

Braveheart®

BEGONIA X HYBRIDA

Braveheart is a big, beautiful, free-flowering begonia that couples early blooming in the greenhouse with vigorous garden performance.

Braveheart sizes up as big or bigger than Dragon Wing® in large containers or landscape beds, yet it's as early to flower as a typical fibrous begonia like Varsity™. While Braveheart can be easily finished in a 4" pot, the best point-of-sale size is a 6" or 8" pot. An upright and branched habit early in production allows for closer spacing on the bench. As Braveheart matures, its gracefully arching branches are covered in a profusion of blooms for a magnificent show of color in large patio containers and flower beds.

Braveheart will thrive in sun or shade. In sun, it has pink and dark-rose bicolor flowers, with deep green to bronze foliage, and a more tightly branched habit. In shade, flowers are bluish pink with a true-pink bicolor, lighter green foliage, and a looser habit.

GERMINATION

Germinate as you would a fibrous begonia using a light, nutrient-enriched sterile medium. Single sowing in a 288 or larger plug tray is recommended due to the large cotyledons typical of Braveheart, and its more vigorous growth during germination.

pH: 5.5 – 5.8

Temperature: Keep soil temperature at 75 – 80°F (24 – 27°C) in stage 1 and early stage 2. Temperature can be lowered to 70°F (21°C) in stages 3 and 4.

Moisture: Water over the top of the seed tray immediately after sowing to break down the pelleting material.

It is important to maintain high humidity for germination. If you do not use a germination chamber, a humi-dome over the trays can be used. Plastic covering is also an option, but care must be taken when removing the plastic so the emerging seedlings are not disturbed.

If possible, it's best to sub-irrigate during germination and radicle emergence. Begonias are very sensitive to radicle disturbance during germination which can reduce or delay germination. If overhead watering, use a very light mist.

After you see the first true leaf, begin to acclimate the seedlings to higher light intensity. Maintain very high relative humidity around the seed into stage 2. Media should be kept very moist, but not saturated.

Note: A drench with an algicide will be beneficial due to the long germination time and high moisture.

Light: Do not cover; light is required for germination

Fertilization: Due to the extremely small seed, nutrition for emerging young plants is critical. During stages 1 and 2, use a nutrient enriched sowing medium fortified with 50ppm N from a Calcium/Potassium nitrate source. Do not use ammonium-based fertilizer as this can lead to soft growth. During stages 3 and 4, fertilize with 100ppm N of the same form alternating with clear water.

TRANSPLANTING

Media: High grade sterile medium

pH: 5.5 – 5.8

Timing: 8 – 11 weeks after sowing

GROWING ON

Temperature: Keep temperature around 65°F (18°C) until the plant roots out of the plug. Then temperature can be lowered gradually to 60°F (16°C). Dropping day or night temperatures to 50 – 54°F (10 – 12°C) for the last week of production will darken the foliage and flower color.

Light: Growing in high light will provide a more compact plant with shorter internodes and deeper leaf and flower color. Avoid shade.

Fertilization: Use a well-balanced fertilizer that includes micronutrients. Maintain an EC level of 0.8 – 1.3

Growth Regulation: DIF, Cycocel or Bonzi are effective.

CROP TIME

CONTAINER SIZE	WEEKS
4" pot	15 – 18
6" pot	17 – 20



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