

PLANTPEDDLER

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CULTURE GUIDE FOR:

Dell'Arte SERIES BEGONIA

Exclusively from Plantpeddler

The Dell'Arte Begonia series from Plantpeddler is an exceptional trailing, mounded, and pendulous collection of hybrid Begonias in a full range of colors. Flowers are fully double, initiated at each node creating a waterfall of color. They are ideally suited for part sun, best used in containers, combinations and baskets.

Crop Start: Your Begonia starting area needs to be a nurturing environment with warm temps, higher humidity, and frequent irrigation. Strive for frequent and uniform irrigation with adequate fertility, warm temperature, moderate light levels, and stress-free growing to insure adequate vegetative growth.

Transplant rooted liners into finished containers with a well-drained, peat-based media, with a slightly higher starting pH of 6 to 6.4, balanced with micronutrients. Use 1ppp for 4" to 5.5" containers, 3-4ppp in 10" HB, and 4-5ppp for 12" HB. Maintain



the same depth of media as the rooted liner (do not bury). Water in thoroughly with at least 2 applications of pH adjusted clear water.

Growing media temperatures should be maintained at 70F to 72F (19C to 22C) to optimize growth. Fertilize with a balanced feed at 150 – 200 ppm, preferably with a portion of the nitrogen derived from a NH₄ base to maintain soft growth.

During starting vegetative period maintain day lengths in excess of 14 hours (during short day periods). This can be provided with night interruption lighting,

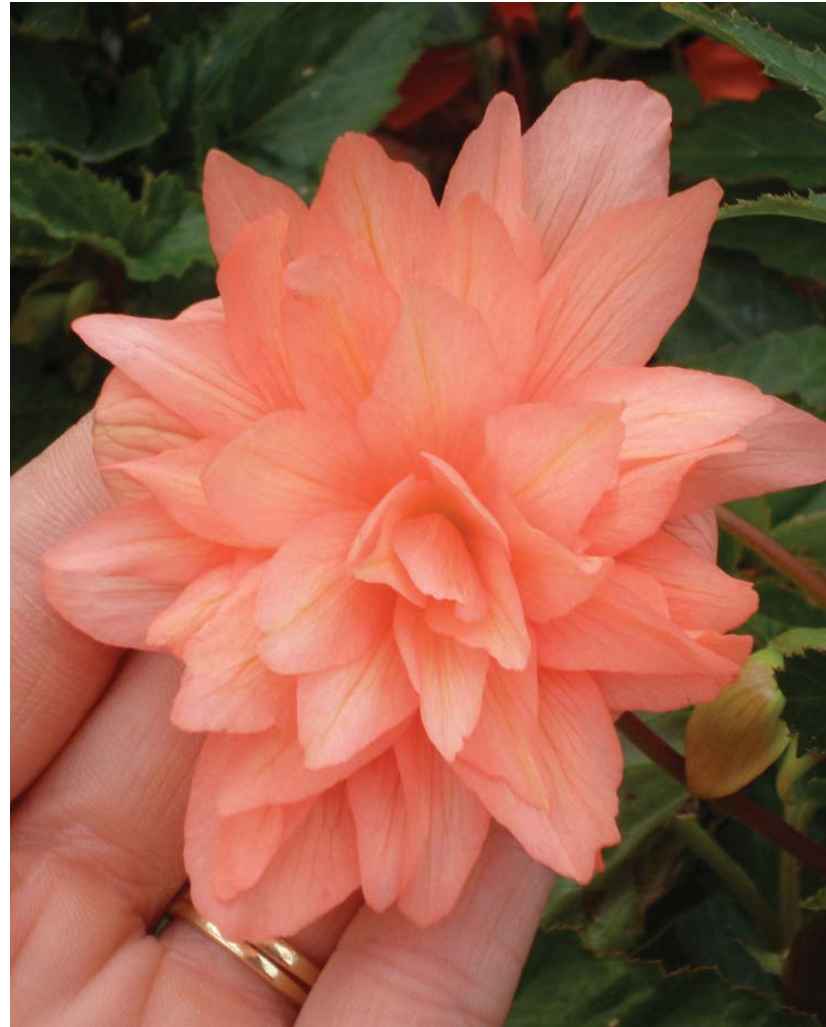


preferably with HID or LED assimilation lighting. Avoid stress caused by full sun under glass glazing, opt for a starting area under poly or with overhead curtain under glass during full sun periods.

Finishing: Once plants have obtained one-half to two-thirds of desired finished size, they are ready for final spacing in the finishing location, and flower induction if needed. This is usually four to five weeks prior to target finish date. Dell' Arte are very free flowering, with flower induction often not required.

Inspect plants for the uniformity of flower initiation. If further induction is needed to insure uniform flowering, it can be accomplished (for Dell' Arte and other vegetative Begonias) by several methods including: A) Short day treatment for a minimum of two weeks (black cloth with a 14 hour dark period). B) Leaching thoroughly to reduce fertility, then drying the plants down to light wilt. C) Changing from NH₄ based fertilizer to a CaNO₃ base. D) Lowering the temperature to 62F to 64F (16C to 17C) for a two week period. E) One or more Cycocel foliar sprays at 1000ppm, which can also help control growth. The most effective induction comes from using a combination of the above strategies. The induction period occurs within a two week period.

After plants are induced, the finishing culture should include moderate light levels (growing under poly or glass with 50% shade), temperatures from 65F to 70F (18C to 19 C) depending on growth rate desired, uniform moisture levels with moderate fertilizer rates derived from a CaNO₃ basis.



Remember Begonias are hydrophobic meaning your control growth through irrigation frequency and levels.

Pest & Diseases: Although the Dell' Arte are generally free of pests and diseases, be watchful for the following: Spider mite, broad mite, begonia mite, thrips, powdery mildew, virus and bacterial infections.

