 2)  
**Planting month for zone 7:** Jun; Jul  
**Planting month for zone 8:** Jun; Jul  
**Planting month for zone 9:** Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep  
**Planting month for zone 10 and 11:** Feb; Mar; Apr; Sep; Oct; Nov; Dec  
**Origin:** not native to North America  
**Uses:** container or above-ground planter; edging; attracts hummingbirds  
**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

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1. This document is FPS-309, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, UF/IFAS Extension. Original publication date October 1999. Reviewed February 2014. Visit the EDIS website at [http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu).
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**Description**

Height: .5 to 1 feet  
Spread: .5 to 1 feet  
Plant habit: round  
Plant density: moderate  
Growth rate: slow  
Texture: medium

**Foliage**

Leaf arrangement: opposite/subopposite  
Leaf type: simple  
Leaf margin: crenate  
Leaf shape: oblong  
Leaf venation: none, or difficult to see  
Leaf type and persistence: not applicable  
Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches  
Leaf color: green  
Fall color: not applicable  
Fall characteristic: not applicable

**Flower**

Flower color: pink; red; yellow; salmon  
Flower characteristic: winter flowering; spring flowering

**Fruit**

Fruit shape: unknown  
Fruit length: unknown  
Fruit cover: dry or hard  
Fruit color: unknown  
Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable  
Current year stem/twig color: green  
Current year stem/twig thickness: thick

**Culture**

Light requirement: plant grows in part shade/part sun  
Soil tolerances: slightly alkaline; sand; acidic; loam  
Drought tolerance: high  
Soil salt tolerances: unknown  
Plant spacing: 6 to 12 inches

**Other**

Roots: not applicable  
Winter interest: plant has winter interest due to unusual form, nice persistent fruits, showy winter trunk, or winter flowers  
Outstanding plant: plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more  
Invasive potential: not known to be invasive  
Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected by pests

**Use and Management**

Growing in full sun to moderate shade, kalanchoe prefers light, sandy, open, well-drained soils and is moderately salt tolerant. Kalanchoe needs very little water and only one light application of fertilizer each year. Plants should be protected from frost. Plant on 8- to 12-inch centers for the best effect.

Flower colors are available in red, yellow, orange, and salmon. The cultivars ‘Pumila’ and ‘Tetra Vulcan’ are dwarf selections.

Kalanchoe is easily propagated by seed or leaf, stem, or tip cuttings. New plantlets will occasionally appear at leaf margins and may be removed and potted up individually.

Problems include caterpillars and mealy bugs.

**Pests and Diseases**

Leaf spotting diseases can be a problem under humid conditions.