



# Calandiva

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*Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* has been a standard indoor flowering potted plant in the United States for many years. Unlike the poinsettia, orchid and chrysanthemum, kalanchoe has not achieved the same consumer popularity as these other indoor plants. That could soon change with the introduction of the multiflowering Calandiva series from Fides North America.

Calandiva was bred by Fides Goldstock Breeding in the Netherlands. Calandiva series members produce full, rose-shaped flower heads with multiple layers of petals. Flowers, which last for at least six weeks, are available in Orange, Pink, Purple, White, Red, Charming Red, Pink Purple, Dark Pink, Soft Pink and a bicolor White with Pink. The cultivars White with Pink, Charming Red and Orange have a 11 1/2-week response time. The other seven flower in 11 weeks from the start of short days.

Unrooted cuttings can be planted in finished containers (2- to 9-inch sizes are commonly used), filled with a well-drained growing medium with a pH of 5.5-6 and electrical conductivity of 0.5. Maintain a growing medium temperature of 70F-74F. Cuttings root in about three weeks depending on variety and environmental conditions. Rooted cuttings are also available from licensed propagators. One cutting is usually stuck in containers up to 5 inches. Multiple cuttings should be used for larger containers.

The production period can vary depending on cultivar, season, pot size, environmental conditions and whether plants are grown pinched or non-pinched. Response time varies between summer and winter. The production duration for unrooted cuttings can be from 14 weeks in summer to 18-21 weeks in winter. The response time for Calandiva plants is usually one to two weeks longer than other Fides kalanchoes. Response time is still considered short compared to other kalanchoes on the market.

Kalanchoe is a short-day plant with a critical photoperiod of 12 hours. During winter (Sept. 15 until March 31), plants must receive additional light (cyclic or supplemental) to remain vegetative. From March 15 through Oct. 15, plants require short days (14 hours of darkness) to initiate flower buds. A minimum of six weeks of short days is needed, although it is recommended to maintain short days until flowering, which can help produce more compact plants.

Basic fertilizer ratio should be 3:1:3 (N:P:K) until bud formation. During the flowering period the ratio should change to 2:1:4 or 3:1:4. Supplemental application of major elements including calcium and magnesium and trace elements, particularly iron and manganese, may also be necessary.

When light levels begin to exceed 6,000 footcandles, some type of shading is required to prevent leaf reddening and bleaching of flowers.

Optimum production temperature range day and night is between 64F and 68F. When temperatures drop below 61F, plants are delayed and can cause blind shoots or no flowering at all. Below 55F, growth is drastically reduced and no flowering occurs. Night temperatures above 72F can cause blind shoots or no flowering with some growth delay. Above 84F, plants risk heat delay and stretching. Above 93F, there is a risk of no flowering at all. Relative humidity should remain at a constant level of 75-85 percent. High humidity levels above 90 percent can result in loss of leaves, yellow leaf spots and damaged flower heads and buds.

Plants have good basal branching so no pinching is required. B-Nine and Bonzi have been shown to be effective plant growth regulators on kalanchoes for controlling plant growth.