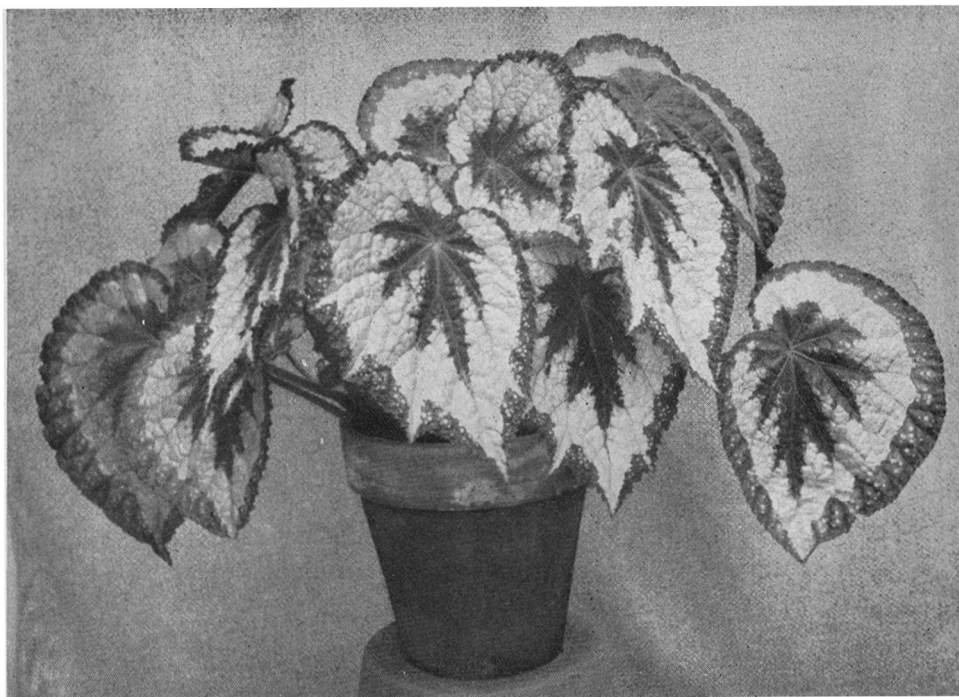


# *The* BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden



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# 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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HERE IT IS — the second edition of our Begonian for 1941. Is it up to par in your eye? Or have you neglected to put in that ad you had planned? It still isn't too late, you know.

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I am still pleading for interesting pictures, articles and comments. If the material is beneficial it will be published. Wouldn't it look nice to see your name in print? It's your magazine. Will you help make it interesting to others?

My main objective is to please you and I feel that this can be accomplished with your kind assistance.

—THE EDITOR.

# A Parable of the Begonia Sower

by ALFRED D. ROBINSON

**A**ND BEHOLD, the sower went forth to sow Begonia seed; some in clay pans, others in cigar boxes and yet others in tin cans; and they used many combinations of soil medium, peat, leaf mold, sand, charcoal, etc. Each one had a different technique. And lo! seed germinated in all the containers and yielded in plants; some ten, others fifty, and some one hundred per cent. The novice was bewildered as to how to proceed, sensing a greater promiscuity than even that practiced by the sower in The Biblical Parable of the Sower.

During my fifty years of seed sowing, I have tried the many methods given me and a lot I sort of invented. I have sifted and sterilized and invoked the help of the moon, and of late have put some trust in hormones and vitamins. I have quite a list of things not to do and I am well on the way back to fundamentals. Of these I place my faith in three; good seed, moisture and heat control. Today I have nice germination of some fifty kinds of Begonias in four soil mediums, but they are all under the same moisture and heat control.

Two years ago I adopted the electric coil as the heating agent, largely because the oil lamps were a nuisance and messy and gave an uneven heat. The coil had this last draw-back, uneven heat also, when the seed pan, or "what-have-you" was placed directly on the gravel in which the coil was buried, both had a tendency to dry out the pans from the bottom. This year, judged by progress thus far, this drying tendency has been overcome by a shallow galvanized pan filling the whole frame, with a wooden rack on which the seed pans sit and about half an inch of water in the pan. Apparently this has equalized the heat and preserved an even moist atmosphere. Up to a year ago I wore myself out carrying the seed pans the length of the house, 30 feet, to a small dipping pan. Then my old dogs whined a protest. I had made my first galvanized pan as large as my seed frame and put it where I could move the pans from the frame to the water without taking a step simply by reaching across a narrow passage. The seed

frame is shallow, 8 inches in front and 12 inches in the back, and is covered with glass that can be easily removed. The glass is white washed, obviating the placing of glass and paper over each pan. Apparently darkness is not necessary, but the light should not be too strong for good germination. I have suffered much from the paper and individual glass methods and often experienced disaster from not removing them in time. Every day the glass is taken off to give full ventilation and left off so long as temperature holds up above the minimum of 60 degrees. A higher temperature will give quicker germination and faster growth, but there is danger in this.

I recognize that this sets forth a larger program than is generally desired, but the principals are the same and boiled down to my three fundamentals; good seed, moisture and heat control. It also applies to the so-called winter months, as later in the year the problem in Southern California can easily be—how to keep the seed cool enough.

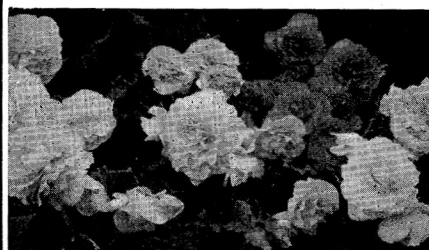
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# BEGONIA BAUMANNI

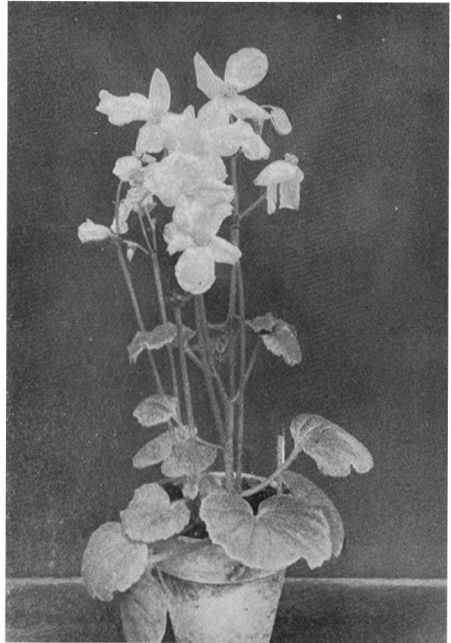
by RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE, Director of Nomenclature

**B**EGONIA BAUMANNI, Lemoine, is a native of the moist valleys in the Eastern Andes of Central Bolivia. Dr. Sace, a resident of Cochibamba, Bolivia, sent seeds to Mr. N. E. Baumann of Bollwiller. Mr. Baumann sold the plants he grew from these seeds to Victor Lemoine and Fils of Nancy, France, who placed it on the market in 1892. Lemoine described the plant and named it in honor of Mr. Baumann in *Gartenflora*, vol. XI. (1891) p. 47.

*Begonia Baumanni* is a tuberous begonia and is cultivated in the same manner as the tuberous begonia hybrids (see "Tuberous Begonia Cultural Bulletin" A.B.S.). This plant is usually propagated by seed, but stem cuttings and divisions of the tuber may also be employed. In the wild state the tubers have attained the size of an ostrich egg, and as much as a pound in weight. Cattle of South America are said to eat these tubers. On page 235 in "Die Begonien" by Karl Albert Fotsch, an analysis is given of a tuber weighing 12½ ounces as follows: 1.27 ounces rind and 10: 85 ounces pulp. In 3.5 ounces of this pulp, .00735 ounce was albumen, .05635 ounce starch, .00665 ounce sugar, .0112 ounce citrate lime, .2282 ounce cellulose, .11515 ounce ash, .14455 ounce other substances and 2.93055 ounces water.

*Begonia Baumanni* was used in hybridizing as soon as it entered cultivation. Dr. Sace, from whom Baumann received his seed, described this Begonia in 1866 in the "Revue Horticole" under the title of Begonia of Cochibamba, stating that it grew in abundance in the humid valley, giving off the fragrance of the tea-rose, which the wind carried into the valleys, scenting them most delightfully."

Hybridizers were anxious to produce this fragrance in the tuberous begonia hybrids. In 1892 Victor Lemoine crossed Baumann



*Begonia Baumanni* — Life Size 12 Inches

with the tuberous begonia hybrids to produce rose-colored and fragrant single flowers. In this year he also produced B. x *Excelsior*, Lemoine (B. *Baumanni* x B. *Veitchi*). The flowers are coral red. In 1893 the variety B. x *Excelsior compacto* appeared which was single and fragrant. In 1894 appeared B. x *Pioneer Hort.* (B. *Baumanni* x B. *gigantea*) with large, single, red carmine, fragrant flowers. In 1895 Mr. Farini produced both single and double fragrant tuberous begonias by crossing B. *Baumanni* with the double tuberous hybrid Begonias. At the present time "Begonia Brown's Fragrance", a strain of Baumann selected for fragrance at the Brown Bulb Ranch, Capitola, wholesale grower, is now on the market.

Mr. Leslie Woodriff of Inglewood and the author have independently crossed Baumann with the University of California plant numbered 1041 with very good results. The plants produce clusters of bright pink, fragrant flowers, on long stems. They are excellent for pot culture or bedding in the open ground. Mr. Woodriff has named this plant "Wild Rose."

Mrs. Elsie Frey, President of the Santa Barbara Branch of the A.B.S. has just pro-

(Please Turn to Page 27)

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# A PLEA FOR LEAF MOULD

by CLARENCE A. HALL



STRANGE as it may seem, the soil is not "just dead dirt" as many people suppose; it is teeming with life and pulsing with activity. It is a quarry in which Nature is continually splitting rocks; a mortar in which she is perpetually grinding them; a theatre upon whose vast stage untold quintillions of microscopic creatures make their entrances, play their parts and take their exist; a cemetery in which these beings return to the dust from which they sprang; a chemical laboratory in which Nature reduces complex substances to simpler ones; a larder from whose stores all plants draw their mineral food and drink, upon which all animal life, at least upon land, depends directly or indirectly for existence.

The above, which appeared in a recent issue of the Flower Grower, gives a very beautiful picture of what goes to make up the soil. The article by Mr. A. A. Longmire, published in the December, 1940 Begonian, gives us another view of the constituents that go to make up the soil that is used for the growing of our begonias.

The soil we are most interested in, is one of acid content, one that is readily adaptable to most plants, and one that will produce fine specimens and blossoms. Incorrect soil mixture appears to be the most prevalent reason for non-success in raising begonias, therefore, I make this plea for **Leaf Mould**.

It seems that no two growers use exactly the same composition, but all are agreed that the soil has to be on the acid side. My own experience shows that oak leaf mould is the one fool-proof soil for any begonia and practically all shade-loving plants. It is my contention that the maximum of success is

obtained by using leaf mould and leaf mould alone.

The use of leaf mould as a potting or bedding soil, is the one certain method that requires no experimentation. There is no hit or miss system about it, and that should be sufficient to warrant its use.

In a forty foot lath house exposed entirely on the north and a wall garden on the south is a bed composed of pure leaf mould, with just a little sand and cow fertilizer added. In this grow luxuriant specimens of fibrous and tuberous begonias, coleus, ferns, streptocarpus and impatiens. Seedling tuberous, produced a crop of four inch tubers. Coleus held over from the previous year had immense leaves and were far more vividly colored than before. The impatiens grow rank. A fuchsoides is ten feet tall and the ferns love leaf mould also.

I realize that the theory of using leaf mould entirely will bring forth argument for and against. I have heard Mr. A. D. Robinson state that we are all somewhat too prone to favor leaf mould. However, experience gives justification to the contention that oak leaf mould is the surest and most fool-proof soil for use of rex, fibrous and allied shade plants.

## Parent Branch Has Anniversary Party

• On January 9th the Parent Branch entertained guests and members at their 8th anniversary party.

The high-light of the evening was a presentation of the past presidents. Each past officer lighted a candle on the huge cake and gave a brief resume.

There was a grand exhibit of Fibrous begonias, which was enjoyed immensely by all.

After the program the old and new members were requested by the President, Mr. O. P. Palstine, to get together for a good old-fashioned chat.

The party was a huge success.

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# ACHIMENES AND THEIR GROWING HABITS

by RUBY LIEDLER



ACHIMENES (Greek; meaning to suffer from cold) are greenhouse herbs allied to gloxinias. They are native to tropical America and grown for blooming in the late Spring and Summer. There are about forty species.

The garden achimenes are much confused by hybridization, and it is doubtful whether any of the pure species are in general cultivation in this country. Some of the best garden forms of today are *A. longiflora*, purplish blue, *A. longiflora alba maxima*, white and *A. patens major*, a large flower of purplish rose.

The rhizomes of *Achimenes* should be removed from the pots or baskets, when all the leaves have died back (about December or January). Spread out thinly in boxes 3 inches deep, with a light open mixture of leaf mould and sand to start them, or place directly in 2½ inch pots provided with good drainage. Place in a moist house in a temperature of 60 to 70 degrees F. and water sparingly until the young growth appear. When about 2 inches high they should be lifted from the boxes with the material that is attached to the roots and potted in 5 or 6 inch pots or wire hanging baskets, spacing them equally. Use some 10 to 15 growths for each pot or basket. The potting soil should be rich in humus and of a very open porous nature, consisting of equal parts of loam, leaf mould and sand.

All the rhizomatous form of *Achimenes* are shallow-rooting, so there is no advantage in using large or deep pots. If they are put in the wire hanging baskets and left in them, from one year to the next, they will come through all around with blooms covering the basket.

*Achimenes* should be kept shaded from the direct hot sun, as it will burn the leaves and flowers.

When the plants are 6 or 8 inches high, one should start feeding with a weak liquid manure, continuing regularly until the plants show sign of exhaustion after flowering. They should be kept moist at all times, until the flowering season is over. Reduce the water supply until the plants die down. They may be left in the soil until spring, or taken entirely out. Mix them up in a box of sand and keep them entirely dry, in a shed which does not fall below a temperature of 45 degrees F.

Propagation is readily effected by means of the rhizomes. Each of these may be used for forming one or many plants. Cuttings of any of the sorts root readily in a moist warm house in the Summer. Every node may be used for stock and the parts may be inserted without removing the leaves. All the members of the genus, including the numerous garden forms, are of the easiest possible culture. There are few greenhouse plants that will furnish such a display of flowers at such a little cost, in time and attention.

## Mr. Frank Reinelt to Visit Long Beach

• Mr. Frank Reinelt of Capitola, well-known authority on Tuberous Begonias, will be the speaker at a joint meeting of the three Long Beach Branches on Friday, March 14.

Mr. Reinelt has gained world-wide fame as one of the foremost growers of Tuberous Begonias. The Long Beach Branches consider themselves very fortunate in obtaining a speaker of Mr. Reinelt's ability and wish at this time to extend a cordial invitation to all members to share their good fortune.

Notification of the meeting place will be announced in the March issue.

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# SUITABLE PLANTS FOR THE LATHHOUSE

by A. A. LONGMIRE



IN PLANTING the shade house and rockery, one must make a mental blueprint of what the finished work is to be and at all times work in that given line. There will be some outstanding plants that should be planted and from these plants the planting can be performed to keep a perfect balance.

Using plenty of Rex Begonias in the 10 and 12 inch wall buckets, plant some Rex Begonias among the rocks along with the fibrous begonias. Keep in mind the evergreen ferns because they break up the stiffness of the begonias. Use *Pteris Victoriae*, *Pteris Cretica* Var. *Albo Cineata* and *Pteris Argyraea*. These three ferns have silvery markings and will lighten up dark places and break up too much greenery. There are many kinds of plants that have forms of variegations, some white, others yellow or red. They should be used, but try to place them so that no two variegated plants will be planted side by side. Plant some bright colored Rex begonias in between. I do not call the Rex Begonia colors, a variegation. There are a few grasses that can be used, *Carex Japonica Variegata* and *Panicum Variegata* which are a vineing grass and can be used planted in the wall or in baskets.

Also, place some moss on the posts supporting the lath house. There are plenty of hardy orchids that can be planted in wall baskets or planted direct in the moss. There are several kind of *Epidendrons*, *Orchids*; the most common being *Epidendrum Radicans* and *Epidendrum Oprinii*. The *Laelia Anceps* is a cold house orchid and makes splendid flowers for cutting. *Graptophyllum pictum* is a fine basket vine with markings in the leaves. *Hemigraphis colorata* is another good basket vine and makes a splendid show. *Cissus Tricolor* is of the grape order but has fine foliage and can be used in the lath house through the summer. *Curculigo* is a grass-like plant growing 3 feet high and it has plaited leaves like a palm seedling, and it produces a splendid effect. *Dioscorea Discolor* is a vineing potato that has large heart shaped leaves and three-tone colored leaves. *Selaginella Uncinata* is a club moss and a good trailer of true peacock-blue with iridescent leafy fronds.

*Fatsia Japonica* or *Aralia Sieboldii*, Var. *Variegata* makes a good shade plant. There

are possibly six varieties of *Polyscias* which are very close to the *Aralias* or *Fatsias*, all having fine variegated leaves, and are splendid subjects for the shade. *Dizygotheca Elegantissima* and *Dizygotheca Gracillima* and *Elaeodendron Chabrieri* are other *Aralia*-like plants and should be used. A splendid fern is *Polypodium Vaccinifolium* and is a vineing subject and can be worked flat on the wall or covering rocks. *Xanthosoma Bataviensis* or *xanthosoma Sagittifolium* are bulb plants like the *Colocasia* or *Elephant Ear* and have large tropical foliage. *Scindapsus Aureus* is a fine vine with heart-shaped leaves, marbled with yellow, and will cling and make roots in the moss wall. *Lygodium Scandens* is a climbing fern and can be placed to make a splendid effect by giving it some material to climb on.

Along the water ways, the variegated German Iris or *Acorus variegata* can be planted to a good advantage. Maiden hair ferns can be used with them. It is difficult to find plants that are satisfactory flowering subjects in the dark shade of the begonia house. One must use plenty of highly colored or variegated plants to take the place of flowers. Fancy leaved *Caladiums*, *Cyclamen*, *Streptocarpus* and *Primula* pot grown and plunged to the pot brims among the ferns is very good. Tuberous Begonias and *Gloxinias* can be treated the same. A beauty for its metallic purple leaves is *Strobilanthes Dyerianus*. *Acalypha Macafeana* has a splendid coppery red leaf. *Farfuga Argentea* has large white spots in the foliage. *Dracaenas* have some bright colors in red, yellow and white variegations. *Pandanus* gives plenty of white variegation. The variegated Pineapple has three colors—red, yellow and green, and is a beautiful plant to look at, and all will admire it. The *Maranta*, of which there are many—and all

(Please Turn to Page 29)

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# A HOUSE-PLANT WHICH PROPAGATES ITSELF

by E. J. ALEXANDER

**P**ICKABACK" the New York florists call it, and indeed the new plants do ride "piggy-back" on the old leaves of *TOLMIEA MENZIESII*, a species which is enjoying increasing popularity as a house-plant, a purpose for which it is eminently suited. Some growers call it "Youth-on-Age." It is quite capable of enduring the dry air conditions of living rooms, to say nothing of dust and other air impurities, asking only to be well-watered and kept out of strong sunlight. That these would be its requirements is not surprising, for it is native along mountain streams and in shady woods of the Pacific Coast region from northern California to southern Alaska, one of the heaviest rainfall areas of North America.

*Tolmiea* was given its generic name to honor Dr. William Fraser Tolmie, medical officer of the Hudson's Bay Co., at Fort Vancouver, Puget Sound, in 1832 and after Dr. Tolmie was also a botanical collector, and one whose name is always associated with the flora of the northwest coast of

North America. *Tolmiea* receives its specific name *MENZIESII* in honor of the man who first collected it, Doctor Archibald Menzies, physician, surgeon, and one of the foremost botanists of his day, who accompanied Captain Vancouver on the voyage of the "Discovery" in the 1790's.

Dr. Menzies first collected the plant on Banks Island, off the coast of British Columbia. It was first called *TIARELLA MENZIESII*, then the name was changed to *HEUCHERA MENZIESII*, then to *LEPTAXIS MENZIESII*, and finally to *TOLMIEA MENZIESII*. Since it represents a distinct genus, the name *LEPTAXIS* is its oldest and rightful generic name, but the "powers" who made the International Rules of Botany have decreed that its younger name of *TOLMIEA* shall be its legal name, a not altogether unpraiseworthy decision, as it associates the name of *TOLMIE* with a plant from the region where his name is best associated.

(Continued on Next Page)

*Illustrations of Tolmiea Menziesii and permission to re-print article on Tolmiea Menziesii was granted thru the courtesy of the Journal of the New York Botanical Garden and Miss Carol H. Woodward, editor.*





# Glendale Reports

• After a brief respite from activities during the holidays, the new Glendale Branch met at the Sparr Heights Community Center on January 20, when the co-chairmen of the Program Committee, Dr. and Mrs. Young, fulfilled their promise by presenting as speaker National President Herbert P. Dyckman. President Dyckman gave a very interesting talk on the culture of Begonias, generously keeping in mind the fact that many of the members present, though well versed in other phases of floriculture, are novices in the Royal Hobby.

President Farwell introduced the new Committee Chairmen and announced plans for a membership drive. This drive will take the form of a contest between Team 1 headed by Mrs. Ethel Wagner, Membership Chairman, and Team 2 captained by Wm. Ross, the Assistant Chairman. The challenge was immediately accepted and the attack began, the various participants advancing upon Treasurer Winans with names of new members already obtained. When the meeting adjourned the membership had already passed the 70 mark, your reporter being unable to get near enough to Mr. Winans to obtain the exact count.

At our next meeting on February 17, Mr. Leslie Woodruff of Inglewood expects to be with us, and anyone who has heard Mr. Woodruff speak will not care to miss this.

—JESSIE ANN POOLE.

# House-Plant...

(Continued From Preceding Page)

One of the most interesting things about the plant is its method of vegetative propagation. An adventitious bud is present at the junction of the leafstem and the leafblade, and from this bud a new plant grows even while the leaf is still attached and in full health. Under wild conditions the bud rarely develops into a plant until the leaf has decayed or become separated from the parent plant. The plant, however, flowers and sets seed freely in the wild, but under cultivated conditions it rarely flowers and so the adventitious buds develop into plants while the leaves are still attached. A plant in normal health is usually to be seen with young plants on many of its mature leaves. These young plants, however, will not form roots unless the leaf on which they are present is detached and placed on the soil under moist conditions. The flowers are borne in a raceme upon the terminal portion of a leafybracted stem eighteen inches to two feet tall. They are tubular in shape, nodding, purplish and green in color, and most unattractive. In the wild young plants also arise from the axils of the leaves of the flower-stem.

# A.B.S. Welcomes Hollywood Baby

• On January 8, 1941, the Hollywood Branch became a reality.

Our National President, Mr. H. P. Dyckman, was on hand to welcome and assist in organizing our sixteenth branch.

The following officers were elected:

- Mr. C. M. Hines.....President
- Mr. W. M. Hawkins.....Vice-President
- Dr. Drummond.....Treasurer
- Mrs. Helen Ehret.....Secretary
- Mr. H. C. Baake.....Natl. Representative

The next meeting will be February 12th at the regular meeting place, 9315 Doheny Road, Beverly Hills. The speaker will be Mr. H. C. Baake of West Los Angeles.

The visitors from Glendale were Dr. and Mrs. Farwell, Mrs. Marek, and Mrs. Poole.

Inglewood was represented by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Woodruff, and Long Beach by Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Dyckman and Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Taylor.

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# BEGONIA SUTHERLANDII

by RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE,  
Director of Nomenclature



**BEGONIA SUTHERLANDII**, Hook fil. (the younger), was, according to botanical priority, found in Natal, South Africa, in 1865, by Dr. Sutherland, Surveyor General, who sent it to England, where it bloomed for the first time in cultivation under official botanical observation in the summer of 1867, with Messrs. Backhouse, in York.

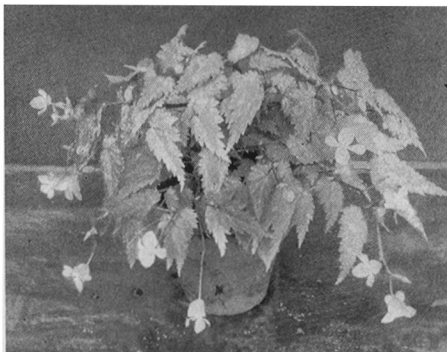
Johnson's Gardeners' Dictionary and Cultural Instructor, edited by J. Fraser and A. Hemsley in 1917, lists Sutherlandii as having been introduced into England in 1862, and it is definitely known to have been used to produce Weltoniensis, Clarke, in 1864.

Mrs. Bessie Buxton, in her *Begonias*, states that *B. Sutherlandii* was found "by Dr. Sutherland in damp, shady places near the top of the Drakensburg at an altitude of 3500-5000 feet, where it blooms from December to February."

*B. Sutherlandii*, being tuberous, is grown in the same manner as the hybrid tuberous begonias. (See tuberous begonia cultural bulletin.) It is an excellent pot plant, and may be used in a hanging basket. *B. Sutherlandii* may also be planted directly out in the ground under trees and the tuber need not be lifted in the winter in the southern regions where the climate is mild. However, if soil pests are present, it is advisable to lift and store the tuber during the winter.

The plants often attain a large size; the largest one having been seen by the author is on Mr. Fred Jackson's estate in Santa Barbara. This plant was two feet tall and three feet in diameter; the tuber was about eight inches in diameter.

*Sutherlandii* may be propagated by seed, cuttings or, most easily, by the bulbils which are produced in the leaf axils of the stem. The bulbils are gathered after they become loose or fall from the dying stems. In the spring the bulbils may be placed in flats, and the plants later set out in the open ground or potted. Great variations in the plants are observed when they are raised from seed.



*B. Sutherlandii*, Hook fil., was used by Major Clarke in Cambridge to cross with *B. Dregei* Otto et Dietr. to produce the lovely *B. Weltoniensis*, Clarke. He also crossed *B. Richardsii* and *Sutherlandii* to produce a pretty plant which, however, was inferior to *Weltoniensis*. Leslie Woodruff of Inglewood, California, produced a lovely, vigorous evergreen basket plant, with bright pink flowers, by crossing *Sutherlandii* with *Corallina* x *Lurcerne*. The leaves of this plant are similar to *Sutherlandii*. Mr. Woodruff is also working with several other *Sutherlandii* hybrids.

Botanically, *B. Sutherlandii*, Hook fil., belongs to section *Augustia* (Kl.) along with *B. Dregei* Otto et Dietrich, *Natalensis*, Hook. and *suffruticosa*, (Meissner).

While *Sutherlandii* is not rare in the true sense, it is not seen as often as it should be.

**Description:** Root, tuberous; Stem, 1-2 feet high, thin, well-branched, bright red purple color. In the late summer or fall little wart-like growths appear in the leaf axils and develop into bulbils. Leafstem, red, thin, 2-3 inches long. Stipules, twice as long as wide at the base, tapering to a short point, red. Leaves: narrow and long (3-6 inches); margin, lobed and saw-toothed, reddish; upper side, bright green, with a few scattered hairs; under side pale green; veins on both sides red. Flower stem: produced from the upper leaf axils, slender, red, long. Flowers: about an inch in diameter, orange; males, 4 petaled, two vertical ones almost round, horizontal ones narrower; stamens numerous; anthers oblong; females, 5 petaled, three larger and two smaller; stigmas, 3, wide, short, once turned. Seed pod: large, free of hair, green with three reddish wings of about equal size; three celled; placenta, not divided, seeds produced on the outer sides.

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## Inglewood Branch to Have Guest Speaker

• The first meeting of 1941 welcomed incoming President Jones and his officers with a record attendance. A complete list of appointments will be given in the March Begonian.

We are proud to announce Dr. Bohart of U.C.L.A. as guest speaker February 7th. This will be a well worth while program and we anticipate your presence.

The Inglewood Branch takes this opportunity to wish success to its "baby" branches. While Long Beach is truly the parent branch we have "coddled" the members of the new Glendale and Hollywood Branches, and may their success be as great as ours has been in the past.

We look forward to a happy and prosperous New Year and extend this Greeting to you all!

—MRS. ALICE NICKLOW.

## Correction

• In the list of Inglewood officers published in last month's Begonian, the Vice-President's name, Mr. Tyler, was inadvertently misspelled. Also, the Executive Board Member is Mr. George McDowell of 11000 Burl St., Inglewood, and not as printed last month.

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## Baumanni...

(Continued From Page 20)

duced a beautiful trailing plant by crossing Baumanni with glaucophylla. Since I have been given the privilege of naming it, I have named it Begonia x Elsie M. Frey, in her honor. The leaves are very green and glossy; stems trailing with the tips erect. The flowers appear much like glaucophylla in shape and habit but they are of a deeper color than Baumanni, which is lilac or rose-red. A full description will appear in a future number.

Botanically Baumanni belongs to Section Huszia, A. DC along with Begonias octopetala, rubricaulis, and cinnabariana.

Description: Root tuberous, skin smooth, shiny and yellow-brown. Stem, succulent, thick, round, slightly hairy, and rose-red; height to 1½ feet. Leafstem, rose-red, succulent, thick, 4-6 inches long. Leaf, kidney-shaped, wider than long, fleshy, wavy; edge, double notched, few hairs; upper side bright green, palmately veined, few scattered hairs; under side paler green, sometimes with a red tinge, hair on the veins. Inflorescence from the leaf axils. Flowerstems very long, rose-red, hairy. Flowers very large, sometimes up to 4 inches, lilac-rose or rose-red, somewhat nodding, 1-4 flowers on a stem, some very sweet-scented (fragrance varies in seedlings); males, about 3 inches in diameter, 4 petaled, of about equal length with the two vertical ones wider; stamens numerous, in a mass, anthers inverted egg-shaped, filaments short and not united; females about 2½ inches in diameter; petals 5, unequal in size and shape; stigmas 3, wavy but not twisted, short stigma papalae only along the upper edge. Seedpod fleshy, green, hairy, with three fleshy wings of which one is longer, three celled, placenta divided with seed produced on both sides of each segment.

## Mr. Dyckman Talks Over Radio

• Mr. Dyckman will be guest speaker on Mike Planter's program at the KMPC radio station.

Tune in at 10:45 A.M., Sunday the 9th.

His subject will be questions and answers pertaining to Begonias.

### **GREEN TREE FLOWER GARDENS**

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**From  
The  
Editor's  
Mail  
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● From Rockville, Maryland: "Have received much help and information from the bulletins during the past five years. I really could not do without them."

\* \* \*

● From Hollywood, Calif: "I am enjoying the publication more than I can tell you. As to my success in growing begonias, perhaps the least said the better. However, I enjoy what I do have and appreciate the success of others."

\* \* \*

● From New Rochelle, New York: "I have enjoyed growing the seeds sent out during the last two years, more than anything else I have done. But, there is more than an "Arm Chair" to it."

\* \* \*

● From Hawthorne, Calif: "Although I am not able to attend any of the meetings, I like to keep in touch with the Begonia Society through the bulletin. My very best wishes for the continued success of the American Begonia Society."

\* \* \*

● The editor feels that the members should know that our President, Mr. Dyckman, edited the January issue. Don't you think he is deserving of much credit.

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● From Oklahoma City, Okla.: "I most certainly enjoy reading and re-reading the "Begonian." There are so many wonderful articles in your magazine, written by laymen for laymen, and with such whole-hearted contributors to your columns."

\* \* \*

● From Oroville, Calif.: "I am more than ever interested in Begonias, after two years as a member of the society. I was the only member within a radius of 50 miles until a few months ago. I have secured two members and hope to get more.

On Thursday of next week I am to be guest speaker at a garden club, when I shall tell what I've gleaned from experience and from the publications on begonias.

Here's hoping I may assist in bringing a new branch to the Society before the year passes.

\* \* \*

● From Lynn, Mass.: "Your magazine is tops, but I have one complaint to make. It seems as though the New Englanders are left out as far as your information on the culture of Begonias go. All your suggestions seem to cover the country in and around California. What is done out there could never be done here and we feel lucky, if one is fortunate enough to pull a few begonias through each winter. Of course, the good old New England weather is quite changeable.

I will say once again, that your magazine is O.K. Keep it up."

\* \* \*

● From Fresno, Calif.: "We have enjoyed the Begonian for the past year and marvel at its improvements.

We wish we lived nearer so we could attend your meetings. However, we enjoy reading about them in the magazine."

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J. N. NUTTER, Treasurer

1050 E. 19th St. Long Beach, Calif.

● When answerings ads, don't forget to mention The BEGONIAN.

# Plants For Lathhouse

(Continued From Page 23)

of them are good, must be planted in plenty of leaf and peat soil.

If the space is large enough plant a bird-nest fern—they are splendid subjects. A few of the Elk Horn variety, mounted on a block of bark and placed against the wall will give a pleasing effect. Many Polypodes Ferns can be used in the planting or in baskets. *Ruellia Makoyana* and *Ruellia Devosiana* gives flowers which are showy and also fine silver-marked foliage. *Schizocentron Rosea* is a fine pink flowering vine, for the wall. They like to be planted in pure peat. Wandering Jew vines fill up the vacant places between the baskets on the wall and there are many different colored leaves in the family. Variegated Ground Ivy is a splendid cover. The variegated *Sedum* or the flue leaf types are fine for the rockery. *Billbergias*, *Tillandsia*, or any of the family *Bromeliaceae* are fine planted in the moss wall. They do not need any soil to grow in. Photos, *Philodendrons*, *Nephtytis* and *Syngonium*, are fine vines of the Arum family. *Colocacia* have some very good leaf markings and produce a tropical effect. *Anthericum*s have fine variegation and can be used on the wall as well as in the rockery.

*Selaginella Martensii* is the best green club moss for ground cover. There is also a golden form, others with variegation and one having a metallic blue coloring. I do not like the use of *Helxine* as it becomes a pest. *Arenaria Balearica* is an extra fine cover between the flag stones. *Mentha Requienii* is a splendid mint to use as a ground cover and it grows much like *Helxine*. Plant a few lilly bulbs in the rockery. And most any kind of small bulbs can be planted direct in the moss wall. *Oxalis* bulbs make a nice effect coming out of the moss wall. A good flowering annual is *Schizanthus*. *Primula* and *Achemines* like shade and have a large range of color. The plants one has to select from are many and too much to put into a few pages. I have used only a few, but all are splendid when properly placed, so try to work out your planting chart.

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# A Few Hints For February

by H. P. DYCKMAN, National President

• This is the time to look your tubers over, as they should start to sprout now or very shortly.

Fix a flat of oak leaf mould or fibrous peat and insert the tuber half-way. When they have grown four inches high, put them in pots large enough so it will not be necessary to repot them.

Potting soil can be straight oak leaf mould. Water very lightly until they are well along on the start to blooming. Feed them a good liquid fertilizer once or twice a month.

Look over your other plants. Remove old wood from the fibrous rooted plants, also bad or dead leaves from rexes.

Your plants in the lath-house should not be fed until March or April.

## Another S.O.S.

• We are highly gratified but far from satisfied. The *Begonian* must make still greater progress, both in size and in quality. This requires more money, which means that we must either increase the dues or enlarge our membership. I am opposed to increasing the dues.

You sent in 703 new members last year. We want at least 1500 new ones for 1941. You have responded promptly and cheerfully, every time we have asked you for anything. Do not fail us now, and we shall go over the top. Just show your copies of the *Begonian* to your flower-loving friends, and do not discourage them if they wish to join.

—J. N. NUTTER, Treasurer.

## Notice, New Members

• The twelve numbers of the *Begonian* for 1940, including the beautiful Christmas number and a very good index, constitute Vol. VII. This volume should be in the library of every lover of begonias. As we go to press there are available just 25 complete copies of Volume VII, which may be had for \$1.00 a volume while they last. Several extra copies of the Christmas number are available at 10c each.

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YOUR**

1941		FEBRUARY						1941	
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23	24	25	26	27	28				

**MEETING  
DATES**

**HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH**

Tuesday, February 4, 7:30 P.M.  
250 East Home St., Long Beach  
Mrs. Anna Smith, Secy.-Treas.  
250 East Home St., Long Beach.

**NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH**

Thursday, February 20, 7:30 P.M.  
1644 East 55th Street  
H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.  
5675 Olive Ave., Long Beach.

**INGLEWOOD BRANCH**

Friday, February 7, 8:00 P.M.  
Woman's Club, 325 No. Hillcrest Blvd.  
Mrs. Rose Hescock, Secretary,  
4209 West 111th St., Inglewood.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

Friday, February 21, 7:30 P.M.  
Arcadia City Hall, Arcadia.  
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,  
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

**THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BR.**

Tuesday, February 11, 8:00 P.M.  
American Legion Hall,  
North California Street, Ventura.  
George Fitch, Secy.-Treas.  
70 South Hurst St., Ventura.

**EAST BAY BRANCH**

Monday, February 24, 7:30 P.M.  
Berkeley Council Chambers  
Geo. Pascoe, Secy.-Treas.,  
2125 McGee Ave., Berkeley.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

Wednesday, February 12, 8:00 P.M.  
1060 Francisco Street.  
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary.  
1575 - 31st Ave., San Francisco.

**MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH**

Tuesday, February 25, 7:30 P.M.  
Walnut Lawn, Willow Grove, Pa.  
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secretary,  
Willow Grove, Pa.

**HOLLYWOOD BRANCH**

Wednesday, February 12, 8:00 P.M.  
9315 Doheny Rd., Beverly Hills  
Mrs. Helen Ehret, Secretary.

**PHILADELPHIA & VICINITY BRANCH**

Sophia E. Whitaker, Secy.,  
5343 Greene St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

**LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH**

Thursday, February 13, 7:30 P.M.  
Community Hall, 9th & Lime, Long Beach.  
Mrs. Ethel G. Arbuckle, Secy.-Treas.  
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park.

**SYRACUSE BRANCH**

Richard C. Atwood, Secy.-Treas.  
1405 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, N. Y.

**GLENDALE BRANCH**

Monday, February 17, 8:00 P.M.  
Sparr Heights Community Center,  
3311 Downing Avenue, Glendale.  
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,  
709 Milford Ave., Phone Cltrus 17517.

**NEW ENGLAND BRANCH**

Secretary—Mrs. B. W. Skinner,  
Lynnfield, Mass.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 P.M.  
1595 East Valley Road, Montecito.  
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Secy.,  
246 No. Alamar Ave., Santa Barbara.

**Another PENNSYLVANIA Branch**

For information write to  
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.  
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

• Note:— Calendar listed according to meeting dates.



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