

# ***Begonia boliviensis***

## ***Santa Barbara***

### ***Culture guide***

#### **Uses:**

Ideal for hanging baskets, containers and garden landscape

#### **Exposure:**

Sun - Shade

#### **Garden height:**

12" / 30 cm

#### **Crop time:**

14-16 weeks

#### **Sowing method:**

1 seed per pellet. 288 tray recommended

#### **Germination:**

Stage I: 7-14 days at 70-73 °F (21-23 °C) and relative humidity of 95 %. Maintain high moisture. Light germinator, do not cover pellets. Additional light (50 W/m<sup>2</sup>) accelerates germination and improves quality of the seedlings Stage II: 7-14 days at 68-70 °F (20-21 °C). Continue long day lighting (14 h) and avoid saturated or dry media, lower humidity levels. Water temperature should be 64 °F (18 °C) Stage III-IV: 28-42 days at 64-68 °F (18-20 °C).

#### **Temperature:**

Grow at 60-64 °F (16-18 °C). 10 days before selling temperature can be decreased to 60 °F (16 °C). Temperatures below 57 °F (14 °C) will result in tuber formation and crop delay.

#### **Fertilization:**

Moderate fertilization levels are required. Fertilize weekly with 150-200 ppm nitrogen, using a complete and potassium balanced fertilizer (N:K<sub>2</sub>O-ratio: 1:1,5). Keep low ammonium levels, otherwise the roots become damaged. At high nitrogen levels the foliage can become very big. Avoid pH above 6.5, as high pH causes iron deficiency. Apply chelated iron, if chlorosis becomes a problem. To prevent magnesium deficiency apply magnesium sulphate (0,025 %) 1-2 times. Additional foliage fertilization with potassium supports compact plant growth and provides a dark green foliage color. Avoid high soluble salts in the soil.