



*For the joy of gardening!*

**Estabrook's**

## RIEGER BEGONIA CARE

### **LIGHT**

Rieger or Elatior begonias (*Begonia x hiemalis*) need abundant, filtered light for their colorful flowers. Place near an east-facing window or behind a sheer curtain in stronger light. Gentle winter sun is helpful after gradual adjustment; avoid scorching summer sun.

### **WATERING**

Water when the upper inch of mix starts to feel dry, before the root ball dries out completely. Use room-temperature water, soak the mix evenly, and drain fully. Empty the saucer or decorative pot afterward. Check moisture rather than watering on a fixed weekly schedule.

### **SOIL**

Use an airy, well-drained houseplant potting mix in a container with drainage holes. Avoid dense soil and oversized pots. Leave a newly purchased flowering plant in its nursery pot during its main display, using a decorative outer pot only if drainage water can be emptied.

### **TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY**

A bright, cool room around 60-65°F helps flowers last. Keep away from heaters, cold doors and sudden temperature changes, and protect from temperatures below 50°F. Provide humid air with a nearby humidifier while maintaining gentle air circulation around leaves and flowers.

### **FERTILIZING**

Feed lightly while actively growing, using a water-soluble fertilizer for flowering houseplants at its labeled dilution. Apply to moist mix and follow label frequency. Pause feeding when growth slows or the plant is stressed. More fertilizer cannot correct poor light or damaged roots.

### **FLOWERS & MAINTENANCE**

Remove spent flowers and damaged foliage promptly with clean tools. Pinch vigorous shoots after flowering to encourage branching. These plants are often enjoyed for a seasonal display; repeat flowering varies. Yellowing or falling leaves call for checking light and moisture. Avoid leaving wet debris on the soil.