

## SINGLE STEM BEGONIAS

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The house plant boom has stimulated many growers to propagate plants that they cannot purchase. While most plants propagate easily from stem or leaf cuttings, a few may produce undesirable for sale. This problem has been observed on Begonia semperflorens.

Begonias from cuttings may produce single stem plants or branched plants (Figure 1). Growers want to know why and how to avoid the single stem plants.



Figure 1--The begonia on the left was propagated from a hardwood terminal and never branched.

Cuttings made from hardwood do not branch freely from the base. For this reason the vegetative shoots about 2" long coming from the base of the plant are the most valuable.

Would anyone knowing the reason for this please contact the author.