

Fuchsias and their care

Put your Fuchsia in a **shady to semi-shady area**; under a tree or overhang is great, but not way under a solid roof or in an enclosed patio. Fuchsias take the same conditions that begonias enjoy. Cool & shady with good air circulation. Protect from hot dry winds.

Watering: **Don't let your Fuchsia dry out!** Watering every other day in cool weather and daily in hotter weather will be about right. Watch the foliage to see when it wilts. On hot afternoons fuchsias will wilt to conserve moisture. Be sure to check the soil **before** watering. If moist **don't water**. Misting the foliage would be your best option on hot afternoons and will make your plant happier. In the cooler evening hours your plant should bounce back. Hint...If any of your basket plants dry completely, the soil shrinks back from the edges of the pot. The water then goes around but not into the root ball. Take it down, soak well and rehang. If it lives, you'll probably want to cut it back hard.

Fertilizing: During the blooming season feed every two weeks with liquid fertilizer. Less often in winter, more often in early spring when regrowing. Read and follow the directions on the package!!

Cutting back: In December or January cut your fuchsia back to near the edge of the basket. Add some new soil and a bigger pot if needed. When new growth starts, begin to feed and **start pinching**.

Here's how to pinch. Look at our picture

After your fuchsia starts to grow again you want to start pinching. When a branch is about 2 to 3 inches long, pinch out the end tip. When the next branchlets are 2 to 3 inches long pinch them also. That's how it goes, pinch, feed, grow,...pinch, feed, grow,..In about three months you should have a nice bushy plant with 25 to 30 branches. Stop pinching, sit back and wait for your plant to bloom in about 6 weeks. Keep feeding!

The biggest pests for Fuchsias are whiteflies and the fuchsia gall mite. Read our handout about gall mite. Whiteflies are best dealt with **before** you have lots of them!! There are various methods of keeping whiteflies under control.

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