

Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches

New Member Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tel\_(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \_\_\_\_ \$35 Two members in the same household \_\_\_\_ \$45

Dues include local membership and national American Begonia Society membership.

Make check payable to:

Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches

And send to Treasurer

Frances Drescher

11529 Riverchase Run

West Palm Beach, FL 33412

## Begonia Care & Culture

Begonias generally like filtered sunlight, warm days, cool nights, a balanced diet, and well-drained soil. However, there are some that like more sunlight and heat. And then there are others that prefer more humidity or cooler temperatures. Begonias can grow in a wide range of temperatures; from hot Florida summers to just above freezing in the winter.

Many wild begonias, or native species, from Mexico, Japan, Malaysia, China, and South America, grow well in South Florida. Several Florida hybridizers are at work creating new hybrids all the time for our Florida landscapes. Many good examples can be acquired through membership in the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches.

Plant your begonia in a pot or in the landscape. Begonias will thrive in a well-drained potting medium made up of a peat and perlite mix. Some brand names for this mix are Fafard 2S, Lambert's potting mix, and Promix. You can use any of these mixes in the landscape, or you can provide a well-draining organic based soil with leaf litter and broken down mulch. They do not like to be planted just in Florida sandy soils. Many of the wild species begonias just grow in the leaf litter or on rocky substrates that are in a humid environment.

Any well-balanced fertilizer will nourish your plants. You may use a time-release one such as Dynamite or Nutricote or a liquid one such as Peter's or Miracle Grow or a combination of both. Don't forget to add minor elements once in awhile too.

Bright light is also a much-needed factor in growing great looking begonias. Some of the canes and shrub begonias can take full sunlight for part of the day, but most prefer high filtered sunlight coming through a tree or some sort of screening or lattice work.

Begonias like to be moist but not wet, otherwise they will drop leaves or their stems will rot. Watering twice a week for landscape begonias is sufficient, or when the top of the soil is dry.

Happy growing!

## Some landscape begonias that grow well in South Florida

Mound-forming begonias grown for beautiful foliage and flowers:

**B. odorata alba** – up to 4' tall with almost year-round white, fragrant flowers and shiny green leaves.

**B. heracleifolia** – star-shaped, textured, fuzzy leaves and 18" pink bloom spikes

**B. nelumbiifolia** – large lily-pad shaped green leaves and 36-inch white bloom spike.

**B. popenoei** – dinner-plate size leaves, mounding to 3' to 4' with tall sprays of white flowers late winter.

**B. 'Washington State'** – red flecks of color float on a light green leaf; a full landscape begonia.

**B. 'Plum Gorgeous'** – aptly named, with dark plum leaves.

**B. 'Caribbean King'** – one of the easiest to grow and propagate, a beautiful dark-leaved variety forming a handsome mound.

Groundcover creepers or hanging basket trailers:

**B. 'Manaus,'** formerly known as **B. U002** – a natural hybrid begonia that makes a great ground cover with white flowers and interesting green and reddish leaves.

**B. convolvulacea** – Shiny green leaves that will cover the ground, climb a tree, or hang gracefully from a basket.

**B. 'Withlacoochee'** – Beautiful, ever blooming white flowers on a plant with small, dark, patterned leaves, groundcover or basket plant.

Cane begonia for the landscape:

**B. coccinea** – 6' tall angel-wing begonia with huge everblooming clusters of pink flowers.

**Some nice potted begonias, some of which you might want to try in the landscape as well:**

*B. 'Shiloh,' B. 'Marmaduke,' B. 'Tiger Kitten,' B. 'Wheel of Fortune,' B. 'Tangalooma,' B. 'Lowe's Pet,' B. 'Star Search,' B. 'Palomar Prince,' B. 'Boomer,' B. 'maculata,' B. 'Shiloh,' B. 'Cowardly Lion,' B. 'Wild Pony,' B. 'Sierra Mist,' and many more.*

## What we do? What we do?

Membership in the Begonia Society of the Palm Beaches provides many benefits and activities for lovers of begonias and other shade loving plants.

- ❖ [www.begoniasocietypbfl.org](http://www.begoniasocietypbfl.org)
- ❖ Monthly meetings with
  - Educational programs
  - Distinguished speakers
  - Plant raffles and sales
  - Plant clinics
  - Door prize
  - Refreshments
- ❖ Monthly newsletter
- ❖ Annual plant auction
- ❖ Annual summer picnic and annual holiday party
- ❖ Garden and nursery tours
- ❖ Propagation workshops and potting parties
- ❖ Members exhibit at national and local flower shows
- ❖ Members speak to garden clubs and at horticultural events
- ❖ Opportunities to work with and learn about begonias from some of the most experienced begonia growers and hybridizers in South Florida
- ❖ Membership in the American Begonia Society
  - The *Begonian* magazine
  - Access to the ABS bookstore, seed fund, and research
  - ABS board meetings and conventions
  - ABS Website:  
[www.begonias.org](http://www.begonias.org)

***Won't you join us at the next meeting on the second Monday of the month at Mounts Auditorium? Doors open at 7 p.m.; meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m.***

Questions? Call Virginia Jens 568-0124 or email [vjens2483@gmail.com](mailto:vjens2483@gmail.com)