

regular potting mix which of course contains controlled release fertiliser, planting them about 2.5cms (one inch) apart. My experience is that small begonia seedlings planted out in separate pots, or too far apart in one pot, will not do well and will often die. Continue to use water soluble fertiliser regularly and growth will be quite rapid. The seedlings may be put into individual small pots when they have attained a reasonable size and thereafter 'potted on' into larger pots as they develop.

The one threat to small seedlings is 'damping off', which is a fungal disease causing the whole plant to rot away. This may be averted by the application of a suitable fungicide once the cover has been removed from the germination tray. Strict attention to hygiene should prevent this problem. I stress again the need for as near sterile conditions as possible throughout the process of raising plants from seed.



*B. acetosa*, a rhizomatous species that can be grown from seed