



photo by Julie Vanderwilt

Begonia 'Corbeille de Feu'

by Morris Mueller

This hybrid was created over a century ago in 1891 by Victor Lemoine in France. It is a cross of *B. semperflorens* and *B. fuchsioides* var. *miniata*. Lemoine also created other hybrids which are still available today including *B. 'Rosea Gigantea'* and *B. 'Argenteo-guttata.'*

He has another hybrid, *B. 'Bertha de Chateau Rocher,'* for which he used *B. 'Corbeille de Feu'* as the pollen parent. Some writers say that looks so much like *B. 'Corbeille de Feu'* that it might as well be *B. 'Corbeille de Feu.'*

Other hybrids using *B. 'Corbeille de Feu.'* are *B. 'Rosie Murphiski'* and *B. 'Helen W. King'* both created in 1920 by Alfred D. Robinson, and *B. 'Annan*

Pride' created in Australia in 2000 by Ross Bolwell.

Ed and Millie Thompson in their book ***BEGONIAS: The Complete Reference Guide*** classify it as shrub-like, bare-leaved, small leaved. Its flowers are variously described as red, orange, or coral pink. It blooms intermittently with large numbers of flowers.

It must be an easy plant to grow given the length of time it has been in cultivation.

Like most begonias it prefers semi-shade, a porous, easy-draining mix, and has no other special requirements. Its thin stems make staking a must. Or it can be grown very successfully as a hanging basket plant.

