

Begonia tuberhybrida F1

Fortune



Fortune is the ultimate tuberhybrida for fast and high density cultivation, minimal shrinkage at retail and a great garden performance. Large, showy flowers bloom well above the foliage for maximum impact. Within the series, specially selected 'Quick and Compact' colours offer the fastest, best matched colours of all.



- * Spectacular double flowers in beautiful colours
- * Rich and free flowering habit with shorter, stronger flower stems
- * About 10 days earlier in flower than competitive series: Sow later and save costs
- * Naturally compact (chemical growth regulation not required)
- * Excellent shelf life
- * Eye-catcher at retail

 Annual	 Bedding Plant
 Bedding + mixed combo	 Half shade + full sun
 Mounding	 50,000/gram (normal seed)
 30 cm	 Normal, pellet
 20 cm	 10.5-12 cm

Culture Guide

Plug Culture

- Stage 1** (days 1-14) Sow seed into a plug tray filed with a sterile and well-drained media. Lightly cover with coarse vermiculite as seed requires light to germinate. Do not cover the seed as begonias require light to germinate. Provide 220-1,100 lux in the germination chamber. Maintain a temperature of 23-25°C and sufficient moisture to melt the pellet. The media should be wet to saturate with 100% relative air humidity.
- Stage 2** (days 11-21) The cotyledons are now visible and roots are beginning to form. Maintain the air temperature at 22-25°C. Supplemental lighting at 5,000-7,500 lux following germination greatly reduces crop time. Strong sunlight (>21,000 lux) will cause high leaf temperature and leaf edge burn. Maintain the media moist but not saturated to promote healthy root development and penetration. Reduce air humidity to 70-80%. Begin feeding at 50-75 ppm nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate based formulation. Avoid using ammonium nitrate which may inhibit root growth during germination and plug development.
- Stage 3** (days 22-62) The first true leaves are developed and roots are beginning to penetrate the media. Reduce air temperature to 18-20°C. Begonias are light accumulators and flowering is directly related to the total amount of light received. Allow the media to dry slightly between irrigations as begonia roots require high levels of oxygen. Another important point in growing Begonia is to maintain high air humidity level at 70-80% (relative humidity) to minimize leaf burning during stage 2 and 3. Increase the fertilizer rate to 100-150 nitrogen once or twice per week to maintain an EC level of 1.0-1.5 (1:2 slurry).
- Stage 4** (days 63-70) At the end of stage 4 the plugs should have 2-3 sets of true leaves and the roots should hold the plug media together. Optimum air temperature is 17-20°C to help tone the plugs. Avoid temperatures below 15°C. Maintain the EC level at 1.0-1.5.

Pack & Pot Culture

In general	Water early in the day if using overhead irrigation to avoid leaf edge burn when leaf temperatures are high.
Media	Select a sterile and well-drained media with a pH between 5.5-5.8 and low in nutrients (EC level less than 1.0 mmhos).
Transplanting	Optimum stage is when the seedling roots reach the edge of the plug and having 4-6 true leaves.
Temperature	Optimum growing temperature is 21-22°C during the day and 17-20°C at night. Once established the night temperature may be reduced to 15°C.
Fertilizer	Maintain the media EC between 1.2 to 1.5 (1:2 slurry) by applying 100-150 ppm of nitrogen from a well-balanced calcium nitrate based formulation. The use of Ca/Mg formulations like 15-5-15 work well to supply adequate amounts of magnesium. Begonias are se
Lighting	A day length of 14 hours is needed to maintain continuous growth (to avoid tuber formation). Slight shading may be necessary during Spring and Summer months to prevent leaf burn.
Growth regulators	Generally not needed due to a genetically compact habit. In case it is needed B-Nine (daminozide) and CCC are effective.
Pests & diseases	Botrytis.
Crop schedule	10 cm pots: 7 weeks from transplanting. 17 cm pots with 3 plants: 8 weeks from transplanting. 30 cm hanging baskets: 9 weeks from transplanting.

All information given is intended for general guidance only and is believed to be accurate. Cultural details are based on Northern Hemisphere conditions and Sakata cannot be held responsible for any crop damage related to the information given herein. Application of recommended growth regulators and chemicals are subject to local legislations and manufacturer's label instructions.