

Felt bush

Kalanchoe beharensis



Kalanchoe beharensis, also called as Elephant's ear kalanchoe, Felt bush, *Kalanchoe vantieghemii*, is a species of the genus *Kalanchoe*. This species was described by Emmanuel Drake del Castillo in 1903. The name of the species is given due to the specific epithet concerning the town “Behara” in Madagascar where this succulent grows in wild.

Kalanchoe beharensis is native to Madagascar. It grows wild in Behara region of South Madagascar and prefers to grow in several types of soils in xerophyte conditions.

It is a succulent tree-like shrub which reaching 12 feet (3 m) in height under the right conditions. The large opposite leaves are triangular, nearly hastate, and irregularly lobed, reaching from 5-14 inches (12.5-35 cm) long by 3-14 inches (7.6-35 cm) wide. Leaves are covered with dense felt-like hairs with mature leaves

having a rusty color on top and silvery underneath. Leaves are usually crowded at the tips of branches.

Elephant's ear kalanchoe blooms in spring to summer form on terminal racemes with small flowers. The flowers are urn-shaped, greenish-yellow, 6mm in length and are not particularly showy. Growing the Felt Bush outside of the native area may impact its flower production. You may not see the flowers at all when grown outside.



This species is completely nontoxic to humans. But it can be toxic to pet cats, and livestock. According to the National Animal Poison Information network, it is not poisonous to dogs if the plant is not treated with any chemicals. Your pet cats may experience serious conditions after ingesting the plant. The cardiac glycosides in this plant are toxic to animals and can lead to serious symptoms such as a change in heart rate, rhythm, excessive salivation, and stomach upset. The toxicity will depend upon how much part of the plant your animal has ingested. Keep the plants out of the reach of your animals. In case your pet

accidentally ingests any part of the plant, consult a Veterinarian as soon as possible.

Cultural information should only be used as a guide, and should be to be adapted to suit you. Your physical location; where you grow your plants, how much time you have to devote to their care, and many other factors, will need to be taken into account. Only then can you decide on the cultural methods that best suit you and your plants.