

Pruning

Most begonias benefit from pruning, whether it be tip pruning during growth or moderate to severe pruning after flowering. However, be warned that some begonias will react badly to pruning and this is only discovered from experience. One such is a shrub-like cultivar, *B. 'Red Cascade'*, developed from *B. fuchsioides*, the fuchsia begonia. This begonia grows into a well shaped shrub some one metre tall and nearly as wide but if pruned heavily it will die back quite markedly. Another shrub-like which does not tolerate light pruning is *B. macrocarpa*, a tall grower which will however produce new growth from the root system if pruned really hard (almost to ground level). However this intolerance to pruning is not common and occurs mainly in the shrub-like group. When first pruning a new begonia it is wise to do so by degrees so that any intolerance to pruning will be noted and lasting damage will not be done. *It is very good practice always to propagate extra plants when you get a new begonia so that you will not lose it during the process of getting used to its ways and needs!*



B. 'Red Cascade'

Removing the growing tip from rhizomatous begonias will cause the growth of lateral rhizomes thereby producing a much thicker and more pleasing plant, especially when they are growing in pots, however do not tip prune until the rhizome has grown to at least 10 cms (4 inches) long. In pot culture such