

## Begonia Guide

*Get the best from  
your begonias*

### Quick Tips

- Open packaging immediately on receipt and stand upright where appropriate.
- Remove bagging if present on the pots. If plants seem dry, place pots in a tray of water for half an hour.
- When growing in containers, don't fill to the brim with compost. Leave up to 2.5cm (1in) of pot on show to allow for watering – halve this for small pots and cell trays.
- If growing on the windowsill, turn plants regularly to prevent them stretching towards the light.
- Pots should always have drainage holes, but place on saucers/trays to prevent surface staining. It also helps retain extra water during summer heat.
- Always water prior to planting or potting on.
- Prepare soils ahead of planting. For the best establishment, work incredicompost® and incredibloom® fertiliser into the growing area. These will also give you the best results in containers displays too. Alternatively opt for regular liquid feeds through the season, starting at 6 weeks after planting.
- Avoid planting when soils are too wet or frozen.
- Acclimatise all indoor grown plants to outside conditions. Harden off by placing outside by day and back undercover each evening for 7-10 days.



**Tubers:** Start your dormant tubers into growth as soon as possible. Do this by planting 5cm (2in) apart in shallow trays, or individually in 7cm (3in) pots. For best results, use sandy, free-draining compost. Plant tubers with their hollow side uppermost, gently push them into place and water thoroughly. Do not let the water sit in the depression of the tubers, as this could lead to rotting. Ideally place in a cool greenhouse or on a windowsill, with good light and ventilation. Do not add any fertiliser at this stage.



Alternatively, place tuber into a bag of moist sand and place in a warm airing cupboard until tubers shoot. Grow on at a slightly warmer temperature of approx 21-24 °C (70-75 °C), protecting from strong sunlight until they become established. Allow slow, compact growth, and allow plenty of space between plants to ensure adequate air circulation; this prevents the risk of mildew.

**Plug plants:** Begonia plugs can be planted straight into flower pouches, patio containers, hanging baskets etc, but are best potted on once or twice. They can be transplanted into their final containers once they have increased in size.

As soon as possible upon receipt, ease each plug from its tray, handling by the leaves, not stem. Set individually into 7cm (3in) pots or large cell trays filled with incredicompost®. Pinch the compost around the plugs to firm in. Water well to settle. Allow the compost surface to dry between watering. Grow on a windowsill or in a warm greenhouse. Plants can be potted on again if required.

**5cm-11cm pots:** Grow on or pot up in larger pots filled with incredicompost® and incredibloom® fertiliser for planting outside.

**Planting out:** Plant out after the last spring frost. Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball and just a little deeper. Break up the bottom of the planting hole and set the plant in place. Mix incredicompost® and incredibloom® with the planting soil, backfill and firm down. Water well to settle. In containers, add 8 plants to a 30cm patio pot or 10 plants to a 30cm hanging basket.



**General aftercare:** During the growing season, begonias may need to be protected from pests such as snails and slugs. Water plants regularly throughout the summer to keep soil/compost moist and feed your plants every 2 weeks with liquid fertiliser if not using slow release. Deadhead spent flowers to encourage further blooms.

**Tips for Begonia Garden Angels:** These are unique hardy begonias, suitable for a sheltered border outdoors. Avoid direct sun. Plants will die back to the ground during the autumn, and re-shoot the following spring. Avoid excessive wetness, especially around the crown, through the winter months.

**Propagation:** Most of the plants we offer are recent introductions and therefore protected by Plant Breeder's Rights. Propagation of any of these varieties for commercial sale is illegal.

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