Illumination® White Sparkle Begonia

Begonia 'Illumination White Sparkle'

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 9

Group/Class: Illumination Series



Illumination White Sparkle Begonia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Illumination White Sparkle Begonia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Description:

A beautiful trailing variety of tuberous begonia, well suited for hanging baskets, combination planters and garden landscapes; large, bright white double blooms are featured while cascading from medium green foliage; heat tolerant and low maintenance

Ornamental Features

Illumination White Sparkle Begonia features showy double white frilly flowers at the ends of the stems from mid spring to mid fall. Its succulent pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Illumination White Sparkle Begonia is an herbaceous perennial with a trailing habit of growth, eventually spilling over the edges of hanging baskets and containers. 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 high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep. Trim off the flower heads after they fade and die to encourage more blooms late into the season. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Disease

Illumination White Sparkle Begonia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Illumination White Sparkle Begonia will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. The flower stalks can be weak and so it may require staking in exposed sites or excessively rich soils. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 3 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well 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 requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Illumination White Sparkle Begonia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. Because of its trailing habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.