



Book Reviews (Margaret Hodgson)

Fuchsias, The Complete Guide, by Edwin Goulding

Timber Press, Inc. Portland, Oregon, 2002.
176 pages, approx. 12 Paintings in Plates, 100 colour photos, 34 Figures in Line Drawings, Appendix 1 – Chromosome References and Plant Genetics, Appendix 2 – Fuchsia Research International, Appendix 3 – Picture References, Bibliography, List of Gouldings Fuchsia raisings (1981 – 2001), List of Other Fuchsias Released by Gouldings Fuchsias (1981 – 2001), Specialist Societies Across the World), Fuchsia Index, Glossary, General Index, Hardbound, US\$34.95
ISBN 0-88192-554-3

Edwin Goulding is a nurseryman and fuchsia hybridist. He has been, at various times, show manager, editor for the British Fuchsia Society and President of the East Anglian Fuchsia Fellowship. He has written extensively for magazines and society publications and is the author of *Fuchsias: A Guide to Cultivation and Identification*.

Fuchsias, The Complete Guide is a detailed but practical classic text that comes from an expert with wide-ranging personal experience. It is useful for the committed fuchsia fan as well as those contemplating growing fuchsias for the first time. It offers advice on the best selection of fuchsias, including scented fuchsias, yellow fuchsias and those with unusual features: spoon-bills, lace-edge petals, pansy-eyed corollas and upward-pointing blooms. It gives pointers on how to grow and care for the plants with a calendar of care, plus details on conservation and adaptation to modern needs. The book includes an excellent chapter on the propagation of fuchsias, professional methods of propagation, methods for amateurs, creating better bushes, and shaping the plants. Hardy fuchsias and garden design are discussed in detail, as are pests and diseases (accompanied by remedy charts). A good section of the book covers the latest information on hybridizing and the most recent cultivars on the international scene.

The book is very well-organized, starting with a preface and following a very natural sequence of fuchsias in history, on through types of fuchsias, whether they are cold-tolerant, heat-tolerant, apetalous (no petals), single blooms, double blooms, summer bedding fuchsias, miniatures, or paniculates. The book progresses into the soils, fertilizers and potting procedures required and proper methods of propagation before it tackles the practical applications of fuchsias in the garden in beds, in baskets, in conservatories, in greenhouses.

The fuchsias selected for garden use and in formal beds are listed in alphabetical order. And true to form, following these chapters, there are several chapters of particular interest covering ornamental foliage and special fuchsias, again listed in alphabetical order. Good information is given on exhibiting fuchsias before the very practical details of care and problems that can arise with looking after fuchsias. The colour plates are spectacular and the descriptions are well cross-referenced to other leading books on fuchsias. The appendices are very useful.