



ANNUALS  
GARDENING  
SERIES



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# FUCHSIA CULTURE



**FUCHSIAS:** Fuchsias are outdoor plants with a preference for cool, moist, growing conditions. Fuchsias need protection from strong winds. Their care is simple, but must be constant, as these plants do not like to be neglected.

**SOIL:** Fuchsias prefer a loose, rich soil. Any good commercial soil mix will do. Make sure that it is a sterilized mix.

**PLANTING:** Make certain that your soil is moist. Be sure your containers have good drainage. Containers should be planted with enough space left at the top of the container to allow for a generous watering. Plant three or four plants in a 10" basket or container. Plant the fuchsias toward the center of the basket so they will fill the basket and then trail over the edges.

**WATERING:** The most important part of raising fuchsias is watering. Keep your plant moist at all times, watering as often as needed (sometimes twice a day). Mist the foliage if the plant looks droopy and the soil is moist. Don't over water, especially newly planted cuttings. Just moisten, don't drown.

**FERTILIZING:** Feed your fuchsias with a good fertilizer at least once a week. Use a 20-20-20 water-soluble fertilizer. One tablespoon to one gallon of water (it's easiest) or any balanced fertilizer. NEVER FERTILIZE A DRY PLANT!

**SPRAYING:** Aphids, spider mites and white flies are the biggest pests that bother fuchsias in our area. A good insecticide sprayed regularly should control these insects. Before you spray anything, make sure that it mentions that it is for that particular plant in the directions. Follow the directions exactly, as per the package. Always use a protective mask and cover your arms and legs before you spray.

**PINCHING:** When the plants start to grow, allow a couple of set of leaves to develop on each branch. Then pinch out the growing tip. This gives bushier plants and more blooms. Follow this procedure at least three times (three pinching sessions with your plant). Blooms will appear in 8-12 weeks after the last pinching, so you can time your blossoms by the last pinching date.

**GROOMING:** Keep seed pods picked off after the blossoms have faded and dropped. If not picked, these berries will grow and ripen and the plant will stop blooming. Keep yellowed and fallen leaves cleaned out of your plants. This keeps the chance of bugs and disease at a minimum.