

# FUCHSIAS

**With care, your fuchsias should reward you with an abundance of flowers for most of the year.**

Fuchsias form part of the family Onagraceae and there are over 100 species making up the genus. There are, however, over 800 cultivars and hybrids which have been developed for their graceful flowers which display continuously from summer to autumn.

They are native to Central and South America where they receive warmth, humidity and dappled sunlight at the higher altitudes of the subtropical and tropical jungles. Others are from New Zealand. Their origin therefore dictates their growing requirements.

It is not always possible to naturally simulate these requirements but with a bit of thought one can get as near as possible. Most importantly, fuchsias should be placed in a position so they receive morning sun and afternoon shade. They also do well in a shade house and in dappled shade.

Plant Fuchsias in fertile, well-drained soil. Protect the plants from cold, drying winds and mulch well. Do not allow the soil surrounding the plants to dry out. It should be damp to the touch but not soggy. As with watering, feeding should be done regularly with *Nutrifeed*.

Pruning should be done in June every year. This will provide a framework for new bushy growth. Because flowers are produced on new growth, regular pinching out of growth points in spring will encourage more branching and hence more flowers.