

BEGONIAS

A large group of plants belonging to the Begoniaceae Family, native to tropical and subtropical areas and comprising over 10,000 species and cultivars. Plants have been selected for their flower appeal and diversity in leaf shapes, colors and textures.

All Begonia plants are monoecious – plants have unisexual flowers with separate male flowers and separate female flowers on the same plant. Most indoor plants have “perfect” flowers, which have male and female organs within the same flower.

General Cultural Requirements

Light –

Temperature –

Water –

Relative Humidity –

A general scheme of classifying different types of Begonias is sometimes based on ***growth habit, *root and stem type and *flowering behavior**. The following categories apply to the Begonias on your plant list:

Types with cane-like stems – Angel Wing Begonia

Semperflorens types – Wax Begonia

Rhizomatous types – Iron Cross and Beefsteak Begonia

These “rhizomes” are also modified stems, but different in structure from the ones characteristic of the Achimene plant in the previous lecture. They may be “erect” or “creeping” depending on the particular rhizomatous Begonia plant.

Rex types – Rex Begonia

Some Rex types of Begonias also possess rhizomatous stems, but the prominent feature which makes them worthy of this category is the ornateness and great appeal of their foliage.

Propagation Techniques

Asexual

*Leaf cuttings

- Leaf petiole
- Split vein
- Leaf triangles

*Stem Cuttings

- Tip
- Medial
- Rhizome sections

Sexual

Very small seed