



**Nook & Nature**

By Neha Kunal Deshmukh

# Plant Care Guide

Simple steps for healthy , happy plants



## Begonia Strawberry

(*Saxifraga stolonifera*)

The Strawberry Begonia, scientifically known as *Saxifraga stolonifera*, is a charming and delicate perennial plant known for its trailing stems and attractive foliage. Despite its name, it is not a true begonia but belongs to the *Saxifraga* genus. This easy-to-care-for plant adds a touch of elegance to both indoor and outdoor gardens.



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**Origin:** Asia, specifically Japan

**Care Level & Placement:** Easy, Indoor or outdoor, indirect sunlight or partial shaded area.



### Light

Provide your Strawberry Begonia with bright, indirect light. Avoid direct sunlight, as it can scorch the leaves. Place it near a window with filtered sunlight for optimal growth. Indoors, they do well in east or north-facing windows.



### Water

Keep the soil consistently moist but not waterlogged. Ensure good drainage to prevent root rot. Water when the top inch of soil feels dry. These plants appreciate higher humidity levels; consider misting or using a humidity tray.



### Soil

Plant Strawberry Begonias in a well-draining potting mix rich in organic matter. Fertilize sparingly with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer during the growing season (spring and summer). Reduce fertilization in the dormant season (fall and winter).



### Fun fact

Despite its name, Strawberry Begonias are neither begonias nor related to strawberries. They earned their name from the strawberry-like runners that develop at the ends of their stems, which can be propagated to grow new plants.



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### **Pet Friendliness**

Strawberry Begonias are generally non-toxic to pets, making them safe for homes with cats and dogs. However, it's essential to discourage pets from nibbling on any houseplants.



### **Stress Signs**

**Drooping Leaves:** If the leaves of your Strawberry Begonia start to droop, it's a sign that the plant needs water. Ensure you maintain consistent soil moisture to prevent this issue.

**Brown Leaf Edges:** Brown or crispy leaf edges can indicate that the air is too dry around the plant. Increase humidity levels by misting the leaves or using a humidifier.

**Leggy Growth:** If your Strawberry Begonia becomes leggy or elongated between leaf nodes, it may be an indication of insufficient light. To address this, provide more indirect sunlight or move it to a brighter location. Pruning leggy growth can also help encourage bushier growth.



**Botanical Family:** Saxifragaceae

**Botanical Name:** Saxifraga stolonifera

**Common Name:** Strawberry Begonia, Creeping Saxifrage, Mother of Thousands



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