Hanging Fuchsias:

- In the fall after the leaves have fallen, trim the plants back to 8-10 inches. Dust them with Captan.
- The most important thing is to keep fuchsias as cool as possible without freezing. A fruit cellar is ideal but anywhere that stays between 35º and 45º F is okay.
- 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.
- Maintain an adequate moisture level. More fuchsias die from drying out than from freezing.
- In late February or early March when the danger of extreme cold is past, move the fuchsias to an area that is warmer (about 50º 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).

Geraniums:

- In the fall before the first heavy frost, cut the tops back to about 6” above the soil. Potted plants may be left in their containers. Geraniums in the ground should be dug, then the roots packed closely together in a deep box and covered with peat or potting soil.
- Geraniums prefer to winter over in a dimly-lit area at temperatures between 40º and 45º F.
- Maintain an adequate moisture level. Water them when you first put them into storage, then check occasionally and water only enough to prevent shriveling.
- In April, pot up the surviving plants in good potting soil, water well, and place in bright light. Start fertilizing when new growth starts. Plants can go outside when nighttime temperatures stay above 50º F (usually around mid-May).
Tuberous Begonias:

- In the fall before the first heavy frost, cut the stalks and flowers, leaving about 5 inches of stem on the tuber. Lift the tuber gently with a trowel or two spoons. It’s important not to damage or nick the tuber. During the summer, the tuber may have grown, so check carefully. Sometimes this is easier to do if it’s knocked out of the pot.
- Set the tuber, with stems and some soil still on it, in a cool, dry, dark place. Let it dry out. After about a month, the stems will fall off or easily rub off. Don’t twist or force.
- Bury the tubers in a slightly moist medium, such as peat moss or potting soil. Moisten just enough so that the material is perceptibly damp, but not drippy or soggy. It won’t be necessary to re-moisten during the dormant period.
- Store in an unheated area, preferably around 40-50 degrees F.
- Check the tubers during storage. By early spring (February), small pinkish buds may show. Pot the tubers before those buds expand into shoots. If the shoots are broken or damaged, the begonia’s health will be impaired.
- Settle the tuber into a pot of potting soil, covering with only about a half-inch of soil. Place the tuber with buds facing up. Keep the soil moist, and move the pots to a brightly-lit area. If possible, grow in temperatures around 65 degrees (cooler at night).
- If all goes well, strong plants with good shoots will be available to set outside in mid-May or early June, when our nighttime temperatures are over 50 degrees.