Cocktail® Brandy® Begonia

Begonia 'Cocktail Brandy'

Height: 8 inches

Spread: 10 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Semperflorens, Fibrous

Group/Class: Wax Begonia

Description:

From sun to shade, this mounded selection is ideal for patio containers, hanging baskets and garden landscapes; beautiful vibrant blooms stand out against dark green foliage with bronzy-copper overtones; continuous, long blooming

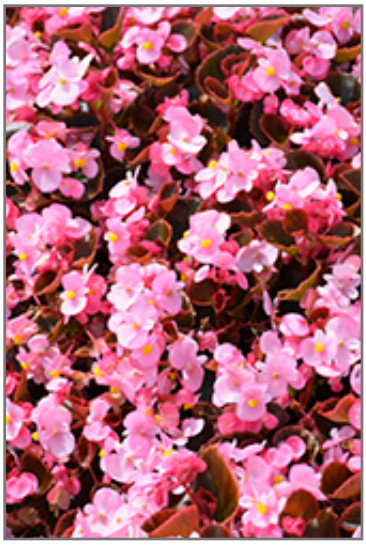
Ornamental Features

Cocktail Brandy Begonia features dainty shell pink orchid-like flowers with pink overtones at the ends of the stems from mid spring to mid fall. Its attractive succulent heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color with hints of coppery-bronze throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Cocktail Brandy Begonia is an 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 plant will require occasional maintenance 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;



Cocktail Brandy Begonia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Cocktail Brandy Begonia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Insects
- Disease

Cocktail Brandy Begonia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Cocktail Brandy Begonia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Cocktail Brandy Begonia will grow to be about 8 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 10 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. 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 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. This plant should not require much in the way of fertilizing once established, although it may appreciate a shot of general-purpose fertilizer from time to time early in the growing season. 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.

Cocktail Brandy 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 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.