

Botanical name:
Genus: Begonia
Species: rex

Common Name(s): Begonia

Latin Family Name:
Begoniaceae

English Family Name: Begonia

Begonias includes about 1500 different species and hundreds of hybrids. They belong to one of three types — tuberous, fibrous, and rhizomatous. Generally, fibrous and rhizomatous begonias make excellent houseplants while tuberous begonias can be grown as houseplants but have a harder time surviving due to the need for higher humidity and light than the other two kinds

The plant

Origin; country or region: Native to southern China

Growth habit: It is a monoecious, tuberous-rooted, clump-forming perennial that typically forms a bushy mound of foliage to 2' tall on branching stems. Begonia are compact, mounded, succulent, and fibrous-rooted plant with fleshy stems and green to bronze leave

Flower description: Showy

Blooming period/availability: Bloom from spring to frost

Leaf/Foliage Description: Showy, striking patterned foliage

Usage: Begonias are a popular houseplant

STRENGTH/OPPORTUNITIES:

Some varieties of begonia houseplants are grown for their flowers while others are grown for their striking foliage

Mixes well with hostas and ferns in the shade garden, woodland garden or shaded border

Ideal for patio containers, in window boxes, planted along walkways or woodland edges, or in shady locations

Looks attractive as a hanging plant

WEAKNESS:

Delicate



TRIVIA

It is closely related to melons, cucumbers and pumpkins

Care & Handling

Longevity:

Water requirements: Water thoroughly when the top 2-3cm of soil has dried out. Be very careful not to water log the soil (check for good drainage) as Begonia's are especially susceptible to root rot

Light: Ideally some soft direct sunlight for part of the day, e.g. in the morning. Careful to prevent leaf scorching from intense sunlight
Turn the pot regularly to ensure even growth as the plant will tend to grow towards the light

Soil/Nutrition requirements: Every two weeks during the growing season (Spring / Summer) and cut back to monthly during dormancy
Use a good balanced organic fertilizer

Special care/remarks: Begonia are considered toxic to pets and Children, and if eaten with cause stomach distress
Do not use 'leaf shine'

