Jurassic Jr.™ Fire Spike Begonia

Begonia 'Jurassic Jr. Fire Spike'



Jurassic Jr. Fire Spike Begonia foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 16 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Group/Class: Jurassic Jr. Series

Description:

A densely branched variety with a compact habit; small, deep green foliage features dark red variegation and white spots; drought tolerant and low maintenance, ideal for shady beds, borders, containers and hanging baskets

Ornamental Features

Jurassic Jr. Fire Spike Begonia's attractive twisted heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color with showy dark red variegation throughout the year on a plant with an upright spreading habit of growth.

Landscape Attributes

Jurassic Jr. Fire Spike Begonia is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. 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;

- Insects
- Disease

Jurassic Jr. Fire Spike Begonia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Jurassic Jr. Fire Spike Begonia will grow to be about 16 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. 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 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.

Jurassic Jr. Fire Spike Begonia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a canvas of foliage against which the larger 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.