

Fuchsia News Winter 2015

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Dear All

Sorry that this is a little later than usual – I don't know where January went! I promise normal service next time!

As usual a few points before we get to the main part of Fuchsia News:

- Please feel free to use anything that is within Fuchsia News for your own use – it is produced for that purpose!
- Like all editors, I am always on the lookout for articles – they do not have to be written specifically for us to use, but if you have had something in your group newsletter that you think is suitable then please forward it onto me. It is better to have too much rather than too little! My thanks to all those who send in their newsletters I always thoroughly enjoy reading them! The more the merrier so any other Societies that can pop me one in the post or by email – it would be great.
- Don't forget that now is a good time to renew! Renewing your affiliation - it makes my life easier if it is not done in a rush later in the year. I do try and get renewals processed with in the week now that Christmas is past!
- My thanks to all those who have already renewed I have updated the website with your information that I have had so far – please have a quick check and let me know if there is anything I have missed or not updated
- Shows – please let me know the dates/ venues of your shows so that I can publish the normal list later in the year. I will also update your entry on the Society website. Please don't presume that I already know – please tell me again this year!
- Don't forget we are on Facebook – it is a good point of contact for fuchsia enthusiasts! Also when you look on Facebook there are a lot of other fuchsia sites - why not join a few!
- Thank you to all the Societies that have opted to take part in the insurance scheme – I have emailed your certificates etc. where possible. The others are in the post and will be with you shortly. If you have not heard from me at all – please let me know! Any queries please come back to me!

Top Ten 2014

2013

1. Shelford
2. Lynne Patricia
3. Alison Patricia
4. London 2000
5. Lillian Annetts
6. Wigan Peer
7. Ernie
8. Brookwood Belle
9. Ashville
10. Sophie Louise

2014

- Border Raider
- Lynne Patricia
- London 2000
- Alison Patricia
- Lillian Annetts
- Lyndon
- Brookwood Belle
- June Marie Shaw
- Pink Fantasia
- Ernie

Last year we had the surprise return of Shelford – 2014 was not such a good year for that old favourite – however Border Raider had lots of top prizes, perhaps the weather suited it! Lynne Patricia, a double, has become a firm favourite with exhibitors around the country. The surprise entry was Lyndon a seedling from Bill Wye from Chelmsford which was introduced in 2013 – it is pink and lilac single with an abundance of flowers! One to look out for I think! The various show

winning cultivars were up slightly on 2013 – I am certain that as ever the weather is the determining factor on what happens – timing of fuchsias for the show bench is more difficult some years than others! Looking at the copious lists of fuchsias it was notable that one prefix is more popular than most and this is Our...I had seven on the list!

The 3 ½” pot classes produced the usual collection of small flowered fuchsias. Angela King was the winner in 2014 for the first time. The others in the top 5 were –Sophie Louise, Border Raider, Ernie and June Marie Shaw. Just outside the top five were Wendy Bendy and Chris Bright. All in all quite a few changes this year - time will tell if the old favorites return! Just over 140 different cultivars were show in these classes. In view the changes next year to most schedules with the rise of metric pots I will be including 4” pots as well.

In the baskets and hanging pots, there were few changes with Sylvia Barker followed by Waveney Gem and after a gap there were Putt’s Folly, Janice Ann and Time After Time. Last year I commented that I would be on the lookout for Time after Time my thanks to everyone that gave me some cutting! The number of different cultivars was slightly up again this year and did contain a few surprises including Celia Smedley which I imagine was quite a challenge.

I also asked for the results from the Encliandra class – I ended up with a list of 32 different ones and there was a runaway winner Marles de Keiyzer (not that anyone can agree on the spelling!) followed by Laura Cross and Snowflake.

Finally my thanks to all the Show managers and their volunteers that compile the results on such a busy day – I couldn’t keep this project going for so many years without you!

Arthur’s Articles

Botrytis

This is a nasty unsightly disease which manifests itself as a grey furry mould around the stems and leaves of the plants, this is the latter stage of its development when the spores are about to disperse to other plants. It thrives in a damp still atmosphere and is encouraged by fallen plant material allowed to remain in the plant and on the compost..

The first rule of good plant management is to check the fuchsias regularly, whilst doing so all fallen plant material should be removed. The second rule is to maintain good ventilation of the greenhouse, even on the coldest of days the greenhouse should be ventilated.(I use a natural gas heater to heat my greenhouse and permanent ventilation is required to maintain combustion and vent the burnt gases, this means a louver vent and roof vent a permanently open even on the frostiest of nights, this gives me a good airflow throughout the greenhouse. A good sign of the need to ventilate is condensation on the inside of the glass.

Affected plants should be cleaned of all infected material and sprayed with a fungicide, preferably a systemic fungicide. Please check the Garden Centre shelves to see what is available as it is always changing! As I am often away and leave my fuchsias for two or three weeks at a time, when I am home I like to spray on a three day cycle with a systemic fungicide to build up a resistance to fungal diseases like Botrytis.

Fuchsia Pests:

One of the most destructive pests attacking fuchsias are vine weevil larvae. The adult vine weevil lays its eggs in the soil at the top around the crown of the fuchsia, I have been told around that this happens in late August - early September. the eggs then hatch and the larvae spends its time munching through the roots of our favourite plant. The first we usually notice is when the fuchsia starts to look a little sickly and is wobbly in the pot. When it gets to this stage it is usually too late to save the plant, However, if it is spotted before all of the root has gone, and if all of the old compost and larvae is removed with the larvae being disposed of, (I find squashing them between thumb and fore finger is effective and satisfying) then the fuchsia can be planted back into the smallest pot possible in new compost, it might well survive.

I find the best way of reducing the vine weevil problem is to remove all of the old compost in the autumn paying special attention to the area around the crown of the plant and re potting in fresh compost in the smallest pot that will accommodate the plant. If my information is correct then hopefully I have solved my problem by removing the old compost which then removes perhaps the eggs and any immature larvae that may have been there.

The other method of safeguarding my fuchsias against this insidious pest is to maintain a regular spraying with systemic insecticide as a preventative measure (this is good practice to combat all fuchsia pests). Alternatively use a insecticide

drench specific to vine weevil. When using insecticides always read the instructions supplied with them and follow them carefully. Remember these products must be used with great care.

Fuchsia Rust

Rust is a very disfiguring disease that affects the foliage of the fuchsia, it is very contagious and disfigures the plant but does not directly kill it, although if not controlled will leave a very sick plant.

Rust is a fungal disease that manifests itself by first appearing on the underside of the leaves as orange coloured corpuscles and if left untreated it will eventually “eat” through the leaf and appear on the upper surface of the leaf as brown markings. The corpuscles spread very easily and if you disturb the leaf you will see a little orange shower as they disperse finding their way onto leaves of other plants.

If you should find your fuchsias are infected with this disease then they can be treated with fungicide, I prefer using a systemic fungicide, as when it is used the plant takes it up and it acts as a further deterrent to the disease. The fungicide can be sprayed directly on to the infected areas but I would recommend spraying the entire plant starting with the infected area. A point to remember, when spraying any fuchsia that has open blooms with any chemical, or even water the moisture will badly damage the blooms in most cases.

When handling infected plants, always wash your hands before handling other plants as the disease can be spread from your hands, if using any tools on infected plants always sterilize them before using them again to prevent spreading the disease in that way. If you find infected plants that you cannot immediately treat, move the infected plant away from other fuchsias and place it out of a draught because fuchsia rust is wind borne.

Finally, when using fungicides always read the directions on the packet and follow them totally as fungicide like all chemicals are hazardous and should be treated with great respect.

Thanks Arthur – Late summer and autumn of 2014 were particularly bad for rust – the warm and damp weather really made it a real nuisance,

Bits and Pieces

- John Delaney of Birmingham has lost one of the fuchsias that he has hybridised – Ada’s Love – if you can help – please let Carol know

Can you provide...for future editions of Fuchsia News

- A short piece on your Society – if no one volunteers then I may have to find a “volunteer” I don’t run a Guide unit for nothing!
- Your ideas on unusual classes that work in your Society show
- What unusual meetings do you have – how do you cope with a sudden gap in the programme?
- Do you or one of your members have a story to tell?
- Is there a subject that you would like us to cover in future Fuchsia News?

Young Fuchsia seedlings can be strong survivors By Mario de Cooker (From the Fuchsia Breeders Initiative newsletter December 2014)

Could young Fuchsia seedlings, frozen like ice cubicles, survive winter cold?

Are fuchsias able to survive more winter cold than you would think in first instance they can? In fact, putting such a question is already more or less providing the answer. So the answer is definitely a clear YES. Of course, it depends on the weather history and growing conditions, and not for the least on the properties of the specific fuchsia cultivar itself. In particular from which parents the cultivars have originated plays an important role.

Many fuchsia cultivars, especially the magellanica and regia types, having many ‘hardiness genes’ in their parentage, have excellent hardiness properties. If applying some protection during winter, even most of such fuchsias are probably reasonably winter hardy. For an extensive list of winter hardy Fuchsias, see for example <http://www.nwfuchsiasociety.com>

General experiences with overwintering fuchsia seedlings above ground

Since I have been hybridizing fuchsias, which encompasses now some 25 years, I have always left some young, 1 year of age Fuchsia seedlings (left over from the summer seedlings) outside the glasshouse in the winter season for exploring their winter hardiness properties. These young seedlings were mostly grown in 9 x 9 cm pots and left in the garden during the winter, above ground and without any special protection.

I know that several of my Fuchsia friends probably find it a mess, and even almost a mortal sin, not cleaning up the garden before the start of the winter season. And indeed, it could cause some pest and diseases to be transferred to the next garden season. On the other hand, however, such experiments are highly enjoyable and provide great pleasure during the gloomy winter months.

Various young Fuchsia seedlings can survive severe winter cold.

One of the striking points is that, over the years, in most winters always some of the seedlings have survived. These surviving seedlings always had at least in part some magellanica genes in their parentage! Another observation is, that contrary to general belief, I have never experienced that young hardy seedlings, often having fresh shoots, suffered more from cold winter conditions and frost than older plants

Survival experiment performed

In the winter of the years 2010 -2011 an extensive survival experiment has been carried out. Some 200 young seedlings in 9 x 9 cm pots (of which many had been pruned mid - October) were, in the same way as was done also in previous years, left above ground outside the glass house during the winter, without any special protection against wind, rain, snow or frost. The winter was characterized by some extensive frost periods. In some periods, a thin layer of snow was present for 1 or 2 days. However, this provided some extra protection against frost only for a short period of time. During these frost periods, which sometimes continued for several weeks with temperatures as low as -10 to -15oC , all small pots became completely frozen after some days. They felt and looked like ice cubes, or as to the colour: like small basalt blocks.

All survivors in the winter 2010-2011 originated from the same parentage.

On 1 March 2011, 10 seedlings out of 200 that seemed to have survived the winter were visually selected and stored in the glasshouse. All of these 10 seedlings originated from the same crossing: F. 'N 05-23' x 'N 96-17'. Both 'N 05-23' and 'N 96-17' have a lot of potential winter hardiness in their parentage. Regrowth started fast and easily, and after 9 weeks most of the seedlings had grown to nice young plants.

The experiment has shown that young seedlings originating from the specific crossing 'N 05-23' x 'N 96-17' are able to survive several weeks of severe frost, above ground in small pots even if they become completely frozen, including the root system.

None of the seedlings has been kept for further use in the breeding program, because they did not have any specific interesting properties except their hardiness. If desired, such crossings could however easily be repeated

Alternative methods for winter hardiness testing, less dependent upon unpredictable field conditions, could also be considered, e.g. making use of climate chambers (or less sophisticated even a freezer?).

Experiences in the winter 2011 – 2012

Seedling F. 'N 96-17' appears to be one of the best winter hardy seedlings tested in my garden over the years. It has small, magellanica-type flowers. It plays a crucial role in incorporating hardiness properties in several other seedlings. Its parentage is not known for 100% sure, but it has originated most probably from a F. magellanica 'Rosea' (100% sure) x F. magellanica 'Riccantonii' crossing. F. magellanica 'Rosea' is a winter hardy Fuchsia, and F. magellanica 'Riccantonii' is one of the best winter hardy fuchsias known. The excellent winter hardiness of seedling 'N 96-17' is therefore not a real surprise.

In the winter of 2011-2012, seedling 'N 96-17' in a pot survived a fortnight frost period with temperatures as low as -16oC (at 1.5 m; -19 oC at 10 cm level), the upper edge of the pot being in the ground at surface level. It survived this severe frost period, but produced its first shoots, starting well above surface level, only around mid- May 2012. Normally, in less severe winters, it starts shooting and flowering much earlier.

None of the young seedlings left above ground, in small pots, did survive the winter 2011-2012. The seedlings originating from the crossing 'N 05-23' x 'N 96-17' performed well for several days at about -10oC. Then the foliage

and branches became brittle, and the seedlings died back. It is not clear, as was also the case with F. hatschbachii if this is caused primarily by the very low temperatures, or at least partly by desiccation (dehydration) of the seedlings.

In this year's- the year 2014- very mild winter, 'N 96-17' did not experience any trouble or damage at all. It fully kept its foliage during the whole winter, producing its first flowers on 21 April. F. 'N 96-17' has been judged by the NKvF New Fuchsia Committee a few years ago, but is still in its testing period at Van der Velde Fuchsia Nursery. It has not been decided yet when it will be released in the coming years

It just goes to prove that as much as we think we know about fuchsias there is always more that we can learn! If you want to know more about the Fuchsia Breeders Initiative look at <http://www.euro-fuchsia.info/fbi.htm> Thank you Mario for letting us use this article

40 Reasons why your plants died from Felixstowe FS

You walked too close, you trod on it, you hoed it down, you weeded it,
You planted it the wrong way up, you grew it in a yogurt cup,
You forgot to make the hole; the soggy compost took its toll,
September storm, November drought, it heaved in March, its roots popped out,
You covered it with herbicide, you scattered bone meal far and wide
Attracting local omnivores who ate your plant and stayed for more,
You left it baking in the sun while you departed at a run,
You planted it with the crown too high, the soil washed off, that explains why
Too high pH, it hated lime, alas it needs a gentler clime
You left the ball roots wrapped in plastic
You broke the roots they're not elastic!
You splashed the plant with motor oil, you should do something to the soil,
Too rich, too poor, such wretched tilth, your soil is clay; your soil is filth,
Your plant was eaten by a slug, the growing point contained a bug,
The aphids are controlled by ants, who milk the juice, it kills the plants,
With heat and light you hurried it, you worried it, you buried it
The poor plant missed the mountain air, no heat, no summer mugs up there,
You over fed it 10-10-10, then forgot to water it again
You hit it sharply with a hose; you used a can without a rose
The nursery mailed it without roots; you killed it with those garden boots
Perhaps you sprinkled from above when you should have talked to it with love!

I think that this covers most possible reasons but I am certain that we can come up with a few more...!

Starting a Standard Fuchsia!

I think that of all the ways that fuchsias can be grown my favourite is as a standard, to see the flowers at close to eye level, you can appreciate the beauty of the flowers so much more! Standards can give height to a garden display as well as looking glorious in tubs on the patio. They can become very much a feature of your garden for the summer months, but always remember that they must be kept frost free during the winter as the stem can be very prone to frost.

Let's look at what we need to grow a standard fuchsia

- Choose a good strong growing fuchsia, it can be any type as long as it can be made to co-operate! So a fuchsia suitable for hanging baskets can be grown into a wonderful standard with a weeping head.
- Lots of specialist nurseries and garden centres sell "whips" which are half grown standards, often about 12" to 18" tall, take advantage if you can get them – it will save you a lot of time!

So how do we do it – if you think about standards they are really just bushy plants grown on top of a stick, so don't panic they really are simple to grow. Let's start at the beginning, instead of taking the growing tip out of a young plant, leave it in position and as soon as your young plant is tall enough, tie it gently to a small cane, we either use twist-its or cut up tights! Aim to get and keep the main stem as straight as you can, the straighter the stem the stronger it will be!

As your young plant starts to grow upwards you will notice that small shoots forming above the leaves, they would easily grow into the side shoots, but as we would like the plant to grow upwards, they will need to be carefully removed. However, don't get carried away! Only remove those down the base of the stem, leaving those in the top 5 or 6 leaf joints, as they can become the head of your standard. Carry on tying the plant to the cane, removing the side shoots as it grows – stop when the plant has reached the height that you want. Then you remove the growing tip, this will then encourage the side shoots to grow more. Once the side shoots have reached two pairs of leaves, pinch out their growing tips and soon you will start to see the head develop. Only then when you have a good head developing do you remove the leaves from the stem!

Top Tips for standards

- Standards given good care and attention can be around for many years – our oldest is about 40 years old! Perhaps not the plant it was but it still gives us lots of flowers each summer. Can anyone beat this? For the record it is Empress of Prussia
- When deciding on the height that you want to grow your standard to – always remember the practicalities – such as where am I going to put it in the winter? How much space do I have in my greenhouse?
- If your garden is windy – shorter standards can be better as they can be sheltered! Always put good stakes in your standards – to see one losing its head is not a pretty sight! Make certain that the cane is as tall as the plant so that the head can be tied to it! If necessary when they are out for the summer – put a brick in the pot to weigh them down!
- Ideally a standard should have one third head, two thirds stem for the best proportions!
- Short jointed fuchsias will make stockier standards and are less likely to have limbs that break. Also consider that some of the large flowered double fuchsias are not really appropriate for standards!

A quick guide to stopping and pinching out Fuchsias – from Huddersfield F & GS

Most fuchsias will only produce flowers on their growing tips; therefore, the more growing tips the more flowers. If a growing tip is removed by pinching out, a new tip will appear at each leaf axil below this.

If a rooted cutting is allowed to grow three pairs of leaves before removing the growing tip the plant will produce six more growing tips with six times as many flowers. If each of these growing tips is stopped at two pairs of leaves, this will produce twenty four tips, with twenty four times as many flowers. If each one of these tips is then again stopped at two pairs of leaves, ninety six growing tips will be produced. If you assume that each tip will produce six flowers this will result in a plant bearing 576 blooms! This is when you need to know how your cultivars grow because certain ones do not respond to such heavy pinching out and others are classified as self branching will need far fewer stops – perhaps only one.

Depending on the cultivar and the heat, light and general environment that it is growing in, a fuchsia will be in maximum bloom from the last stop, as follows

Singles on average 60 days

Semi-doubles on average 70 days

Doubles on average 80 days.

When stopping takes place it is important that all the tips are removed at the same time, especially with the last stop and do not stop and pot up at the same time as this is too much of a shock to the plant.

Jobs to do!

I know the summer and the shows seem a long way away – however it is never too early to get started and so I have included a stopping chart for the coming months! It also includes jobs to do – there are lots of gaps if you want to add into them - I leave it to your imagination!

Fuchsia Growing never has been or never will be an exact science and so things may have to be adjusted as the spring progresses – but I guess that that is part of the fun of growing fuchsias!!

Saturday	Wks To Go	Activity	Pinch
3 Jan	31	Prepare or buy fresh plants.	
10 Jan	30		
17 Jan	29	Mist dormant plants and clean pots and equipment ready for new season.	
24 Jan	28		
31 Jan	27		
7 Feb	26	If buds are visible, start pruning.	
14 Feb	25	Over-wintered plants can be potted back.	Species
21 Feb	24	Pinch out doubles and semi-doubles.	Doubles
28 Feb	23	Start nitrogen feed to all (¼ strength all feeds).	
7 Mar	22	Pinch out singles.	Singles
14 Mar	21		Triphyllas
21 Mar	20		
28 Mar	19		
4 Apr	18	Pinch out species (final pinch).	Species (final pinch)
11 Apr	17	Pinch out 1st or 2nd pair of leaves on doubles and semi-doubles to shape (penultimate pinch).	Doubles
18 Apr	16		
25 Apr	15	Pinch out every growing point on singles to shape (penultimate pinch).	Singles
2 May	14	Pinch out every growing point on triphyllas (final pinch).	Triphyllas (final pinch)
9 May	13		
16 May	12		
23 May	11	Pinch out every growing point on doubles and semi-doubles (final pinch).	Doubles (final pinch)
30 May	10		
6 Jun	9	Pinch out every growing point on singles (final pinch).	Singles (final pinch)
13 Jun	8		
20 Jun	7	Start double and semi-doubles on high potash feed.	
27 Jun	6	Start singles on high potash feed.	
4 Jul	5		
11 Jul	4		
18 Jul	3	Check schedule	
25 Jul	2		
1 Aug	1	Get entry into Show organiser	
8 Aug	0	SHOW DAY	

FOR LEXOPHILES

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
A will is a dead giveaway
A backward poet writes inverse.
A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.
With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.
When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds..
A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France, resulted in Linoleum Blownapart.
You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
A calendar's days are numbered.
A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.
A boiled egg is hard to beat.
He had a photographic memory, which was never developed.
A short fortune teller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.
When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.
When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

And in a similar vein...

If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?
If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?
If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?
Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?
What hair colour do they put on the driver's licences of bald men?
Why isn't eleven called onety one?
You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.
No one ever says, "It's only a game" when their team is winning.

And finally

- Don't forget to send or email me your show details for the Spring Fuchsia News
- The hours of daylight are definitely getting longer – we will soon start to see the difference in our fuchsias...
- Be vigilant – following Arthurs theme – watch out for pests etc!
- Please support your local specialist fuchsia nurseries – they will have lots of wonderful fuchsias for you to investigate!

Best wishes

Carol, Arthur and John

