

## Fuchsia Problem Solving

Good, strong growing plants are less susceptible to diseases, pests and weather conditions. Use open potting mix, keep plants positioned to avoid the shock of sudden cold or hot weather keep plants separated for air circulation, water adequately, but don't over-water and fertilize regularly (weekly) with a one quarter strength balanced fertilizer. Do not substitute fertilizing for watering; never fertilize a dry plant. Watch your plants for problems such as:

- Flower Drop** – Your plant has had a shock. Often this is caused by inadequate light or the plant had dried out too rapidly due to dry weather or wind.
- Leaf Drop** – Something has caused the plant to shed leaves to survive a shock. It could be inadequate light, drying out or even over-watering. Leaf drop is especially likely in hot weather.
- Scorch Marks** – Marks on leaf tops or tips may be caused by salt damage: chemicals/fertilizers being used incorrectly or by extremely hot weather. Do not over-feed and try to minimize the effects of extreme heat by placing plants in as cool a place as possible. Be careful in selecting a previously used spray bottle for your fuchsia applications: rinse out the previous contents thoroughly, or risk poisoning the plant. Water scorched plants thoroughly.
- Leaf Redness** – this symptom usually shows up when plants are exposed to low temperatures, especially a rapid change. This redness usually causes little problems, except in plant appearance.
- Rusty Red Lesions** – The appearance of circular red lesions on older leaves is a symptom of fungus or rust. The rust spores disperse and a dead, circular patch remains. Rust is prevalent in warm, humid weather. Remove all damaged leaves and destroy.
- Small White Bugs** – Whitefly! Treat with one of the commercial sprays suitable for fuchsias, a soap solution or other recipes you may have acquired. Spray regularly, as only adults are killed. Spray over and under leaves. Avoid spraying the blossoms. Repeat spraying as needed, usually ever three days.
- Dusty Red Leaves** – Red Spider Mite! This is especially a problem in hot, dry summer weather. Isolate affected plants and spray top AND bottom of leaves with a miticide spray. Repeat spraying. Misting plants with plain water, in addition to the miticide spray, will be beneficial to the plants. If severe, prune and destroy prunings.
- Grey Mold** – Most common in cold wet weather. Control Watering. Improve air circulation around plants Remove and destroy all dead or damaged leaves.
- Yellowing Leaves** – Progressive yellowing of the oldest leaves on your plants tells you they need feeding.
- Ribbons** – Plants that are pleasing to the judges and the point system at shows are prone to show up with prize ribbons. Cherish them and your plants. You have done a good job together.

From: British Columbia Fuchsia and Begonia Society of August 2015