

How to grow a Standard

Pick a variety that is suitable for training as a standard. Some are too upright and it makes it difficult to get a good, well shaped head. The following are some examples (its impossible to list them all).

Ann H Tripp	Flying Scotsman	Swingtime
Annabel	Eva Boerg	Display
Barbara	Icecap	Mrs Popple
border Queen	Joy Patmore	Genii
Brutus	Kings ransom	Poppet
Cambridge Louie	Lyes Unique	Two Tiers
Carlisle Bells	Moonlight Sonata	Vogue
Celia Smedley	Mrs Lovell Swisher	Whirlaway
Chang	Snowcap	Zulu King

and many more.....

Choose a plant that has not had the growing point removed, if you cannot find one like this of the variety that you want then you can take cuttings of your own and leave the tops in. Once selected put a cane into the pot and tie the plant to it. You now have a Fuchsia whip. The secret of growing a good standard is to get the plant to attain its required height as quickly as possible.

Make sure you re-pot regularly, one size bigger all the time. Never let the plant become pot bound. Give plenty of Light, Heat, Water and Feed. Remember to remove all side shoots but do not take off any leaves. A plant lives through its leaves as well as its roots, if you remove them the plant will stop growing.

Continue tying the plant to the cane. You should aim for as straight a stem as possible. A finished standard should be in the following proportions 1/3 head to 2/3 stem.

Once the plant has reached the required height the growing tip is pinched out and the side shoots are left in place. These are then used to shape the head.

To form a compact, strong and bushy head pinch out the growing tips of all side shoots regularly to form the required shape.

Once the head has formed then the bottom leaves can be removed.

To form a PYRAMID leave all side shoots on and stop them (pinch out growing tip) at one or two joints.

Standards are NOT frost hardy even if a hardy variety has been used, they should be brought inside before it gets too cold, cut back the head and keep watered, feeding every week. Trim the head back again in March and feed with every watering.

Your standard should be ready to go back outside again at the end of May.

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