

## fuchsia

### BOTANICAL NAME

*Fuchsia* spp.

(FEW-sha or, less commonly, FOOK-si-a)

### COMMON NAME

Lady's-eardrops

### DESCRIPTION

These attractive and popular blooming plants are known for their colorful, bell-shaped flowers that hang from the stems.

### COLORS

*Fuchsias* are available in purple, pink, fuchsia, red, orange and white as well as bicolor combinations. Some varieties change color as the blossoms mature.

### CONSUMER LIFE

*Fuchsia* plants will remain in bloom for several weeks, with each flower lasting several days, depending on location and care. The plants can last for years with proper care.

### AVAILABILITY

The plants are available year-round.

### in-store and consumer care

**LIGHT** Provide *Fuchsias* with plenty of filtered sunlight to keep them blooming.

**WATER** Keep *Fuchsias* moist at all times from spring through autumn, but water sparingly in winter. To water, submerge the pots in room-temperature water until completely saturated, and then allow them to stand until all dripping has stopped. Do not allow the plants to remain in standing water, or root rot may result. On hot days, mist the foliage with water.

**TEMPERATURE** *Fuchsias* thrive in sheltered areas where temperatures are moderate, about 70 F and below. Good air circulation is essential, but shelter *Fuchsias* from hot, dry winds, which remove moisture too rapidly and cause wilting.

**FERTILIZER** Feed *Fuchsias* with a water-soluble bloom fertilizer.



FUCHSIA SPP.  
'RED JACKET'



FUCHSIA SPP.  
'SHADOW DANCER BETTY'

**REBLOOMING** Keep *Fuchsias* blooming longer by picking off spent blooms and seed pods. To encourage branching, prune plants heavily in the spring and pinch off the tips of the new growth. Continue to pinch until the plant is filled out.

### challenge

**ETHYLENE SENSITIVITY** *Fuchsias* are highly sensitive to ethylene gas. Check with your supplier to make sure your plants have been treated with an anti-ethylene agent at the grower level or during transportation.



FUCHSIA SPP.  
'LORD BEACONSFIELD'

### quality checklist

**WHEN BUYING** Select sturdy, shapely plants with healthy leaves and brightly colored flowers.

**PESTS AND FUNGUS** Watch for white flies, *Fuchsia* gall mites, aphids and rust. Check for insects at the leaf axils (the axil is the joint between the base of the leaf petiole and its point of attachment on the stem).



FUCHSIA SPP.  
'FIRECRACKER'

### fun facts

**FAMILY** *Fuchsias* are members of the *Onagraceae* family. Relatives include *Clarkia* (aka *Godetia*) and evening primrose (*Oenothera*).

**ORIGINS** *Fuchsias* are native to Mexico, Chile, Argentina and New Zealand.

**HISTORY** *Fuchsias* were named for Leonhart Fuchs, 1501-1566, a German professor of medicine and a botanist.  **sfr**

Some information provided by:  
American Fuchsia Society, [www.americanfuchsiasociety.org](http://www.americanfuchsiasociety.org)  
Clemson Extension, <http://hgic.clemson.edu>  
*Fuchsia* Research International, [www.fuchsiasint.org](http://www.fuchsiasint.org)  
The New House Plant Expert by Dr. D.G. Hessayon  
The Chain of Life Network®, [www.chainoflifenet.org](http://www.chainoflifenet.org)  
Society of American Florists' (SAF)  
Flower & Plant Care manual

Reach "Blooming Plant of the Month" writer Steven W. Brown, AIFD, at [sbfloral@aol.com](mailto:sbfloral@aol.com) or (415) 239-3140.

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