

HAVEN NURSERIES LTD

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GROWING FUCHSIAS MONTH BY MONTH

Originating from South America (Rain forests) & Asia, Fuchsias are easy to grow & maintain, & will flower well into the autumn or early winter months depending on the weather conditions. They look good on their own, in pots or in the border or in a hedge. Over-wintered hardy fuchsias in the garden can be cut back from February to April in the garden, depending where you live in Britain.

FEBRUARY - APRIL

Pot up fuchsia cuttings into 9cm pots. Use a multi-purpose compost with an open structure. Do not compress the compost into the pot, this will allow the plant to spread its roots quicker. All plants like air as well as water. Fuchsias will thrive in temperatures above 5 degrees C.

MARCH - JUNE

Feed the plants weekly with a high nitrogen feed, 1 tspn to 2 gallons (9 litres) of water, & your plants will grow well. Pinch out the tips, as soon as two pairs of leaves have fully grown. This is very important for trailing plants (less so for hardy varieties) to produce an abundance of blooms later on. Continue pinching at every alternate pair of leaves to create a bushy plant.

MAKING UP BASKETS AND CONTAINERS

When the roots are through the bottom of the pot, the plant should be potted up into a 13cm pot or into a hanging basket. To make sure the basket is a good shape, always put one plant in the centre and four or six plants around it (depending on the size of your basket). Always use an odd number of plants.

MAY ONWARDS

Increase watering the plants as the weather warms. Continue pinching plants. Fuchsias do best in shade, but it is possible to grow them in full sun with care. Water the floor daily to provide humid conditions in the greenhouse. Plant out after the risk of frosts allowing a good root system to develop.

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER

Add a handful of growmore & bone-meal to the soil when planting hardy fuchsias outside. Add coarse sand to heavy clay soils to avoid root rot, which can occur in winter. Feed regularly, high nitrogen feed promotes vigorous growth & lush green foliage. & high potash feed, once buds begin to show, promotes good flower colour. Avoid the stems over-ripening, alternate between high potash and high nitrogen feeds from August onwards. We recommend Vitafeed 301 - High Nitrogen feed and Vitafeed 103 or 102 - High Potash feed, used on the Nursery since 1983. . Too much hot weather or over-watering can cause leaves to go limp & flower buds to drop.

DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS

Dead head regularly, to encourage more flowers. If the temperature is over 25 degrees C you must water them twice a day, preferably in the early morning & evening - when it is coolest. Never allow the plants to dry out. During extremely hot weather, move fuchsias that are in containers into the shade.

HARDY FUCHSIAS THAT WE RECOMMEND

Alice Hoffman - small bronzed leaves.

Army Nurse - vigorous upright variety, easy to grow.

Genii - it has yellow foliage which makes this variety very popular.

Hawkshead - robust growth, small white & green flowers flushed pink.

Lena - low growing, semi double pink & magenta flowers.

F. magellanica. Tricolor - grey/green leaves with a pink tinge, red & purple flowers.

Margaret - vigorous, upright & bushy.

F. Riccartonii - a tall variety, ideal for hedging. Profuse flowering ability in late summer.

Tom Thumb - compact growth, very free flowering.

SEE OUR FUCHSIA LIST FOR MORE EXCITING VARIETIES.

ASK FOR OUR HELP SHEET ON OVERWINTERING FUCHSIAS.