

BEGONIA CARE GUIDE



Begonia
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WATER

When you take care of begonias, make sure that you only water them when they need to be watered. Wait to water until the top 2" of soil dries out. Another option would be waiting until the plant shows signs of being dry, such as drooping leaves, before you water them. This will help prevent accidental overwatering, which is the main reason for begonias dying when grown indoors. Also, when you water your begonia houseplant, make sure to water below the leaves in order to avoid inviting a fungal disease.

SOIL TYPE

Begonias prefer loose well-draining soil. To achieve a well draining soil, ensure there are chunkier pieces in the mix such as vermiculite, perlite or sphagnum peat to the soil to allow proper drainage.

COMMON ISSUES

Powdery Mildew is a common problem to be on the lookout for when growing plants which prefer high humidity. This mildew will appear as a white or gray powder which coats the surface of the plant. If left untreated, it can turn more severe, causing leaves to turn yellow or brown.

One powdery mildew organic remedy is to use dilute solutions of hydrogen peroxide (9 parts water to 1 part hydrogen peroxide). Spray it on the plants thoroughly about once a week.

LIGHT

Bright indirect light. This means they will be happiest in front of west-facing, east-facing windows, or a couple of feet back from south-facing windows.

AIR

High humidity is important for these plants to thrive. You can accomplish this by a shallow tray filled with pebbles and water. This will allow your growing begonias to get the humidity they need indoors without waterlogging the soil or exposing the leaves to excess moisture that could cause disease. Begonias are highly susceptible to powdery mildew, so avoid the temptation to mist them.

FERTILIZER

Fertilizer every two weeks during the growing season (spring-fall).

POT CHOICE

These plants will do best in a glazed ceramic pot with drainage holes. The glaze will allow the soil to retain moisture longer than terra cotta. Drainage is important because it cannot sit in water.

PRUNING

Cut off dead or dying leaves to prevent powdery mildew.

BOTANY