

DOWN TO EARTH - WITH BEGONIAS

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*My garden is a slow work, pursued with love,
and I don't deny that I'm proud of it.*

Claude Monet (1840-1926)

Shirley, my late wife, and I became enamoured with begonias when, at her insistence, we bought a packet of seed labelled *Begonia* Tuberhybrida.

‘What are *Begonia* Tuberhybrida?’ I asked my wife, and she replied: ‘Just the most beautiful flowers in all the world’. Surprised, I asked how on earth she could be so sure and her smug reply informed me that she, too, read gardening books!

Those seeds grew and prospered and eventually presented us with a wondrous display of beautiful blooms.

A love affair thus begun became stronger as the years progressed and we discovered this incredible family of plants of which tuberous begonias are but one small part.

This book is dedicated to the memory of my wonderful wife.

Peter Sharp