

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden



STREPTOCARPUS

The BEGONIAN

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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American Horticultural Society

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Don't Forget!!

• The Begonian goes to press on the 15th of the month. All dues are due and payable NOW if we want to receive the February number. Mail your dollars now and save your Secretary and the Editor a lot of unnecessary work.

Anniversary Meeting

• Thursday, January 9, 1941, 7:30 P.M., the Parent Branch will hold the ninth anniversary meeting. There will be slide pictures of New England and French Gardens, shown and lectured on by Miss Edna Blackwood. Miss Blackwood is an authority on this type of garden. Meeting place will be at Ninth and Lime Avenues, Long Beach. The public is invited and a large crowd is expected.

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BEGONIA x RICINIFOLIA

by RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE, Director of Nomenclature

BEGONIA x RICINIFOLIA, A. Dietr. (Castor-bean-leaved Begonia) is a hybrid between *B. heracleifolia* Cham. et Schldl. and *B. peponifolia* Vis. and was first described by A. Dietrich in *Allgemeine Gartenzeitung* xv (1847) page 282. It is said to have been produced in England.

B. x Ricinifolia, A. Dietr. is an excellent pot plant and is treasured by plant lovers and begonia fanciers. It is probably one of the oldest Begonia hybrids. Its large, bronzy-green leaves and lovely peduncles of rose-pink flowers make it very attractive and desirable plant.

As it is a rhizomatous plant, it is easily propagated by taking cuttings of the rhizome. Plants may also be raised from leaf cuttings if bottom heat is supplied.

Excellent results are obtained if the plant is handled as the other begonias. In repotting, care must be taken to place the growing tip of the plant as far as possible from the edge of the pot or all too soon the rhizome will "creep" over the edge of the pot as it grows along the sil. When sufficient food is available, lateral growth develops. In Southern California *ricinifolia* is planted directly in the ground in favorable positions and produce wonderful plants. The plants come into flower in winter and spring but occasionally specimens appear to bloom throughout the year.

B. x ricinifolia, A. Dietr. has been used in hybridizing and two varieties have thus been produced. Variety *gigantea odorata*, Hort, produced in Germany, is a hybrid between *B. ricinifolia* and *B. fulgens* X *B. Scharffiana* and was produced in 1905. It is very similar to *B. ricinifolia*, A. Dietr. but the flowers are fragrant. *B. ricinifolia* variety *rosea grandiflora* was produced in 1911 by crossing *B. Glorie de Lorraine* with *B. ricinifolia*. Its leaves are lighter and the flowers are larger and of a pale to brilliant rose. It blooms in December and January. I do not know whether these varieties are still in cultivation. Some persons say the *ricinifolia* in cultivation is fragrant.

Description: Stem a horizontal creeping rhizome, deep red with fair sized greenish spots. Stipules, which remain on the stem a long time, are about twice as long as the width at the base, tapering to a long point; green with whitish spots, smooth on the inner side, outer side with a tissue running lengthwise and at a right angle to the



Begonia x ricinifolia — Life size—4 feet

stipule; thicker near the base of the stipule and tapering to the stipule point by the ridge of the free edge running out into hairs along its length; scattered hairs cover the sides of the ridge and the stipule blade itself. Leaf stem rising vertically from the rhizome, thick, to two feet or more in length; light green with whitish-green oblong spots, marked red at the points where hairs are attached; hairs thin up and down, wide at the base horizontally, 4 to 5 times longer than the horizontal base width, red at the base at white at the tip. Hairs very much longer and thicker and closer together at the leaf end, forming a collar. Leaves: large, castor-bean shaped, one to two feet in diameter, slightly longer than wide, deeply cut on the inner side to the stem, 5-7 lobed, about one-third the distance to the leaf center, with a smaller lobe on each side of the larger lobes, margin toothed and hairy; upper side bronzy green, veins whitish near the leaf center and covered lengthwise with a row of white hairs, the ones closer to the center of the leaf covered with scattered short white hairs; under side reddish, covered with short, white hairs, veins much raised, light green, covered with long white hairs, with red base.

Flowerstem rising vertically from the leaf
(Please Turn to Page 6)

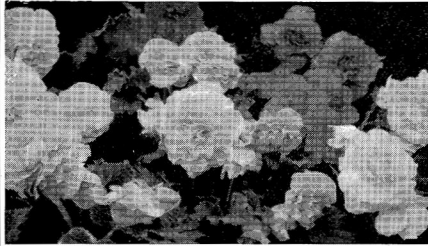
Ventura Notes

• The last meeting of the year of the Ventura Branch was held December 10th at the Coca Cola Hall. A large crowd was present to enjoy color slides by Mr. A. Longmire, a Christmas plant exchange and swell refreshments put up by the culinary-minded male members. Mr. Kemper, back from his trip to the East, presided and new officers for the coming year were voted on. They are the following:—

Mr. Clarence Hall.....President
 Mr. Marion Walker.....Vice-President
 Mr. George Fitch.....Secy.-Treas.
 Mr. Wm. Kemper.....Director-at-Large
 Mr. H. R. Van Delinder.....Director
 Mr. Gus Coleman.....Director
 Mrs. W. J. Knecht.....Director

We can joyfully state, that the past year was a very successful one, and that the club has grown to such an extent, that we are forced to leave for bigger quarters the coming year. The new meeting place will be in the American Legion Hall, North California Street, Ventura.

—WALTER J. KNECHT



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• A riot of color in Whitakers' Begonia Greenhouse, The Christmas Begonias and the new Winter Flowering Tuberos Begonias in full bloom, the Begonia **Abel Carriere** in all its beauty showing the beautiful silver leaves heavily flushed with purple, from which recently seed has been gathered, and some interesting seedlings may result, was the topic of the Begonia meeting of the Philadelphia and its vicinity Branch, December 9th. Mr. Whitaker told how to care for these Begonias which will be most helpful in prolonging the blooming period and bring greater joy during the Holiday season. Especially admired were the White Turnford Hall Begonias.

The Branch will meet January 13th, 12 P.M. at 5343 Greene Street, Germantown, Philadelphia, Pa.

Heavy Fan Mail

• The response to my request for the early renewal of your subscriptions to the Begonian has been very gratifying. I hope the rest of you will have at least one dollar to spare after paying your Christmas bills.

Postal regulations compel us to drop from our mailing list all who have not renewed by the time our next issue goes to press. In withdrawing several hundred names, we sometimes erroneously drop from the list one or two who have already paid. If this happens to you, and your February Begonian does not reach you by the 5th of the month, just drop me a postal card and I will send your copy to you by return mail.

I wish you all a very Happy New Year.

—J. N. NUTTER, Treas.

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A CONFESSION AND APOLOGY

by ALFRED D. ROBINSON

IN THE PAST, I have been guilty of a gross misrepresentation both in public speaking and private conversation involving the Begonia Socotrana, and the land of its nativity, Socotra. This island I have located in the Red Sea and proclaimed it one of the hottest and driest spots on earth but recently I was moved, perhaps by my subconscious mind, to look up this matter and here is the low-down or high-up on Socotra. It is an island in the Indian Ocean, 150 miles from the nearest point in Africa and 220 miles from Arabia and a mere 600 from the Red Sea. Quoting from my authority, "the surface consists for the most part of a tableland and low plains skirt the northern and southern shores. All the streams with the exception of a few rivulets are dry at a certain season; but rainwater is collected in reservoirs, and in most parts water can be obtained by digging a few feet below the surface. Owing to the somewhat unfertile character of the soil, most of the districts are more adapted for pasture than for agriculture, but grain, fruits and vegetables are grown in the eastern districts."

Another authority says: "There are several well wooded mountains rising to 4500

feet with fertile valleys between the ranges and belts of rich soil along the coast. The climate is moist and warm, but healthy."

I blushed when I read this and my face is still red. I withdraw all I have said about Socotra being the hottest and driest place on earth and the last place one would look for a Begonia. However, the situation has one redeeming feature from my view-point, there is no longer any excuse for quoting me as an authority.

Glendale Branch Formed

• With an enthusiastic attendance of close to ninety persons, a new branch took its initial bow at the Y.W.C.A. in Glendale, California, on the second of December. Mr. Frank Harrison, National President of the ABS, presided at the election and installation of the officers, and very graciously extended a helping hand to the newcomer, who proved to be a very husky youngster indeed, starting with a membership of 57. Of this number, thirty-five were new members in the ABS, and to these new members we wish to extend a hearty welcome. The officers elected were:

Dr. Gerald K. Farwell.....	President
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Begonia Garden

RAISING BEGONIAS FROM SEED



THIS IS the time of year to be thinking about planting your begonia seed. Raising begonias from seed is an exacting procedure, but not too difficult for any amateur. It is the only way in which new forms may be originated and is a most fascinating undertaking as new variations may almost always be looked for if a large number of seedlings are grown.

Full details for seed growing may be found in all the special bulletins of the Society, and these bulletins should be secured if the complete details are desired. However, the main steps of the process will be outlined for those who have not yet tried seed raising or do not yet have the bulletins.

Seed should be planted during the winter so that strong plants can be developed during the following summer. Soil should be prepared well in advance and should consist of leaf mold and sand, or any similar light soil mixture, slightly on the acid side. Use a shallow seed box and provide good drainage. Cover the top of the soil with a finely sifted $\frac{1}{8}$ inch layer of well decayed leaf mold. Set the box into a pan of water until thoroughly soaked, and then allow it to drain for a time.

Scatter the seed evenly over the seed bed, first mixing it with a little clean sand to secure uniform distribution. The seed box should then be covered with a piece of paper or cloth and finally with a sheet of glass. Put the seed box into a shaded, well ventilated place where it may be kept at a uniform temperature of from 65 to 70 degrees. The seed should germinate in from 5 to 20 days, and if the soil becomes dry it should be again watered from the bottom. Rain water, with a few drops of

chlorox, is best for watering.

When the seeds have sprouted remove the paper or cloth, and in four or five days remove the glass also. After the plants show their second or third leaves the individual plants should be pricked out and set an inch or so apart in another flat. When well established the plants may be set into a small pot, using a richer and coarser soil. Repot as the growth increases into slightly larger pots, using a richer soil with each repotting.

Ricinifolias

(Continued From Page 3)

axils, of medium thickness to 4 or more feet tall, green, covered with small narrow markings elongated vertically, hairs springing from these red markings. Flowers produced on much divided panicles. Flowers very numerous, small, pale rose or pink. Male flowers 2-petaled, almost round, bare on the inside, outside few pink hairs on the half closest to the stamens. Stamens yellow longer than the filaments, ends arranged and pointing upward in the manner of growth similar to a bunch of bananas. Female flowers 2-petaled, slightly longer than wide; few small red projections on back, stigmas 3, yellow, each divided, stigma papillae having one twist, style quite long, as long as the stigmas. Seed pod light green, with few scattered red hairs, wings pink, 3, one of which is much longer than the others, one and a half times longer than wide. Seedpod, 3-celled, placenta 2 divided, seeds produced on both sides.

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**From
The
Editor's
Mail
Box**



● From Ennis, Texas: "Have found so much helpful information in the *Begonian* concerning begonia culture and enjoy reading same. Appreciate the enlarged issues of the *Begonian* and wish you continued success."

● From Big Sir, Calif.: "Please let me take this opportunity to tell you how much benefit I derive, and how much pleasure it gives me to be a member. I wish you much success for the coming year."

● From Johnstown, Pa.: "A little magazine full of good suggestions for a begonia fan. I have been growing begonias for about nine years, but did not know of the society until last year, when I saw a notice in a catalogue."

● From Chattanooga, Tenn.: "I am so busy I hardly have time to read all I desire to but I think the magazine is getting better and better and I do think the articles describing some kind of begonia in each copy is a great thing—one does love to read about them and it is something instructive as to how to care for the different kinds, too."

● From Napa, Calif.: "I have kept every issue of the *Begonian* since I joined a year ago. A regular reference library! I have always liked begonias but my enthusiasm has increased during the last two years. First a lath house became necessary—then a glass house. I am gradually getting quite a collection of begonias of various kinds. My latest interest is growing them from seed—now that I have a really good place to try it. My glass house is automatically heated with electric cable (lead covered) of which I have 120 feet with thermostat control. We have a killing frost here so I move everything (from the lath house to the glass house) which is tender, then move it out again next Spring."

● From Enid, Okla.: "For two summers I tried my plants on the North porch, with only partial success in keeping them at all. Then under trees, with worse luck. In June, this year, I built my little cloth house, six by nine by twelve, of a cheese-cloth-like material. My troubles are over; it provides safety from winds, heat and bugs and gives them the precious humidity that begonias love. However, I found out almost immediately that one thickness was not sufficient so used two of the same material. I did not lose a plant through the summer where I had been losing as many as fifteen other summers. Also rooted cuttings almost 100%, putting them in the sandy, leaf soil directly in 2-inch pots."

● From Los Angeles, Calif.: "Your editor will be interested to know that I have spent many dollars for garden publications and the *Begonian* is the first paper I have ever filed for reference—and this from one whose sizeable lath house contains less than a dozen begonias—but I'm slipping! The few tips I've gathered from the *Begonian* and applied to other plants, especially potted plants, is worth many years subscription cost."

● From Ben Avon, Pa.: "I enjoy the magazine very much, and am so glad you are giving us pictures of different varieties, as they help a lot. The index is another fine feature, very well arranged."

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Herbert P. Dyckman Branch

• On December 3rd the Herbert P. Dyckman Branch met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Collins. Forty members and friends were present.

The Collins' home was beautifully decorated in the usual Holiday decorations, a very lovely Xmas tree and lighted candles. After a short business session the new officers were installed, and the rest of the evening was spent in watching a Puppet Show, and playing games, then an exchange of gifts and delicious refreshments, a GRAND time being had by all. The meeting then adjourned until the New Year.

The next meeting will be January 7th, at 730 P.M. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Liebman, 1642 East 65th Street, Long Beach, California.

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EPIPHYLLUM

1941 CATALOG—25c

A most complete descriptive line of select varieties, imports and 100 new seedlings, dealing with Epiphyllums. Well illustrated, booklet form, dealing with culture, soil, diseases, seeds, planting and grafting.....25c

Ventura

Epiphyllum Gardens

201 McFarlane Dr. Ventura, Cal.

BEGONIA HIRTELLA

by RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE,
Director of Nomenclature

BEGONIA HIRTELLA, Link (meaning slightly hairy or short-haired) was first named and described by Heinrich Friedrich Link, Director of the Botanical Garden in Berlin, in Enum. Hort. Berol. II (1822) page 396. It was not until 1849 that the plant entered cultivation when it was sent to the Berlin Botanical Garden by the collector Fredrich Sello from Brazil.

This plant has a very wide distribution, Brazil, Columbia, Peru and the Islands of Jamaica, Guadalupe and Martinique, which evidently explains why so many names have been applied to it. The following names are synonymous with *Begonia hirtella*, Link: *B. ciliata*, H. B. Kth; *B. villosa*, Lindley; *B. Bradila* A. DC.; *B. dasypoda*, Meissn.; and *B. humilis*, Duss (not Ait.).

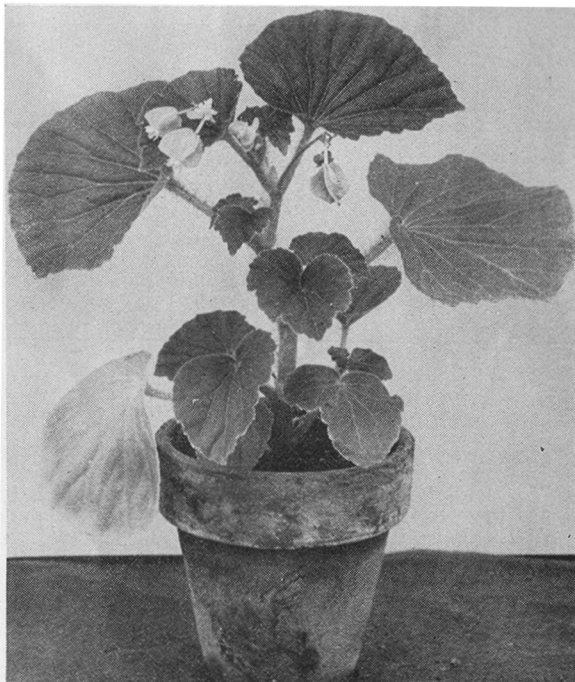
B. hirtella, Link, is seldom seen in cultivation since it is usually an annual, although occasionally it survives two years. The flowers are not large, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, so *B. hirtella* is usually a collector's item since it is not showy. It thrives under ordinary begonia culture methods setting seed freely. In mild climates or in a glass-house the seeds germinate readily when they

fall in favorable locations and the plants spring up in the pots of other potted plants or on the ground. It never becomes a weed since the plant is fibrous rooted and is easily pulled out. *Hirtella* may be very easily propagated by seed or stem cuttings.

This plant has not been used in hybridizing. Botanically *B. hirtella*, Link, belongs to Section *Begoniastrum* (A. DC.) to which *B. subvillosa*, Kl. belongs.

Description: Plant herbaceous annual, to two feet tall. Stem: fleshy, above, light green, silky, long, slightly curled, white hairs; below, light green with reddish bast fibers visible, few hairs. Leaf stem: about as long as the leaf, slightly grooved on the upper side, light green with a reddish tint given from the bast fibers within; numerous long, thin, slightly curled, white hairs; red area on the end near the leaf. Stipules persistent, thin, wide at the base, about twice as long as wide, silky, thin, white hairs along the edge. Leaf: slanting-heart-shaped tapering to a dull point, edge scalloped and wavy, with very small fine silky hairs; upper surface medium dark green, fairly well covered with short, fine, white hairs, hooked near their tops, area between the main veins

(Continued on Next Page)



Begonia hirtella—Life size—6 inches tall

First Prize to ABS Member

• The Santa Barbara Fall Flower Show was held in the Armory October 25, 26 and 27 with an attendance of 3000 people. It was a beautiful sight to see. With chrysanthemums of all kinds and colors predominating, even a curtain was made of Cascade Chrysanthemums for the stage.

Of course there were cut flowers and all kinds of potted plants in season including beautiful orchids. There were flower arrangements and fruit and vegetable displays.

There were a great number of beautiful begonias exhibited—rex, fibrous and tuberous. A good share of the begonias were exhibited by members of the ABS. One exhibit of begonias, twenty-five feet square, a collection of all types was entered by Mrs. W. B. Frey and won first prize and special award. Begonias in groups of six and singles took first and second prizes and special award by members also.

• **Your Secretary has your 1941 receipt ready. Your dues are due.**

BEGONIA HIRTELLA

(Continued From Preceding Page)

bulged up; underside light greenish-white, fine, silky, white, long hairs limited to the veins, red spot where leaf joins leaf stem. Flower stem from the leaf axils; green near the base, pinkish at flower end; covered with scattered, long, silky, curled hairs. Flowers quite plentiful. Male flowers appear first. They are small, being less than a half-inch in diameter, 4 petals white with greenish-white tips, the two vertical ones are almost round, the two horizontal ones are about three times as long as wide. Stamens yellow, anthers as long as the filaments. Female flowers about half an inch in diameter, petals 5, greenish-white, of equal size and shape. Stigmas yellow, 3 each divided into 2, each arm with two twists to the stigma papillae. Seedpod greenish, 1/2 inch long, 3 winged, one longer than the others, free of hairs; 3 small appendages (bracteoles) lie close to the outer walls of the seedpod between the wings and are affixed to the flower stem; they are oblong, about twice as long as wide; the margins are lined with long, thin, silky, white hairs. Seedpod has 3 cells; placenta divided, seeds produced on both sides of each arm.

De Candolle in his *Prodromus* lists a variety nona A. D.C. as being smaller and having fewer flowers.

Convention Message From Mr. Robinson

• Excerpts from a letter from Mr. Robinson which was read at the Convention in Ventura Nov. 2: "I have one thought I should like passed to the Convention and that is a suspicion that we Begonia fans are not giving our special plant all the chance that it should have to prove its worth. Is it not possible we are limiting rather than expanding its use? Let me illustrate.

"Year by year in our lathhouses we have allowed other plants to take more and more space excusing this by saying the begonias must have a rest, this is not their season. This is merely a reflection of my own practice.

"The result has been that never before at the end of October has Rosecroft had such an attractive showing at that late date, and it is all Begonias, and what is more the outlook is favorable for a continued display.

"In greeting the Convention I must express my hearty appreciation and admiration of the work done on the Begonian. I deem it one of the very best special plant organs, and look eagerly for its coming each month.

"I am with you in spirit and still electioneering for more Begonias all the year 'round."

Fresh STREPTOCARPUS Seed

Mixed: 50c

Choice Pot Plants for the Lathhouse

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Of Rare Begonias"*

Winter Flowering Hanging Basket Types

Booklet describing more than 225
Varieties of rare begonias—50 cents

IN DEFENSE OF THE STREPTOCARPUS

by ANNIE C. ROBINSON



IN THE December number of the Begonian, I was greatly surprised that the Streptocarpus was not mentioned in Mr. Kennedy's article on "Potted Plants for the Lathhouse;" then it occurred to me that there might be some growers of the shade-loving plants that have not yet made the acquaintance of this delightful plant, so I am sending a picture, which will show its form and habit of growth, but can in no way convey to you its exquisite beauty of coloring, texture, and the richness of its velvety leaves, dark green above and lighter green below. Some of the darker colored ones carry a dark purple flush below instead of the light green.

Both as pot plants and in hanging baskets the Streptocarpus is without a rival in those very shady places where few other flowers will bloom at all, for here it is at its best.

In range of color there are few flowers

that can excel it, for there are not only the shades of pink and rose but the purples and bright blues as well, with all the shades of mauve and orchid in between not to mention the exquisite markings in their throats and on the lower petals. Pink, blue, or lavender lacings on white, purple or rose stripes on others, and white or pale yellow throats on still others. The new hybrids give more shades and more varied markings with each new lot of seedlings.

If you are starting seed now for early Summer flowers (Streptocarpus bloom six months from seed) be sure and keep the seeds moist and in a temperature between 55 and 65 degrees. They will germinate in about ten days. At first the little seedlings seem to grow very slowly but as soon as the first leaf is about half an inch long they will have formed a good root system and the growth will become more rapid. They do not like a dry atmosphere and delight in a daily sprinkling on their leaves as soon as they are big enough to take it.

If you do not know the Streptocarpus, you will enjoy meeting it and if you grow it, you have many thrills awaiting you.

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OUR SPECIALTIES

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ANNIE C. and ALFRED D. ROBINSON

A Letter From the Incoming President

• To the Membership at Large:
We are entering our tenth year of the American Begonia Society. As incoming President I hope all members will cooperate with me in making it our big year. We have high ideals for this coming year and the only way that we can achieve success is by cooperation and harmony. Let us all put our shoulder to the wheel and strive to double our membership and also double our branches. We now have fifteen branches organized with more organizing in January so let us not be satisfied until we can double our number of December, 1940.

Respectfully yours,
H. P. DYCKMAN,
National President.

Epiphyllums

• The true species of the epiphyllum are natives of the tropics such as Central and South America, the West Indies and Mexico. They are found growing wild in the hollow of trees, in shady places where they have rich loam, moisture, and good drainage.

The epiphyllum hybrids today are very superior to the original species which is the result of generations of select hybridization to improve the color and size and especially their lasting qualities.

These hybrids are mostly spineless and, but for few exceptions, the stems are rounding at the base, usually much flattened and often leaf-like, others are triangular and deeply notched along the edge of the stems. In the West they start flowering the latter part of March and continue until Fall. They reach the height of flowering season in May and June.

If you try to duplicate the natural growing conditions of these plants you will find they grow easily and quickly.

Propagation: Epiphyllums may be propagated by seeds and cuttings. Seeds may be planted in the Spring so that the tiny plants may have the benefit of the warm weather. In a greenhouse, if heated, they may be planted any time. Unlike other seeds, these must not be planted too soon after harvest. They must age six to eight months before planting to get the best germination unless specially treated.

The seeds are planted in the usual way, in a mixture of half peat moss and half sand and should be kept moist. Under these conditions they will sprout in from two weeks to four weeks when they will appear like any other cacti seedling. Later on they will develop flat stems.

Grown from seed and on their own roots, these plants may take from five to ten years to flower; however, if grafted they will come into flower in about three years.

• When answering ads, don't forget to mention **The BEGONIAN**.

North Long Beach Branch Elects New Officers

• On the evening of December 19th, the North Long Beach Branch elected and installed their officers for the ensuing year:—
Mr. E. A. Taylor.....President
Mr. Floyd Neff.....Vice-President
Mr. H. A. Cuyler.....Secy.-Treas.
Mrs. Mary Chapman.....Nat'l. Rep.

Mr. H. P. Dyckman, our new National President installed the new officers and also gave a very interesting talk on the propagation of Begonias.

We were also honored with the presence of our National Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Ruby Liedler.

After the meeting the members and their families enjoyed an old-fashioned box supper.

Your ADVERTISERS Invite And Appreciate Your Patronage

H. L. Weitz Resigns

• Mr. H. L. Weitz, President-elect, resigned and Mr. Fred P. Neels of El Segundo, California, was appointed to take his place.

... send for the following cultural bulletins and

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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.

HOW TO GROW FUCHSIAS

by RUBY W. LIEDLER

WHEN TO PLANT



THE BEST time to set out young plants of Fuchsias is after the frosts are gone in the Spring. This means February, March, and April in California. Fuchsia planting can be continued all through the Summer, but the early-planted specimens prove to be the best. They have a chance to root deeply and get established in their new location. The wood hardens up naturally, too. Fuchsias planted in late Summer or Fall don't have time to form new roots, nor to harden off properly. The plants are then easy victims to frost.

WHERE TO PLANT

Most Fuchsias need the shade, as found on the North or East side of buildings, or under high-branched trees that protect from the hot afternoon sun. Their ability to thrive in shady areas, where few plants are really happy, makes them that much more valuable to the home gardener.

Fuchsias like cool Summer weather, too, and that's one reason for their successful growth along the Pacific Coast. In the warm interior valleys fuchsias should be given lots of moisture—both overhead, on the foliage, and in the ground. In such places, fuchsias do well along the borders of lawns—the extra water from lawn soakings produces vigorous growth and lots of flowers.

SOIL PREPARATION

Fuchsias are so easy to grow that almost any decent garden soil will suit them. They do appreciate a rich soil with good drainage, though. A good soil mixture consists of two parts garden loam, one part peat moss or leaf mould, and one part well-rotted manure. During the Summer put a mulch of peat moss one inch thick around the base of the plants. Apply this mulch in June. It keeps the roots cool, something that fuchsias like.

In the forests of Central and South America, the fuchsias' original home, the soil is naturally rich and porous. The mixture above closely approximates its homeland conditions.

PRUNING

There are four kinds of pruning and they depend on what's wanted and the habit of

the variety.

1. If flat plants — espalier fruit tree fashion—are wanted against house walls or high fences, then train several main stems to a trellis and encourage the top growth by breaking off the lower branches.

2. If standards — plants with single trunks and bushy heads—are desired, keep only a main stem and rub off all buds up to the height where the head's wanted. Pinch back the remaining top growth to insure a good spreading head. Standards can also be made by top grafting to a good husky variety like Fuchsia Magellanica that's been restricted to one stem.

3. If low bedding plants are needed, save most of the stems coming from the ground and cut them back to one foot.

4. If compact bushes three to five feet high are desired—and this is the type most people want — cut back all branches to within a few inches of the old heavy main stems, and thin out the old wood.

In California don't prune until mid-January. If done too early, soft new growth pushes out and it's an easy victim to frosts. Wait until all danger of frost is past. In some sections of California it may be wise to wait a week or two longer.

After the pruning's completed, stake and tie up the plants so they'll be neat. Use only sharp pointed stakes. When driving them into the ground, they will go between the roots instead of breaking them.

HANGING BASKETS

When pruning hanging baskets, cut about two or three inches back of the edge of the basket, so your new branches will cover the edge of the basket. When the new branch is about four inches long, pinch out the tip, as this will make your plant nice and full.

If your plant has been in the same soil three years or more, it would be best to take it out of the basket, wash the roots clean, and trim them. Then repot in the same soil mixture as given above.

(To be continued in a subsequent issue)

H a p p y

1941 JANUARY 1941						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

New Year

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, January 3, 8:00 P.M.
Woman's Club, 325 No. Hillcrest Blvd.
Mrs. Rose Hescocok, Secretary,
4209 West 111th St., Inglewood.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Tuesday, January 21, 7:30 P.M.
1595 East Valley Road, Montecito.
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Secy.,
246 No. Alamar Ave., Santa Barbara.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Tuesday, January 7, 7:30 P.M.
1642 East 65th St., Long Beach
Mrs. Anna Smith, Secy.-Treas.
250 East Home St., Long Beach.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, January 27, 7:30 P.M.
Berkeley Council Chambers
Geo. Pascoe, Secy.-Treas.,
2125 McGee Ave., Berkeley.

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

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

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

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

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BR.

Tuesday, January 14th, 8:00 P.M.
American Legion Hall,
North California Street, Ventura.
George Fitch, Secy.-Treas.

PHILADELPHIA & VICINITY BRANCH

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

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Thursday, January 16, 7:30 P.M.
1644 East 55th Street
Miss Betty Wisker, Secy.
5800 Lime Ave., Long Beach.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secretary,
Willow Grove, Pa.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, January 17, 7:30 P.M.
Arcadia City Hall, Arcadia.
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

SYRACUSE BRANCH

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

GLENDALE BRANCH

Monday, January 20, 7:30 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.

Another PENNSYLVANIA Branch

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

• Your Secretary has your 1941 receipt ready.

• The National Board of Directors will meet Thursday, January 2nd at 7:30 P.M., at 141 West 53rd Street, Long Beach.



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