

Tip pruning of rhizomes will result in the development of lateral rhizomes which will ensure that the planting becomes thicker and more attractive. Always wait until flowering has finished before taking secateurs in hand.

In late winter the grooming of rhizomatous begonias must include the removal of all old leaf growth, cutting or snapping them off at the rhizome. This will encourage the growth of new leaves before flowering commences in spring. Again, regular fertilising is essential for top performance.

As with all the other begonia types, mass planting is the way to go, and the multitude of flowers, followed by the carpet of beautiful and distinctive foliage will more than reward your work. Think perhaps of using suitable rhizomatous begonias as garden border plants, several rows deep and close planted when possible.

It is difficult to recommend particular begonias in this group as there are just so many cultivars available and all have something to recommend them. However I do like to see as many species as possible in cultivation, and would recommend the following as being proven garden subjects: *Bs. acetosa*, *hydrocotyfolia* (for that very shady spot), *heracleifolia*, *hypolipara*, *nelumbifolia*, *manicata* and *thiemi* (= *macdougallii*) to name but a few.



In the foreground *B. manicata*