Rieger begonias are a 1971 introduction to the United States and Canada from Europe. Their long-lasting, spectacular blooms make them highly desirable for home embellishment. This plant is something of a cross between a wax begonia and one of the dramatic tuberous varieties.

**PLANT CULTURE**

Riegers are winter flowering, fibrous rooted begonias 12” to 18” tall. They can be placed in outside beds in summer in mottled, shady locations. For house culture, the requirements are not difficult.

**LIGHT**

High light exclusive of direct sunlight is of first importance, though some growers say several hours of sun is fine, especially if grown primarily for their flowers. Fancy-leaved types need only bright light.

**WATER**

Begonias benefit from additional humidity (above what is found in the average home), but cannot tolerate too much moisture around their roots or stems. Moisture to the extreme (left standing in water) causes rot. Let the soil dry out a bit between waterings.

**TEMPERATURE**

Average household temperatures are fine.

**FERTILIZER**

Fertilize very lightly every two weeks when the plants are actively growing.

**REPOTTING**

Repot fibrous-rooted begonias in spring, using a soilless mixture of half potting soil and half peat moss. Propagate by taking tip cuttings.

**PROBLEMS**

Begonias are susceptible to mildew.