

FUCHSIA & GERANIUM

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Winter Care & Cuttings

FUCHSIA – “WINTER CARE”

This information does not apply to Fuchsia Recartonii (Hardy Fuchsia) - this variety can be left outside in Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island however, a protective cover of leaves over the crown **must be provided** come November.

Fuchsias may be kept over winter to bloom again another year. They can be dug and potted, or the basket or pot moved from outside to indoors during October or November (before heavy frost).

Plants may be lightly pruned or thinned but should not be cut back too much. If possible, keep the plants in a light but fairly cool place. Do not feed and keep very much on the dry side but do not allow to dry out completely. In February or March, cut back severely and water plenty. Feed as soon as growth commences using 20-20-20 and or KNAPP'S Fish Fertilizer. Pinch shoots to produce a bushy plant.

Fuchsias grow to perfection in a rich moist planter (potting) mix that is high in organic matter. Good drainage is necessary.

HOW TO TAKE FUCHSIA CUTTINGS

SUMMER CUTTINGS

Plants that are planted outside usually make sucker growth around the base. In August, take these for cuttings - suckers that are 2 1/2" to 3" long are best. New softwood, non-flowering tip growth, can also be used. Cut 3" top cuttings just under a node, clean off all but the top leaves, dip in rooting hormone (available at Knapp's).

Plant cuttings in STARTER MIX in small pots, take indoors late September or early October and keep over winter at temperatures of preferably 10°C (50°F) at night and 18°-23°C (65°-75°F) during the day. Re-pot to a larger pot when needed. Plant outside in late April or early May.

SPRING CUTTINGS

When the “mother plant” begins to make new growth in February or March, wait until new side shoots are about 3"-4" long. Rip the cuttings off the main stalks or cut new softwood growth just below a node. Remove some of the bottom leaves, dip cuttings in proper rooting hormone material (available at Knapp's) and plant firmly, about 1 1/2" deep, in STARTER MIX. When cuttings are rooted and begin to make new growth, they can then be trained to go upright or tops nipped out to make a bushy plant. Re-pot when needed. Plant outside in late April or early May.

GERANIUM – “WINTER CARE”

There are two ways to keep Geraniums over winter...

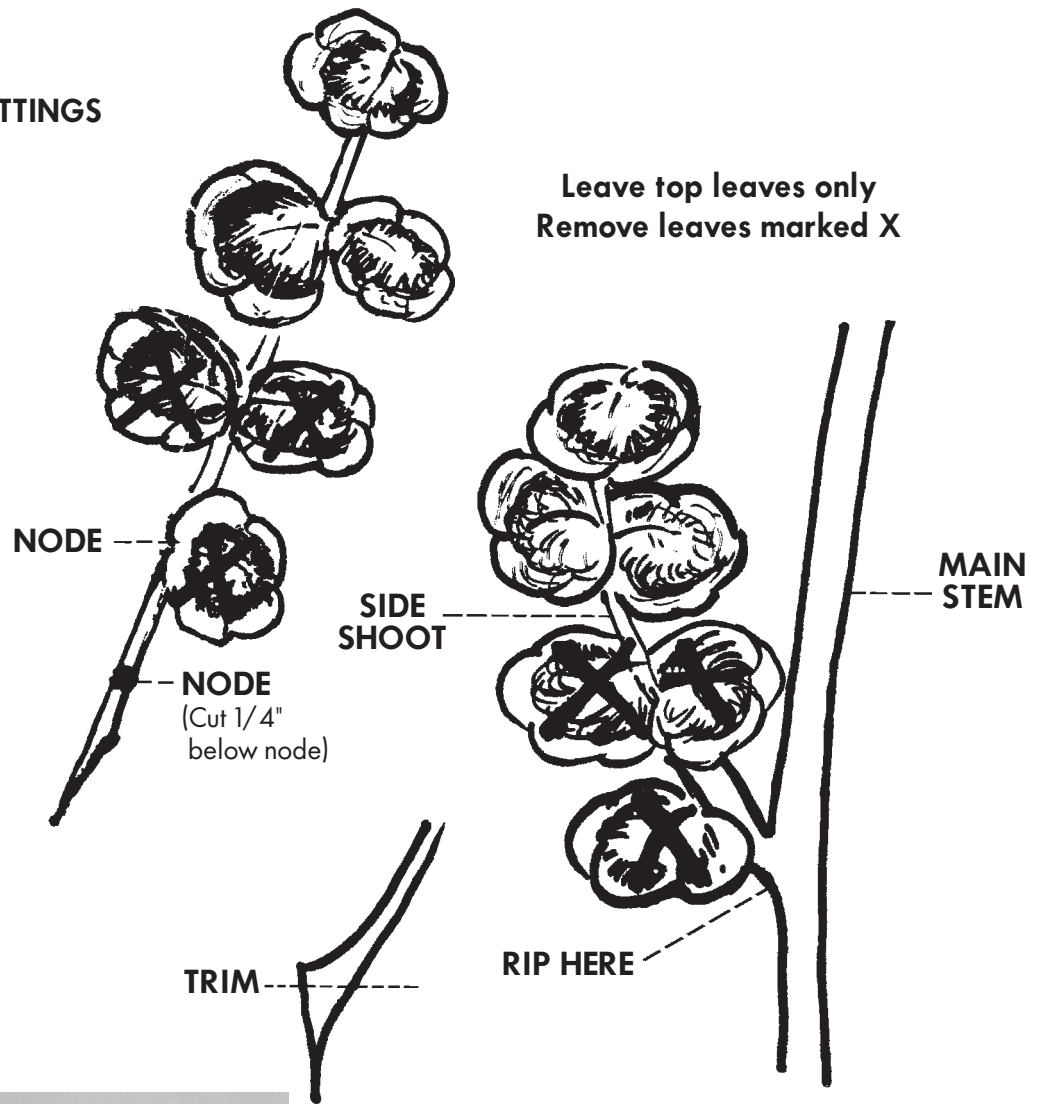
The plants are in the garden flower beds - In mid to late October, before the first severe frost, dig plants from bed and place in large pots or boxes. Cut off tops to within 6" of bottom - use these tops for cuttings.

Keep the “Mother Plants” in a cool, frost free area and keep on the dry side but do not allow to dry out completely. Begin watering in about early February, begin to feed about early March. Plant in garden again late April or early May.

HOW TO TAKE GERANIUM CUTTINGS

- 1. HEEL CUTTINGS** - Those that rip off main stem. Clean off bottom leaves and dip cutting in rooting hormone (Seradix #1) and place in KNAPP'S STARTER MIX to root. In March, transfer to pots and place in a well lit window until early May, then place outside.
- 2. TIP CUTTINGS** - Those that are cut from side branches. These are usually about 4"-6" long. Cut on angle 1/4" below a node, clean and dip in rooting hormone (Seradix #1) and place in KNAPP'S STARTER MIX to root. In March, transfer to pots and place in a well lit window until early May, then place outside.

HOW TO TAKE GERANIUM CUTTINGS



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