Surefire® Red Begonia

Begonia 'Surefire Red'

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Semperflorens, Fibrous

Group/Class: Wax Begonia

Description:

Vigorous and heat tolerant, this long blooming series features upright mounded plants with brightly colored blooms; low maintenance, no deadheading needed; from sun to shade, a wonderful addition to containers, or garden landscapes

Ornamental Features

Surefire Red Begonia features dainty clusters of red orchid-like flowers with yellow throats at the ends of the stems from mid spring to mid fall. Its attractive glossy heart-shaped leaves remain dark green in color with distinctive coppery-bronze edges throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Surefire Red Begonia is an herbaceous annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.



Surefire Red Begonia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Surefire Red Begonia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Insects
- Disease

Surefire Red Begonia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets



Surefire Red Begonia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Surefire Red Begonia will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant performs well in both full sun and full shade. However, you may want to keep it away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Surefire Red Begonia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.