

# Growing a Fan Shaped Fuchsia

Lots of people who admire these Fan shaped plants when they are displayed on show benches think they are hard to grow, all that is needed is plenty of time and patience, they think it is out of the question for them to succeed with one. Here are some useful hints and tips of how I grow mine, everyone grows differently, but I am informing you of my way of growing.

Firstly, you need to choose the variety you want to grow, one which is small to medium flower size, a single as you get more flower, stiff strong, short jointed, and upright would be ideal, i.e. Loves Reward, Nellie Nuttal, Waveney Gem, Andrew Hadfield, Jessica Reynolds, Our Shep, the list is endless. Please do not attempt to grow a trailer for the first attempt, it needs a lot of tying in, and wants to drape itself all over the place, and can look untidy, which can be exasperating and may put you off to start with.

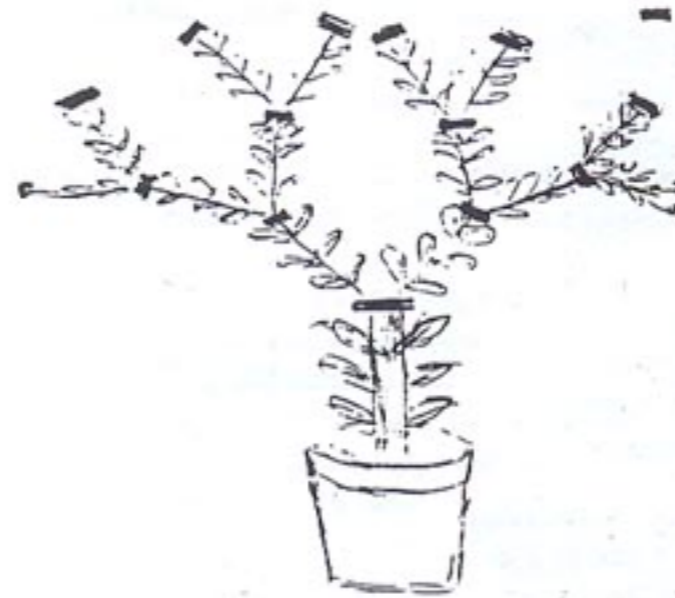
You need an unstopped cutting, allow to grow to 3 or 4 sets of leaves, then remove the growing tip, after a time 2 shoots will emerge, of which you leave until a further 3 or 4 sets of leaves appear, then the growing tip is taken from those. Continue (as diagram) until you have done this process 4 or five times, you will then see your plant forming a fan shape.

Next you make your structure (as diagram) and place in the pot with your plant, and then the boring part comes into this, you need to tie in to every cane, to hold your plant back to the structure, if your plant grows well after you have completed 3 times the process, put your canes up to that then, to stop it dropping over in the pot, and the stems getting broken, you will see how your plant performs, when you have put the structure to it, as if a strong one it will only collapse in the pot, and could break off your plant, so give it some support, lean against the greenhouse sides, as it depends on the weight of the canes. You will have no problem there once the plant has got a good root system in the pot, it will hold your supports quite well. For tying in, I use nylon stockings or pair of tights, cut into rings, this will stretch, and not cut into your stem, remembering that these structures get old, stems swell, and you don't want to be tying in what you have already done each year, only the newer growth. Remember Gents, don't take your wives' best nylons, or your fan will end up in the bin.

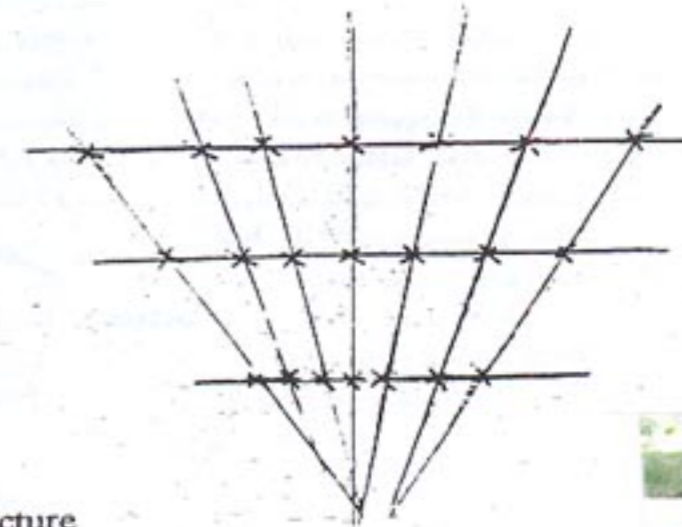
As you have 3 sets of leaves between each stop, side shoots will emerge from those, these can help to fill in your gaps in the fan, tie in where you need to fill a gap, and any surplus, remove. Remember, when your fan is formed, any other side shoots coming from anywhere, stop those on one set of leaves, this will also help to fill in the gaps.

When I do mine, I build it like a builder builds a wall, layer at a time, so at the stage I have got you to, I would leave to flower, and start to build again the next year, this way, you get no gaps in your fan, and if you find that you are not satisfied with the cultivar, you can dump it and start again with something you think is o.k. So to recap you need to stop your plant, and tie in as you go. I feed mine with Chempak No.2 all year, you can use No.3 when buds appear, but this is a personal preference. Spray for pests, and pot on if your plant needs it. Next year continue the process again, but remember they outgrow you.

*Pat Rogers*



This denotes where the shoot is stopped.



This denotes where to tie your structure  
Using green wire tie.

