

QUICK REFERENCE PLANTING GUIDE

LIGHT/SUN EXPOSURE	Indoors: Bright indirect light. Outdoors: Full shade.
USDA HARDINESS ZONES	Not winter hardy in-ground. Will thrive as a houseplant in all zones.
PLANT TYPE	Annual/Tropical.
CONTAINER SIZE	One plant per 12-inch or larger container.
MATURE HEIGHT / SPREAD	20 to 30 inches tall with a similar spread.
TIME TO REACH MATURITY	12 months.
FACTS OF NOTE	A must-have houseplant! Unique spotted foliage. Great for the home or office.

Thank you for your order!

PLANT WARRANTY

We warrant perennials for 1 year and annuals for 90 days from the time of the original shipment. If for any reason you are dissatisfied, we will replace your plant with a similar or comparable one, at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will reship the following shipping season.

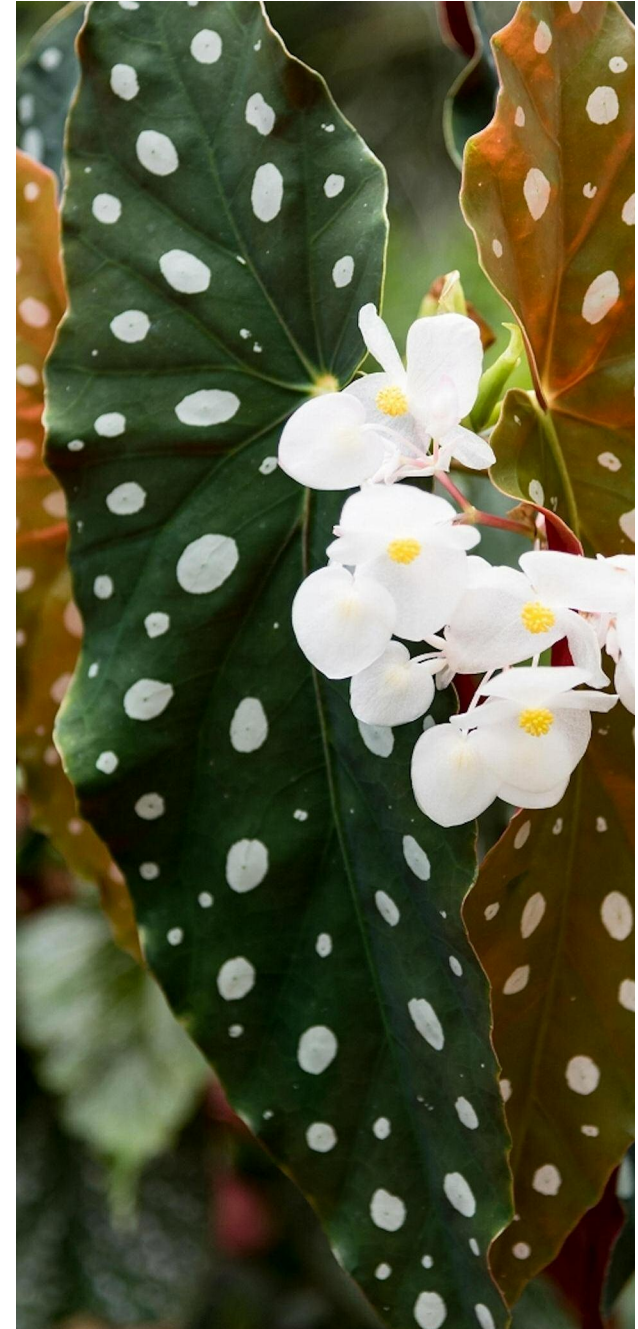
If you have any questions or concerns about your order, please contact us at 888-593-3644 or help@cottagefarmsdirect.com.

Caution: Do not assume any plant is safe to eat. Only parts of plants expressly grown to be eaten should be considered edible. As with any product that is not food, care should be taken to make sure that small children and pets do not ingest any part of the plant that is not expressly grown to be eaten.

Unless specifically stated, this product is intended for ornamental horticultural use only and is not intended for consumption or ingestion by humans or pets. Most plants are harmless, but some contain toxic substances which can cause adverse health effects. Furthermore, some individuals and some animals are sensitive or allergic to certain plants and precautions should be taken to limit or avoid physical contact with particular plants. Some plants have thorns or spines that can be painful if handled.

**In case of ingestion contact a poison control center immediately.
1-800-222-1222**

POLKA DOT BEGONIA



OUT OF THE BOX

POLKA DOT BEGONIA

Your plant has been shipped to you in a pot. Please remove the plant from the packaging right away and plant as soon as possible following the planting instructions below. If it is not possible to plant right away, follow these important steps:

1. Roll the plastic down around the plant and place it in a sunny location.
2. Keep the plant well watered.

Note: Some leaves may appear wilted or yellow upon arrival. This is due to the stress of shipping and is nothing to worry about. Water the plant and let it recover in a shady location for a few days, then gently remove any foliage that does not recover to allow for new growth.



SHIPPED AS SHOWN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are my plant's leaves wilting?

Wilted leaves are usually a sign of under-watering.

Why does my plant have brown leaf tips?

Brown, crispy leaf tips indicate a lack of humidity. Use a pebble tray or an automatic humidifier to boost the humidity level around your plant.

Where should I place my plant?

Place your plant in a bright, sunny room away from heat sources, air ducts or drafts. A well-ventilated room with an east-facing or west-facing window is ideal. Place the plant within three feet of a window if possible, and do not allow its leaves to touch the glass.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

We recommend planting your begonia in a container and enjoying it indoors. Use the following instructions as a guide for container planting.

Important: Thoroughly hydrate the plant by submersing the root zone in a container of water for 10 minutes while you prepare for planting.

- A** Fill the container with soil to within 4 inches of the top. Remove the pot and prepare the root ball for planting by gently disturbing the surface roots with your fingers, fork or gardening tool and pruning any damaged roots. Dig a hole in the soil to insert the lower part of the root ball.
- B** Once the plant is properly positioned in the pot, begin filling the pot with soil. Work the soil around the root ball with your hands, firming the soil around the plant with your fingers. When the hole is filled, tamp the soil to remove any air pockets.
- C** Water well and, if necessary, adjust the plant so it is upright and add additional soil if needed. Check to be sure the plant is not planted too deeply. If it is, raise the plant carefully and re-firm the soil.



CONTINUING CARE

- RE-POTTING** Polka dot begonias should be re-potted when the roots become crowded or begin circling the inside of the pot. Re-pot the plant into a slightly larger container and replace its growing medium with fresh potting soil.
- PRUNING** Remove dead, damaged or unsightly growth as needed to maintain an attractive appearance. Brown leaf tips can be clipped off as needed. When pruning your plant, always make a clean cut with sharp scissors or pruning shears to avoid damaging its leaves and stems.

CONTINUING CARE (Continued)

- WATERING** Polka dot begonias perform best when the soil is allowed to dry out slightly between waterings. Water thoroughly with room temperature water until the soil is well-saturated and water drains from the holes at the bottom of the pot. If you choose to keep a saucer beneath the pot, empty excess water from the saucer immediately after watering. In areas with hard tap water or softened water, consider watering with distilled water or collected rainwater to prevent salts from building up in the soil.
- Provide humidity for your plant by using a pebble tray. Create a pebble tray by placing a shallow tray filled with pebbles and water beneath the plant. Keep the water level slightly below the pebbles so the pot is not submerged in water. As the water evaporates, it will provide humidity for your plant. An automatic room humidifier can also be used to boost the humidity level around your plant. Begonias should not be misted with a spray bottle.
- FEEDING** Feed your plant once every 2-3 weeks during the growing season with a water-soluble fertilizer. Discontinue fertilizing by September 1st to allow your plant to prepare for winter. Resume fertilizing when new growth begins in spring.
- GROWING INDOORS** Polka dot begonias make excellent year-round houseplants. Keep your plant in a sunny room where the temperature stays between 60-85°F. Wipe the leaves with a damp cloth periodically to prevent dust build-up. Give the pot a quarter turn each week to ensure even growth and prevent its stems from stretching toward a window or light source.
- GROWING OUTDOORS** Though typically grown indoors, polka dot begonias can be enjoyed outdoors during the warm months if desired. Place the plant in a protected area with morning sun and afternoon shade. Move the plant back indoors before the temperature drops below 60°F.