



# Begonias

## in Flower Garden

[Sparrow

**M**ASS displays of tuberous begonias growing in pots and hanging baskets are the main feature in the glasshouses of many public and private gardens during summer. Their perfect shape and delicate texture combined with a wonderful range of colours make them one of the most popular of pot plants. In addition to the large-flowered tuberous begonias there are a number of other flowering types suitable for glasshouse, garden, and indoor decoration which are not so well known. Two in particular are well worth growing, *Begonia multiflora*, which flowers in the summer, and *Begonia Gloire de Lorraine*, which will make a bright show during the early winter.

### Tuberous Begonias

**T**UBEROUS begonias can be grown to perfection in a glasshouse, sun-porch, or on a sheltered veranda. A very sheltered lath house or shade house makes a suitable home for them in many districts and they make good bedding plants in a favourable corner in the open ground. They are not entirely satisfactory as house plants, as they sometimes do not flower freely.

### Propagation

Tuberous begonias may be propagated by seeds or cuttings. Anyone

who has not grown tuberous begonias before would be advised to start with bought tubers, for seeds are a little difficult, especially without a glasshouse or frame. Division of old tubers is also possible, but not generally recommended.

### Seed

As the seed is extremely fine and the young seedlings are very small and difficult to handle, some skill and good facilities are needed to be really successful with this method.

Seed may be sown any time from late winter in a glasshouse (heated in cold districts) to November or

▲ Tuberous begonias are good bedding plants for a cool, sheltered semi-shaded bed.

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December. Early and mid-season sowing will produce good plants which will flower during summer and early autumn, but late sowings are unlikely to give any flowers. Some specialist growers sow in late autumn, but this is not generally recommended, as overwintering the small plants is a problem.

A John Innes seed sowing compost consisting of 2 parts of soil, 1 part of sand, and 1 part of leafmould (or peat or good compost), with the addition of 1½ oz of superphosphate and ¼ oz of lime per bushel, is suitable, though