



*For the joy of gardening!*

**Estabrook's**

## CANE BEGONIA CARE

### **LIGHT**

Cane and angel-wing begonias, including polka-dot Begonia maculata, Cracklin' Rosie and Dragon Wing, grow best in bright, filtered light. An east-facing window is suitable. Shield foliage from intense midday sun. Weak, leaning stems and fewer flowers may indicate insufficient light.

### **WATERING**

Water thoroughly when the surface of the potting mix begins to dry. Keep the root ball lightly moist without leaving it soggy or allowing it to dry out completely. Drain fully and empty the saucer. Reduce watering during slower winter growth; check moisture before each watering.

### **SOIL**

Use a fertile, airy houseplant mix that holds some moisture while draining well. Add perlite if the mix stays wet too long. Choose a pot with drainage holes and repot only when crowded, moving up one size. Keep the stem bases at their original depth.

### **TEMPERATURE & HUMIDITY**

Moderate room temperatures around 60-75°F suit these begonias. Protect from cold glass, drafts and frost. Humid air helps, but keep leaves dry and provide gentle air circulation. Use a humidifier in dry rooms instead of repeatedly misting the foliage.

### **FERTILIZING & PRUNING**

Feed during active growth with a fertilizer labeled for flowering houseplants, following its dilution and timing. Reduce feeding in winter. Pinch growing tips for branching, remove faded flowers and support tall canes with loose ties. Use clean tools and handle brittle stems gently.

### **PESTS**

Inspect leaf undersides and stem joints for mealybugs, mites and aphids. Isolate affected plants before treatment. Remove fallen foliage and avoid wetting leaves to limit mildew and other leaf diseases. A wilting plant with wet soil needs its roots and drainage checked before more water is added.