

BEGONIA

In Pots and Hanging Baskets

Final Trials Report

2009

Trials Office
The Royal Horticultural Society Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB


RHS Trial of *Begonia*, in pots and hanging baskets

Introduction to *Begonia*


Genus of 900 species ranging through fleshy annuals to herbaceous perennials; evergreen shrubs and climbers. They are widespread in tropical and sub-tropical regions between 15° north and 15° south of the equator. *Begonia* are variable in habit and may be fibrous rooted, rhizomatous or tuberous. Leaves are generally decorative with flowers borne in cymes or racemes.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were:

- To assess for trailing habit and flower cover
- To recommend the Award of Garden Merit [AGM]  to cultivars considered excellent for basket and container use
- To establish length of flowering period

Judging

The Floral Trials Subcommittee assessed entries in the trial for the Award of Garden Merit  on 9/06, 23/06, 7/07, 21/07, 18/08, 1/09 and 15/09 (2009), using the following criteria:

- Floriferousness
- Floral form
- Colour
- Foliage
- Trailing habit
- Overall impact

Entries

There were 91 entries in the trial, submitted as seed, tubers and cuttings by breeders across the UK and Europe.

Cultivation

Seed raised entries were sown at the end of January and 14 plants of each entry were pricked out in early April. Tuber entries were planted in February and cuttings received in March. For each entry, 1 basket (40cm diameter) and 2 pots (20 litre) were planted up in early May with 3 plants in each. Peat free compost was used with Osmocote pellets added as slow release fertilizer; plants were watered in with Revive which contains natural soil micro-organisms which encourage soil fertility and healthy plant growth. Pots and baskets were put out on the trials field in early June with a drip irrigation system programmed to water the trial twice a day (weather-dependent) and to provide a balanced fertiliser once a week.

Pest and Disease

During this trial, the following pests and diseases were encountered:

- Root rot (*Pythium intermedium*)
- Root, tuber and stem decay (*Phytophthora citricola/inflata*)
- Foot rot (*Pythium irregulare/oligandrum/heterothallicum/glomeratum*)
- Leaf spot (*Botrytis cinerea*)
- Stem lesions and dieback (*Verticillium* wilt)
- Powdery mildew (*Erysiphe orontii/begoniicola*)

Plants Receiving AGMs During Trial

The following are the plants thought to fulfil the Award of Garden Merit criteria during the trial and to be worthy of receiving the award. The criteria which a plant needs to fulfil in order to receive the award are:

- excellent for ordinary garden use
- available from nurseries
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably easy to grow

Hardiness ratings are as follows:

H3 – hardy outside in some regions; needs frost-free protection in winter

H4 – hardy throughout the British Isles

Plants Awarded AGM

***Begonia* (Ikon Series) 'Ikon Blush White'** **AGM (H3-4) 2009**

[Trial No. 24] votes 11-2

Height 0.6m

Pale purplish pink flowers with vivid red margins held amongst hairy green foliage.

“Lovely red seed heads after flowers, very attractive habit and colour.”

Sender: Floranova





Begonia (Million Kisses Series) 'Yagance' = Elegance AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 40] votes 12-1

Height 0.45m

Pale pink flowers with strong pink margins held on pink flower stems amongst slightly hairy green foliage with orange margins.

"Lasted well with attractive pedicels. Highly floriferous with an interesting habit."

Sender: Ball Colegrave

Begonia (Million Kisses Series) 'Yadev' = Devotion AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 41] votes 9-3

Height 0.45m

Strong yellowish-pink single flowers held on pink stems amongst glossy light green foliage with pale pink margins.

"Highly vigorous, good basket plant which looks spectacular and is relatively resistant to scorch."

Sender: Ball Colegrave



Begonia 'Sherbet Bon Bon' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 43] votes 14-0

Height 0.2m

Pale yellow double flowers with moderate pink margins held on dark pink stems amongst glossy light green foliage with reddish margins.

"Very clean dainty plant with attractive stem colour. Better suited to pots than baskets."

Sender: Ball Colegrave

Begonia 'Yadance' = Dainty Dancer AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 45] votes 6-1

Height 0.3m

Deep yellowish pink single flowers held on dark pink stems amongst glossy light-mid green foliage with pale margins.

"Fantastic looking plant."

Sender: Young Plants Ltd





Begonia 'Yasped' = Sparkler Red AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 46] votes 7-0
Height 0.45m

Deep yellowish pink single flowers held amongst glossy mid-green foliage with red margins.
"Lasts well over a long period time, lovely stem and leaf colour. Excellent plant."

Sender: Young Plants Ltd

Begonia 'Carol Flame' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 50] votes 12-1
Height 0.3m

Strong red semi-double flowers held on red stems amongst glossy dark red-green foliage.
"Nice dark foliage which is a good contrast with the flowers."

Sender: Young Plants Ltd



Begonia 'Carol Red' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 51] votes 12-1
Height 0.4m

Vivid reddish orange double flowers held on red stems amongst fine, hairy light green foliage with red margins.
"Highly vigorous cultivar; performs well."

Sender: Young Plants Ltd



Begonia 'Encanto Orange' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 81] votes 7-0
Height 0.35m

Vivid reddish orange single flowers held on red stems amongst glossy light green foliage with pale pink margins.
"Highly floriferous, vibrant with a good even habit."

Sender: Florema Young Plants





Begonia (Waterfall Series) 'Victoria Falls' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 85] votes 10-3
Height 0.3m

Vivid reddish orange double flowers held on red stems amongst hairy green foliage with pink margins.

"Brilliant colour with a nice trailing habit."

Sender: Florema Young Plants

Begonia 'Nzcone' = Bonfire AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 64] votes 10-1
Height 0.4m

Vivid reddish orange single flowers held on bright red stems amongst glossy green foliage with pink margins.

"Very floriferous. A uniform plant which gives an excellent display."

Sender: Four Oaks



Reconfirmed AGMs

Begonia (Illumination Series) 'Illumination Salmon Pink' AGM (H2-3)

[Trial No.3] votes 7-0
Height 0.6m

Moderate reddish-orange double flowers held on pale pink stems amongst glossy light green foliage.

"Very floriferous, good balance of foliage and flower. Male flowers full."

Sender: Ernst Benary GmbH



Begonia (Illumination Series) 'Illumination Orange' AGM (H2-3) 1994

[Trial No.5] votes 10-3
Height 0.35m

Vivid red-orange semi-double flowers on red stems, held over hairy green foliage with yellow-orange margins.

"A striking plant with big flowers"

Sender: Ernst Benary GmbH

***Begonia* (Panorama Series) 'Panorama
Scarlet' AGM (H2-3) 1994**

[Trial No.89] votes 9-1

Height 0.5m

Vivid reddish-orange semi-double flowers held on red stems amongst hairy dark green foliage with a hint of red.

"Superb basket plant. Very good foliage and flower combination."

Sender: Ball Colegrave



Trial Index and Senders Details

No	Name	Sender	Propagation Method
1	<i>Begonia</i> (Illumination Series) 'Illumination White'	Ernst Benary GmbH	Seed
2	<i>Begonia</i> (Illumination Series) 'Illumination Rose'	Ernst Benary GmbH	Seed
3	<i>Begonia</i> (Illumination Series) 'Illumination Salmon Pink' AGM (H2-3) 1994	Ernst Benary GmbH	Seed
4	<i>Begonia</i> (Illumination Series) 'Illumination Apricot'	Ernst Benary GmbH	Seed
5	<i>Begonia</i> (Illumination Series) 'Illumination Orange' AGM (H2-3) 1994	Ernst Benary GmbH	Seed
6	<i>Begonia</i> (Illumination Series) 'Illumination Peaches 'n' Cream'	Ernst Benary GmbH	Seed
7	<i>Begonia</i> Illumination Series, mixed	Ernst Benary GmbH	Seed
8	<i>Begonia</i> (Nonstop Series) 'Nonstop Fire'	Ernst Benary GmbH	Seed
9	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson White'	Černý	Seed
10	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson Pink'	Sent by Černý	Seed
11	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson Bicolour Pink/White'	Černý	Seed
12	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson Salmon'	Sent by Černý	Seed
13	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson Orange'	Černý	Seed
14	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson Yellow'	Černý	Seed
15	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson Bicolour Orange/Yellow'	Černý	Seed

16	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson Clear Red'	Černý	Seed
17	<i>Begonia</i> (Chanson Series) 'Chanson Deep Red'	Černý	Seed
18	<i>Begonia</i> Chanson Series, mixed	Černý	Seed
19	<i>Begonia</i> (Tenella Series) 'Tenella White'	Syngenta Seeds Ltd	Seed
20	<i>Begonia</i> (Tenella Series) 'Tenella Rose'	Syngenta Seeds Ltd	Seed
21	<i>Begonia</i> (Tenella Series) 'Tenella Salmon Orange'	Syngenta Seeds Ltd	Seed
22	<i>Begonia</i> (Tenella Series) 'Tenella Yellow'	Syngenta Seeds Ltd	Seed
23	<i>Begonia</i> (Tenella Series) 'Tenella Scarlet'	Syngenta Seeds Ltd	Seed
24	<i>Begonia</i> (Ikon Series) 'Ikon Blush White'	Floranova Limited	Seed
25	<i>Begonia</i> Stara Series formula mixed	Floranova Limited	Seed
26	<i>Begonia</i> (Sensation Series) 'Sensation White'	Van Peteghem	Tubers
27	<i>Begonia</i> (Sensation Series) 'Sensation Pink'	Van Peteghem	Tubers
28	<i>Begonia</i> (Sensation Series) 'Sensation Orange'	Van Peteghem	Tubers
29	<i>Begonia</i> (Sensation Series) 'Sensation Yellow'	Van Peteghem	Tubers
30	<i>Begonia</i> (Sensation Series) 'Sensation Red'	Van Peteghem	Tubers
31	<i>Begonia</i> Sensation Series, mixed	Van Peteghem	Tubers
32	<i>Begonia</i> (Show Angels Series) 'Show Angels White'	Sahin Zaden B.V.	Seed
33	<i>Begonia</i> (Show Angels Series) 'Show Angels Pink'	Sahin Zaden B.V.	Seed
34	<i>Begonia</i> (Show Angels Series) 'Show Angels Salmon'	Sahin Zaden B.V.	Seed
35	<i>Begonia</i> (Show Angels Series) 'Show Angels Orange'	Sahin Zaden B.V.	Seed
36	<i>Begonia</i> (Show Angels Series) 'Show Angels Yellow'	Sahin Zaden B.V.	Seed
37	<i>Begonia</i> (Show Angels Series) 'Show Angels Red'	Sahin Zaden B.V.	Seed
38	<i>Begonia</i> Show Angels formula mixed	Sahin Zaden B.V.	Seed
39	<i>Begonia</i> (Million Kisses Series) 'Allure'	Ball Colegrave	Cuttings

40	<i>Begonia</i> (Million Kisses Series) 'Elegance'	Ball Colegrave	Cuttings
41	<i>Begonia</i> (Million Kisses Series) 'Devotion'	Ball Colegrave	Cuttings
42	<i>Begonia</i> (Million Kisses Series) 'Romance'	Ball Colegrave	Cuttings
43	<i>Begonia</i> 'Sherbet Bon Bon'	Ball Colegrave	Cuttings
44	<i>Begonia</i> 'Carmina'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
45	<i>Begonia</i> 'Dainty Dancer'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
46	<i>Begonia</i> 'Sparkler Red'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
47	<i>Begonia</i> 'Sparkler Salmon'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
48	<i>Begonia</i> 'Carol Rose'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
49	<i>Begonia</i> 'Carol Orange'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
50	<i>Begonia</i> 'Carol Flame'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
51	<i>Begonia</i> 'Carol Red'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
52	<i>Begonia</i> 'Martha White'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
53	<i>Begonia</i> 'Martha Rose'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
54	<i>Begonia</i> 'Martha Bright Rose'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
55	<i>Begonia</i> 'Martha Red'	Young Plants Ltd	Cuttings
56	<i>Begonia</i> (Bellconia Series) Bellconia White 'Innbellwhi'	Innovaplant GmbH & Co	Cuttings
57	<i>Begonia</i> (Bellconia Series) Bellconia Rose 'Innbello'	Innovaplant GmbH & Co	Cuttings
58	<i>Begonia</i> (Bellconia Series) 'Bellconia Salmon'	Innovaplant GmbH & Co	Cuttings
59	<i>Begonia</i> (Bellconia Series) 'Bellconia Apricot Blush'	Innovaplant GmbH & Co	Cuttings
60	<i>Begonia</i> (Bellconia Series) 'Bellconia Soft Orange'	Innovaplant GmbH & Co	Cuttings
61	<i>Begonia</i> (Summerwings Series) Summerwings White 'Innbolwhi'	Innovaplant GmbH & Co	Cuttings
62	<i>Begonia</i> (Summerwings Series) Summerwings Rose 'Innbolpink'	Innovaplant GmbH & Co	Cuttings
63	<i>Begonia</i> (Summerwings Series) Summerwings Orange 'Innbolora'	Innovaplant GmbH & Co	Cuttings

64	<i>Begonia</i> Bonfire 'Nzcone'	Four Oaks	Cuttings
65	<i>Begonia</i> Apricot Shades mix	Thompson & Morgan	Tubers
66	<i>Begonia</i> Illumination Apricot Shades	Thompson & Morgan	Tubers
67	<i>Begonia</i> Fiery Shades mix	Thompson & Morgan	Tubers
68	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket White'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
69	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket Pink'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
70	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket Salmon'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
71	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket Apricot'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
72	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket 'Orange'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
73	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket Yellow'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
74	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket Scarlet'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
75	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket Red'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
76	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket Yellow/Red Picotee'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
77	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket White/Red Picotee'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
78	<i>Begonia</i> 'Hanging Basket Pink'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
79	<i>Begonia</i> 'Scentiment Pink Blush'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
80	<i>Begonia</i> 'Scentiment Sunrise'	Golden State Bulb Growers	Tubers
81	<i>Begonia</i> 'Encanto Orange'	Florema Young Plants	Cuttings
82	<i>Begonia</i> (Waterfall Series) 'Rainbow Falls'	Florema Young Plants	Cuttings
83	<i>Begonia</i> (Waterfall Series) 'Selfoss Falls'	Florema Young Plants	Cuttings
84	<i>Begonia</i> (Waterfall Series) 'Nachi Falls'	Florema Young Plants	Cuttings
85	<i>Begonia</i> (Waterfall Series) 'Victoria Falls'	Florema Young Plants	Cuttings
86	<i>Begonia</i> (Waterfall Series) 'Kahiwa Falls'	Florema Young Plants	Cuttings
87	<i>Begonia</i> 'Appleblossom'	Thompson & Morgan	Tubers

88	<i>Begonia</i> 'Champagne'	O.A. Taylor & Sons Bulbs Ltd	Tubers
89	<i>Begonia</i> (Panorama Series) 'Panorama Scarlet' AGM (H2-3) 1994	Ball Colegrave Ltd	Cuttings
90	<i>Begonia</i> 'Elfie'	Flowers by Design	Tissue culture
91	<i>Begonia</i> Bonfire 'Nzcone'	Four Oaks	Cuttings
92	<i>Begonia</i> (Million Kisses Series) 'Allure'	Ball Colegrave Ltd	Cuttings

N.B Names that are struck through have been checked by RHS Botanists

Sender Details

Ball Colegrave Limited, West Adderbury, Banbury, Oxon OX17 3EY

Černý, Husova 139, 55101 Jaroměř, Czech Republic

Ernst Benary Samenzucht GmbH, Petersweg 72, 34346 Hann, Münden, Germany

Floranova Limited, Norwich Road, Foxley, Norfolk NR20 4SS

Florema Young Plants, Postbus 35, 1430 AA Aalsmeer, The Netherlands

Flowers By Design, 12 Roman Row, Whichford, CV36 5PJ

Four Oaks, Longshoot Road, Lower Withington, Macclesfield, SK11 9DX

Golden State Bulb Growers, 1260 Hwy 1, Moss Landing, CA 95039, USA

Innovaplant GmbH & Co, D-55454 Gensingen, Postfach 113, Germany

K. SAHIN, Zaden B.V., Hoofdweg 19, 1424 PC DE KWAKEL, The Netherlands

Samuel Dobie & Son, Long Road, Paignton, Devon, TR4 7SX

Syngenta Seeds Ltd, CPC4, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XE

O.A. Taylor & Sons Bulbs Ltd., Washway House Farm, Holbeach, Spalding,
Lincolnshire PE12 7PP

Thompson and Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU

R. Vam Peteghem, B.V.B.A., 81 Beelbroekstraat, B-9040 Gent, Belgium

Young Plants Ltd. Whitehill Farm, Alderminster, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire
CV37 8BW

Source: Horticultural Trials and Relations, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23
6QB

E-mail: trials@rhs.org.uk

More information about RHS Trials and other colour illustrated reports can be found on
the RHS Website: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/trials>