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**Why easy to grow fuchsia is such a popular choice.**

Fuchsias are one of the most popular flowers, easy to grow with a minimum of dedication.

Value for money fuchsias are hard to beat, whether in containers, baskets or open garden they will flower for a very long time.

They are also very easy to propagate from cuttings at this time of year.

Plants that have been over wintered in frost free conditions should now be making new shoots which can be removed and made into cuttings to provide you with even more fuchsias for the summer.

Cuttings as small as 2.5cm (one inch) can be taken. Trim the cutting below a leaf joint with a sharp knife and remove all the leaves except the top open pair and the growing tip.

Using a compost of your choice, fill a seed tray, or plug trays to avoid root disturbance at a later date, firm the compost then insert the cuttings using a dibber.

Firm gently, water, then place in a propagating frame. Alternatively, take small pieces of oasis about one inch square, insert cuttings, transfer to compost once rooted. I find this method good if you do not have a propagator.

A range of flowerpot sizes will be required. The most useful is a three-inch pot for a rooted cutting, but any kind of container is suitable provided it has drainage holes.

As the plant continues to grow pinch out the growing shoots after three sets of leaves have formed, this gives a bushy plant.

After the final stopping, it usually takes between 8 and 12 weeks to flower, depending whether it is a single or double flower.

Feeding, dead heading and checking for any signs of pests is vital to keep the plants flowering.

To keep the plant throughout the winter it is necessary to remove flowers and cut back the plant by a third.

Overwintering in a frost-free greenhouse at 5C (40F) the plant requires only occasional watering.