

Begonias for Easter

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Would you rather have Christmas begonias (*Begonia socotrana*) for Easter than for Christmas or would you like to have them at some other time? We timed plants for Easter this year and they came just right.

We previously found the Christmas begonia formed buds and flowered naturally from October 10 to March 1. After buds are formed, the plant continues to develop the flowers regardless of daylength. After March 1, the plants continue to vegetate until October 10 and reducing the daylength causes them to bud and flower.

In Bulletin 29 we pointed out the possibilities of producing begonias in six months from cuttings by propagating in May. This was repeated again this year with the variety Lady Mac from tip cuttings taken May 11 and again produced well branched plants in 5 inch pots for Christmas.

On October 13, 1948, we pinched the Christmas crop of plants and used these tips for cuttings. One hundred cuttings were stuck in #2 grade vermiculite in wick subirrigated flats. These tip cuttings were well rooted and potted into 3" pots 28 days later. They were shifted into 4" pots January 3, 1949. Plants were given 4 hours of supplementary light from October 13 to February 1, when the lights were discontinued and the plants started budding under the natural short day condition.

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