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Begonia Tuberosus Go-Go™

Culture Guide

Botanical name: *Begonia tuberhybrida*

Product form: Seed

Containers: Pints, Quarts, Gallons, Hanging Baskets

Habit: Mounded

Garden Specifications

Garden Height: 8–10" (20–25 cm) tall

Garden Width: 8–10" (20–25 cm) wide

Exposure: Part shade

USDA zone: 11

AHS zone: 12–1

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

Germination

Stages 1 & 2

Germination time: 7–10 days

Media temp: 73–75 °F (23 °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

Seed cover: No

Young Plant Production

Stage 3 & 4

Temperature

Day: 68–70 °F (20–21 °C)

Night: 62–64 °F (17–18 °C)

Average daily temperature: 66 °F (19 °C)

Lighting

Day extension lighting: Necessary to 14 hours

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

Day length response: Obligate long day

Day light integral: 10–12 mols/day

Media pH: 5.5–5.9

Media EC: SME 0.5 to 0.75 mS/cm

Fertilizer: 50–75 ppm N

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

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

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): Usually not needed in the plug. If needed spray with B-Nine at 1,500 ppm or Cycocel at 300 ppm.

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

Comments: Tuberosus Begonias will form tubers and single flowers under short days so providing night interruption lighting for a total of at least 14 hours is necessary, even in the plug stage. During early stages of growth irrigate very gently since Begonia seedlings are very small and heavy watering will disturb the roots. This is a relatively long plug crop so keeping the media too wet can lead to excessive algae growth.

Finishing

Temperature

Day: 62–64 °F (17–18 °C)

Night: 60–62 °F (16–17 °C)

Average daily temperature: 62 °F (17 °C)

Lighting

Day extension lighting: Necessary to 14 hours

Light intensity: 2,000–4,000 foot candles

Day length response: Obligate long day

Day light integral: 8–10 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. If planting more than one plug in a container point the tips of the leaves to the outside of the pot for better flower presentation at retail.

Media pH: 5.5–5.9

Media EC: SME EC: 0.9–1.3 mS/cm, PourThru EC: 1.4–2.0 mS/cm

Fertilizer: 125–175 ppm N

Pinching: No. Pinching is not recommended or needed.

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): In larger containers PGRs are usually not needed. For smaller pots spray with Cycocel at 500–1,000 ppm 1–3 times depending on plant growth.

Tech tip: Tuberous Begonias are extremely sensitive to Tospoviruses; controlling Thrips is imperative to avoid this disease. If planting more than one plug in a container point the tips of the leaves to the outside of the pot for better flower presentation at retail. Provide excellent air flow during flowering to help control Botrytis and Powdery Mildew.



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.

1 - DRY: Soil is tan to gray in color, trays are extremely light, and soil pulls away from sides of container.

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

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.

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.

Common pests: Aphids, Thrips

Common diseases: Pythium, Rhizoctonia, Botrytis, Powdery Mildew, Tospoviruses (Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus, Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus)

Scheduling

Size	Crop Time	Plants Per Pot
1.0 pint (4 inch)	8–10 weeks	1 ppp
1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	10–12 weeks	1 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	10–12 weeks	1–2 ppp
3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon (7.5 to 10 inch)	11–13 weeks	3–5 ppp
1.5 gallon hanging basket (10 inch basket)	11–13 weeks	3–5 ppp
2.0 gallon hanging basket (12 inch basket)	11–13 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 62 °F (17 °C).

Example crop schedule for a 1.5 gallon hanging basket

Weeks From Transplant	Description
1 week	Make sure leaves are pointing to outside of basket. Check to see that long days are being provided. Ensure that a great thrips scouting/control program is in place
4 weeks	Apply PGR if necessary
6 weeks	Apply PGR if necessary
8 weeks	Apply PGR if necessary
9 weeks	Start scouting for Powdery Mildew since if it does show up it usually at the start of flower bud formation
13 weeks	Ready to ship



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