

Fuchsia Guide

*Get the best from
your fuchsias*

Quick Tips

- Open packaging immediately on receipt and stand upright where appropriate.
- Remove bagging if present on the pots. If plants seem dry, place roots/pots in a tray of water for half an hour.
- When growing in containers, don't fill to the brim with compost. Leave up to 2.5cm (1in) of pot on show to allow for watering – halve this for small pots and cell trays.
- If growing on the windowsill, turn plants regularly to prevent them stretching towards the light.
- Pots should always have drainage holes, but place on saucers/trays to prevent surface staining. It also helps retain extra water during summer heat.
- Always water prior to planting or potting on.
- Prepare soils ahead of planting. For the best establishment, work incredicompost® and incredibloom® fertiliser into the growing area. These will also give you the best results in containers displays too. Alternatively opt for regular liquid feeds through the season, starting at 6 weeks after planting.
- Avoid planting when soils are too wet or frozen.
- Acclimatise all indoor grown plants to outside conditions after the last frost. Harden off by placing outside by day and back undercover each evening for 7-10 days.



Plugs: Plant straight into pots or baskets etc, (best potted on once or twice). They can be transplanted into their final containers once they have increased in size. Ease each plug from its tray, handling by the leaves, not stem. Set individually into 7cm (3in) pots or cell trays filled with incredicompost®. Pinch the compost around the plugs to firm in and water well. Allow the compost surface to dry between watering. Grow on a windowsill with good light and ventilation or in a warm greenhouse. Pot on again if required, before planting out after the last spring frost. Fuchsias respond well to pinching out; remove the growing tip above the 3rd or 4th leaf to encourage more sideshoots and flowers.

5cm-11cm pots: Grow on or pot up in larger pots filled with incredicompost® and incredibloom® fertiliser for planting outside after the last spring frost.

Planting in the garden: Make sure to not plant too deeply, it is essential that the plants are well firmed in. Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball and just a little deeper. Break up the bottom of the planting hole and set the plant in place. Mix incredicompost® and incredibloom® with the planting soil and backfill. Firm down the soil to knock out any air pockets. Water well to settle.

Growing in patio containers: For the best results fill pots and baskets with incredicompost® and incredibloom®. All pots should have drainage holes, but place on saucers through summer for water retention. Do not fill containers to the brim. Leave up to 2.5cm (1in) of pot rim on show to allow for good watering, without run off. Container grown plants will need frequent watering. Remove spent flowers regularly to keep plants tidy and productive.

General aftercare: Pinch out the growing tips while plants are still small to promote bushier growth and more flowers. Plants will then flower 8-12 weeks later, depending on variety. Feed and water regularly throughout the growing season. Deadhead faded flowers to encourage more blooms. During the growing season, plants may need to be protected from pests such as snails and slugs. Water regularly throughout the summer, trying to avoid water on the foliage as this can cause scorching. Always keep the top soil around your plants broken up, so that water can penetrate the roots.

Tips for climbing types: Grow as other fuchsias, pinching regularly as they grow to create a growing framework. Do not over pinch though, as this will mean the plant will take longer to gain height. Tie in all branches as the plants develop. Plants should be pruned each spring, reducing all growth back by a third, which will encourage further growth.

Tips for Standard Whips: If you have been supplied with a whip ready for growing on, first decide if you want a standard (1m high stem) or half-standard (50cm high stem). Use a compost mixed with some grit to encourage quicker growth. Support the main stem of your plant with a strong cane, and remove all sideshoots as they occur, except the top 5 set of leaves. When the standard has reached the required height, pinch out the growing tip. Now, the remaining 5 sideshoots will start to grow. Allow 3 pairs of leaves to develop on each, then pinch out their tips. A bushy head will now start to form, and the stem will become woody. Remove any shoots that appear on the main stem as they occur. Only allow the plant to flower once the main head is well formed. Reduce watering and protect from frost each winter. Pot into fresh compost each spring. By the second or third year, the head will be established enough to provide a fantastic display!

Propagation: Most of the plants we offer are recent introductions and therefore protected by Plant Breeder's Rights. Propagation of any of these varieties for commercial sale is illegal.

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