Wax Begonia

Begonia semperflorens



Wax Begonia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 14 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Begonia semperflorens cultorum

Group/Class: Wax Begonia

Description:

An outstanding begonia with nicely rounded glossy green leaves for a visual impact in the garden; clusters of white, pink, red, or bi-color blooms rise above the foliage all season; grows well in humid conditions

Ornamental Features

Wax Begonia features showy clusters of white flowers with shell pink overtones and gold eyes rising above the foliage from early summer to mid fall. Its attractive glossy round leaves remain dark green in color throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Wax Begonia is a dense herbaceous annual with a mounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. It is a good choice for attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Wax Begonia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Wax Begonia will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in a location that gets morning sunlight but is shaded from the hot afternoon sun, although it will also grow in partial shade. Keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, acidic soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Wax Begonia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.