

The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative

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Contributions for the next issue, which is scheduled for the end of December 2025, should be in the editor's possession ultimately on 10 December 2025.

Please send your contribution in Word, with the photographs attached separately. Large contributions can be transferred by uploading the file with, for example, WeTransfer.

Any new Fuchsia cultivars being released? Please provide a photograph and some descriptive information, and it will be seen and get attention all over the world!

Photograph on front page:
'Sigrid Stengelin' (De Cooker, 2025)

We will have to seize opportunities

I've talked about this before, so it might be getting a bit monotonous. But okay then: so far it's a difficult year for our fuchsias. At least in the south of the Netherlands, and I think it's also true throughout the rest of Europe.

It was very dry, with heavy rain showers for a change. But worse, it was sometimes extremely hot for long periods. Fuchsias often weather a warm spell quite well, especially if we can move them to a more shady spot for a while. But for fuchsias in the open ground, that's obviously not possible. And even in a shady spot, there was significant bud drop, and growth was significantly stunted. It's also notable that many fuchsias bloom very late.

And then there are the bumblebees. I love them because they pollinate my gourds and melons. There are a lot of ground bumblebees flying around this year in my garden, there might indeed be several nests. They're overzealous and can visit a great many flowers in a short time. Compared to species like the field bumblebee and the garden bumblebee, the ground bumblebee has a short tongue. If the ground bumblebee can't reach the nectar, it breaks in by biting a hole in the underside of the flower corolla. This way they can completely destroy a fuchsia plant in no time.

Especially fuchsias with a long tube suffer from this. It's striking that some



Editor of The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative

Mario de Cooker

fuchsias are far more susceptible than others. *Fuchsia triphylla* species such as PB#6 and PB#7 are particularly vulnerable. But fuchsias like 'Roger de Cooker' and 'Our Ophelia' are also a delicacy for bumblebees.



Bumblebee, please stick with the *Veronicastrum virginicum*

It would be wise to consider both extreme heat and bumblebee attraction when breeding fuchsias in the future. Multi-flowering triphyllas could offer some opportunities here.

Mario de Cooker

Escapees, part 1

By Edwin Goulding

Photographs courtesy Edwin Goulding

Introduction

Once upon a time I put huge amounts of time and work into a research programme unrelated to Fuchsias. At the end of three years the Consultant responsible refused to write-up the study because the conclusions reached did not match her expectations. But scientific investigation does not have to be confined to forming hypotheses and then setting out to prove them. Large amounts of information can be collected by random experimentation. In such cases, conclusions are considered after the events, not to prove preconceived ideas. Penicillin was found like this.

During the more than twenty years in which hybridising was carried out at Gouldings Fuchsias about a thousand seedlings were produced annually. World markets could not have coped with such a large yearly influx, so, most of these were consigned to the botanical 'scrapheap'. Selection was rigorously enforced as far as introductions

were concerned. However, a few would always prove useful in future years for hybridising and on-going investigations. Some characteristics, as we know, are recessive and must be discovered at the F2 stage or beyond.

In this article we will examine some of those that 'got away'. Pictures (central ones) are used to illustrate them, and a wider discussion will examine the rationale behind each crossing and its subsequent disposal. Inexperienced hybridists usually base their decisions on the beauty of blooms. This inevitably means their own seedlings, in the same way that most parents consider their own children to be perfect when compared with others. Fuchsias exist in a marketplace in which only those most suited to customer needs are purchased, and few survive for many decades.

Triphyllas

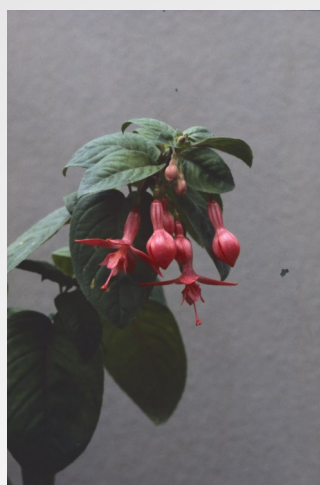
Careful examination of hundreds of Triphyllas in flower taught me that Koralle carried pollen. Others of this type seemed to have neither pollen nor seed pods. This knowledge brought with it a possibility of fertility, but suitable partners appeared to be absent. Among the available hybrids was Rolla, a polyploid with either 77 or

88 chromosomes, and highly fertile. Not many seedlings resulted, and all were infertile or unattractive. This one (see page 2) had few top-heavy branches with flowers that were dull and insignificant. Petals were almost spoonbill in type. No pollen or seed pods were produced, and the hoped-for white petals had not appeared.

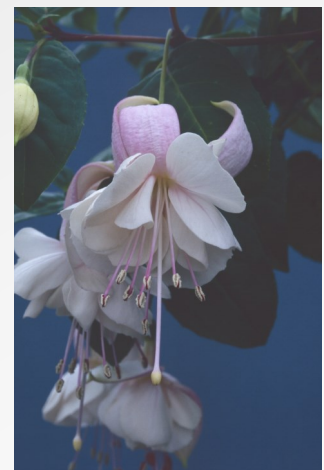
Koralle



X



Rolla



Encliandras

The search for variability among the available *Section Encliandra* plants proved difficult. Most appeared to be the result of years of self-set raisings rather than well planned hybrids. Pollen studies later bore this out. Neapolitan appeared to be an exception and was used in multiple experiments. It showed the greatest

variability among its seedlings. Only two of these from among the hundreds raised were released, Mikado, and Gondoliers. The first had bright orange, perfect, blooms while the second carried apple-blossom pink and white, perfect, ones. Perfection here refers to flowers that are heterosexual rather than pistillate as some are. This one was destroyed.

Neapolitan

X

Neapolitan

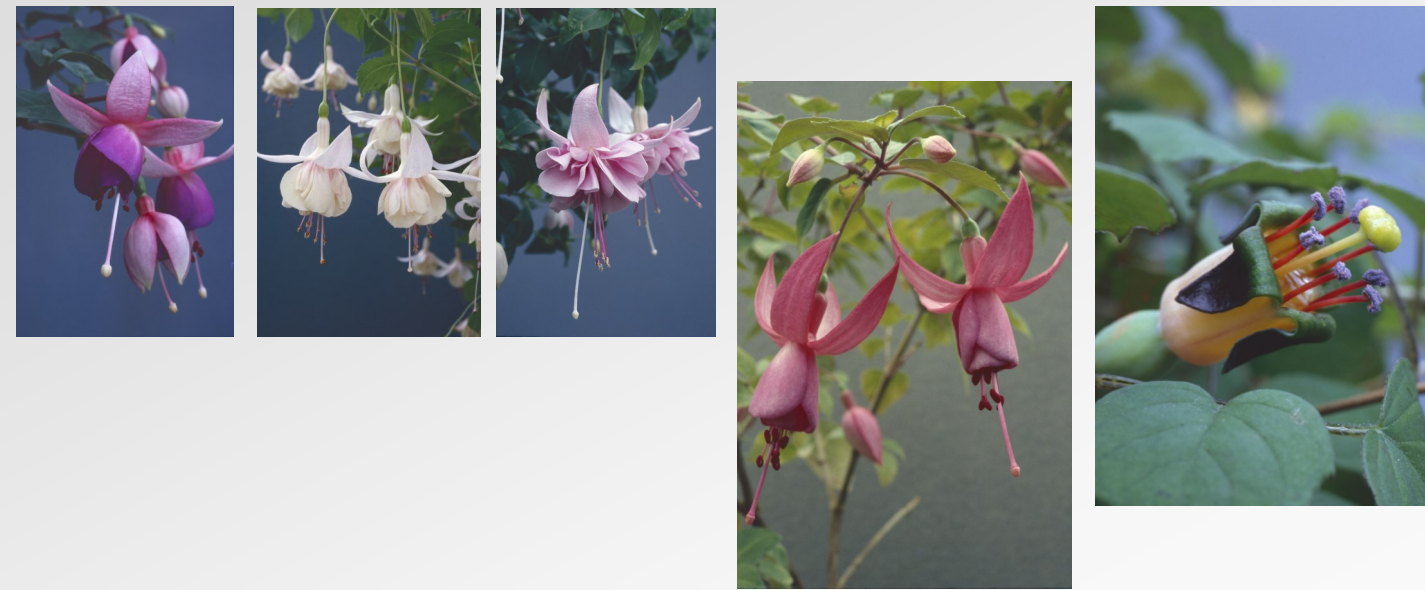


Colour

Some seemingly outlandish experiments were carried out, partly to see what would happen but also to explore the colours possible when using *F. procumbens* as a pollen parent. Oddly you see, when such crosses were made, petals were nearly always present in the seedlings. In this one (see page 4) we see colours that are rather different from those usually found among *Fuchsia* hybrids.

The conformation of each single flower is excellent. Unfortunately, its habit of growth let this seedling down. It proved leggy, lacking side shoots, and had only a limited flowering period. Fertility was absent. *F. procumbens* proved to have excellent fertility particularly as a pollen parent.

(Lady Ramsey x Annabel) X Blush of Dawn X *F. procumbens*

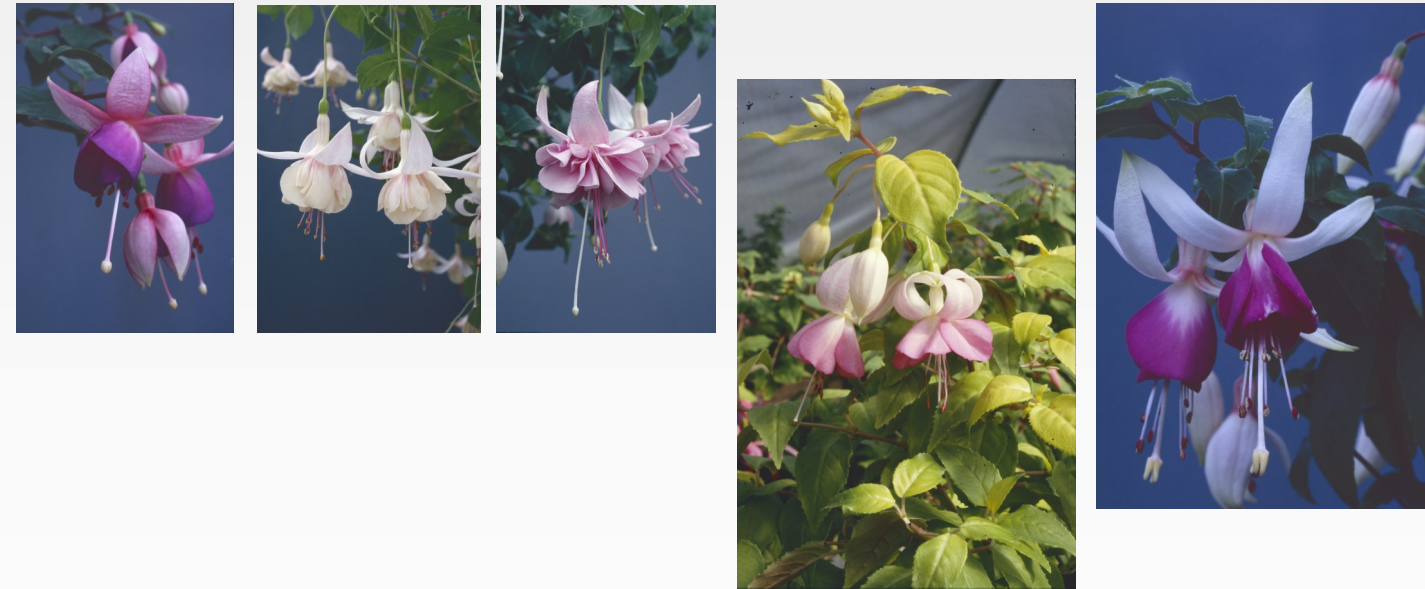


Conformation

Norman Mitchinson also proved invaluable as a pollen parent. This was especially true when the conformation of its seedlings' flowers came up for consideration. However, initially, what strikes us about this seedling is the brilliant yellow foliage, helped no doubt by bright sunlight. Although the corollas were

asymmetrical semi-doubles, sepals recurved amazingly to maximise each bloom's beauty. Sadly, although side shoots were plentiful, the quantity of flowers did not warrant this plant's release. As an aside, it is also worth remembering that this brilliance of leaf colour often fades to a slightly dirty-looking shade of green quite rapidly.

(Lady Ramsey x Annabel) X Blush of Dawn X Norman Mitchinson



Triphyllas

Brian Stannard raised many seedlings. It is worth remembering that all were not released. In fact, only a small proportion were selected across each year. This one of Brian's shows a conformation not dissimilar to that of Mantilla but with more muted colours. The cornet shaped corollas enhanced each

bloom's beauty. In this seedling we can see that flowers are held singly in the leaf axils rather than in the usual terminal racemes like its seed parent and most other Triphylla hybrids. This bi-coloured pollen parent proved less useful than Lye's Unique. The fertility, and the number of created side-shoots were much reduced, so this seedling was destroyed.

Lady Ramsey



X

Mrs. Marshall (Brian Stannard's)



Crossovers

Here we see another highly speculative cross between *Section Encliandra* and *Section Procumbentes*. After all, novelty is what increases public interest and promotes sales. The main focus of specialist Fuchsia nurseries has always been on maintaining plants of major historical in-

terest, of Species value, and novelty. If nothing changes, sales dwindle away, and nurseries go out of business. This seedling had perfect salmon-coloured blooms. These were held on long, thin, and weak branches, in all an unattractive plant. The records don't show whether it had fertility, but it was certainly never used in further hybridising.

F. encliandra* x *F. encliandra

X

F. procumbens



Doubles

The search for change and improvement encompassed doubles as well as many other niche types. The central example here really had nothing wrong with it except that it was not “Better and/or different”. While it is true much emphasis has been placed on interspecific crosses in recent years, doubleness has been rather neglected. This becomes evident

when visiting exhibitions of Fuchsias where doubles are a rare sight. It is also sad when we remember that these are the very ones that the public are most interested in growing. Blush of Dawn produces dense corollas in its offspring. Bella Rozella also produces progeny with well-proportioned double blooms.

Blush of Dawn



X



Bella Rozella



Summary

We have looked at a few of those categories that have been explored during our early years of hybridising in East Anglia.

Triphyllas featured heavily because of the local climate, which is hot and dry. Encliandras were explored as a niche group ripe for development. In fact, Species com-

ing from Central America came more fully into focus.

Flower shapes and colours came in for quite a lot of experimental work. Next time we will look at some more examples of those that “got away”.

Please update your e-mail address!

It happens rather frequently that subscribers to The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative change their e-mail address. However, if this has not been communicated to the editor, it's not possible providing you with the most recent issue at the moment it is sent around. And you might be wondering why you are not on the subscribers list anymore.

So if you want to stay connected, please communicate any changes to fuchsia@decooker.nl and you will receive your copy at the appropriate moment.



New Fuchsias from Mario de Cooker

Fuchsia ‘Sigrid Stengelin’

Triphylla *Fuchsia* ‘Sigrid Stengelin’ originates from the crossing (N 16-20 x ‘Lord Lonsdale’) x ‘Spray’. The plant is a floriferous, multi-flowering, trailing variety.

Crossing partner seedling (N 16-20 x ‘Lord Lonsdale’) is a purple triphylla, which has the potential to produce progeny having all kinds of colors, depending on the other crossing partner.

‘Spray’ is one of the late Jan de Boer’s introductions, a multi-flowering plant, which in some cases produces more than 20 flowers per axil. It has some fertility as the male crossing partner, and has the potential to transfer its excellent multi-flowering properties to its progeny.

‘Sigrid Stengelin’ starts flowering in June and continues to produce flowers until pruned at the end of the season. It tolerates sun and high temperatures, but full midday sun during the summer should be avoided. It performs well, both raised from young cuttings or as an older plant. Overwintering in a cold greenhouse is no problem.

This fuchsia is named after Mrs. Sigrid Stengelin, a German Fuchsia lover, who sadly passed away in 2021 at age of 92. She owned the website ***Sigrids Fuchsienseite***, which contains photographs of thousands of Fuchsia cultivars. I had good contacts with Sigrid for many years, and provided her always with my new introductions. Her website was, and still is, overviewed by her son Wolfgang, with whom I will stay in touch also in the future.



Triphylla Fuchsia ‘Sigrid Stengelin’



Fuchsia ‘Sigrid Stengelin’



Mrs. Sigrid Stengelin

Fuchsia 'Har Erdkamp'

Fuchsia 'Har Erdkamp', a seedling from 2014, originates from the crossing (((*F. x colensoi* x *F. magdalenae*) x 'Delicate White') x 'Grasmere') x 'Roesse Blacky'.

The cultivar's single to semi-double blooms have what I would call a classic colour combination of red and dark purple. What's special about the flower is that the dark red sepals and the very dark purple of the corolla reinforce each other in the young flower, creating a unique colour scheme. This is further enhanced by the dark anthers.

I have grown this plant already for over 10 years in my garden and have always found it special. I always had a warm feeling for it. Its introduction has been considered for many years, but due to other priorities, it never materialized. Until this year.

The cultivar is named after our beloved honorary chairman Har Erdkamp, who passed away in 2023. Har was an active and amiable man who served as our chairman for many years with a firm but loving hand.

Fuchsia 'Har Erdkamp' is a strong, richly flowering cultivar that is easy to grow without any problems. It starts flowering early in the season.



Fuchsia 'Har Erdkamp'



Fuchsia 'Har Erdkamp'



Honorary Chairman Mr. Har Erdkamp

Fuchsia ‘Henry Purcell’

Triphylla *Fuchsia* ‘Henry Purcell’, a seedling dating from 2002 (coded N 02-14) originates from the crossing ‘Göttingen’ x ‘Our Ted’.

This seedling N 02-14 forms, together with its sister seedlings N 02-16 and N 03-01, the basis for the creation of the Purcellian Triphylla series. It seemed therefore appropriate to name the to be introduced seedling N 02-14 after the great British composer Henry Purcell, to honor him and his fantastic musical compositions.

The above seedlings were originally intended to become an inroad to making white triphyllas via the genes of ‘Our Ted’, and were therefore preserved over the years as part of the breeder’s stock. Seedling N 03-01 was lost for unclear reasons, but transferred its genes to other triphylla seedlings, which were subsequently used as part of the crossing program for making white triphyllas. The availability of *F. triphylla* f. *alba* from 2010 onwards, ‘Purcellian Elegancy’ being an example, made this job easier. It has resulted in several successful combinations, leading to introductions such as ‘Our Ophelia’.



Fuchsia ‘Henry Purcell’

‘Henry Purcell’ was used as the male parent for making Triphylla ‘Strike The Viol’, which in its turn was used for making a number of other fuchsias in the Purcellian Triphylla series.

‘Henry Purcell’ has been grown over the years as a bush and medium-sized standard. It has dark green leaves with a deep purple underside, which makes the plant stand out among fuchsias with green leaves. The orange/red flowers are produced in large racemes and have some similarity with the flowers of ‘Göttingen’.



‘Henry Purcell’ grown as a medium-sized standard.

‘Henry Purcell’ is a vigorous and strong triphylla variety that can be easily overwintered in the cold greenhouse. It starts making many young shoots soon after pruning in October.

Young plants have bigger leaves than an older plant. ‘Henry Purcell’ can therefore, for the greatest ornamental value, best be grown as an older bush or standard.

Henry Purcell’s genome is not exactly known, but it is with high probability a pentaploid fuchsia. Flowcytometry measurements and crossing history suggest that it could be an aneuploid variety with a ‘Göttingen’ genome TTTTF with about 8 extra *F. fulgens* chromosomes.

Fuchsia ‘Bésame Mucho’

Fuchsia ‘Bésame Mucho’, is a seedling from 2021, which originates from the crossing P18-F8 x *F. triphylla* PB#7’ = ((‘Daryn Joh Woods’ x ‘Purcellian Elegancy’) x ‘Purcellian Elegancy’) x *F. triphylla* ‘PB#7’. It’s the first seedling to be introduced from a series of aneuploid Triphyllas showing all kinds of shapes and colors that previously did not exist in Triphyllas. The female crossing partner P18-F8 is a pentaploid fuchsia with the genome ‘TTTTJ’, which produces aneuploid gametes ‘TT + xj’. In the gametes, ‘T’ represents a complete set of *F. triphylla* chromosomes, ‘J’ represents a complete set of *F. juntasensis* chromosomes, and ‘j’ an individual *F. juntasensis* chromosome. More information on this can be found in The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative, Issue 22, December 2023, page 11-21.



Fuchsia ‘Bésame Mucho’



Fuchsia ‘Bésame Mucho’ has bright yellow anthers.

Fuchsia ‘Bésame Mucho’ makes a small plant with bright red blooms and expressive yellow anthers, inherited from *F. juntasensis*. From flowcytometry measurements it can be concluded that it has the genome ‘TTTT’ + 6j. That is, a genome consisting of 4 complete sets of *F. triphylla* chromosomes plus an additional 6 *F. juntasensis* chromosomes.

It has been grown now for 5 years, and it seems to be genetically stable. This cultivar has good fertility both as the male as well as the female parent.

The cultivar’s name ‘Bésame Mucho’ refers to the world famous song ‘Bésame Mucho’.

I cite (Wikipedia): *Bésame Mucho* is one of the most important songs in the history of Latin music, it became one of the most popular pop standards of the 20th century as well as a jazz standard. "Bésame Mucho" was recognized in 1999 as the most recorded and covered Spanish-language song of all time.

I hope that *Fuchsia* ‘Bésame Mucho’ will find its way into the fuchsia world in the same way as this famous song, and become loved by many fuchsia growers.

Creating new triphylla fuchsias

An overview of 15 years of research, part 2

By Mario de Cooker

All photographs by Mario de Cooker

Introduction

In this part 2 of the overview of creating new triphyllas in the past 15 years, attention will be paid to the colour purple.

Focus will be on own crossing work. We then find ourselves at the forefront of the most recent developments in this area.

Making new triphyllas: the colour purple

An overview of older introductions in this field is provided in The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative, Issue nr.12, December 2018, p. 10-17.

Until recently, the available assortment of purple triphyllas was rather limited.

In 2016, by a lucky coincidence, seedling N 16-20 became available from the cross 'Daryn John Woods' x 'Purcellian Elegancy'. From flowcytometry measurements it can be concluded that the cultivar 'Daryn John Woods' most likely has the genome T^{*}TJJ. The sets of *F. triphylla* chromosomes (the T) in this genome originate from 'Thalia', and thus at the time of the creation of 'Thalia', from *F. triphylla* 'Herrenhausen' or a



Seedling N 16-20

similar *F. triphylla* species. The J stands for a complete set of *F. juntasensis* chromosomes.

Also from flowcytometry measurements it can be derived that in the cross for making N 16-20, 'Daryn John Woods' contributed an unreduced gamete, resulting in a hexaploid genome T^{*}T^{*}TJJ of N 16-20. This seedling N 16-20 is very fertile, both as a father and as a mother,



Daryn John Woods



Purcellian Elegancy

and has the interesting property of producing exclusively purple offspring. The reason for this is, that both the male and female gametes T1J always contain a full set of *F. juntasensis* chromosomes which apparently have a dominant contribution for expressing the colour purple in all kinds of different hues in the seedlings.

So far, recently introduced purple offspring of N 16-20 are the cultivars 'Saphyra', 'Irish Ophelia', 'Purple Charm' and 'Sparkling Twinkle'.

Several more purple triphylla seedlings derived from seedling N 16-20 have the potential of being introduced as new cultivars in the future. Examples are the seedlings P18-J1, P18-Q2, N 22-40 and N 23-23, each having their own merits and specific characteristics.



Ophelia



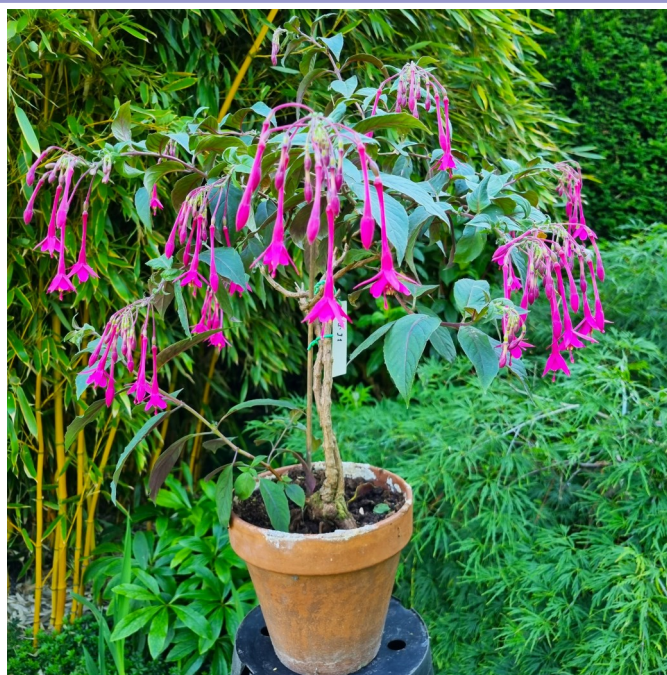
Sparkling Twinkle



Saphyra



Purple Charm



Seedling P18-J1



Seedling P18-Q2



Seedling N 23-23



Seedling N 22-40

***Fuchsia* 'Frozen Tears' is full of surprises.**

In the July 2024 issue of The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative (page 18), it was reported that *Fuchsia* 'Frozen Tears' had produced a second sport, a double bloom. Now it appears that 'Frozen Tears' has even produced its third sport. Surprisingly, a cutting from the second sport has produced a very large flower. The sepals of this flower are 9 cm. For comparison, the sepals of my 'Texas Longhorn' are 7 cm.

The photo shows the large flower with its longer tube and huge sepals compared to a 'Frozen Tears' flower.

So far, the cutting has only produced one flower, so I'll have to wait and see if the formation of large flowers continues.

Mario de Cooker



Contents of the next issue The next issue is scheduled for the end of December 2025.

Escapees, part 2 (by Edwin Goulding)

In the second article on seedlings that never made it to market for Gouldings Fuchsias we continue and elaborate further on the search for Novelty and significant improvement among new introductions. Niche concepts were explored thoroughly during more than twenty years. Fuchsias depend on such things if they are to adapt to ongoing and future changes.

Creating new triphylla fuchsias. An overview of 15 years of research, part 3 (by Mario de Cooker)

We continue our journey through 15 years of triphylla research. We'll focus on bicolored and multi-flowering triphyllas. Significant progress is being made in the latter area, resulting in seedlings with a vast number of flowers.

Want to learn more about all this? Then stay connected!

Your contribution to the **The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative** is highly appreciated. Contributions for the next issue should be available no later than December 10, 2025.

The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative

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