



BEST FANS. PERIOD.



Value that Stands the Test of Time



NEXUS HAS WHAT YOU NEED
WWW.NEXUSCORP.COM

HYDROPONICS • LIGHTING • CONTROLS • BENCHES & HEATING • COOLING & FERTIGATION SYSTEMS • GREENHOUSE STRUCTURES



SEARCH



SUBSCRIBE/RENEW ADVERTISE CONTACT

CULTURE

PLANT HEALTH

MANAGEMENT

BIG GROWER

CANNABIS

MAGAZINE

CULTURE | JUNE 2017

Culture Report: Begonia Megawatt Series

By Bart Sneek

Open the door to earlier spring begonia sales with this new mega-sized option.

When it comes to flower sales, greenhouse growers know: It's all about the timing. Getting the right product into stores for maximum sell-through means selecting flowers that can draw shopper attention as well as thrive during the season to help a gardener be successful. One class of plants that is on the rise for today's shopper is interspecific begonia. A stunner in sun or shade, begonias fill landscapes and baskets with the color gardeners seek with minimal attention or maintenance.

Starting off begonia season is BabyWing, which is fast to market and perfect for early-season sales. Next, growers looking to "fill the gap" between early and later begonia sales have an early crop option with the new Megawatt series from PanAmerican Seed. Megawatt has non-stop flowers spring through fall, thrives in heat and humidity, and tolerates drier periods between waterings. Plus, its sturdy flower stems hold blooms above the foliage for superior show in ground and in large-size containers. Finally, as the selling season heats up, growers can finish with deliveries of popular Dragon Wing for main season begonia baskets.

Crop Timing for Scheduling Landscape Begonia Programs

Table 1. Crop time.

NOTE: Due to daylength sensitivity, when producing during summer with daylength 13 hours or longer, add two to three more weeks for Megawatt Green Leaf varieties.

The introduction of Megawatt lets growers supply customers with a full, high-impact begonia assortment throughout the whole selling season. And with unique colors like Pink Bronze Leaf and the new Red Bronze Leaf for 2018, Megawatt opens the door to earlier spring sales for landscapes, baskets and big tubs. Here are a few additional production guidelines for growing Megawatt interspecific begonia.

Germination

Stage 1 (10 to 12 days). Use a well-drained, disease-free soilless medium (pH 5.4 to 6.0, EC 1.0 mS/cm). Sow one pelleted seed per cell in 288 or larger plug tray. Water thoroughly to completely dissolve the pellet, but do not cover at sowing.

Maintain night temperatures at 62 to 67° F and days at 65 to 75° F. Average daily temperature (ADT) should be 65 to 70° F.

Light is not required but is beneficial for uniform germination. Keep the media moist (level 5) during germination; Megawatt is very sensitive to drying out during the early stages. Maintain 95 to 97 percent relative humidity until cotyledons emerge. A saturated media and high humidity is critical to germinate successfully.

Stage 2. The optimum temperature is 72 to 75° F. Light up to 2,500 foot-candles. Continue to keep the media very wet (level 5). Do not stress plugs. Begin fertilization at five days out of germination chamber.

Stage 3. Temperature and light remain the same. Keep media moisture medium wet to medium (level 4 to 3). Do not allow the seedlings to wilt. Increase the fertilizer rate to 2 (100- to 175-ppm nitrogen) once a week as soon as the plugs have begun to root out. Apply a balanced ammonium and nitrate-form fertilizer as needed to encourage growth and balance the media pH.

Stage 4. Temperature can be decreased to 65 to 67° F. Increase light up to 5,000 foot-candles. Moisture can be reduced to medium dry (level 3). Avoid excess humidity later in the plug production, as this will create disease conditions. Fertilizer is the same as stage 3.

Growing On to Finish

Megawatt is a facultative short-day plant. It flowers faster under short days (10 to 12 hours). All interspecific begonias are daylength sensitive — long days will delay flowering. Megawatt Green Leaf varieties are two to three weeks slower to flower in long days. Megawatt Bronze Leaf varieties are less daylength sensitive than others, and long days will only delay

flowering four to seven days.

Megawatt Green leaf varieties are more vigorous than Bronze Leaf varieties. They require slightly heavier growth regulator rates than Bronze Leaf varieties.

Apply paclobutrazol spray for height control, especially for 6-inch or smaller containers. Spray rate can be up to 5 ppm, depending on environmental conditions, plant growing stage and varieties.

Start with paclobutrazol 2 to 3 ppm (0.5 to 0.75ml/l 0.4 percent formulation) spray about two weeks after transplant. If needed as plants grow bigger, apply higher rate of 4 to 5 ppm (1.0 to 1.25 ml/l 0.4 percent formulation) two weeks later when grown under warmer or longer daylength conditions. No pinch needed.

PDF: Culture Report: Begonia Megawatt Series

Bart Sneek

Bart Sneek is senior global product manager for the EU Region of PanAmerican Seed. For more production tips and full culture details on these plants and more, visit www.panamseed.com.

RELATED

- [Greenheart Farms Offers Frelander Rose Collection in Liners](#)
- [North American Poinsettia Trials Open Houses Scheduled](#)
- [Pot Alstroemeria Available as Young Plants](#)
- [Dewar Nurseries Earns Veriflora Certification](#)
- [Viola 'Starry Night'](#)
- [Nepeta x faassenii 'Walker's Low'](#)





SAFE
EFFECTIVE
PROVEN

RootShield® PLUS+
DISEASE CONTROL



[CLICK HERE](#)

Sign up to receive
updates from
Greenhouse Product
News.

Enter your email address

What is your primary business?

- Marketing Partners
- Culture Connection Newsletter
- GPN Weekly Newsletter
- Under Control Enewsletter
- Let's Talk Newsletter Greenhouse
- Water Quality Newsletter Cannabis

SUBMIT

CURRENT ISSUE

PRODUCTION

Accelerating Growth: What Works and What Does Not

CULTURE

Culture Report: Lavender 'Phenomenal'

PLANT TRIALS

High Country Autumn Perennials

PLANT HEALTH

Update on Algae Control on Ornamentals

PLANT HEALTH

Water & Plant Health

[SEE ALL CURRENT ISSUE »](#)



**DOWNLOAD
NOW!**



gpn



High quality lamps and complete lighting systems

BLV HORTURION series



BLV

LATEST NEWS

HYDROPONICS, PRODUCTION

Dosatron Hires Hydroponics Tech Sales Rep

APRIL 19

CANNABIS

Griffin to Offer Cannabis Workshop in Denver

APRIL 19

BREEDER NEWS

Syngenta Flowers Acquires Verwer Dahlia BV's Dahlia Assortment

APRIL 14

BREEDER NEWS, PRODUCTION

Dümmen Orange Introduces New Rooting Technology

APRIL 12

BREEDER NEWS

Ball Seed Updates WebTrack to Go

APRIL 12

[SEE ALL NEWS »](#)



gpn
CANNABIS
CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, JULY 14 | 10 AM - 3 PM
HYATT REGENCY COLUMBUS, OHIO

LEARN MORE & REGISTER!



Subscribe to
Greenhouse
Product News
for **FREE!**



GPN
Discover New
Plants &
Solutions

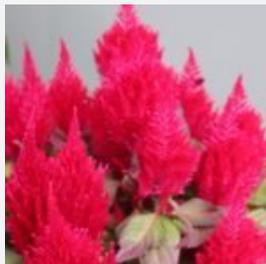
GPN helps growers reach success with:

- ▶ Technical production guidance
- ▶ New variety information
- ▶ Tips to help your overall business
- ▶ Research, case studies, and peer-to-peer insights

I WANT GPN AS A RESOURCE!

Print and digital subscription options available

LATEST PHOTOS [SEE ALL »](#)



GPN recognizes 40 industry professionals under the age of 40 who are helping to determine the future of the horticulture industry. These individuals are today's movers and shakers who are already setting the pace for tomorrow.



sponsored by



BASF
The Chemical Company



gpn
ornamental
disease
DIGEST

A collection of monthly columns by A.R. Chase and Margery Daugherty on plant disease identification and management from the pages of GPN.

CLICK HERE to view!



📍 75 Applewood Drive, Suite A
P.O. Box 128
Sparta, MI 49345

✉️ frontdesk@greatamericanpublish.com

☎️ 616.887.9008

[ABOUT](#) [SUBSCRIBE](#) [ADVERTISE](#) [CONTACT](#)

[UPDATE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION ADDRESS](#)

Get one year of Greenhouse Product News in both print and digital editions for free.

Interested in reading the print edition of GPN?

[Subscribe Today »](#)

Be sure to check out our sister site.



© 2018 Great American Media Services & Greenhouse Product News. All rights reserved.

website development by deyo designs