

Begonia Grace™

Culture Guide

Begonia hybrida

Product form: Vegetative

Containers: Quarts, Gallons, Hanging Baskets

Habit: Mounded

Garden Specifications

Garden Height: 18–24" (45–60 cm) tall

Garden Width: 12–18" (30–45 cm) wide

Exposure: Part shade

USDA zone: 9-11

AHS zone: 1-10

Product use: Containers, Hanging Baskets, Patio Pots

Propagation of Unrooted Cuttings

Root emergence: 10–12 days. Prior to sticking, do not store unrooted cuttings below 50 °F.

Rooting hormone: Not Recommended

Bottom heat temp.: 72–75 °F (22–24 °C) for the first three weeks. After roots are well developed, temperatures can be lowered to hold and tone the cuttings.

Misting: Mist schedules vary depending on light and temperature conditions. Apply just enough moisture to rehydrate the cuttings and keep them from wilting. Cuttings should be hydrated and in a non-wilted stage within 24 hours after sticking. Cuttings that continue to wilt heavily after 24 hours will callus unevenly and will be delayed in rooting. CapSil® (spray adjuvant) can be sprayed on the cuttings at a rate of 2–4 oz/100 gal within 1–2 days after sticking to help in rehydration of the cuttings. Misting should be significantly reduced after 3–4 days and after cuttings become fully hydrated.

Rec. tray size: 72-cell (30 mm) or larger

Propagation timing: 6 weeks for a 72-cell plug; add more rooting time for significantly larger plug sizes.

Temperature

Day: 72–74 °F (22–23 °C)

Night: 72–74 °F (22–23 °C)

Lighting

Day extension lighting: Necessary to 14 hours

Light intensity: 1,000–1,200 foot candles (200–250 micro mols) for the first two weeks after sticking or until root development occurs. Light levels can be increased up to 3,000 foot candles (600 micro mols) as rooting increases and the cutting matures.

Day light integral: 4–6 mols/day for the first two weeks after sticking or until root development occurs. DLI can be increased to greater than 8 mols/day after root formation.

Media pH: 5.8–6.2

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

Fertilizer: Begin fertilization at 50 ppm nitrogen when roots become visible. Rates can be increased up to 100 ppm nitrogen after roots become well developed. Use primarily Cal-Mag® Plus (calcium nitrate + magnesium nitrate) fertilizers in propagation to prevent unwanted stretch.

Pinching: Recommended soft pinch if needed to encourage lateral branching.

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): Cycocel® at 500–1,000 ppm.



Grace™ Orange

Finishing

Temperature

Day: 72–74 °F (22–23 °C)

Night: 72–74 °F (22–23 °C)

Average daily temperature: 73 °F (22.5 °C)

Lighting

Day extension lighting: Beneficial to 14 hours

Light intensity: 6,000–8,000 foot candles

Day length response: Facultative short day

Day light integral: 16–18 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 liner is situated in the center of the pot.

IMPORTANT: When planting, place liners with the point of the leaves to the outside of the container for best plant growth and flower presentation.

Media pH: 5.8–6.2

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

Fertilizer: 200–250 ppm N

Pinching: Yes, one soft pinch is recommended in propagation or 7–10 days after transplant.

Plant growth regulators (PGRs): Cycocel® at 500–1,000 ppm.

Tech tip: Day extension lighting to 14 hours is recommended for the first weeks of finished production to bulk plant size. Lighting should be discontinued at least four weeks prior to shipping flowering plants.



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 3.

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.

Common pests: Thrips, Broad Mites

Common diseases: Botrytis, Tospovirus, Xanthomonas

Scheduling

SIZE	CROP TIME	PLANTS PER POT
1.0 quart (4.5 to 5 inch)	7–8 weeks	1 ppp
1.25 to 2.5 quart (5.5 to 6.5 inch, trade gallon)	9–12 weeks	2–3 ppp
3.0 quart to 2.0 gallon (7.5 to 10 inch)	10–14 weeks	3–4 ppp
1.5 gallon hanging basket (10 inch basket)	10–14 weeks	4–5 ppp
2.0 gallon hanging basket (12 inch basket)	12–16 weeks	5–6 ppp

Estimated finish crop time is from transplant of a 72-cell tray and finished at an average daily temperature (ADT) of 73 °F (22.5 °C).

Example crop schedule for a 1.5 gallon hanging basket

WEEKS FROM TRANSPLANT	DESCRIPTION
1 week	Provide average daily temperatures of 73 °F and DLI levels above 12 mols/day. If needed, use supplemental lighting to provide 14 hours of light per day
2 weeks	Soft pinch if not done in the liner stage
3 weeks	Apply a spray of copper-based fungicide for prevention of bacterial diseases. Scout for insect pests and spray as needed throughout crop cycle
4 weeks	Apply a spray of Cycocel® at 500–1,000 ppm if needed for control of growth
6 weeks	Discontinue use of day extension lighting to initiate flowering
7 weeks	Apply PGRs if needed; later applications may reduce flower size
10 weeks	Sale

Grace™ Red



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