



Fuchsia Culture
Griffin Greenhouse and Nursery Supplies, Inc
Rick Yates, Technical Support Manager
800-732-3509, ryates@griffinmail.com

Fertilizer- Fuchsia are moderate to heavy feeders, use 200 ppm constant feed. Griffin Leola offers free water tests to help match your fertilizer program to you water. Most growers will be able to use 20-10-20 rotating every third or fourth time with 15-0-15.

Soil pH- 5.5-6.2 is ideal. Higher pH can induce an iron deficiency.

Containers- 4 cuttings per 10" baskets is the norm, although 5 or 6 plants may be used for baskets started later. Upright and semi-upright varieties can be sold in 4" pots, 1 cutting per pot. Trailing varieties are not as well suited to small pots due to the amount of bench space they require.

Timing- Full bloom baskets require a minimum of 12 weeks to produce. Use the pinching or Florel recommendations below to judge how early to start your baskets. Fuchsia initiate flower buds in mid-March and will not bloom appreciably earlier by starting them earlier than needed to build the size basket you are looking for.

Temperature- Fuchsia grows well with cooler temperatures. 55° nights and 60-65° days are ideal, although they will grow and bloom well with night temperatures as high as 65° if they need to be grown in a house with warm crops. Night temperatures below 55° can be tolerated but this will delay blooming.

Growth regulators and pinching- Florel at 500 ppm (1.6 oz per gallon) applied as a foliar spray as soon as plants are established produces a heavily branched compact start for fuchsia. This can be repeated every 2 weeks until 7-8 weeks before you need the plants in bloom. If you do not use Florel, pinch at planting and every 2-3 weeks until March 1st to insure blooming by May 1. Three weeks after the last pinch or Florel treatment Bonzi can be applied at 30 ppm (1 oz per gallon) as a foliar spray to increase flower count and help keep the basket somewhat more compact. Some growers have used 1-2 ppm Bonzi drenches with good results.

Insects- Aphids, thrips, and whiteflies are the primary insect pests. Consult the current version of Griffin's Insecticide and Fungicide Options bulletin for current control options.

Diseases- *Pythium*, *Phytophthora*, and *Thielaviopsis* are common root rot problems. Preventative fungicide drenches are recommended. Aerial Rhizoctonia, botrytis and rust can attack the foliage.

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