

## CULTURE ADVICE

### Begonia Cultivars Elatior

- Description:** Elatior begonias belong to the group of potted plants that bloom more than once (remount). They sell readily because of their rich flowering over a long period. When taking into account their characteristic features and cultivation prerequisites, they can be cultivated throughout the year. Elatior begonias are facultative short-day plants. At a critical day length of 12 to 14 hours, they are ideally suitable for a controlled production.
- Potting:** They can be potted all year long,  
8 - 13 cm pot, (8 cm) 45 plants/m<sup>2</sup>, (13 cm) 12 - 16 plants/m<sup>2</sup>
- Substrate:** Well aired, loosely structured substrate (with max. 20 % clay, salt max. 2 g/l); pH 5 - 6
- Fertilization:** Use soft water where possible (max. 10 °DH).  
If using rain water, check the pH value of the substrate.  
**Do not use T- and fast-flowing long-time fertilizer types!**  
Do not start until approx. 2 weeks after potting.  
N: 100 - 200 mg/l  
P: 150 - 300 mg/l  
K: 200 - 400 mg/l  
Mg 100 - 150 mg/l  
EC: 1.0 - 1.5 mS
- CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization:** 600 ppm, from 2 hours before sunrise to 1 hour after sunset
- Temperature (heating t.):** 20 °C until 2nd week after potting, then  
**- Potting time approx. week 38 to approx. week 15**  
From week 3: T 20 °C / N 18 °C  
From week 7: T 18 °C / N 18 °C  
From time when buds show colour: T 16 °C / N 16 °C  
**- Potting time approx. week 16 to approx. week 37**  
From week 3: T 18 °C / N 16 °C  
From week 7: T 16 °C / N 16 °C  
From time when buds show colour: T 14 °C / N 14 °C  
The air temperature should be 4 °C above the temperature of the heating air.
- Light:** As light as possible but not full sunlight;  
shade young plants as from 30 klx, later as from 45 klx.
- Disturbing light:** Min. 30 lux during cultivation of sets between early September and late March; max.  
- fluorescent lamps approx. 6 W/m<sup>2</sup>  
- incandescent lamps approx. 15 W/m<sup>2</sup> (or corresponding energy-saving lamps)
- Exposure:** Light sum: 80 klxh  
or turn on light for day length of 16 to 18 hours if available light is less than 2,800 lux.
- Flowering:** Depends on cultivation control. 7 to 9 weeks after a short-day treatment of at least 10 days

Elatior begonias are facultative short-day plants.  
Critical day length: 12 to 14 hours;  
Floral stimulus: from 10 to 14 days under short-day conditions.

**Growth regulators:** Max. 2 x; Cycocel 720: 0.03 to 0.1 %  
depending on size and vigor of the plants;  
a combination with foliage fertilizer helps avoid yellow edges, e.g.:  
Wuxal 886 0.05 %  
Aminosol or Siapton 0.2 %  
Azolon 0.15 %  
Magnesium nitrate 0.1 %

**Temperatures:** Avoid temperatures above 22 °C during CCC spraying, avoid full sunlight.

**Pinching:** Pinching is not absolutely necessary. Some lopping or shaping is recommended in order to get a better plant build-up.

**Diseases / pest:** Thrips, big mouth weevil, fungus gnats, soft-bodied mites, botrytis, rhizoctonia, powdery mildew, Fusarium species, Xanthomonas. Take hygienic measures!

Water balance is of importance; the plants must not stand too wet, danger of botrytis, damage to roots and irregular plant build-up are the consequences.

Updated: 08/09/2009