

GROWERTALKS

Culture Notes

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Bold Blooms for Shade Sales

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Fuchsia is a completely new class available from Ball FloraPlant for 2027 retail sales. With reliable URCs from our Las Limas farm in Nicaragua, as well as liner supply through the Ball Seed supply chain, this collection of shade-tolerant color is primed to attract shoppers in spring.

Left: Fuchsia Blue Radiance.

The new fuchsia lineup launches several varieties, with the program anchored by the following standouts:

Blue Radiance, a vigorous variety with a vase-like habit, is day neutral, free flowering and easy to finish with predictable timing across pot sizes. Ideal for larger pots and premium baskets.

- Double-flowered Dollarita Rose Violet is also early flowering and provides a great medium-sized choice for baskets or shade combos.

Both bring fresh bursts of color—and confidence—to your shade program.

The new fuchsia lineup was designed to give growers flexibility whether they're targeting quarts for early sales or building big, eye-catching baskets for Mother's Day. And with their strong branching and resistance to splitting, Blue Radiance and Dollarita Rose Violet maintain their form from propagation through retail.

Below, are grower guidelines from our dedicated product management team, including propagation and finishing tips to help you get the most out of these new fuchsias.

Propagation foundation

Successful production starts with tight control in propagation. Ball FloraPlant recommends 72-, 84- or 105-cell trays, depending on your scheduling and transplant needs. Rooting hormone is not required and cuttings typically root in seven to 10 days under mist. The average propagation time is five to six weeks, giving growers a predictable window for planning spring turns.

One of the most important early stage considerations is avoiding stretch. Maintaining consistent moisture—not saturation—helps prevent soft growth and encourages strong rooting. A single pinch is optional, but pinching early will improve habit, especially if you’re targeting larger containers or baskets later in finishing.

Finishing fuchsia

Once transplanted, Blue Radiance and Dollarita Rose Violet respond well to moderate light levels. Our guidelines recommend 5,000 to 6,000 f.c., which helps maintain compact growth and encourages early bud set. Soil pH should be held between 5.8 to 6.2, a range that supports nutrient uptake and keeps foliage clean.

Temperature management is straightforward:

Day: 65 to 70F (18 to 21C)

Night: 50 to 55F (10 to 13C)

These cooler night temperatures help maintain the strong, upright habit and prevent unwanted stretch.

For nutrition, fertilize at 175 to 225 ppm nitrogen, with a balanced feed that supports both vegetative growth and bloom development. Plants should be kept evenly moist, avoiding both drought stress and oversaturation.

A single pinch remains optional at this stage, but our guidelines emphasize its value: Pinch early for a better habit, especially in larger containers. Growers targeting premium baskets or tubs will benefit from this early shaping.

Growth regulation & crop control

Blue Radiance is naturally well behaved, but growers who need additional control can use daminozide (spray) at 2,500 ppm. This is especially useful in high light or warm environments where plants may push more aggressively. Drench applications are not recommended for this crop.

Fuchsia are generally trouble free, but growers should monitor for aphids and thrips, especially during early spring when populations can spike. Possible diseases to scout for include Botrytis, Pythium and rust, all of which can be managed with good airflow, proper moisture control and sanitation.

Finished Container	Plants Per Pot	Crop Time (weeks)
4- to 5-in. pots/quarts	1 ppp	5 to 7 weeks
6-in. pots/gallons	1 to 2 ppp	7 to 9 weeks
10- to 12-in. tubs/baskets	4 to 5 ppp	8 to 10 weeks

Crop timing

With their combination of radiant color and strong habits, plus grower-friendly production and ready supply, Ball FloraPlant’s new fuchsia introductions offer a reliable, high-impact option for spring shade

programs. Whether you’re filling quarts for early shoppers or building premium baskets for peak season, these varieties deliver the kind of performance that keeps retailers happy and consumers returning for more. **GT**

Sarah Hernandez-Swofford is the senior product manager for Ball FloraPlant. She trials, tests and evaluates plants to ready them for market and works closely with the product development team for grower guidelines and resources.