



Megawatt Begonia

GrowerFacts Extra (LIP)

Additional Culture Research

from

PanAmerican Seed®

Begonia Megawatt

Limited Inductive Photoperiod, published 2017

PanAmericanSeed.

ANNUALS

INTRODUCTION:

Megawatt is a facultative short day plant. Flower will be significantly delayed by long day conditions during later spring and summer, especially green leaf varieties.

TRIAL QUESTIONS:

1. Can limited Inductive Photoperiod make Megawatt flower earlier?
2. When to start Short Day and how many weeks is best?
3. Will Short Day induced plants keep blooming after transplanted to Long Day conditions?



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- MATERIALS AND METHODS
- Sowing: Week 20
- Plug tray size: 128
- Transplant: Week 27
- LIP treatments: 10 hour short day treatment was given to plug trays for the last:
 - 4 weeks from week 23 to 27 (4 wks SD LIP)
 - 3 weeks from week 24 to 27 (3 wks SD LIP)
 - 2 weeks from week 25 to 27 (2 wks SD LIP)
 - 1 week from week 26 to 27 (1 wks SD LIP)
 - 0 week, i.e. grown all the way in the ND (0 wks SD)
- PGR: Bonzi 2.5ppm spray at 1 WAT, follow by weekly Bonzi 5ppm spray



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3 weeks of Short Day treatment during plug stage was best for flowering.



4 wks SD

3 wks SD

2 wks SD

1 wk SD

0 wk SD

12 weeks after sowing / 5 weeks after transplant

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3 weeks Short Day limited Inductive Photoperiod made Megawatt flowering significant earlier.

3 weeks Short Day limited Inductive Photoperiod



Rose Bronze Leaf

Red Green Leaf

0 weeks Short Day



Rose Bronze Leaf

Red Green Leaf

12 weeks after sowing / 5 weeks after transplant

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The best time to start Short Day limited Inductive Photoperiod treatment was at the 1.5 to 2 true leaf stage; usually about 4 to 5 weeks after sowing.



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All varieties kept blooming in Long Day after shipment.



2 weeks
after
transplant



4 weeks



3 weeks



5 weeks

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CONCLUSION

- A 3-week SD LIP treatment can make Megawatt flower earlier.
- The SD LIP treatment should start at 1.5 to 2 true leaf stage (usually 4 to 5 weeks after sowing).
- Due to early flowering with the SD LIP treatment, it becomes possible/easier to produce Megawatt in smaller containers, such as premium pack.
- SD LIP treated Megawatt plants will keep blooming in LD conditions after shipment.