

White fly is easy to identify. If the branches are shaken, a cloud of small white flies bursts out around the bush. White fly can be controlled using products like Garden Gun, Garden Ripcord or Natural Insecticide.

Red spider is a tiny little mite that is found on the underside of the leaves. A classic symptom of red spider can be found on the upper surface of the leaf. It looks as though the leaf has been dusted with salt and pepper. This should be treated immediately with Redspiderside or Spiderspray. The only fungus which is of any significance is rust. The underside of the leaf will be dotted with rust coloured pustules. Treat this with Funginex after removing the affected leaves.

If your fuchsia is in a favourable environment, the chances of the plant becoming afflicted are minimal.

Happy Gardening!

Contact details:

For details and further information, come in to any GardenShop or call our GardenLine on 08 60 100 403. Alternatively, e-mail us at info@gardenshop.co.za or log on to www.gardenshop.co.za

BRYANSTON

Cnr Main and Halifax Roads, Bryanston, JHB.
Tel: (011) 463-5773/4, Fax: (011) 463-5775
e-mail: info.btn@gardenshop.co.za

PARKTOWN NORTH

Cnr Jan Smuts Avenue and Bolton Road,
Parktown North, JHB.
Tel: (011) 447-2368, Fax: (011) 880-1640
e-mail: info.ptn@gardenshop.co.za

FOURWAYS

Cnr William Nicol and Monte Casino Boulevard,
Fourways, JHB.
Tel: (011) 465-2226, Fax: (011) 465-2712
e-mail: info.fws@gardenshop.co.za

CONSTANTIA

Cnr Doordrift and Nursery Roads, Constantia, CT.
Tel: (021) 794-5015, Fax: (021) 794-4653
e-mail: info.cta@gardenshop.co.za



Fuchsia

An expert guide to the planting and care of Fuchsia



GardenCare



Introduction to Fuchsias

There are thousands of fuchsia varieties now available. Some are ideal for planting in hanging baskets; others are ideal for planting out as a shrub. There are even varieties available that will climb. Some have single flowers while others produce doubles. The flowers are widely coloured - anything from white to pink to reds to strong purple and any shade in between. Flowers range in shape and size. The smallest variety of fuchsia has a flower that is no bigger than the size of a large ant!

Growing Conditions

On the whole, Fuchsia, like to be planted in a shady spot that receives dappled sunlight or along an east-facing wall that receives the morning sun. Varieties like *Fuchsia fulgens* and *Fuchsia magilenica* will tolerate full sun if given sufficient water and humidity. The area where the fuchsias are to be planted should be well ventilated. This will ensure that insects such as White Fly will be kept at bay.

Fuchsia should always be planted in protected areas where they will be sheltered from the scorching sun and strong wind. The soil should be well drained. If the soil is too heavy (clay), then add some coarse river

sand to the hole when planting to improve the drainage. A good application of compost will also help.

Watering

Fuchsia enjoy being damp during the growing season. Care must be taken never to let the plants dry out. But by the same token, if the area is always soggy the plants will not thrive. The ideal is to water daily during the heat of summer and reduce the watering to once every week or less in the winter months.

Fertilising

Fuchsia benefit from regular feeding. The best results come from regular feeding with Nitrosol. It is better to feed more often with a diluted solution of fertiliser. This will definitely increase the number of flowers produced and the plant will remain healthy. Be careful when feeding with chemical fertilisers as some fuchsias die if they are fed with these feeds. Organic foliar feeds such as Nitrosol are absorbed quickly through the leaves whereas granular fertilisers such as 3-1-5 are absorbed more slowly and should be used only every 6 weeks in the spring and summer.

Pinching out of Fuchsias

Fuchsia will only form flowers on the new growth. It is therefore essential to pinch out the new shoots early in the spring. Wait until a few leaves have developed and then nip out the first 2 sets of leaves. This will result in two new buds forming. Allow these buds to develop and pinch them out again when 3-4 sets of leaves have formed. Once the plant is bushy enough, stop pinching out the shoots. Flowering should start about 10 weeks later.

Pruning

Once the danger of frost has passed, fuchsia should be pruned back by two thirds. A root pruning can also be carried out. Draw a line around the outer surface of the plant and then sever the roots with a spade. Tidy the bush periodically by removing any damaged or straggly branches, seedpods and faded blooms. This will encourage a fresh flush of flowers. If the plants are in containers, spring is the ideal time to repot them. Flowering takes place from October to May.

Pests and diseases

Watch out for pests such as White fly and Red Spider.