



Tophat™ Scarlet Begonia

syngenta *flowers*

# Tophat™ Interspecific Begonia

## Culture Guide

*Begonia x hybrida*

- Finishes at least one week earlier than the leading competitors
- Largest blooms in its class—Up to 20% larger than BIG® and Megawatt™
- Bred for versatility, Tophat is easy to finish in 306 packs up to large patio containers
- The ONLY WHITE in its class

**Container size:** Packs, quarts, gallons, and baskets

**Habit:** Mounding

### Garden Specifications

**Garden height:** 16–20"

**Garden width:** 16–20"

**Light:** Part shade to full sun

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 11

**AHS Heat Zone:** 12-1

**Product use:** Beds, mass plantings, containers, mixed combinations

### Germination

**Germination time:** 6–8 days

**Media temperature:** 72–78 °F (22–26 °C)

**Chamber:** Yes

**Light:** Not required for germination

**Seed cover:** No

**Moisture Level:** Level saturated (5), from days 1–11. Beginning day 12, reduce moisture level to wet (4), until day 15. Afterward, begin alternating between moisture level wet (4) and moist (3).

**Recommended tray size:** 288-cell tray

**Seeds per cell:** 1



Tophat™ Pink Begonia

### Young Plant Production

#### TEMPERATURE:

**Day:** 68–72 °F (20–22 °C)

**Night:** 68–72 °F (20–22 °C)

#### LIGHTING:

**Recommended day length:** Supplemental HID lighting if daily light integral (DLI) is less than 12 mols/day.

**Light intensity:** 3,500–4,500 foot candles (700–900 micro mols)

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Daily light integral:** 12–20 mols/day

**Media pH:** 5.4–5.8

**Media EC:** 1.0–1.25 mS/cm (saturated media extract)

**Fertilizer:** 100–125 ppm nitrogen

**Moisture level:** Once germination is complete (approximately day 8), reduce to moisture level 4 (wet). Once cotyledons have expanded allow soil to dry down to a moisture level 3 (moist) prior to re-irrigating to a level 4 (wet). As true leaves expand and roots develop, alternate from a level 4 (wet) to a level 2 (medium).

**Pinching:** No

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** PGRs may not be required. Control growth with light, temperature, moisture, and fertilizer levels. If needed, spray B-Nine® (daminozide) at 2,500 ppm or A-Rest® (ancymidol) at 3 ppm.

**Plug grow time:** 6–7 weeks in a 288-cell size tray

**Tech tips:** HID lighting will help speed up germination and uniformity of seedlings. Use low volume water nozzles and water breakers until leaves are approximately the size of a pencil eraser. High water pressure will move seeds and result in erratic and uneven germination.

## Finishing

### TEMPERATURE:

**Day:** 68–75 °F (20–24 °C)

**Night:** 62–68 °F (18–20 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 65–70 °F (18–21 °C)

### LIGHTING:

**Recommended day length:** Supplemental HID lighting if daily light integral (DLI) is less than 12 mols/day.

**Light intensity:** 3,500–5,500 foot candles (700–1,100 micro mols)

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Daily light integral:** 12–20 mols/day

**Media pH:** 5.4–5.8

**Media EC:** 1.2–1.5 mS/cm (saturated media extract)

**Fertilizer:** 150–200 ppm nitrogen

**Pinching:** No

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Spray B-Nine (daminozide) at 2,500–5,000 ppm to control stem elongation. Bonzi® (paclobutrazol) can be trialed at 2–4 ppm if needed.

**Moisture level:** Alternate between a level 4 (wet) and level 2 (medium). Allow soil to dry to a level 2 (medium) before irrigating up to a level 4 (wet).

**Pests:** Thrips, aphids

**Diseases:** *Botrytis*

## Scheduling

Container size	Crop time after transplant (wks)	Plants per pot
306 packs	4–5	1
1 quart	4–5	1
1.25 quart, 2.5 quart	5–6	1
3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon	5–6	2–3
1.5- to 3-gallon baskets	6–7	3

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 288-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 68 °F (20 °C).

### EXAMPLE CROP SCHEDULE FOR 1-GALLON POTS

**Week 1:** Sow into 288 or similar plug tray.

**Week 2:** Maintain 68–72 °F (20–22 °C) throughout plug production.

**Week 6:** PGR spray of B-Nine or A-Rest, if needed, to tone plugs.

**Week 7:** Transplant one plug per pot and finish at 68 °F ADT and minimum DLI of 12–15 mols/day.

**Week 11:** PGR spray of B-Nine or Bonzi if needed.

**Week 12–13:** Finish



Tophat™ White Begonia

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