

Polka Dot Begonia-Cane Types *Begonia maculata*

This informal group includes those species and hybrids that form upright, usually unbranched stems with thickened nodes. They resemble bamboo canes. This species of the cane-type begonias has large green angel wing leaves with silver polka dots and the undersides are red. Depending on the hybrid, the leaf color can vary from green, silver, pink and purple with variegations and may be spotted or textured. The flowers are clusters of either white, pink, red or orange blooms. If maintained the plant usually measures 1 to 2 feet tall, but in some instances, it can grow up to 10 feet tall. Cane types are the most popular whether grown indoors, on the patio, or in the landscape as a border planting.

Type: Herbaceous perennial, houseplant

USDA hardiness zones: 10a to 11b outside

Uses: Container, hanging basket

Origin: Brazil

Height: 2-3 feet **Spread:** 1-2 feet

Plant spacing: 1-3 feet

Light requirement: Part shade, indirect sun 2-6 hours

Soil pH: Neutral (6.0-8.0)

Drought tolerance: good drainage, moist

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Invasive potential: not invasive

Pest resistance: Monitor for whiteflies, thrips, spider mites, and mealybugs. Provide good air circulation to prevent powdery mildew, botrytis, and stem rot.

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Photo: Sandy Stevens, Santa Rosa County MGVS