

PLANTS TO READ ABOUT

Kalanchoe Red Lips: broad paddle leaves with red margins

Red Lips has upright water-storing leaves with warm red edges. The matt green leaf surface is particularly effective beside simple containers. Plenty of light, careful acclimatisation to sunshine and compost that dries keep this plant healthy.



AI-created scene based on the original shop photo. Size reference: 10.5 cm pot · approximately 20–25 cm total height. Decoration is not included; this is not a product photograph to scale.

Grow with knowledge.

A collection for observation and reference. Detailed explanations to help you make care decisions suited to your plant and its position.

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PLANT PORTRAIT

Kalanchoe thyrsiflora, trade form 'Red Lips'

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Botanical classification	Kalanchoe thyrsiflora, trade form 'Red Lips'
Family	Crassulaceae
Origin	Horticultural Kalanchoe trade form with a South African species background
Delivery size	10.5 cm pot · approximately 20–25 cm total height
Growth and distinctive feature	Upright rosette of broad, fleshy grey-green paddle leaves with reddish edges

Care at a glance

Observe, check and adapt care to the position and season. This table provides guidance for everyday practice.

Topic	What to do	Why it helps
Light	Very bright; increase sunlight carefully.	Good light supports colour and shape.
Watering	After the root ball has dried.	The broad leaves store water.
Drainage	Remove residual water.	Persistently damp leaf bases and roots are at risk.
Compost	Loose and free-draining.	Heavy compost dries too slowly.
Leaves	Protect the coating; do not polish.	The matt surface belongs to the plant.
Fertiliser	Moderately during growth, following the label.	Overfeeding is unnecessary.
Winter	Bright and frost-free; water less.	Cold and wet are an unfavourable combination.
Inspection	Observe leaf bases and side shoots.	Distinguish ageing, new growth and rot.

Knowledge that grows

Broad leaves instead of small flower clusters

This kalanchoe looks different from the classic flowering kalanchoe. Its large fleshy leaves stand upright and form an open rosette. Red edges stand out against the matt green surface. The shop lists a 10.5 cm pot and approximately 20–25 cm total height. The scene shows this young size rather than a mature tall flower stem. Different leaf positions and colour intensities are normal in living plants.

Explain the name without hasty renaming

The shop lists Red Lips under *Kalanchoe thyrsiflora*. The RHS also lists a Red Lips entry under this species, associated with the cultivar name Ubilips. This additional cultivar code is not confirmed in the shop offer. *Kalanchoe luciae* is often confused with *thyrsiflora*; leaf colour alone is therefore insufficient for a certain renaming. This portrait stays with the documented offer and describes the visible paddle shape. Both botanical backgrounds belong to the Crassulaceae family. The German name Wüstenkohl is merely an image for the shape, not a recommendation to eat it.

Light supports the red edge

A very bright position helps compact structure and natural colouring. After protected growing conditions, increase sunshine gradually. A sudden change can cause burns, particularly behind hot glass. The plant does not need to be artificially dried out or chilled to show red edges. A summer position outdoors sheltered from rain is possible while nights remain warm. In a dark room, colouring may be weaker and new growth less compact.

Give water at suitable intervals

Allow the compost to dry between waterings. Then water evenly and remove residual water. A rigid weekly rhythm is not necessary. In warmth and good light, the plant uses more than in cool winter quarters. The surface alone can mislead, so also consider pot weight and moisture inside the root ball. Direct water onto the compost where possible. There should be no persistent wetness between closely spaced leaf bases. Do not routinely mist the leaves.

Treat roots and leaf surfaces gently

Do not alter the matt surface with leaf shine or vigorous wiping. When repotting, work with the root ball and do not use broad leaves as levers. Use loose, free-draining succulent compost in a pot with a drainage hole. Provide a little more root space only when needed; an oversized container stays moist for a long time. A few moderate nutrient applications following the label are sufficient during growth. Carefully remove completely dry lower leaves and leave firm green ones in place.

Manage winter and signs of ageing correctly

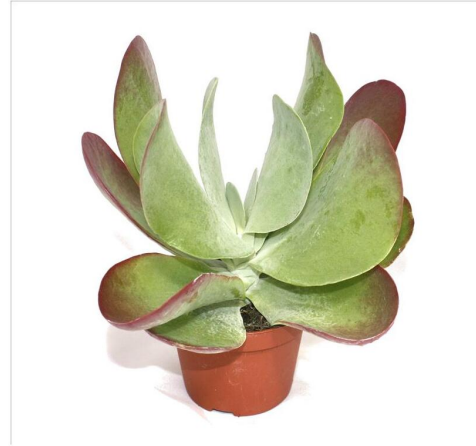
Keep it bright and frost-free, preferably above approximately 10 °C for indoor conditions that are easy to monitor. Water less during cool rest. A mature flowering rosette may decline later while side shoots carry the plant on; look for new rosettes before discarding it hastily. Flowers are not promised for this young offer. Soft, dark leaf bases in wet compost require a rot inspection. Individual dry lower leaves may instead be part of its natural development. Watch for mealybugs between leaf bases.

Pictures and details

Images and descriptions from this portrait. Decorative items are not included in the offer.



Original shop photograph: Kalanchoe Red Lips. 10.5 cm pot · approximately 20–25 cm total height. Natural variations are possible.



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Good to know

Can this plant, called Wüstenkohl, be eaten?

No. It is an ornamental plant, not a cabbage species.

Is a greener plant incorrect?

Light and cultivation influence the amount of red. Less red alone does not prove that it is the wrong plant.

Is the delivered specimen already flowering?

Flowers or buds are not promised here. The offer is shown as a young foliage plant.

Should I chill the plant to make it red?

No. Good light is useful; deliberate cold stress is not part of the recommended care.

The matching offer

[Plant in the shop](#)

Product details, availability and delivery information are provided in the shop offer.

[Read the complete portrait in English](#)



English portrait



Shop offer