



syngenta®flowers

# Begonia Interspecific Ikon™

## Culture Guide

**Botanical name:** *Begonia × hybrida*

**Product form:** Seed

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

**Habit:** Semi-Trailing

### Garden Specifications

**Garden Height:** 12–16" (30–40 cm) tall

**Garden Width:** 16–20" (40–50 cm) wide

**Exposure:** Full sun to shade

**USDA zone:** 9–11

**AHS zone:** 11–1

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

### Germination

Stages 1 & 2

**Germination time:** 14 days

**Media temp:** 73–78 °F (23–25 °C)

**Chamber:** Optional

**Light:** Not 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

Stages 3 & 4

#### **Temperature**

**Day:** 70–72 °F (21–22 °C)

**Night:** 68–70 °F (20–21 °C)

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

#### **Lighting**

**Day extension lighting:** Necessary to 14 hours

**Light intensity:** 1,500–3,000 foot candles (300–600 micro mols)

**Day length response:** Obligate long day

**Daily light integral:** 8–10 mols/day

**Media pH:** 5.5–5.9

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

**Fertilizer:** 0

**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.

**Pinching:** No

**Plant growth regulators (PGRs):** PGRs are usually not required in the plug stage. However, if growing a large plug such as a 72-cell a spray of Cycocel® at 250 ppm or B-Nine® WSG at 500–750 ppm will help tone plugs.

**Plug grow time:** 7–9 weeks in a 288-cell tray

**Comments:** Irrigate early in the day to avoid leaf scorch when high light levels are present. Also allowing the soil surface to dry between irrigations will reduce algae growth.

### Finishing

#### **Temperature**

**Day:** 66–68 °F (19–20 °C)

**Night:** 58–60 °F (14–16 °C)

**Average daily temperature:** 63 °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

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

**Transplanting:** Transplant directly into the finished container. Place the rooting media slightly above the level of media in the container. Make sure 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: 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):** Proper management of moisture, fertilizer, and light is the best way to control growth. If needed, Bossa Nova responds well to sprays of B-Nine® WSG at 1,500–2,500 ppm.

**Tech tip:** Do not bury the plug when transplanting to avoid crown rot. Irrigate early in the day to avoid leaf scorch when high light levels are present. Avoid the use of high ammonium fertilizers since they will promote larger, softer leaves. If planting multiple plugs per container, make sure the leaves are pointed to the rim of the container so that flowers will be more visible.



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

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**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:** Fungus gnats and Shore flies (during propagation), Thrips

**Common diseases:** Pythium and Botrytis

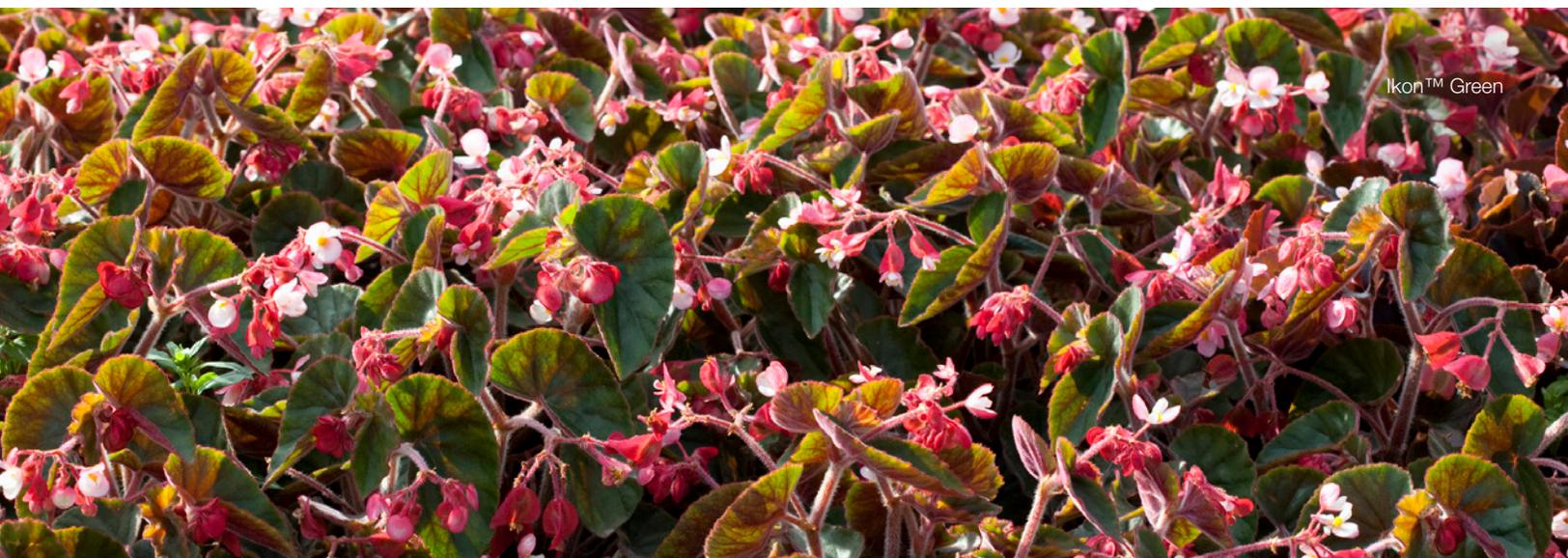
## Scheduling

| Size  | Crop Time  | Plants Per Pot |
|---|------------|----------------|
| 1.0 pint (4 inch)                                 | 7–8 weeks  | 1 ppp          |
| 1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)                         | 8–9 weeks  | 1 ppp          |
| 1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon) | 8–10 weeks | 1–2 ppp        |
| 3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon (7.5 to 10 inch)          | 8–10 weeks | 3–5 ppp        |
| 1.5 gallon hanging basket (10 inch basket)        | 8–10 weeks | 3–5 ppp        |
| 2.0 gallon hanging basket (12 inch basket)        | 8–10 weeks | 5–7 ppp        |
| 3.0 gallon hanging basket (14 inch basket)        | 8–10 weeks | 7–9 ppp        |

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 288-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 63 °F (17 °C).

## Example crop schedule for a 2.0 gallon hanging basket

| Weeks From Transplant | Description  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 4 weeks               | Scout for Thrips   |
| 6 weeks               | Spray with B-Nine® WSG at 1,500–2,500 ppm, if needed. Scout for Thrips |
| 8 weeks               | Scout for Thrips   |
| 10 weeks              | Ready to ship  |



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