Stauffers OF KISSEL HILL HOME & GARDEN

Sparks Will Fly Begonia

Begonia 'Sparks Will Fly'

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Begonia boliviensis

Group/Class: Boliviensis Hybrid

Description:

A fast growing, shade tolerant variety ideal for patio containers, hanging baskets and borders; low maintenance, mounded plants feature deep bronze foliage that contrast against bright orange flowers

Ornamental Features

Sparks Will Fly Begonia features dainty nodding orange bell-shaped flowers at the ends of the stems from mid spring to mid fall. Its attractive serrated narrow leaves remain dark green in color with hints of coppery-bronze throughout the year.

Landscape Attributes

Sparks Will Fly Begonia is an herbaceous annual with a mounded form. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and usually looks its best without pruning, although it will tolerate pruning. Deer don't particularly care for this plant and will usually leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;



Sparks Will Fly Begonia flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Sparks Will Fly Begonia in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

- Insects
- Disease

Sparks Will Fly Begonia is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting
- Hanging Baskets

Planting & Growing

Sparks Will Fly Begonia will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in partial shade to shade. It requires an evenly moist well-drained soil for optimal growth, but will die in standing water. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution, and will benefit from being planted in a relatively sheltered location. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Sparks Will Fly Begonia is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor containers and hanging baskets. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.