

Fuchsia News – Autumn 2019

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Dear All

I hope that you have had a good summer and are now enjoying autumn! I am sorry that this is a bit later than usual.

As usual a few quick reminders!

- Please feel free to use any thing that you like from Fuchsia News – it is produced for you to use! Please don't keep all the information to yourselves – why not put it on your Society notice board or website or if you are a group who communicates by email then please forward it to your members If you don't get an email version – please let me know as it is much easier emailing than posting!
- Thank you to all the Societies that took the time and trouble to send me your show results – as usual they make interesting reading! The new Top Ten will appear in the January Fuchsia News.
- Like any other editor I am always grateful for articles, of whatever length – so please send in any bits that you think I could include! Also, many thanks to all the Societies that regularly send in their newsletters – I thoroughly enjoy reading them all!
- If there is a subject that you would like us to cover – then please let me know – I am certain that I will be able to find someone to write on the subject!

SPRING PESTS – Derek Luther

Looking out for pests starts in the Spring but what do you look for? Many pests have their own signature by tell-tell damage to the plant or by leaving frass on the leaves. Generally, the first sign of a problem in the Spring is when you notice the tip leaves becoming distorted. The first horrible thought is thinking it might be Fuchsia Gall Mite, but unless you had the problem in the previous year it would be later in the year before you became aware of it. The next thought would be to think the culprit could be Capsid Bug, if you look closely at a damaged leaf and see if there are some black dots each side of the main vein at the stem end. These dots will expand into holes as the leaf grows, the Capsid Bug will be long gone. The most likely pest to cause the damage is Aphids (Greenfly). Look carefully at the affected tip as they are well camouflaged. Finger and thumb will deal with these in the first instance.

Before spraying you must correctly identify the pest and read the label on the product as on some it says not suitable for Fuchsias. If used it will cause distortion of the young growth so the problem might not be a pest at all but by you choosing the wrong product

A True Story

She did her best to break the code,
Read every book in fuchsia mode.
Boullemier, Bartlett, everyone
And the bible by Pilkington.
Now this gave her inspiration
To go and join the congregation.
With bowed head and bended knee
To heaven above was her plea.
How do I pinch out, turn and feed?
Proper answers are what I need.
Got the message, off home she went
And worked faithfully up to Lent.

Pinching, turning and potting up,
She was certain to win the cup.
Thirty one more days passed on by
Horror upon horror, whitefly.
She never asked about spraying,
Far too late for anymore praying.
How do I get rid of this pest?
Will put the pundits to the test.
Systemic sprays some advocate,
Making sure it is up to date.
Dimethoate formulated
Is it the best they debated?
Off to the shop to buy a can
And was told by the friendly man
That smokes and powders sprays and dust
Will not only tackle pests, but rust.
Obtained them all and mixed them well.
What happened next I cannot tell.
Did not read the warning label.
Flash, bang, alas! Poor old Mabel.

If Whitefly is your problem pest you need to spray every three or four days for twelve days to disrupt the life cycle of the pest. I use SB Plant Invigorator which is excellent to control the aforementioned pests plus Red Spider Mite, Scale Insect and Mildew. It has no detrimental effect on the plants even when the plants are sprayed weekly. I have been using it twice a week on plants affected with Fuchsia Gall Mite which seems to give a modicum of control.

If you do not identify the problem correctly or use the right product you could be wasting a lot of time and money.

CAPSID BUG

Main symptoms: Leaves develop with many small holes. Flowers may be distorted or absent

Most active: May-August

WHITEFLY

Main symptoms: Sticky honeydew on foliage, black sooty moulds, small white-winged insects

Most active: All year round

APHIDS (GREENFLY)

Main symptoms Poor and distorted growth, sticky honeydew and sooty moulds

Most active Spring to late summer on garden plants; all year round indoors.

FUCHSIA GALL MITE

Main symptoms Growth at the shoot tips is swollen and grossly distorted, often with yellowish green or reddish discolouration. Flowers are deformed or fail to develop.

Most active May to September

Arthur' Articles

B.F.S. Show Bench Species List:

It has been discussed many times at the BFS Show Committee and main Committee that the Show Bench Species list should be examined. It has progressed as far as asking the S.I.G for Species and older Cultivars to review the species list. I started to initially review the Show Bench Species list during a nine hour flight to the western USA, and I was initially amazed at the number of Species on the current list, that I had never heard of let alone ever seen on the Show Bench, After my initial look through the list, I was puzzled initially as how to start amending this list. Then it came to me. This is the **B.F.S. SPECIES SHOW BENCH LIST**. Emphasis **SHOW BENCH LIST**. Not a botanical list, or a list of Species fuchsias that may be in cultivation so where.

With this thought in mind the **SHOW BENCH SPECIES LIST** I have prepared consists of Species fuchsias that have appeared on the Show bench during my period as a B.F.S National Judge, this has reduced the list considerably. In saying that, I have included *F.exorticata*, although it normally blooms on hardwood during February/March. One dedicated grower managed to exhibit it one year in its full glory. If one exhibitor can manage that feat, then there is always a chance another dedicated exhibitor can achieve the same feat.

The list I have prepared will be forwarded to the B.F.S. Show Sub Committee for their ratification or otherwise, thence the main committee, and perhaps if it is not torn to shreds by then, The AGM. Where I can hear now the howls of

protest that this or that Species should still remain on the list even if they cannot provide proof it as ever been exhibited.

Triphylla Types:

Due to the abundance of new Triphylla types becoming available, especially from hybridisers on the continent, The BFS Show sub Committee decided to add an extra class to all of the Show Schedules to cater for these new introductions. It was felt that by keeping adding some of these new introductions to the triphylla list, the list would become too unwieldy, just like the current species list.

The new class all though supported at most shows, could have been better supported, but bearing in mind it was its first year it was not too disappointing. Included below are just one or two of the new introductions. The Jaspers Lightning was exhibited at the 2018 Malvern Autumn Open Show.



Jaspers Lightning

Icicle Chandelier



Jill Holloway

2019 Autumn Road Show:

The BFS held its Autumn Road Show at Fairfield Village Hall Sunday 20th October. If you were not there you missed a very interesting day. Although the attendance was down on the 2018 Spring event. (I understand that some rounds of the Rugby World cup were being played!) The day was very well received, and thanks go to all of the speakers who gave

of their time. Geoff Oke gave a very interesting and informative talk on *Triphylla fuchsias* and caused a few gasps when he demonstrated his pruning of a *triphylla* (it was not his but a member of the audience)! But he did prune or cut back gently his *Firecracker* the cuttings of which disappeared in short order. Next up, was Carol Gubler who gave an excellent presentation on overwintering our fuchsias, with emphasis on managing your fuchsias without a heated greenhouse. Carol also demonstrated cutting back fuchsias for winter and again people went home with plenty of cutting material of *F. paniculate*. Nancy Phillips was next to take the floor demonstrating fuchsia Butchery. sorry fuchsia Bonsai, which again was very well received with numerous questions from the floor. Nancy combining a practical demonstration with a powerpoint presentation.

After lunch the BFS President Derek Luther gave an excellent and very detailed presentation on fuchsias friends and foe or critters that are useful to fuchsias and those are not. I personally found Derek's section on Fuchsia Gall Mite very informative and found some of the information new to me.

After Derek's presentation we held the raffle, all the prizes being donated from local garden centres and Nurseries, and we have Roy James to thank for all of the arm twisting.

Fuchsia News:

Many years ago, the late Ken Pilkington suggested Fuchsia News as a way that the BFS could keep contact with the affiliated societies. The Committee accepted this proposal and Carol and myself have been banging away at the keyboard ever since. The main contributors have changed periodically, but for some reason the name of CADs has stayed although Derek continues to contribute, he is no longer a main contributor.

I hope after all these years of the free publication we still provide articles of interest. I know at times I sit at the keyboard and nothing will come. Other times it just flows.

Thanks, Arthur, for all your contributions! The earliest that I can find on this computer is from 2002, but I cannot open it!

Bits and Pieces Autumn 2019

John Nicholass

Further update of where I am with the peat free compost Melcourt SylvaGrow®. Some of the plants I started in 2017/18 have been grown on again this year. I have still been quite pleased with the way they grew on again this year. Despite looking as if it will not hold much water, the plants don't seem to dry out that quickly. I had a nice Hawkshead, a nice bush of Bryn Derw and a few other reasonable plants. Even a Doreen Gladwin grew quite well. One thing I have noticed is in the time plants have been cut back and are standing out in the rain, the roots at the bottom of the pots seem to be much healthier than in the peat-based compost. This year we went away for 2 weeks on a cruise in mid-October (more on that later). I left 99% of the fuchsias outside to cope and all the Pelargoniums and a few new fuchsias or fuchsias with crosses on inside with all the Pelargoniums with my neighbour giving them a bit of water. Apparently while we were away there was a lot of rain and all the fuchsias outside were soaking wet! Some still are pretty wet despite having been inside the greenhouse for 2-3 weeks!!

While speaking down at Stevenage in September, I was talking about this and one person there had tried SylvaGrow, but not got on with it. I am still going to expand my use of it next year and try some other varieties in it. Especially some of the temperamental ones I struggle with like "Countess of Aberdeen". I am very interested to hear from anyone else who has tried it. While staying with my brother in law we went to a national trust property near Cambridge called Wimpole Hall. They had a lot of fuchsias there! Behind the house in the shade was a large bed mainly of *Versicolour* and in the shade of the south facing wall in the Walled Garden there was a large bed of hardy fuchsias.

The cruise we went on was to the Canary Islands. The first Island we arrived at was Madeira and we had booked the Garden Tour. Unfortunately, it was chucking it down with rain, the first that they had had for several weeks!! Not so many fuchsias but a lot of *F. boliviana* especially in the Monte Palace Tropical Garden. On the roadway down to this garden there was an unidentified fuchsia growing out of the top of a stone wall. There was a very interesting variety of plants over both the gardens.

This year had probably been the worst for some years for pests and diseases. It started with aphids early in the year, then whitefly, then capsid bug. I have also seen thrip damage this year. However, the worst thing has been fuchsia gall mite. It has been really bad in Portishead this year. I saw the first signs of it in late June, about a week after we had had really strong winds. Several plants standing outside suddenly had one or two tips with FGM symptoms. Not much else for a few weeks then more strong winds and the same happened again. All the infections were on the plant tips except for hanging pots, where they were on side-shoots on the top of the plant. This has pretty well convinced me that the major factor in the spread of FGM locally is adult mites being carried in the wind. As long as you are vigilant you can keep it under control. However, if you think about wind distribution, what are the chances of one of these flying mites landing on a fuchsia? I would guess probably 1% or less, which means a lot of mites are landing on other things and dying? If I compare this year with last year, I didn't see anything until late in the season last year when we had the two

Beasts from the East, then it turned very hot very quickly. This year the milder and wetter weather seems to have suited them more. The strange thing is why do they not seem to infect some varieties? I have a big pot of versicolor on the steps and it had not shown any signs of infection all year (even now). However, the big hardy plant of David 6 feet away has had quite a bit on! Also, a half standard of Deltas Sara which has been planted in the garden and survived the last few years left out has not had any on!!

Sorry this is a bit short this issue, but I have been pretty occupied with all the renewals and my thanks to everyone who has renewed already. If you as an individual, have yet to renew and are a taxpayer don't forget to complete the give aid declaration so the society can claim back the gift aid.



Versicolor at Wimpole Hall



F. boliviana in Madiera



Anne Reid showing early signs of FGM

Some fuchsia poems and articles from over the years!

When winter approaches – Derek Luther (from FN in 2005!)

The cold weather generally catches us out, and we have to dig up our fuchsias in a hurry, and it was due to these circumstances that I adopted the following procedure. You will need carrier bags or similar, twine and labels. The plants that I have to deal with are 1 .8m (6') to 2.4m (8') tall but the following could apply to any type of growth. Dig up each plant in turn trying to keep the root ball intact, but if you do not manage it, do not worry. Place roots into one of the bags, small root ball - small bag, making sure that sufficient soil is included to prevent roots drying out. Use a piece of twine to tie the bag firmly around the stem attaching a label indicating variety, or at least sufficient information so that the plant can be identified in the Spring. To prevent pest and disease problems the soft growth and all the foliage have to be removed. Retie the plant to any supports so that there will be no problem when moving them.

The plants I deal with, being so tall have to be laid flat in a cellar, so after laying them down I make a small hole on the upper side of the bag to facilitate watering if required. To keep them frost free they can be covered with any insulating material, moss peat is ideal as it can be used as a mulch after planting out. Check occasionally to ensure that the plants are not drying out. It is important to keep the root ball moist on all tall fuchsias so as the stems do not dehydrate. This is what causes most to die back and just leave you with a bush in the spring instead of what you expect to be a lovely standard, pillar or other large structure. The cellar could be a garage, shed, and greenhouse or if you have a well-drained garden, a hole in the ground. If you decide to bury your plants in the garden, they are quite safe as long as the topmost part of the plant is covered by at least nine inches of soil. Mark this site with pegs.

The plants are left in their winter quarters until you judge that it is safe to bring them out. On removing them from their hibernation gently tease out old soil trying not to damage the new roots, old roots can be pruned and using good quality fresh compost pot the plants into the smallest pot that will comfortably take the roots. Water to help consolidate the compost. The plants may have young white shoots (etiolated) which are removed and is soon replaced with fresh growth. Because I live on the south coast, I put the plants outside after the 14th April as on average this is the date of the last frost. I place the pots against a north facing wall so that they do not have to endure the heat of the sun, therefore responding better to a more average day to night temperature. If there is an unexpected late frost protect with some type of material, fleece is excellent for this job. I have been told by an expert in the field of pests and diseases, that if you wrap the root ball of your standards or other specimen fuchsias in Fleece 25, tying the fleece around the stem and placing plant back into the container, dressing the top with compost, this will prevent vine weevils from laying their eggs and the grubs from entering the root ball.

Hybridising – Arthur Phillips (2007)

Hybridising is man's method of artificially cross-pollinating two plants of the same genus to produce a plant that differs in some way in what we have available to us. Sometimes we can find a chance cross, where two plants have been cross pollinated by nature, or we can sometimes come upon a "sport" where a plant has mutated, and in taking cuttings it holds that change. A good example of a "Sport" being "Firecracker" which is a natural sport from "Thalia" but the change being completely different to its parent.

The aim of the Hybridiser is to achieve such a different plant by the assistance of nature. Either in a marked difference in foliage like in the example of "Firecracker" but in my limited experience variegation of the foliage is only achieved by mutation.

A Hybridist will aim for changes in blossom or growth habit. For myself, I would be looking for a marked change in blossom, as this is the most obvious difference, but the fun in hybridising is that you can never be sure of the results, even getting differing plants from the seeds of one crossing.

After deciding that you want to try your hand at hybridising, the place to start is to select the two plants that you think you would like to use to see if you can achieve something special. Looking at the parentage of some of our beautiful fuchsias, some of the most striking results have been derived from the most unlikely of crosses.

When you have selected your plants, as soon as the flowers open, remove the stigma from one set of flowers (that is the single bit that sticks out from the bottom). At the same time remove the anthers (these are the parts that carry the pollen) from the blooms on the other selected plant. Doing this stops the chance of cross-pollination. When the stigma becomes sticky, you can tell this by a gentle touch, just dab it with the pollen from the anthers on the other set of blossoms. It is best to carry out this on several blossoms, say five or six, so that some of each comes ready at the same time. After this you either need to protect the pollinated blossoms by some form of wrapping the blossoms in a material like a fine mesh netting, or keeping in an insect free environment, to prevent any inadvertent pollination by birds or insects.

Now comes the waiting time. You need to wait for the seedpods to form and ripen. When the seed pod has turned black and is starting to go mushy, remove it from the plant and squash the seeds out onto a piece of paper towel. Using a label you can sort out the seeds. The seeds that are good will almost bounce when you flick the label over them. These you now sow immediately.

Using a small seed tray or a "half pot" as your rooting container, fill with a good quality seed growing compost, slightly moistened. Place the viable seeds around the top of the container. **Do not cover the seed.** Fuchsia seeds need light to germinate. Place your container with the sown seed, into a propagator with an air temperature of 60degrees F. After about ten days you will see the roots start to go down into the compost.

When the seedlings have produced the first set of proper leaves, prick them out into a seed tray as you would with any other seedling. As the plants mature they can then be planted into individual pots, potting on as you would any young fuchsia plant. Always water the seedlings from the bottom, trying to keep moisture from the top of the seedlings until they become mature young fuchsia plants. Fuchsia seedlings are very prone to Botrytis.

The object then is to grow the plants on and assess if the differences are significant enough to warrant keeping. Notes also should be made of the strength of the plant's growth and its resistance to diseases. To fully assess this the young plants should be grown for a considerable period of time before considering it for registration and release.

When starting out with hybridising, full records should be kept of the percentage of the plant, both in a notebook and on the plant label. It is good practice to use your own unique method of denoting each seedling. Bear in mind that you can have more than one variation from the same cross.

If you are happy that your young plant meets all the criteria for a new release, then it should be registered with the BFS. After that then find a good quality specialist fuchsia nursery to release it for you.

Pesky Reflection!

There on the bench stands an empty pot, after a year's work that is all I have got,
I started with a cutting all bright and green, it's leaves clothed in a glorious sheen.
Put in a pot on a shelf quite high, it caught the attention of a pesky white fly.
I cleaned it up and put it back, it was then beset with flies all black.
Again, it was cleaned 'til none were seen, then came the aphids, the usual green.
I opened the vents a little wider and would you believe it, in came red spider!
By now I'm sure you know that I must have seen the signs of fuchsia rust.
But my plant survived all these evils succumbing finally to the blasted vine weevils!

Home on the Range – by Chris Cushing

O, give me a home where no vine weevil roam
And the sky is well shaded all day where the red spider mite
Disappears in the night and the aphids have all flown away.
Home, home without rust, where only light breezes will play,
Where seldom is found a bloom on the ground
And we grow three prize winners a day.

Thank you – Jayne Daykin – Nottingham and Notts FS

Thank you for every homemade pastry
Thank you for every jam preserve
Thank you for the sponge & fruit cake
Helpers there to serve

Thank you for every book and CD
Thank you for all tombola gifts
Thank you for every garden gadget
Given to us so swift

Thank you for every fuchsia on show
Thank you for all support all day
Thank you for all the organizing
This helped us on our way

Thank you for all the advertising
Thank you for every prep & toil
Thank you for every flyer; poster
Pasted around the town

Thank you for all refreshments
Thank you for all drinks on tap
Thank you for serving all the public
Each deserves a 'clap!'

Thank you for the plant tombola
Thank you for the plants to sell
Thank you for all our floorwalkers
Whose knowledge shared to all

Thank you for all the forward planning
Thank you for all discussions held
Thank you for all friends & kinsmen
Help; support excelled!

Well that is it for Fuchsia News 2019! It seems amazing that next year will be 2020, when we arrived at the Millennium and worried about all the technology stopping – 2020 seemed soooo far away and here it is.

Don't forget that if there is a subject that you would like us to cover in Fuchsia News just ask!

Best Wishes for Christmas and 2020!

Carol, Arthur and the team!!