

# Growing Begonia Houseplants A Quick Guide

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## Light

Most begonias prefer bright light, east and west windows are best. Direct sun light is not ideal. Most begonias grow well under grow-lights or in a greenhouse.

## Water

Over watering is a common problem when growing begonias. Don't wait until plants wilt, but be sure that the soil feels dry before watering. Do not let plant sit in water. Water needs vary by season, when actively growing in the summer watering may be more frequent.

## Temperature

Most begonias will tolerate temperatures from 55° to 75°. Keep plants away from drafty windows, heating and air conditioning ducts.

## Humidity

Many species begonias require humidity over 60%. This may be difficult to maintain during the winter. Humidity loving plants are great candidates for terrariums or greenhouses.

## Potting Medium

Begonias prefer to grow in a well-draining soil-less mix containing perlite and/or long strand sphagnum peat most. Do not use outdoor garden soil.

## Fertilizing

Feed plants when actively growing. Use half to quarter strength water soluble fertilizer, or a slow release fertilizer according to package directions.

## Repotting

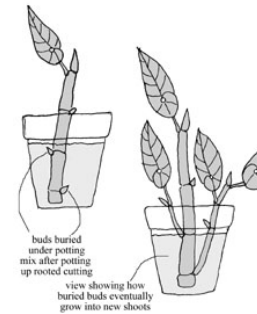
Most begonias do not mind being pot-bound; repot every one or two years. The new pot should be no more than 1-2" larger than the original pot.

For more information go to:

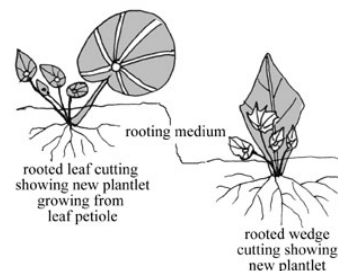
[www.buxtonbegonia.org](http://www.buxtonbegonia.org)

# Begonia Propagation

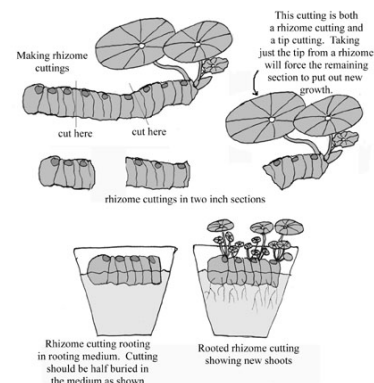
## Tip and Stem Cuttings



## Leaf and Wedge Cuttings



## Rhizomes



## Tubers



**Seed-** Begonia seeds are tiny and require special conditions and take 2-4 weeks to germinate

# Begonia Resources

Compiled by Betsy Szymczak 2022

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## Organizations

American Begonia Society - [www.begonias.org](http://www.begonias.org)

**Buxton Branch American Begonia Society Sale and Exhibition Tower Hill – September 24-25**

Web site: [www.buxtonbegonia.org](http://www.buxtonbegonia.org)

FB: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/216406648483868>

Instagram @buxbegonia

Meetings are usually on the first Saturday morning of the month at the McAuliffe Library, Framingham, MA

## Plants:

Local MA Garden Centers: Stonegate Gardens, Russell's, Weston Nurseries

Other gardens:

Andrew's Greenhouse in Amherst, MA

Lyman Estate Greenhouses, Waltham, MA

Avant Gardens in North Dartmouth, MA

Farmer's Daughter, South Kingstown, RI

(perennial *B. grandis*)

Online Sources

Logee's – retail and on-line sales

Danielson, CT. <https://www.logees.com/>

Mountain Orchids – on-line sales

North Springfield, VT <https://www.mountainorchids.com>

Taylor Greenhouse – on-line sales

Portland, NY. <http://www.taylorgreenhouses.com>

Steve's Leaves – on-line sales

Lewisville, TX. <https://stevesleaves.com/store>

## Supplies

Amazon

Alotpower Soil Moisture Sensor Meter

AcuRite 00613 Humidity Monitor

Nutricote 18-6-8 Slow Time Release Fertilizer 180 Day

IPPINKA Sustee Aquameter Plant Soil Moisture Sensor

Long fiber sphagnum moss

Violet Supply <https://www.violetsupply.com/product-category/violet-pots/oyama-planters/>

Oyama self-watering planters

Griffin Greenhouse Supply

Pro-Mix HP Biofungicide + Mycorrhizae

Books

Tebbitt, M. 2005. *Begonias Cultivation, Identification and Natural History*.

Thompson, B. 2015. *Brad's Begonia World*.

Thompson, M.L., Thompson, E.J., 1981. *Begonias, The Complete Reference Guide*.

Web Resources

Fine Gardening, "Rex Begonias" by Rita Randolph <http://www.finegardening.com/rex-begonias>

A Way to Garden, Margaret Roach <http://awaytogarden.com/growing-fancy-leaf-begonias-indoors-and-out/>

White Flower Farm How to Grow Tuberous Begonias <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbktws3347g>

The Begonian, Volume 81, Nov-Dec 2014 "Growing Begonias in New England."

Begonia houseplants that over-winter without extra humidity.

Species

*B. kellermanii*

*B. vitifolia*

*B. venosa*

Hybrids

B. 'Boomer'

B. 'Erythrophylla'

B. 'Jive'

B. 'Marmaduke'

B. 'Ricinafolia

B. 'Lime Marmalade'