



Nook & Nature

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

Plant Care Guide

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



Begonia Polka Dot

(Begonia Maculata)

The Polka Dot Begonia, scientifically known as *Begonia maculata*, is a stunning houseplant cherished for its unique foliage. Its striking dark green leaves are adorned with white or silver spots, resembling polka dots, making it a favorite among indoor plant enthusiasts.



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Origin: The cloud forests of Brazil

Care Level & Placement: Moderate , Indoor (Bright, indirect light)



Light

Polka Dot Begonias thrive in bright, indirect light. Avoid direct sunlight, as it can scorch the leaves. Place your plant near a north or east-facing window for optimal growth.



Water

Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Water thoroughly when the top inch of soil feels dry. Ensure proper drainage to prevent root rot. Mist the leaves regularly or use a humidity tray to maintain higher humidity levels, as Begonia maculata appreciates increased moisture.



Soil

Plant your Polka Dot Begonia in a well-draining potting mix rich in organic matter. Fertilize monthly during the growing season (spring to early autumn) with a balanced liquid fertilizer, diluted to half strength.



Fun fact

The Polka Dot Begonia is admired not only for its foliage but also for its charming pink flowers. While the spots on its leaves steal the show, the delicate flowers add an extra layer of beauty to this already captivating plant.



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Pet Friendliness

Polka Dot Begonias are considered non-toxic to cats, dogs, and most pets. However, it's best to discourage pets from chewing on any houseplants, as digestive upset can still occur.



Stress Signs

Drooping Leaves: If the leaves of your Polka Dot Begonia are drooping, it may indicate either overwatering or underwatering. Check the moisture level in the soil and adjust your watering routine accordingly.

Yellowing Leaves: Yellow leaves can be a sign of excessive sunlight or poor drainage. Ensure your plant is not receiving direct sun and that it's planted in well-draining soil to avoid waterlogged roots.

Leggy Growth: If your Begonia starts growing tall and leggy with long spaces between leaves, it may not be getting enough light. Move it to a brighter location with indirect sunlight to encourage compact growth and more vibrant foliage.



Botanical Family: Begoniaceae

Botanical Name: Begonia Maculata

Common Name: Polka Dot Begonia, Spotted Begonia



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