

Botanical Name: Begonia semperflorens

Common Name: Wax Begonia, Bedding Begonia

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Character perennial used as annual

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape clumping, compact, slightly spreading plant with waxy, rounded foliage. Branches succulent -- root system fibrous and spreading

Height 4" - 18" Spread 6" - 24" Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure in/outdoor bright light indoors; light shade outdoors

Soil prefers a slightly acid; well-drained soil; add peat

Hardiness tender -- used as an annual in cold weather areas

Morphology:

Leaves simple, palmate, rounded, margins sparsely hairy; highly variable in color/size/variegation; green to bronze; dia. 2-6", base oblique.

Flowers variable in color/size/doubling of petals; 1/2" - 1 1/2" diameter, red, white, pink -- usually in cymes

Fruit small fleshy capsule (berrylike), 3-angled, filled with seed

Propagation: hybrids often by seed; leaf/vein/stem cuttings, division

Usage: used for summer and fall color in beds, hanging baskets, containers, etc. Useful in shade, half-shade or full sun in cool areas -- sometimes used in bright indoor landscapes.

Landscape Care:

Watering likes ample watering -- keep soil moist -- brighter sun areas may require daily water

Fertilizing 1/2 strength 2x/month or slow release feeding

Pruning may be pinched for compactness; remove spent flowers

Pests/Diseases snails and slugs

Special Conditions bronzed leaf varieties tolerate more sun

Origin: hybrid Family: Begoniaceae