

DO *it* BIG



BIG FUN

for little ones

THROW A PETAL PARTY WITH YOUR KIDS

FINDING
UNEXPECTED
PLANTERS

BEAUTY
YOU CAN
TASTE

BEYOND
the **GARDEN**

Brighten up with BIG® Begonia

*REST
& RELAX*

WITH THIS FLORAL TOUCH

“

GARDENING IS HOW I RELAX.

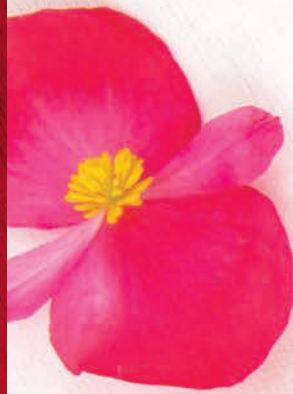
IT'S ANOTHER FORM OF

CREATING AND

*PLAYING WITH
COLORS.*

”

- OSCAR DE LA RENTA





Contents

DO IT BIG | VOLUME 2

2

A BIG® INTRODUCTION

*the history & background
of the begonia bloom*

04

BIG® CONTAINER GARDENING

*ideas for pairings &
found planters*

12

MAKE A BIG® IMPRESSION

*dining & entertaining
with begonias*



16

BEGONI-AHHHHH

pampering from your own garden

18

THE GIFT OF BIG®

do-it-yourself crafting & favors



20

BIG® FUN FOR LITTLE ONES

activities for children



a **BIG**[®] *introduction*

The versatile begonia that can do it all

BIG[®] Begonia is a new generation of begonia with remarkable traits, including substantial height and flower size, and the ability to thrive in sun or shade in a wide range of climates. Drought-tolerant and self-cleaning, BIG is a big deal for gardeners looking for a low-maintenance, attention-getting plant.

After making big strides in well-known landscape design (ahem, the White House), BIG is making its way into the homes of gardeners and DIYers alike.

It stands out in large plantings or as the perfect sidekick to small-scale companions. Hardy, adaptable and simple to maintain, BIG is the perfect flower to acclimate new gardeners or complement experienced ones.

BIG is beautiful in pots, mixed containers, baskets and mass landscaping—as well as a bunch of unexpected ways for you to discover on the following pages. When it comes to begonias, dream BIG!



*Is it possible to have a flower that's as beautiful as it is hardy?
As versatile as it is easy? The answer is simple, BIG®.*

- BIG FACTS -

Lifespan: Annual | Exposure: Full sun to shade | Garden height: 18-24 inches
Hues: Pick from 5 extraordinary color combinations | Flowers: Bloom 2-3 inches

- BIG TIPS -

Plant BIG Begonias 12 inches apart.

—

BIG is easy to care for. Use a time-release fertilizer when planting and water when dry to the touch. That's it!

—

BIG is self-cleaning (no pinching needed!) and heat-tolerant.

- BIG GERMINATION -

Using a covered germinating tray with potting mix, place 2 seeds per small pot.

—

Water seeds well and keep moist until seeds are germinated.

—

Keep the germination tray cover on for the first 10-12 days at a temperature of 70°F.

—

After germination, take the lid off and fertilize lightly to speed growth.

—

Transplant into a larger pot 6-7 weeks after sowing. Once established, you can plant your BIG Begonias outside in full sun to part shade.



BIG[®]

container gardening

Everything you need to bring BIG[®] blooms to life

Container with holes for drainage

**Choose something that holds
at least a gallon of soil*

Spade

Coffee filter

BIG Begonia

Potting soil



the selection

Choose a large pot.
Cover drainage holes with
a coffee filter to keep soil in.



the planting

Fill pot with soil. Massage roots
and place plant in the soil.
Back-fill to cover roots.



the watering

Water soil until it leaks out
the bottom of the pot.



the joy

Enjoy your BIG Begonia.
Water at least 1" per week.

Gardening gloves

**optional*

THINKING



THE BOX

BIG® GOES small WITH **CONTAINER GARDENING**

Container gardening has taken off as a flexible way to draw interest to gardens, doorsteps, patios and much more. BIG® Begonias are the perfect container flower. They're versatile, adaptable and look good as an addition to any display.

New to container gardening? Never fear! Mix and match your favorite plants with BIG—that's the beauty of this gardening technique. Easy to plant and maintain, they are a great introduction for novice gardeners and the perfect addition to a consolidated space.

Generate high visual interest with low effort by combining plants of all shapes and sizes. Create contrast with different heights and bold colors. BIG Begonia is a versatile and beautiful choice for any container garden.

It's easy to incorporate BIG into your pot—or whatever container your heart fancies (see the next page!). Just remember to follow these simple guidelines:

- 1 Pair plants with similar light and moisture needs together. BIG thrives in all types of exposure, from full sun to shade.
- 2 Mix annual and perennial varieties together to change the look. BIG is an annual.
- 3 Try different heights and plants that grow tall or hang down. BIG can reach 18-24 inches high.
- 4 Apply a time-release fertilizer to the combination pot or container at planting.
- 5 Water when soil is dry to the touch.
- 6 Choose the appropriate location and admire!



B

FOLLOW THIS SIMPLE RECIPE
BELOW FOR **A STRIKING**
PLANTER COMBINATION

C

A

BIG® Begonia
(red bronze leaf)

A

Celosia New Look™
(plumrose)

B

Pennisetum villosum
(feathertop grass)

C

Visit big-begonia.com for more
container combinations.



BIG[®]

Unexpected

DREAM BIG WITH CREATIVE CONTAINERS

Play Ball



Kick off the growing season with a ball for a planter.





ou already know BIG® Begonia is versatile, but just how far can you push its limits? The ease of growing BIG means you can break the mold—starting with nontraditional planters. Truthfully, anything with an opening can be a fun, found planter.

We've seen jeans, shoes, shopping carts and more transformed into beautiful new homes for BIG® Begonias. So take a trip to the attic, thrift store or flea market and get started on your new (old!) planter today.



***** TIPS FOR PLANTING IN REPURPOSED CONTAINERS *****

CONTAINER PREP Use a drill if needed to puncture your container. Plants without proper draining can end up with rotted roots. Next, line the base of the container with newspaper or plastic/bubble wrap (make sure you have punctured holes in the plastic to allow for draining).

NUTRIENTS Potting soil rarely has enough nutrients for your plants, so it's best to add a time-release fertilizer and mix well before planting your flowers.

BEEF UP THE SOIL More potting soil means more water retention! It may be heavier, but it's best for your fledgling plants. Add enough of your soil mixture to fill your container to about an inch from the top—make sure the roots are covered.

READY THE ROOTS When you remove your plants from their store containers, make sure to tease out the roots if they're circling the plant. This will encourage them to spread out in your new container.

ARRANGE AWAY Arrange your plants as you please, keeping in mind the different heights they may reach and how many sides of the planter will be in view. Once you like your arrangement, add the rest of the soil to the container and water it.

ENJOY! Marvel at the instant satisfaction and cleverness of your new planter. Water gently as needed.

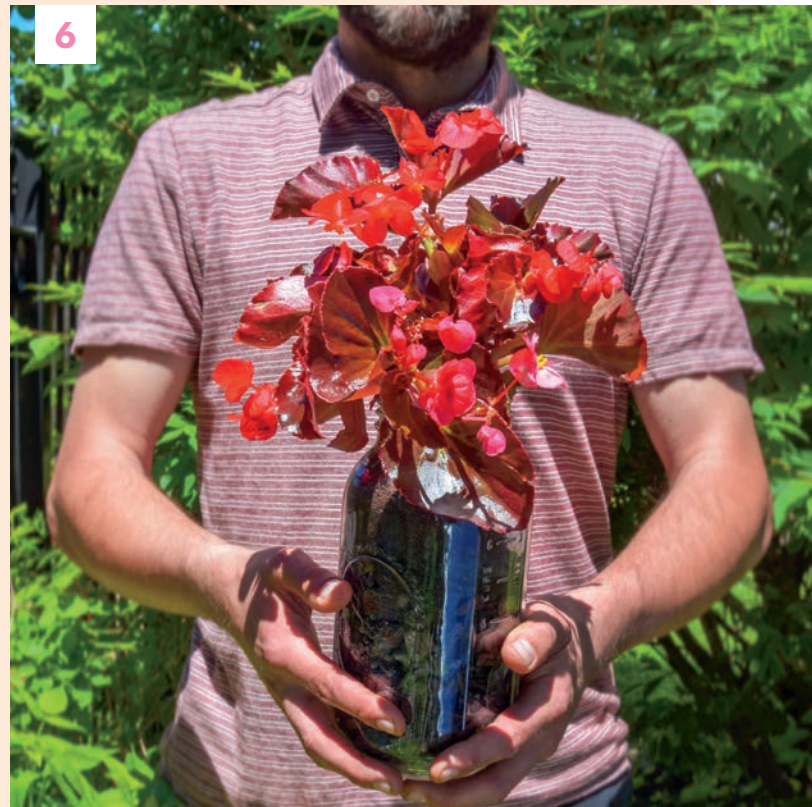


1. picture frame 2. luggage 3. rainboot 4. bucket or pail 5. old tire 6. mason jar

7. wheelbarrow 8. crate or bin 9. dresser or other furniture 10. hollowed-out stump 11. antique tub



Salvage
a
spare
tire



thrift
store
find! →





m a k e a B I G[®]

I M P R E S S I O N

If you're looking for a simple-yet-beautiful way to stir up the entertainment at your next dinner party, birthday or event, consider putting the petal to the metal. That's right! BIG[®] Begonia is not only pretty to admire, it's great as an edible garnish in your food or drinks.* Begonias bear a citrusy-sour taste and the stems can even be used in place of rhubarb in a pinch. Grab some fresh petals and scatter them on a light summer salad, or add a floral flourish to your signature cocktail.

Pick your flowers in the morning when they have the highest water content. Remove stamens and styles from the flowers before eating—pollen can detract from the flavor and cause allergic reactions. Shake flowers to remove insects. Clean under a stream of water or using a strainer. Dry on absorbent paper out of direct sunlight. Revitalize limp flowers by floating on icy water for a few seconds.

c h e e r s !



*BIG[®] Begonia leaves, flowers and petals are all edible. They do contain oxalic acids and should not be ingested by those with gout, kidney stones or rheumatism.

Make sure your begonias are pesticide-free by waiting one week after purchase to use as an edible.



These quick canapés are a simple but striking addition to any get-together.



COLORFUL *canapés*

WHAT YOU NEED

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp. fresh chives, finely chopped
- 1 package crackers of your choosing
- 1 handful of prepared BIG® Begonia petals
- 1 pinch of herb leaves: dill, fennel and/or chervil

WHAT TO DO

1. Beat the cream cheese with a wooden spoon until it reaches a spreadable consistency. If too thick, add a tablespoon of milk or water.
2. Add chives and salt to taste.
3. Spread the cream cheese mixture on your bread or cracker and decorate with BIG® begonia flower petals and herb leaves.
4. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and refrigerate until needed.

Note: You can prepare the cream cheese mixture ahead of time, but to prevent soggy toast/crackers, we recommend not completing the canapés until it nears serving time.





*Brighten
up the bar
with this
lovely drink
that packs
a powerful
punch.*

PERFECTLY PINK LADY *cocktail*




WHAT YOU NEED

- 1/2 oz. gin of your choosing*
- 1/2 oz. fresh lemon juice*
- 1/2 oz. grenadine*
- 1 egg white (will suffice for two drinks)*
- 1 handful of prepared BIG® Begonia petals*
- 1 OR 2 sprigs of rosemary or herb of your choosing*

WHAT TO DO

1. Combine all ingredients.
2. Add ice and shake for at least 10 seconds.
3. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass.
4. Garnish with prepared BIG® Begonia petals.
5. Sip and enjoy!



*After a long, taxing day, it's important
to reinvest in your well-being.*

BEGONI 🌸 a h h h h h

*This recipe for BIG® Begonia bath salts is just what you need to rest,
relax and detox—without spending money on a trip to the spa.*

This homemade bath salt mixture lets you use your BIG® Begonia petals and makes for a great homemade treat. Epsom salts are perfect for soothing sore muscles, while baking soda helps soften those rough patches on your elbows and knees. Combined with a fresh floral scent, your troubles will melt away in no time.



DO-IT-YOURSELF:
BIG® BEGONIA

bath salts

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2 cups Epsom salt
- 4 tbsp. baking soda
- 2 handfuls dried BIG® Begonia petals
- 1 mason jar or container of choice
- Various* essential oils (*optional*)

WHAT TO DO

1. Add Epsom salt to a medium-sized mixing bowl.
2. Mix in baking soda to help soften skin and add some fizzy fun. *If using essential oils, add in about 6-8 drops.*
3. Mix well using a large wooden spoon.
4. Lay a base of the salt mixture in a jar or your chosen container.
5. Alternate layers of BIG Begonia petals and salt mixture until container is full.
6. Add a scoop of your floral salts to your next bath.

Enjoy! Relax your muscles and ease your mind.

the GIFT of BIG®

For the loved one who has everything, give the gift of BIG®—on the go! This beautiful, customizable tech case can be DIYed for mobile devices of all shapes and sizes. Preserve the beauty of BIG® Begonia petals with this easy and completely one-of-a-kind project.



WHAT YOU NEED

- Pressed dried BIG® Begonia petals and any other flower petals/leaves of your choosing
- Flat, solid white tech case (iPhone 6 used here)
- Clear craft glue
- Tape
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Ruler
- Thin-tipped permanent marker
- 2 clear plastic cups
- 2 wooden craft sticks
- 50/50 clear-casting epoxy resin
- Acetone
- Cotton swabs
- Glitter (optional)
- A flat surface
- Timer



STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3



STEP 4

1

Arrange your petals the way you want them to look on the back of the case.

Be careful when layering—if it's too high you won't be able to properly seal the case.

2

Solidify your arrangement by dabbing craft glue to each petal or leaf and carefully placing them on the case.

Let dry for approximately 20 minutes.

3

Prepare your resin in a well-ventilated area. Measure out exactly equal parts of resin and hardener. Add glitter to the 50/50 mixture if desired. Stir for the recommended time before applying to the case.

4

Pour a small amount of resin onto the case and gently spread to the case's edge. Make sure all flowers are covered, using a cotton swab and acetone to remove excess. Let dry for 1-2 hours, apply another coat if needed.

BIG[®] FUN

for little ones

BIG TREAT Because BIG[®] Begonia is completely edible, add an air of elegance to your favorite baked treat for a *citrusy surprise*.
See pg. 13 for preparation.

Call up the teddy bear brigade;
it's time for a *cupcake party!*

Add a pretty flourish to the fun with the touch of BIG[®] Begonia and kid-friendly crafts that are sure to impress even the tiniest of guests.

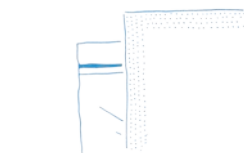
Dyeing BIG

From the garden to the table, these beautiful petal-dyed napkins are a fun project to help kids enjoy setting the table.



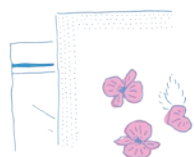
WHAT YOU NEED

*A couple pieces of 100-percent cotton or thick absorbent paper | Two 1-gallon plastic bags
A small tack hammer or rubber mallet | A handful of BIG® Begonia flowers and leaves*



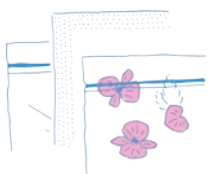
..... 1

Put a plastic bag under the paper you wish to dye.



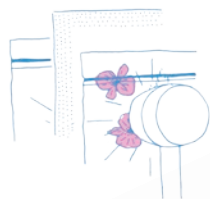
..... 2

Pick a flower or leaf that you want to "print" and lay it on top of the material.



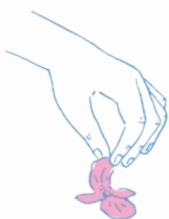
..... 3

Place a second plastic bag over the top of the selected flower.



..... 4

Use your hammer or mallet to gently beat the flower. The color will transfer onto the fabric for a beautiful imprint.



..... 5

Flowers may be smashed into the material—just remove them as you can or pick them off when dry.

Repeat as needed to make beautiful favors for your next birthday party, high tea or breakfast in bed!



Visit us online at *big-begonia.com* to find additional information on our BIG® Begonia varieties. You can also talk to your local grower or wholesale garden center for more information and to place your spring and summer orders.



FOR MORE BIG® PLANTING IDEAS, VISIT US ON YOUTUBE



SHARE YOUR BIG® BEAUTIES ON SOCIAL MEDIA USING #DIYBIGBEGONIA

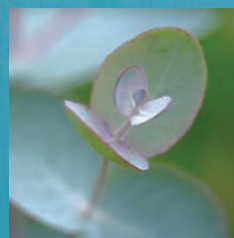
*BIG® goes best with these companion plants.
Mix and match for easy-to-grow, beautiful combinations.*



Rudbeckia hirta
'Denver Daisy'



Celosia plumosa
'Glorious'



Eucalyptus gunnii
'Silverdrop'



Salvia farinacea
'Victoria Blue'



Gaillardia x grandiflora
'Arizona Apricot'



Gaillardia x grandiflora
'Arizona Red Shades'

For more information, visit benary.com. Any inquiries regarding reprinting this brochure should be directed to info@benary.com. ©2016 Benary.

