

Growing Instructions for Tuberous Begonias



Begonia 'Picotee Sunburst'

Tubers can be planted from February to June. In areas with hot summer temperatures, it is wise to have them well established before hot weather arrives. A good strain is essential for best results. For gardeners who desire choice plants and the latest varieties, make certain you purchase only AmeriHybrid® Begonias, the only strain still produced in the USA.

OUTDOORS

Begonias should be planted with 1-1½" soil covering the top of the tuber, in well-drained beds or large pots. Partial shade is necessary in all but the coolest climates; however, they should not be in full shade. An Eastern exposure is also acceptable, receiving full sun in the morning, with afternoon shade. Any light soil is satisfactory. Humus such as peat moss or leaf mold is desirable to retain moisture and create slightly acid conditions. Begonias need to be moist at all times. Any mild fertilizer can be used at intervals throughout the season. A natural fertilizer such as fish emulsion is ideal. For best results, fertilize lightly in the first few weeks of growth, as this will promote earlier bloom.

Tuberous begonias are tender and cannot be placed outdoors until danger of frost is past. In order to advance

the planting season they may be started indoors about 8 weeks before the proper planting season. Fill a flat or box at least 2½ inches (6.4 cm) deep with coarse peat or loose soil. Place the tubers hollow side up with the top just below the surface. Keep the soil moist, but take care not to over-water before growth is started. Temperature should be from 50° to 75°F. (10-24°C.), but slightly higher or lower will do no harm. Starting at 72° F. is ideal to advance growth for earlier bloom. After the bud appears ample light should be available. They may be transplanted to an outdoor location any time after good root development is apparent and should be transplanted when top growth is not more than 4 to 5 inches (10-13 cm) tall.

Begonias prefer cool, moist conditions, so on very hot days frequent spraying of plants with water will help maintain cool conditions.

After leaves turn yellow and the blooming season is over, water should

be withheld. Tubers may be lifted and stored in a cool, dry location until planting time again next spring.



Hanging Begonia 'Apricot'

INDOORS/GREENHOUSE

Tubers may be placed directly in pots or started as above. Pots should be at least 6 inches (15 cm) in diameter, but larger will produce fuller plants. Any good potting mixture will serve, or add humus and sand, for good drainage, to any good loam soil. Bright, indirect light is necessary and cool temperatures are required as noted above.