

Growing a Ring Fuchsia

The items you need for growing a ring of fuchsias' is a 5" Plant Pot, a circle of strong plastic covered wire, and an unstopped fuchsia cutting. I recommend plastic covered wire, as these can last you years, and ordinary wire can rust with damp conditions, although you would not see it, as it will be covered with foliage, however, whatever you prefer.

Make your circle and twist wire at bottom to secure, and place in the pot filled with compost, I grow in multipurpose compost with vermiculite added, place the ring into your pot, but at this stage it will need a support, either a cane down the centre tied to the top of the ring, or you can put your pot up the side of the greenhouse for support, until the pot is filled with root, and it will be self supporting then.

Take your cutting, any variety, trailer or upright, and remove the growing tip, place in the pot with your circle of wire. After a time, two shoot will come from the break, and you will then train those to grow round the circle by tying in at every set of leaves. To tie in, I use stockings or tights cut into strips, these will give and not cut into your stem, very useful for all sorts of shapes where you have to tie to a cane. When the side shoots appear whilst growing round the wire, stop these on one set of leaves, which will thicken up the circle. When you reach the top of the circle, you can either take out the growing tip or let it go around again making a thicker ring more quickly. It will probably want to start to flower before it reaches the top, no problem, let it flower, that way you will judge whether it is worth carrying on with. Next year it will start to throw side shoots instead of flower, of which you can complete the ring all over at the same time.

A ring looks very attractive if a variegated variety is used, i.e. Tom West, Old Somerset, Golden Treasure, but any cultivar looks good, with flowers dripping through the circle.

You do not need a greenhouse to grow one of these, a kitchen window sill is alright.

Keep feeding your ring, I use Chempak No. 2 but you can use No.3 when it comes into bud, but preference comes into it.

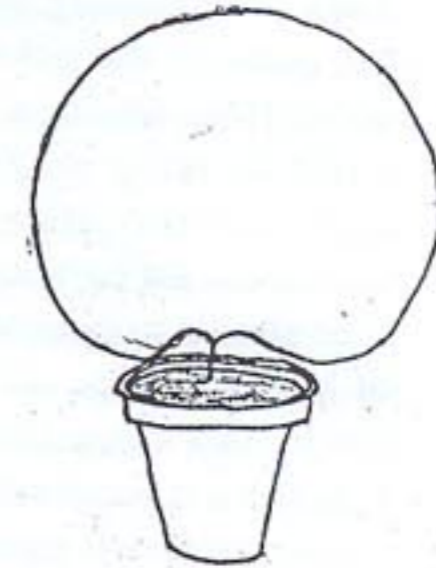
To recap, you tie in on every set of leaves, stop side shoots on every set of leaves, and keep fed, and sprayed against pests. You would over winter this the same as any other fuchsia.

Pat Rogers.

Ring of wire inserted into pot of compost.



A ring-shaped fuchsia



Denotes cutting stopped.

