

## Product Information

Winter-flowering, or Rieger, Begonias produce either single-flowered or double-flowered blooms that have rounded petal edges, grow up to 2 inches in diameter and occur in loose clusters at stem ends. Compact varieties reach 6 to 8 inches in height although other types can grow to 12 to 18 inches. Leaf forms are generally rounded, sometimes with scalloped edges, but they also can be ivylike or pointed.

Depending on environment and care, winter-flowering (Rieger) Begonias generally last four to six weeks although some new varieties last longer. To prolong flowering time, gently pinch off individual blooms as they fade. This fibrous-rooted species is bred for a single season and can be challenging to regrow (although it can be done), so many people discard them after flowering.



## Care Tips

Indoors, flowering Begonias require moderate to bright light but away from direct sunlight; east-facing windows provide ideal exposure. During winter months, they require increased light, so placement near south- or west-facing windows is beneficial.

Begonias prefer moderately moist—but not soggy—soil from spring through fall (drier in winter). They are easily damaged by overwatering, yet they also are adversely affected if their soil becomes too dry. A general rule of thumb is to allow the top inch of soil to become nearly dry between waterings. Water with soft, room-temperature water.

Average room temperatures are ideal. These plants are easily damaged if exposed to temperatures lower than 13 C. Begonias require humid environments. Place pots on pebble trays, place a humidifier in the room or frequently mist the air around the plants but never spray the plants directly.

During flowering and growth periods, feed Begonias every two weeks with a liquid, high-phosphorous plant food diluted to half strength. Begonias require a light, well-draining potting medium, preferably containing Sphagnum peat moss and/or perlite. African violet potting mix works well for these plants.