

# Interspecific Begonia Bowler™

## Culture Guide

*F1 Begonia x hybrida*

**Product form:** Seed

**Containers:** Large Packs, Pints, Quarts, Gallons, Hanging Baskets

**Habit:** Mounding

### Garden Specifications

**Garden Height:** 14–18" (35–45 cm) tall

**Garden Width:** 14–18" (35–45 cm) wide

**Exposure:** Full Shade–Full Sun

**USDA zone:** 11

**AHS zone:** 12–1

**Product use:** Containers, Hanging Baskets, Landscapes, Patio Pots, Combos

### Tips for Successful Germination

1. Group Bowler Begonias separately from other interspecific Begonias because they may require up to 2–3 more days to germinate.
2. Apply enough irrigation at the time of sowing to soften and dissolve the seed pellet.
3. During germination, keep humidity as close to 100% as possible.
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.

*Up to 3% of Bowler plant populations may exhibit green leaves. Although leaf color is different, these plants still match the series for flower size, timing and plant vigor.*

### Germination

**Stages 1 & 2**

**Germination time:** 6–8 days

**Media temp:** 72–78 °F (22–26 °C)

**Chamber:** Optional

**Light:** Required for germination

**Seed cover:** No

**Moisture level: 5 - SATURATED:** Soil is dark brown and shiny, free water is present at the surface of the soil, water drips freely from the bottom of the tray, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Rec. tray size:** 288-cell tray

**Seeds per cell:** 1

### Young Plant Production

**Stage 3 & 4**

**Temperature**

**Day:** 68–70 °F (20–21 °C)

**Night:** 68–70 °F (20–21 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 68–70 °F (20–21 °C)

**Lighting**

**Day extension lighting:** Not necessary

**Light intensity:** 2,000–2,500 foot candles (400–500 micro mols)

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Day light integral:** 10–12 mols/day

**Media pH:** 5.5–5.9

**Media EC:** SME 0.5 to 0.75 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 75–125 ppm N

**Moisture level:** Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations. Alternate between moisture level 3 and 4.

**3 - MOIST:** Soil is brown in color, strongly squeezing the soil will extract a few drops of water, and trays are light with no visible bend.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Pinching:** No

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Bowler is not likely to need PGRs, but if needed to tone/hold plugs, Bowler responds well to sprays of B-Nine® WSG at 1,500 ppm.

**Plug grow time:** 7–8 weeks in a 288-cell tray

**Comments:** Avoid overwatering to prevent excess algae growth and to promote root growth into the media. If germinating on the bench, it is helpful to cover trays with ReeMay® or similar to help retain humidity and reduce irrigation frequency. When irrigating, use low pressure/volume nozzles/breakers to avoid moving seeds around in the cell. If the daily light integral (DLI) is less than 12 mols/day, adding supplemental HID light will promote a more uniform crop.

## Finishing

### Temperature

**Day:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

**Night:** 62–64 °F (17–18 °C)

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

### Lighting

**Day extension lighting:** Not necessary

**Light intensity:** 4,000–6,000 foot candles

**Day length response:** Day neutral

**Day light integral:** 12–14 mols/day

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly below the level of media in the container. Make sure that the root ball is covered and that the plug is situated in the center of the pot.

**Media pH:** 5.5–5.9

**Media EC:** SME EC: 1.5–2.1 mS/cm, PourThru EC: 2.3–3.2 mS/cm

**Fertilizer:** 125–175 ppm N

**Pinching:** No. Pinching is not recommended or needed.

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** Bowler is genetically compact and highly branching and will require few PGRs. For small containers, such as 306 packs, a spray of B-Nine® WSG at 1,500 to 2,500 ppm about halfway through the finishing cycle will provide excellent control of leaf and plant size without reducing flower size. Bonzi® sprays are not recommended since flower size will be significantly reduced. Plant growth regulators are usually not required for gallon containers and larger. Plant growth is best controlled through proper moisture, feed, and temperature management.

**Tech tip:** It is recommended to avoid high ammonium fertilizers since these fertilizers promote soft, leafy growth and may delay flowering.

**CHRYSALESCO**

Try Chrysal Alesco®, a postharvest foliar spray, to protect ethylene sensitive crops during shipping and retail.

**Moisture level:** Media should be allowed to dry between irrigations.

Alternate between moisture level 2 and 4.

**2 - MEDIUM:** Soil is light brown in color, no water can be extracted from soil, and soil will crumble apart.

**4 - WET:** Soil is dark brown but not shiny, no free water is seen at the surface of the soil, when pressed or squeezed water drips easily, and trays are heavy with a visible bend in the middle.

**Common pests:** Aphids, Thrips

**Common diseases:** Botrytis

## Scheduling

SIZE	CROP TIME	PLANTS PER POT
Large Packs	4–5 weeks	1 ppp
1.0 pint (4 inch)	4–5 weeks	1 ppp
1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	5–6 weeks	1 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	5–6 weeks	1 ppp
1.5 gallon hanging basket (10 inch basket)	6–7 weeks	3 ppp
2.0 gallon hanging basket (12 inch basket)	6–7 weeks	4–5 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 288-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 66 °F (19 °C).

## Example crop schedule for a large pack

WEEKS FROM TRANSPLANT	DESCRIPTION
3 weeks	Drench with Bonzi® at 0.25 ppm
5 weeks	Ready to ship



Bowler™ Bronze Leaf White

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