

## ***Begonia x benariensis*** ***BIG Rose Green Leaf***

### ***Culture guide***

**Uses:**

Packs, Pots, Hanging Baskets, Mixed Containers and Landscape

**Exposure:**

Sun - Shade

**Garden height:**

28" / 70 cm

**Crop time:**

13-14 weeks

**Sow time:**

from mid of December onwards

**Sowing method:**

1-2 pellets per plug

**Germination:**

Begonias require light to germinate, do not cover seed or pellets. Germination occurs in 5-10 days at 73-80 °F (23-26 °C), with a relative humidity of 95 % or higher. For pelleted seed, slightly higher temperatures and 100 % relative humidity aid in uniformity of germination. Germination media with a pH of 5.5-6.5 is optimum. Uniformly moist and well-drained soils are important.

**Growing On:**

6-7 weeks after sowing transplant 1 plug into 12-13 cm pot (12 cm: 35-40 pots/m<sup>2</sup>, 13 cm: 30-35 pots/m<sup>2</sup>). The plugs should have 2-3 sets of true leaves. High light conditions promote better branching and earlier flowering.

**Media:**

Sowing media: pH 5.5-5.8; EC 0.5-0.75  
No covering required.

Growing on: pH 5.5-5.8; EC 1.2-1.5

Alternate between moisture levels wet and medium. Let plants dry back to at least a moist before re saturating to a wet. Extremely dry plants will have a grayish cast to the leaves. Avoid watering plants under high temperature and light when the leaf temperature is excessive.

**Temperature:**

Plug culture: Temperature: 22-24 °C days 1-11.  
For irrigation use warm water (above 18 °C) only.

Growing on: 20-21 °C nights, 18-19 °C days for the first 14 days or until the roots reach the bottom of the container. Thereafter temperatures may be lowered to 16-18 °C day and night. An ADT (average daily temperature) of 19 °C will give the fastest finished crop. Once well established in the final container, approximately two to three weeks after transplanting from a 288 plug the temperature can be lowered further to 13-15 °C. This will keep the plants toned and prevents too large of leaves.

**Fertilization:**

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize at 150 ppm nitrogen weekly, watching excessive salt built-ups.