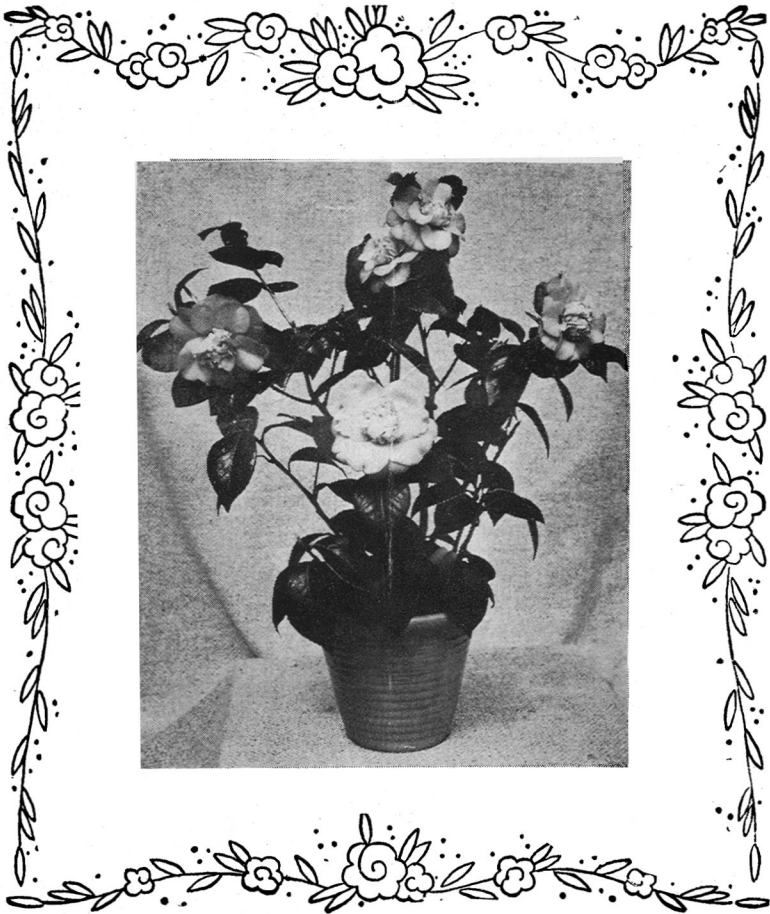


# The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

## CAMELLIA "Francine"



# The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Business and General Offices: 757 Athens Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society

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... is here and the editorial staff is singing "It's a Hap-Hap-Happy Day" ...

All because our BEGONIAN goes to 28 pages this month.

When we took over the editorial reins in January it was with the idea of surprising you with a 24-page number for Christmas, but we hadn't figured on the support you have given us.

In that first edition we appealed to YOU for support and co-operation. We attended branch meetings and asked the members to patronize our advertisers, **telling them they saw their ad in the BEGONIAN.**

From then on it has been duck soup. You really went to town with it and put it over.

And this all came about because our members didn't "let John do it" ... they went out and did it themselves.

As an example take a look at the two center pages. Our thanks go to Mrs. Harriette W. Bridges, Director of the East Bay Branch, who sent us these ads.

"It's a Hap-Hap-Happy Day ... Toodle-oodle-oodle-Lay ..."

# CLIVIAS

by CECIL HOUDYSHEL



IT IS A commendable trait when a group of plant lovers like that of the American Begonia Society broaden their interests beyond the exact limits of their immediate specialty, the Begonia, and include other shade-loving plants.

Interest in all plants that belong in the same ecological group is logical on the part of Begonia specialists and fostering that interest need not divert the Begonia Society from its main purpose.

Nature groups plants as well as animals and those having similar requirements are associated in one society. A landscape containing but one type of plant would soon cease to interest us. A garden so constructed is unnatural and though it might contain much of individual beauty, its interest is one that appeals more to the collecting instinct than to our artistic sense. Art must imitate nature and include variety as well as individual beauty. Beautiful Begonias need a setting of something besides other Begonias. A collector might find satisfaction in a picture without a frame or proper surroundings, a gourmet in food on tin plates but an artist requires the proper setting. Thus it is a fact that other plants will but enhance the beauty of a Begonia garden and detract nothing.

The limits of a short article will scarcely permit a broad discussion. There are many plants worthy of trial such as *Cypripediums*, *Erythroniums*, *Camellias*, *Azaleas* and these bulbs of the *Amaryllis* Family, *Vallotas*, the shade-requiring types of *Crinums*, *Clivias* and many other shade-loving plants.

One of the best of all is the *Clivia*. Every quality recommends it. It is ornamental in foliage alone. The flowers possess rich exotic beauty. The seed pods are like large red fruits. It is very rare. The evergreen, radical leaves contrast becomingly with the *Begonia* foliage. The flowers are in pastel orange tones quite harmonious with those of *Begonias*.

## SOIL REQUIREMENTS

The culture requirements of *Clivias* are sufficiently like those of *Begonias*. They require rich well-drained soil that is mildly acid to neutral. They are probably less exacting than *Begonias* as to soil pH (acid-alkali balance) as we have seen them in good condition even in very mildly alkaline soil. They can use about the same fertilizers, and are benefited by proper use of peat, oak leaf

mould, aluminum sulphate, etc., to obtain the proper soil pH.

## LIKE SHADY SPOT

There may be *Begonias* that will thrive in more direct sunlight than *Clivias*. *Clivias* will endure only moving spots of sun such as that which percolates through the not too dense foliage of trees. We grow ours in a lath house with lath closely spaced. We found this gave too much shade in the winter so now we remove one row of panels and allow a light panel extending north and south and therefore moving. This removal leaves eleven ribbons of sunlight 5 inches wide, extending north and south in a lath house 50 feet wide. It seemed about right for the warm foggy winter just passed.

Now in mid-April, warm sunny days have returned and the flowers are showing the effects of too much sun. So we are moving the panels closer together and will space them one inch apart. Thus our ribbons of sunlight are only 1" wide. The laths on the panels have shrunken since constructed and are now  $\frac{1}{4}$ " part. We had to learn by this experience that if we had spaced the lath at about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " when building, our house would have been about right.

The upper rows of side panels are on hinges and can be lifted to give air circulation and make the house cooler on hot summer days.

## NEED GOOD DRAINAGE

*Clivias* do not like much winter rain. For that reason they do not do so well in Florida unless in greenhouses. Our winter rainfall is plenty and is too much unless soil is well

(Continued on next page)

*Herbert Dyckman's 14-year old  
Clivia Hybrid*



## Clivias

(Continued from preceding page)

drained. This may be obtained by planting on a slope, where they grow in nature or in porous soil with good underdrainage. They do well in sandier soil, but heavier soils full of leaf mould is better. Plenty of ventilation and a bit of sun as described help to offset our not-excessive winter rains. Too much water with close atmosphere and dense shade in the winter compose nearly the only cause of failure with Clivias, which is the rotting of leaves near the soil surface. But even then they usually come up from side shoots and make new plants.

Exact control of conditions is furnished by growing in pots. By that method they can be removed to a situation under a roof when winter rains come. Most commercial growers use this method. We grow in the ground and ignore the occasional loss of a plant because the greater increase of plants with abundant root room compensates more than 1000 times. This winter we have not lost over 5 plants out of more than 2000, a low rate of mortality, one-fourth of one per cent.

### LONG LIFE

This means that some of our plants if given the same conditions in which they are growing now will live for 400 years. But these conditions are doubtless imperfect. It is believed that Clivias are as nearly immortal as a living thing can be, at least as much so as the Sequoias.

We grow several species and hybrids of Clivias. The *Clivia miniata* is the outstanding species. It is the hardiest form, the least exacting in culture requirements. Even sunshine is less fatal. The flowers are delicately colored in orange-yellow, large, well opened, upright flowers with reflexed petals, in large umbels.

The *Miniata* hybrids have other species such as *Nobilis* in the ancestry but *Miniata* predominates. The flowers are in varied tones and markings. Some are perfect self colors, no white even in throat. Others contrastingly marked. This race, like *Miniata*, its parent, is very hardy. It will stand more winter cold, more adverse conditions than any other type of hybrids. The flowers are more delicately colored and almost as large as *Nobilis* hybrids.

Like the parent species the *Miniata* hybrids are exceedingly hardy. They are much better adapted to culture by amateur growers and even inexperienced professionals than the *Nobilis* hybrids.

## Ventura Notes

● The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the American Begonia Society met Tuesday night, April 9th, at their old meeting place. A large crowd was present to hear a speaker from Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens, Pasadena, give a talk on Azaleas and Camellias, demonstrated by fine blossoms and colored movies. Azaleas and Camellias have taken our gardens by storm since we have adjusted their cultural requirements. A big amount of nice plants was in evidence for the plant display and refreshments were served as usual. It was a fine meeting under Mr. Wm. T. Kemper, president.

Quite a number of Ventura members attended the Santa Barbara Flower Show on April 7 and now everybody is working for our own show beginning the 19th in Ventura.

—WALTER J. KNECHT.

The *Nobilis* hybrids are derived from the species *Nobilis*. This species has broad foliage with rounded ends. The flowers are somewhat drooping and petals curve inward giving a cup-like shape. The flowers of the hybrids are perhaps a little larger than those of the *Miniata* hybrids but do not open out so widely, being more cup-shaped. They are much the darkest colored of Clivias. They are much more likely to perish under adverse conditions than are those of *Miniata* or *Miniata* hybrids. *Nobilis* hybrids are much more expensive than *Miniata* hybrids. Largely so because they do not increase so rapidly and are not quite so hardy. Many prefer them. There are many also who express preference for the more delicately colored wide open flowers of the *Miniata* hybrids.

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165 No. Hill Pasadena, Calif.

# POTS POTS POTS POTS

submitted by ESTHER L. THOMPSON

## SOAK POTS



**P**LOWER POTS are containers in which plants are grown either temporarily or permanently. They are usually made of clay, but may also be made of concrete, paper or glazed pottery. But the porous clay pots are standard the world over.

### HISTORY

The earliest record we have of their manufacture is from an entry in the account book of A. H. Hews & Co., potters of New York, dated April, 1775.

Until after the Civil war, flower pots were considered luxuries, but today they are a necessary part of the equipment of every gardener, and especially the begonia enthusiast.

Clay pots were made by hand until 1865, when a machine was invented by Wm. Linton of Baltimore. The standard pot as we know it today was adopted about 1900. In addition to the regulation flower pots, we have the seed pan, the fern pan, fern pots, hanging baskets, in fact a container to fill every need.

Since our mild climate makes it possible to do most of our living out of doors, the lath house and the patio give an added zest to shade gardening, and so the garden lover is ever in quest of containers that enhance the beauty of their plants and give added color to the home surroundings.

An old tradesman's trick is to soak the pots in water at least two or three hours before using them. This treatment fills the spongelike clay with water. Otherwise the clay would absorb moisture from the fresh soil in the pot and is apt to dry the soil too much. Filling the pores with water before also helps to keep the pores clean and open when potting.

A pot to serve its purpose well should be very porous and still strong enough to give reasonable service. A good porous pot will keep the moisture more even in the pot by absorbing excess water when the plant is watered and returning much of it to the soil when the plant begins to dry. The pores are really minute air pockets in the clay and also help keep the temperature more even for the plant roots.

The glazed pot, in its great variety of colors, seems to be the answer. Ferns, kentia palms, and the philodendrons are especially attractive in them, and what could be lovelier than the begonia with an abundance of pink blooms in a white pottery pot.

In situations where the air is dry, and the temperature is variable, the glazed pot has the added advantage of not allowing the soil to dry out too quickly.

But whatever your choice, be sure your pots are clean before planting in them.

## CLIVIAS

### SPECIAL OFFER TO BEGONIANS FOR LIMITED TIME

Our *Clivia miniata* hybrids, cataloging at \$3.75 each

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Smaller blooming size—\$1.50      Small size—\$1.00 each

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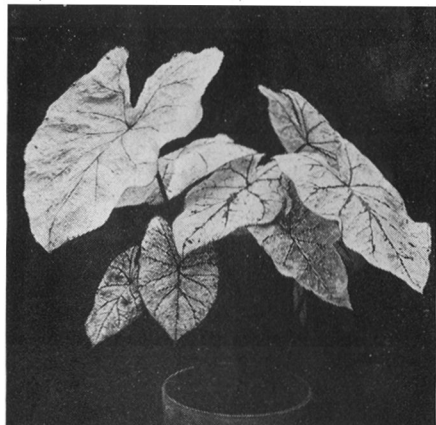
**DEPARTMENT B.  
La Verne, California**

# FANCY LEAVED CALADIUM AND THEIR CULTURE

by BOB ANDERSON

**T**HE VOGUE for colored foliage plants seems definitely to have gone Caladium and well it may, for one should consider the long growing season as well as the spectacular color combinations that only the Caladium can offer.

Being natives of the hot and humid atmospheric conditions of the tropics, one has to part-way create some of these same conditions to acquire the resplendent glory of this plant at its best. This therefore requires both heat and humidity. My own observation is that they seemingly do not want to even start until the heat has been maintained at least at 70°F. day and night. If you cannot provide this heat artificially by bottom



heat, keep them in the warmest spot possible for growth will start only when heat is sufficient.

Our warm days are all ahead of us, so if you are patient they will all start and grow into luxuriant growth as the weather warms up.

## KEEP AIR MOIST

Another factor of great importance is humidity. To get the best from your plants try and keep the air as moist as possible.

## KNECHT'S Patio Garden

1623 Thompson Blvd. - Ventura, Calif.

—The Home of—

Potted Plants, Fuchsias, Begonias,  
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Today there are on the market, humidifying nozzles that will maintain a constant air moisture. Gloxinia, begonias and Caladiums will thrive in this moist air. These nozzles can be applied to either pipe or hose and use as little as one gallon of water per hour, a life saver for both glass and lath houses. I suggest that all of you who have been troubled with bad drop try this humidifying help.

## PERFECT DRAINAGE

Your soil mixture for the Caladium is very similar to the tuberous begonia, only leave the mixture of leaf mold, sand, etc., a little coarser. They insist on perfect drainage and a light porous soil. Lots of water is imperative. Feed them regularly and I suggest Cottonseed meal as the best bet.

If you wish to save your tubers at the end of the season do not wait for the foliage to totally ripen off, stop watering them about October and allow them to dry off. Cut both tops and roots at this time and store in clean dry sand with tops of tubers exposed and replant the next season as advocated in above.

- Put a one-inch layer of GREEN lawn clippings in the bottom of your seed flats. They will usually hold heat long enough to germinate seed.

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# Progress In Hybridizing

A Letter to THE BEGONIAN  
From RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE



HAVE just received my copy of the April "Begonian" and after reading Mr. Logan's article on page 39, I feel that lest the readers get the wrong impression of the work being done and the methods being employed by the hybridizers mentioned, that I will at least express my viewpoint.

I am sorry to say that it appears that Mr. Logan has assumed a great deal as to my theories of hybridizing for he has not taken the time to write to me or to talk to me about hybridizing. If he had, he certainly would not say that my enthusiasm has run away with me, that I have failed so far in one important factor, or that it is true that the hybrid progeny over a period of several generations are scented only in the early morning hours.

In the first place, we have only had 1041 since 1937 and, as far as I know, it was not used in hybridizing work until 1938. The seed resulting from these crosses was planted and the plants bloomed last year. This year we will be able for the first time to see what we really have for it is in the second generation that we can expect any wide variations to occur. It is quite evident that we do not have several generations of the 1041 crosses. Of course this prevents us from having our enthusiasm run away with us for we have nothing about which to become over-enthusiastic.

Mr. Farini, writing in his book of 1895, "How to Grow Begonias", said that he had produced by crossing *Baumanii* with the double hybrid types (page 77) "several fairly good doubles that are strongly scented, but only in the morning and two others that were produced from hybrid *Baumanii*s that are very highly scented, and retain the scent; but the flowers are not as perfect as I could wish." In addition to these he had single flowering plants of which "nearly all the singles were slightly scented, which was not noticeable after the flower had been in blossom a few days."

Mr. Farini had rather good success with his fast method of crossing the species directly with the double flowering hybrids, considering that he first obtained *Baumanii* in 1892.

The results of the crossing of 1041 with the double camellia type hybrids are not

discouraging; they are mentioned in my article in the February "Begonian".

Since 1935 it has been my pet theory that it would be better to build up the fragrance in a species before attempting to cross it with the hybrid tuberous begonias. This year I have planted seeds of *Evansiana* which are of the third generation and I have the second generation seedlings of 1041; one line I am breeding for size of flowers and scent and another for perfecting the scent in the female flowers of 1041.

The theory of line-breeding to build up a fragrance in the species is still, nevertheless, a theory. The work now being done by hybridizers with the fragrant species and double tuberous may bring just as good or better results as generations of selections are produced. It would be foolish to delay years to develop a plant by a certain theory when at the same time many interesting plants might be developed by combining the material now at hand. I think Mr. Logan will find that among the enthusiastic, headstrong commercial men, the obvious methods of developing a fragrant begonia are not being neglected.

Mr. Brown has selected and produced a strain of *Baumanii* which he has placed on the market as "Begonia Brown's Fragrance." It is a very effective plant when used as a bedder as the flowers are held up nicely and they are fragrant.

Mr. Woodriff has other ideas for he believes he can obtain more fragrance by crossing 1041 with *Baumanii* with the idea of combining the fragrance of both these plants. If I remember correctly, he subjected the seeds he obtained from this cross to x-rays. The resulting plants he has introduced as "Wild Rose" which is both handsome and fragrant, and I know of at least one of his plants in Santa Barbara which carried its fragrance well into the afternoon.

There are other theories which I have learned from hybridizers which I will use as work progresses.

However, perhaps it is a mistake to work for the scented begonia for I have heard the remark on various occasions: "What do you want to produce fragrant begonias for? I like begonias because they are not scented!!" or "What? Just when I find relief from gardenias you are going to ruin the begonia too!!! Oh my!!"

# Changing the Names of Begonias

• I believe it is all right for one to name their own introductions, either grown from seed, or found in their native haunts, but for any one to change the name of a well-known begonia and one that has been grown for years under a certain name and known throughout the world of begonia growers under that name, to the name of an unknown person who did not introduce it or has any claim to its origin, a sort of New Deal.

We long grew *B. Palmata* under that name until Mrs. Buxton in her research found the proper name and we were happy to know it. Another of these *Faureana* species we grew as *B. Diadema Clemantine*, and the third of these species we grew as *B. Diadema Erecta*. There has not been, as far as I can learn, any objections to these names.

Then in the Journal sent out by the N.Y.B.G. the *B. Diadema Erecta* has been changed to a person unknown who can lay no claim to its origination . . . A perfectly objectionable discrimination! I for one, object to such tactics being employed by **any person** in changing the name of a well-known begonia without a vote from the members of the American Begonia Society.

If this procedure is allowed to be carried on, one cannot be sure but the next thing you know, one of your own originations will be renamed to suit any one's fancy, or to favor a friend whom they wish to honor. While I have nothing against the person or name, I do object to renaming the begonia, *Diadema Erecta* to Hildegard Schneider. I would like to know if other members of the ABS favor this name changing and what they think of it. Also, would you think that a well-known begonia's name can be changed by anyone without the sanction of the members of the Society is the right thing to do? Let us take a vote on the question before changing the label on *B. Diadema Erecta* to Hildegard Schneider.

—EVA KENWORTHY GRAY.

## Honor Founder of ABS

• At the national director's meeting April 12, Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman was voted an Honorary Director of the American Begonia Society, for his outstanding work in begonia culture.

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## Officers Elected for Pennsylvania Branch

• The regular meeting of the Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch met at the home of Mrs. Ellison N. Finkel, April 9 at 11:30 a.m. All nine members were present.

At this meeting, our fifth one, the following officers were elected:

Mrs. Theodore Gruenbaum, President;  
Mrs. William L. Paxson, Secretary  
Mrs. Ellison N. Finkel, Treasurer.

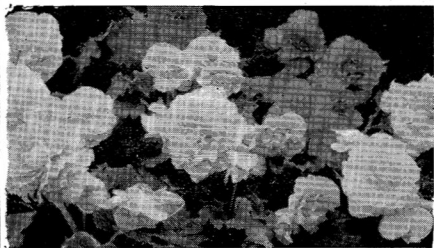
It was moved and seconded that we use the by-laws the President read to us with certain changes and a copy will be available at our next meeting.

At the luncheon table Mrs. Paxson was presented with ten varieties of begonias, each member contributing to help and replace those Mrs. Paxson had lost from her collection by inadvertently fertilizing too strongly with liquid manure. This was such a pleasant surprise and much appreciated.

After luncheon our president discussed Rex begonias. We can always recognize the Rex as the painted leaf type. Also we learned that tuberous rooted begonias die down in the Fall.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. J. Linden Heacock, May 14.

—AUGUSTA H. PAXSON.



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## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

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**Vetterle & Reinelt**

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## Tenth ABS Branch Organizing in Syracuse, New York

• Word has been received from Richard C. Atwood that the organization of a branch in Syracuse is nearly completed and further details will appear in the June Begonian.

Those who have already sent in their memberships include: Bror Nyberg, Horticulturist at the New York State College of Forestry, and a man of broad experience in horticulture in Europe, having been in this country since 1930; Ralph G. Waring, Horticulturist who has served some time with the Federal Government and three years with Luther Burbank on the coast, now breeding delphiniums and lilies principally; Louis E. Tarr, who is now Vice-President of the National Association of Men's Garden Clubs and a past-President of the Men's Garden Club of Syracuse; Harvey D. Sanderson, former garden columnist and Richard C. Atwood whose particular hobby is raising begonias. Mr. Atwood probably has the largest collection of begonias in Central New York.

There will be an exhibit of begonias raised in the home by amateurs, at the New York State Fair which runs for nine days beginning August 26th. Prof. N. A. Rotunno, Horticultural Manager for the New York State Fair says this is the first time the State Fair has carried an exhibit of begonias. Any member of the ABS who is interested in the new Syracuse Branch or as a possible exhibitor please get in touch with Mr. Atwood at 1405 East Fayette St., Syracuse.

• When you buy that extra special plant for Mother's Day don't forget to watch the columns of the BEGONIAN.

## Epiphyllum Hybrids

- See for yourself this unusual display of *Epiphyllums* in flower.
- April . . . May . . . June

**V E N T U R A  
EPIPHYLLUM GARDENS**

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We close on Monday — Catalog

# CLOTH HOUSES FOR SHADE PLANTS

by LAMBERT DAY



ANY PLANTS that we prize are not natives of our climate nor even of our hemisphere. In order that their beauty may be enjoyed to the fullest extent, their living conditions should be duplicated as nearly as possible.

The use of cloth as a covering for the protection of flowers is not a new one, and is worthy of much more attention than it is given. It is used extensively in the Southern States for growing tobacco and other crops, many acres being entirely covered with gigantic cloth houses.

Many types of cloth and different weaves have been tried, some are waxed, then again screen wire is used that has been coated with a cellophane preparation. So far as the author knows, no experimenting has been done with different colors of cloth and it might be desirable at some time to carry on trials along this line. Anyway it is food for thought and, I hope, further consideration.

Cloth houses have several disadvantages which should be mentioned. First: The quick change of extreme temperatures, hot while the sun shines and colder at night by several degrees than surrounding temperatures. Second: Poor lasting quality, making repairs necessary at frequent intervals. Third: Generally speaking it does not lend much to the enhancement of your surrounding grounds, especially as it ages.

The first objection can be largely overcome by maintaining a good circulation of air at all times, both day and night. During extremely hot weather a fly may be constructed over the top of the house for additional protection.

The second objection can never be entirely overcome but can be improved upon by the selection of higher grade materials. Cloth that will last a single season may be purchased for a few cents per yard, ranging in price up to those that will last several seasons. The Cannon Mills manufacture different grades of material for covering, including weaves with reinforced edges.

The third objection is one that the author is leaving to the ingenuity of the reader.

The more outstanding advantages of the cloth house are its low cost, ease of construction, protection against excessive heat and sunlight, rain and insect infestations. The cloth house should be of great advantage to the individual who is renting and forced to move upon occasions. Its cost is slight and

it can be so designed that it may be taken apart and moved readily.

Any size house may be designed to fit the area required, but the house dimensions should be worked out to conform with the width of the material to be used. This small detail will save much in the long run as it is a consideration to be reckoned with each time the structure is to be recovered.

The quality of the materials to be used should be given due thought, such as light intensity required, (as it will vary for different localities) the frequency with which it is to be replaced, and whether you wish plain cloth or one of the waxed or cellophane preparations.

If the house is to be permanent, its frame work should be constructed of redwood or cedar. A good size for the average back yard is one about fifteen feet in length by eight to ten feet in width. If you are planning on using benches to run the full length of your house, eight feet wide is enough. This will allow you to have benches three feet wide, separated by a two foot aisle in the center. The next most economical width of a house would be sixteen feet, allowing for a three-foot bench next to the wall, a two-foot aisle, two three-foot wide benches in the center, a two-foot aisle and a three-foot bench against the other wall. If benches are not to be used, any width suitable for the space to be covered may be figured upon. The roof should be at a sharp angle so that rain water will run off rapidly.

If the side walls are six feet high they will accommodate two widths of cloth thirty-six inches wide without cutting. The frame work consists of 1"x4" studs set three feet apart. The mud sill may be of 2"x4" rough redwood that has been treated to prevent rot. A layer of bricks or other material should be placed

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under the mud sill to keep the frame work off the ground. The studs are notched on the outside center to accommodate a 1"x3" that is to run around the walls midway and paralleling the mud sills. This piece is used to tack the material to and help brace the walls. Additional braces should run diagonally from the corners of the building to keep the house plumb.

The rafters are of the same dimensions and materials as the studs and should be notched in their center and strapped together with a 1"x3" piece. If one side of the roof is hinged from the ridge, and divided into sections, all or a portion of the roof may be elevated a few inches, thus providing an excellent method of ventilation.

Provision should also be made for opening up part of one side or one end from the bottom for ventilation. This may consist of a light frame that is hinged so it may be raised or lowered to permit control of draft. The area of the vents should be roughly about one-tenth of the total surface area of the roof.

The bottom edge of a cloth house is subject to much wetting and mud splashing which soon rots away the lower portion of the cloth. If boarded up for a foot or two above the ground, it follows that the materials will need replacing less often. If this is done the height of the house may be increased accordingly to conform with the cloth width.

If the first three feet are boarded up with redwood rustic siding the house will be warmer and more substantial. It is highly recommended if the budget will permit. It might be well to suggest that if you are planning to construct a glass house at some future time, that you could use the same materials and dimensions planned and cover temporarily with cloth until such time as the structure is to be used as a glass house.

## Pictures of Pests Presented

• The April meeting of the Herbert P. Dyckman Branch of the ABS was held on the 2nd at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Graves, 651 Loma. Numbered among the visitors were Dr. Caseley, Past President of the ABS, and Mrs. Caseley, who extended an invitation to visit their home and gardens at Mojesta on May 12th. Mrs. Pauline Ney and Mrs. Clarissa Harris, of The Begonian staff, were again our welcome guests.

A round table discussion on garden and lath house plants was carried on by the members. This exchange of experiences was thoroughly enjoyed.

Mr. H. P. Dyckman gave many worthwhile pointers on the culture of fibrous begonias. He continued the plant study, discussing b. Phyllomaniaca, better known as "Jessie", and its sports, b. Templini and b. Paul Bruant.

Mr. J. A. Barfoot, of the Barfoot Chemical Co., was the guest speaker. His talk on the control of pests was made doubly interesting, since he showed colored movies of the "varmints" in action.

Delicious refreshments were served by the ladies of that committee.

The May meeting will be held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Bicknell, 1433 East Fourth St., on the 7th.

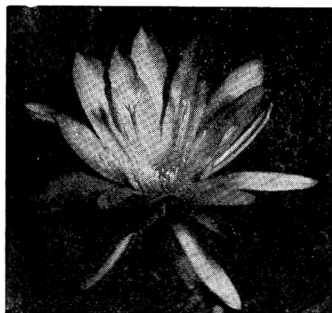
—IRENA JUDD.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

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Gorgeous HERMOSISSIMAS

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# Begonia Display Stops Philadelphia Flower Show



CANNOT let the Philadelphia Flower Show become history without writing the Begonian about the number of Begonia exhibits.

In class "A" was a collection of house plants showing as many species and varieties as possible. Space provided simulating a room with a window and there were five entries. Of the five, four were made up of Begonias. First Place went to Westchester Planters, and was arranged by Miss Eleanor Bispham of Ardmore, Penna. Second Place to Mrs. Lee Krauss, Wynewood, Penna. Third Place went to the Rush Valley Garden Club, arranged by Mrs. Paul Longsdorf, Rush Valley, Penna.

Besides these there were exhibits of Lorraine or its types by Mrs. John Barnes Townsend, Radnor, Penna., Mrs. C. N. Guest, Villa Nova, Pa., and Mrs. Wm. N. Potts, Wyebrook, Pa.

Exhibits of Rex by Mrs. Wm. N. Potts, Wyebrook, Pa., Mrs. L. N. Parsons, Villa Nova, Pa., and Mrs. Schofield Andrews, Chestnut Hill and Mrs. Henry Masters, Devon, Pa. Mrs. Henry Masters also exhibited Winter Blooming begonias. I am wondering if Mrs. Helen Krauss and Mrs. Lee Krauss are one and the same. Mrs. Krauss' name appearing in the list of new members in the last Begonian.

The Margaret C. Gruenbaum Eastern Branch of the ABS attended the show in a body and many were the comments made about it, complimentary and otherwise. Complimentary when other begonia-minded creatures, like ourselves, stopped to listen to Margaret Gruenbaum's begonia wisdom and otherwise when progress of the common herd was interrupted by a Begonia Group traffic jam.

Seeing so many Pennsylvania names in the list of new members of the ABS makes me feel there are possibilities of many groups being formed here in the East. We, without any doubt whatsoever, do not have California's ideal begonia climate. Here in the East we are taught that September winds must never blow upon begonias, which means bringing them into the house long before we want to. I feel, that with Margaret Gruenbaum as a leader, much can be accomplished.

—ANNA LOWRY MATHER.

# First Garden Visitation

• Dr. Walter N. Caseley, Past-President, extends a cordial invitation to all members of the American Begonia Society to visit Arden Lodge on Sunday, May 12th.

You will have no difficulty if you follow these directions:

Take speedometer reading at 7th & Hatha-way Drive, Highway 101, in Long Beach.

East on 7th Street for 10.3 miles to Euclid Street in Garden Grove.

Turn left in middle of town, go North one mile (stop sign).

Turn right, go straight East on Chapman Avenue through Orange to El Modena (8.1 mi.).

Just beyond El Modena, road leads up winding hill. Turn right 2.8 miles beyond El Modena.

Bridge 6.7 miles beyond turn. Turn right just beyond bridge. Drive for 3.6 miles beyond this point and cross another bridge.

Turn right up hill about distance of one city block. On left is gate of Arden Lodge.

This is a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Visit the gardens of Dr. and Mrs. Caseley and meet your fellow Begonians and make this first visitation of 1940 a memorable one.

## SAUNDERS' BEGONIA GARDEN REX BEGONIAS and SHADE PLANTS

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National President FRANK HARRISON writes on . . .

## REX BEGONIAS

**T**HE REX BEGONIA is one of the most attractive plants of the Begonia family. By crossing and re-crossing they have attained their beautiful coloring and varied leaf shapes which make them stand out in the lath house. They range from the small compact plants such as *Illustrata* and *Imperialis Smaragdina* to the immense *Lesoudsii* and *Magnifica*, also the *Helix* or spiral types, *Bronze King* and *Count Adrien Erdody*. Not forgetting *Van-Ex*, a tuberous-rex cross introduced by Mr. Roy Berry in 1936, which will attain a height of three to four feet. There is a type and color for any taste.

The original species that were undoubtedly the parents of our present Rex group include the following: *Rex* from Assam in 1857, *Xanthina* from Assam and Bhotan in 1850, *Griffithii (Picta)* from Bengal in 1856 and *Laciniata* from Bhotan in 1830.

Rex begonias belong to the rhizomatous group of begonias.

The natural habitat of the Rex is in the tropical regions where the rainfall is heavy and the foliage dense which creates a humid atmosphere.

Used in pots, Rex begonias are good to fill in the bare places where the fibrous varieties are planted in the ground. They may also be massed in raised beds and used with ferns in the rock garden. Rexes also make beautiful wall pockets and are ideal for mossed walls.

There are several ways of propagating Rex begonias. The ones most commonly used are the leaf and wedge cuttings.

### LEAF PLANTINGS

Use mature but vigorous leaves from a healthy plant. Do not cut off but break off at the main stem.

On the underside of the leaf, at the junction

of the veins, cut through the veins just below the laterals, being careful not to cut clear through the leaf as this will cause it to rot.

On the stem on the top side cut a small notch about one-fourth of the way through the stem every inch or so the entire length of the stem.

Place the leaf flat in a bed of leaf mold or mixture of leaf mold and sharp sand with the back of the leaf down. Pin down with hair pins or tooth picks to keep firm. Do not cover the leaf with soil but cover the stem with about one-fourth inch of soil. (The stem still attached to the leaf). Keep the soil moist but not soggy wet.

These leaves should be placed in a warm shaded place. Under a bench in the lath house seems to be an ideal place as they

(Continued on Page 82)



Pres. Harrison helps "Dixie", Mrs. Harrison's cocker spaniel, pose for the Begonian Staff photographer. Rex begonias on table from l. to r.:—*Mrs. Moon, Speculata, Mulberry, G. Coz Midnight.* Rexes under table: *Michael Ney, Child's New Spotted, Abel Carriere.* Right of chair: *Mrs. Fred Scripps, fibrous var.*

# Annual

# MAY

# 1-2-3-4-5

# SPRING



## OAKLAND EXPOSITION BUILDING OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

The annual Spring garden show which opens in Oakland May 1, is considered one of the most important Floricultural exhibits in California.

Early Spring vacationists have a treat in store for them when they visit Oakland the first week in May. The Oakland Exposition Building, which covers more than an acre of ground, will be the site of the Annual Spring Garden Show. In addition there are two acres or more of outdoor gardens and exhibits adjoining the main building.

There are sections devoted to Alpine rock gardens and succulents, a walled garden, a wild flower section, and plots for the exhibits of fifty Garden Clubs. There is a large amphitheatre, one side of which is banked with pansies and the other with annuals.

Connecting the hall with the outdoor gardens is a huge tent holding a coffee shop and more than a hundred commercial exhibits.

As you enter the main hall you pass under a group of twelve huge toadstools twelve feet high. From this vantage point you look down a center aisle spanned by six immense arches, covered with moss where you will see growing plants of a drooping nature, such as Lloydii begonias and hanging fuchsias. In the center of the hall is a beautiful pool 351 feet long. The whole of Fairyland is presided over by Queen Titania and her corps of fairies.

At the far end of the hall is a solid bank of moss completely covering the wall. This moss-banked wall sets off the gorgeous Orchid display, which was a feature of last years' show. This exhibit drew such great crowds that there was difficulty for all to see it as carefully as they would have liked. To care for this situation, this year there are three paths in front of the exhibit, each at a different level, so that all may see it, whether in the front row or the back.

The East Bay Branch has two hundred and fifty square feet of space not far from this gorgeous orchid exhibit.

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.. SEE OUR BEGONIAS ..

# FLOWER SHOW



... This Year's Theme ...  
*Gardens of Fairyland*

**Look for the Exhibit of the  
EAST BAY BRANCH  
of the American Begonia Society**

## East Bay Branch

• The May meeting of the Branch will be held at the Council Chamber of Berkeley City Hall, May 27. Mr. E. O. Corson, Manager of the Acteen Chemical Service Co., will be the speaker. He is to address us on the important question of soil treatment.

## Vitamin B1 Discussion

• The regular monthly meeting of the San Francisco branch was held April 3 at 1060 Francisco St.

The subject of the evening was Vitamin B-1 and plant hormones in relation to the propagation and growing of begonias.

Several tests are being made by members and results will be forthcoming as the season advances.

—HARRY F. O'DONNELL.

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## Certificate of Participation

• The following letter was received with a Certificate of Participation from L. L. Penfield, Executive Secretary of the GOLDEN GATE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION:

"Dear Dr. Caseley:

On behalf of the California Commission and the Floricultural Committee, I wish to express our sincere appreciation of the splendid cooperation you have given to the Hall of Flowers.

You did an outstanding piece of work in your exhibit on which I wish to compliment you.

Again may I take the opportunity of thanking you for the cooperation you have given to the Hall of Flowers which added so materially to its success."

## ACTEEN "Plant Pab-U-Lum"

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Gives Abundant Reserves  
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Making Soil Healthy — and Easy to Work

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New Owner — American

**Quality Shrubs and Plants  
—FOR YOUR GARDEN—**

Fuchsias — Pelargoniums

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OL 6355—if no answer—OL 1583

# Adventures of a Renter



MUCH A tremendously large proportion of the family incomes of Mr. and Mrs. United States of America is in low and lower brackets, that their attitude toward the care and improvement of rented domiciles reflects itself all too visibly in the doleful aspects of their premises and conditions much of the color of their daily lives.

So repeatedly have I heard, "Oh, I'd love to have a garden, but you know we just rent" as if that were a valid reason for spending their lives joylessly in drab places which have real possibilities of cheer, that I have been moved to set down the story of what we have accomplished in a rented place in the space of about five years.

The depression was on us in full force, "us" being my husband, two teen-age boys, Herman and Rico, and myself. We arrived in a town in Southern California with the hope of a job and the certainty of very limited cash. So we took up our abode on the fringe of town, in a dilapidated shack which was an almost total ruin within and without, for the yard looked like a public dump, as indeed it proved to have been, for some feet below the surface we unearthed one load after another of soup and sardine tins, automobile tires and broken glass, an assortment calculated to make life a nightmare for any new tenant; windows were broken, paint existed only in sufficient patches to make the bald spots the more conspicuous; I am sure no one could have picked out a more utterly degenerate and hopeless spot.

How easy it would have been to think we'd patch the leaks and simply exist in such a spot until things got enough better so that we could move, an attitude which by the look of too many of our cities is very generally held. However, as jobs were few and far between we fully occupied our leisure time

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by remodeling the whole place. The landlord, realizing that we meant business, helped with the more vital repairs on the house (I should like to remark here that I think landlords would be far more generous than they are reputed if the attitude of the average tenant were constructive rather than the reverse) and we hauled away wheelbarrow loads of unburnable junk to the city dump.

After the yard was clean, we found a street being paved not far away, so every day after five o'clock my husband and the boys brought home leftover concrete and made a pavement about the house. At last we felt that we had achieved decency and could begin to make the place a home. The boys wanted a fish pond, so we graded and terraced the front yard, and built the fish pond which is now stocked with gold fish and water plants. We were still at this time living from job to mouth, sometimes altogether without jobs, so that haircuts figured as a large item in the budget. I am saying this only to emphasize the fact that we had no money for plants, or even for seeds. But we did know spots in the back country where certain dearly loved plants grew in places which belonged to friends, and we wrote to them asking for seedling plants of certain ones, and seeds of others.

Lath being easy to come by when buildings are being wrecked, we managed to achieve quite a store for very little except the effort of hauling it, and by the same method we achieved lots of old bags, feed and sugar sacks, cement bags, etc. With some second-hand two-by-fours we assembled the material  
(Continued on Page 81)

... send for the following cultural bulletins and

## KNOW THE FACTS

Tuberous Begonias.....	15c
Rex Begonias.....	15c
Fibrous Begonias.....	15c
Pests and Pest Control.....	15c

## AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

J. N. NUTTER, Treasurer  
1050 E. 19th St. Long Beach, Calif.



## Inglewood Branch Moves To Woman's Club!!

• The April 5 meeting played to a full house. Mr. Elmer Smith gave us the high-lights on leaf mold, showing the various stages through which it progresses before coming to us as the finished product. Mr. Smith kindly donated two sacks of leaf mold to the plant distribution.

Mr. Artner of the **BOTAN COMPANY** introduced the "Botan Propagating House." This is a round utensil approximately one foot high and wide, has a rotating lid which controls ventilation, dripping and light; also keeps out slugs and sow-bugs if closed at night. Mr. Artner donated one of these houses to the plant sale and it was instrumental in bringing in a new member!

Mr. Rapella attended, bringing two lovely Orchid plants, *Dendrobium Superbum* (accent on the per), which he graciously donated to our group.

National President Frank Harrison spoke briefly on Rex begonias and is to return to give us a talk on Rexes at the June 7th meeting. This is an important meeting so do not fail to attend!

JUNE is the dead-line for presentation of gift boxes to new members—so get your new members in by that time.

At the May meeting, Mrs. Charlotte Rodenburg will explain to us about the moon NOT being made of cheese but producing rays beneficial to plant life. From the looks of her plants we are inclined favorably toward this supposition.

There will be a display of planting ideas by President McDowell, helping us with the beautification of our lath houses. It was announced by President McDowell that we are to join in with exhibitions of Begonias at the September Dahlia Show in Inglewood, to be held at the Hollywood Turf Club. Let's all join in and make this a gala occasion.

REMEMBER!!! Our new location has space for 500—seating capacity 300 now—no one will have to stand—so we invite all the branches to visit and enjoy our programs with us!

—MRS. ALICE NICKLOW,  
Publicity Chairman.

**Begonias — Ferns**  
Shade Loving Plants  
**CARDOZA GARDENS**  
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## Calla Lily Begonia Envy of Boston Show

• The calla lily begonia, pictured here, was the piece de resistance of the lath house exhibit at the recent Boston Flower Show.

Our member, Mrs. J. S. Brown of Peabody, Mass., has raised this begonia in a terra cotta jardiniere, without any drainage hole, and it stands two feet high and three feet wide.

This plant was sent by truck from Peabody to Boston in weather in the low 20's, spent nine days on the second floor of the Mechanic's Building, and was sent back to Peabody the same way and lever lost a leaf.

The calla lily begonia is a sport of the common bedding begonia. The basal leaves are clear green and those above are heavily spotted with white, while the upper ones are a pure glistening white and shaped like miniature calla lilies. Its golden stamens and rose-red flowers offer a beautiful contrast.

If you want to try something interesting . . . try to raise a calla lily begonia!



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# Honorary Director Mr. George Otten

**H**ONORING a man who has spent his life in the raising and improving of begonias and whose reputation in his work is international, the board of directors in 1939 elected George Otten of Seaside, Oregon, as an honorary director of the American Begonia Society. Author of an outstanding book on tuberous begonias, Mr. Otten has contributed more than any other one person to the popularity of this lovely plant in the United States.

On May 31, 1861, Mr. Otten was born in St. Magnus, adjoining the city of Bremen. His father, a school teacher, wished his son to study for Lutheran ministry but, loving the out-of-doors, he became an apprentice in floriculture in 1876. He was taught every branch of gardening in the thorough manner of the European schools. In summer the work started at 5 a.m. and in the winter at 6 a.m. until 8 p.m. In winter months instructions were given in drawing plans and the rudiments of engineering, as far as typography and cross section calculations.



He was then employed in Zweibrueken, one hour's walk to the French border, in general greenhouse work and after six months went to work for I. P. Scheiderker in Munich. Here he saw his first tuberous begonias and immediately fell in love with them. At that time they had only the single varieties and the firm did quite a bit of hybridizing.

Mr. Otten went to Nuremberg for a while, then traveled through Central Europe to Italy. On all of his trips he kept a strict diary, taking notes of his daily travels as well as of the gardens he called on and plants or ideas of interest. On his return to Munich, he accepted a position in the Royal Gardens of King Ludwig, where he stayed for two and a half years.

Here Mr. Otten saw his first electric light and telephone. This was during an electrical exhibition in the Crystal Palace (a replica

of the one in London). A greenhouse was erected within the palace, which was electrically lighted, in proportion to the light of the sun. The attendants had to wear smoked-glasses inside. Notations were made on what effect the artificial light had upon the plants. Mr. Otten remembers that within 24 hours, the leaves of Rex Begonias would turn to the light, and the red flowers would turn pink. Flowers which were pollinated would produce seeds which would not germinate later on. He saw Mr. Edison here who directed the electrical manipulations.

After serving ten weeks in the Army, Mr. Otten came to America in the fall of 1884 and landed in San Francisco. He was engaged at the Pacific Nursery as propagator. Fifty stock plants of olive trees were imported from Italy. Having seen soft wood cuttings made in Italy, he used this method and raised 64,000 plants. Mr. Otten says "When I drive through California and see so many olive trees, I wonder whether they are some of my cuttings."

Always seeking his ideal climate, Mr. Otten left San Francisco and went by steamer, the only mode of transportation, to Portland where he established himself in the nursery and landscape gardening business. One of his contracts was to landscape a large amusement place, and, in an effort to introduce the tuberous begonia, he donated and planted one thousand plants in the park. They were greatly admired but folks did not introduce them to their private gardens. This was his first attempt to introduce these wonderful plants to real flower lovers.

After the death of Mrs. Otten, he disposed of his business and retired to his beach home at Seaside. However, he could not leave his plants and started to raise his favorite

## FAIRYLAND

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New - Fragrant - Tuberous Begonia

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Tubers—25 cents and up  
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REX, GLOXINIAS

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Inglewood, Calif.

flowers of which the Begonia is one. Then he made up his mind to devote the balance of his life in introducing these plants and their culture. In 1929 he had around six hundred varieties of perennials and annuals in his garden, many of which he had introduced from foreign lands.

In all of 1927 he vacationed in Europe and visited with Messers. Blackmore and Langdon in England and many other countries.

Mr. Otten has spent many years hybridizing begonias. He has produced the single flowering varieties "Prince", "Crown Princess", "Crown Prince" and "Seashell", his latest creation, which is described in "The Begonian" of November, 1939.

In 1935, after over fifty years of raising tuberous begonias, Mr. Otten wrote his excellent book "Tuberous-Rooted Begonias and Their Culture." This book has helped many an amateur and aided the advanced grower in the handling of tuberous begonias. Such phases as culture, propagation, seed raising, hybridizing, and pests are covered masterfully.

*The Begonian is indebted to Mr. Ziesenhenné for preparing the foregoing biography for the benefit of our readers.*

### Dr. J. Burton Van Gelder

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530 Silvergate Ave. Point Loma  
Established in this one location  
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*A most complete assortment  
of lathhouse subjects*

BEGONIAS and FUCHSIAS  
OUR SPECIALTIES

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## San Gabriel Valley Branch to Exhibit

• The San Gabriel Valley Branch of the American Begonia Society is planning an exhibit of begonias and shade plants at the Pasadena Flower Show to be held in Brookside Park, April 25th through the 28th.

A nice space under the trees has been allotted to the society, and will be made into an effective sheltered garden. Members of the committee in charge of arrangements are: A. A. Dodson, chairman, C. F. Essig, F. N. Fox and Mrs. Rose Harrington. Begonia society members have been most co-operative in lending their favorite plants for the exhibit. This first step into the "show business" should prove an exciting adventure for the San Gabriel Valley Branch.

—MAUDE A. FOX.

• Remember to spray in the lath house occasionally. Don't wait until there are holes in your Rex begonia leaves.

## Your ADVERTISERS Invite And Appreciate Your Patronage

• Now is a good time to start feeding your Rex Begonias.

• There is no yellow semperflorens. Mr. Robert Hoefler respectfully calls our attention to an error in the February, 1938 issue of the Begonian listing Schwabenland as yellow. Its flowers are pink.

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# INDUCING PERMANENT FRAGRANCE

by H. BRITTON LOGAN Jr.

(Continued from April Begonian)

**P**ROBABLY the best-known, and least understood, method of producing chromosome re-arrangements is with colchicine and x-rays. These artificial stimulants induce chromosome duplication, or doubling of the chromosomes as it is more commonly called. Therefore, because you have increased the number of chromosomes, the possibility of these chromosomes forming new patterns is increased.

Unfortunately, colchicine is a highly dangerous alkaloid. It can be absorbed through the skin of human beings and produces extreme sickness, even death. Equally as unfortunate, colchicine is the simplest and surest way of producing chromosome aberrations. Frankly, I do not recommend this method for the average amateur unless he does considerable research into the experiments already made with colchicine; and then, can follow instructions carefully and intelligently.

A weak concentration of colchicine in an aqueous solution, or a lanolin emulsion, is applied to the growing tips of mature plants, or the leaves of cotyledons. Occasionally, cuttings are immersed in a special culture solution of colchicine and mineral salts. The immediate effect of the chemical on the plant tissues is to cause growth irregularities and distortions. Its ultimate effect—the one you are striving for—is to produce some female germ cells, and some pollen grains containing twice the normal number of chromosomes.

If, by inbreeding, you can affect a union between these cells, you will secure fertile seed. From this seed will come plants appreciably larger than the parent. They will breed true to Mendelian laws, and respond to the same methods of inbreeding I previously outlined. Since, in these plants, the chromosome number is doubled, they will form a correspondingly greater number of patterns, and your chances of succeeding are

immeasurably increased.

Remember, though, that colchicine is dangerous. Use it, if possible, under the guidance of a competent instructor of botany, who also can explain to you the more technical parts of the following bibliographical material.

Blakeslee and Avery (1937)

"Methods of Inducing Doubling of Chromosomes in Plants by Treatment with Colchicine,"

**Journal of Heredity**, 28:393—412.

Nebel and Ruttle (1938)

"The Cytological and Genetical Significance of Colchicine,"

**Journal of Heredity**, 29:3—9.

Mallinckrodt Chemical Works

2nd and Mallinckrodt Sts., St. Louis, Mo.

The use of x-rays to produce mutations in plant life is not as difficult or dangerous as colchicine. Nor is it, by any means, as certain. Naturally, an x-ray machine itself should be handled only by an expert who can control the strength of the rays. Other than this one requirement, the amateur gardener merely has to sow his seed, wait until the roots appear (never let the first leaves develop), and then subject small quantities of the immature seedlings to different intensities or time periods of x-rays.

Unfortunately, x-rays so far have produced more growth irregularities than mutations in

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plants. Very few of the induced mutations in the past have had qualities or characteristics sufficiently commendable for commercial reproduction. Ordinarily the good qualities of an x-ray-induced mutation are overbalanced by bad qualities. Nor is it at all certain but that many of the mutations, so-called at present, are really striking growth irregularities; which cannot be transmitted to successive generations. X-rayed freesia corms which developed deformities immediately after treatment grew normally the following year. Some seed from these corms showed a few irregular leaf growths which later disappeared.

However, do not let these remarks dissuade you from experimenting with x-rays. Perhaps you will find a mutation that will point the way to a more permanent scent in begonias. In that case you must cross-breed the mutation, taking away its probable bad characteristics. After you have done that, you can start inbreeding the progeny. And once having broken the chromosome pattern with x-rays, it should not be too difficult to find the pattern you want.

Goodspeed and Avery

"The Cytogenetics of 14 Types,"

**Journal of Genetics**, 29:327-353.

Moore (1935)

"X-Ray Lily,"

**Literary Digest**, 120 (September 14) 20.

Morgan

"Growth Irregularities,"

Indiana Academy of Science Proc. (1931)  
41:139-144.

There remains two further methods of artificially inducing plant mutations, or rather chromosome changes. Neither of them have been experimented with to the extent that colchicine and x-ray have been. They are comparatively virgin fields, and filled with interest for the amateur who wants to pave his own way, and possibly discover a path

to greater achievements in botanical science.

The first of these methods applies heat—a certain fixed temperature, ordinarily a high one—to the plant ovaries just before, or during, the stage when the pollen fertilizes the ovules. Heat acts on the germ cells of a plant much in the same fashion as colchicine does—inducing a doubling of the chromosomes. The resultant seed, and the future plants follow similar habits of growth, and can be used for hybridizing in the same manner as colchicine-induced mutations.

While this method of heat-application is not as complicated as colchicine, it entails considerably more preliminary experimenting. You will have to determine by the trial and error method the exact moment that pollen from a male begonia flower will unite with the ovules. In general, this union occurs in plants after a period as short as two hours and as long as ten days. From the objective reaction of female begonia flowers after pollination, I would suggest that fertilization occurs somewhere between eight hours and twenty-four hours, depending upon the receptivity of the female flower to the pollen grains.

However, if you would like to experiment with this method, you will find it advantageous to apply heat to the ovaries one hour after fertilization, two hours afterward, three hours afterward, and so on up to twenty-four hours. Somewhere in these twenty-four intervals, you will hit on the right one. This will be shown in the growth of such seed as you may secure; the plants will be much larger than the parent. By so discovering the approximate hour that fertilization takes place in one species of begonias, you will contribute much to botany, as well, perhaps, as succeeding in your more practical goal of developing a scent in tuberous begonias.

(To be continued in June *Begonian*)

## "Garden Gadgets" Topic at Long Beach Branch

• Mrs. Lucy Graham of Hawthorne will give one of her spontaneous talks on "Garden Gadgets" at the Parent Branch in Long Beach, Thursday evening, May 9th.

Mr. George C. Roeding of the California Nursery Company at Niles, Calif., will speak on daffodils and show colored pictures.

Don't forget the North Long Beach Woman's Club annual flower show. This will be in the Houghton Park Clubhouse at Atlantic and Harding, Long Beach, May 4 and 5.

—RUBY LIEDLER.

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# THE COMPOST PILE

## From The Editor's Mail Box

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★



● From Seaside, Oregon: "The new editor of the Begonian is a humdinger and the new editions speak for a master guide, who understands how to present a periodical, both instructing as well as entertaining."

● From Long Beach: "You WILL print everything I write you, will you? Then print the foregoing letter." (The letter was a blank sheet of paper dated April 1st). "The date did not inspire it. A remembrance of an essay by Elbert Hubbard did. He published a 100 page book on Silence—one hundred blank pages. His critics said it was the best thing he ever did. You will probably make the same estimate of my letters."

"I just want to add my words of praise to the many you are receiving. You are really making something of The Begonian. Your reward, in part, should be a fast-growing membership list. Surely everyone interested in begonias should subscribe, and would, if they could see a copy of your 'brainchild'. Hope you will feel repaid for all your efforts."

"And my begonias wish your begonias—'pot luck.' Adios."

● From Peoria, Ill: "After reading Mrs. Buxton's book on Begonias I decided I simply must join the Society. And now, I am wondering what advantage it is to belong; the magazines seem to be a schedule of meetings and who attended. All this is very interesting, but of doubtful interest to your out-of-state members. As to the advertisers, I have bought from most of them before as they also advertise in "Flower Grower" so can see no benefits there either."

"May I make several suggestions? Couldn't you have an exchange column for those interested? And enlarge your Question and Answer department? Also invite your readers to tell of their trials and successes with the different varieties? Have your club calendars, too, but don't forget that members who can't

attend the meetings (worse luck) are still members and interested in growing more, bigger and better begonias."

● From Altadena: "I am astounded at the tremendous strides the American Begonia Society has made since I first became acquainted with it, and you are all to be congratulated. You should be justly proud of THE BEGONIAN as there are very few organizations that have a publication that is comparable."

● From Pasadena: "Dear Begonia Society: Your response to our product as advertised in your publication has been beyond anything that we expected and I am taking this opportunity to thank you one and all. Our sales through nurseries in or near Inglewood have tripled in the last few weeks. With best wishes for continued success, CALIFORNIA LIQUID FERTILIZER CO."

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# BEGONIA BOOK AUTHOR VISITS NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

**R**ECENTLY I spent a pleasant and profitable afternoon at the New York Botanical Gardens, needless to say, in the begonia house. Large potted plants fill the benches on each side, and in the center the plants are bedded out in a natural planting. Passing the familiar rhizomatous group with scarcely a glance at their gorgeous display of flowers, except to note that "Marian" had the deepest rosepink flowers of all, I stopped to admire a large spreading plant of *Acutangula*, planted in the center bed. It was notable for color, as well as for form, the large pale green stipules a pleasant contrast to the deep blood-red of the underside of the leaves. The lovely sheen of the upper side suggests moiré silk.

Roxburghi, a species from India, is a fine plant for a greenhouse or a lath house, but not for my window sill. The large, hairy ovate leaves, light green, borne on rather short stems, suggest *Nelumbiifolia* somewhat. The white, solitary flowers on short, down-curved stems are less conspicuous than the large plum-colored ovary beneath.

Rubro-venia, also from India, is half dormant now, with only a few of the long, dark green pointed leaves left. Many of us received seeds of this plant under the name of *Megaptera*.

The plant which is known to many as *Robusta*, with fountain-like sprays of red stemmed branches and pink flowers, is really *B. Ingrami*, a cross between *nitida* and *fuchsioides*. The true *Robusta*, a species from Java, grew nearby, a coarse plant, truly robust, with stout, white-hairy stems. The green leaves were a foot long and eight inches wide, the flowers creamy-pink. Botanists refer to this plant as *B. robusta* Blume, as it was discovered in Java, by Blume, a plant explorer, in 1858.

Another large plant was *Hugelli*, from Brazil. This had a very large, green hairy leaf, saintly flushed and red-veined beneath; an attractive plant, but needs room. *Manni* is a handsome species, collected on the peak of Fernando Po at an altitude of 1300 feet, by Mann in 1862. (Is this perhaps why we fail, sometimes, to grow a begonia, because we are trying to grow a mountain plant at sea level?) *Manni* grows about two feet high. The four-inch leaves with a long slender point are smooth, deeply veined, green above, rosy beneath. The large green stipules are noticeable, also the deep rose-red flowers.

*Wallichiana* is a weedy, worthless type, like *Hirtella*. Its decorative value is about equal to that of chickweed! *Gigantea* is disappointing. Probably the name led me to expect too much. It is a tall, scrawny plant, with a few light green leaves at the top of bare stalks. The flowers are pale pink. It was discovered in India in 1820.

*Scharffi* var. *Drosti* was one of the handsomest plants, even though it was not in flower. About six feet tall, with large, dark olive-green leaves, deep brownish-red beneath, densely white-hairy. The flowers are pink, red-hairy. Unfortunately, nothing is yet known of its origin.

A plant labelled *Coriacea flora alba* is probably a Bolivian species. It has stiff, heavy, glossy dark green leaves, and white flowers. The most striking thing about it was the very large papery stipules which completely cover the stem. A most attractive plant.

There was a fine large plant of Mrs. Gray's *Nelly Bly*, with velvety greyish leaves, and one of her *Superba-Azella*, fully six feet high, with handsomely cut, silver-splashed leaves. *Veitch's Carmine* (*Dregei* x *Coccinea*) was a most attractive plant. It is not new; it was originated by Veitch of England in 1895. The New York plant was about three feet high and suggested a red-flowered *Incarinata*.

*Silver Fleece* is the new name which has been given to a *Rex* of branching type, with velvety silver, green veined leaves. In the East, we nicknamed it *Tewksbury Rex*, because it was found in *Tewksbury*, Mass. I saw it grown in California under the name of *Erecta*, which may be a part of its forgotten name. Since we cannot find its original name, *Silver Fleece* will identify it pleasantly. *Glabra* was grown on a fan trellis, a very handsome plant. The shining light green leaves were five inches across, the succulent stems reddish, and there were many clusters of white buds. Mr. Robinson's *Bellagio* was a handsome plant, espaliered on wires, and was six feet high. The rich, dark green leaves were lighted up by the large clusters of deep red flowers. *Teuscheri*, a species from Malay, was one of the parents of *Pres. Carnot*. The leaf petioles and edges are dark red, the branches light green, white-flecked. One thinks of this plant as a brunette *Pres. Carnot*.

(Continued on next page)



## Adventures of a Renter

(Continued from Page 72)

into a good working lath shelter in which to propagate our plant material—and wasn't it a blessing in the leisure time for our growing boys to have them help in such a constructive and wholesome project!

We attacked the problem like real pioneers and found the mountains lessening into mounds as we got nearer to them. Our interest increased continually, and we got the front yard planted to bright-colored Mesembryanthemums, Strawflowers and such annuals (including the native Poppies) as would grow riotously in a short season, all the while we were nursing other things for a more permanent growth. We "planted out" a very ugly vacant lot with Morning Glory and Sweet Peas trained on a tall fence, and when our seedlings had come along to a place where we felt that they were safe to be trusted out-of-doors we planted Peonies, English and French Lavender, kitchen herbs, the old Spanish Castile Rose, and the Black Sage, known to the Spanish settlers as Romero. This latter was a triumph, for the common opinion is that it is not a good garden subject, growing as it does only in remote mountain canyons. But here it is,

a lovely hedge bordering the length of the path from street to garage, seventy-five sturdy plants covered with a bloom-like purple and white velvet, the scent of which summons bees from miles away!

By the time this transformation was accomplished, the boys were grown and gone away to jobs of their own, and I wanted more plants and less eggs, so I abolished the hen yard which had been one of the alleviations of the depression with growing boys! By now we had a regular job and a second-hand car and my dream of a green retreat of my own seemed possible. For the first time in many years, my husband and I were free to roam on Sundays and holidays, and we took to tripping with a vengeance—but never without a purpose! We made a plan for "Yami's Paradise" (named for my mother who could never be without flowers) and every trip brought back its yield—on double holidays we went to the mountains and hauled home flagstones for the walks; on annual vacations we went to the woods, making excursions with friends who kept their eyes open for seeding times for certain native Lilies which now proudly lift their lovely heads in my once-depraved sideyard; we gathered rocks, mosses, ferns and each one went into its appointed place as if it had come home to live.

## Begonia Book Author Visits . .

Handsomest of all was the hanging basket of Marjory Daw, with rich green leaves and scarlet flowers, flanked on each side by huge baskets of *Foliosa*, full of white flowers and orange buds. I dare not tell you how large they were—you wouldn't believe me!

—BESSIE R. BUXTON.

My idea was to make a wall garden, and we used the shed wall for one side and built the other walls out of any old lumber which would serve, roofing the whole with the same kind of used bags which had served so well in the propagating shed.

*Reprinted from "The Flower Grower"*

(To be continued in the June Begonia)

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## Rex Begonias

(Continued from Page 69)

like the darkness.

With a little care and a lot of patience you should get a plant from every cut on the leaf and stem. These are called strikes.

It takes from two to three months from time of planting for plants to be ready for their first pots. Use small pots at this time.

### LEAF CUTTINGS

This is the method used by most commercial growers. Cut the leaf in wedge-shaped pieces with the point of the wedge just below the vein junction and insert in bed or flat of leaf mold about one-half inch. Do not plant these straight up but at a slight angle as the small plants come from the bottom part of the wedge.

Do not allow these to become too wet.

### PROPAGATION BY SEED

Propagation by seed is the only way to obtain new varieties.

Use a mixture of three-fourths leaf mold and one-fourth sharp sand.

Fill flat or seed pan three-fourths full of coarse mixture for drainage. Screen through fine screen enough of mixture to fill flat or pan. Press down firmly.

Place in a pan of water soaking from the bottom until moisture reaches top of flat. Remove from pan of water.

Sow the seed on top but do not cover with soil.

Cover the flat with a piece of glass and place a piece of paper over the glass to keep out light as seeds germinate faster in the dark.

As soon as germination begins, remove paper and gradually bring to the light. This keeps the seedlings from getting lanky and weak.

When seedlings have three or more leaves transplant to another flat placing seedlings

about an inch apart. Leave them there until ready to pot.

### FORCE TOP GROWTH

In potting Rex begonias do not use too large a pot as they like to be pot bound. This has a tendency to force the growth to the top. When plants get too large for the pots they are in, shift to next size pot.

Use good leaf mold for potting with a little sharp sand if you wish to make the soil more porous.

Keep the hole at bottom of pot open for good drainage, using piece of copper screen or broken crockery over the hole.

These plants like lots of water in the summertime but do not want to stand in water. Twice a day watering may be necessary during hot days.

### USE STERILIZED POTS


Rex begonias are relatively free from disease but are an easy prey for slugs and snails which can be controlled by the use of the new and tried baits now on the market.

Rexes should be sprayed or dusted with arsenate of lead in the Spring to kill the small worms which hatch from eggs laid by butterflies and moths, most prevalent from March to May. Rex begonias respond to commercial fertilizers when used as directed.

● **Deadline on copy for the June Begonian is May 15th.**

● **Watch for an article on LEAF MOLD in an early edition of the Begonian.**

● **Tuberous begonias that have developed sprouts three inches long should be potted or planted out in the ground. Pinch off the buds on any that are further advanced, so the plant may develop more vigor before flowering.**



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**Tuesday, May 7, 7:30 P.M.**  
1433 E. 4th St., Long Beach.  
Mrs. Frank Graves, Sec'y.-Treasurer,  
651 Loma Avenue, Long Beach.

#### LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

**Thursday, May 9, 7:30 P.M.**  
Community Hall, 9th & Lime, Long Beach.  
Mace Taylor, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer,  
520 East Esther St., Long Beach.

#### THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BR.

**Tuesday, May 14, 8:00 P.M.**  
Coca-Cola Hall, Ventura.  
Mrs. Irene Van Fossen, Sec'y.-Treas.,  
349 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

### *The Picture on the Cover*

● **Camellia Francine** — This is a large, full-flowered peony type of unfading rose-pink color. The plants are of bushy habit and exceptionally vigorous, growing much faster than most camellias.

This variety does not drop its buds, so you can depend on it to produce flowers continually during flowering season from December to May. If you want a camellia of well-behaved habits plant this one. It will be your best garden investment.

The picture of Camellia Francine on the cover was furnished through the courtesy of Mr. Einar C. Matson, proprietor of Moore's Nursery in Inglewood, Calif.

#### MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

**Tuesday, May 14, 1:30 P.M.**  
Home of Mrs. J. Linden Heacock,  
County Line.  
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secretary,  
Willow Grove, Pa.

#### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

**Friday, May 17, 7:30 P.M.**  
El Monte High School.  
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,  
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

#### EAST BAY BRANCH

**Monday, May 27, 8:00 P.M.**  
City Hall Council Chambers, Grove St.,  
and Allston Way, Berkeley.  
R. L. Barnhard, Secretary,  
2419 Oregon St., Berkeley, Calif.

#### SYRACUSE BRANCH

For information write to  
Richard C. Atwood,  
1405 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, N. Y.

#### EASTERN BRANCH

For information write to  
Chas. I. Gould, Jr., Treasurer,  
East Street, Middleton, Mass.

- The next National Officer's Meeting will be held at the home of Clayton M. Kelly, 285 Park Avenue, Long Beach, 7:30 P.M., Thursday, May 16.



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