

The BEGONIAN

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDEN



Pet

THE BEGONIAN

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DROOF that "horse-trading" is good up to a certain point. The following letter from George P. Forbes, 849 Lafayette St., Martinez, Calif., is well-worth a moment of your time. You may have the same problem. "I've been interested in growing begonias for the last two years. By "horse-trading" and by purchases, I have built up a small collection of rex and fibrous begonias. Now as far as trading goes, that's fine when you can interest someone that has a variety that you want and vice-versa. However, purchasing generally means going to a florist and buying a plant from \$1.50 up—mostly up. That's rather an expensive way to build a small collection.

"Now, what I want to ask, is this—does our Society have any means of obtaining small plants that could be purchased by the members at a price more reasonable than the one previously mentioned?

"I realize that a full-grown plant is nice to have, but I also believe that a knowledge of the plant's habits is obtained by growing them—not by having someone else do it for you. For that reason, I would like to obtain slips or small plants to grow and increase my collection. Can you suggest anything in line with this thought?

"My January 'Begonian' was indeed a surprise. Congratulations on the new set-up. It looks and sounds as tho the coming year will be better than the preceding ones. I wish to extend to the Society my sincere thanks for the valuable information received throughout the past year from the 'Begonian'."

Our answer to the above is a suggestion to try our advertisers. They specialize in begonias and closely related plants and you will be agreeably surprised how economically your collection can be increased. Let them know you belong to the ABS. Their suggestions will be helpful and they will be pleased to know the members read the ads. Ours is a friendly, happy hobby. Try placing an order with them. You will get what you want, they will get proof of the value of their ad and all concerned will be happy with the result of this exchange of business.

Hybridizing Is Fascinating Hobby

Surprisingly Simple,
Says Begonia Specialist

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

Begonia enthusiasts at the annual meeting of the American Begonia Society were given an insight into the intense interest and the depth of research accomplished by the late Dr. Arthur D. Houghton when Mrs. Houghton read several excerpts from the doctor's thesis which, it is hoped, will be published in the near future. I cannot fail to mention this work here as I did in my address before the annual meeting. I, for one, am looking forward with enthusiasm to reading the published work which will hold a wealth of material of value to begonia lovers.

Tribute to Kelly

I must also pay tribute to Mr. C. M. Kelly, who is retiring as Research Editor of the Society. His contributions to the progress of begonia research are many. His faithfulness to his task has been unflinching. All but three of the plants that were passed around at the meeting were introduced to American begonia lovers through Mr. Kelly's contacts with seed collectors in all parts of the world.

It was suggested that I discuss hybridizing in my address before the Society. I consider this a very important phase of begonia culture for it is the amateur grower who oftentimes has the patience and time to produce a variety that will be outstanding.

Transfer of Pollen

Transfer of the pollen from the anthers of the male flower to the stigma of the female flower naturally constitutes the most important act in hybridization. (The female flower may be recognized by the winged seed pod.) The pollen is drier and will come free from the anthers best around the middle of a hot, dry day. Rather than taking chances of mixing pollen with a camel's hair brush to transfer pollen, it will save time and bother in crossing to pluck the male flower and hold it by the petals and rub the anthers against the stigma of the female flower to dislodge the pollen. This must be done very gently or the stigma may be damaged resulting in no seed being formed. After the cross has been made, put a label around the stem of the seed pod marking what cross was made. I write on a small piece of tinfoil with a dull-pointed hard pencil, thus embossing the lettering permanently on the tinfoil. When the seed pod is almost dry, before the little slits open on the stem end of the ovary, it

should be picked and taken indoors where it can fully ripen. When the pockets open, the pod may be turned upside down and the seeds will fall out. These should be placed in an airy room and allowed to dry for a few days before storing. To separate the good from the bad seed, they should be placed on a piece of writing paper which, when tilted slightly, allows the plump, fertile seeds to roll onto another piece of paper. The good seeds should be placed in small paper envelopes, such as Mr. Kelly uses, or into a small box; in either case the cross should be plainly marked on it. For a complete hybridizing record, the parentage of the cross should be marked down in a book. If the seeds are from within a species, the varietal name should be marked, too. If they are varieties of the same species, then a description should be given of each plant noting the outstanding thing about it. I find it very helpful to give each packet of seed a number, writing the number on the label with waterproof ink at the planting time and placing it before the cross record in the book. This eliminates a lot of bother in identification.

Planting Methods

The various methods of planting seed will be found in the "Begonian" and special bulletins of the Society.

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Special Begonia Booklet

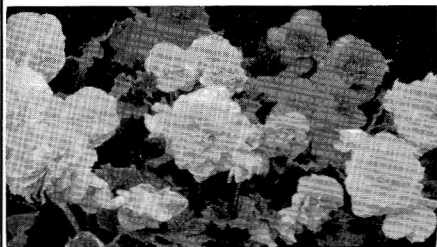
The New York Botanical Garden, according to a letter from Carol H. Woodward, editor, is printing a special booklet on begonia material with many illustrations which will be of much value to all begonia hobbyists. Last year we tried to purchase a copy of their March number, which was devoted exclusively to begonias, and were informed that the issue had been a complete sell-out and they were unable to fill the order. Later in the year the Journal had more on begonias. This booklet will have the best of those editions and more. Probably twenty-five cents. We advise all Begonians to put this booklet on their "must-get" list.

The Picture on the Cover

"Pet" is the result of crossing the small double Semperflorens Bijou de Jardine and the fragrant white *B. odorata* alba, introduced from the West Indies in 1816. Leslie Woodriff of Inglewood, California, is responsible for this hybrid which retains the everblooming character of Semperflorens.

Pet produces no seed but can be propagated from stem and leaf cuttings. It is vigorous and free-flowering bearing large clusters of pink flowers, the individual blooms being larger than those of *B. odorata* alba.

The well-known explorer, Capt. Kingdon-Ward recently reported finding an unknown Begonia on the borders of Burma, and in South America one or more new species have been found, one of these, as yet unnamed, was discovered in Argentina by the University of California, this having a perfume similar to a rose. Mr. Woodriff has been successful in crossing the new Argentine species with *B. baumannii*, a Bolivian species introduced in 1890, this latter being extremely fragrant, not unlike the quince. This hybrid, which is tuberous, has been named Wild Rose and is to be introduced as one of the most fragrant of all begonias.



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RESOLUTIONS FOR 1940

By a Lover of Begonias

RESOLVED THAT . . .

1. I will prepare my garden soil in the best manner possible. (This is the first step in the culture of beautiful plants.)

2. I will select the best seeds and cuttings obtainable. (From sturdy stock, healthy plants can be expected.)

3. I will protect from the chill of the night and the heat of the day, the tender plantlets. (Neither chilled nor sunburned seedlings can produce prize taking specimens.)

4. I will re-pot these seedlings into soil of the proper consistency when they are ready for the change, selecting only the best ones for that purpose. (Poorly developed seedlings cannot produce well-shaped and desirably matured specimens—so why try?)

5. I will, at all times, continuously resist the development of destructive agents. (Slugs, snails, cut-worms, beetles and the rest of the pests will surely defeat your efforts if you do not keep your garden free from these enemies of plant life.)

6. I will at all times identify my plants with their proper names. (Better not to name them at all than to call them by any name other than the proper one, as this would only result in confusion, not only for the gardener but for all others.)

7. I will transplant my precious plants from smaller pots to larger pots as often as they require it. (Your plants will surely let you know when they are growing in cramped quarters and you must do your part or they cannot do theirs.)

8. I will feed and water my plants as often and whenever it is necessary. (A plant cannot develop into the beauty that is possible if it is allowed to become stunted because of lack of food and drink in the proper manner any more than a starved child can grow into splendid manhood or womanhood.)

9. I will keep my garden free from all weeds and obnoxious growth. (Either you will have nice plants or a crop of weeds, never both, as the weeds will surely smother the plants if allowed to remain, being the stronger of the two.)

10. I will strive to perfect and develop my knowledge of Begonia culture. (Only in that manner can I expect to attain perfection in the culture of this selected hobby and gain the response that these lovable creatures of nature are striving to create.)

MEXICAN TUBER

By **L. E. DAY**, Research Director

Seeds of a tuberous begonia were received from Mr. E. W. Storms, who lives in Mexico, and distributed to members of the seed fund. The following is his description. "I call it the Rockery begonia. It produces a tuber, evergreen leaves, deep green with light pea green veins that grow directly from the tuber to a height of 8 or 10 inches, the flower stalk grows a little taller, red in color and the backs of the flowers are red, but they open clam-fashion a very light pink, good sized cluster of flowers, and an old tuber will produce two or three crowns. It begins to bloom in September and will be blooming until January. It seems to delight in growing in cracks in the rocks, with shade and humus filled soil."

This may prove to be a worthy addition to our collections if the flower spine arises directly from the tuber, as few begonias have this habit of growth.

We have received requests from members as to the whereabouts of odd and rare species. All members as well as commercial growers having begonias that are classified as such, are invited to send in their lists to this department so that they may be kept on file. Perhaps in the near future some method of exchange and distribution may be worked out.

East Bay Branch

Mr. Toichi Domoto, expert on camelias, azaleas, and other flowers for the sheltered garden, will be the speaker at 8:00 p.m., February 26, before members of the East Bay Branch.

Arrangements have been made to have Mrs. Dora May Scudder, Hostess for the California Nursery Company at Niles, speak on March 25.

H. W. Bridges, National Director

Director's Meeting

The next meeting of the National Officers and Directors will be at the home of Mrs. C. H. Harris, 757 Athens Blvd., Los Angeles, Thursday, February 15, at 8:00 p.m.

Reinelt's Visit Postponed

Southern California Begonians will regret to hear that Frank Reinelt of Capitola will be unable to speak to them during February, due to the severe illness of Mrs. Reinelt. However, he assures us he will be much in evidence at the annual meeting next November.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Inglewood Branch reports the attendance of 150 members and guests at the January meeting. Considering the fact that we were just breaking in and were a wee bit frightened at seeing so MANY people (it being the first for some of us, including both speakers), everything carried through in fine shape. We were sorry Mr. C. N. Hine did not stay with us longer. He did, however, tell us a great deal about starting tuberous begonias and we are looking forward to a return engagement. How about it, Mr. Hine?

Two new policies were installed:

1. As an introductory feature, a "shoe-box" of young potted plants will be given to each new member. This is not for members transferring from other branches.
2. Each member bringing in a NEW (not transferring) member will receive a plant. Just name it and if possible to secure it, it's yours!

This certainly is an incentive for guests to become members and the "old-timers" to get busy!

Mrs. Alice Nicklow, program chairman for 1940, announced the February 2nd meeting will be one of much interest. Mr. Murray McNeil will show a new Kodachrome film, "Better Lawns and Gardens." The lecture will last one hour and while this doesn't take us inside the lath-house it does consider the approach, which is most important.

Mrs. Helen Lewis will have a display of Rex Begonias and will give a short talk on this subject.

By the way, February 2nd also happens to be Ground Hog Day.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Lathhouse Plants Visitors Welcome
CINERARIAS NOW
Large Flowered Hybrids and Multiflora Nana

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F. W. Went of Caltech
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Indole Acetic Acid, 50 Cents
VITAMIN B1, 50 Cents and \$1.00

★
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165 North Hill Pasadena, Calif.

The Care of Tuberous Begonias

By CARLOS N. HINE

A Begonia Garden after the long seige of winter needs something of the gay colorful quality which is always suggested in the freshness of spring. Perhaps the most appropriate answer to this problem is the Tuberous Begonia, whose floral structure and color is one of uncomparable beauty.

The steps involved in growing the tuberous begonias are very simple. The most outstanding factor to the individual as a gardener, is the selection of plants or bulbs which has some appeal or interest to the gardener himself. We all will agree upon the statement that the greatest success in dealing with plants can be obtained through your interest in the plants themselves. Select types such as the frill, single carnation, camellia, etc. in colors which you like. Also be sure to buy your bulbs from some reliable dealer as it is annoying to find singles instead of doubles in white instead of soft pink at blooming time.

Preparing Soil

We have now set the stage for our tuberous garden and we find the next step is to prepare soil in which the plants will grow best. If the tuberous bulbs are to be planted in pots, use a soil mixture of six parts of leafmold, three parts of compost, and one of river sand. Tuberous begonias planted in the ground require quite a different treatment. After digging up the soil, put a layer of rough leafmold (this includes leaves and twigs) six inches deep combined with one sack of cow fertilizer to every twelve square feet of soil. Dig this mixture well into the soil and for six weeks keep this soil wet.

At this point we must return to the bulbs which are now ready to be planted. As soon as the bulbs show small pink sprouts set them out in flats of leafmold or sand using about fifty bulbs to a flat. Keep these flats moist but not wet until bulbs have sprouted about two inches. In transplanting bulbs into pots or ground beds be very careful not to break the small delicate roots. If pots are used, insure good drainage by using coarse gravel or small lump of charcoal in the bottom of the pot. Using prepared soil, fill pots to three quarters of an inch from the top. Place the bulbs in pots so that the bulb is just barely covered, watering once each day. Before transplanting tuberous bulbs into the ground, place two inches of sifted leafmold on top of your prepared bed. Plant

bulbs in the ground so that the bulbs are just barely covered and about twelve or fourteen inches apart. After the plants begin to mature, stake up the plants keeping the leaves off the ground as much as possible.

Feeding Your Plants

The last and most important step is the feeding of the plants. Begonia plants are characteristically great feeders and should be fed in small quantities as a precaution against the plants becoming very brittle. Personally, I have had a great deal of success with the following nutrient solution in feeding all types of begonias—particularly Tuberous.

Solution A. Stock solution of super phosphate.

Weigh out 8 ozs. of super phosphate and add to 5 gallons of water. Shake thoroughly three times at 10 minute intervals and then allow to settle overnight. Syphon off the clear liquid as needed. Use one pint for each 5 gallons of nutrient solution.

Solution B. Stock solution of other chemicals.

Sodium Nitrate	NaNO ₃	26¼ ozs.
Potassium Chloride	KCl	21½ ozs.
Magnesium Sulfate	MgSO ₄	69 ozs.
Ammonium Sulfate (NH ₄) ₂ SO ₄		6 ozs.

Use 4 ozs. of the solution for each 5 gallons of nutrient solution.

Solution C. Nutrient solution for plants.

To 4 gallons of water add 4 ounces solution B and shake thoroughly. Then add one pint of solution A and shake thoroughly. Add sufficient water to make up to 5 gallons. This solution is ready then for use on plants.

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BEGONIA HAAGEANA

By M. B. DUNKLE

Much confusion exists concerning the origin of *B. Haageana* W. Wats., which was pictured on the cover of the January *BEGONIAN*. This begonia is deservedly popular throughout this country, and has been considered by all authorities to be among the finest of all begonias.

In *Die Begonien*, Fotsch lists it as a synonym of *B. Scharffiana*, which is an obvious mistake. Charles Chevalier, Honorary Director of the Botanical Garden at Liege in his book, *Les Begonias*, gives a very good account of the origin. The following is a translation of the part dealing with the origin of *B. Haageana*.

"A real confusion exists on the subject of this species which many authors confuse with *B. Scharffiana* Regel. The two plants are, nevertheless, entirely different.

"In 1887 the seeds of these two species were sent from Brazil by Dr. Scharff to Haage and Schmidt at Erfurt. These seeds were sent, a part to Regel at St. Petersburg, and a part to the Kew Garden. Regel gave the name of *B. Scharffiana* to one of these acquired plants, and notwithstanding that, Hooker described the other under the name *B. Scharffii*. A little later, upon verification that these two plants were different, and, in order to avoid complete confusion. Kew decided that *B. Scharffii* Hooker would hereafter be called *B. Haageana* W. Watson.

"Such is the origin of these two begonias. We cultivate both in the conservatories of the Botanical Gardens of Liege. The *B. Scharffiana* Regel has been supplied to us by Haage and Schmidt, the *B. Haageana* W. Watson provided by Kew Gardens. We have every reason to believe these two plants, entirely distinct, are indeed the two originally described.

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THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

And the rains came! Tuesday, January 9 it rained steadily the whole day—the ninth day of a steady, gentle downpour.

The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch at Ventura met for their monthly meeting that night, but the rain did not deter an enthusiastic gathering. Arriving at our regular meeting place we discovered that someone was getting married and was celebrating the event by a shower for the bride-to-be. Furthermore, our meeting hall, through error, had been given for the use of that celebration. Imagine our surprise on entering to be greeted with daintily wrapped gifts, instead of the usual potted plants that always accompany our meetings. Not to be daunted, we secured a large room in the Civic Auditorium and over sixty members enjoyed a very entertaining and informal meeting. Furthermore, due to the resourcefulness of the ladies, we had our regular refreshments after the meeting.

Mr. Art Longmire of Carpinteria talked on seeds to start now for early spring growth, and Art had the floor for longer than he anticipated, because of questions showered upon him.

Mr. Marion Walker, of Ventura, an Iris expert, explained the methods of hybridizing of Iris.

Mr. Walter Knecht spoke on Tuberous Begonias, explaining the method of growing tuberous begonias from seed and the need to start the seed now in order to get a good growth and assured blooms for summer.

Mr. Wade gave a short but enlightening talk on the use of Vitamin B1. Mr. Wade is the Ventura Fuchsia grower. He and Mrs. Wade specialize in this most adaptable shrub of the shady garden. His enthusiasm for Vitamin B1 no doubt will convert many to its use.

President Will Kemper asked that all members start plants that they expect to exhibit in our Spring Flower Show to be held April 19, 20 and 21. The last two shows sponsored by this Branch were a huge success, and which warrants the extra day being added this Spring. An invitation is extended to all members of the Society, to join us in exhibiting. Cut flowers, plants of any description and Begonias will be exhibited. It is a non-competitive show, plants and flowers being exhibited by amateurs and professionals alike, just for the enjoyment of seeing the results of their handiwork on display.

The usual plant sale followed, and the first meeting of the year for Ventura Begonia enthusiasts adjourned—and those attending declared it one of the best meetings yet.

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Hybridizing is Fascinating Hobby

(Continued from Page 3)

The purpose in hybridizing is to produce a wealth of variation. If two true species are crossed, all the resulting seedlings will look alike. When these plants grow and bloom, they should be crossed among themselves or self-pollinated in order to get more variation. This process, of course, causes your collection of plants to grow by leaps and bounds and it is necessary to thin them out. It is better to consign all but outstanding plants with distinctly good characteristics to the compost pile than to turn out a multitude of too closely similar plants under different names. If before making the first cross, you had a definite idea in mind as to what you intended to produce, after the second cross keep only the plants which appear to be going in the direction you wish; this same process of elimination should be followed in subsequent crosses.

Oftentimes a plant may be produced which is essentially like the rest, but has some slight desirable variation such as variegation, better flowers, better flowering stem, or better habit generally. This plant, self-pollinated, would be likely to produce few seedlings having the desirable characteristics and, at that, it would take about a year to produce plants of a good size. Under these conditions it would be more desirable to propagate the plant by making cuttings. Sometimes a desirable variation will appear on a side shoot of the plant; similar plants may be raised from cuttings of this shoot.

Scented Tuberous

Mr. Kelly gave me some seeds of the scented tuberous begonia from Argentina

Tuberous begonias will give you blooms from June to November.

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New - Fragrant - Tuberous Begonia

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Tubers: 25 cents and up
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LESLIE WOODRIF

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Inglewood, Calif.

which Dr. Goodspeed collected on one of his expeditions for the University of California. Pollen from one of these plants was put onto a female flower of a very desirable orange-colored double *Camellia* tuberous begonia. The seed was planted and most of the resulting plants had apricot-colored flowers, some single and some double, more than half having three male and four female flowers to each flowering stem. A fair number were scented as strongly as 1041, while some were even better. (1041 is the scented begonia's collecting number from the expedition.) All grew very bushy, some tall and some short. Of 1500 plants only a handful were saved. Two were self-pollinated. One of these held all its single flowers directly upward and will make a good bedding plant while the other has three perfect double flowers which are sweetly fragrant. We know what we want: strong plants, bushy habit of growth, seven double, fragrant flowers held upright on a single stalk but we will continue to line-breed these plants until we can raise them fairly true from seed. From each batch of seed only the plants having the above desirable characteristics will be kept and the seed produced from them. A good example of this work is given in the November number of "The Begonian" in which Mr. Otten's lovely "Seashell" begonia is discussed.

Any particular characteristic which is present in a plant may be brought into prominence by careful selection and line breeding. Naturally, the more seedlings one has the better is the chance of getting the desired results.

The individual with only a few plants may start by crossing the ones he has or by self-pollinating most any of the begonias which carry popular names, for they are mostly hybrids and will give a wide variation, the majority being first generation plants.

Naming Plants

After you have produced a plant which is an improvement over a similar begonia or different from any other begonia, it should be named. According to International Nomenclature Rules, the name should be a proper noun but should not be Latinized. It should be a name which has not already been used in the genus to designate a plant.

I personally am keeping a record of all the begonias which have been and are being produced by hybridizing, and I have already expressed my willingness to check my files for duplications of names should the hybridist desire it.

A great deal of fun and pleasure can be had in hybridizing; often very interesting and valuable plants may be produced.

?? QUESTION BOX ??

By CLARISSA HARRIS

Question: In using Naphthalene flakes with bulbs, should it be mixed in soil or sprinkled on top of the ground?

Answer: Mix the flakes into the soil and the vapors discourage pests. The flakes may be used when storing your bulbs for winter.

Q.: What care should be taken of *Gloxinia* cuttings or the small tubers that have formed on the ends of the leaves? Should they be left in small pots or taken out and dried?

A.: Take the tubers out of the soil and dry them in the shade. When completely dry, place in glass jars. Many small tubers may be placed in one jar. Be sure to place top securely on jar.

Q.: There are nodules or lumps that have formed on stems of a *Sutherlandii* plant. Can they be used in starting new plants?

A.: Yes. They are bulbils and will develop into a new plant next spring. You will find your *Evansiana* also produces similar bulbils.

Q.: We find some of our *Begonia* tubers full of small white centipedes. How can I keep them out of other tubers?

A.: The portion infested with the centipedes may be cut out and the tuber thoroughly dried in the sun and stored away for the winter. Vaporite, Naphthalene Flakes or carbon bisulphide will control them.

Q.: Do Saint Paulias require any fertilizer?

A.: Saint Paulias should be fertilized every two weeks if they are to be kept blooming. Use a solution of Vigoro or blood meal may be used. Vitamin B1 promotes root growth.

Q.: Does Vitamin B1 help begonias?

A.: Yes. Some plants respond much sooner than others, but several applications as per directions must be used before very much difference is seen. Do not believe that this is a fertilizer. It is not and plant food should be used, as always.

Q.: What to do for wireworms?

A.: Wireworms may be trapped by placing potatoes 3 to 5 inches in the ground, into which the worms go, then collect and burn. Carbon bisulphide, use 2 oz. 1 ft. deep, 18 inches apart. Vaporite or formaldehyde may also be used as controls.

Q.: Are toadstools in leaf mold injurious to lathouse plants?

A.: No. Some think this is a sign of very good leaf mold.

Begonia Haageana

[Continued from page 7]

"But another question arises: Is the *B. Haageana* W. Watson a pure species or should it be considered as a natural or artificial hybrid? If we compare *B. Haageana* W. Wats. with the hybrid *B. Credneri*, produced in 1890 by Haage and Schmidt through the crossing of *B. Scharffiana* and *B. metallica*, it is rather odd to note that the two plants are very similar, almost identical, no different other than in some little details, all very insignificant, such as can be found between seedlings of the same parentage. To establish the fact that the begonias *Scharffiana* and *metallica* are indeed the parents of the hybrid *Credneri*, since 1920 we have achieved the same hybridization in our own conservatories.

"It seems that the same confusion has existed since the first appearance of these plants. In 1891 Lemoine, of Nancy, offered for sale *B. Haageana* (synonym *B. Credneri*), a hybrid between *Scharffiana* and *metallica*. The next year *B. Credneri* was offered separately and the name *B. pictavensis* was given as a synonym for it. *B. Haageana* was listed separately, with this note: 'a plant which reveals in its appearance the parentage of *B. Scharffiana*.' The description is the same as of the preceding year.

"We have been inclined to consider that *B. Haageana* is of hybrid origin. It produces extremely little pollen and this, examined under the microscope, does not appear constituted like that of related species. Its close resemblance to *B. Credneri* seems equally to prove it."

Chevalier also says of *B. Credneri*: "This hybrid does not differ greatly from *B. Haageana* W. Watson. The flowers are perhaps a little smaller, less colored, with the foliage darker."



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VITAMIN B1

For use in the Treatment of
Cuttings, Transplantings, and
growing Plants in General.



LEO J. MAGUIRE

165 N. Hill St. Pasadena, Calif.

PLANT STUDY

Submitted by RUBY W. LEIDLER

Feasti, Bunchi and Conchaefolia Begonias belong to the Rhizomatous group and are often called Beefsteak Begonias.

Feasti is a winter bloomer, with long sprays of pale pink flowers. The leaves resemble a pond lily pad, round, dark, glossy green with red under surface and will withstand a lot of abuse and neglect. This plant was introduced by John Feast of Baltimore about 1880 and is a cross between two Mexican species, Begonia Manicata and Begonia Hydrocotylifolia.

Bunchi is a form of Feasti with curiously crested and frilled leaves of lighter green so that the plant is interesting to the plant lover whether in bloom or not. This plant may be propagated from the frilled edges of the leaves as well as from the leaf-ribs and root-stalk. It is the origination of Lloyd C. Bunch of Freedonia, Kansas, developing small pink flowers on long peduncles early in the spring.

Conchaefolia is a South American species introduced in 1852. The leaves are similar to those of Feasti being a trifle lighter in color and thinner in texture and are curled like a conch shell with one or two spirals. It is sometimes called Feasti-Spiralis and in the State of Vermont is often called the Cork-Screw Begonia. It has been reported that sometimes the spiral leaved plant also develops flat leaves similar to Feasti, it being possible that there are two begonias of this type, the South American species and a sport of Feasti.

When a light rain is falling, take your Saintpaulias outside and have their faces washed.

Now is the time to prune your fibrous begonias.

Group your lathhouse plants closely for warmth at this time of the year.

ALEXANDER B. SIM

305 North Sepulveda Blvd.
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★

Ferns
BEGONIAS — ALL VARIETIES
Fuchsias

Choice
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Other Shade-Loving Plants

Vistors Welcome

We Close on Monday—Jan. to April

DYCKMAN BRANCH

The Herbert P. Dyckman Branch of the American Begonia Society held their regular meeting, January 2, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry P. Ailman, 2366 Linden Ave., Long Beach, with 36 members and friends attending. Dr. Clyde N. Moore, the new president, presided.

Mrs. Ruby W. Leidler, Program Chairman, gave a splendid talk on "Plant Study" and presented "Resolutions for 1940" which were adopted by the members of the Dyckman Branch.

Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman gave an instructive talk on "Propagation of Begonias."

Mrs. Grace Collins presented the Branch with an attractive Guest Book.

After the meeting adjourned, refreshments were served.

The February meeting will be held on the regular meeting nite, the first Tuesday, February 6, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Dyckman, 141 West 53rd Street, Long Beach, California. Mrs. Helen Lewis of Rivera will speak.

—Mrs. Rush T. Lewis,
Publicity Chairman

Try growing tuberous begonias from seed.

American Fuchsia Society

The first meeting of a Southern California branch of the American Fuchsia Society was held in Long Beach, January 8, with 32 in attendance. Those interested in membership may contact any of the following officers: Mrs. Ruby W. Leidler, President, 5858 California Avenue, Long Beach; Mrs. Charlotte Rodenburg, of Santa Monica, Vice-President, and Mrs. E. A. Judd of Long Beach, Secretary-Treasurer.

Don't "shock" your house plants with a cold shower. Use tepid water.

Proposed Kingdon-Ward Expedition

The following is from a letter from T. H. Everett, Horticulturist of the New York Botanical Garden: "Because of war conditions this expedition to India sponsored by the New York Botanical Garden has been held in abeyance. A recent communication received from Captain Ward is more encouraging and it now seems probable that he will be able to undertake this expedition in the fall of the present year. We trust you will retain your interest in this venture and I will keep you informed regarding further developments."

THE COMPOST PILE

From Mrs. Barnard, Fresno, Calif.
 "Dear Miss Ney: or is it Mrs. Anyway I wish to express my appreciation for our January Begonian. Raising begonias in the San Joaquin Valley is quite different from raising them on the coast. Here we have the extreme heat and cold. The seeds that were sent me have grown into lovely plants. I grew several of each kind and was very happy as it was my first attempt at raising begonias from seeds."
 From the editor: It's Mrs!

CAN THIS BE TREASON? . . .
 Young Begonia hybridist to marry daughter of Orchid fancier! Yes, it's true. During the early part of February, attractive blonde Miss Ruth Peterson will become the bride of Leslie Woodriff, who is both dark AND handsome. Congratulations to you both from your friends in the ABS.

From Claude G. Howard, Kelso, Washington: "My Dues R Due, but when you receive the inclosed \$1 they'll no longer be due.

"Do I like the new Begonian? Yes sir-e I do.

"May this year be our very best.

"I'm starting with 600 or more tubers this year and with probably half as many seedlings of my own crossing and others from our good friend, Mr. George Otten.

"More power for everyone in this great hobby."

From Mr. Dunkle: "I wish to congratulate you upon the splendid typographic appearance of the January issue. You put more time and thought into the job than I ever had the time to do. I am sure that you are going to make a great success."

From the editor: Gosh, I hope you're right!

From Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary of the San Francisco Branch.

"I tried my first division of one of my choice tubers last year, a double Camellia variety. It had grown to quite a size and I was anxious to have still more plants from the same variety. When the tuber started throwing all of its sprouts, I cut it into as many parts as possible with a very sharp knife and quickly cauterized the cut part with Semesan Junior and let each part "dry out" or harden for a few days. I then set them in peat moss and by gradual dampening of the surrounding peat brought them to the leaf stage at which time quite a root system had formed.

"They were then ready for setting out in my garden, and where formerly I had only one plant that I like best I now have four."

BOOK REVIEW

By M. B. DUNKLE

Plant Growth-Substances, Hugh Nichol, Chemical Publishing Company, New York City, \$2.00.

We have heard much in recent years about mysterious chemicals which hasten the growth of roots on cuttings. Many of us have experimented with some of these with various results. Just what chemicals can be used, and just how our particular plants may be treated is a matter deserving careful study.

This book makes a thorough study of all the many substances that have been found useful in greater or less degree. These are discussed both from the angle of the layman and that of the plant physiologist and chemist. Reports of hundreds of experiments are given to guide the person who wishes to try the substances for himself.

It is unfortunate that no mention is made of Colchocine or of Vitamin B1. However, the field of the root growth inducing substances is so large that the author can be excused for limiting his field.

The book is small but is jammed full of facts so that, while one could read it through in a few hours, one must actually take days to fully digest the wealth of material that is presented.

Dunkle and Kelly Honored

Clayton M. Kelly, retiring research director of the ABS and the well-known botanist, M. B. Dunkle, were honored by being placed on the list of Honorary Directors of the American Begonia Society at a meeting held in Long Beach.

Dichroa is a beautiful begonia but difficult to grow as it needs heat to do well.

PALSTINE'S GENERAL NURSERY

1226 East Seventh Street
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Invites American Begonia Society members and their friends to inspect "A Nursery that is Different."

House Plants and Shade Plants

Bedding Plants, 1 cent each

Bird of Paradise, in tins, \$3.00

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TUBEROUS BEGONIA, NARCISSIFLORA TYPE

California 1940 Calendar

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, February 2, 8:00 p.m. Odd Fellows Hall, 159½ North La Brea Ave.
Mrs. V. SirKegian, Secretary,
413 W. Ellis Ave., Inglewood.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Tuesday, February 6, 7:30 p.m.
141 West 53rd Street, Long Beach.
Mrs. Frank Graves, Sec'y-Treasurer,
651 Loma Ave., Long Beach.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, February 7, 8:00 p.m.
1060 Francisco St., San Francisco.
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary,
1575 - 31st Ave., San Francisco.

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

Thursday, February 8, 7:30 p.m. Community Hall, 9th and Lime, Long Beach.
Mace Taylor, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer,
520 E. Esther St., Long Beach .

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, February 13, 8:00 p.m. Coca-Cola Hall, Ventura.
Mrs. Irene Van Fossen, 349 Jones St.,
Ventura, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, February 26, 8:00 p.m. City Hall Council Chambers, Grove Street and Allston Way, Berkeley.
Mrs. R. L. Barnhard, Secretary,
2419 Oregon St., Berkeley, Calif.

PROVE TO OUR ADVERTISERS THAT IT PAYS
TO ADVERTISE IN THE BEGONIAN