



Bucks Country Gardens

Fuchsias

LIGHT

Fuchsias will not bloom unless they get very bright light, with at least three hours every day of strong, direct sunlight.

TEMPERATURE

Fairly cool conditions (around 60 degrees if possible) are best for these plants. In hot rooms the buds may fail to develop properly, and flowers (if any) will quickly fade. If plants are retained over the winter, they must have a cool resting period.

WATERING

During the active growth period water plentifully as often as necessary to keep the potting mixture thoroughly moist. In the fall gradually reduce amounts of water and extend the period between waterings to prepare the plant for their winter rest. During the rest period water only enough to keep the mixture from becoming completely dry.

FEEDING

Fuchsias are greedy and should be fed weekly with standard liquid fertilizer throughout the flowering period. Although resting plants should not be fed, it is advisable to begin giving standard liquid fertilizer to young plants once every two weeks during the spring months before flowering begins.

SPECIAL POINTS

When flowering stops in the fall fuchsias are often discarded. They may be kept, however, if a suitable position for overwintering them, where they can be given an almost totally dormant resting period, is available. Cut away about half their growth, store the potted plants in a cool (45-50 degrees,) not necessarily well lit position and water sparingly. During the rest period all leaves will fall off, and the stems will become quite woody. In early spring trim them to about one-third their original height, then bring them into bright light at normal room temperature and water them enough to make the potting mixture moist, but allowing the top two-thirds of the mixture to dry out between waterings. Some varieties naturally branch and form bushy plants, but others do so only if growing tip is nipped out at an early stage. As soon as new growth begins, repot plants. Shake off the old mixture, and move them into a fresh mixture in the same size pots as before or in smaller ones if roots can be fitted in. Feed growing plants sparingly at first.

Fuchsias are particularly susceptible to attack from aphids and whitefly. Spray plants with a suitable insecticide whenever evidence of these pests appears.