



# 蜆肉秋海棠

## *Begonia cucullata* var. *hookeri*

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### 科屬及分布 Family and Distribution

蜆肉秋海棠是秋海棠科(Begoniaceae)秋海棠屬(Begonia)植物，又名四季秋海棠或洋秋海棠。秋海棠屬包含很多原產熱帶和亞熱帶地區的多年生草本植物，當中計有原生種、變異種、雜交種及栽培種。根據愛丁堡皇家植物園於2022年5月所作的統計，其合共多達二千多個品種。蜆肉秋海棠是臘葉秋海棠(*Begonia cucullata* Willd.)的變異品種，為多年生肉質草本花木，原產巴西，現遍布熱帶和亞熱帶地區。

Commonly known as Perpetual Begonia, *Begonia cucullata* var. *hookeri* belongs to the family of Begoniaceae and genus of Begonia. It includes a variety of perennial herbs native to tropical and subtropical regions, ranging from natural species and varieties to hybrids and cultivars. According to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, the count total for this species was over 2 000 in May 2022. A variety of *Begonia cucullata* Willd. (Wax Begonia), *Begonia cucullata* var. *hookeri* is a succulent perennial herb native to Brazil which is extensively found across tropical and subtropical regions.

### 形態及特徵 Form and Characteristics

蜆肉秋海棠為鬚根系的多年生草本花木。植株具肉質莖，而莖分紅綠兩色，高度介乎15至45厘米。葉肉質，具臘質光澤，呈圓形或心形，顏色為深綠或深棕綠，葉背紅色，葉緣有幼毛。花開紅色、粉紅或白色，幾乎四季開花，雌雄異花同株，盛開期由秋天至翌年春季。果實膠囊狀，表面具三個翼，成熟果實為褐色，種子繁多。

*Begonia cucullata* var. *hookeri* is a fibrous rooted perennial herb. It has green or red succulent stems and grows to a height ranging from 15cm to 45cm. Its succulent glossy leaves, rounded or cordate in shape, are dark green or brownish green in colour, with red undersides and ciliated margins. It flowers virtually all year round, blooming from autumn through to spring. Both staminate and pistillate flowers growing on the same plant come in such colours as red, pink or white. Shaped like capsules with three wings, its fruits become brown in colour when ripe, bearing numerous seeds.

### 生長習性及護理 Growth Habit and Maintenance

蜆肉秋海棠盛長於肥沃、質地疏鬆、排水性能良好、富腐植質而酸鹼值介乎6至6.5的微酸壤土。生長適溫介乎15°C至25°C，需要充足的光照，但不適宜受猛烈陽光的直接照射。種植時應保持通風良好，使溫度降低，以防植株枯萎。於生長期及開花期中須定時澆水，以供應充足水分。施肥宜薄肥多施，在幼苗生長期中應施以氮肥；臨近花期，則可追加磷肥、鉀肥。

*Begonia cucullata* var. *hookeri* thrives in fertile, loose, well-drained, humus-rich and slightly acidic loam soil with a pH value ranging from 6 to 6.5. The optimal growth temperature is between 15°C and 25°C. Its growth requires sufficient sunlight and daylight, but not full sun. When planting, good ventilation should be maintained to lower the temperature around so as to prevent the plant from wilting. Regular watering is required to provide water during its growth and flowering. It is advisable to apply fertilisers at more frequent intervals yet in smaller quantities. While nitrogen fertilisers should be applied to the plants during the growth of seedlings, phosphate and potassium fertilisers may be added on the eve of the flowering season.



### 繁殖 Propagation

繁殖蜆肉秋海棠可選用播種或扦插(葉片或枝條)法。種子好光，故播種後不可覆土。種子發芽適溫介乎15°C至20°C，播種後須保持植料濕潤，並避免受猛烈陽光的直接照射。在春至秋季以葉插法或杆插法進行扦插。葉插法選用連葉柄的成熟葉片，把葉柄埋入清潔植料中即可。至於杆插法，則選用莖部成熟且帶有三個節的枝條，將處理好的枝條下方約三分之一長度插進植料，之後須保持植料濕潤，並將其置於半陰位置，等待插條發根、發芽並長成幼苗。

*Begonia cucullata* var. *hookeri* can be propagated by seed sowing or cutting (leaf or stem). Germinating better in good daylight, the seeds should by no means be covered with topsoil. The optimal germination temperature ranges from 15°C to 20°C. Keep the medium moist, while avoiding full sun after sowing. Propagation by leaf or stem cuttings may be conducted from spring to autumn. For leaf cutting, mature leaves with a petiole are used by inserting the petiole into a clean medium. For stem cutting, cuttings with three nodes are taken from mature stems, with the lower end of each piece being inserted into a propagation medium to a depth of about one-third of length. The medium should be kept moist and placed in partial shades pending emergence of new shoots and development of seedlings.

### 防治病蟲害 Prevention and Treatment of Pests and Diseases

秋海棠屬植物常受綫蟲、介殼蟲、蟎、薊馬、蚜蟲、蝸牛、根腐病、灰霉菌、霉菌，以至病毒和細菌侵襲。植株一旦受到侵害，必須立即除掉和銷毀。要預防病蟲害，最佳方法莫如避免高溫潮濕的環境；加強通風；清理凋謝部分；適當澆水施肥；以及澆水後通風。

Begonias are susceptible to such infestations as eelworms, scale insects, mites, thrips, aphids and snails, while vulnerable to root rot, grey mould, mildew, virus and bacteria. Any infected plants should be dug up and destroyed immediately. The best solutions to prevent pests and diseases are to avoid growing the plant in a hot and humid environment; to enhance ventilation; to remove any withered parts of the plant; to water and apply fertilisers in a proper manner; as well as to maintain good ventilation after watering.



### 園藝應用及經濟價值 Horticultural Application and Economic Value

秋海棠屬植物極具觀賞價值，常作園圃花卉、花壇和室內盆栽用途，同時為藥用植物，具清熱解毒療效，可治肺熱咳嗽。

*Begonias* are of a very high ornamental value. In addition to being commonly cultivated as garden, floral bed or potted plants, they are a medicinal herb which can be used to remove heat, detoxify the body, as well as cure cough caused by lung heat.

### 一般護理 General Maintenance

繁殖及護理 Propagation and care		
最佳溫度 Optimal temperature	發芽 Germination 生長 Growth	15°C - 20°C 15°C - 25°C
泥土酸鹼值 pH value	pH 6 - 6.5	
繁殖 Propagation	播種 Seed sowing 扦插 Cutting	

	春 Spring	夏 Summer	秋 Autumn	冬 Winter
日照 Sunlight				
澆水 Watering				
施肥 Fertilising				
換盆 Re-potting				

圖例 Key	
	少許日照 Little sunlight
	少許 Little
	中等 Medium

