

Begonia ‘Partita’ (Begonia dregei ‘Partita’)

Quick Facts

Attribute	Details
Common Names	Bonsai Begonia, Maple-leaf Begonia, Baobab Begonia
Scientific Classification	Family: Begoniaceae; Genus: Begonia; Species: Begonia dregei (var. partita)
Synonyms	Begonia partita, Begonia richardsonii, Begonia dregei var. partita, Begonia uncinata, Begonia rudatisii, Begonia caffra, Begonia homonyma, Begonia sinuata, Begonia favargerii
Origin	Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, South Africa
Plant Type	Caudiciform perennial, suitable for bonsai culture
Height	8–10 inches
Bloom Season	Spring through Fall
Flower Color	White
Foliage	Maple-like, green with occasional purple tones
USDA Zones	10a–12 (frost tender)

Care Instructions

Aspect	Guidelines
Light	Bright, indirect light; partial sun (east or west exposure).
Temperature	Maintain above 60°F (15°C) indoors; tolerates 45–95°F (7–35°C); frost tender.
Humidity	Prefers 50%+, but tolerates lower humidity briefly.
Soil	Well-drained, gritty mix (e.g., cactus/bonsai mix); plant high in pot to expose caudex.
Watering	Allow top 2" of soil to dry before watering; avoid waterlogging; reduce water in winter but keep caudex firm.
Fertilization	¼ tsp balanced fertilizer (15-15-15 or 7-9-5) per gallon weekly in active growth (spring–summer).
Pruning	Pinch tips to encourage branching; prune leggy growth anytime.
Pests/Disease	Generally resistant; mildew possible—prevent with seasonal baking soda spray; watch for mealybugs; avoid overwatering.
Propagation	Stem or leaf cuttings in moist, well-draining mix.

Bonsai & Ornamental Use

Begonia dregei ‘Partita’ is valued as a bonsai subject due to its miniature tree-like form and sculptural caudex. Plant high in a shallow bonsai pot, prune to shape, and thin foliage to reveal branch structure. Suitable for conservatories, bright indoor gardens, or terrariums.

Special Features

- Evergreen in cultivation (no dormancy required)
- Tolerates occasional dryness
- Long blooming period with attractive white flowers
- Architectural interest even when not in bloom due to sculptural trunk

References

- Logee's Greenhouse: www.logees.com
- Kew Science – Plants of the World Online
- Royal Horticultural Society Plant Finder
- Special Plants Nursery – www.specialplants.net
- A Growing Obsession – www.agrowingobsession.com
- Orchiddeen Rehbein – www.orchiddeen-rehbein.de