

The Fuchsia Breeder's Initiative

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Contributions for the next issue, which is scheduled for the end of December 2022, should be in the editor's possession ultimately on 10 December 2022.

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:
Fuchsia 'Merel'
(De Cooker, 1993)

Lives come to an end

Several lives have come to an end this year. This leads to a sad lack that is difficult to fill.

In April we gave Fuchsia breeder Jan de Boer to the earth that he has enjoyed so much for so many years. His latest plans for making new fuchsia varieties can no longer be realized. But due to his legacy in the form of many amazing unique fuchsia cultivars which were introduced over the last 30 years, he will remain in the memory of many for a long time to come. In honour of Jan, we are publishing an interview I had with him two years ago about his fuchsia activities.

Also the life of EuroFuchsia has come to an end. EuroFuchsia was created as an association of European Fuchsia Societies and Institutes to promote the genus fuchsia. Contacts between members was maintained by a yearly gathering, which was organised by one of the participating parties. Part of the programme were presentations on fuchsias and various visits to fuchsia shows and botanical gardens and organizations.

But as the number of members diminished, the interest of participating Fuchsia Societies and associated organizational and financial means became a limiting factor for continuation of such gatherings. A couple of years ago it was therefore decided to abolish EuroFuchsia in a



Editor of The Fuchsia
Breeders Initiative

Mario de Cooker

final closure meeting in Paris. The corona outbreak has prevented such physical meeting, and therefore a digital zoom meeting was organised at the end of June this year for making the final decision.

It was agreed to maintain contacts between organizations and individual members alive through exchange of information, for example by electronic distribution of the journals of the individual Fuchsia Societies. Also The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative, started in 2013 under the flag of EuroFuchsia will of course remain to exist and will continue to be distributed electronically to all interesting parties.

We are very grateful to Mr. Manfred Kleinau for all the work he creatively performed for EuroFuchsia for so many years. As we all know, keeping things together is not an easy job!



Mario de Cooker

Staying Single

By Edwin Goulding

Photographs in this article courtesy Mr. Edwin Goulding

Introduction

Lately we examined some possibilities for development within the Genus to be found among the apetalous species, triphyllas, encliandras and paniculates. Most recently we have seen some of the exciting possibilities offered by double-flowered Fuchsias. It has become clear that the concentration on washy, uninteresting and in-bred show introductions has added greatly to public boredom in the plant. Yet, it remains true that Fuchsias have one of the longest flowering seasons of all plants and their allergens are fewer than those of other plants with similar purposes. The range of shapes and colours available to hybridists is extensive and ripe for development. It is these we will explore in this article.

Species

A few species have no corolla but the vast majority have corollas with four petals, singles; there are no double species. Flowers do not exist for humans but to attract beneficial pollinators and by this means ensure their genomes' survival through the production and dispersal of viable seed. Colours rather than scents form the basis of most Fuchsia species' attraction. This is

particularly applicable to those relying on birds for their fertilisation and dispersal. The majority of blooms are either orange or red but a large minority have violet corollas as they too are reliant on nectar seeking birds.

The shapes and sizes of blooms on wild plants are governed by a balance between providing enough attraction but not too much in order to ensure the survival of their species. Obviously, if a specific bird like *Rhodopsis vesper atacamensis*¹ is essential for this then the flower colours must be those suitable. The hue of each corolla becomes increasingly important as birds near their source of nectar, the main attraction if return visits are to be encouraged. In exchange pollen is taken from one flower to others by birds, or insects, in order to facilitate out-crossing. In this way, healthy and viable species thrive.

Cup-shaped corollas

This shape of corolla is the most like that found on wild Fuchsia flowers and is relatively small in size.



F. lycioides



F. macrostigma

The similarity is clearly seen in early hybrids like *F.* 'Lady Boothby' (Raffil, 1939). The richness of this Fuchsia's colours adds vibrancy to every bloom's effect. *F.* 'Cherry' (Reiter, 1942) carries its flowers closer to the branch ends, pointing them upwards or outwards; these are rather more open in appearance as we might expect from a later introduction. Both plants are upright in habit but the former is leggy and scandent whereas the latter has a more cropped appearance.

Bowl-shaped corollas

Many hybrids have corollas that are more widely spread. *F.* 'WALZ Parasol' (Waldenmaier, 1985) has muted hues but its larger and more open cup-shaped corollas are combined with an upright habit. Its sepals are swept gently upwards. *F.* 'Wilfred C. Dodson' (Gouldings Fuchsias, 1996) has much darker colours and makes a smaller more graceful looking plant. *F.* 'Martin's Umbrella' (Beije, 2001) has flyaway sepals and large corollas that



F. 'Lady Boothby'



F. 'Cherry'



F. 'Ann Roots'

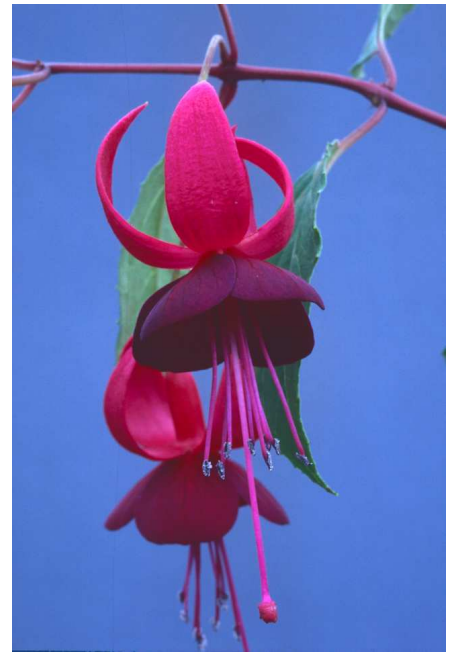


F. 'WALZ Parasol'



F. 'Wilfred C. Dodson'

increase the impact of each bloom. It has strong upright growth. *F.* 'Ann Roots' (Gouldings Fuchsias, 1991) also has large almost bell-shaped flowers with recurving sepals and undulating outer margins to each petal. It is most suitable for growing in hanging baskets.

*F.* 'Martin's Umbrella'*F.* 'Voblego'*F.* 'Satchmo'

Saucer-shaped corollas

Some fuchsias have even more open flowers and saucer shaped corollas. The oldest of these hybrids is *F.* 'Voblego' (de Groot, 1978), which has an upright and somewhat stiff habit with outward facing blooms. It appears likely that the shortening of internodes and pedicels associated with upward and outward pointing flowers are closely linked genetically; a short and stubby habit seems to ac-

company every one of this flowering type. *F.* 'Satchmo' (de Graaff, 1989) has thin and graceful branches but its flower colours reflect the change in hybridising priorities that had taken place with the passing years. The presence of blue pollen clearly underlines the New Zealand part of its heritage. *F.* 'Swanley Gem' (Cannell, 1991) has colours that are more typical of an earlier era allied to a small stature but graceful habit. *F.* 'Pride of Ipswich' (Gouldings Fuchsias, 2000) has corollas that are much more flattened in appearance but its branches are strong and its habit of growth is open.

*F.* 'Swanley Gem'*F.* 'Pride of Ipswich'

Cornet shaped corollas

So far, as can be seen from the photographs, petals have tended to turn slightly inward at their outer lips. Some flowers whose petals turn outwards are like cornets to look at. The first of the cultivars shown here is *F.* 'Leonora' (Tiret, 1964). This upright plant displays its flowers well and is easy to grow. It was famously exhibited by Gordon Thorley in the Royal

Horticultural Fuchsia exhibitions in London for many years during the 1970's and 1980's. *F.* 'Mary Fairclo' (Fairclo, 1955) has longer internodes and a more spreading habit; this reduces the number of its side shoots but enhances the visibility of its blooms. *F.* 'Rianne Foks' (Beije, 1999) has corollas that are more widely flared than those we have discussed so far. It is quite a versatile hybrid that displays its blooms to maximum advantage. *F.* 'Martin's Brigitte' (Beije, 2004) has similarly sized flowers that have marbled shades of pink and violet in its petals.

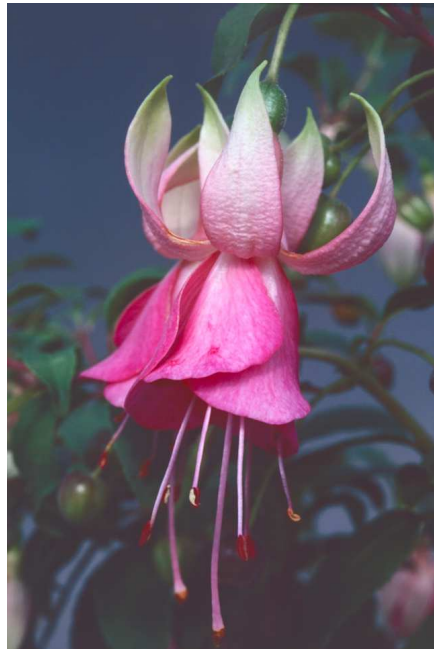


F. 'Pussycat'

Other shaped corollas

Spoonbills form a small but distinct group of single Fuchsias. Perhaps the best known of these is *F.* 'Nettala'.

F. 'Pussy Cat' (Felix, 1978) has much longer tubes, pastel pink flowers and a basket habit. It is not a robust grower and can be prone to *Botritis cinerea* if not given adequate care especially in relation to hygiene. *F.* 'Rose Quartet' (Spanton, 2006) is a cheerful-flowered Fuchsia with its rose-red



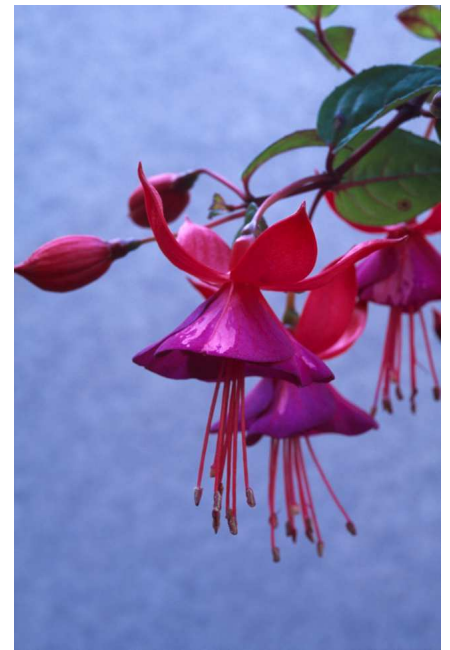
F. 'Leonora'



F. 'Rianne Foks'



F. 'Mary Fairclo'



F. 'Martin's Brigitte'

spoonbill petals and white tubes and sepals. Blooms are prominently displayed around the plant's periphery. *F.* 'Delta's Drop' (Vreeke/Westeinde, 1992) is the last of our three spoonbills mentioned here. It is the one most closely resembling *F.* 'Nettala' but the colour of its petals is darker and richer. It, too, produces a stiffly upright plant with relatively few side shoots. There is much scope for change within this group as so many colours are missing from their range at this moment in time. It is probably true that these will never be the most popular

flowers but they provide novelty and a welcome change in the overall range available.

F. 'Earre Barré' (de Graaff, 1989) is another product from one of the twentieth century's greatest innovators and hybridists. Its flowers somewhat resemble those of *F. 'Impudence'* (Schnabel, 1957) but its colours are much more vibrant and its petals everted even further. It can be seen that by shortening the pedicels and changing growth habits slightly there is potential within this type for upward and outward facing flowers to be created in the future. Enough of washy colours, here is an example of striking charm.

Size variation in tubes

So far we have discussed the variety of shapes and sizes to be found among corollas of single-flowered Fuchsias. Now, let us turn our attention to modifications to be found among the tubes, these after all are clearly visible to the eye and are a large element of the individual beauty of each bloom.

F. 'Mantilla' (Reiter, 1948) makes a striking hanging or wall pocket display with



F. 'Rose Quartet'



F. 'Delta's Drop'



F. 'Earre Barre'



F. 'Mantilla'



F. 'Tubular Bells'

its vibrant red, mantilla-shaped flowers and pendant habit. It somewhat resembles triphyllas in the shape of its blooms but this similarity doesn't extend to the foliage. Leo Boullemier³ has a long discussion about its possible parentage.

F. 'Tubular Bells' (Bielby/Oxtoby, 2001) is a more recent introduction from a creative English duo. It, too, clearly shows its triphylla content but this is allied to a stiff and symmetrical upright habit.

Something about its appearance is reminiscent of a Christmas tree; again, this helps to accentuate its originality. The flowers are produced near the branch ends in leaf axils rather than in terminal racemes as we might expect from its colours. As a matter of record it holds the colour and quality of its lower leaves much longer and better than many introductions also related to triphyllas.

Size variation in sepals

F. 'Hebe' (Stokes, 1848) is the first of our next group of introductions that have much lengthier sepals. In this case the tube is also longer than usual. Stokes was an early hybridist that lived in Ipswich not far from my home. *F. 'Chris'* (van Bremer, 1989) has rather shorter tubes but larger corollas than the first one of this selection. Its sepals often have a slight arch and twist in their formation. Both of these hybrids are suitable for hanging container displays. *F. 'Pabbes Tudebekje'* (Koerts, 1996) has very long tubes together with elongated sepals, these are bright red. The petals by contrast are small, white and curved inwards. Growth is quite strong but the internodes are long and branches are arched. *F. 'Rohees Merope'* (Roes/Heesakkers, 2000) has the shortest of the sepals discussed here and these can be beautifully rolled backwards; It has especially dark colours and growth that is spreading rather than upright. However, one of the most unusual introductions I have ever grown is *F. 'Curly Q'* (Kennett, 1961). Its flowers are small and neat, with conventional tight-cupped corollas offset by finely recurved sepals that resemble hollow cylinders. It is not a strong grower and is not now common in cultivation.

Corolla colour

Some available colours appear under-represented among the thousands of Fuchsia introductions over the years. Others



F. 'Pabbe's Tudebekje'



F. 'Hebe'



F. 'Chris'



F. 'Curly Q'

have almost iconic value and are unlikely to be bettered except by combining them with new partner hues. *F. 'Tangerine'* (Tiret, 1949) has longer than average tubes and sepals; its petals are also substantial and pleated in appearance. The colours here are subtle and muted. Its growth is rather sappy and may need support if large plants are grown. *F. 'Vuurwerk'* (de Graaff, 1988) is the second of our hybrids here. Many recent plants have carried all the same hallmarks of *F. splendens* in their tubes and sepals but few exhibit these very unusual colours in their petals; and originality counts with collectors. *F. 'Delta's Trick'* (Vreeke/Westeinde, 1993) is very unusual in its presentation. The petals

*F. 'Tangarine'**F. 'Vuurwerk'**F. 'Conspicua'**F. 'Delta's Trick'**F. 'Major Bosshardt'**F. 'Gruss aus dem Bodethal'*

themselves are marbled with shades of pink and violet. They open as bell shaped corollas first but can flare widely once mature. The combination of shape and colours makes this introduction unusual. *F. 'Major Bosshardt'* (Krom, 2009) is the last of this little selection. Its tubes, sepals and petals are all a deep velvety-red; the anthers dehisce to show clear evidence of the New Zealand species in its parentage.

Tube & sepal colour

F. 'Conspicua' (Smith, 1863) is an example of an early upright hardy cultivar. The waxy texture of its scarlet tubes and sepals enhances its effect as the latter are raised to about forty five degrees above the horizontal; petals are creamy white with red veining. This introduction is also multiflowered giving it a small but significant impact in garden displays. *F. 'Gruss aus dem Bodethal'* (Sattler/Bethga, 1893) has intense scarlet in its tubes and sepals but here the latter are curved up-

wards in quite a jaunty manner. The corolla, being larger than usual proportionately also makes quite an impact. *F. 'Fiona'* (Clark, 1958) has a gracefulness all of its own. The tubes and out-swept sepals are white; the buds form lantern shapes before opening fully. Corollas form large mauve bells. *F. 'Golden Arrow'* (Gouldings Fuchsias, 1985) is different in the way it has spurs at the roots of each sepal, hence its name. It makes quite large spreading bushes of the triphylla type.

Conclusion

We have seen how the origin of single corollas (four petals) lies in the wild Fuchsias. *F. magellanica* and its variants together with *F. fulgens* have been used extensively to create many of the hybrids we know today. The wide range of shapes and colours possible is not restricted to those of modern show singles; posterity is not built on copyists. Exciting possibilities exist among early introductions and among more recent developments. Corollas may be cup-shaped, bowl-shaped, saucer-shaped, cornet shaped and even spoon-billed or flared. Size variation can make the tubes and sepals more intriguing; changes in colour can also affect things radically. The combination of novel shapes and colours is there to be explored. So singles don't have to be "left on the shelf" because they are inferior. They can be innovative, vibrant and well worth growing. How much better if they are the product of our own imaginative plant breeding?

To score a bullseye we need to see a target.

References

- ¹ *Rhodopsis vesper atacamensis* is the sole pollinator of *F. lycioides*, see TFBI, Issue 12, December 2018,p.2.
- ² See TFBI, issue 9, July 2017, p.5.
- ³ Boulemier.L.B., 1991 ed. *The Checklist of Species, Hybrids and Cultivars of the Genus*



F. 'Fiona'



F. 'Golden Arrow'

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.



In the spotlight: Herps Jorn

By Henk Waldenmaier

In the spotlight in this issue of The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative:

Fuchsia 'Herps Jorn' (Waldenmaier, 2008). The fuchsia is named after one of the two grandsons of Henk's partner Wilma.

'Herps Jorn' originates from the crossing *F. lycioides* x 'White Galore', and aimed at creating a fairly large double flower with the pink/mauve colours of *F. lycioides*.

The cultivar is a vigorous grower. It branches well, flowers profusely and is easy to overwinter. It has a nice medium sized pink-mauve single flower and has a reasonable fertility as a female crossing partner.



F. 'Herps Jorn'



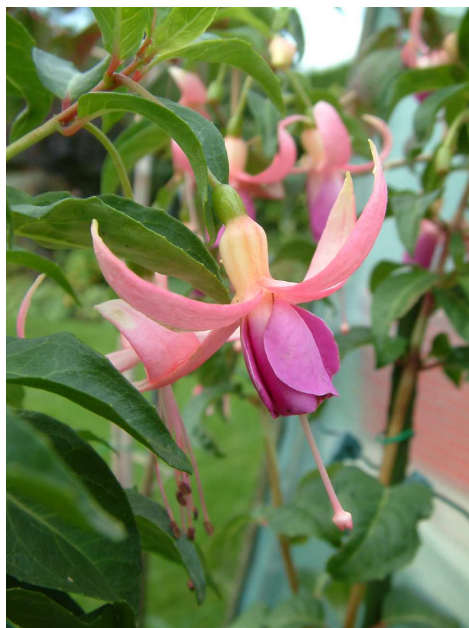
F. lycioides



F. 'White Galore'



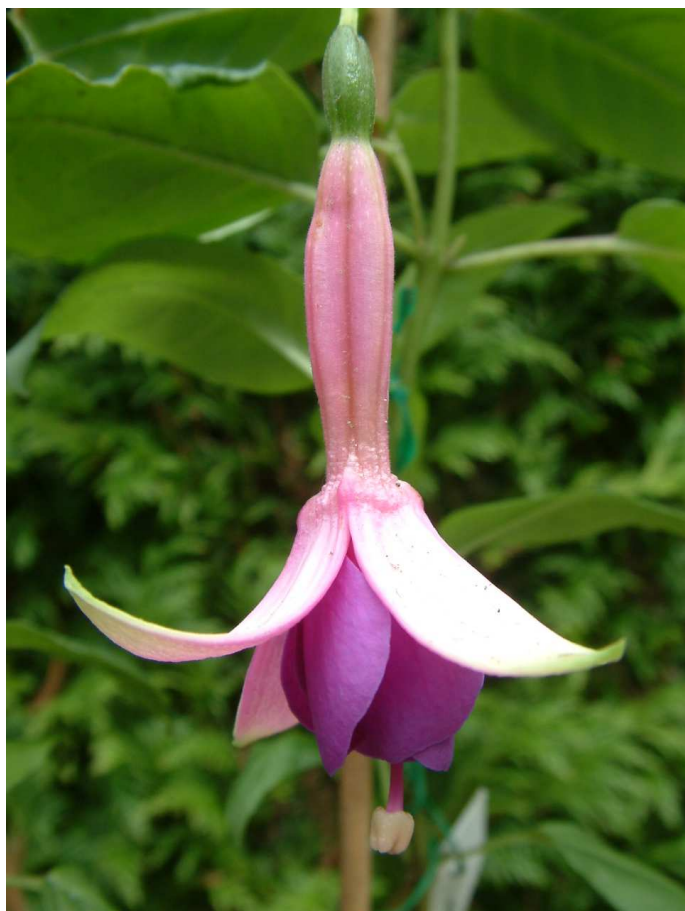
By using 'Herps Jorn' as the female, a number of offspring were obtained: 'Herps Dissel', 'Herps Blijspel' (large single bloom), 'Herps Bosschage' (branches very strongly), 'Herps Witkiel', 'Herps Ballet' and 'Herps Spekkie' (a large double bloom, floriferous). The male parent of all of this offspring is unknown, but the phenotype shows that they are most likely from self-fertilization.



F. 'Herps Blijspel'



F. 'Bosschage'



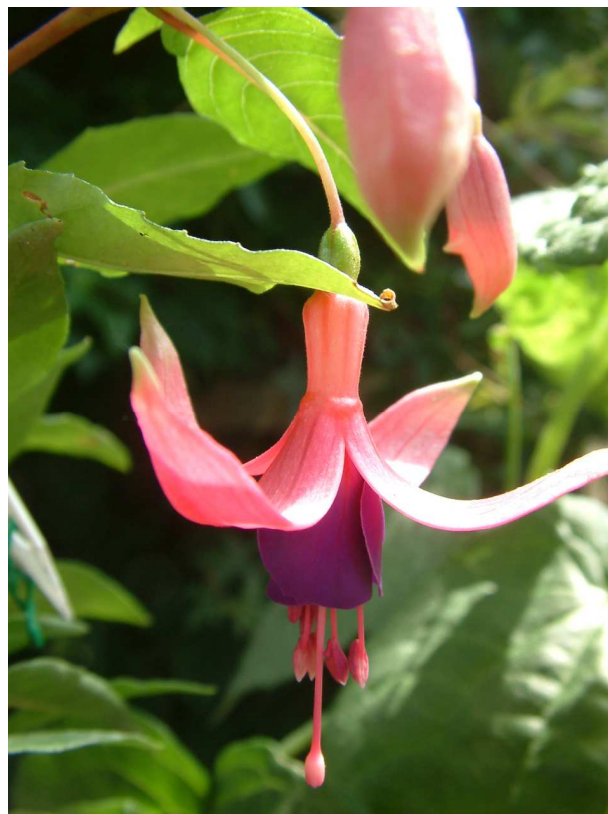
F. 'Herps Dissel'



F. 'Herps Witkiel'



***F.* ‘Herps Spekkie’**



***F.* ‘Herps Ballet’**

Furthermore, they are all good growers and easy to overwinter. They have good branching properties and have the desired pink/mauve flower colour.

‘Herps Rode Druppels’, another offspring, originates from crossing ‘Herps Jorn’ x ‘Whiteknights Pearl’. The bloom clearly has a very different colour than the other six offspring.



***F.* ‘Herps Spekkie’**



***F.* ‘Herps Rode Druppels’**

Photographs in this article courtesy Mr. Henk Waldenmaier, except *F. lycioides* (Mr. Edwin Goulding) and ‘White Galore’ (Mrs. Rosi Friedl).

Dutch Fuchsia hybridist Jan de Boer

In memory of his great work

By Mario de Cooker

Today the spotlight is on Jan de Boer (1935) for an interview about his breeding work on fuchsias. He lives with his wife Rie in a large house (which used to be an old farmhouse) with a big garden in Blesdijke, a small village in Friesland in the north of the Netherlands. He started hybridizing fuchsias in the eighties of last century, and became a member of the Hybridization Group of The Dutch Circle of Fuchsia Friends (the NKvF) in the early nineties. Since then we have met at a large number of occasions for having fascinating conversations and exchange of promising hybridization material. Jan also maintains close contacts with a number of other fuchsia hybridists such as Messrs. Edwin Goulding and Egbert Dijkstra. He is never without ideas, and the fuchsia world would look different without his valuable introductions of which many are grown by fuchsia enthusiasts also (and some of his cultivars: especially) in the UK.

In April this year one of our most successful Dutch fuchsia hybridists Jan de Boer has died. We all remember Jan not only as a successful fuchsia breeder, but also as a friend and very nice person. I cherish the numerous times we met over more than 30 years for exchange of information and breeding material. I also cherish the memory of several meetings we had at his home in Blesdijke together with other fuchsia hybridists among which Edwin Goulding and Herman de Graaff. We were then spoiled with attention and delicacies to eat and drink by his wife Rie. She died in February last year, which clearly attenuated Jan's purpose in life. We will never forget Jan, and will remember him for the man he was, and also for the many beautiful Fuchsia cultivars he created.

This article on Jan's breeding activities was first published in the Annual 2020 of British Fuchsia Society.



Fuchsia breeder Jan de Boer at work in his garden

Jan, you clearly have a great interest in plants. Did that start with the fuchsia, or have you had that love for longer?

As a young child, only about five years old, I already had a deep interest in plants and flowers. I grew vegetables in my parent's garden, which were a welcome addition to the menu during the war years. This love for plants and flowers has developed over the years, and has never ceased. A specific moment when my interest in the fuchsia was piqued was a visit to Artis Zoo just after World War II when I was about 10 years old. I was very impressed with the old fuchsia standards that lined the main path. Since then Fuchsia has always been my most favorite plant.

Apparently, as is the case with many fuchsia enthusiasts, you started growing plants already at a very young age. How has your love for Fuchsia grown in later years?

In my working life I have spent many years at sea for freight trips all around the world, starting as a young Second Officer. Already then I was particularly enthusiastic about a fuchsia from an aunt who had been widowed since 1935 and who had received this plant from her husband. Which of course was a very good reason for her to keep this plant alive as long as possible. This fuchsia was 'Göttingen' and I still have cuttings of this plant in my own garden. Since 1995 I have distributed this plant to other fuchsia breeders as it is very fertile, unlike the 'Göttingen' known in the Netherlands until then. The plant has been used many times in fuchsia hybridization.

I also took this plant 'Göttingen' with me on my freight trips around the world, and continued growing fuchsias at the ship also later on when I became a Captain. I loved taking care of them, hoping they would survive on my way home, and developing ideas how to use them in crossings.

A crucial event occurred in the early 1960s when the freighter 'Straat Malakka' had to wait in Lyttelton Harbor (New Zealand) for several weeks for the local boat workers' strike to end. While walking around at Lyttelton Bay I saw several very old, large fuchsia trees and shrubs, not only New Zealand species but also several hardy fuchsias such as old magellanica trees. An exciting experience! According to the locals, some were even over 100 years old. Later I learned by visiting botanical gardens during my boat trips that the fuchsia species were specimens of *F. procumbens*, *F. excorticata* and *F. perscanden*. These species fuchsias have played an important role in my hybridization activities.

I remember well, Jan, the moment when you joined the Hybridization Group of the NKvF in the early nineties after being retired in 1992. One of your specific interests was breeding hardy fuchsias, and we even worked together for some time at a project for exploring hardiness. Were these your first breeding activities, or did your hands start to itch to start breeding fuchsias already at an earlier date?



'Göttingen'



F. procumbens

I started hybridizing fuchsias in 1984 because I wanted more hardy fuchsias in the garden than the red-purple varieties that existed at the time. At the same time, I also wanted to try if breeding could be carried out successfully with plants known to be difficult, such as *F. procumbens*. There must always be challenges in life! And I hoped, of course, bringing together the hardiness properties and exceptional appearance of this species in attractive new cultivars. It soon turned out that using *F. procumbens* in hybridization was not an easy task, which is still an understatement. For achieving my first tangible results I had about 60 pots, filled with *F. procumbens* plants for making crossings, distrib-

uted all over the garden. I then used one different plant per pot as a pollinator.

My first real success was 'Straat Malakka' (1995) originating from the crossing *F. procumbens* x *F. decussata*. The prefix 'Straat' relates to freighters of the shipping company I sailed with at the time. Many fuchsias with 'Straat' in their name have ancestors of New Zealand origin.

How do you grow your fuchsias? The last time I visited you, many fuchsias were grown in pots around the house and in the open ground all over the garden.

Well, this has still not changed, although I do have fewer plants now than I used to because of my age. I have still many hardy plants in open ground (for the majority unnamed) and leave them there in the winter season as a good test for hardiness. But winters have been very mild last years, so survival results have become less representative. I also grow many other garden plants, mainly plants that thrive on poor (sandy) soil.

You have released many new fuchsia cultivars over the years. Can you give us some examples, and which are, to your opinion, your best introductions?

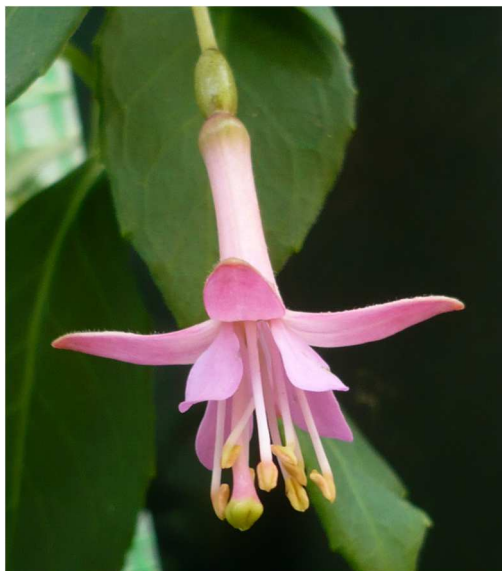
A large number of my Fuchsia introductions originates from crossing parents *F. procumbens*, *F. excorticata*, *F. perscandens* and several encliandras. Examples are 'Rijs 2001', 'Straat La Plata' and 'Straat Final' to



'Straat Malakka'



'Rijs 2001'



'Straat La Plata'

name some In later years I have also introduced a number of multi-flowering cultivars, originating from 'Spray' as a crossing parent. Two of my best introductions are 'Taco' (*(F. denticulata* x *F. decussata)* x *F. fulgens* 'Grandiflora', 1998) and 'Orange Sunset' ('Prosperity' x *F. magellanica*) x (*F. fulgens* tetraploid x 'Alaska', 2019).

The latter plant makes, starting from early spring cuttings and proper stopping, a large container plant in late summer. It needs lots of fertilizer and watering.

What are your plans for the future? From our contacts I know that the breeding work never really stops!

Indeed, I keep eagerly looking forward to the latest breeding products every year. In the coming years I will mainly focus on making crossings that have not yielded good results so far, such as *F. decidua* x *F. procumbens* and vice versa. Also using 'Spray' as a



'Taco'

crossing parent for creating multi-flowering cultivars has still my full attention. There are even more ideas and opportunities than I will be able to handle. Fuchsias: a wonderful world!

Epilogue

Jan's breeding activities came to an end this year due to his death in April. Rest in peace, Jan.

Jan de Boer's introductions

An overview of Jan de Boer's introductions can be found at Mrs. Sigrid van Schaik's website 'Fuchsias of the World' under 'Hollands Glorie'.

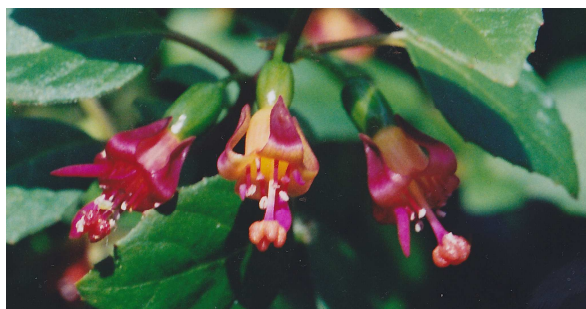
In Mr. Edwin Goulding's article on Multi-flowering Fuchsias (The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative, issue 10, December 2017, p. 2-7) also Jan de Boer's introductions are discussed. It includes many photographs and parentages of 'Straat' cultivars.



'Straat Final'



'Orange Sunset'



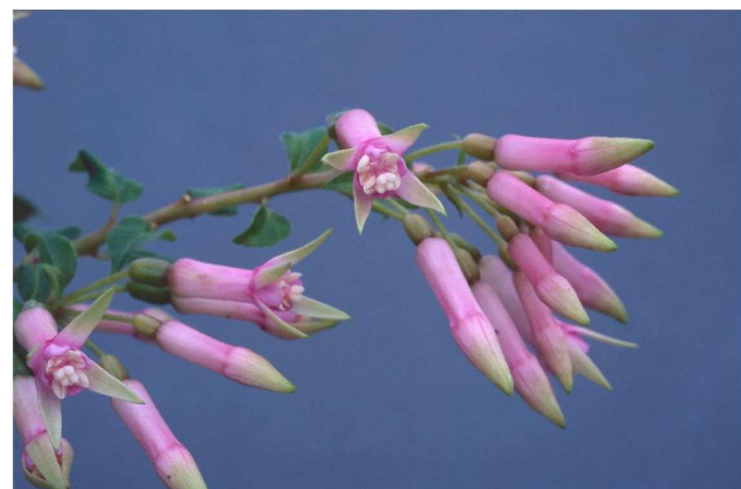
‘Straat Torres’



‘Straat of Plenty’



‘Spray’



‘Straat of Dover’



‘Straat Agulhas’



‘Straat Cook’

Photographs in this article courtesy of:

Jan de Boer: p.13, p.17 (‘Straat Torres’)

Edwin Goulding: p.15 (‘Rijs 2001’), p.16 (‘Straat Final’), p.17.

Flip v.d. Elshout p.16 (‘Taco’).

Robert Czarnecki p.15 (‘Straat Malakka’).

Mario de Cooker p.14, p.15 (‘Straat La Plata’), p.16 (‘Orange Sunset’).

New website of Mario de Cooker

By Mario de Cooker

In February this year, I have launched my own website on fuchsias: www.fuchsiabreeders.nl. It has been in the planning already for several years, but other priorities have until recently always prevailed.

When occasionally people asked me for an overview of my fuchsia introductions, I could not provide this in full detail because I simply did not have it available. And, moreover, over the years lots of background information such as progeny of certain seedlings and the year of introduction, to name some, tends to get stored at dozens of different places, making it a real puzzle for putting things together. Therefore, just for myself it would be more than welcome to have a systematic overview of my hybridisation work on fuchsias over the last 35 years.

So, when we suffered from a severe peak of corona infections early this year, imposing lots of restrictions as regards outside activities, it was very inviting to shut

out the rest of the world and just sit down with the laptop for a couple of weeks for setting up a website.

I will provide you with the result and make a short tour through the website. But of course, it would be better visiting the website yourself for discovering all the background information about the De Cooker Fuchsia Introductions.

Contents of the website

The website contains six pages so far. Most of these also have different subpages. The website's content will be continuously adapted and expanded.

HOME is the introduction page.

ABOUT US tells us something about the owner of the website. Also my residence Ohé en Laak and our local Fuchsia Society 't Limburgs Belleke get attention.

FUCHSIA INTRODUCTIONS provides an overview with photos and explanations of De Cooker's fuchsia introductions over the past 33 years.




TFBI JOURNAL provides an overview of all issues (18 so far) of The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative. All of these can be downloaded as a pdf file.

CONTACT provides a contact form with which information can be requested or comments can be passed on.

To illustrate the content of the website, examples (screen prints) of a number of pages and sub-pages are given on p.19-21

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In January 2013 an initiative was given birth to set up a journal on the breeding of new fuchsias: **The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative**.

Of course, a lot of information can be found in specialized books about fuchsias. And also several interesting websites provide extensive information on new fuchsia introductions.

However, as developments continue, books contain only part of the new information, and also many fuchsia breeders do not have their own website. Moreover, many interested parties do not have or make the time to search the web for getting access to the information. Much of the valuable information on fuchsias is therefore only known to a limited number of fuchsia breeders. And a large part of the information and knowledge is communicated (if it is communicated at all!) only in local, or at best, national newsletters or magazines with a limited number of readers and might be lost forever if not more widely communicated.

It therefore seemed a good idea to make recent and up-to-date information about Fuchsia breeding available to interested parties in a widely distributed and easily accessible electronic journal.

The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative
ISSN: 2214-7551
Editor: Dr. ir. Mario G.R.T. de Cooker

So far, 18 editions of The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative have been published, which can all be oplayed from this website.

Furthermore, the website provides extensive information on Fuchsia cultivars, introduced by Fuchsia breeder Mario de Cooker.

The website was first published on February 4, 2022 and will be continuously improved, updated and supplemented.

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Owner of **The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative** website:

Name: Dr. ir. Mario G.R.T. de Cooker
Date of birth: 4 February 1947, Sas van Gent
Education: Delft Technical University, Chemical Engineering, graduated in 1971
PhD thesis: Direct Synthesis of Organochlorosilanes (1976)

Together with my wife Sonja (1949) I live in Ohè en Laak, a small village in Limburg, in the South of The Netherlands. We have been married in 1969 and have two children, a son Mario jr. (1971) and a daughter Barbara (1975), and four grandchildren.

We own four dogs now (not for breeding or going to shows, just as a hobby): two Airedale Terriers (Phaenna and Saphyra), and two Irish Terriers (Aphaia and Ophelia).



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De Cooker Fuchsia Introductions

An overview of 'De Cooker' Fuchsia introductions is provided in order of the year of introduction.

It should be noted that the year of introduction does not necessarily correspond to the year of registration with the American Fuchsia Society. Sometimes a large difference exists between these two years.

Clicking on a photo marked with → provides additional background information about the cultivar.



Pavilion Princess

Fuchsia 'Pavilion Princess' (De Cooker, 2014) is a semi-trailing, very floriferous Fuchsia. Its parentage is [(('Roger de Cooker' x ('Checkerboard' x 'Machu Picchu')) x ('Checkerboard' x 'Machu Picchu'))] x 'Blue Rebel'. Tube and sepals have a white/soft pink colour. The colour of the corolla (which remains virtually closed, also upon ageing) is a subtle mixture of blue, white, pink and gray. It flowers continuously the whole summer through, and from mid August on the plant is literally covered with flowers.

The name of this fuchsia was inspired by the BBC coverage of the Chelsea Flower Show 2014. One of the BBC's lead presenters in gardening is Carol Klein, who took care of a lot of presentations from the flower displays in the Chelsea's Great Pavilion. She puts enormous flamboyancy and enthusiasm in her presentation, which makes her one of the most beloved presenters. One day Carol was announced as "... our Pavilion Princess...". And what better name could be imagined for this Fuchsia, mimicking Carol with its floriferous flamboyancy.



Saphyra

Fuchsia 'Saphyra' (De Cooker, 2021) is a purple triphylla fuchsia cultivar, originating from crossing ('Daryn John Woods' x 'Purcellian Elegancy') x selfing of *F. fulgens* 'Gesneriana'. It is one of the first of a series of new purple triphyllas originating from seedling N 16-20 = 'Daryn John Woods' x 'Purcellian Elegancy', which is a hexaploid plant that produces 100% purple triphylla offspring.

'Saphyra' has a long, thin elegant tube, inherited from *F. fulgens* 'Gesneriana'. It's an upward growing variety and can be grown as a bush or a small standard. It has good high temperature tolerance, but can best be grown at a dappled shade position. Overwintering in the cold greenhouse is without any problems. Because it's not early flowering it's recommended growing it as an older plant or starting from (non-flowering) autumn or winter cuttings.

The cultivar is named after the youngest Airedale Terrier of the family: Saphyra.



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The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative is an open access journal, dedicated to Fuchsia hybridisation and cultivation. No costs are involved for publication. The journal is made available electronically, free of charge worldwide. For a free subscription send an e-mail to the editor: fuchsia@decooker.nl.

TFBI #1 July 2013

TFBI #2 December 2013

TFBI #3 July 2014

TFBI #4 December 2014

TFBI #5 July 2015

TFBI #11 July 2018

TFBI #12 December 2018

TFBI #13 July 2019

TFBI #14 December 2019

TFBI #15 July 2020

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For breeding new Fuchsia cultivars a variety of male and female crossing parents can be used.

Existing and commercially available cultivars are often used as crossing partners.

Examples are many, and include well-known cultivars such as 'Checkerboard', 'Göttingen' and 'WALZ Harp'.

Another important category comprises the *Fuchsia* species.

By using species material, new traits can be introduced that are not already present in existing cultivars.

Examples are the long tube of *Fuchsia inflata*, which can be transferred to the progeny as is clearly shown by cultivars such as 'Treslong' and 'Dutch Kingsize', and the purple colour of 'Daryn John Woods', which has been inherited from *F. jantasensis*.

In the early times of fuchsia hybridisation, *F. magellanica* and its progeny was widely used by many hybridists. Therefore, many existing cultivars contain at least some magellanica-blood.

Not the least important category of crossing partners includes the genetic material that most fuchsia breeders have collected and preserved over the years in their own, never introduced Fuchsia seedlings.

In the **FUCHSIA BREEDING** sub-pages examples will be given of *Fuchsia* species and preserved seedlings which have given shape to the 'De Cooker' Fuchsia introductions.

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N 93-08

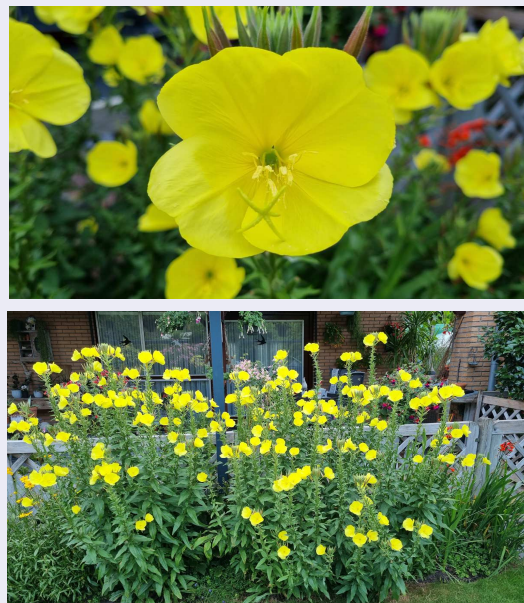
Seedling N 93-08 originates from the crossing N 91-09 x N 91-13 = ('Checkerboard' x 'Machu Picchu') x ('Checkerboard' x 'Machu Picchu'). It is an attractive floriferous semi-trailing variety, which has however never been released because its appearance is not very different from a number of existing varieties. It has excellent fertility, predominantly as the male parent. It is without any doubt one of the most productive preserved De Cooker seedlings, and has been used as a crossing partner for making 'Whisper', 'Careless Whisper', 'Phaidra', 'Roger de Cooker', 'Remembering Claire', 'Awake Sweet Love', 'Sappho Phaoon', 'All Summer Beauty', 'Pavilion Princess', 'Aphaia', 'Frans Boers', 'Misha Charlotte', 'Skyward Dwarf', 'Phaenna' and 'Winter Has Passed'.



A family member with a dazzling show

By Mario de Cooker

The evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) belongs like *Fuchsia* to the Onagraceae family. The plant is native to North America, but has been widely naturalized elsewhere in the world, also in The Netherlands. It has a life span of two years and has spread profusely in my garden. Flowering takes place at night and the flowers open visibly fast every evening. As the sun sets (now at 9:30 pm), a fascinating show takes place, with new flowers opening every 5-10 seconds. Within half an hour, the plants have turned into a sea of dozens, sometimes even several hundreds of yellow flowers, which will wilt the next day. Indeed, a fascinating dazzling show.



Contents of the next issue The next issue is scheduled for the end of December 2022.

Pollen – A Special Case (by Edwin Goulding)

The first three articles written almost ten years ago concentrated almost entirely on pollen studies and their value in breeding Fuchsias. The subject has been raised periodically since then as a much broader spectrum of information was explored. In the next article we will re-examine the subject and look into what the future holds for our Genus.

Creating new triphylla cultivars

(by Mario de Cooker).

Provided sufficient new data are available, the first results will be reported and discussed from the crosses with pentaploid purple triphyllas.

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 must be available by 10 December, 2022.

The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative

The responsibility for the content of the articles in The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative rests fully with the author. The contents do not necessarily represent the editor's opinion. In consultation with the author changes can be made by the editor. Unless explicitly stated differently, the content of the articles may be used by subscribers for publication in their own journals or by other interested parties for promotional activities. For the use of photographs, please contact the editor. Reference should be made to The Fuchsia Breeders Initiative, including the ISSN number 2214-7551.

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