



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

FERTILIZER CYCLE & CARE GUIDE

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



KALANCHOE



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1. Fertilizer Cycle (Stage-wise)

1 Planting / Potting Stage

Soil: Well-drained succulent/cactus mix or garden soil + sand + compost.

Pot: Use pots with drainage holes to prevent waterlogging.

Watering: Lightly water after planting; keep soil slightly moist.

 Initial Fertilizer:

Add a teaspoon of organic compost or vermicompost at planting.

2 Vegetative Growth Stage (First 1–2 months)

Feed every 4–6 weeks with balanced water-soluble fertilizer (NPK 10:10:10) diluted to half strength.

Sunlight: Bright, indirect light; tolerates partial sun.

Watering: Moderate — water when top 1 inch of soil is dry.

 Hack: Rotate the pot weekly for uniform growth and flowering.

3 Flowering Stage (After 2–3 months)

Flowering Season: Typically blooms late winter to spring (Jan–Apr).

Pre-flowering: Apply Phosphorus-rich fertilizer (NPK 5:10:10 or bone meal) once a month to encourage flower clusters.

During flowering: Avoid overwatering; remove faded flowers to stimulate new blooms.

4 Mature Plant Maintenance

Fertilizer: Every 6–8 weeks, feed with balanced liquid fertilizer or slow-release granular fertilizer.

Pruning: Remove dead or yellow leaves and faded flower stems to maintain health.

Watering: Moderate; drought-tolerant once mature.

Repotting: Every 2 years in fresh succulent soil mix.



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2. Caring Tips

- ✓ Light: Bright indirect sunlight; 4–6 hours of morning sun is ideal.
- ✓ Soil: Well-drained succulent or cactus mix.
- ✓ Watering: Allow soil to dry between watering; overwatering causes root rot.
- ✓ Temperature: Prefers 18°C–25°C; sensitive to frost.
- ✓ Propagation: Leaf cuttings or stem cuttings.
- ✓ Pests/Diseases: Occasionally aphids or mealybugs → neem oil or insecticidal soap.
- ✓ Growth: Small, bushy succulent; grows 6–12 inches tall, spreads moderately.

3. Pro Hacks & Nursery Tips

-  Bloom Booster: Reduce watering slightly before flowering → encourages vibrant blooms.
-  Sunlight Hack: Morning sun and afternoon shade → brightens flower color.
-  Leaf Shine Hack: Wipe leaves gently with a damp cloth to maintain glossy appearance.
-  Container Hack: Kalanchoe grows well in small to medium pots; ideal for balcony gardens.
-  Deadheading Tip: Remove old flowers promptly to encourage continuous blooming.

4. Blooming Pattern in India

Flowering Season: Late winter to spring (Jan–Apr).

Flower Type: Bright, clustered flowers — red, pink, yellow, orange, or white.

Plant Type: Succulent perennial, compact bushy habit.

Watering Needs: Moderate; avoid soggy soil.

Temperature: 18°C–25°C, frost-sensitive.

Special Feature: Excellent indoor plant; long-lasting flowers and easy care.

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