

Growing Medium:

Use any well-draining commercial mix or 60% peat moss and 40% perlite. We use Fison's Sunshine mix LB-1. Not any better than some others I have tested, but does the job and is cheap.

Temperature:

For initial root out, the temperature should be 70°F. Temperatures may be reduced to 65-68°F during flower initiation and growing. We try to maintain temperature the same day and night. Relative humidity should run 75-85 percent.

Light Levels

For starting, light level should run from 1500-2000 foot-candles. Finish 2500-3500.

Fertilization:

I use a constant feed of 15-5-15 Excel Cal Mag, many people use 20-10-20. Kalanchoes need little if any phosphors. We run around 225 ppm N using the 15-5-15. Research has shown an EC between 1.5-2.5 is desirable for most varieties.

Short-Day Treatment:

Kalanchoes require six weeks of short days (at least 14 hours of darkness) to initiate flowers. Once flowers are initiated, do not need short days to develop flowers. Therefore, short-day treatment is not needed after this initial six weeks. Use black cloth from February 10 through October 20.

Lighting:

To keep plants vegetative during initial growth, 20 foot-candles of light are needed for one to two hours in the middle of the night from September 15 through March 21. Or you can extend the day as we do, giving 13-14 hrs of light

General Growing:

4 inch Pots (1 cutting per pot)	2-4 weeks long days	no pinch
6 inch Pots (3 cuttings per pot)	4-6 weeks long days	no pinch
6 inch Pots (1 cutting per pot)	week 4 pinch, leave 2 sets of mature leaves	
	Week 5 B-9 2500 ppm	
	Week 7 lightly tip secondary shoots	
	Week 8 or 9 B-9 2500 ppm, move to short days	

Growth Regulators:

Generally, it is will be necessary to use growth regulators in your climate. Some early control can be achieved by the amount of long days given. With the use of B-9, you need to stay ahead of the plants. I have used rates of 2500, 3750, and 5000 ppm, depending on the time of year and variety. We are using more and more B9 during long days to control early stretch. Kalanchoes respond well to the use of negative D.I.F. for height control.

Pests and Diseases:

Maintain good ventilation practices to help control botrytis and powdery mildew. Many fungicides can be used, but do not use Karathane® or Rubigan®. Insects can be controlled on a see-and treat basis. Orthene®, Dycard®, Thiodan® WP (not EC), Avid®, pyrethroids and Azatin® may be used to treat insect pests according to label recommendations. Merit or Marathon is the best for mealy bugs. We have good luck with BT and Azatin® for worms