

## FUCHSIA CULTURE

**GROWTH HABITS:** Trailer - 12" wooden basket is ideal.  
Upright - In the ground, patio pot, or patio pot on pedestal.  
Stacked stepping stones make a good portable pedestal.

**FLOWERS:** Petite to Large: Single - 4 petal corolla  
Double - multi petal corolla



**SUNLIGHT:** Bright light is essential for blooms.  
Coastal: Any light will do.  
Inland: Early morning or late afternoon sun; protection of a tree, shade cloth or lath structure (no sun from 12-3 PM except in winter).

**SOIL:** Light and fast draining  
2 parts nitrolized redwood compost  
2 parts potting soil or azalea mix  
1 part sponge rock (perlite): 1/2" of perlite in the bottom of containers will deter bugs and snails.

**WATER:** The amount of water needed is highly influenced by wind. Generally, watering thoroughly twice a week is ideal [less often when cold or rainy]. Be careful not to overwater when it is very hot. Watering down the patio, deck, lawn, chimney, sidewalks etc. will substantially reduce the temperature in the garden.

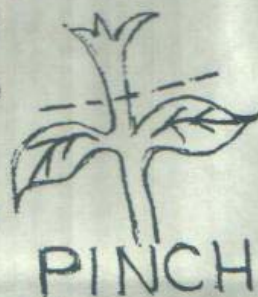
**FERTILIZER:** Every 2 weeks - half strength.  
Winter: Nov to Apr 30-10-10 to support leaves, stems & roots.  
Summer: 20-20-20 to support the plant and encourage flowers.  
Alternate: Osmocote applied every 3 months.

**PRUNING:** Annually between Nov & January.  
Baskets: Prune to the edge of container & remove all leaves.  
Uprights: Remove 1/3 of the plant & all of the leaves, then shape.  
Never prune a wet plant: it has no way to transpire water without leaves.  
NEVER fertilize a dry plant or a pruned one until new growth appears.

**PINCHING:** As branches emerge, pinch off the tip ends to double the branches. When 30 tip ends have been removed in one day, stop pinching. Your plant will grow 9 more inches and bloom in about 7 weeks.

**TIPS:**

1. Remove seed pods, spent blooms & dead leaves
2. Protect baskets during Santa Ana winds by putting them on the ground or in a sheltered area.
3. Swivels for baskets promote even growth.
4. Adding one tablespoon white vinegar to every gallon of water for fertilizing or using a sprayer makes your water PH neutral rather than heavily alkaline.



**PESTS:** Lacking good air circulation, you can probably expect the appearance of white flies or aphids. Armed with shoes, gloves and a mask, spray for pests 3 times at 3 day intervals. Fuchsia Gall Mite (Enophyid): A microscopic pest peculiar to fuchsias which produces a cancer-like appearance on the growth tips. It is transmitted by hummers, hands, tools and the wind. Using rubber gloves, remove damaged growth ASAP and seal in plastic bag. Spray 3 times at 3 day intervals.