

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Garden*

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# The BEGONIAN

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## News From the ABS Board

### • Resignation of Board Member:

Through unavoidable circumstances, Mrs. W. C. Drummond has had to resign her position as Chairman of The Speaker's Bureau. While we regret this, we are aware of our good fortune in obtaining the services of Mrs. Ruby Liedler in this capacity. We wish her good luck and pleasure in her work of contacting all the Program Chairmen over the United States, so that she may help them to obtain better and finer programs. Mrs. Liedler is a well-known expert on Fuchsias, and is also President of the North Long Beach Branch, but both she and Mr. Liedler are keenly interested in the welfare of all Branches of our Begonia Society, and together will, no doubt, establish a fine Speaker's Bureau. See address inside front cover.

**Gift to ABS:** A very nice donation was received by the officers of this Society from the GLENDALE BRANCH. With much appreciation, we acknowledge this token of loyalty and true helpfulness, and thank every member of that Branch.

While acknowledging gratuities, we have to report a splendid gesture on the part of the Mayor of Inglewood which means much to the Board of the ABS and to the Inglewood Begonia Branch. Mayor Darby has offered us the use of the Auditorium wherein we shall meet from now until further notice. There were thirty-two attendants at the last Board meeting. Very gratifying to know of so many members of near-by Branches so interested. We are happy if we are able to help anyone achieve more success in gardening, or find more pleasure in the workings of this organization.

Ferd P. Neels, President  
The American Begonia Society

• Six months have passed since The Begonia was brought to me for adoption. I thank the few interested members who have made some minor criticisms and the many who have written and spoken very flatteringly anent this Bulletin of ours. As you have seen, the aim is to cover the ground, from a National point of view, our subjects being any plant or group of plants which grow in the sheltered or shaded garden, be it artificial or natural shade. As yet it is far from the representative publication I know we can achieve. I say "WE" and wonder how I can have YOU realize the important part you could play with me? Let our fellow members hear how you plant your woody places, what color schemes you have enjoyed most and what colors did most or best in your shade garden. Let them hear of your successes and why; your failures and the reasons thereof; and if you are smart at plant sketching or photography, just think of the nice things you could do in connection with YOUR BULLETIN. This is one Editor who is asking for your MSS. and will publish it as soon as possible. Together we can do much, witness the splendid material that has been sent to me by our past and present contributors. It depends on both of us. Won't you put on your "Thinking Cap"?

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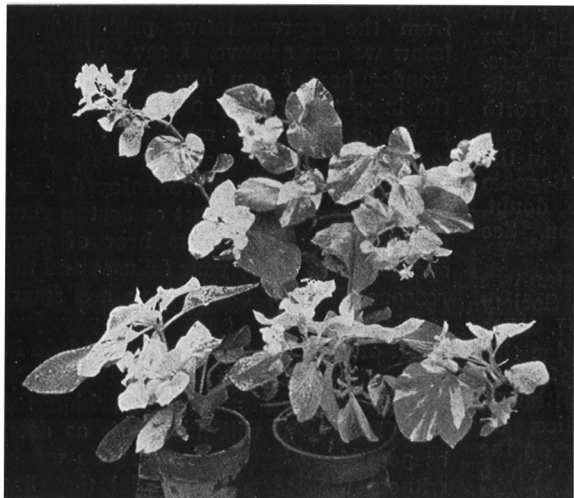
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# SOME BEGONIA SPECIES AND THEIR HYBRIDS

by ALFRED D. ROBINSON  
Point Loma

THE Begonia family might well have been the official flower of the Pan America Conferences and would have been most appropriate in the lapel of the United States representative, as a friendly ac-

They have been collected at some elevation, three thousand feet or so, in Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, etc., and should not be thought of as tropical, in fact they do not thrive under real tropical conditions.



The "Calla Begonia," a novel variety of the *semperflorens* class, origin unknown

knowledge of the debt this country owed to the many South American lands where the begonia is native. Though not a native here, the Begonia is grown widely in the United States. Counting species and varieties, there are many hundreds, possibly thousands, of Begonias. Here the discussion will be limited to a few of the bedding and tuberous types which are best known in this country.

The foundation species of the bedders was *Begonia semperflorens* from Brazil, a rather coarse three-foot plant that bears little resemblance to the multitude of varieties that have been evolved by selection and hybridizing. These range from six to eighteen inches, and come in many colors both of bloom and foliage, and are grown in numbers approaching Washingtonian budget figures. The species *semperflorens* can now be found only in the collections of fanciers. The same, in a less degree, might be said of the tuberous species though among these are very charming things.

One of the most charming of these tuberous species is *Pearcei*, a small single with sulphur-yellow flowers and beautiful, mottled foliage, generally regarded as the source of the yellow in the modern type. Another lovely one, quite dwarf, is *Davisii*, with small red blooms; a darker, larger red, with tomentous foliage is *Froebelii*, labeled a winter bloomer but not performing too well in that category. *Octopetala* furnished the pink and its name is descriptive. *Veitchii*, with its cinnabar-red flowers, came from Peru, and *Baumannii*, from Bolivia, is the truly scented one of the list. It is a weedy grower with pink flowers and is said, in its native state, to produce tubers as large as the small melons that are fed to stock. This last is hearsay but the writer has just handled a twelve-year-old tuber of another kind that measured seven and a half inches in diameter and was proportionate in depth. *Boliviensis* is a scarlet of fuchsia-like type and clearly had much to do with the development of the "Lloydii" or hanging variety of this country, previously known as the "Tuberosa Pendula" in Europe, where it originated.

*Gracilis Martiana*, popularly called the "Hollyhock Begonia" (which is excellent naming, as it closely resembles a mallow-pink hollyhock), under favorable conditions grows to five feet with a single stalk. *Martiana* makes tubercles in the axils of the leaves and in that respect is similar to *Evansiana*, which has been exploited as the "Hardy Begonia," the "Jewel," etc. *Evansiana* is a native of the Orient, quite widely distributed, and reported as wintering in the ground even where low freezing conditions are common over long periods. It grows anywhere, and soon everywhere, for it self-

sows from its tubercles. It has pink flowers in pendent clusters and, for a tuberous, it is tall-growing.

To the foregoing, which is not in any sense a complete list, must be added another plant recently collected by the University of California in South America and disseminated under the number 1041. This is a sturdy grower with soft, light-green leaves and single, orange blooms borne several on a stalk, held well above the foliage and at times definitely scented. There are several begonias that at certain seasons and times of day are scented. As a bedder, it is more than good and, judging by apparent chance crosses, will hybridize readily with other tuberous and fibrous varieties. Some crosses with **Baumannii** have given most promising results in the direction of scent. If 1041 will cross with the fibrous and rhizomatous, as apparently it has done, it opens a new field for the hybridizers, for no worth-while crosses of the tuberous with the other sub-families have appeared, except as rare specimens that have not come into general use.

Most people regard species as fixed, with nature, a rigid force, holding to type. This is only true in part, for no crop of any size was ever grown that did not reveal variations to the careful investigator. With all due acknowledgment of the great work done by hybridists, it has not equaled that of the painstaking selectors and, in fact, unless hybridizing and selecting go hand in hand, little is likely to be gained. In the tuberous family, selection has been the most potent factor. One very successful experimenter based his hopes for progress on the use of plants by the million from which to select his seed parents for at least five years.

The tuberous of today bear only a mild resemblance to their forebears. Good culture and care in producing seed, helped by the something in nature that

looks for advancement, has produced blooms enlarged many times, doubles from singles and a much extended range in color and form. Duplicates of other plant blooms have appeared, so that now there are types like camellias, roses, peonies, carnations, and daffodils, and the comparison might even include poppies. There are also heavily frilled and crested singles.

Though Europe had a long start in working with tuberous begonias, the United States is now very definitely in the race and California has made notable advance in late years. Our present product can stand comparison with anything, anywhere, in individual specimens, though it lacks the uniform standard of the older European strains. This is particularly true of the *Lloydii* type, though magnificent specimens are to be found here also.

The bedding type are so widely grown that no description of the long general list, with its constant additions, is necessary, but in the **semperflorens** class are oddities and double forms not so well known. First among these is the so-called "Calla Begonia," a variegated form, on which the new growth is white, unfolding in the form of a calla lily, whence its common name. It has been grown over a wide area for a long time in this country but its origin is still unknown. Like most variegated forms, it is temperamental. Another variegated one has yellow markings in blotches and is called "Lepidota." There are some doubles: "Bijou de Jardin," an old variety, very dwarf red, the name suggesting its origin; a very double pink from Sweden, "Gustav Lind," renamed "Westport Beauty" since its introduction here, and the latest comer, a deep red, "Geneva Scarlet"; a sport from the last, originating near San Francisco, promises to be the hardiest of all.

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# BEGONIA REX, ITS ALLIES AND HYBRIDS

by HELEN K. KRAUSS

**B**EGONIA REX was discovered by J. Simon in Assam and received by Jean Linden in 1856 and illustrated in *Flore des Serres* the same year. Jules Putzeys, a Belgian collector and connoisseur, referred to it as the King's Begonia from which it derived its name.

The true species is no longer in cultivation, but thousands of hybrids varying in color and form are distributed throughout the Americas and Europe. The group is so large that they can not all be named so that in botanical terminology they are listed as Rex Culturum.

The propagation of the original B. Rex and the subsequent sales read like a volatile stock on the Stock Exchange. It appears that Linden paid 10,000 francs for the plant and brought it into commerce on May 1, 1858. The first propagated plant was sold for 50 francs. Rollison & Salm of Surrey, England, bought half of Linden's specimen plants for the same amount that Linden had originally paid for the whole plant. The demand for B. Rex became so great throughout Europe that a few more were sold by Linden for 10,000 francs each. Propagation was so simple and rapidly accomplished that, according to statistics, 400,000 francs had been paid for Rex plants in Europe by the autumn of the same year. Then, in Stock Exchange parlance, the bottom dropped out.

Hybridization had been gaining momentum but with the advent of B. Rex it became almost a mad pursuit. During the following ten years about 8 allied Begonias were discovered in the same region where Rex was found. These, in addition to others, were crossed with Rex and according to the literature of that period the number of hybrids in existence by 1869 ran into thousands.

Some of the earliest crosses made are as follows:

Xanthina x rubro-venia by Roezl in 1853, and also by Van Houtte.

Rex x robusta (Blume) syn. splendida (not the small leaved type commonly sold as robusta which is the early hybrid B. Ingrami) by Rollison and illustrated in 1858.

Rex x Griffithii by Verschaffeldt in 1857.

Amabilis x Griffithii by Linden, 1860.

Griffithii x robusta (Bl.) Verschaffeldt, 1857.

Xanthina x tenera, 1859.

Rex x Xanthina.

Xanthina x laciniata.

Evansiana x Rex crosses were tried as early as 1863.

Rubro-venia x tenera.

Rex x Rex hybrids by Louis Van Houtte, 1857.

Rex x laciniata.

Hybrids in turn were crossed with each other. B. imperialis was discovered in Mexico in 1859 by Ghiesbrecht, collector for Verschaffeldt. Since the latter was actively engaged in developing Rex hybrids it is quite possible that B. imperialis played a part in the early development of these beautiful hybrids. O. Froebel made a Rex hybrid x imperialis cross and developed B. Otto Forster in 1876. Occasionally, this name is included on private collector's lists but its authenticity remains doubtful.

With a new generation of hybridizers arising and once known Begonias being reintroduced and new ones being discovered, the development of Rex went on in a more quiet way and from time to time outstanding hybrids resulted.

B. imperialis var. smaragdina, 1861; B. amoena from India, 1878; B. deliciosa, Borneo, 1880; B. decora, Malay, 1880's; B. Beddomei from Assam; B. diadema, Borneo, 1881; B. picta, scented tuberous from India; and B. Cathyana from China were all used crossed with Rex hybrids as they were introduced.

A departure from the usually rounded leaves of Rex hybrids came with the introduction and use of B. diadema as one of the parents which imparted to its offspring the palmately leaved characteristics. Current examples are x Adrien Schmitt, x Lesoudsii, and x Clementina, all developed in the 1880's in France.

B. Abel Carriere, the offspring of B. Evansiana x Rex hybrid, developed by Lemoine in 1876, is perhaps one of the oldest crosses still in existence and at the same time one of the most beautiful Begonias. It is the most silvery of all Begonias.

B. Ed. Pynaert is an example of Rex x picta cross made by Mr. A. Carriere and handed down to us.

The unusual, spiralled Rexes referred to as Erdoedys originated in 1883 in the gardens of a Hungarian nobleman. One of the first of these, named Comtesse Louise Erdoedy, is much admired to this

day. Many of this type have since been developed and the process is still going on in California, with the curls and spirals increasing in size and brilliance. Countess Louise Erdoedy was crossed with B. Cathayana in California last year and the young plants have inherited the spirals and promise to augment the list of beautiful Begonias.

Miniature Rex hybrids are also being developed in California which can be grown to maturity in 3 inch pots. This should be a boon to those of us in the East who must find room for Begonias indoors when winter sets in.

When B. Cathayana was introduced into England it was crossed with Rex hybrids by Sanders of St. Albans, England. The hybrids were exhibited at the International Exposition in 1903. B. Her Majesty may possibly be one of these hybrids. In the East it is circulating under the name of B. Rajah which can not apply for there is a species by that name. On the other hand there is another Rex hybrid circulating under the name of B. Rajah in the West which should be renamed in order to avoid further confusion. The B. Rajah of the West Coast has leaves rounder and larger and brighter red in color than B. Her Majesty.

Probably the most brilliant Rex hybrid is Glory of St. Albans grown at the New York Botanical Gardens. Introduced in 1938 from Sanders of St. Albans, Eng., and originated as a chance seedling.

B. Arthur Mallet, which is half Rex hybrid and subpeltata nigra (related to B. incarnata) was developed by a gardener in the employ of Arthur Mallet in 1885. Its red leaves and pink blooms make it an unusually beautiful Begonia although it suggests the fibrous type rather than the Rex. A similar Begonia with slightly brighter leaves and somewhat easier of culture is known as B. Tingley Mallet for want of a correct name. It may be the B. Octavie Mallet which originated with Arthur Mallet in 1882 and which was later lost to him. Arthur Mallet had sent some of these plants to Messr. Veitch in England where they thrived and from which they were distributed. The third Begonia of this group with red leaves is Margaritaceae. The leaves appear smoother and have a nacreous upper surface. It originated with Veitch & Son in 1895 and according to the Wien. Illustr. Gart. Zeit. is the hybrid of B. Arthur Mallet x B. coccinea.

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# PROPAGATION OF TUBEROUS AND OTHER BEGONIAS

Presented by FERD P. NEELS—Reported by MRS. N. H. POWELL  
Monterey Park, Calif.

**M**R. NEELS, the President of our American Begonia Society, came to talk to our San Gabriel Valley Branch and by popular request, the notes taken were transcribed as follows:

**PROPAGATION BY SEED:** It is best to use a five-inch pot, cover the hole in the bottom of the pot with a piece of broken crock to keep the drainage open, then put in a little damp sphagnum moss to maintain considerable moisture. Fill the pot about half-full with coarse leaf-mold, which must be packed down gently. If you have saved the soil in which your Tuberous Begonias were grown last season, now that soil should be pasteurized to kill any fungus that it might harbor, and this procedure will keep the seedlings from damping off, as so many are apt to do. To pasteurize the soil, bake in an oven in any receptacle at hand. Screen this soil and add a little sand to make it a thoroughly porous mixture.

Begonia seeds are very fine, and after they germinate, they want something in which their minute roots may get a start. If this condition is provided, they will be ready for transplanting soon. Here Mr. Neels told of some Tuberous Begonia seeds he had planted in this manner which germinated in five days with the help of a little bottom heat. If you have no bottom heat in your bench, take a 15-Watt light bulb and put it under a pot, then sit the pot with the seeds on the upturned pot. In 1939 there was a very good diagram in *The Begonian* that showed how to make a very simple electric hot-frame. However, the seeds will germinate without a controlled temperature, although it will take longer, and the plants will not be as fine, as they should have an even temperature.

After you have the seed medium in a pot, there are various methods of planting the seed. Some like to let it sift from the package, or there are several seed sowers on the market. Mr. Neels takes the seed from the package and spreads it on the soil in as even a distribution as possible, so as not to have the seedlings all bunched in various spots—which makes the transplanting more difficult.

Cover the top of the pot with a piece of paper, as seeds like to germinate in total darkness, but be sure to remove this paper at the very first sign of germination. Put the paper on before covering with a piece of glass, as the moisture that collects on the glass may be wiped off more easily, without letting in the light, nor without letting the droplets that form on it drip down on the seedlings and disturb them. So, really, two birds are killed with one stone in this manner. When the paper is removed, watch to see that no seeds adhere to it, and if they do, place them back on the soil.

Some people like to start Tuberous Begonia seeds in sterile Agar, but Mr. Neels thinks that plants are apt to get too spindly and are more difficult to transplant from this solution. Tuberous seedlings should be transplanted when they start to develop three leaves, as also is the case with seedlings of the Fibrous Begonias, however, the *Semperflorens* will transplant well if they have only two leaves.

*Semperflorens* seems to be one group of the Begonias that have been overlooked. They will stand more abuse than any other Begonia and give color all of the year in California. *Snow Queen* is a very beautiful one with white flowers. *Tausendschon* has very beautiful pink flowers, *Brentwood* has lovely large rose flowers, while *Carmine* has the dark foliage that sets off the very fine red flowers. There are a great many different varieties and they look lovely in all gardens. They make a grand border plant; they look fine in hanging baskets if pinched back to make them bushy and as occasional potted plants to move about the house or garden they have few equals.

Getting back to Tuberous Begonias, most people have the tendency to over-water their plants. The *multiflora* is one of the best varieties for this district, and they will do much better if planted in glazed pots or in Redwood boxes, as these hold the moisture more evenly than other receptacles.

Very fine tubers may be obtained from George Otten of Seaside, Oregon, or



Vetterle & Reinelt of Capitola, Calif., for both carry excellent stock of Tubers. These tubers should be started in flats, just laid out in rows without any soil, water very lightly but do not keep more than just moist and with this sprinkling let them start growth, as soon as they show "eyes" put them in a flat that has been filled with German Peat Moss. Make an indentation in the Peat so that the tuber is flush with the soil. This is one of the best mediums in which to start tubers due to the fact that the roots will adhere to the Peat and make transplanting much easier through the fact that the roots will not dry out or be disturbed to any extent.

**PROPAGATING BY CUTTINGS:** If you desire cuttings from Tuberous Begonias, take a sharp knife and cut immediately below a joint. Two wings will be found just above this joint, which may be peeled off so that they will not rot on the cutting in the sand and destroy the potential plant. Plant in sharp sand, and keep them moist. By the end of the year a blossoming size plant may be had from a cutting. The tuber which develops from a cutting will have an irregular shape for the first year, but the next year it is planted, it will develop a nicely rounded bulb. The multiflora do not come true from seed, and are only propagated from cuttings. Mr. Neels explained that he grows better Tubers in soil than in Sphagnum moss, which are liable to get too spindly. Cuttings have been taken as late as September, and an unlimited number of cuttings may be taken from one tuber. Make them about one inch long. If it is desired to divide a tuber, take a sharp knife and with it remove each "eye" or cut around it, and

propagate from that. The tuber may be healed by putting a little sulphur on the cut and letting it heal before planting.

In making cuttings from the Fibrous Begonias, take a six or eight inch pot, put a piece of crock in the bottom, some sphagnum moss over that, and fill half-way with fairly coarse leaf mold. Take another pot, of smaller size, one that will fit inside the larger pot and plug the bottom of this smaller pot with a cork. Fill the space between the two pots with sharp sand, then fill the smaller pot with water. Sharp sand will bruise the cuttings and start the root action. Cuttings may be of various lengths, but approximately three inches long is better. Cut with a sharp knife, just below a joint and then cover about two joints with the sand, pressing it in to contact with the cutting. Stagger the cuttings in the pot so that they hug the sides of the pots. The leaves left on the cutting may be cut in half. It will be found that cuttings done in this way with some bottom heat will root on an average of fourteen to twenty days. And after potting them off, and establishing them for awhile, they will make splendid gifts for friends or potted plants for the Begonia Branch, not to mention the increasing of your own stock.

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# Branch News

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH MOVES TO NEW QUARTERS

• The June meeting of the Inglewood Branch was an outstanding event, due to the large plant sale donated by its members and the jovial way in which the speaker gave his lecture on the raising of Fuchsias. It was regretted that there was not more time for added interesting data.

The July meeting will be called to order promptly at 8 p.m., July 3rd, in the Auditorium of the Better Foods Market, Crenshaw Blvd., and 84th Place in the Morningside Park District, Inglewood, California. (This auditorium is two blocks north from the intersection of Manchester and Crenshaw Blvds.) The Speaker of the evening will be Mr. Clyde Vaughn, who will tell us what to do to rid our garden of the unwelcome guests who come to prey upon our prize plants. This is a lecture you must hear and we assure you a most interesting evening.

Come and bring your friends. Refreshments will be served and at this time we hope old friendships renewed and new friends made.

The Hollywood Branch advises all Tuberous Begonia fans to be sure to attend the regular meeting at Plummer Park on the second Thursday of July to hear Mr. Nick Davanzo tell of "Experiments in Hybridization of Tuberous Begonias." Mr. Davanzo is growing these beautiful flowers in great numbers, and it will be interesting to hear him and see some of his blooming plants.

Tuberous Begonias .....	15c	}
Rex Begonias .....	15c	
Fibrous Begonias .....	15c	

The members of the North Long Beach Branch of the A.B.S. are cooperating on the staging of a benefit dinner and plant sale preceded by a Garden Tour. The day will be Sunday, July 12th, 1942, the regular meeting will be held at the same time with the well-known "Mirandy" of KECA as speaker, at the Y.M.C.A. Building at 61st and California Ave., from 4 until 6 p.m. The Garden Tour will take place between 1 and 4 p.m., and these are the Hosts and Hostesses who will show their gardens:

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Crawford, 5938 Gundry, Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Dyckman, 141 W. 53rd St., Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Franck Liedler, 5892 California Ave., Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Elgin, 5975 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, 5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Levi Wilkerson, 5454 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Riggs, 475 E. 60th St., Long Beach, Calif.; Mr. and Mrs. Kiou, 6050 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

The reason for all this? To create a fund to be donated to the Civilian Defense Medical Center. Your reservation for dinner will be appreciated, through your Branch Secretary.

San Gabriel Valley Branch will have its Special Plant Sale in July, with a view to making a donation to the A.B.S. therefore in order to get all members out into the open and in the real atmosphere of gardening, a Garden visitation will be held on the morning of the meeting day, July 19th. The afternoon meeting will be held in the American Legion Hall in Arcadia at the usual hour.

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# An Enemy to the Dormant Tuber of Begonias

by **GEORGE OTTEN,**  
Seaside, Oregon

• Everything has an enemy, and the greatest enemy of man is "man."

The tuberous Begonias are no exception to this rule. During their growing season minor insects may attack the foliage of these plants, but an occasional spray of nicotine solution, or whatever the infection may call for, is easily remedied. There is an enemy, however, which attacks the tubers during their hibernating period; it is a weevil, which bores holes into the tuber and lives on the flesh of the tuber, eventually killing the entire tuber. The name of this pest is Strawberry Weevil (*Brachyrhinus*), which has many hosts and feeds on many different plants, such as strawberry, loganberry, conifer seedlings, camellia, gloxinia, cyclamen, tubers of Begonias and many other plants.

This weevil lays its eggs during the summer near the plants. These eggs will develop into a larva, which lives off the flesh of the tuber and finally turns into the pupa, which in the spring will transform to the weevil again, the same performance for another year, the same metamorphosis.

I had reports of this pest from several places in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho and some eastern states, and if this pest is not halted in time, it will be a serious menace to vegetable life in general.

To control this pest it is best to use poison bait of the following formula:

Five pounds bran, one-half gallon water, one pound sugar, and one-half pound calcium arsenate or one-half pound sodium fluosilicate. The best way to mix it is: dissolve the sugar in water, then add bran. When bran is thoroughly moist, then add the poison; stir well and spread over the soil, about 1 pound to one hundred square feet. Sow this mixture several times during the summer and this should eradicate the trouble.

When I first saw this weevil I was under the impression that a moth had deposited the eggs and went through the same metamorphosis as the cut worm, so I took a few of these weevils and placed same with a large Begonia tuber in a glass jar with perforated lid, so I could

see the progress of the weevils. After a few days the two weevils had bored a hole into the tuber. Toward Spring I found one pupa, out of which the beetle developed.

If, however, some eggs of this weevil still remain near the tuber, they will, when developed into larva, feed on the flesh of the tubers. By carefully watching the tubers, one will find small holes, with excreta like fine sawdust, coming to this opening. By digging into this hole, you will always locate the larva and dispose of it. A tool, to dig after these larvae, is easily constructed, by driving a shingle nail into a stick; cut the head of the nail off, then flatten the point to a broad thin edge, sharpen same and then you will have no trouble to reach every one of these malefactors. If you have cut a reasonably large hole into the tuber, it will not be the worse for it if you will fill this hole with fine pulverized charcoal or flower of sulphur. One tuber was brought to me with about ten holes in it and this tuber bloomed the next season as if nothing had happened.

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# California Takes A Bow

by MARGARET C. GREENBAUM  
Eastern Reporter  
Philadelphia, Pa.

• Perhaps it was not so unusual for the members of the A.B.S. to have a visitor from the East, but it was an event when that visitor came home again and brought leaves of the various types of Begonias back that she might show us their true size. (Otherwise I think we would have questioned the truthfulness of her statements).

Helen K. Krauss called a special meeting of the Philo-begonia Club to tell them of the interesting visit she had.

I wonder, do we realize the work Mr. Ziesenhenné is doing for the good of Begonias? This good applies to additional knowledge: as to growing conditions, correct names, correcting names, identifying types and their relativity to species, history, new species, new hybrids—it just seems he is rounding out the picture and making it complete. Do the majority of us realize the work entailed in compiling the data? And also much manual labor. Mr. Ziesenhenné so impressed Mrs. Krauss with the results of his labors, that she spent 4 days there, reinforcing and adding to her store of information.

The size of the Begonia leaves which she brought back were larger than we had ever dreamed of (with the exception of those people who had visited California). Even the foliage of the Begonias in the New York Botanical Gardens do not compare in size. It was indeed a revelation.

Mrs. Ella Marguerite Fewkes "Montalvo Garden" occupied two days of her short visit. The vivid descriptions of Mrs. Fewkes' results in the Scharffiana group which she gave to us were most interesting. The two hybrids we most admired are B. Loma Alta and B. Morgano. Won't Mrs. Fewkes take time out to write an article on Scharffiana, Scharffii, etc.?

And to see Mr. and Mrs. Robinson's B. Dichroa seedlings, with coloring and foliage so distinctive. She reported seeing three different groups or types of them.

To top it all, when she came home, she visited the herbarium of the New York

(Continued on next Page)

# Question Box

• It is desired to make this department yours to use to the greatest possible benefit. Please send your questions as soon as you have them in mind. Upon receipt they will be detailed to the best authority on the subject in question known to us and published in the next issue of The Begonian, if possible.

The Editor

Question asked of George McDowell, speaker at the Hollywood Begonia Branch' (early Summer): Q. What is the quickest color producing plant I may introduce into my garden at this time?

A. Plant a mixture of Coleus hybrids. There is hardly a plant that will give as quick a change to the garden as this group of foliage plants. With the new colors now coming into vogue, one may work them into almost any color scheme. The hybridists are now bringing forth some with tones of orange, others are concentrating on light pastels, a beautiful variety has white leaves scalloped with a green edge, these large (6 x 3½") leaves being lightly flushed with lovely pink and accented with rose — this makes a most attractive and colorful yet dainty plant. Again one may want brilliant variegation and here the new lace-edged many-colored Coleus are very gay indeed. As a matter of fact, a simple way to have a lot of them is to get them by the flat, and pot off the fancier ones for house-plants, and bed out the others anywhere in the shade-garden, treat them as annuals and thus have color from early Spring until Winter. They like lots of fertilizer, a rich soil to begin with, and lots of water while growing. They are cheap, quick-growing, colorful and most satisfactory.

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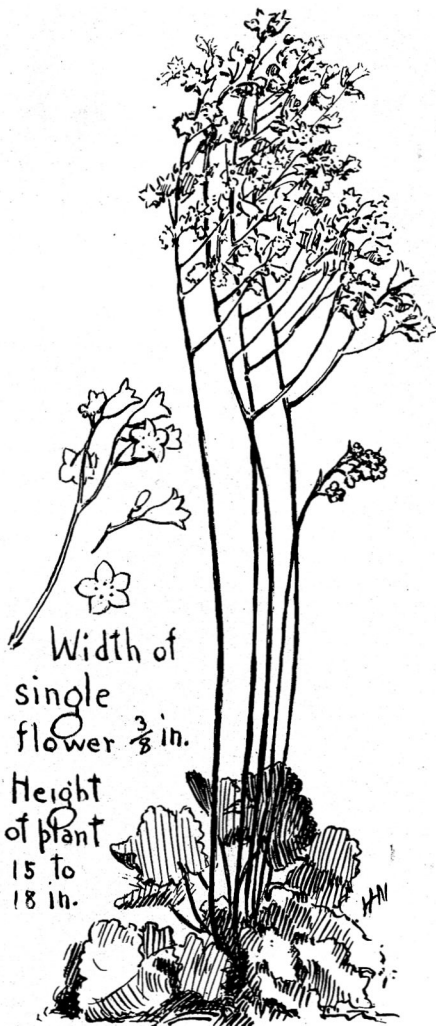
# Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

by JOHN S. VOSBURG  
Hollywood, Calif.

• We all like to tell about plants that we think are outstanding. Too often, though, we fail to qualify them for their particular use or purpose.

If you are looking for a dainty-flowered, semi-shade subject that is always neat in appearance and carries its flowers rather boldly above its foliage for an unusually long period, consider *Heuchera sanguinea*, quite generally known under the common name of Coral Bells. There has been some selection done which has resulted in improved horticultural varieties such as *H. gracillima*, *maxima* and *Rosamond*. There is a white variety, and a very deep-coral red also, all of which add much to colorful Spring and early Summer gardens.

The plant is an herbaceous perennial with a tuft of rounded five to nine lobed leaves, topped when in flower with many small cup or urn shaped flowers in narrow panicles or racemes. There is a great deal of merit in the plant because of the airy gracefulness the flowers present, as well as the neatness of the ever-green leaves as a border plant or en-masse they serve more than just a purpose, for they lend much form and color. The bright red forms are of coral shades that show up well even under shaded conditions. The foliage is broad, rounded and toothed of a distinctive green. Certain primroses have much of the same character as the *Heuchera* but are not as persistent, so give this plant a chance and I believe you will agree with me that for certain purposes the *Heuchera* is tops.



**CORAL BELLS**

• The artist who has done the pen and ink sketch of the *Heuchera sanguinea* or Coral Bells, is renowned for her painting of flowers among other subjects. Helen Narozny has now retired to the beautiful city of Sierra Madre, Calif., where she has a home and garden snuggled against the feet of the lovely Sierra Madre range. We are grateful to her for the sketch.

(Continued from Page 108)

Botanical Gardens to determine the size of *Begonia* species as they grow in their native habitat, and to her surprise and pleasure, she found they grow bigger and better in California.

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# Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor **not later than the tenth of the month.**

**Note: The American Begonia Society Board will meet Sunday, July 12th, 2 P.M., at Auditorium Better Foods Market, Crenshaw Blvd. and 84th Place, Inglewood, Calif.**

## DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Wednesday, July 1st  
Dominguez Community Church,  
21503 Prospect at Adams  
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.  
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, July 1st, 8 P.M.  
1060 Francisco St.,  
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,  
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, July 2nd  
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.  
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, July 3rd, 8 P.M.  
Auditorium Better Foods Market  
Crenshaw Blvd. and 84th Place  
Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. R. R. White, Secretary  
937 Harding Ave., Venice, Calif.  
Speaker: Clyde Vaughn  
Subject: Pestless Gardens

## PALOMAR BRANCH

Tuesday, July 7th, 7:30 P.M.  
Jefferson Street School, Vista, Calif.  
Mrs. E. A. Boillot, Secy.-Treas.,  
Route 1, Box 445, Oceanside, Calif.

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, July 7th  
American Legion Hall,  
North California St., Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.,  
515 So. Evergreen Drive, Ventura, Calif.

## BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, July 7th, 8:00 P.M.  
Home of Mrs. J. T. Bacon  
206 So. Grand Ave., Bellflower  
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,  
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Tuesday, July 7th  
Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,  
210 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, July 9th, 7:30 P.M.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Helen Ehret, Secy.,  
7507 Lexington Ave., Hollywood, Calif.

## PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, July 9th, 10:00 A.M.  
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,  
362 Brokway Merion, Pa.

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, July 9th, 7:30 P.M.  
Odd Fellows Temple  
728 Elm, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Ethel G. Arbuckle, Secy.-Treas.,  
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

## HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, July 10th, 7:30 P.M.  
Home of Mr. and Mrs. B. Hennesius  
3460 Brayton Ave., Long Beach  
Mrs. Charlotte Sisson, Secy.-Treas.  
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Friday, July 10th  
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,  
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Saturday, July 11th  
Hostess: Mrs. W. D. McLetchie  
Speaker: Mr. W. S. Starr  
Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secy.-Treas.,  
54 Essex St., Lynnfield Centre, Mass.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Sunday, July 12th, 4-6 P.M.  
Y.M.C.A. Bldg., 6075 California Ave.  
Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.  
5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Speaker: "Mirandy"

## EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, July 13th, 8:00 P.M.  
Washington School, Cor. Bancroft & Groves  
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,  
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, July 13th, 7:30 P.M.  
4037 39th Street, San Diego  
Mrs. Clarence Moore, Secy.-Treas.  
3664 31st St., San Diego, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, July 14th, 7:30 P.M.  
Pasadena Library  
Samuel R. Works, Secy.,  
71 N. San Gabriel, Pasadena, Calif.

## VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, July 16th  
11228 Atlantic Ave.  
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,  
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Sunday, July 19th, 2 P.M.  
American Legion Hall, 716 N. 1st Ave., Arcadia  
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary  
419 South Ynez Ave.  
Monterey Park, Calif.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

Monday, July 20th  
329 No. Brand Blvd.  
News Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,  
709 Millford Ave., Phone Citrus 17517

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, July 20th  
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,  
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, July 28th  
Home of Mrs. Howard H. Comly, Hatboro, Pa.  
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secy.  
Willow Grove, Pa.

## SYRACUSE BRANCH

Richard C. Atwood, Secy.-Treas.  
1405 East Fayette St., Syracuse, N. Y.  
Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secretary.

## PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY BRANCH

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

## SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Recess  
Mrs. Peter Melschau, Secy.-Treas.,  
Nipomo, Calif.

# Illinois Begonia

by CLARA A. WALL  
Peoria, Ill.

• The season for out of doors Begonia growing here in Illinois is not over three months at the most. I put the plants out early in June in an ell on the north side of the house, sinking the pots in the ground, and prepared to watch for the winds they so dislike. We have lots of rain in June, but July and August are apt to be dry and hot with parching winds. September is usually mild with frosts occurring about the last week, so, about the middle of the month, or possibly sooner, the Begonias must be taken in and distributed in the various windows to become used to the hot air furnace heat.

While we can and do maintain an even heat with a stoker, maintaining the correct humidity is another problem which is not yet solved, witness the brown edges of the Rex and the larger leaved types of other Begonias. The smaller leaved ones seem to stand this lack better.

On our vacations I have seen gorgeous plants in the West, East and South, and I'm wondering if altitude isn't a big factor in their growing? We are at four hundred and seventy-nine feet. The water may have a lot to do with this condition, for we have hard water, with a strong accent on that word hard, and a rain-barrel is impractical.

This past winter I was unusually successful in getting Begonias to live and bloom. This is due, I believe, to the alternate feeding of weak Vigoro water and Vitamin B<sub>1</sub> every two weeks.

One of my problems is to identify my plants correctly. I envy people who live near experts. Who of the "Royal Hobby" does not desire his plants named correctly? It is a pleasure growing a lovely blooming plant from a slip given one by a friend, but her name of "Buckwheat Begonia" doesn't satisfy one, for the plant still lacks its proper name. I have such a plant before me, a bushy, green-leaved beauty with luscious pink blooms. I see the new leaves are bronzy so I thumb through my pitiful store of literature on Begonias — I remember reading Dregei has bronzy leaves, so I turn to the description of that variety—but no—Dregei has white flowers. Foiled again. And so I must go on searching for its name.

If I were to go to my florist and he had this plant (but he won't, of course; I have tried this before), he would try to avoid the issue and would say it is a well-known Begonia that has been around some time, but why bother to hunt far and wide for a name?

One plant I am growing for the first time is the Sutherlandi x Lucerne. I wonder why dealers do not offer it? I can see the Sutherlandi in the red veins and stems and like the dainty beauty of it in a hanging basket. Truly, it is the little things that bring pleasure to living—the Cardinal feasting in the Russian Olive Tree outside my window in the Spring or the delicate pink bloom on the Begonia I raised from seed sent by a California member of my "Round Robin." The warm glow of contentment I feel as I gaze through the window at healthy blooming plants on the outside world and the pleasure I derive from my membership of the A.B.S., for after three and a half years, I find myself keener than ever, and expecting many years of further pleasure through this organization.

---

Q. What should be done with Impatiens sultani when it gets over large and sprawly?

A. Often in cutting this group of plants back, one may kill it by carrying out the operation over-zealously. Cut only part of it back at each session giving it a chance to recuperate in between clippings. The best manner in which to cut plants so that they do not show having been "barbered" is to cut back to two branchlets. If there are none on the particular stem in hand, cut it clear down to the ground without leaving any stub. When enough cutting has been done, mulch the plant with a mixture of leaf mold and a little well-rotted manure. Plants that are cut back in this fashion look perfectly trim, yet do not show how they were cut.

---

In "The Spreader", publication of The Men's Garden Club of Syracuse, N.Y., we read: "Whatever comes of **organized** home-gardening, let us all resolve to grow vegetables if we have **suitable** space: not to waste seed or fertilizer; to continue our borders and cutting gardens; and to **BUY DEFENSE BONDS.**"

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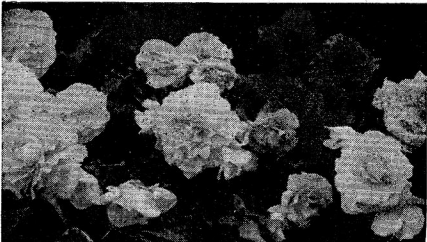


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