

Begonia tuberhybrida ***Illumination***® Mix

Tuberous-rooted Begonia, *Begonia tuberosa*

Culture guide

Uses:

Packs, Pots, Hanging Baskets, Mixed Containers
and Landscape

Exposure:

Sun - Partial shade

Garden height:

10" / 25 cm

Crop time:

18-20 weeks

Sow time:

November for flowering pots from April onwards,
December-January for flowering bedding plants
from May onwards

Sowing method:

1-2 seeds/pellets per plug

Germination:

Germination will occur in 7-14 days at 75-78 °F
(23-25 °C). Sow seed on a fine media with good
water holding capacity and good drainage.
Consistent moisture levels are important to
uniform germination. Humidity levels above 95 %
and a media pH between 5.5 and 6.5 are
important. Do not cover seed as light is required
to germinate. Supplemental 24-hour assimilation
light provided at this stage will increase
germination, reduce crop time and improve plug
quality.

Growing On:

Transplant plugs into finished containers with a
well drained media, and pH of 5.5 to 6.5. Maintain
day length in excess of 14 hours. Continued
supplemental lighting will improve plant quality
and shorten crop time. Growing temperatures
between 68-72 °F (18-22 °C) optimize growth and
flowering. Fertilize at 150-250 ppm nitrogen in a
well-balanced formula.

Media:

Sowing media: pH 5.5-5.8; EC 0.5 – Begonia are
sensitive to high salt levels.

Growing on: Use a well-drained, growing
substrate; pH 5.5-5.8; EC 1.0-1.5; alternate
between moisture levels wet and medium. Allow
plants to approach a medium before re-saturating
to a wet. Allowing plants to dry back too much
can result in root damage.

Temperature:

Plug culture: 22-23

Fertilization:

Plug culture:

Begin fertilizing early once germination is complete, approximately day 14. Lower rates of feeding at 50 ppm 2-3 times per week will help to size up the seedlings. Under higher light conditions use a 17-5-17 fertilizer and under lower light a 14-4-14.

Growing on:

Alternate between Calcium based fertilizer 14-4-14 and an Ammonium fertilizer 17-5-17 at 100-150 ppm. Keep the media EC at 1.5. Application of Potassium nitrate can help to keep the plants more compact. Under higher light and warmer temperatures a fertilizer with additional ammonium can be used. Tall, stretched plants with few flowers indicate too much ammonium. Stunted, chlorotic plants with marginal leaf burn indicate a lack of calcium and magnesium.