



## CARE OF TRAILING VERBENAS



During the past decades, hybridizers have improved trailing verbena varieties. Today's improved varieties show many shades and hues of colors, are vigorous growers and have more toleration to adverse conditions including such diseases as powdery mildew. Verbenas will thrive all summer long if these following steps are taken

**LOCATION** For verbenas to be successful, they must have as much sun as possible. They will not perform well in shady locations. They should be protected from any windy conditions as well. Verbenas can be placed outdoors in spring after the

danger of frost. Unlike some annuals, verbenas can withstand night temperatures of 40 degrees, but they do best in a temperature range of 85 degree days and 60ndegree nights. If they need to be protected from cold frosty nights, keep indoors but immediately move outside as the temperatures warm during the day. Never leave indoors for a prolonged period of time and NEVER place in a garage. Chemicals from any lingering auto exhaust will injure fuchsias as well as many plants.

**FERTILIZING AND WATER** Verbenas should be kept moist when growing in containers. Watering should be down as early in the day as possible, since wet foliage at night encourages powdery mildew. Verbenas are Fuchsias are heavy feeders and should be fed at least every ten days with an all purpose 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer. This encourages new growth, as well as, new blooms. Never use dry fertilizer, since this might burn the roots. Avoid fertilizers such as Miracle-Gro since its high nitrogen content may slow down the amount of bloom.

**INSECTS AND DISEASES** Few insects bother verbenas. Leaf curl on young growth may be due to aphids. Red spiders which cause browning of the foliage in hot and dry weather are another problem. Treat with appropriate insecticides. Red spider can be controlled with daily misting of the foliage during hot and dry conditions. Few diseases bother verbenas. The worst disease is powdery mildew which disfigures the leaves with a powdery cast. Although the newer varieties are more tolerant of this disease, you may still have to take steps to control it. Temperatures of 68-77 degrees F are optimal for infection and disease development, although infection can occur from 59-90 degrees F. Give baskets as much light as possible

