



## PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Kalanchoe pinnata* (Lam.) Pers.

GENUS *Kalanchoe* FAMILY Crassulaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Resurrection plant, Air plant, Life plant, Never die

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Leaves, flower - nectar

The leaves are sometimes eaten as a vegetable. They are acidic. They are less acidic later in the day and at some times of the year. The leaves are used in curry. The leaves are used to prepare a sauce. The fleshy leaves are mixed with other vegetables.

The nectar can be sucked from the flowers.

## DESCRIPTION

An evergreen succulent herb or shrub. The stems are 0.3-2 m high. They can be woody at the base. It grows to 1 m high and spreads to 1 m wide. The stems are erect, stout and purplish green. The leaves can be simple or upper leaves have 3-5 leaflets. The leaves are large and fleshy. They have teeth around the edge. They are succulent. The leaves are 5-20 cm long by 3-12 cm wide. Small plants can grow from the edges of the leaves. The flowers hang down in clusters at the ends of branches. The flowers are like tubes and are green with purple tips. They are large and have red and purple stripes. The fruit follicles are 10-14 mm long. There are several seed in each fruit.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It does best in well drained, well-composted soils. It needs an open sunny position. It is damaged by drought and frost. It needs a temperature above 12°C. It grows to 1,000 m above sea level. It grows in dry sunny places. In XTBG Yunnan. At MARDI.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed or cuttings. Leaf buds root easily.

## NOTES

There are about 30 Bryophyllum species.

It is considered a weed in Australia.

It owns various pharmacological abilities like antioxidant, anticancerous, antiproliferative, antimicrobial, antiviral, antiprotozoal, antileishmanial, anthelmintic, analgesic, nephroprotective,

thrombolytic, haemoprotective and antihistamine properties.

Siddiqui S, Faizi S, Siddiqui BS. Triterpenoids and phenanthrenes for leaves of *Bryophyllum pinnatum*. *Phytochemistry*. 1989; 28(9):2433-2438

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

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