

## Hardy Palm and Subtropical Board

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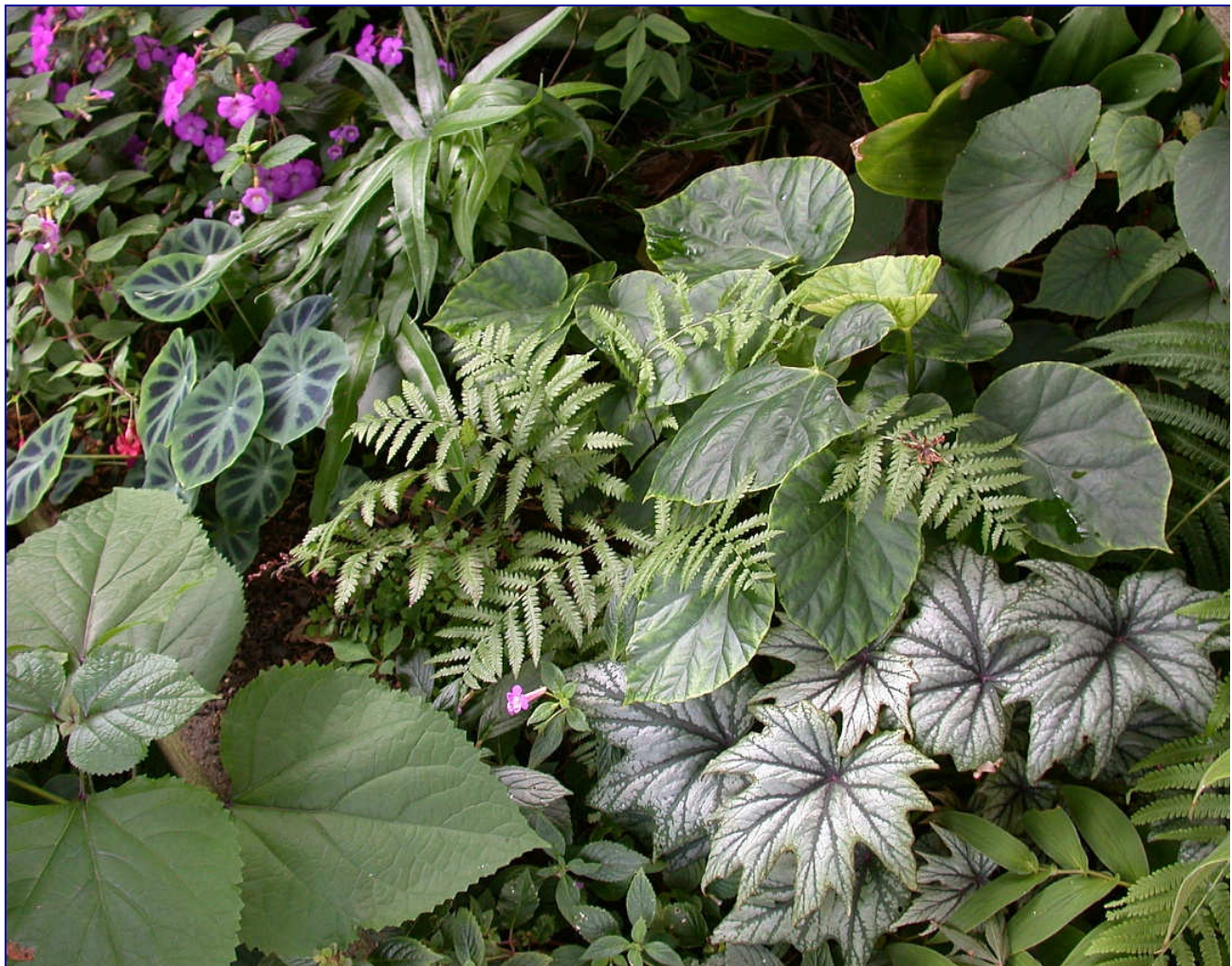
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### Hardy begonia report

Posted by John B in DC 🇺🇸 on 3/14/2010, 12:54 pm

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I just went out and pushed away some of the mulch and discovered that 'Metallic Mist'--a Dan Heims hybrid between two relatively hardy Chi species, *B. pinnatifida* and *B. taliensis*--has apparently made it through a third winter for me--the rhizomes are firm and green. Its survival is surprising as this was an unusually mild winter here (my winter low was 15 or 16 degrees) and it survived the previous winter with a low of 8 degrees (and virtually no snow cover); both times with only a light mulch of fallen Japanese maple leaves (which I like because they curl up a don't pack down). What is surprising is that the rhizomes are right on the surface (I had previously planted them rather deeply); they are quite large by now so it will be interesting to see how big the plant grows this year as the overall size of the plant, and the individual leaves, have increased in size with every growing season. One possible obstacle: slugs. Last year they got all the early growth almost as soon as it emerged, but the fact that the plant survived that AND the cold temperatures has greatly improved my opinion of this plant. Here are a couple of photos of 'Metallic Mist' growing in my garden last year:





Growing next to it is *Begonia chitoensis*, a Taiwanese species. This one made it through the previous winter as well, again with only a light leaf mulch, but had been planted rather deeply. The rhizomes want to crawl along the surface and the ones I exposed today are clearly soft and but again, since this was such a mild winter I hope to see it come back from a more deeply buried part of the plant. Again, this plant grew much bigger, with larger leaves, in its second growing season; it never bloomed last year but if it survives, I'm hoping to see a much larger plant this year and hopefully some flowers.

BTW both plants came from Plant Delights Nursery, when I was there for the SPS summer meeting three or four years ago.

John B.  
Washington, DC  
DCTropics group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/dctropics>

Responses:

- [Re: Hardy begonia report](#) - AndrewSEVA-7b 3/15/2010, 8:56 pm
- [Re: Hardy begonia report](#) - Steve NJ z7a 3/14/2010, 10:16 pm
- [Re: Hardy begonia report](#) - jim z7waldorf md 3/14/2010, 7:10 pm
- [I was really excited until...](#) - RobG7aChattTN 3/14/2010, 3:25 pm
  - [Re: I was really excited until...](#) - John B in DC 3/14/2010, 6:32 pm
    - [Well, it is an awesome plant...](#) - RobG7aChattTN 3/15/2010, 8:32 am
    - [Re: I was really excited until...](#) - Darin - Phoenix 3/14/2010, 8:16 pm

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