



Bucks Country Gardens

Proper Care Of Tuberous Begonias

Hybrid tuberous begonias, whose ancestors are native to the Andes, provide unrivaled brilliance with their large, showy blooms. Their color range excludes only blue, green and purple; bicolors are common. Each bloom stem bears small, single female flowers and large, single or double male flowers.

LIGHT

Give all tuberous begonias bright filtered light all year round.

TEMPERATURE

During the active growing period normal room temperatures are suitable. In temperatures above 65 degrees F stand pots on trays on trays of wet pebbles, or suspend saucers of water under hanging baskets. During the winter keep plant at a temperature of about 55 degrees F.

WATERING

Water actively growing plants moderately, allowing the top inch of soil to dry out between waterings. As growth slows reduce amounts of water gradually. For the forms that lose their stems and foliage in winter, stop watering when leaves begin to turn yellow. During the winter rest period of semi-tuberous types, give just enough water to prevent the potting mixture from drying out.

FEEDING

Apply a high-potash liquid fertilizer to actively growing plants every two weeks.

N.B. At the end of the growing season, the stems and leaves of deciduous begonias will gradually fall off. Do not pull away the stems since this could damage the tubers.