## 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.tgcfernsoc.org/FernPlaque/FernPlaque.html> ]