

PLANTING BEGONIAS

Nothing brightens up a shady garden like Begonias. Unlike many annuals, they thrive in shade, blooming profusely in shades of red, pink, orange, white and yellow. These flowering bulbs are available every spring, however can also be started early indoors. Here are some great reasons to try growing begonia this winter:

COST

As with starting seeds indoors, you'll save a large amount of money by starting Begonias from tubers. Though the price of one tuber may seem similar to the price of finished 4" pot in the greenhouse, the bulbs are twice the size, meaning larger blossoms, and more blossoms per plant.



SELECTION

Traditionally you'll only see the standard Non-Stop Begonia selections on greenhouse shelves. But if you choose to start your own, you'll have many other varieties to choose from; hanging basket types, picotee types with ruffled blooms, and novelty begonia with unusual coloured blossoms.

IT'S EASY!

Begonias are easy to start indoors; all you need is a sunny window or grow light, some 4" pots and a seeding tray. Simply fill 4" pots to the top with a well drained potting mix such as Schultz Seed Starter.

Nestle the tubers into the soil so it is just at or below the soil surface. Most tubers have a hollow side; this is the side that needs to be facing up when planting the tubers.

Nestle tuber so that it rests just at soil level, with the hollow side facing up.



After they are planted, they can be carefully watered in and place in a sunny, warm window. As the tubers grow, the pots or flats can be turned every few days to keep foliage compact and even. If tubers start to form flower buds, these can be pinched off to divert energy back into growing leaves - there will be lots of time to bloom in summer!