

Growing Begonias

Begonias come in two different types; tuberous or fibrous. Tuberous begonias are started from an established root called a tuber. Fibrous begonias are started from seed. This information sheet provides some advice for growing tuberous begonias.

Growing Tuberous Begonias

Tuberous begonias are started indoors in February and March. You should start the tubers in sterile Potting Soil or Starter Mix rich in peat moss in pots or trays. The tuber should be no deeper than ten centimeters (three inches) below the surface of the soil. It is recommended that you moisten the soil before planting the tuber. After planting, water the soil while allowing the excess water to drain away. If you can't start the tubers inside, ensure you wait until after the last frost before planting them directly in the ground.



Transplanting Outside

You can transplant outside in mid to late May once the weather warms. The plant should be at least ten centimeters (three inches) high and have formed at least two leaves.

Feeding your Begonias

Tuberous begonias are heavy feeders. They need a balanced diet to produce the lush succulent growth and a profusion of blooms. For the best results feed the begonias with all purpose fertilizers such as Plant Prod 20-20-20, or Miracle Grow Ultra Bloom (15-30-15).

Caring for your Begonias

With proper care, watering, and feeding begonias will respond wonderfully. They perform best in a semi-shaded part of the garden or patio. Begonias like the soil to be kept moist at all times, but often get a fungus called "*powdery mildew*". To prevent this problem, ensure good air circulation, water the plants in the morning, and minimize the amount of water on the leaves. If the mildew becomes persistent spray or dust with a fungicide such as sulphur. Repeat applications on a weekly basis to prevent the disease from spreading.

Following these simple steps help to ensure success in growing your tuberous begonias.