

**Cultural Information- Fuchsia**  
*(FYOO-shah)*

<b><u>Light:</u></b>	Full sun, partial sun or shade; a southern, eastern, western or northern exposure.
<b><u>Temperature:</u></b>	Maintain indoor temperatures above 40°. They suffer in the high heat of summer when temperatures are in the 90's or higher.
<b><u>Humidity:</u></b>	Best to maintain relative humidity above 50% although lower levels can be tolerated without harm.
<b><u>Watering:</u></b>	Bring potting mix to visual dryness between thorough waterings, avoiding a severe wilt. Best to thoroughly saturate the soil until some water trickles from the bottom of the pot. They are soft-growing plants that wilt easily so attention needs to be paid to their water demands.
<b><u>Fertilizer:</u></b>	They are moderate feeders so ¼ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water once a week is a general recommendation. Under the fast growth of summer, use ½ tsp of fertilizer per gallon of water is acceptable. When active growth stops in winter, discontinue feeding. Use a balanced fertilizer like a 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like a 7-9-5.
<b><u>Pruning:</u></b>	Pruning is generally done in late winter so as to not disrupt the summer flowering cycle.
<b><u>Insects and Disease:</u></b>	Highly susceptible to white fly; can also be attacked by aphids and, to a lesser degree, spider mites under hot dry conditions. Root disease can be a problem in the heat of summer.
<b><u>Comments:</u></b>	Fuchsia are showy flowering plants that need cool temperatures to thrive. They will tolerate temperatures down to freezing and in the winter can be maintained under cool sunlit conditions. It is the high heat of summer that is the greatest challenge to growing fuchsias. When temperatures get into the 90's, the plants transpire (lose water through their leaves) faster than they can pull moisture out of the soil and thus will go into a wilt even though they potting mix is wet. At this point, if they are watered the heat and stress will collapse the root system, killing the plant. Be sure to grow in a shady spot and check the soil before watering to help get them through the hot spells.