

MOUNTING BEGONIAS

Orchids, bromeliads and ferns are mounted. Why not begonias?

Materials needed:

- Mounting board - of corkboard, cedar fencing planks, or wide wood pieces. Typical size would be 6 inches wide and 12 inches long. (do not use treated wood for these chemicals harm plants).
- Securing materials - fishing line, stripped pantyhose, or neutral colored nylon. (Twine rots too quickly).
- Roofing nails or similar, with large head.
- Sphagnum moss, moistened.
- Begonia that hangs down, is rhizomatous or is self-branching. Plants with small leaves work best; large leaves need large plaques.

Construction:

- Place board on a flat surface. Drive four nails on the lower portion, two on one side and two on the other to make a 4 1/2" square.
- Place a 5th nail in the center but slightly lower than lower set of nails.
- Place thin layer of moistened moss between nails.
- Place plant in center of moss. Tie string to tie to one nail. Run back and forth over plant 3-4 times. On final crossing tie string off to a nail and make knot.
- Place more moistened moss on plant roots. Cover completely.
- Tie string to another nail and crisscross repeatedly using all nails to hold moss in place. Plant should stay in place when turned over.
- Fill pan with plain water (Optional: add 1/4 strength water soluble fertilizer). Place board face down in water. Leave until bubbles stop.
- Remove board bottom end first so leaves/stems won't be damaged.
- Hang outdoors in shade during warm months. Protect from cold. Keep moist. Feed occasionally.

Mounted begonias add a nice touch to a garden and attract a lot of attention.

Tom Keepin, 2003.

[Web master's note: Also See *Mounting a Bird's Nest Fern*, January 2007 Monthly Meeting Project of the TCGFS, <http://www.tgcfensoc.org/FernPlaque/FernPlaque.html>]