



Berry Show – Pot Plant Education Series

Fuchsia in Flower – Class 1407

Why Enter this Class

Fuchsias are one of the most rewarding plants for show - elegant, generous bloomers that thrive with attention and respond well to care. They can be grown as compact shrubs, graceful spillers, or impressive standards. This class celebrates plants in full bloom, healthy foliage, and balanced shape — all achievable with planning and consistent care.

Ways to Grow and Display Fuchsias

Display Type	Description	Good Varieties
Standard (single stem, tree form)	Trained over 18–24 months to a tall stem with a rounded head of flowers. Excellent for experienced growers.	Beacon, Winston Churchill, Dollar Princess, Swingtime
Shrub or Bush Form	Natural multi-stemmed shape; compact and evenly covered in blooms. Easy for first-time exhibitors.	General Monk, Display, Lena Dalton, Rose of Castile
Spilling / Trailing Form	Long cascading growth that drapes gracefully over the pot rim or from a hanging basket.	Jack Shahan, Ballet Girl, Pink Marshmallow, Dark Eyes

Understanding Fuchsia Types and Light

Fuchsias differ widely in their tolerance to the sun. Those with soft, broad, bright green leaves are bred from rainforest species and thrive in bright shade. Those with smaller, pointed, darker green or reddish leaves have tougher, highland ancestry and can handle more sun once established.

If your growing area receives more direct sun, choose the darker-leaved types such as General Monk, Riccartonii, or Rose of Castile. They are excellent for growers who prefer not to constantly manage shade cloth or verandah protection.

Growing for the Show – The Proven Routine

1. Start right – Use a premium commercial potting mix with added controlled-release fertiliser. These mixes already contain balanced nutrients, including phosphorus (P) for strong roots and flowering. Avoid native or low-P blends. Ensure good drainage with pots that dry evenly.
2. Feed regularly – Use a balanced soluble fertiliser (around NPK 20–10–20) every fortnight through the growing season (September–February). Alternatively, use a controlled-release fertiliser for flowering plants if watering frequently. Avoid high-nitrogen fertilisers that promote leafy growth rather than flowers.
3. Water correctly – Keep the mix evenly moist but not soggy. Fuchsias are prone to root rot from overwatering. Water deeply, then allow the top few centimetres to dry before watering again.
4. Light and position – Provide bright morning sun and afternoon shade. Too much sun causes leaf scorch; too little light reduces flowering. Ideal locations include verandahs, eastern walls, or shaded patios.
5. Pruning and pinching – Start pinching in spring to promote branching, stopping by early December so buds can form for the Show. Remove yellow leaves and spent blooms regularly.

At-a-Glance Care Calendar

Timing	Task
May–September 2025	Take cuttings or buy young plants.
Early December 2025	Repot into the final show container
September–February	Begin fortnightly feeding
Early December	Stop pinching & increase watering.
Late January 2026	Final grooming & cleaning
Early February 2026	Peak flowering

Related Resources

- How to Train a Fuchsia into a Standard
- Designing with Thrill, Fill & Spill (PDF and 30-second video)
- Feeding for Flower Power – Getting the Most from Fertilisers.