



Growth description Bella Fuchsia

What are the main differences in growing Bella Fuchsia varieties in comparison to traditional Fuchsia varieties?

- 50% less use of growth regulators.
- Shorter lighting time (14 hours instead of 16 hours).

Soil

Use a light, good quality potting soil. A ratio of 50% garden peat and 50 % peat moss is standard. When you use the 'ebb and flow'-method you can add 10% Purlite. Fertilizer: 1 to 1.5 kg. P.G. mix.

Temperature

Starting temperature $\pm 17^{\circ}\text{C}$. After topping a negative D.I.F. can be used, i.e. high night temperatures of $\pm 17^{\circ}\text{C}$ and low day temperatures of $\pm 13^{\circ}\text{C}$. This temperature setting causes less cell stretching and results in a more compact plant. The average daily temperature should be $\pm 15^{\circ}\text{C}$. A lower average temperature leads to later flowering.

Pinching

In our general Fuchsia growth description we advise to pinch at 3 to 5 pairs of leaves, depending on the number of plants per square metre and the pot size. Because of the compact growth of Bella Fuchsia varieties pinching at 3 pairs of leaves can be too low. Upward of a 12cm pot we advise to pinch at 4 to 5 pairs of leaves. Higher pinching results in a 'fuller' plant.

Light

Extra light can be given from calendar week one. Extend the day to 14 hours, using at least 15 watt per square metre. We advise to light with a nightbreak. For example: 10 hours of daylight. Lighting from 11 pm till 3 am. Repeated lighting is also possible (6 minutes per half-hour). Flowering can be expected 9 to 10 weeks after you start lighting. You can begin with lighting immediately after the plants are potted on. The flowering time of Bella Fuchsia varieties differ. Check the table in our catalogue for the flowering time per variety.

Fertilizing

Once the plants are well rooted, fertilize each time you water; 2.5 to 3 EC with a mixture of 75% potassium nitrate and 25% magnesium sulphate. During the growth, alternate occasionally with mixed fertilizer, e.g. 20-20-20.



Growth control

Bella Fuchsia varieties have a compact growth. Compactness varies per variety (check the catalogue). We advise to locate varieties with the same growth characteristics next to each other. By using D.I.F. and the driest possible conditions, growth can be controlled quite effectively. Next, the following combinations of growth regulators can be used:

Combination 1:

- Cycocel (750 gr/lit): 80 - 100 cc per 100 liter water
- Alar 85: 200 gram per 100 liter water

Combination 2 (with effluent):

- Prolong/Elasto: 100 cc per 100 liter water
- Cycocel (750 gr/lit): 50 cc per 100 liter water
- Alar 85: 125 gram per 100 liter water

By using Prolong/Elasto or another effluent the dosage of Cycocel and Alar can be changed. This effluent distributes the regulators better over the plant.

Important: the growth of compact Bella Fuchsia varieties (see table catalogue) can be stagnated by using growth regulators. Use these regulators only when the plant has the right size.

Advise: Apply growth regulators after watering. Never water to apply a growth regulator.

Plant protection

- Fuchsias are susceptible to the disease Botrytis which causes heavy losses. In order to prevent this disease you should ventilate in time and keep the relative humidity lower than 80%. Chemical prevention is possible using Rovral, Teldor, Luna en Thiram.
- Admiral, Teppeki, Plenum, Neemasal, Aseptacarex, Decis, Sumicidin, Azatin, Silvetgold and Applaud can be used against white fly.
- Tepekki, Plenum of Pirimor can be used against lice.
- Vertimec of Mesurol against thrips.

Before using the above mentioned growth regulators check if those products are permitted in your country. Hendriks Young Plants is not responsible for using regulators which are forbidden by national law.

Please contact us for questions or more information about the growth of fuchsias.