

# *The Tryphilla*

The Tryphilla is perhaps the easiest plant to grow to show standard and carries off more than its fair share of best in show awards. When you think Tryphillas at best represent about 2% of plants exhibited. A lot of the show plants are cut back at the end of show, so this is done when sap is still rising, this can cause Botritus and die-back, to get round this I seal the ends as I cut them back with Copydex.

Tryphillas are best cut back much further than other Fuchsias, about 3-4 inches from the top of the pot.

When plants start to show new shoots trim compost from the sides and cut 2-3 inches of the bottom of the root ball, put back into the bottom of the pot and then top up with new compost, this is to encourage new shoots from the base of the plant.

Aim to get three stops on your plants, first stop on one pair of leaves, second stop at two pairs and third stop at three pairs of leaves, if you stop any closer than three pairs at final stop your leaves and flowers could come smaller than normal.

Feed only with high Nitrogen, I use Chempak No.2.

Always remember that the Tryphillas need at least fourteen weeks from the last stop to come into flower.

My greenhouses are kept 38-40 degrees Fahrenheit and I think the Tryphillas need to be kept a little warmer than this to come safely through the winter so I keep them on a heated sand bed, this is kept at 50-55 degrees Fahrenheit, this keeps their feet warm and the head looks after its self.

When taking cuttings I find they root better if I take a longer cutting, three pairs of leaves plus the tip, remove bottom pair and insert into compost up to the second pair then put in Propagator with an air temperature of 60 degrees.

The Tryphillas like a free root run so when rooted their first pot is 3.5", when roots hit the side of the pot they then go into the bottom of a 5" and topped-up with compost as it grows, you can grow a good 5" pot plant in one season from a January cutting.

I also find the Tryphillas remarkably trouble free, no trouble at all with Rust and I have only ever had one plant with Red Spider mite but be on guard for White Fly they are drawn to them.

Thalia is still the best all round, the only one that will stand full Sun, I did think at one time that the variety 'Insulinde' would take over but I think it needs some shade. These varieties seem to have it all there own way in the larger pot classes Adinda, Sparky, Mandi and the new comer Bessie Kimberly are at their best in the 3.5" and 5" pot classes.



*by Gordon Reynolds*