



Hanging Fuchsias

Fuchsias can be purchased as starter plants in 2" pots, as larger plants, or in established, blooming baskets. The 2" plants are available in early spring as a jump start for your own baskets but should not be put out until all danger of frost is past. Make sure you use enough starter plants to fill out your basket. Use a good quality potting soil for the best results.

Water is critical for fuchsias. In cool weather, plants may not need watering for a week at a time. Overwatering small plants in cool weather can cause root rot, which can quickly kill young plants. In hot weather, however, fuchsia baskets may need watering daily. A water meter is the most dependable way of checking soil moisture. Otherwise, check the soil daily in hot weather. Water after the top inch or so of soil has dried out. Water-storing crystals can be beneficial.

Sun exposure for fuchsias is important as well. Morning sun is ideal because fuchsias need protection from the hot afternoon sun. It's best to place your fuchsia baskets on the east side of the house, under hanging eaves, trees or anywhere protected from afternoon sun. However, heavy all-day shade can decrease flower production. Repeated flower production also requires good fertilization. We recommend applying a high quality liquid fertilizer once every two weeks while plants are young and once a week for mature plants. When using any fertilizer, be sure to dilute it to the manufacturer's recommended strength; using fertilizer incorrectly can burn your plants.

Pinch back your plants occasionally to keep them bushy. Groom them by removing spent flowers and seed pods (which resemble small cherries) to encourage continued flower production. Regularly clean off dead leaves and branches. Grooming will both reduce the risk of disease problems and keep your basket beautiful and blooming longer. Aphids can sometimes be a problem on fuchsias. Other problems usually stem from over or under watering. For aphid control, you can use ladybugs or organic pesticide sprays.

We hope these tips will help you to grow beautiful fuchsias this summer.

Due to fuchsias' sensitivity to over- and under-watering, these plants are not guaranteed.

Storing Fuchsias over the Winter

Over-wintering your fuchsias is difficult without a greenhouse, but here are some tips:

- The most important thing is to keep them as cool as possible without freezing. A fruit cellar is ideal but anywhere that stays between 35° and 45° F is okay.
- Maintain an adequate moisture level. More fuchsias die from drying out than from freezing.
- In the fall after the leaves have fallen, trim the plants back to 8-10 inches. Dust them with Captan.
- If you don't have a suitable storage area (fruit cellar, unheated garage, crawl space), you can dig a pit or use a wooden bin large enough to hold all your plants. Remove the plants from their baskets and wrap the root ball in damp paper. To protect the fuchsias from rain and/or frost, cover them with dry leaves, straw, or any other coarse light material.
- In late February or early March when the danger of extreme cold is past, move the fuchsias to an area that is warmer (about 50° F) and light. Replant them, and when new growth shows, start fertilizing. Watch for insects and diseases which can thrive in the warmer environment. Pinch them back when they have grown about 4-6 inches. Place outside again after all danger of frost has passed (usually around mid April).