

course can all be used for propagation. As the plant ages the older canes will turn brown and produce fewer flowers and they should be removed completely when pruning.

From the many cane-like begonias in this remarkable family I can recommend: *Bs. aconitifolia* (a tall growing, palmately leafed, white flowered beauty), *albo picta* and *albo picta rosea* (both lower growing compact plants with small, silver spotted foliage), *angularis* (a medium grower with distinctive foliage), *coccinea* (ever flowering, tall growing), *maculata* (white spotted leaves), and *undulata* (medium grower with a dense growth habit and an abundance of white flowers) amongst the species, and from a very long list of cultivars, *Bs.* ‘Irene Nuss’, ‘Sophie Cecile’ (ideal medium height feature plants with distinctive foliage), and ‘White Showers’(a sprawling habit and almost ever-flowering).

Cane-likes are heavy feeders and it is essential you adhere to a fertiliser program which ensures that the right level of controlled release fertiliser is always available and also provides the necessary special fertilisers at each stage of growth (see Chapter 11).

You will find that they have a long life span, especially when grown as garden plants, and will continue to perform well for up to ten years and more. Pot grown plants will however need regular re-potting to avoid them becoming root bound which will inhibit growth.

Propagation is from tip and stem cuttings best taken at pruning time when the tips are firm and growth buds are just filling out, and from seed.



B. ‘Sophie Cecile’ – a cane-like cultivar