



**Aylett Nurseries**  
*The Complete Garden Centre*

# How to Grow Tuberosous **Begonias** from Corms

**Information Leaflet No. 81**



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# HOW TO PLANT YOUR BEGONIAS CORMS

1. For the biggest, earliest blooms, you can start tuberous Begonias off in a heated greenhouse from February onwards. If you haven't got a greenhouse, don't worry – wait until March or April when you can make use of a warm windowsill or heated propagator or plastic cover with adequate ventilation.

2. Always plant corms concave side up (depression on top) either slightly above or level with the soil surface. Gently push the corms into place and once planted water thoroughly making sure that water does not sit in the depression of the corm as this could lead to rotting.



3. When leaves are showing, carefully lift from tray and pot into 10-12cm pots using John Innes No. 2 or a Multi-purpose Compost.



4. Plants can be hardened off in a cold frame and planted outside after the danger of frost has passed in fertile soil in a sunny or partially shady site.

5. Feed weekly with a high potassium feed (e.g. Tomato fertiliser). Water regularly during dry periods but avoid wetting the foliage.



# OVERWINTERING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Most of our customers prefer to buy fresh corms each year, however, if you are a gardening enthusiast it is possible to overwinter the corms (tubers) to produce your own plants for the following year.

Before the first frost dig up plants you have bedded out and pot them into suitable pots using old compost. Put them in a light, cool place and allow the compost to dry out. They will droop, turn yellow and the leaves and stems gradually drop off leaving the tuber. Do the same for pot grown plants.



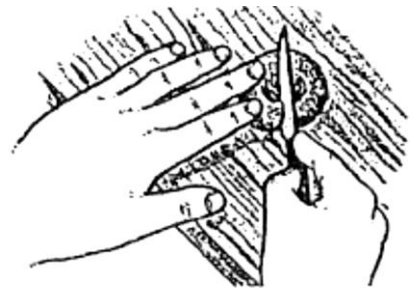
Remove the corms (tubers) from the dry compost, rub off the dead shoots and roots and store them in clean and dry paper bags, boxes of old dry compost, or use Vermiculite. Keep them where there is no danger of frost.



# HOW TO TAKE CUTTINGS FROM TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Start your corms (tubers) into growth just as you would if you were growing them for a summer display. They are ready to propagate just as the young shoots begin to develop.

1. Choose a healthy corm (tuber) of your favourite plant and cut it into 2-4 pieces; each section should have a few tiny buds. Dust the cut areas with fungicide and allow to dry.



2. Put each section in its own pot of multi-purpose compost with the top just level with the surface. Water to just moisten, and keep warm in a heated propagator.

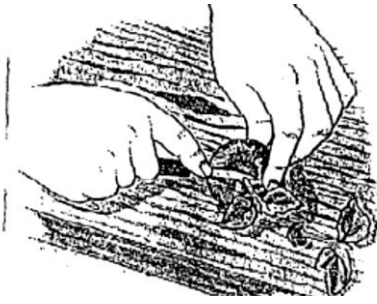


3. Once roots have formed and they're growing strongly, they can be treated just like any other plants grown from tuber and will produce flowers the same year.



# BASAL CUTTINGS

An alternative method is to cut off 2” (5cm) shoots with a small piece of the corm (tuber) attached at the base of each cutting. Pot each ‘mini’ cutting up using multi-purpose compost and place in a warm propagator until rooted. By the end of the year a new tuber will have formed.



**This leaflet is available in  
alternative formats.**

Please ask a member of staff or

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