

FUCHSIA BASKET CARE

Fuchsia baskets provide color in sheltered areas from may through October. Most varieties need protection from afternoon sun from 12-6 pm. Light shade is recommended. If the shade is heavy and all-day, there will be substantial decrease in flower production. Fuchsias will perform best with morning sun. Locate the fuchsia basket on the east side of the house or hanging under an eave, under a tree, or in a place that is protected from the afternoon sun.

An established fuchsia basket will need fertilization once a week. Alternate a balanced fertilizer (20-20-20) such as Miracle Gro Nursery Select All Purpose with a fertilizer that promotes flower production (0-10-10) Alaska Morbloom. Dilute the fertilizer according to label directions. Using too much fertilizer can burn your plants.

To keep plants growing and producing flowers throughout the season, it is important to pinch back tips to force growth into side branches to keep plants bushy. It is also important to groom them by removing spent flowers and seed pods (which resemble small cherries). To encourage continued flower production trim out dead branches and clean out dead leaves that collect on the soil.

Cultural problems that may occur to your fuchsia are aphids and fungus. Treat aphids with a general purpose insecticide following label directions. Fungus and mildew can be controlled by removing affected leaves and treating with a fungicide that is safe to use on flowering plants.

WINTER STORAGE OF FUCHSIA

In Northwest climates, it is necessary to store most varieties of fuchsia in a place that will stay above freezing temperatures during the winter. After plants have dropped their leaves in the fall, prune branches back about 6". Insulate the roots by mounding mulch on the soil surface in the pot. Materials that can be used as mulch include Carpinito Brothers Organic Compost, Sawdust, Bark and Sand. Store the fuchsia in a greenhouse, unheated garage, crawlspace, or any place where temperatures will stay at 40 to 50 degrees f.

In early spring (late February or early March) prune out damaged or dead branches and cut back branches to live wood. Move fuchsia to a warmer location (at least 50 degrees f). Add fresh soil under root ball and around edge of container or repot to a larger pot if necessary. Watch for insects and disease which thrive in the warm, wet climate of spring. Start fertilizing with a balanced fertilizer according to label directions. Pinch back tips to side branches when plants have grown about 4-6 inches. Place outside once danger of frost has passed.