



Consider a Kalanchoe this holiday season

by Kelsey Deckert  
NDSU Extension Horticulture agent

It's that time of year again - garden centers and greenhouses are well-stocked with beautiful holiday plants. They make great gifts for friends and families. Nothing looks better on a table or desk than a blooming Christmas cactus or the red foliage of a poinsettia!

However, I would argue there is another plant to consider as a holiday gift: a Kalanchoe.

Let me convince you what makes a Kalanchoe a perfect gift and why it should be right at the top of the list with our other traditional holiday plants.

First and foremost, Kalanchoes have very showy flowers varying in colors of red, pink, orange, yellow and purple. It has a long-lasting bloom time of up to eight weeks, which is a huge plus. They offer waxy, beautifully scalloped foliage. These characteristics make it a standout plant, very competitive with our traditional holiday plants.

Kalanchoes is a genus of succulents native to Africa and Asia, and they make

great house plants. They are easy to care for and require low maintenance. As succulents, they require less watering. Watering once a week will suffice during the blooming period. Once it has finished flowering, less water is needed. It is best to allow the soil to dry out between waterings.

Abundant light encourages them to maintain a more compact growth habit. Avoid low-light areas, as the plants will get spindly.

Kalanchoes are short-day plants and bloom during our winter months. After flowering, it is good to upsize the pot to a slightly larger pot. Cut back the flower stems, and place the Kalanchoe in a warm, sunny window.

The plant can be moved outdoors in the summer after the danger of frost has passed. Choose a location that receives light shade. You will need to bring it back indoors before the first frost or roughly three months before your designed bloom time.

Once it's brought indoors for the fall, place the

plant in a room that gets natural daylight and no additional light during the dark hours. Once flowers are large enough to see, there is no need to worry about the light conditions, and they can be moved to another location if you would like to display them.

Kalanchoes rarely have any problems. The most common problem is watering either too much or too little. You may occasionally see a mealybug, aphid or scale. Manually remove the insect and, if necessary, isolate the plant.

I hope I have convinced you that if you are looking for a holiday plant, whether for yourself or a friend, consider a Kalanchoe and step outside the traditional holiday plants. It will be a great table display and a conversational piece this holiday season.

For more information about Kalanchoes, contact your local NDSU Extension agent. Find the Extension office for your county at [www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/county-extension-offices](http://www.ndsu.edu/agriculture/extension/county-extension-offices).

HISTORY OF NEW ROCKFORD

K.C. Gardner, Jr. • Drayton, ND • NRHS Class of 1962



At 10 o'clock on the morning of July 6, 1908, Claud E. Comer and Sarah E. West were married by Rev. S.F. Beer at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. P.H. West on Lamborn Avenue East with only the near relatives of the bride present. After a wedding dinner, the couple left on the noon train for an extended trip which would include a visit to the groom's parents at Massena, Iowa; they returned on August 3. They were a musical couple: he played the cornet and was a band leader, and she sang and played the piano. Albert West came up from Bordulac to attend his sister's wedding. Because of a recurrence of his rheumatism, Archie Brownlee went to Fargo for treatment; he returned on July 18. Mrs. Maggie Jermon went to Jamestown and won her legal case against the Modern Woodmen of America Lodge. On July 9, she took the train to the Chautauqua to celebrate with her family.

On July 7, the directors of Phillips Academy met. Mrs. W.S. Knable left for Rochester, Minn., and treatment in the Mayo hospital [a later report said her husband had returned on August 13 from visiting her in St. Paul, where she was recovering from an operation]. The delivery team of D.W. Fowler's meat market, driven by Nels Myhre, took fright and ran away. There was some damage to the wagon, and Myhre needed several stitches on a bad cut near his left eye. That evening, a meeting with 36 businessmen present was held in the courthouse to set up a committee to start a Market Day once a month.

On July 8, Fred Kellar [Keller?], who worked on the F.S. Dunham farm west of town, got his foot caught in a disc he was operating, resulting in a very painful cut that disabled him for some time. Dr. J.R. McKenzie arrived in Carrington and Dr. Charles MacLachlan brought him to New Rockford. In April, Dr. McKenzie had undergone an appendectomy in St. Paul and went to recover in Grand Rapids, Mich., and Ontario with relatives and friends. That evening, Horace Huron, "the musical fun maker of the Modern Woodmen of America," appeared in the Opera House under the auspices of the New Rockford Camp #2214 of the MWA Lodge.

On July 9, the Nibbe Bros. had an auction sale at the former James Renfrew farm 4

1/2 miles northwest of town: horses and some machinery. Mrs. John Winslow, showing a marked improvement in health, returned from a Fargo sanitarium, where she had treatments for rheumatism.

The July 10, 1908, "Transcript" carried a story about Charles Edinger, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Edinger from eastern Wells County. While he was removing some pipes from a well on the family farm, the pipes fell and cut off both of his thumbs. A Fessenden doctor was called for medical aid.

M.B. Hersey had a house for sale with a desirable location. Jacob Adam had sold a half section of his large farm west of New Rockford, and he and his family would move to Minneapolis, where he had purchased a house. Mrs. W.C. Dresser was looking for a woman or girls to do general housework for good wages.

Both Ed Cosgrove and his wife could drive their new auto.

During the week, an excavation was made under the Congregational Church, where a steam heat plant would be installed. The building would also be expanded.

In a recent auto race at Carrington, C.J. Maddux took first place with his new auto; his son Charles was equally adept at driving it.

The previous week at a meeting of the United Grain Co. in Minneapolis, J.A. McAuley was elected secretary. That necessitated his leaving New Rockford, and he and his wife were preparing to move to Duluth. [McAuley had managed the Dakota Elevator in New Rockford since March 1904].

On the evening of July 10, another Market Day meeting was held. A Market Day Association was formed with M.E. Williams as president and Peter Prader as secretary. The first Market Day was set for August 15.

On July 11, the race horses of the Arbogast Stock Farm were returned home for a few days' rest before going back on the circuit. Guy Funk, their trainer, had recovered from his broken leg and was able to work with them. That afternoon, the stockholders of the Farmers' Elevator Co. met and elected A.D. Tomlinson, president; W.C. Beardsley, secretary-treasurer; and directors W.C. Beardsley, E.R. Davidson, A.J. Ford, George Fugina, Joseph Maxwell, S.N. Putnam, W.C. Schwoebel, A.D. Tomlinson and Norman

Treffry, who was also vice president. That evening, Henry Saunders, who had worked at the "Eddy County Provost" for several months, resigned and left for Sykeston.

On Sunday, July 12, Mr. and Mrs. George Morrissey were at the Chautauqua.

At 1 p.m. on July 13, a baseball game with Minnewaukan at New Rockford ended in a 7-inning 7-7 tie. During the game, the New Rockford businessmen closed their stores so their employees could attend.

On the morning of July 14, Earl R. Adams of Hays and Alice Short were married in Jamestown by Rev. S.F. Beer at the Methodist parsonage. The couple took the train to the Twin Cities for a two-week honeymoon, but they returned on July 22. County Judge Ellsworth granted a marriage license to Roy Smith of Sheyenne and Miss Mable Kline of New Rockford. They were married by Rev. J.J. Graham at the bride's home; the couple immediately left for the Chamberlain farm northeast of town where they would live. The local American Society of Equity met in the court house.

That night, as a nurse made her rounds in St. Luke's Hospital in St. Paul, she discovered that Mrs. W.E. Biggs had passed away. Mrs. Biggs had undergone an operation in that hospital on June 29 and was making progress toward a full recovery. Upon receiving word, her husband and Rev. J.R. Beebe left for Carrington, where they took the Soo Line to St. Paul. On July 16, they accompanied the body to her old home, Sanborn, N.D., where a funeral was held the next day, with interment at 5:30 p.m. in the family lot. Many New Rockford friends attended, including Mesdames Bennett, Goss, Kennedy, Johns, Radke, Schwoebel, Pike, Miss Hazel Healy, and Messrs. Wilson, Rager, Braman, Lindstrom, Bennett, Davidson, Rantz, Larkin, Kennedy, Kunkel, Allison and Prader. The New Rockford business places were closed from 5 to 6 p.m. out of respect. She was survived by her husband, son Mont, and her parents. [Her flat, granite gravestone in Fairview Cemetery, Sanborn, is inscribed, "LIZZIE M. 1860-1908." Other stones in the lot include that of a daughter who died of diphtheria: "KATHRYN MAY 1891-1893" and that of her husband: "WILLIAM E. 1853-1920."]



Savvy Senior

by Jim Miller

Tips and tools for adapting to vision loss

Dear Savvy Senior,

Can you recommend some good resources or products that can help seniors with severe vision loss? My wife has diabetic retinopathy, and it's gotten worse over the past year.

Need Help

Dear Need,

I'm very sorry about your wife's vision loss, but you'll be pleased to know that there are many resources and a wide variety of low vision products and technologies that can help with many different needs.

According to the American Optometric Association (AOA), it's estimated that 12 million Americans ages 40 and older are living with uncorrectable vision loss, which is often caused by age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma or diabetic retinopathy. These conditions become more common with age and can make daily tasks like cooking, reading or watching television much harder.

But optometrists who specialize in low vision - reduced vision that can't be rectified with glasses - have many aids and technologies that can help. Here are a few different low vision products as recommended by Consumer Reports, along with some suggestions for finding a specialist who can help your wife adapt to her vision loss.

Magnifiers and adaptations

Once reading glasses are no longer sufficient, there are other devices that can help. These include handheld magnifiers with a light and magnifying domes that can be placed on top of a page.

Telescopes mounted on glasses can work for people who need help seeing farther away.

For those who have lost part of their visual field due to a stroke or brain injury, prisms mounted to the lenses in glasses can move an image from an area someone can't see to the area of their vision where they can. This can help people get around without bumping into obstructions.

Driving may no longer be possible, but some people with certain types of low vision can do so safely using a bioptic telescope - a telescopic device attached to

glasses - that makes distant objects like road signs visible. And some changes at home can make your space easier (and safer) to navigate, such as putting bright tape on the edges of stairs and getting rid of clutter.

High-tech tool

Most smartphones and computers today have built-in accessibility settings that can help your wife by reading aloud text on the screen, making default text sizes larger, and increasing screen contrast. She can also take a photo with her phone of something she wants to see, then boost the brightness, contrast, or zoom. Televisions, too, may have accessibility features or you can adjust to make watching easier.

Phone apps for people with low vision can also be a big help. These include magnification apps like SuperVision+ Magnifier and apps such as Seeing AI and Envision AI that can look through your phone's camera and turn text into speech, describe a scene in front of you, identify objects or even recognize faces.

There are also handheld

or wearable devices like OrCam that can read documents or describe the scene you are looking at.

Low vision specialist

To get some help, find your wife an optometrist who is a low-vision specialist. They can help her figure out how to best use the vision she does have and recommend helpful devices.

There are also vision rehabilitation services that can make a big difference. These services provide counseling, along with training on how to perform daily living tasks with low vision, and how to use visual and adaptive devices that can help improve quality of life. They also offer guidance for adapting your home that will make it safer and easier for your wife to maneuver.

Her regular eye doctor may be able to recommend a low-vision specialist, or you can search the AOA.org website, which lets you filter for specialists in low vision. To locate rehabilitation services and other low vision resources in your area, call the American Printing House (APH) Connect Center at 800-232-5463.

Send your questions or comments to [savvysenior.org](mailto:savvysenior.org), or to Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070.

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