

Information Sheet: Begonia dregei 'partita'

Size & Growth

- Height: 20–40 cm (8–16 in), usually smaller in cultivation or bonsai form.
- Caudex: Swells up to 10 cm across, giving a tree-like appearance.
- Growth habit: Upright to sprawling, with a dense foliage canopy.
- Growth rate: Slow to moderate; forms a sculptural bonsai-like shape over time.

Flowering

- Flowers: White, occasionally tinged pink, with yellow stamens.
- Bloom season: Extended—spring through fall, often when days lengthen.
- Flowering enhances its bonsai display, standing out against the small, maple-shaped leaves.

Watering

- Actively growing: Water moderately, allowing the top 2 inches of soil to dry before watering again.
- Dormancy/winter rest: Water sparingly, just enough to prevent the caudex from shriveling.
- Always avoid waterlogging; use clay pots for quick drying.

Sunlight

- Best: Bright, filtered light or partial sun.
- Indoors: East- or west-facing window.
- Outdoors: Morning sun with afternoon shade.
- Avoid harsh midday sun, which can scorch leaves.

Temperature & Hardiness

Active growth: 18–27 °C (65–81 °F).

Dormancy: 13–18 °C (55–64 °F).

Minimum tolerated: ~10 °C (50 °F).

USDA zones: 10–11 (frost-tender; not hardy outdoors in cold climates).

Humidity

- Prefers 50–80%.
- Will tolerate lower humidity for short periods, but prolonged dryness may encourage pests or mildew.

- Use pebble trays or humidifiers if indoors in dry climates.

Soil

- Well-drained, gritty, humus-rich mix.
- Suggested: Peat + coarse sand/perlite, or loam + leaf mold.
- Keep caudex slightly above soil level for display and to prevent rot.

Fertilization

- Growing season: Balanced fertilizer (15-15-15 or 7-9-5) at ¼ tsp per gallon weekly, or liquid feed every 2–3 weeks.
- Dormancy: Stop fertilizing.
- Tip: Higher potassium (K) fertilizers promote flowering.

Pruning & Bonsai Use

- Responds well to pruning at any time of year.
- Pinch tips of young plants to encourage branching.
- Older plants can be cut back if leggy.
- Excellent for bonsai: Plant in shallow pots, expose the caudex, and prune side shoots to reveal branch structure.

Pests & Diseases

- Common pests: Mealybugs, whiteflies, mites.
- Diseases: Prone to powdery mildew, root rot (Pythium), bacterial leaf spot, botrytis blight.
- Prevention: Good air circulation, morning watering, sterile soil, and fungicidal/bicarbonate sprays when needed.

SUMMARY CARE GUIDE: BEGONIA DREGEI 'PARTITA'

- **Height:** 8–16 in (20–40 cm)
 - **Caudex Size:** Up to 10 cm wide
 - **Light:** Bright filtered, partial sun
 - **Watering:** Moderate in growth, sparse in dormancy
 - **Soil:** Well-drained, gritty, humus-rich
 - **Fertilizer:** 15-15-15 or 7-9-5 weekly in growth [or diluted if watering regularly].
 - **Temperature:** 55–81 °F (13–27 °C)
 - **Humidity:** 50–80%
 - **Flowering:** White, [spring summer-fall]
 - **Bonsai Use:** Excellent; expose caudex, prune for structure
 - **Pests:** Mealybugs, mites, whiteflies
- Diseases:** Powdery mildew, rot, bacterial spots

References

Logee's Plants: Begonia Care & Bonsai Plants

Bihrmann's Caudiciforms Database

Plants of the World Online, Kew Gardens

Royal Horticultural Society – Begonia dregei (Award of Garden Merit)

Plantophiles: Begonia dregei Care

Special Plants Nursery – Begonia dregei 'Partita'