

Instructions for growing Fuchsias

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.

Topping

Top to 3 to 5 pairs of leaves, depending on the number of plants per square metre and the pot size.

Light

Extra light can be given from calendar week one. Extend the day to 16 hours, using at least 15 watt per square metre. Repeated lighting is also possible (6 minutes per half-hour). Flowering can be expected 8 to 10 weeks after you start lighting. You can begin with lighting immediately after the plants are potted on.

Fertilizing

Once the plants are well rooted, fertilize each time you water; 2 to 2.5 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

By using D.I.F. and the driest possible conditions, growth can be controlled quite effectively. The following growth regulators can also be used:

- Cycocel(750 gr/lit):60-100 cc per 100 litres of water
- Alar 85: 200-400 gram per 100 litres of water
- Bonzi: 25-50 cc per 100 litres of water.

Stop using Bonzi as soon as the bud is clearly visible. Growth regulators should be used while the root ball is moist; either in the morning, just after dawn, or in the evening, to prevent leaf burn. **Important advice:** 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 en Thiram. Admire, Admiral, Applaud, Teppeki or Decis can be used against white fly. Admire or Pirimore can be used against lice and Vertimec or Mesurool against thrips.

Warning: 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.