

Art and Nature to Promote Human Wellbeing



*“Flowers
always make
people better,
happier and more
helpful; they are
sunshine, food and
medicine for the
soul.” – Luther Burbank*

Art from the Hartt

Art from the Hartt: Begonia Care Sheet

Instructions for care of your
rhizomatous or angel wing begonia.



Art from the Hartt



Rhizomatous Begonias

Your rhizomatous begonia comes from a well-loved offspring of one of my begonia collection. I don't even recall when I adopted my first rhizomatous begonia, but I know I brought home my Marmaduke (pictured) over 10 years ago. I fell in love with the year-around bright leaf colors and patterns sprouting from fuzzy stems. Visit YouTube to watch my video on rhizomatous begonias <https://youtu.be/8TfsezFbJXo>

Care Instructions:

1. **Water the plant only when the top 1 inch of soil feels dry.** Water outdoor plants deeply enough to soak the roots, and then don't water again until the top of the soil dries. Similarly, water indoor plants until water runs through the drainage hole, then allow the pot to drain thoroughly. For both outdoor and indoor plants, allow the top of the soil to dry before watering again, as the plant is prone to rot in wet soil.

2. **Feed rhizomatous begonias every other week during spring and summer, using a general purpose fertilizer.** A liquid fertilizer is easiest for indoor plants, and either a liquid or dry fertilizer is fine for plants growing outdoors. Refer to the label for specific rate of application, and always water immediately after applying fertilizer. Withhold fertilizer during the fall and winter months. Because rhizomatous begonias are slow-growing plants, they are often damaged by overuse of fertilizer.
3. **Pinch the stem tips of young plants to promote branching and bushy, compact growth.** Prune the plant to the desired size, and shape if it outgrows its boundaries or if the rhizomes grow over the side of the pot. While this doesn't damage the plant, some people consider the fleshy rhizomes to be unattractive. – from SFGate website
4. **Begonias prefer bright, indirect light and higher humidity.** Rhizomatous types are more tolerant of lower humidity than the Rex types.



Angel Wing Begonias

Like the rhizomatous begonias that I offer, the angel wings are propagated in my small nursery from my own “mother plants”.

Care Instructions:

1. The best place to grow a cane-type *Begonia* is in bright light — even sunny if the sun isn't intensely hot. It's best to use a standard-size pot to accommodate a large root system.
2. Plant in rich, humusy mix. Cane-type begonias tolerate a heavy mix to support tall growth.
3. Most cane-like begonias are not fussy about temperature or humidity.

Visit The American Begonia Society Website for more info.