

# Fuchsia

**Scientific Name:** *Fuchsia magellanica*

**Irish Name:** Fiúise

**F**uchsia is a shrub used as hedging in the west and southwest of Ireland. Many would consider it to be typically Irish but it was only introduced into Ireland in the mid-19th century, having originated in Chile and Argentina in South America. Though it is an alien species here, it is not considered to be an invasive species.

In full bloom, Fuchsia's crimson flowers provide beautiful colour in the hedgerows from July to October. A deciduous shrub, it loses its leaves in winter and comes very twiggy. However, once spring arrives, it starts to grow again and quickly comes into leaf. Fuchsia can grow in shade or full sun and in sheltered or exposed areas, as long as it is not too cold. It is this that allows it grow happier in coastal

locations and on rocky ground. It is also easy to grow from cuttings.

## Family

There are many species of Fuchsia—some are also large shrubs but many not as hardy or big as the variety above. The flowers can be very ornamental, with very frilly petals and used as summer bedding, in flower pots and in baskets.

Fuchsia is also related to other flowers, including Willowherb and Evening Primrose.



## FACT FILE

**Colour:** Crimson and purple

**Height:** 100-300 cm

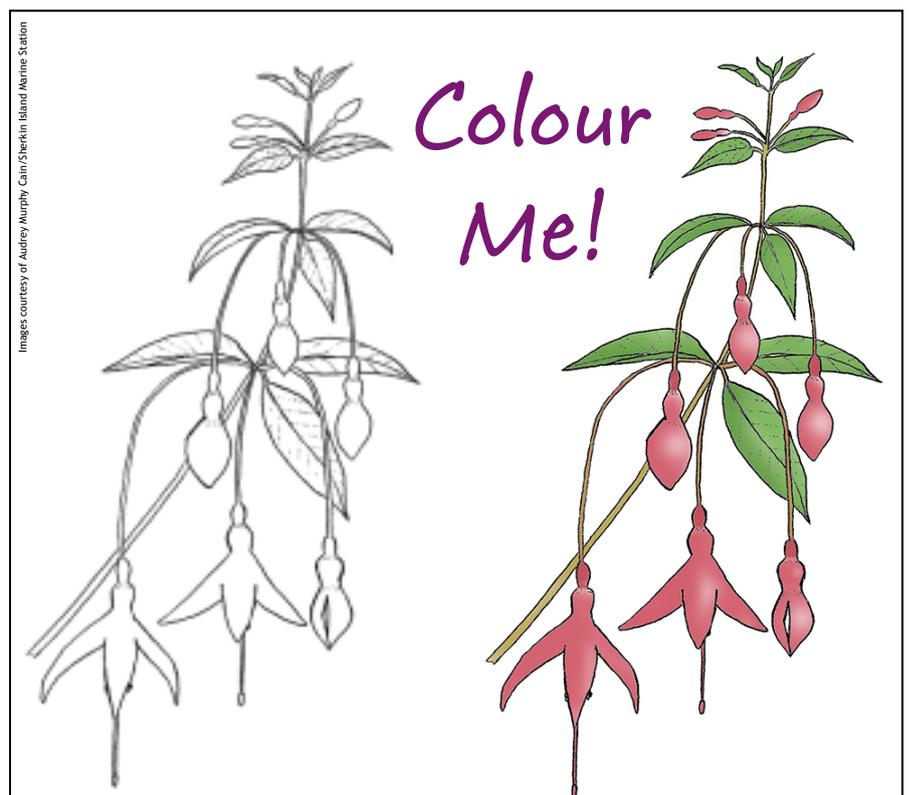
**Habitat:** Hedges and hedgerows

**Distribution:** Mostly the west and southwest Ireland. Native of Chile and Argentina.



Image courtesy of Robbie Murphy

The flower of the Fuchsia is very striking. In bud, it is like a little crimson lantern but when open four large pointed sepals fan out and the flower resembles a little ballerina. The purple "underskirt" are the flower's petals and the long "legs" are the stamens and stigma, which are used for reproduction.



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