

# Bolivian fuchsia

## *Fuchsia boliviana*

### Family

Onagraceae

### Also known as

Synonym of *Fuchsia sanctae-roseae*

### Where is it originally from?

Bolivia and South Peru, South America

### What does it look like?

Erect, evergreen shrub (2-5 m tall) with long, thin, densely hairy stems with leaves at the ends, and green shoots. Grey-green, oblong (<20 x 9 cm) leaves grow in pairs on reddish pink leaf stems (<80 mm), have with flattened hairs, and faintly toothed edges. Trumpet-like flowers with crimson petals (1.2-1.5 cm long) and stamens, and hairy pink or crimson flower tubes (50-60 mm long) and outer petals (15-22 mm x 4 mm) are produced all year round in hanging clusters at the end of stems, and are followed by cylindrical dark purple berries (20 mm long). Flowers may be white in cultivation.

### Are there any similar species?

*Fuchsia fulgens* and *F. triphylla* have shorter floral tubes and outer petals. *F. fulgens* has orange-red floral tubes with green-tipped outer petals, and *F. triphylla* has leaves that are purple below and sometimes above, and orange-scarlet flowers.

### Why is it weedy?

Forms dense, shade-tolerant thickets.

### How does it spread?

Birds spread the seeds long distances.

### What damage does it do?

Shades out smaller plants and seedlings, preventing native plants establishing.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Forests and their margins, scrub, riparian areas and open wasteland.

### What can I do to get rid of it?

Remove all seedlings and mulch. Dig out larger plants.



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Photo: Carolyn Lewis



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