

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Annual Convention of the ABS Program Reminder

by HAROLD W. HART. Ch.
Glendale, Calif.

• We are looking forward to a large representation of members and friends of the American Begonia Society on November 7th, 1942. Tickets are available from your Secretary, or direct from me. One dollar each for the Banquet. Reservations close on November 3rd, so please act as quickly as you can.

It would facilitate matters for everyone coming for the tour of gardens in the morning, to bring the plants as early as possible, the place will be open at 8:30 o'clock. Be ready to leave the Tuesday afternoon Club at 400 No. Central, Glendale, Calif., not later than 9:00 a.m. as we have a nice list of gardens which you will not want to skip through.

Sometime in the morning, will be dedicated to seeing the Chrysanthemum show, which has been a feature Glendale has offered some years now. You may have luncheon anywhere pleasing to you. The time is left open that members may see friends in that time if so desired.

The Business meeting will open at 2:30 sharp. Please be there. Mr. Neels, our President, is looking for a large attendance, as there will be many things of interest to be discussed.

Of course the evening Banquet at 6:30 p.m. will be the piece de resistance. The dinner will be worth while. The speaker is an outstanding personage we all admire and look forward to hearing. The Begonia King Mr. Frank Reinelt himself will talk to us, and with all the celebrities present who know plants, any question you may have is sure to have an expert answer. It is a foregone conclusion — that it will be ONE GRAND DAY.

Write immediately to Harold W. Hart, 1314 Dorothy Dr., Glendale, and enclose your personal check, money order or "folding money" for reservations at \$1.00 each.

Time to be at Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 No. Central, Glendale, Calif., is 8:30 a.m. . . . with ONE GOOD PLANT for exhibition, or as late as you have to, but not later than 1:00 p.m. for placing a plant in the exhibit.

You may invite any of your friends to come with you to the meeting. Be sure to make reservations in advance. Closing time, November 3rd. Your Secretary has tickets. The Editor, Mrs. Wilkes, has tickets. Get them and be prepared. Bring your ticket with you, or we shall have to charge you again if you have no ticket to present for the Banquet.

Be comfortably and easily dressed for the Tour. There will be free parking accommodations for visiting delegates at the Club. Register early — 9:00 a.m.

Be sure to leave time to enjoy the special show of specimen plants. Each person attending the banquet may bring ONE plant for exhibition. Naturally, that plant should be the best one you have.

• The Corresponding Secretary of the ABS, Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, wishes to have it known that she will be well supplied with order blanks and latest price lists of magazine subscriptions at the Annual Convention in Glendale. Do go over your magazines and renew all those that you can at this time.

• We are getting somewhere in California, indeed. The fine lead set by Oakland, did much to spur us to action in the South. Fortunately, the Los Angeles Park Commissioners saw eye-to-eye with the American Begonia Society officers, and the result is that we have a greenhouse. We may place therein our collections of Begonias and other shade-plants and make them as attractive to the public as we may. This will make many other garden lovers. Who knows what other benefits will come in its wake? The more garden lovers made, the better citizens and home makers we shall be. Everywhere we are being told of the many phases of "Victory" gardening. The newest group organized in Los Angeles, "The Harvesters," now members of the Calif. Garden Club, Inc., are busy on real Victory gardening, but they, too, will want to learn about other phases and we, in turn, must remember to get busy with production for Victory as well as growing our beautiful "Morale" plants. Both are essential. Let us gather followers with enthusiasm, knowing it is a fine thing to do, for today, tomorrow and ever. It depends on each one to carry on with work, and faith, and action.

The Editor

Los Angeles to Give Oakland Some Competition

Reported by MARIA WILKES
Los Angeles, Calif.

• The American Begonia Society Branches of Los Angeles' vicinity have great reason to rejoice. Through the magnanimity of the Los Angeles Board of Park Commissioners in granting our Society the use of one of the greenhouses in Lincoln Park, we shall have a fine place in which to create an outstanding collection of Begonias. This great Conservatory has seen splendid days and now, we are to have the privilege of making it colorful again by housing therein the Begonias and other greenhouse subjects we have donated to us by our members and their friends, to maintain a perpetual exhibit open to the public. The plans are not as yet completed, but Mr. Neels, President, appointed Dr. C. H. Lauder Chairman of the Permanent Committee, and they will present it to us as soon as it is ready. Mr. Joseph Klader, Nursery Supervisor for the L. A. Park Commissioners, who has charge of the Conservatory, will supervise the care of the plants.

It is hoped that this will be a fine memorial to the American Begonia Society. Dr. Lauder with his Committeemen will have further news on the subject at the Annual meeting in Glendale. In the meantime, much elation is being experienced by all who know of the plan, and already those who have duplicate plants that are worthy of being shown are preparing to donate these in the common cause of creating a beautiful and educational exhibit for the people who are interested in growing shade plants.

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Nota Bene

• All members who attend the Board Meetings of the ABS, please take note of the fact that there will be no meeting other than the one at the time of the Annual Convention on November 7th, in Glendale.

The locale of the meeting of December will also be changed to December 14th., Monday evening at 8:00 p.m., in the Board of Directors Room of the Retail Credit Men's Association, 417 So. Hill St., Los Angeles.

See October Begonian for previous data on Show and program. Read October and this issue before you come to the meeting.

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WINSEL-GIBBS

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The American Begonia Society Annual Flower Show

by JESSIE POOLE
Glendale, Calif.

(Continued from last issue)

SCHEDULE OF PREMIUMS

- Best Begonia in Show—Gold Ribbon
The Best Fibrous—\$5.00
Second Best—\$2.00; Third Best—Ribbon
The Best Rex—\$5.00
Second Best—\$2.00; Third Best—Ribbon
The Best Tuberos Rooted—\$5.00
Second Best—\$2.00; Third Best—Ribbon
The Best Odd or Rare Type—\$5.00
Second Best—\$2.00; Third Best—Ribbon

In Classes 1 to 4, inclusive (see October Begonian), Ribbons will be awarded to winners of each Division.

American Begonia Society Certificates also will be awarded for meritorious exhibits.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Premiums will not be awarded unless exhibits are considered of sufficient merit by the Judges.

2. Entries will be received up to 1:30 p.m., Saturday, November 7, 1942.

3. All plants must have been grown by the exhibitors, at least two months prior to the exhibition.

4. An exhibit must be entered according to schedule, and may be entered in one class only.

5. Botanical name, common name, and variety of each plant should be given when possible.

6. Exhibitors must have no commercial status, horticulturally.

7. The identity of the exhibitor must not be displayed until after judging.

8. Decision of the Judges shall be final.

9. No exhibit shall be moved before the close of the banquet.

Although entries will be received until 1:30 p.m., the Flower Show Committee will appreciate your help and cooperation in bringing all possible entries before the registration time of 9 a.m., as the place will be open by 8 o'clock, and thus each one will be free to enjoy a free day to see all the gardens, the Chrysanthemum Flower Show and take

all the other activities of the day without rush or worry.

Do not be shy about bringing your best plant. No matter what it is — BRING IT. Mirandy, of Radio fame, the shy one who had to be coaxed by her friends to bring the best roses she had in her garden to the Pacific Rose Society Show, brought what she thought might come near the top — but she won the ribbon for the best six roses in the show, and THE SWEEPSTAKES for the best rose. How do you know what might or might not be there of your type of Begonia?

Be a good sport and each one of you coming to the Banquet bring a plant for exhibition — JUST ONE — YOUR BEST ONE.

Should you not be able to come for the day's program, but only for the banquet, you can still cooperate by sending that plant by one of the friends coming in the morning. I am sure the plant will be cared for as if by you.

WINDFLOWERS

Among the most valuable perennials for the shade, *Anemone japonica* bears its lovely blossoms in great masses in late summer and fall, when other flowers are scarce. We have a wonderful collection — Alice, large rose pink; Marie Manchard, semi-double pure white; Kriemhilde, double rich pink; Queen Charlotte, semi-double La France pink; Richard Arends, largest shell pink; Prince Henry, double rosy red; Whirlwind, large white; and Hupehensis, dwarf rosy mauve.

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LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

by ALFRED D. ROBINSON, Dec.
Lately of Point Loma, Calif.

CHAPTER III

IF this book has any serious motive, it is to make folks want their gardens, not to have mine or any other chap's.

Ground Plans

We are now taking another step towards the real fun of the lathhouse, and if the reader finds these preliminaries tedious I would have him to know I dislike them worse than he does, and find it difficult to keep my mind on them, because I do so want to get to the planting. However, there are fundamentals to be disposed of before we can take up the trowel and the spade.

I have no intention of treating this phase of the matter in detail. Detail belongs with the owner and if he were dealing directly with me, the first question I should ask would be, "What do **You** want?", and unless **he** had some thing he really wanted, I would lose all interest.

The lathhouse is now built, we have before us a plan drawn to scale of the floor, showing posts and entrances and exits, and have memorized a few simple axioms.

1. It is a good idea for a path to have a start and an objective.
2. Border space is far the most valuable for display.
3. Only a contortionist can see anything when right on the top if it.
4. Vistas are good, accent points even better.

Let us take our plan and consider it from the standpoint of No. 1 the matter of paths. We say, here is where we shall come in, there is where we shall want to go, over to that corner to sit down, over there to enter the propagating department, and so on, connecting entrances, exits, etc. By drawing lines we will have the space cut up, possibly like a jig-saw puzzle which we now must solve. Almost certainly posts will be in the way, space will be too narrow or too wide or decidedly ill shaped. A little curving will put the posts in the beds instead of in the paths, but the beds are more of a problem and the solution should not be hurried and we must have in mind the other axiomatic pivots; importance of border space, and value of

perspective, vista effect, and accent points. You half close one eye or both and look at the criss-cross lines, from the points of entrance and also from other angles, and in time you will see emerge a central feature as a circle, an oval, a square or what not. Very seldom as a square or oblong as the Lathhouse garden is not sympathetic to formality. Possibly after drawing in this central feature, it will be found that surrounding beds are too deep or have valueless narrow pointed ends, and that no space for chairs, etc, has been allowed. Correct these faults and draw your plan over again putting in your paths to scale, not less than two feet wide, preferably thirty inches. You may find scaling the paths, etc. calls for further modifications but don't hurry this part, make a game of it, a solution that satisfies you will be well worth a lot of time and trouble and don't let any expert play the game for you. **You** will have the garden when it is planned and planted.

If you have called an expert into conference he will now say "You see how little this fellow knows, he has not even considered a water supply." I have him there, I don't have to, for a quarter of a century I periodically disrupted my lathhouse beds and tore up the paths doing things to my watering system, and at last the ever dwindling pressure due to rust incrustation, etc., seemed to demand a major operation. I raised my eyes to heaven to ask forgiveness before starting to cuss and found inspiration. "Why not put in a new line from the main and **run it on the roof?** I did, with a cut off easily accessible and ever since I have been wondering why I didn't do this in the first place for now I can have a new faucet or change an old one, or extend a line without any trouble, except perhaps to the plumber, whose charge by hour is materially lessened, but who cares about the plumber, he has always been a plutocrat.

Having the general plans, on the dead level, the usual condition of the majority of sites, for which may the Gods forgive the human race, we must build up or dig down. To build up is much preferable to digging down for two reasons: drainage and the desirability of

bringing low-growing specimens up to the eye rather than taking the eye down to the specimens. Experience has shown that the best method for raising beds or making terraces is to use as a retaining wall, rocks with the intervening space filled with moss and soil, puddled together (no cement) as a good drainage can be secured on any kind of a surface if surplus moisture can escape through these rocks. The rock, if so procurable should be a soft sandstone, so that it will act like a sponge, holding moisture. A dull brick red rock is locally available and generally approved, but other localities may not be so fortunate and must use what they have. Lava rock can be had in some places and works well, and will in time harbor mosses, etc. A simple method of building up beds and terraces, is to set the first retaining wall, fill with soil to the desired level then place the second wall, and repeat the process, and so on, the chief points to be remembered, are not to cement the rock anywhere and not to run the wall of the second or higher walls below the level of the terrace immediately below. The building of the wall is a simple process if the rock and soil fill go along together and no effort is made to complete the wall before making the soil fill.

The posts in the lathhouse are a necessity and should be so accepted and used. Often a rock feature can be built at the base. There has been a rather violent epidemic of rock gardens in the succession of garden crazes, and some very dreadful things have been done with them so, though I am willing and anxious to have folks have what they want, I must in self-defense put down here with some emphasis, that in my own lathgarden, I use rocks only if they have a job, such as in a wall, in a terrace, to turn the hose, etc., but I don't have rock piles or a rock crop. I know of one garden where rock of varied hues are planted in straight rows.

There is a feature that frequently comes up for discussion in planning lathed gardens, and that is the pool. I have tried and abandoned them because of the apparent impossibility of keeping them sufficiently clean to be decent. A pleasing substitute has been found by lowering a space and growing in it a ground cover, this was produced with a fern and rock support, a cool effect comparable to a pool and will be found a valuable asset if there is a corner too shady for bloom-

ing plants, and for special occasions will accommodate these when the neighbors or visitors are to be given a shock of admiration, or envy.

Because the matter of building up terraces and beds has been discussed it would seem advisable to associate therewith the subject of the earth fill, though soil, etc., must continually leaven any phase of plant culture and will inevitably appear again and again.

The lathed garden is primarily intended to house acid loving plants, and although there will be, in a diversified planting, some growths that are tolerant of a degree of alkalinity in the soil, it does not seem worth while, in the necessarily limited space to try and provide a variety of soil reactions.

In spite of popular belief, color as a guide to soil values is very unsafe if not altogether futile. In my own experience the lovely black top soil has proven to be the worst possible, being in every instance very definitely alkaline. Another fairy tale is based on the virginity of soils, because they have not born a cultivated crop, though they have, in my locality, nurtured native growths in the rainy season, which in the equally dry periods have dried up and blown away; and the third delusion is as to the extreme plant feed values in leaf mold. Not to lengthen this phase to a volume equal in bulk to Hans Anderson's Fairy Tales, though it might easily be done, I feel I have said enough to establish the advisability of a Safety First program which begins with the Soil Testing Set of which there are a selection on the market keyed in cost to individual taste and pocket. I have found the Morgan Set put out by the La Motte Chemical Company of Baltimore, Maryland, to be effective and quick acting, and it has often saved me many times its cost, in one filling of my compost bins, by enabling me to reject a truck load of material that would have spoiled the whole batch.

Though enthusiastic natives and hopeful realtors bringing friends and prospects to see my lathed garden have used it as evidence of the fertility of the soil of the locality, the expensive truth is that it is nothing of the sort, for though the climate is a major factor in any success I may have attained as a grower of lathed garden plants I imported from elsewhere, every thimbleful of

(Continued on page 172)

Branch News

• This is heartening news. While some Branches are suspending meetings because of conditions, here and there other branches are having stronger attendance. NOW, just in time to slip into print this month in a round-about way, comes just this:

"Name: Alfred D. Robinson Branch
Place of meeting: Rosecroft Begonia Gardens

Time of Meeting: Fourth Sunday Afternoon at one-thirty o'clock

Officers: President, Mrs. John G. Clark
Vice-President, Mrs. Lawrence Holzman

Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. George S. Graves."

Happy news indeed to have another Branch, and our good wishes go to them with warmth and sincerity. When we know more, we shall tell more.

• Please remember to air-mail your ballot to Mrs. Hartwell, if you have not already turned it in to your Branch Secretary.

San Francisco Branch. Now that the many responsibilities of the Flower Show are over, Miss Paula Schoenholz, winner of several ribbons, but prouder of the success of her Branch than of her own triumphs, is working on a special November meeting. This is the annual Pre-Thanksgiving Supper Party and plant sale which is looked forward to by all the members and friends. Nominations and elections of new officers will take place.

Mr. Al Stettler, Editor of the Bulletin of American Fuchsia Society was guest of the Branch in October. Since both Societies acquitted themselves so beautifully at the Flower Show recently, they feel they have more than the bond of many members in common, to help them build a solidarity, which will carry them far in future shows and other activities of the embellishment of shade gardens. The group endorsed the new By-Laws and Constitution of the ABS.

East Bay Branch. The September meeting was held on Sunday afternoon of the 13th, at the new meeting place. The Oakland Park Department served light lunch at one-thirty. The business meeting followed at 2:30 p.m.

The following are the officers elected for the next year:

President, Mr. H. L. Swager
Vice-Pres., Mr. August Egli
Sec.-Treas., Mr. Dick Goodnow
all re-elected, and
Nat'l Representative, Mrs. Wm. Ahren.

There followed an informal meeting and the dedication of the new greenhouse. It was voted that one member be on hand every Sunday afternoon to answer questions, etc.

In the August 23rd Annual Dahlia Show in Alameda, the Committee, this year, included Begonias and Fuchsias. Two of the members acquitted themselves notably. Mrs. Abels won the first prize for potted tuberous Begonias, having entered about twenty and a large Rex as a background. Mr. Omery B. Smith entered the cut-flower contest and won first prize. He also entered an excellent hanging basket Begonia.

Due to the dimout it has been decided to meet on the second Sunday of every month at 2:30 p.m. at the Greenhouse in Lakeside Park.

Mr. Harry M. Butterfield, Professor in the Dept. of Agriculture of the University of Calif., was guest speaker at the October 11th meeting.

Santa Barbara Branch. Mrs. Elsie M. Frey, President, will entertain the group for the regular meeting on Thursday, November 7th.

New England Branch reported elsewhere in this issue by our own Mrs. Buxton. To all newly-elected officers everywhere, our felicitations and good wishes, and to the retiring officers all over this glorious land of ours, our warmest thanks and deepest appreciation for their efforts expended in making home-gardens more beautiful, and worthwhile living in, through, and by, our members.

The May Co., Los Angeles, Calif.

Knott's Berry Place, Buena Park, Calif.

Whitney & Co., San Diego, Calif.

FOR STURDY — HEALTHY — BLOOMFUL BEGONIAS

GOLD ' GARDENS



• The Pasadena Post of September 27, 1942, printed this picture of the beautiful display of Begonias which was staged for the Flower Show in Fannie E. Morrison Centre in Brookside Park, Pasadena, last Spring. The potted plants were sunk in position to make up the

Photo by A. E. Arnold, Pasadena, Calif.
collective exhibit. The Begonia Society sign was carved from Redwood by the late Walter Snyder, a well-known flower and music lover who was a resident of Pasadena for the last 50 years. The post was carved in Begonia leaf design.

San Gabriel Branch. There will be no November meeting in San Gabriel, instead, it has been decided to concentrate all efforts on the support of the Annual meeting of the ABS in Glendale. This will help to have higher attendance of the group. They know what a fine time is awaiting us at Glendale.

We learn that Mr. W. B. Richmond, the world traveler with interesting moving pictures who is to speak for Hollywood Branch in November, was booked to appear with the same pictures in San Gabriel in October. When we find a good speaker, all the Branches are after him. San Gabriel has changed to evening meetings again. Third Friday at 7:30 p.m.

North Long Beach Branch. This Branch sponsored a Flower Show in their YMCA building recently. The consensus of opinion is that it was an outstanding affair, pleasing countless visitors from far and wide over the Southland. Mrs. H. A. Cuyler won the sweepstakes and first prize with Rex Begonias as well as many other prizes. Participating also in the receipt of first, second, and third awards in numbers, were: Mdmes. Roy Kious, Liedler, E. L. Crawford, Ingerson, E. Riggs, and Messrs. L. Crawford, Audry Wyke, Levy Wilkerson, Gary Eilers and Dr. Clyde N. Moore. Many were the beautiful specimens of various types of Begonias and other plants for shade gardens that it was well worth a trip to enjoy.

BEGONIA FLORAL TREAT FOR PUBLIC AT LAKESIDE PARK OPENING

by W. W. HOFFMAN
Member of the Board
Oakland, Calif.

THE generous gift of a Navy officer transferred to overseas duty brings to the Oakland Lakeside Public Park a large, beautiful and important collection of fibrous begonias. This type of begonia is admired for its foliage and clustered flowers. The donor is Chester Nave of Oakland and his contribution represents many years of collecting and selective growing. He is a member of the American Begonia Society. The Eastbay section of this society is sponsoring additional material and resources for a permanent exhibit.

The president of the local society, H. L. Swager, is making a substantial addition to the exhibit from his own extensive collection. These contributions and also those from other members, assure a start-off which will equal or excel Eastern public parks; this is known from their published listings. Also, individuals in the Lakeside and Piedmont districts have presented choice plants from their homes and greenhouses.

Exhibit Arranged

The arrangement of a new glass house for fibrous begonias and associated plants is to be naturalistic in design. The general theme and background follow plans similar to those which proved so popular in the California Spring Garden Show.

Begonias are arranged into three general classes: The tuberous-rooted which have a fleshy bulb and mostly die down each year for a resting period—admired for their flowers; then the foliage kinds which mostly have a fleshy root resting on the ground, like the iris for illustration, called a rhizome—admired for their beautiful leaves; and the fibrous-rooted which have hair-like roots branching from the root stem.

The last two types include varieties which are suitable for growing in the home near a window, on a sun-porch, or in a lathhouse. Begonias are natives of the tropical forests in the cooler altitudes, mostly in South America and India, where the rainfall is abundant and dense overhead foliage causes a humid atmosphere. Many grow in temperatures ranging from 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit so that our mean temperature of 57

degrees and moist atmosphere suit them well for outside growing other than in Winter time. Those that have a fleshy rootstock or rhizomes, and fleshy leaves will endure drier conditions. These include: *ricinifolia*, *manicata*, *Templini*, *Bunchi*.

Soil Mixtures Vary

Good growers vary their soil mixtures according to the variety. Soil varies also and material differs even in the same locality. Leafmold is an essential because their nativity is in the forests; that is, some form of humus derived from decomposed vegetation. For example, begonias with thick leaves and thick roots require a heavier soil such as: 3 parts leafmold, 2 parts loam, 1 part sand, ½-part cow manure a year or more old, plus 1 tablespoonful of bone-meal to each gallon of mixture.

A lighter mixture is used for small leaf varieties and fibrous roots, by reducing the loam one half or one quarter. Loam as here used means medium, not light or heavy adobe.

Improper watering is a cause of many failures. Good drainage is a first requirement: an inch of broken crock or gravel in the bottom of the pot. Do not water until soil is dry but before it is bone dry. Then soak thoroughly.

Growing Conditions

Some varieties will endure sun but not hot sun. Others, especially those with thin leaves and some requiring heavy shade, are subject to sunburn. Sudden changes in temperature or drafts may cause setbacks. During warm weather, especially in a lathhouse or greenhouse,

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frequently spray the plants with water, by so manipulating a fine hose spray as to cover the tops and backs of the leaves. This improves the vigor and growth because begonias in general luxuriate in moisture. Also, water discourages the few pests which might cause injury.

The simple methods of propagation is by stem-cuttings or slips; one to four inches long. May to July, inclusive, is a favorable period. Place in moist sand in a deep pot and cover with a glass pane for a week. Keep slightly moist; if too wet rot develops. Use small pots and don't shift to a larger pot until the roots crowd the sides of the pot; then shift to the next larger sized pot. Over-sized pots is another cause of failure. Shift when roots crowd the pot; this may be several times a year . . . all of which insures healthy plants and final specimens to make the grower proud.

Named After Monk

The begonia is named after a French monk and botanist, Michael Begon, about the year 1700. When a plant is named in honor of an individual, the suffix "ia" is used; thus Dahl-ia, Fuchsia. Nitida appears to be the first begonia introduced to cultivation in Europe which was at Kew, England, in 1777; and nitida is still popular. There are some 1300 wild forms and some 2500 hybrids or crosses from these native forms. There are many fine hybrids through man's horticultural skill. Lucerna, an outstanding example, should

be in every collection. It is a good parent for the amateur to try a hand at plant breeding. How? Then that is a good question, among many others, to ask when you visit Lakeside Gardens.

At Lakeside Gardens' lathhouses the tuberous-rooted begonias are still in flower, vivid and gorgeous in color. There are many different forms and types to charm the eye including the graceful hanging basket form, now called hanging tuberous begonias. The appeal and popularity of this particular exhibit may be judged by the number of visitors. The Sunday attendance has approximated 2500 persons. The fuchsia lathhouse is a temporary quarters and has an interesting collection. Plans for a new unit are developing.

Lakeside Gardens has an exhibition house where garden clubs may hold their flower shows. The purpose is to help expand club activities and at the same time broaden horticultural interests by reaching the general public in number and cross-section not otherwise possible.

This central location and full facilities will make club flower shows more practicable and frequent.

An assembly room adjoins the exhibition house where garden clubs may hold their regular meetings. The American Begonia Society was first to make reservations. General conditions and dim-out regulations mitigate against night meetings, hence day meetings upon a Saturday or Sunday are in preference.

(Reprinted from The Oakland Tribune)

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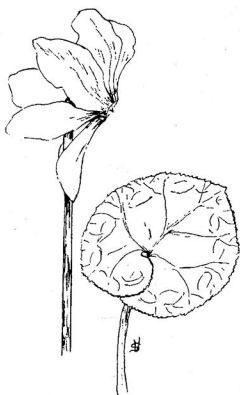
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Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

by JOHN S. VOSBURG
Hollywood, Calif.

• With the approach of shorter days, we are sometimes at a loss as to what to plant in the shady spots that will be colorful and respond in full measure.

Let me recommend *Cyclamen persicum* for outdoor growing in the warmer sections and for the conservatory and as a potted plant in the colder regions. I was quite amazed at the abundance of bloom an outdoor planting presented here in Southern California several years ago and to my surprise some of the tubers, even though neglected, were in flower in the third season with from thirty to forty flowers to the plant. Outstanding, yes, for most of us treasure a plant with from three to five flowers as something quite choice.

The commercial grower has not found the cyclamen easy to grow and I am not trying to suggest cultural hints from seed. I suggest you buy young, healthy plants or dormant tubers, prepare your soil in much the same manner as you would for tuberous rooted *Begonias*. Plant the tubers without covering them, but snuggle them into the soil, keep the soil damp and you will soon have a nice array of interesting foliage which will shortly be overtopped by uniquely attractive flowers. The colors are white and various shades of pink and red but there are plain and frilled types of these. Either type is decorative and interesting besides being lovely and colorful for Winter. It will be hard to find any plant that will respond with more satisfaction.

LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

(Continued from page 167)

soil, because my own was an exceedingly poor medium for my kind of plants, and my initial reason for building up rather than digging down, was to get away from what I had.

Let me say here, that I may seem to many—I do so to myself—to unnecessarily dwell upon the Whys and Wherefores of very simple operations, but in close to fifty years' contact with Mr. and Mrs. General Public, I have found an almost child-like indifference to simple statements, it seems that a sort of "the House that Jack Built" formula is the only effective one. This coupled with the recognition of an unbelievable ignorance, has led me to write as I am doing for the immense kindergarten class in Gardening.

To return to the soil, a favorite slogan of the propagandist, I compost my soil in bins, three of them, so that the contents have some six months in which to get really acquainted. There are two major reasons for this six-months period between mixing and using, dictated by experience rather than any chemical or botanical knowledge; I must refuse any claim to being either a chemist or a botanist and admit that those who are, have regarded me as a naive amateur. The first reason is that my compost loses one-fifth in bulk in the half-year, and I would rather have this loss occur in the bin than in the pot or bed after planting, and the second, which possibly should have been the first is that the three elements in the compost have a chance to really get acquainted or combine, especially can the essential feed values in the cow manure permeate the layers above and below, as to which more will appear as we fill the bins.

Let me here say that if anyone has been successful with cultural technique and soil mixtures other than mine, I hope that they won't be induced to change by anything I may say and I accept no responsibility if they do and make a fizzle. I interpolate this because in fifty years at the game, I have been told how to play by scores and scores who were not even born or thought of, when I began. Many factors that cannot be considered in planning a general technique enter into individual cases.

(To be continued)

New England News Letter

by BESSIE R. BUXTON,
Peabody, Mass.

• Who would have dreamed, two years ago, that war would reach into our begonia society and stop our meetings? Here in New England it is the shortage of rubber and gasoline which makes it impossible to drive the long distances necessary, and in a recent Begonian, I noted that blackouts have stopped the Palomar meetings in California.

Our annual meeting was planned for August, during the Farm and Home week of the Mass. State College in Amherst, but because of the war the college remained in session during the summer, the Farm and Home week was given up and our annual meeting went into the discard with it. So the best we could do was to hold the election of officers at the Sept. meeting, in Southbridge, Mass., Sept. 12th. The eighty mile drive was a problem, but by packing the cars full and all contributing to the gasoline supply, we made it, "coming with the milkman" next morning.

Whether we shall be able to meet during the coming year is problematical, but by omitting midwinter meetings we hope to preserve at least a nucleus with which to start again when this cruel war is over.

The newly elected officers are:

President: Mr. H. L. White
53 Poplar Street, Danvers, Mass.
Vice-President: Mr. Wm. E. Starr
418 Hamilton St., Southbridge, Mass.
Treasurer: Mr. Charles I. Gould, Jr.
East Street, Middleton, Mass.
Secretary: Miss Annabelle Sylvester
Pleasant Street, Middleton, Mass.

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Seven meetings have been held during the past year. Our New England branch is one of the 26 branches of the A. B. S. and has a membership of 56, three being complimentary. That the meetings are interesting is proved by the members travelling so many miles to meet fellow enthusiasts and exhibit their plants. Last spring a committee was appointed to assemble a library of kodachrome slides. The vice-president, Mr. Starr, has made many slides of blooming begonias grown by our members, and these slides are shown at the meetings for discussion and identification. In March, we had an educational exhibit at the Boston Spring Flower Show, and were awarded first prize and a bronze medal. This exhibit including various soil mixtures, potting materials, all the different types of propagation, plants suffering from various pests and diseases, with the proper remedy for each trouble. Humidifiers and sprayers of all types were shown, and there was a background of specimen plants. The exhibit was clearly and concisely labelled, and a member was in attendance to answer questions. Crowds with notebooks surrounded the exhibit throughout the show, and we hope the results will be more and better begonias in New England.

Ed.'s note: Picture arrived too late for this issue.

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BRANCH NEWS CONTINUED

Inglewood Branch. In celebration of the Birthday Anniversary, the October meeting was made quite a social affair with refreshments and special cake. The speaker of the evening, Mr. Ferd Neels, the President of the ABS, spoke on growing Tuberos Begonias in the various forms from seed to maturity, illustrating his talk with fine specimens still in flower from his own garden. When the ribbons were distributed for the prizes won at the recent Inglewood Dahlia Show, Mr. Neels was presented with the beautiful trophy in the name of the ABS for the most artistic and best general display of Begonias. Mrs. Clarissa Harris won the Sweepstakes at the same show, with many other honors. Messrs. Marshall and Minehart won special prizes as did Mr. H. G. Vost. Mr. Ernest Baxtruder and Mrs. Cantrell and others received recognition for fine exhibits also. Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Dyckman of Long Beach were special guests of the evening.

For the November meeting Mr. George McDowell has been secured as speaker. His subject will be "Care of the Lathhouse for the Season." He has also consented to answer any and all questions if possible, so all members are urged to come armed with their problems.

Pursuant to the report from the Nominating Committee at the last meeting, the new officers will be elected in November.

Riverside Branch will meet at the home of Mrs. W. Purcell Gall, Riverside. A neat sum was realized from the sale of Cyclamen. The subject for November will be "Ferns." Mrs. Glenn and Mrs. May will be co-hostesses.

Hollywood Branch. There was a fine gathering to hear Mr. Lowell Swisher speak on Epidendrums and other outdoor orchids at the October meeting. Mr. Swisher has demonstrated for years that we need to branch out unafraid into this fascinating field of floriculture. His talk will do much to help his listeners . . . follow suit.

Mr. W. B. Richmond, of Los Angeles, will be guest speaker at the November meeting, illustrating his talk with splendid pictures of his trip to Australia.

Watering House-Plants

by Experience

- House-plants will appreciate a good soaking with RAIN water. Hold it over a day or so in the house, so that by the time it is used it will be of the same temperature as the room in which the plant is being kept. Of course it is well known that it is better to water early in the day, preferably on a sunny day. Watch the plant and feel the soil before watering. Does the pot ring "dry"? Then water it. Does it sound dull? Wait.

Special Offer for September and October — 12 BEGONIAS FOR \$3.00 —

alba scandens, Caroline, Helen, Loma Alta, lindleyana, Mrs. Wallow, Macbethii, Mrs. Scripps, Prunifolia, Rex inimitabile, Washington Street, & angularis (zebrina).

Green Tree Flower Gardens
5343 Green Street, Germantown,
Philadelphia, Pa.

- As this issue goes to press a picture of an educational exhibit arrives, too late, for inclusion with the report from Mrs. Buxton. We shall make room for it in the next issue, as many will want to stage similar exhibits.

FOR YOUR WINTER WINDOW GARDEN

We would like you to have some of our splendid new varieties listed in last month's Begonian. We would like to share with you the thrill of Ruby Jewel Calla, the only Double Red Calla Begonia in the world, and there are less than fifty of them for sale. Hurry.

We have a nice stock of that lovely Brazil species **Alto De Serra** which seems a miniature of Scharffiana, and so far as we know no other dealer lists it. Each.....50c

How about **Carolinifolia**, that fine species parent of Verschafelti? We have nice 3 to 4 inch plants at50c

Also a cross between **Carolinifolia** and **Imperialis**50c

Have a nice lot of the Ivy Begonia **B. Glaucophylla scandens**. Nice well-rooted little plants. Each 30c

Tea Rose 25c

OADI 50c

Southerlandii x **Lucerne**25c

New seedling **Rexes**, 3 inch pot size and up, colors around **President Carnot** from silver to green 15c

Evaneiana x **Rexes** in wide color range for better resistance to house conditions. Each.....25c

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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 November American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in Glendale, Calif., at the time of the Annual Convention.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, November 3rd
American Legion Hall.
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.,
515 So. Evergreen Drive, Ventura, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, November 3rd
Home of Mrs. W. Purcell Gall,
4518 Bandini, Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, November 3rd, 8:00 p.m.
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, November 4th, 8:00 p.m.
1060 Francisco St.,
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Wednesday, November 4th
Home of Mrs. E. N. Bush,
2718 Washington St., Dominguez, Calif.
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, November 5th
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, November 6th, 8:00 p.m.
Auditorium Jim Dandy Market
Crenshaw Blvd. & 84th Place, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. R. R. White, Secretary
937 Harding Ave., Venice, Calif.
Speaker: George McDowell
Subject: "Care of Lathhouse for the Season"

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Friday, November 6th
Home of Mrs. Elsie M. Frey,
1820 Laguna Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,
210 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, November 8th, 2:30 p.m.
Greenhouse, Lakeside Park
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, November 9th
4037 39th Street, San Diego
Mrs. Edwin F. Barker, Secy.-Treas.,
4561 El Cerrito Dr., San Diego, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, November 9th, 7:30 p.m.
5660 Atlantic Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.
5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Monday, November 9th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Library, Walnut and Garfield
Samuel R. Works, Secy.,
71 N. San Gabriel, Pasadena, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, November 12th, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,
362 Brokway Merion, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, November 12th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Helen Ehret, Secy.,
7507 Lexington Ave., Hollywood, Calif
Speaker: Mrs. W. B. Richmond
Subject: Australian Trip — Pictures

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, November 12th, 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, November 13th
Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, 3615 Cerritos Ave.
Mrs. Charlotte Sisson, Secy.-Treas.
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Sunday, November 15th, 2:30 p.m.
Home of Miss Annabelle Sylvester,
Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, November 16th
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Monday, November 16th
329 No. Brand Blvd.,
New Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,
709 Milford Ave., Phone Citrus 17517

VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, November 19th
11228 Atlantic Ave.
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Suspended to Attend Glendale Meeting
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary
419 South Ynez Ave.
Monterey Park, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Sunday, November 22, 1942, 1:30 p.m.
Rosecroft Begonia Gardens
Mrs. George S. Graves, Secy.-Treas.

PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY BRANCH

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

SYRACUSE BRANCH

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

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, November 24th
Home of Mrs. T. Gruenbaum, Philadelphia, Pa.
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secy.
Willow Grove, Pa.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Meetings Suspended
Mrs. Peter Melschau, Secy.-Treas.,
Nipomo, Calif.

PALOMAR BRANCH

Meetings Suspended
Mrs. E. A. Boillot, Secy.-Treas.,
Route 1, Box 445, Oceanside, Calif.

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Garden Editor, L. A. Examiner
and author of **Science in the
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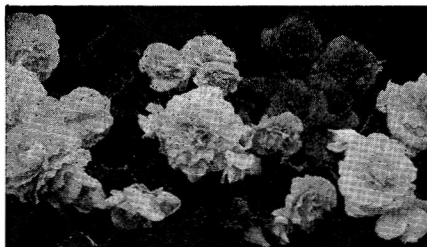
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