

3. **Humidity.** An essential in growing begonias – a range between 40% and 80% is most suitable, 60% being the ideal, but they will tolerate humidity outside these limits for short periods. If your location is not suitable because of a lack of humidity then there are some things which can be done, but these are really only suitable for bush house growing (mind you, a garden in a bush house is a most satisfying way to grow begonias!):

- a. cover the bush house floor with sawdust or similar and keep this moist,
 - b. plant ferns, ground covers and similar complementary plants with the begonias
- as these will help keep the air moist,
- c. in hot weather, use an evaporative cooler which will not only cool the bush house but raise the humidity.

4. **Frost.** The one thing that begonias do not like is frost. They will tolerate a light frost or two which may make some or all the leaves fall, but will regenerate come the spring – heavy frosts are just not acceptable and will surely kill them. So, to grow begonias in frost prone areas they must have winter protection; but don't despair, for you can enjoy their beauty even there if you grow them in tubs in the outdoors and put them away in the bush house for the winter.

5. **Other factors.** I have dealt in detail with all the other requirements for garden growing of begonias in Chapter 8, however the above basic factors must be satisfied before they will grow satisfactorily.



B. juliana a shrub-like begonia