



# THE BEGONIAN



DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDEN

Monthly Bulletin of the American Begonia Society

JANUARY



1939



MR. and MRS. E. P. McMILLAN'S SHELTERED GARDEN  
Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California

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## TIPS FOR JANUARY

### It's house-cleaning time for your plant room.

Remove all dead or fallen leaves; they harbor pests.

Sterilize propagating boxes, killing eggs or spores.

Wash pots, using burlap or steel wool. Clean pots mean healthier plants.

Trim fibrous begonias or fuchsias. Have vigorous, shapely plants.

### It's propagating time for many plants.

Start fibrous cuttings from pruned material. Use bottom heat to insure quick rooting.

Sow tuberous seed now, with controlled heat. An early start is necessary for bloom.

Mix your soil for summer potting. The best planting soil is ripened slowly.

### Use care with winter watering.

House plants need moist air.

Water plants in the morning.

Water frequently but lightly.

All members who can donate any time to the Society's interests at the San Francisco Exposition, in distributing informational folders, taking memberships, and selling bulletins, should notify Tom Smith, 3601 E. Broadway, Long Beach, of that fact, giving the approximate date.

The Largest Selection of  
**TUBEROUS BEGONIAS**

**VETTERLE & REINELT**  
 HYBRIDIZING GARDENS

Capitola, California



**GEORGE OTTEN**—Seaside, Oregon

**SPECIAL CULTURAL  
 BULLETINS**

|                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Tuberous .....            | 10c |
| Rex .....                 | 15c |
| Fibrous .....             | 15c |
| Pest Control .....        | 15c |
| New Membership List ..... | 25c |

**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**  
 1732 Temple Ave. Long Beach, Calif.

**AMSBURY'S**

Begonias, Ferns, Ephiphyllums  
 Visitors Welcome

New Location:

2205 Whittier Blvd. Montebello, Calif.

**BEGONIA SEEDS**

Tested seeds now ready.

Begonia Dichroa, Begonia Venosa  
 \$2.00 per packet.

**NORTH STREET GREENHOUSES**  
 Danielson, Connecticut

**TREASURER'S REPORT - 1938**

**LOCAL FUND**

**RECEIPTS**

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Cash balance from 1937 | \$ 66.37      |
| Plant Sales            | 209.40        |
| Miscellaneous          | 2.80          |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>278.57</b> |

**DISBURSEMENTS**

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Hall rent            | \$ 48.00      |
| Janitor service      | 24.00         |
| Plants               | 20.31         |
| Refreshments         | 59.75         |
| Transfer to Research | 25.00         |
| Miscellaneous        | 26.60         |
| <b>Total</b>         | <b>203.66</b> |
| Balance              | 74.91         |

**NATIONAL FUND**

**RECEIPTS**

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Cash balance from 1937 | \$105.71      |
| Advertising            | 68.30         |
| Special bulletins      | 85.05         |
| Membership dues, 1938  | 362.30        |
| Membership dues, 1939  | 161.00        |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>823.96</b> |

**DISBURSEMENTS**

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Bulletin Expense        | \$421.02      |
| Donation, U.C.S.A. Exp. | 25.00         |
| Miscellaneous           | 117.89        |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>563.91</b> |
| Balance                 | 260.05        |

**RESEARCH FUND**

**RECEIPTS**

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Seeds and plants sold | \$ 27.54     |
| Transfer from local   | 25.00        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>52.54</b> |

**DISBURSEMENTS**

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Miscellaneous                 | \$ 1.65          |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>1.65</b>      |
| Balance                       | 50.89            |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>         | <b>\$1155.07</b> |
| <b>Total Disbursements</b>    | <b>769.22</b>    |
| <b>Total Balance</b>          | <b>385.85</b>    |
| <b>Total Membership (541)</b> |                  |

## FOR THE SHELTERED GARDEN

By Lucy Graham

(Continued from December)

Cyclamen, while well known to most gardeners, are not used as often as their beauty merits. They are winter flowering but the heart-shaped leaves retain their beauty long after the flowers are faded and gone. The cyclamen has a hard tuberous root and needs to be fed well in the late summer to secure a long blooming period.

Another group of plants that gives a wide range of color and a long blooming period in the sheltered garden are the Primulas. *Malacoides*, *obconica*, *sinensis*, and *polyanthus* are the types most usually grown. Primulas are easily grown from seed in good garden loam, transplanting frequently to develop a good root system. In growing primulas from seed be sure to get seeds from a reliable source. The airy, dainty *malacoides* range in color from white through pink to a purple tinge. *Obconica* primulas have about the same color range but with a more decided blue tone. *Obconica gigantea* is the large form and is considered more showy. *Sirensis* or the Chinese primula has leaves more heart shaped and the flowers in many colors, some being fringed or crested. *Polyanthus* or English primulas have flowers of many colors and are well known in the older gardens. The dainty, clear yellow and orange tones are not available in the other primulas.

*Heamanthus*, with its blotched leaves and odd shaped vivid colored blossom and gay seed pods, is most attractive. Orchids of some types do well under lath. *Epidendrum O'Brienianum* does well in the warmest and sunniest part of the house, while the native *cyripediums* prefer a more shady, moist location. In raising this wild native orchid do not be too hasty in trimming back the plant. In cutting the flowers cut only a short stem as the plant continues to grow after the flower is gone. *Bletilla*, a native of China and Japan, does well, requires no extra care, and blooms profusely in the spring, having tiny perfect orchid flowers of a purple color about an inch long. The so-called Mexican orchids that are growing more popular here now are quite at home under

lath shelter, where the air can be kept moist. All orchids require perfect drainage which is best secured by planting in *Osmundium* moss and then hanging the plant from the wall. *Epidendrum brassavolae* is quite easily grown though not so showy as some of the others.

In the darkest part of the house *Clivias* and *Streptocarpus* can be grown. The *Clivia* or Kafir lily is a most attractive plant even when not in blossom. The flowers will last about six weeks, are of a most delightful scarlet-yellow, and flower in the winter when most plants are not blooming. *Streptocarpus* can easily be grown from seeds or from leaf cuttings. The colors are delightful rose or deeper reddish, mauve purple, blue purple, and a clear white.

*Achimines* are not so common and yet they are easily grown and add a gay dash of color. The *achimines* are most effective used in hanging baskets, allowing plants to grow through the bottom and sides, completely covering the basket. The *achimines* we grow as mostly hybrids from tropical American species. The colors are white, rosy red, violet blue, mauve, and red blue.

*Gynura aurantiaca*, commonly called velvet plant, with its purple velvet foliage is greatly admired. A sunny spot will bring out the color to greater glory that if kept too much in the dense shade. *Coleus* are easily grown, highly colored, variegated plants that lend themselves well to use under lath. In using *coleus* watch them closely for mealy bugs, the worst possible pest on *coleus* and very difficult to rid from a lath house if allowed to become badly infected.

The use of a few small trees and shrubs is advisable to give height and variety of foliage. A well grown small rubber tree, with its distinctive leaves, makes a good specimen plant in a large tub. Palms are always admired and most effective. Also in large tubs, *Acalypha tricolor* and *Acalypha marginata* are interesting for their showy foliage.

*Daphne odorata* is all its name implies and if you desire a plant for fragrance, then your search is ended. Use the *daphne* plants in with *camelias* and *azalias* as the flowers, while very fragrant, are not very showy. *Azalias* might well be used to fill an entire lath house. They are glorious flowering shrubs that bloom while quite small and continue to grow more beautiful as the plant grows larger. *Azalias* do well in the ground if planted in pure imported peat. Care must be taken to see that the roots which come to the top of the ground are in no way disturbed.

By far the most attractive lath house plant I know is *Dizygotheca elegantis-*

sima. This plant belongs to the Araliaceae family and, while not well known, is a most attractive small tree and one that will be greeted with "Oh's!" and "Ah's" wherever seen. Watch any of the aralias grown under lath for scale. Spray often with a weak solution of Volck. *Fatsia japonica* is another member of this family that makes a good tub plant, retaining its shape and staying small for years. *Aralia balfouriana* is pleasing with its white-edged leaves. It is more difficult to grow and is seldom seen here in our gardens. One of the showiest of the shrubs is the gold dust plant, *Aucuba japonica*.

While this is in no way intended for a complete list of plant to use in the sheltered garden it will, I hope, give you some help in choosing new plants. If you have all the plants listed here you will know there are many more that can be used, perhaps to an even greater advantage.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIA HOUSING IN A DRY CLIMATE

By E. Burnett, Albany, Oregon

Having had a very successful year with my tuberous begonias I thought some of my fellow Begonians might like to know how I handled them in our drier inland climate. We have some very dry days the latter part of July and through August, sometimes with a dry north wind and low humidity.

I grow them in a house framed of two by fours, covered with the cheapest house lining I can buy. The sides are fixed so they can be rolled up to the bottoms of the benches and the top on the east side is hinged so it may be raised for ventilation.

The benches are covered with four inches of peat moss and coarse sand, half and half, kept damp. I also have a three quarter inch pipe beneath the benches, with fine holes drilled in it to dampen the ground. I also have a similar pipe fixed in the same manner at the top of the north wall that I turn on just enough to keep the north wall damp whenever the dry north wind blows. In this manner I can control the humidity and temperature so as to grow fine plants with perfect flowers.

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The editor is preparing a few suggestions for members who may be interested in forming branch chapters. If interested, write him.

## WINTER STORAGE OF TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

C. M. Kelly, Research Editor

The question of the proper method of storing begonia tubers during their period of dormancy is one that has been discussed by growers ever since their introduction. The notes below are taken from the English publication, *The Garden Magazine*, of January 26, 1884, and suggest a method still preferred by many.

When this method of storage is followed it is wise to remove from the top of the tubers every vestige of stem growth, even small portions left attached to or lying on them will set up decay that will soon destroy the tubers.

The damp storage method at least has this to recommend it—it is the one followed in nature. However, it must be true that there is a heavy loss among the plants growing in their native habitat, only the hardy and ideally situated survive.

The observations of this English grower of over fifty years ago follow:

"Some recommend that these (begonia tubers) be stored in dry material, but from what I have observed, I am inclined to the belief that by so doing we subject them to some loss of vitality. I have noticed that when kept just moist through the winter they start more readily and are stronger than when dried off as soon as the foliage decays. If I could do so conveniently, I would keep them in the pots in which they have bloomed, watering them several times very moderately in the course of the winter if the soil should be seen to become quite dry; but I should much prefer a close shed or cellar for keeping them in, because stored away with the soil in a moist condition it would retain enough moisture through the winter to preserve the tubers fresh and plump without having recourse to watering. Brought out about the middle of March and carefully watered, they break quickly into strong growth, and when they have shoots some two inches long they can be shaken out and repotted without experiencing any material check. It stands to reason that when no loss of roots is experienced during the resting period the tubers must start stronger and put forth their growth more readily than when a complete set of feeders has again to be formed in the spring.

"When the tubers remain in a moist condition through the winter, so that they are in a fresh, plump state when started again, there is a slight diminution in strength, but it is very marked when the tubers have been stored quite dry.



Then they require more time and careful treatment, or they are liable to decay or to make weak, as well as tardy, leaf development. I have noticed this very particularly in the case of some tubers which I received through the post; they were quite a fortnight later in starting than those which had been stored moist, and were still further behind those that had been kept in pots and which had not been allowed to become dry. The best plants, I think, for bedding are such as have been grown one season from seed, sowing into two and a half inch pots by the summer, and in which they were wintered. Such plants I have found to start away very quickly and strongly." J.C.B.

We would agree that usually year old tubers start growth earlier and more vigorously than older ones, though there is much variation and the method of curing has much to do with the matter. We are assured by an experienced commercial grower that forcing early dormancy, by the withdrawal of water, does not induce earlier starting, but quite the contrary. He found that tubers which continue growth late into the fall remained dormant the shortest time, being the first to start.

Very small tubers, those from late planted seed, can best be carried through the winter by placing them in covered jars or bottles, with sufficient slightly moist sand or finely sifted leaf mold to keep them from touching each other.

## LIQUID MANURE AND ITS USES

By Floyd Bushnell, Berkeley

The use of liquid manure is one of the easiest and least expensive ways of stimulating plant growth. To the uninitiated it may seem to belong only to the charmed inner circle, or hedged about by mysterious secrets and complicated equipment. However, such is not the case. All one needs is a leak-proof barrel, a simple frame of common lumber, a galvanized tub, and a few sacks of manure.

To construct the frame on which the barrel is to rest, use 2" x 4" lumber; build a three-legged frame high enough so the tub can easily be shoved between the legs or supports so that it will be under the center of the barrel.

To prepare the barrel, bore three half-inch holes three inches apart in the center of the bottom; place the barrel on the frame, cover the holes with broken pots

or stones to insure good drainage. Fill the barrel with cow-manure (the fresher the better) and then turn water onto the manure. As the water leaches through to the container it will soon be filled with a fertilizer that can be easily and quickly applied where and when it is wanted. There will be no delay in waiting for a rain or for the manure to rot before it comes in contact with the roots.

Some gardeners follow the system of placing a sack of manure in a barrel of water and then dip out the water with a bucket. Others, with much ground to cover mount a barrel on wheels and attach a hose to the container to facilitate the work.

The inexperienced must use care, especially with the liquid that leaches through fresh manure; it is too highly concentrated and must be diluted with six or eight parts of water. Experienced gardeners emphasize this fact: "Better use it weak and often than seldom and strong."

How can one tell when it is weak enough? When it resembles the color of weak tea it will not harm the most tender plant. When I first began this system I used too strong a solution, searing the foliage of begonias. It is advisable when fertilizing tuberous begonias (I have had little experience with other varieties) to hose them after applying the solution. This will insure against burning.

I find it very satisfactory in stimulating growth of plants in pots to have a galvanized tray two inches deep and somewhat larger than the ordinary flat. I place the box of plants in the tray and then pour in a weak solution. In this way the plants are fertilized and watered from the bottom. Yet professional floriculturists advise strongly against giving any kind of fertilizer to very young plants.

For the ordinary garden two or three barrels of manure per year should be sufficient to insure brilliant blooms and luxuriant foliage. The depleted manure makes excellent compost for potting and for loosening sticky soils.

The Research Department is advised that the damping off of young begonia seedlings may be controlled, cured or prevented, by the use of a 4% to 6% solution of Chlorox. Spray the solution lightly over the seedlings and soil. It will not injure the plants in any way. This solution also kills the green algae that sometimes covers the soil of potted plants and retards the growth of small plants.

## BEGONIAS IN HAWAII

By Mrs. W. J. Seymour, Holualoa, Hawaii

Begonias are one of the most attractive groups of plants grown in these islands. In Kona where the climate differs somewhat from the rest of the island, I have specially noticed their hardiness.

Our climate, the most equable in the world, seldom registers above 90 degrees, and rarely falls below 50 degrees. Storms are uncommon, these being characterized by several days of heavy rains and high southwest winds. Thunderstorms are rare, and frosts occur only at an altitude of about 4,000 feet. Snow may be found on the two highest mountains on our largest and youngest island, Hawaii, several months of the year. Summer and winter are our only seasons. The rainfall is greatest in the winter thru' out the islands excepting Kona, where the rainy season is during the summer months.

Soils in these islands are from two main sources, lava, and coral. These two rocks, after many years of disintegrating are now fairly fertile soils. The soils of Kona are mostly erupted material, either lava flows, some of comparatively recent origin, or volcanic ash.

Garden pests and their activities seem numerous here although entomologists have remarked that they are less than in the average mainland community. Japanese beetles, cutworms, and grasshoppers are plentiful here, as are also the mealy bug, and several varieties of black scale. In the growing of begonias, nematodes have proven to be the most harmful. However, there are several excellent but tedious methods of ridding our gardens of these pests.

There are many representations of the fibrous and rhizomatous groups here that are indeed the hardiest if not the loveliest of our tropical plants. Certain begonias are very common here in Kona, growing wild in rocks, preferably to soil, and thriving without the need of care. Visitors have remarked on their luxurious growths, and have marvelled at the ridiculous places they seem to grow from.

A variety of the *semperflorens* type is the commonest of our wild begonias. It grows two or three feet tall in the shade, and not more than a foot high in full sunlight. The flowers are about an inch and a half across, from a brilliant red through several shades of rose and pink, and on to a pure white. The pink and red shades are beautiful, some with white centers, some with narrow white margins, and occasionally a mottled blossom. The

white shades are also lovely, some being greenish white, some pinkish white, some with rose or pink centers, and some with rose or pink margins.

The *Odorata Alba* is another commonly seen begonia, growing to a height of eight to ten feet. The sweetly fragrant blossoms are two inches across, and hang in dense clusters. This begonia makes an attractive hedge as it is always covered with flowers.

The species *B. dichotoma* is another in our wild class. It thrives here, being specially fond of shady and well drained places. It grows to a height of twelve feet, and is in bloom all the time.

The *B. coccinea* or *Rubra* type, with its many everblooming varieties and hybrids are well known to our island gardeners. One variety grows to a height of 25 to 35 feet. The flowers are a vivid red and hang in immense clusters. Another variety grows to a height of 12 to 15 feet, branching at the top only, and with leaves that are often silver spotted. The blossoms come in shades of red, rose, and pink, in fairly dense clusters. Several other varieties or hybrids of this type grow here, the flowers a brilliant red, through tones of rose, and pink and on to a pure white.

The begonias *Argantea Guttata*, *Coralline Lucerne*, *President Carnot*, and *Helen*, are found in many of our gardens. They are vigorous growers, and make excellent pot or tub specimens. All of the fibrous begonias found here in these islands will slip very easily, and are seldom if ever, fertilized.

There is a rather common palmate typed leaved begonia growing here that answers to descriptions of the *Diadema*. The stiff canes are often eight feet tall, leaves large and deeply cut, with white splotches. The pale pink blossoms have just two petals, and are two to three inches across.

In the rhizomatous group we have found many favorites. A very popular one is the *B. nelumbifolia*. The leaves are very often a foot and a half long, making it a most outstanding plant in any setting. Popular pot plants of this group are the *Feastii*, *Bunchii*, *Manicata-Aurea* and *Le-prosa*.

The *B. ricinifolia* grows beautifully here. Its leaves are often 10 to 15 inches across, and its deep pink blossoms form huge bunches on bloom stalks 3 to 4 feet tall. A variety similar to the above but with smaller pink flowers on stalks that are not hairy, is also common here.

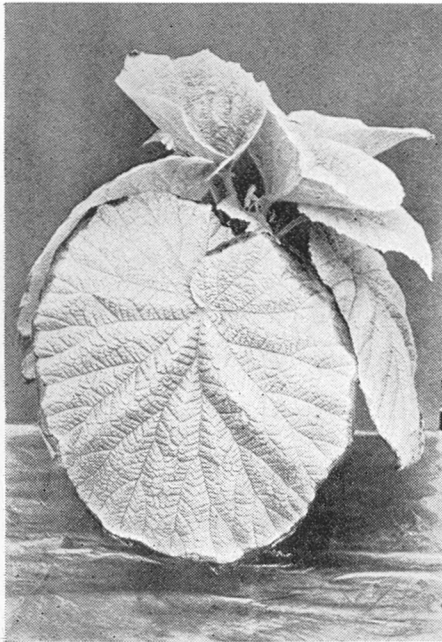
Many varieties of the *Rex* group are grown here. In the Volcano District, an altitude of about 3,000 feet, and where the atmosphere is always moist, the most

beautiful specimens of Rex are grown. They are excellent as ground covers, rock garden fillers, border plants, and pot plants. The Rex blossoms I am specially fond of, and use them often in mixed cut flowers arrangements.

The growing of tuberous begonias in Hawaii is limited. On this island there are perhaps twenty people who have succeeded in having lovely plants with beautiful well-formed blossoms. Special care has to be taken with the watering of these begonias, as an excess of water may prove fatal. My tuberous begonias have always been pot grown away from the wind and sun, and have always been grand successes. The blossoms are often five to six inches across. My soil preparation is usually one part good garden soil, one part well rotted cow manure, and one part coarse sand. When fertilizing seemed necessary, I have added a small amount of bone meal to my soil preparation.

Because climatic conditions here favor the growing of begonias, I feel that the tuberous group will become as popular some day as the fibrous and rhizomatous group are now.

## A NEW BEGONIA



*Begonia gemmipara*, Hook. f.

This is an unusual begonia species, which is being introduced to Begonia lovers of America this month by Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara. This tuberous plant, whose enormous pea-green leaves measure fourteen inches wide and nineteen inches long, has proven to be unusually suitable to lath-house culture although in its native habitat it grows in the moist forests at an elevation from six thousand to almost twelve thousand feet.

This native of the Himalayan Mountains of Northern India, which is restricted to the Province of Sikkem and the State of Bhutan, is expected to be of value to hybridizers not only for the outstanding leaves but also on account of the delicate fragrance of the blossoms. The flowers, which may be seen beneath the leaves in the photograph, are less than an inch in diameter and are white, tinged with rose.

To the best of Mr. Ziesenhenné's knowledge, the begonia species is *Begonia gemmipara*, Hook. f. In an effort to classify the plant definitely, the grower has checked every region and finds that the plant is, without a doubt, *Begonia gemmipara*. The name, *gemma*, is derived from the Latin words, *gemma*, meaning a bud or eye of a plant, and *pario*, meaning to bring forth or produce, thus the English meaning is "bud-bearing." Undoubtedly the fact that, instead of producing flowers, the flower-stems occasionally give rise to bulbils may be responsible for the naming of the plant.

The plant is handled in the same manner as tuberous begonia hybrids, doing best in loose, rich soil. The tubers usually start growth in April, the plants blooming in September and October, and going dormant in November. They do equally well in lath-houses or cool glasshouses, although in order to insure full development of female flowers the cool, moist lathhouse is preferable.

Write in for additional copies of the *BEGONIAN* to give or send to your friends who might be interested. Get your public library to subscribe, we are not only interested in getting the dollar, but we want to make new friends for begonias. You are welcome to have your local paper reprint any of the material we publish, only see that they give credit to the American Begonia Society. Send for as many of our new informational folders as you can distribute to gardening friends and acquaintances. Several of our members use these folders as a sort of business card on trips, and make many new friends for themselves and the Society.

# REPORT OF THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT FOR 1938

By C. M. Kelly

The Constitution of the Society says that the duties of the Research Editor shall be: to prepare and publish special bulletins; to have charge of begonia literature owned by the society; and to preserve a complete file of the monthly bulletin. To these have been added the administration of the Seed Fund.

Only one special bulletin was issued during the past year, that on Begonia Pests and their Control.

Some time ago there was placed in our collection of literature pertaining to begonias a copy of the German book, *Die Begonien*, by Karl Albert Fotsch. This is, perhaps the latest authoritative treatise on the subject. However, its valuable information has not been fully available to us because only short excerpts of it have been translated.

We are pleased to announce that it has been arranged to have the book completely translated through a W. P. A. project at the University of California. This has been accomplished through the interest and co-operation of Mr. M. M. Locke, secretary to Dr. Goodspeed, and the Society is deeply indebted to him.

A typed copy of the translation will be placed on file for reference when the work is completed.

On the request of this department, the Board of Directors recently instructed the Treasurer of the Society to set up a Research Department Fund. There is now a balance of \$50.00 in this fund, one half of which was realized from the sale of small begonia plants grown from seed imported. This money is to be used to finance undertakings of this department.

The one duty that receives most of our attention is that of importing seeds of those species of begonias that are not in cultivation as garden subjects. To secure these seeds, we attempt to contact plant expeditions, commercial seed collectors and botanical institutions in those countries where begonias grow as wild plants. To find those who will collect seeds for us is the most difficult part of this work. We will appreciate suggestions from our members for possible sources.

This endeavor is supported by contributions by those members who wish to participate in the distribution of the seeds received, and by those who desire to encourage the undertaking. Early in the year this fund was nearly exhausted, but about thirty members desired to continue

as sponsors, and there is now about \$18.00 on hand and a \$10.00 order of seeds paid for although not yet received nor distributed.

During the past year we have obtained from foreign countries seeds of about thirty species. These came from Northern India, the Andes section of South America, from Panama, Brazil and Mexico. The quantity of seeds of each kind is usually small, but we make as equitable a division as possible. The seeds are divided into portions, placed in seed envelopes and sent to the contributors. Over 600 of these envelopes were required, and they were furnished us, gratuitously, by Mr. Ziesenhenne. A record is kept of the kinds and number sent to each participant and a request is made for a report on their success.

This department has also received a shipment of eight begonia plants from Mexico. A report on these will be made when the plants have come into growth in the spring.

An exhibit of specimens of about thirty species grown from imported seed was made at the Begonia Show in August, a report which will be found in the September Begonian.

## NEW MEMBERS

- Mr. Robert Warner  
1613 Gates Ave., Manhattan Beach, Calif.
- Mr. Edward Tomes  
123 No. Fir St., Inglewood, Calif.
- Mrs. M. Spiliter  
315 No. Lime, Inglewood, Calif.
- Mrs. Fred Shores  
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- Mrs. Leah Bratton  
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- Mrs. R. E. Earl  
466 East 56th St., Long Beach, Calif.
- Miss Beatrice Foster  
1034 Lewis Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
- Mrs. A. M. Christensen  
Route 1, Box 409, Los Altos, Calif.
- Ida B. Crawford  
2090 N. Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.
- Raim Moerman  
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Carpinteria, Calif.
- Mrs. Ed Sazard  
933 E. Neta St., Ventura, Calif.
- Mrs. Norman Lucas  
3856 Redondo Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.

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## EASTERN SECTION

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Eastern Editor

Our neighborhood group met at my home this month with about the same number present. I had a group of eighteen of the more familiar begonias, each with a number, set about my living room, and the members guessed the names. The best score was thirteen correct names. Then I put a printed name label on each plant, so all might learn it. Another room had a table of the newer varieties, labelled, for study. There was a talk on the culture and history of the plants shown, and a general discussion and question period.

One thing might be beneficial to house plant growers. It was mentioned that some commercial growers scatter naphthalene flakes on benches to control thrips. This would be unpleasantly odorous in a home, but an infested plant might be set on a plate of flakes, and plant and plate covered with a large paper bag, and set in an unused room for the night.

## BLACK FLIES

By Grace D. Alford, Kennebunkport, Me.

We all know the little pests! I have tried several so-called cures, and finally in sheer desperation I steamed the wood-soil used in potting and used chemical fertilizer instead of manure, hoping never to see another little black fly—yet after a few weeks they returned.

I now enjoy comparative freedom from them, by using the sticky flypaper spirals. They are hung from the ceiling back of the plant-shelf where the flies are thickest. Set a forked stick in the pots, and insert a two-inch section of a spiral. An extra bit of patience will be needed for this last trick, but it has proved so successful that I hope many will try it. After the paper is in place, if there is any possibility of a leaf sticking to it, lay a square of waxed paper on the flycatcher and nothing will adhere.

True, this is not a cure, but after a week, you will gloat over the host that will breed no more. Another feature that is pleasing, is the perfection of the new leaves. Visitors would formerly slap at the flies, and a beautiful begonia leaf was scarred for life. For my flower table I have a forked stick 30 inches high, planted in a sizable pot of soil. The spiral hung from this is doing good work, and is easily moved about with little danger of hitting plants.

## WHY CULTURAL BULLETINS?

The following extract from a letter from Hatboro, Penna., shows why we publish cultural bulletins, and the good that comes from them.

"About two months ago I sent for the special cultural bulletin on Rex Begonias. Just about the same time a friend presented me with a Rex, consisting of one small leaf with buds just showing. Heretofore all my Rex Begonias have "folded their tents (leaves) like the Arabs and silently passed away." Thanks to the Rex Bulletin this one has just finished blooming, the small leaf is still growing, and two more are on their way.

—Mrs. Frank H. Mather.



MR. and MRS. McMILLAN  
In Their Sheltered Garden

Don't add to the heavy duties of our Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Editor by neglecting to pay your dues this month. The mailing list is difficult enough to keep in shape even when all cooperate. And it is not as if our officers were paid for their work!

If you know a lover of begonias who is not a member of our Society send his name and address to the Corresponding Secretary and a sample BEGONIAN will be sent to him. Why not ask your public library to subscribe to the BEGONIAN?

Now is the time to be giving every possible attention to the plants you are planning to exhibit at the San Francisco Exposition.

Have you forgotten to pay your membership dues for 1939. Do so at once, as this is the last issue that will be sent to those who have not paid their dues.

Mention the BEGONIAN in writing to  
advertisers.

# THE BEGONIAN

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M. B. Dunkle *Editor*  
4543 Colorado Street

Mrs. H. H. Buxton *Eastern Editor*  
Peabody, Massachusetts

C. M. Kelly *Research Editor*  
285 Park Avenue

J. S. Williams *Business Manager*  
2034 Florida Street

## OFFICERS

Dr. W. N. Caseley *President*  
147 East Ocean Boulevard

Dr. Warren B. Davis *Vice-President*  
769 Cherry Avenue

J. N. Nutter *Treasurer*  
Membership Fees  
1050 East Nineteenth Street

Burdell Bulgrin *Corresponding Secretary*  
Bulletins, Information  
1732 Temple Avenue

The past year has seen a rapid evolution in our monthly bulletin; passing from a plain mimeographed sheet to a half sheet, and from that to a printed sheet, and with a new name. Illustrations have come in, and advertisements, too. These advertisements help to pay the cost of our new and enlarged form, patronize our advertisers, and mention the BEGONIAN when you write to the advertisers. How else can anyone tell whether advertising in the BEGONIAN pays?

This year we are starting out with a still larger size, and we hope that renewed memberships, new memberships, and continued advertising will make it possible to continue this larger size. We want to keep your bulletin a place for the exchange of ideas, and for keeping our members acquainted with each other. The Editor has been highly pleased with the response he has had to requests for information, and wishes to thank all who have so freely volunteered items or responded to requests.

A copy of our new informational folder is being enclosed with this issue. Pass it on to an interested friend. Write to our Corresponding Secretary if you can use more of the folders in this manner.

The report of our officers show splendid achievements for the past year. The Society is 185 members and \$213.77 ahead of this time last year. These figures speak for themselves.

# JANUARY MEETINGS

## LONG BEACH

January 12—Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Community Hall, Ninth and Lime. Mrs. Rodenburg will speak on Fuchsias, and Mr. Dyckman will present activities of his begonia classes.

## INGLEWOOD

January 20—Friday, 7:30 p.m. Community Hall, G. W. Crozier School, Queen Street.

## Officers for 1939

Frank M. Harrison . . . President  
712 E. Hardy St.

Robert W. Smith . . . Vice-President  
720 E. Hardy St.

Mrs. Pauline Ney . . . Secretary-Treas.  
3112 W. 81st St.

Mrs. L. J. Green . . . National Director  
1317 Chester Ave.

## VENTURA

January 10—Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. Coca Cola Hall. Mr. Dyckman will speak on the winter care of begonias.

## Officers for 1939

Mrs. H. R. Morris . . . President  
1232 Buena Vista St.

W. T. Kemper . . . Vice-President  
56 N. Laurel St.

Clarence A. Hall . . . Secretary-Treas.  
485 Jones St.

Mrs. F. P. Shaw . . . Director  
1183 Poli St.

H. L. Weitz . . . Director  
1627 Thompson Blvd.

Marion R. Walker  
Austin Perly . . . National Director  
2408 Lexington Drive

Our Chapter has had a most wonderful year with splendid meetings and many interesting garden visitations during the summer. We started with 40 members at the first of the year and are ending it with 82 members.

Our December meeting was very interesting, as we had short talks from different members of the Club who gave some of their experiences with their plants. Then the plant exchange was very lovely, some beautiful plants being brought to the meeting for this purpose. There were a few extra plants donated for the plant sale, and a lovely gift was made by one of our members, as they felt our Club should have a little "income" for the extra expenses incurred at this time.

Our men folks put on the "eats." They had lots of fun and kept it a dark secret until serving time. That is one thing we feel so grateful for, that so many of the men are interested in flowers, and they look forward each month to coming to the meetings.



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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the December meeting of the Board of Directors both the old and new boards met together to insure a smooth transfer of duties to the new officers. George Otten, of Seaside, Oregon, was elected an honorary director for 1939. The five honorary directors for 1938 were unanimously re-elected.

In order to establish a better working base for our finances the new Treasurer, J. N. Nutter, was authorized to prepare a budget for 1939. Various officers made reports for the year which appear elsewhere in the **Begonian**. Suggestions were made in regard to by-laws for better facilitating the procedure of the Long Beach Chapter, and for relieving some of the officers of a constantly increasing burden of work.

The following resolution was adopted:

Where-as, the United States Department of Agriculture has announced a revision of the quarantine rules relating to the importation of gloxinia and begonia tubers, there-by removing the restrictions as to the quantity of tubers that may be imported, and as to the use to which they may be put, which in effect is to permit their resale without the period of quarantine formerly required;

And where-as, these changes in the quarantine rules will permit the cheaply grown foreign tubers to be placed on the American market in unlimited quantities, constituting a serious threat to a California industry;

Therefore be it resolved: That the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society advise the members of this Society and the general public to support the domestic grower by their purchases of American grown tubers; and to commend the American grower for their efforts to establish this industry, and for their success in producing tuberous begonias of a superior quality.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Burdell Bulgrin

The work of the Corresponding Secretary consists of having charge of filling orders for all publications of the Society, mailing out extra copies of the **BEGONIAN** on back orders, and answering all inquiries in regard to the activities of the Society.

Thus, for the year past we sent out 40 membership directories, 75 Pest Control bulletins, 973 monthly bulletins, 600 cultural bulletins, answered 175 requests for information, and mailing out considerable other printed matter, including informational folders and stationery. September was the largest month, having the stimulation of the new form of the bulletin and the National Begonia Show to accentuate the interest of members in the activities of the Society. Over 300 pieces of mail were sent out this month.

The work of this department has become almost too great for any one person, and it is only with the invaluable assistance of my sister Lou, that I have been able to handle the quantity of business promptly.

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## WHY NOT PRUNE FUCHSIAS NOW?

By G. Niederholzer

Editor of the Fuchsia Bulletin

There is danger of frost! In California Fuchsias hardly ever will be fully dormant. They try to go on a winter sleep, but the climate is too tempting, so they keep awake.

If you would cut back the long branches now to just a few dormant buds, like you would correctly with other shrubs, there would be still sufficient wakefulness in your fuchsia plants, and joy in living and blooming, left to force the few remaining buds into nice, young, and tender shoots—so juicy and soft that the least little frost will kill them and, here is the point, you might not have any dormant buds left for new life in the spring.

It is true that even if the whole top of your plant is killed by frost, you can still hope to get new growth from the roots; but if you have developed a nicely shaped plant, by judicious pruning throughout the summer, you wish to save it.

If so—first give the plant a chance to rest, don't feed and don't water. You might remove old dry stumps or stubs or some out of place branches, but radical cutting back of branches to only a few dormant buds, which will form new laterals in spring, should not be done until all danger of frost is past.

The American Fuchsia Society is very active in promoting the culture of this, for California, singularly ideal plant. There will be a special show at the 1939 Exposition in San Francisco that promises to be a revelation to all visitors. If you wish information or membership send \$1.00 for dues for 1939 to the American Fuchsia Society, Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

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The Research Department is preparing to revise the three bulletins on Begonia Culture for Rex, Tuberous, and Fibrous Begonias, and have the bulletins printed to match the form of the **Begonian**. If you have suggestions as to changes, or if there is additional information you think should appear in them, write out your ideas and send them to C. M. Kelly, 285 Park Avenue, Long Beach. Commercial growers who wish to advertise with a business card in one or more of the bulletins should send their copy to Mr. Kelly also. The regular advertising rates of the **Begonian** will apply.

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## ALEXANDER SIM BEGONIA GARDEN

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