

Fall Fuchsia Cuttings

Although we think of spring as a time to take fuchsia cuttings, Fall can also be a good time to take cuttings of your favorite fuchsias. Cuttings taken from healthy, well water plants will root best. Cut just below a node, usually about three inches from a tip. Strip the lowest set of leaves, leaving at least two sets remaining. If the leaves are large, cut them in half to reduce moisture loss by transpiration. You may need to feed a high nitrogen fertilizer a week or two before taking cuttings to insure soft tips.

Good light is imperative, but never sit your cuttings in direct sun. You can create filtered light with shade cloth if necessary.

To create adequate humidity you can place cuttings in a clear container, like a large salad container. You can also set them on the lid of a small clear storage container and place the bottom over the plants. This creates a mini greenhouse. If you want to use a plastic bag, putting small stakes to keep the plastic bag off the plant leaves helps the leaves not to rot.

After about a month, give the cuttings a gentle tug to see if roots have formed. When cuttings have several roots at least a half inch long, they should be carefully lifted from the rooting medium with a fork. Transplant them to 2-3 inch pots using a sterile potting mix that provides good drainage. Protect the young plants for a couple of weeks against extremes of temperature and sun to give them a chance to get established.

Fall cuttings are best protected in a greenhouse or indoors for the winter.

Timely Fuchsia Tips:

Keeps a watchful eye for the first sign of pests taking immediate action to avoid an infestation of whitefly or aphids.

Keep up regular fertilization

Keep container plants free of debris.

Remove all spent blossoms and seedpods for continuous blooms.

Maintain watering, being careful not to overwater.

Do not leave plants in **Black Nursery Pots** exposed to the sun. That is certain death.

Plants in plastic pots will hold moisture longer than those in clay, wood, pulp or moss containers.

On hot dry days be sure to mist foliage or otherwise supply humidity to all fuchsias to reduce chance of an infestation of Red Spider Mite. Do not wait for them to defoliate your plant, which they can do overnight. It is too late at that point.

Rotate containers to ensure even, eye-appealing growth.

Always check your pot to see if it is dry before watering!!! A wilted plant isn't always caused by a dry pot, especially if it is really hot. An umbrella or another plant is good for shade on hot days. Too wet soil will rot the roots, let the soil dry out in between watering. Mist around plants on really hot days.

For plants in the ground and in pots: Stop fertilizing and removing seedpods in September so that the plant can prepare for winter!