

# Fact Sheet



## ***Introduction***

Begonia BONFIRE® Choc Red has an eye-catching profusion of exotic bright red/orange flowers covering up to half of the plant. BONFIRE Choc Red differs from Bonfire with its interesting chocolate / plum foliage with serrated edges highlighted by a red margin, and a neat, bushy growth habit.

Quickly coming into bloom in late Spring, it continues to shower you with bright red/orange blooms contrasting nicely against its dark foliage from Spring, then all Summer long, and right up until late Fall.

Low maintenance, easy-care, BONFIRE® Choc Red can be grown in full sun or partial shade and is not afraid of summer rains or **drier summer conditions**. It is ideal where masses of color are required with little or no care.

## ***Key Features***

- Stunning profusion of bright flowers
- Great Chocolate / Plum foliage
- Drought tolerant and heat hardy
- Sensational in patio pots and hanging baskets
- Same great growth habit as the original Bonfire
- Low maintenance and easy care

## ***Suggested Uses***

Patio pots and hanging baskets. Also garden landscapes

## ***Growth Habit***

Rounded profile, up to 20 inches wide as a garden plant or in a larger hanging basket.

## ***Mature Height***

Garden height up to 20 inches.

## ***Mature Width***

Garden width up to 20 inches.

## ***Flower Size***

2 inches long x 2 inches wide.

## ***Spacing***

Space 20 inches apart.

## ***Hardiness***

Tolerates mild frost in the garden.

## ***Flowering Period***

Flowers form from Spring through to Summer, until frost.

## ***Number of Flowers***

Up to 50% of the bush can be covered.

## ***Flower Color***

Bright red/orange flowers.

## ***Fragrance***

No fragrance.

## ***Foliage***

Chocolate / Plum colored foliage with a serrated edge highlighted by a red margin.

## ***Pruning/Pinching***

Branches naturally, but will benefit from pinching to induce side branches and more compact spreading growth.

## ***Temperature***

Recommended day temperature 72°F with night temperature of 64°F. Higher temperatures will reduce flower size and intensity of color. To increase flower size and intensity of flower color, once the buds are formed finish plants at 57°F to 61°F. Lower or higher temperatures will result in less than ideal plant formation. Temperatures higher than 79°F will increase plant size and reduce flower size.

## ***Light Needs***

Grows in full sun to partial shade. In heavy shade, may spread producing lower growth, and fewer larger sized flowers.

## ***Soil Needs***

Performs best in a well drained friable soil or good quality potting mix.

## ***Water Needs***

Keep moist through the growing season.

**Fertilizer**

Use a flower booster controlled release fertilizer in Spring.

**Disease Tolerance**

If grown in heavy wet soils or over watered, stems can rot from fungal diseases.

**Pest Issues**

Generally not damaged by pests, though white fly may cause some damage.

**Special Care**

Will benefit from digging and dividing every three years to remove old tubers and reinvigorate the plant.