



Tophat™ White



syngenta flowers

Four Essential Tips

for Successful Tophat™ Germination:

Growers, retailers and consumers love the new Tophat Begonia series. It continues to wow with larger flowers and more branching plants than other interspecific Begonias. Tophat Begonias, however, are also more compact growing in the young plant stage, so they benefit from attention to slightly different details during propagation.

The following recommendations are tailored to help growers achieve maximum germination and premium young plant quality, with Tophat Begonias.

TECH TIP



Image is enlarged to show detail.

1. Group Tophat Begonia separately from other interspecific Begonias in the germination area.

Due to their smaller seedling size, Tophat Begonias may require up to 2–3 more days to germinate than other varieties.



2. Apply enough irrigation at the time of sowing to soften and dissolve the seed pellet.

Use a low water volume and very fine mist nozzle when irrigating plugs for the first 3 weeks. Strong water pressure or large droplet sizes will move the tiny seeds around and delay seedling establishment. When the first true leaves are about the size of a pencil eraser, water droplet size and volume can be increased. Moisture level 4 should be maintained 28–35 days after sow.



3. Keep humidity during germination as close to 100%, as possible.

After sowing, keep trays in the germination chamber at 72–78 °F for 6–9 days. Do not remove Tophat from the germination chamber too early. If you don't have a germination chamber, use tenting or fabric covering over the trays. After 21 days true leaves should be expanding and covering can be removed.



Source: Ruskin, FL Feb 2019

4. Provide high-quality light or supplemental lighting as soon as seedlings are removed from the chamber, especially if your germination chamber does not have lights.

Light is beneficial for germination and will help maximize the speed of emergence.

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