

PART 2

MEET OUR FAMILY – the Begoniaceae

CHAPTER 6

TYPES OF BEGONIAS

The Language of Begonias

All plants within the Begonia family are described botanically as fibrous rooted. Because of the great diversity amongst these incredible plants, and for the sake of simplicity, begonia growers world-wide use a non-botanical system of classification that puts them into eight quite separate and distinctive groups according to their growth habits. In writing this book I have adopted this horticultural classification which was developed by Millie and Edward Thompson in their superb book, "*Begonias, the Complete Reference Guide*".

More than 1,600 species of *Begoniaceae* have been discovered to date with the hunt for new ones still going on. There are also thousands of cultivars, most of which have never been registered.

In referring to begonias by name I have abbreviated the word *Begonia* to *B.*, always in italics, with species names shown totally italicised and cultivars (hybrids) in inverted commas, thus:



B. minor – one of the showiest of the shrub-like species, and