

## Begonia BabyWing™

(*Begonia X hybrida*)

### Germination

#### Sowing

Do not cover seed. Water thoroughly at sowing to completely dissolve the pellet. Recommended plug sizes are 400 to 200-cell.

#### Temperature

72 to 80°F (22 to 27°C). Keep temperature as constant as possible.

#### Humidity

Maintain relative humidity at 95%.

#### Sowing

Do not cover seed. Germinating in a chamber is recommended.

#### Light

Light is beneficial, but not required.

### Plug Production

#### Media

Use a very well-drained, disease-free soilless medium with a medium pH of 5.8 to 6.2 and an EC of about 0.5 mmhos/cm (1:2 extraction).

#### Temperature

Maintain soil temperature at 70 to 75°F (21 to 24°C) after true leaves develop. Plugs can be held at 62 to 65°F (17 to 18°C) from maturity until transplant.

#### Light

After germination, maintain light levels between 1,000 and 2,500 f.c. (10,000 to 30,000 Lux). As seedlings mature, light levels can be increased up to 5,000 f.c. (54,000 Lux).

#### Moisture

BabyWing is very sensitive to drying out during early stages of germination. Keep soil moisture high until the first true leaf develops, then reduce moisture levels.

### Fertilizer

The high soluble salts in fertilizers tend to affect BabyWing; however, it will also grow slowly if not fertilized. Frequent light fertilization is best. Use 20-10-20 about 50 ppm at Day 8 and 100 ppm at Day 11. Then use every other day until Stage 3. After true leaves emerge, alternate with 15-0-15 until transplant. Always rinse foliage after feeding.

### Plant Growth Regulators

None are required during the plug stage.

### Growing On to Finish

#### Container Size

4 to 4.5-in. (10 to 12-cm) pot: 1 plant per pot  
6-in. (15-cm) pot: 1 to 2 plants per pot  
6.5-in. (16-cm) and larger pots: 3 plants per pot  
10 to 12-in. (25 to 30-cm) hanging baskets: 4 plants per pot

#### Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless medium with a medium initial nutrient charge and a pH of 6.0 to 6.5.

#### Temperature

Night: 60 to 65°F (15 to 18°C)  
Day: 65 to 70°F (18 to 21°C)

#### Light

Grow in a high light environment: 3,000 to 7,000 f.c. (30,000 to 70,000 lux). High light levels will result in earlier flowering and stronger stems.

#### Irrigation

Allow the media to dry slightly, then water liberally. Water early in the day to avoid leaf burn when temperatures are high.

#### Fertilization

Fertilize every other irrigation with 15-0-15, alternating with 20-10-20 at 150 ppm N. Maintain the medium EC around 1.0 mmhos/cm (1:2 extraction).

## **Plant Growth Regulators**

A very light spray of tank mix containing B-Nine 2,500 and Cycocel 300 ppm can be used at 2 to 3 weeks after transplant. A light phytotoxicity may appear on the foliage after the PGR spray, but the plant will recover later.

Note: BabyWing is very responsive to Bonzi and Sumagic. Avoid overspray from neighboring plants.

## **Pinching**

No pinching is required.

## **Common Problems**

**Insects:** Fungus gnats, shore flies

**Diseases:** No major problems when using good cultural and IPM practices.

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