

# Begonia Planting Guide



## When to Plant

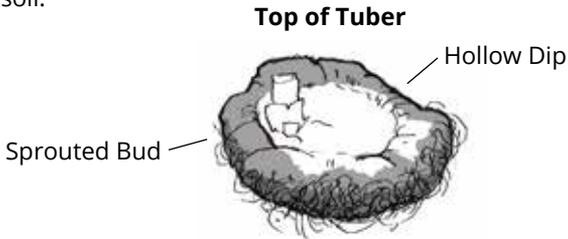
We recommend starting Begonia tubers indoors in the late winter, around February or March. Begonias are not quick-blooming plants, so starting early is advised. Tubers can be planted from February to June. In areas with hot summer temperatures, it's best to have them established early. In colder zones, tuberous Begonias are tender and cannot be placed outdoors during frost. Come spring, once the ground warms and the chance of frost is over, bring your Begonia tubers outdoors and either keep them in containers or transplant into the garden.

## Starting Begonias

If starting inside, place planted Begonias in a warm location with indirect sunlight, preferably an eastern, western, or south facing window. If you don't have an indoor window space, you will need a heat lamp to allow some light for growth. Begonias love shade and rich soil. Water slightly every few days, or when soil has dried out. Begonias will rot if overwatered, it's best to keep their soil just barely moist. Water around tuber, not directly on it. Fertilize every other week with a 20-20-20 organic fertilizer.

## How to Plant

**Step 1:** Prepare your garden plot/container. If planting in a garden, dig a hole a few inches deep to cover the tuber. If planting in a pot, find a pot that is twice the size of the tuber. Fill the pot 3/4 full with potting soil. Soil mixes with peat moss are the best choice, because they retain moisture and create slightly acidic soil. We recommend a mixture of 2/3 peat moss and 1/3 potting soil.



**Step 2:** One side of the tuber has a hollow dip and the other is round. Place the tuber round side down. The hollow dip is the top; sometimes it will already be sprouting buds. If the buds are coming up, gently place the tubers in the pot. The new growth is fragile, so try not to bump or break it.

**Step 3:** Cover tuber with soil, and water around edges. Keep pot or garden moist, but not too wet. Too much water will rot your Begonia. Expect growth in 3-4 weeks after planting. If growing conditions aren't ideal, Begonias can take longer to grow.

**Step 4:** After Begonias have sprouted and are a couple inches tall, you can transplant if desired. If you live in colder conditions and it's free of frost, you can place outside.

## Aftercare

In fall, after leaves turn yellow and/or temperatures reach below 40°F at night, bring your Begonias inside and use as a house plant or save for next spring. In colder zones, lift tubers and store in a cool, dry, non-freezing place until spring. Allow tubers to dry out for 5-7 days before storing to reduce mold and rot. It is best to place in a cardboard box or paper bag full of peat moss.

## Gardening Questions?

Visit us at [AmericanMeadows.com](http://AmericanMeadows.com) or call our friendly customer service department toll-free at (877) 309-7333.