

## Container Grown Plants

A question frequently asked is, are fuchsias in pots, or other type containers, hard to grow? Fuchsias are easy to grow either in the ground or in containers if the basic requirements of these lovely plants are followed within fairly close limits.

"Fuchsias grow best where the nights are cool and the day temperature ranges in the eighties." Temporary excursions up to and including one hundred degrees will not seriously harm the plants provided the soil is kept moist and the foliage syringed when the sun is off the plant.

"Fuchsias require a soil that is rich in humus with an acid reaction, excellent drainage.

"Fuchsias desire a steady diet of a well-balanced fertilizer." A liquid fertilizer at half the manufacturer's recommended dosage, every ten or twelve days is suggested.

All plants in containers are difficult when compared to nature's way of supplying food and moisture from the ground. Plants growing in containers must depend on the grower for all of their food, moisture, location and protection from garden pests. A container resting on, or buried in, the ground receives a certain amount of coolness from the moist earth; where one suspended in the air, sitting on a bench or table is completely surrounded by warm, and usually dry, air. In the ground the root runs may be kept cool with a mulch of light organic material; in containers the coolness must come from the atmosphere either naturally or by artificial means such as fogging nozzles. Etc.

The difficulty encountered growing fuchsias in containers rests entirely with the grower, success is directly proportional to the amount of care, and though, given your plants.

Growing fuchsias in containers is an interesting part of the fuchsia enthusiast's hobby.

There is a great advantage in having a number of potted fuchsias around the garden. They may be placed wherever a spot of color is needed taken in the house for a day or two, decorate a porch or patio and they make wonderful gifts. Container grown plants particularly fuchsias, begonias and ferns are the backbone of any Annual Fuchsias Show.

The type container, clay or glazed pot, redwood, or the old fashioned wire basket is a matter of personal choice. Clay pots and wire baskets dry out faster than glazed pots and redwood material, therefore, require a greater amount of care. The most important requirement is to have a container with sufficient capacity to nourish and physically support the plant.

There are certain rules that should be followed in potting. Potting does not mean to grab a pot full of soil and fill around a plant. Pots must be clean and moist. When transplanting do not over pot, advance slowly but safely from the two or three inch size to the six, eight, ten or tub size that you are striving for. Fuchsias bloom better when slightly pot-bound, but pot-bound plants require more care and must be watched carefully as they dry out rapidly in warm weather. Use a good light friable mix rich in hums slight moist, but not wet, and never dry. Place broken pieces of pot, or an inch of gravel, in the bottom to insure drainage. Firm the soil around the plant so that air pockets are excluded. Never set the pot on soil that will plug the drainage hole and drown the fuchsia. Allow a generous space between the rim of the container and the surface of the soil so that the plant may be properly and easily watered.

By all means grow lots of fuchsias in containers. You'll get more and larger blooms and fine vigorous plants, especially if you keep them moist, fertilized, free of insects and in filtered sunlight.

It has been generally believed that glazed pots were harmful for flowers, but such is not the case. If the soil is coarse and the drainage is good so that the opening in the bottom of the pot is not clogged plants will do very well. Glazed pots keep the moisture in the soil longer than clay pots. Real joy comes to those who grow fuchsias to perfection.

From: The Fuchsia Fan of the California National Fuchsia Society