

# The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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# The BEGONIAN

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of THE BEGONIAN, published twelve times a year, at Long Beach, California  
State of California  
County of Los Angeles } ss.

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared Maria Wilkes, who, having been duly sworn according to Law, deposes and says that she is the Editor and Business Manager of The Begonian, and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, Editor, managing Editor, and business managers are: The American Begonia Society, 2751 East 17th St., Long Beach, Calif.
2. That the owner is: The American Begonia Society, 2751 East 17th St., Long Beach, Calif.
3. That the known bondholders, mortgages and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.
4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and Security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholders or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds or other securities than as so stated by her.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of October, 1942.

(Seal) Name of Notary Public: Electa B. Henry  
Whose commission expires: October 17th, 1943.

# In Memoriam of Lawrence H. Fewkes

by MRS. IDA M. BAKER  
San Diego, Calif.

• Very regretfully, I announce to all who knew and loved Mr. Lawrence H. Fewkes, that we lost a very fine friend when he passed away at 57 years of age on December 5th, 1942, at the Naval Hospital in Ft. Rosecrans, where he was interred in the National Cemetery. He leaves his widow Ella Marguerite Fewkes, both of them have been members of the American Begonia Society for years, and always very interested in all its activities. Mr. Fewkes was formerly of Montalvo Gardens where he retired as a veteran of the First World War.

The members of the San Diego Branch of the American Begonia Society take this means of extending sincerest sympathy to Mrs. Fewkes in her bereavement.

All the members of the Board of the ABS regret exceedingly the passing of Mr. Fewkes and extend to Mrs. Fewkes the deepest expressions of condolence.

Jack M. Bailey, President

• Please be reminded to tell advertisers you are a Begonian, and patronize them as often as possible.

## Mentor For 1943

by MRS. HARRY HARKER  
Long Beach, Calif.

• As MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN, I ask you, each and everyone of you, to send in your dues for 1943 NOW — not tomorrow, or next week, or wait until February and find that your "Begonian" is not arriving, because you failed to send in your subscription in time to save a lot of people a great deal of time and money which would be expended in other worthwhile things. You are working for the country we love so dearly as we are, consequently, BE OF GOOD CHEER — THERE IS MUCH TO BE HAD FROM THE BEGONIAN THIS YEAR — YOU WILL NEED IT. SEND YOUR \$1.50 quickly—PLEASE.

# Begonians Look Forward Together

This New Year Is A Call To Faith.  
Faith In Ourselves,  
Faith In Our Country,  
Faith In the Power of Free Men.

With such faith the New Year will be symbolic of the moral and spiritual values upon which a free people ultimately must rely.

That you and yours will have such faith, together with the hope that springs from it, is the wish of your officers for the coming year and always.

J. L. Baily, President

Dear Jim:

In your last letter you made some wise cracks about Begonias and expressed wonder that any one could ever acquire an interest in such queer plants.

I wonder, Jim, have you ever caught the rays of the setting sun through the leaf of a truly beautiful Rex? have you walked through a garden in the peace and quiet of the early morning when the dew was still on the blossoms and caught the elusive perfume of some flower and found that you were standing beside a beautiful tall begonia with great bunches of white flowers which were giving out that exquisite perfume? or have you experienced the thrill of planting seed, smaller than mustard seed, and seeing it develop through the months into a strong, healthy plant with a flower that defies description as to color or texture or form?

Try it, Jim, and then you will quickly see why one can rave over such insignificant things. "Joe"

## The Editor's Wish

• To one and all — a New Year with renewed purpose, design for living, health to put it into practice and enjoy it and enough success to carry each one through difficult times with faith and confidence. Last year the Editor attempted to give everyone something of interest and inspiration in each issue of the Begonian. This year, she will endeavor to improve over that. Any success achieved is credited to the countless people everywhere who made it possible, to whom she is deeply grateful, hence, if you are happy she is happy too!

# Begonia Froebeli

by T. H. EVERETT  
New York Botanical Garden

• Bright red flowers and rich green foliage are always welcome in a plant which blooms at this time, and any such subject a little out of the ordinary is well worthy of the gardener's serious consideration. Such a plant is *Begonia Froebeli*, which has, in addition to the virtues mentioned, the valuable character of remaining in bloom over a long season. It is easily raised from seed and the first year will make good specimens in four- or five-inch pans. Plants may be grown on for several seasons, but they never become very large. As with all *Begonias*, the seed is minute and should be sown on a finely prepared soil surface without any covering, the seed being merely pressed into the soil. January or February are good sowing months. A generous supply of humus in the compost is desirable and good drainage must be given. Except when the plants are dormant, the soil in which *Begonia Froebeli* is grown must never be permitted to dry out and this is particularly important in the seedling stage. When the young plants are large enough to be handled conveniently, they are carefully transplanted to flats, into a coarse compost, but one still rich in humus. The next move is to individual small pots and some organic fertilizer may be added to the soil mixture. Subsequent repotting receives attention as growth demands. Shade from sunshine and a moist atmosphere with some air circulation afford good growing conditions for the young plants. So far as is practicable one should avoid wetting the foliage and this is particularly important late in the day. A night temperature of 55 to 60 degrees is satisfactory. As flowering time approaches and the plants are filling their pots with roots, a careful feeding program may be initiated. Organic fertilizers are to be preferred to those of a non-organic origin. After flowering, the plants begin to rest and the water supply is gradually reduced and finally withheld completely until the tubers show signs of growing again, when they are shaken free from the old soil, repotted into a fresh mixture and started on a new season's growth.

The original description of this *Begonia* was made by Alphonse de Can-

dolle and was published in *Gardener's Chronicle* (of England) for October 31, 1874 (Vol. 36, p. 552). From this account, we learn that Messrs. Froebel and Co., of Zurich, sent to de Candolle for naming a plant in full flower which they had received from Ecuador. Upon examination, it proved to be a new species, allied to *B. cinnabarina*, and to the new plant de Candolle gave the name *B. Froebeli*.

*Begonia Froebeli* is a tuberous species, producing short erect stems and bearing broad, obliquely heart-shaded leaves which, like the stems and the fleshy petioles, are densely covered with short, soft hairs. The leaves are bright green with paler veins. The inflorescence is a dicotomous cyme carried well above the foliage. Peduncles and inflorescence branches are reddish in color and pilose. The staminate flowers exceed two inches in diameter and have two large pointed-ovate and two much smaller elliptic petals. All are brilliant scarlet-crimson and the two outer are pilose on the outside. The stamens are red, margined with gold. The pistillate flowers are of the same color as the males. They are about one and a quarter inches in diameter and have five elliptic or obovate acuminate petals of nearly equal size, the outer ones of which are pilose on the under sides. The ovary and its wings are densely tomentose.

(Courtesy *Gardeners' Chronicle* of America.)

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# LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

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

## CHAPTER IV

**T**O return to our bins. I prefer a bin to a pit because I can remove the contents by slicing off rather than digging in, a vital difference when the compost is made up in layers. Our bins are made of three solid sides and bottom and fourth side has removable boards that fit into slots, and when we open a bin we take out all these boards and slice down the soil from the top to the bottom like cutting a layer cake and then we have a mixture of all the contents. It is further mixed by going through a soil shredder. This shredder was purchased in the eastern states, in answer to an advertisement, and when it arrived, expensively, I was aghast at the sum I had paid for some ordinary pine lumber, a few pounds of spike nails and a foot or so of pipe with fittings, made up as a hopper at the bottom of which revolved a wooden cylinder studded with spikes passing between other spikes driven through the walls of the hopper. That was all there was to the contraption, but it does its work, and has more than earned itself out. When it goes to pieces like the one hoss shay, I shall build me another on longer legs, so that an ordinary garden barrow can be wheeled under it, and I expect to do it for less than half the cost of the original.

Three elements go into our compost, leaf mold, cow manure, and a sandy loam, and they alternate in four inch thick layers. On the top of the cow manure we put a liberal sprinkling of fine charcoal. We begin with the loam, follow with the cow manure and then the leaf mold, wetting down thoroughly as we go along.

A word or two now about these elements. For the sandy loam, which we always test to guard against possible alkalinity, we want a heavy material not too fine, that won't run together and harden. Its office is to fill in through the other two open elements and hold the mixture reasonably compact. We have just what we want in a red soil slightly acid which wet or dry, crumples in the hand clasp and when absolutely dry will take water like a sponge.

The cow manure we get as fresh as

we can, right from the corral, because in a country like ours with an average yearly rainfall of ten inches, and that all falling in six months, we may talk about well rotted fertilizer but we have never had it. It dries up and loses most of its plant-food value.

The third element, leaf mold, is subject to much the same criticism as that just applied to the cow manure: it is a dried, rather than a rotted material. For years we would not consider any but the oak product, this had a serious defect in that it was apt to carry a fungus culture, and we have substituted the material from under the manzanita, and like it much better. It is practically free from the fungus trouble, is finer in composition and so makes a better amalgamator and is slightly more acid, moreover, bulk for bulk we get more for our money. Complaints come in from tree-less sections. We have no leaf mold. A good turfy loam is an efficient substitute, especially, if the sandy loam be replaced by a fine gravel.

Another cry is, "What about Peat?" Frankly, I am not prepared to be at all positive in answering this, in a limited experience it has proven of real value with only a few growths, its general use under lath has seemed to be dangerous because it is extreme in action. It is either wet or dry and knows not a happy medium. In warm weather the wetness does no harm but in cold spells it is downright discouraging. However, we feel compelled to say, "Try it yourself," there must be some background for the loud praise it gets since it appears in the advertising columns of every garden publication and in lots of other places.

I have just realized that I have invited the ridicule, if not the contempt, of literary sharks by a continuous hopping

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from I to we. In explanation let it be said that while I do the writing and have done the planning, other chaps have done the shovelling so that the job completed is a We and He one.

I have always had a yen (for this word I thank an author in the Saturday Evening Post) for assembling all the necessary tools and appliances before beginning a job, and I find I cannot go any further with this lathed garden without introducing some more paraphernalia. Of course there must be a trowel, two or more is better, because a single one is never in the place one expects to find it, and it is a good idea to enamel the handle in a vivid color to balk its tendency to play hide and seek, and it is no economy to buy cheap tools, get a solid trowel. Then there is a small-handled spade with crescent shaped blade not over six inches wide. This is indispensable for sinking pots, etc., and a long handled, straight bladed spade for trimming edges, etc. These with a good knife (there is an excellent article with a white handle marked "Say it with Flowers"), a hone to keep this sharp, a pair of primary shears, and a hammer, saw, and an assortment of nails, and one can tackle most any kind of an operation in the lath house, provided there is a wheelbarrow and a spraying outfit. The last must be a real pressure machine, not a little pop-gun. I have other tools which will be introduced as the need of them arises in future operation.

In pots the most useful will be 2½", 4", 6", 8", intermediate sizes are handy, but in repotting a two inch increase gives only an inch more, all around, additional root room, which is little enough. These sizes are for the regular pot; the shallower type known as fern pots come in very handy and might well be stocked in moderate quantities in 5's and 7's. For large specimens, wooden boxes are best, these can be just square, made out of foot board, the cheapest form, or are more presentable in hexagonal design. The lumber must be of a rot resisting kind such as redwood which we use. Another container which has become an essential with us, is a tray with standards of varying height to display small growing plants in groups. This tray is hexagonal, the individual sides are fifteen inches by twelve, six inches deep, one inch thick, which makes a pleasing flare without so much of one as to prevent pots being arranged close

to the edge. The bottom is put under, not in the sides so as to carry the weight and extends beyond the sides one inch. Standards have a four by four inch upright with a foot square top and bottom, the ends are made by sawing 4 by 4's on the bias so as to have lengths tapering from three to one inch and this is mitered to fit round the upright and nailed on so as to leave the upright half an inch short of level which offsets any tendency to rock on an uneven surface. These standards are made in three heights: two feet, thirty inches, and three feet, any higher calls for a hanging basket.

After suffering many years with the usual wire hanging basket, with its absurd rim, feeble feet, and round wire that slipped up and down the main supports, I found a real basket made in Texas. It had a flat bottom on which it could sit without teetering and was of galvanized welded woven wire like chicken fencing, and after years of use, specimens are as good as ever, moreover, it is cheap. These baskets can be had in various sizes, but 10, 12, and 14 inch will meet ordinary needs. With baskets, will be needed chain to hang them. Chain has proven its advantage over wire or other hanging material because of its allowing of adjustment to any height by inches. A very good and cheap chain which can be bought in quantity is the sort that we used in days gone by to stake out the family cow.

Among other indispensables must be stakes. It is too bad that these have to be used, and it approaches the measure of a crime to treat them so casually as lots of folks do considering any old thing good enough, broom handles, laths, bits of pipe, etc. Do the best one can, stakes will show and a not too of-

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## SHADELAND GARDENS

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Inglewood

California

fensive article is redwood, 1 inch square painted green. We took these in 3, 4, 5, and 6 foot lengths. For smaller plants and lighter use we have the Japanese 3 foot bamboo, also painted green, and to be bought for less than one can cut the same, even if one has the bamboo growing in one's own yard. Now we have the tying material; raffia is out, it is untidy, hard to handle, and harsh. For years I had samples of string, hemp, etc., all far short of the perfect medium, and then on a lucky day I was buying a special beef roast from a butcher who was a craftsman, and he, after a careful trimming and deboneing, reached underneath his counter and brought out a big needle and ball of large soft cotton twine. I forgot the roast and cried, "Where did you get that string?" "Give me a piece." And that's how I found the tying medium wanted. It did the job, it was strong and soft and easy to handle, but it was white and I had to go hunting for something like it in green after my efforts to dye it proved futile, and now I have shifted to a jute article, made, I believe, for use in the schools, where the young make those embarrassing mats, etc.

(To be continued)

## Branch News

**Philobegonia Club Branch:** Most of the members of this group are involved in some phase of war work, but since they feel that they live within a reasonable radius of each other, it has been decided to continue the monthly meetings as long as they can find two to three hours a month to give to their hobby that gives them most morale uplift — of course, it is this special type of gardening: Growing Shade plants. They meet in the morning at 10:00 on the first Tuesday of the month, and we wish them lots of happy times together, especially do we welcome in office the following men and women:

President: E. C. Drew, 625 Moreno Rd., Penn Valley, Pa.

Vice-President: Mrs. Perry D. Richards, 111 Glen Rd., Ardmore, Pa.

Secretary: Mrs. Albert Gere, 362 Piney, Merion, Pa.

Comm. Sec.: Mrs. Lee Krauss, 405 Cotswold, Pennwood, Pa.

**Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch:** See the report of this Branch elsewhere in this issue. The newly elected officers are:

President: Mrs. Theodore Gruenbaum, 316 West Chew Street, Olney, Philadelphia, Pa.

Vice-Pres.: Mrs. Frank H. Mather, 515 Windover Road, Hatboro, Pa.

Treasurer: Mrs. Ellison Finckel, Dresher Road, Horsham, Pa.

Secretary: Mrs. M. S. Prince, Hatboro, Pa.

Congratulations and a most successful year to them all.

**The Inglewood Branch:** Because this Branch has to find new quarters in which to hold monthly meetings, we are not able yet to say what the plans may be for January. It is nice, however, to welcome into active work the new officers who were installed during the last meeting:

President: Mr. Frank Schmidt

Vice-President: Mr. H. B. Fasmer

Secretary: Mrs. Harold S. Clark

Treasurer: Mrs. Bradford

Nat'l. Rep.: Mr. John Crowder

Ex. Board Member: Mr. Fairclo

• Please do send in material to reach the Editor not later than the tenth of the month.

... FOR YOUR SHADE PLANTS ...

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Help wanted to put a fragrance better than a Rose in our lovely Tuberosus Begonia. With each \$2.00 order for Tuberosus we will include, free, one of our Red Lloyd x Wildrose hybrids that come 3 out of 4 double and about half of them with a fair fragrance. We want you to grow seedlings from them to increase this fragrance. We have a few colors that are nearly what we want, so know it can be done.

**LESLE WOODRIFF**  
Harbor      Oregon

# Philobegonia Branch Entertains

by MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM  
Eastern Editor

• The Philobegonia Branch of the ABS extended invitations to Philadelphia and Vicinity Branch members, MCG Branch members, and to all other active or past members of The American Begonia Society living in the vicinity, to the home of Mrs. Albert H. Gere, 362 Brookway Ave., Merion, Pa., Tuesday, December 1st, 1942.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring all ABS members in the vicinity together, to see Mrs. Gere's large collection of Begonia slides (all of which represent her own plants including also Begonias exhibited in the New York Botanical Gardens). Of particular interest were the extra 18 slides exhibiting the leaves of new Rex Begonia Hybrids of unusual beauty, grown and originated by Mrs. Henry Flaitz of Ojai, California. A pleasure indeed it was to see her collection of many unusual varieties of Begonias, of which many are specimen plants and huge in size.

The meeting was called for 12 o'clock noon. After a box luncheon followed with ice cream and home made cake, the slides were shown. Questions were asked and much information was obtained from Mrs. Helen Krauss, with whom all ABS members are acquainted.

Much time was spent by all of the guests in Mrs. Gere's conservatory, where her beloved Begonias have plenty of space to grow as high as nature prompts them to. Observation revealed the following: *B. acutangula* was blooming and stems had plenty of foliage; *B. acida* (a very difficult subject to grow

here) was a fine plant placed where it receives afternoon sun; *B. coccinea* and many of its types and relatives were blooming and had plenty of foliage; *B. Shasta* (white) was a joy to behold with clusters of white blooms from all parts of a very tall plant (tall means anywhere from 6 to 10 ft.); *B. Elaine* is a favorite with all Begonia lovers here and the plant shown was beautiful, as were Begonias: Florida species, *foliosa*, *glaucophylla*, *Helen*, *Mrs. Scripps*, *sanguinea*, *glabra* (*scandens*), *Speculata*; *Superbakenzi*, *undulata*, *venosa*, *Viaude*, and *verschaffeltiana*. *Begonia aconitifolia* was beyond description. The following are difficult types even with greenhouse atmosphere to grow successfully but Mrs. Gere had large, healthy specimens to show us of Begonias: *diadema*, *manicatacrispa*, *Margaritacea*, *nelumbifolia*, and *luxurians*. The last named was a very tall specimen, with plenty of canes and foliage.

Through the untiring efforts of Mrs. E. C. Drew, Narbeth, Pa., the President of the Philobegonia Branch, the meeting was well attended. It is regretted that none of the Philadelphia and Vicinity Branch were able to attend. All are looking forward to more of these "get together" meetings for Begonia enthusiasts, after the war.

• We are indebted, this month, to Mrs. Wm. Purcell Gall, of Riverside Valley, for an article we might term "Begonia Personalities." This is particularly a welcome type of communication, one we have hoped to get from each of you who happens to be a keen observer of people who DO things. Mrs. Gruenbaum's report is another of the type. Please let us have more. We want to know Who's WHO in our Society. The Editor and all the readers will thank you happily.

## BEGONIA "IT"

"IT" has everything a hybridist could ask for. Flowering habit of Lady Mac or other Winter blooming florist types but It flowers the year around with heaviest bloom in the Winter. It has lovely Rex leaves of bright silver on dark green with even better contrast than *B. Rex* President Carnot, besides all this, IT has a lovely fragrance of somewhere between rose and freesia. The flowers are of a lovely shade of pink which is wonderful for Winter window gardens, for IT makes a fine house plant. IT carried over a thousand flowers at all times from Christmas to May (NOTICE, FLORISTS) when it was cut back for cuttings. Be one of the first 500 of Begonia nobility to own an IT. THE BEST BEGONIA SO FAR.

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**LESLIE WOODRIF**

HARBOR

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This Begonia took 2nd prize at the last Begonia Show in Inglewood, Calif. —A. E. Rippey photo

## B. Rex Magnifica

by A. E. RIPPEY  
Los Angeles, Calif.

• This Rex Begonia (*magnifica*), grown by the writer, an amateur, has been very interesting to him and as our Society is a gathering of mainly amateurs, it is here reproduced with the thought that it will find a responsive chord of interest in some other amateur enthusiast.

The size (the larger leaf measuring 20 x 11 inches) and age are of tantamount interest, in that at the time this picture was taken the specimen was only eight months old. Well, perhaps this statement is open to argument. However, it did not exist as a separate plant 8 months ago, but was a rhizome hanging on the edge of a pot. Its mother still sits on the bench beside it shining forth in her glory, although considerably eclipsed by her scion.

Well, to go into more detail. The mother of this plant commenced to show

her age and developed rather a scrawny rhizome that hung outside the pot some 4 or 5 inches. Last December the writer encased some leaf mold in layers of sphagnum moss and bound it securely around the rhizome with fine copper wire. Early in the Spring when begonia roots should be starting, an investigation showed roots from the rhizome were penetrating the moss and leaf mold. Now here is where the age question lends itself to discussion. Although children's age starts at the severing of the umbilical cord, so this rhizome was severed from its parent and the moss ball with its enclosed roots were planted in leaf mold into the pot shown in the picture. Does its age start from this date, or, like some old men, was just a part of the old plant rejuvenated? Well, let the readers settle that.

This specimen, like Topsy, did not just "grow," but had to have considerable help. Did you ever hear of the colored gentleman who had a wonderful flower garden beside his house in a weed covered vacant lot, and one morning

# "Casa Rancho"

by A ROAMER

• Mr. and Mrs. Howard C. Warren, of Bellflower, California, have a novel and artistic 20 x 36 foot outdoor living-room built of Eucalyptus poles lathed-over with regular lath. A long, low lath-porch across the front of the California Ranch house removes all appearance of the ordinary lath-house. They call it "Casa Rancho." On two sides are large Fuchsias and tall ferns, many of which are over eight feet, with lovely Camellias and other shade-loving plants. A third side is banked with moss filled with all types of Begonias, smaller ferns and various shade-plants.

Mrs. Warren's office at one end is interesting too. The outside is made of old redwood boards while the inside is lined with giant bamboo grown in their lovely spacious yard.

The Warrens are gracious hosts to the many visitors who come to take advantage of the "Very Welcome" sign.

the minister happened along and remarked: "Amos, the Lord with your help has made a beautiful thing out of this old weed patch," and Amos replied, "Yessir, yessir, but if I had of left it to the Lord alone, he'd a mad a ——— of a mess of it." Well, neither was this specimen left entirely to the Lord, for like Amos, the writer had to do considerable work which, while not arduous, was constant.

A Rex, if properly potted, will take a small sup of water almost every morning and dotes on a daily shower, even two if the weather is warm and dry. Don't forget you will have rivals in your enjoyment of Rexes, such lovers as snails, slugs, inch worms, et al, so whether your Rexes like it or not, give them a good spraying once a week. The above had a nice weekly bath of Extrax and pulled through without a single perforation. Some luck! And last, but not least, Rexes are a hungry tribe, so every Sunday before we had our dinner this specimen had a lunch on liquid "cow" sweetened up with different assortments of commercial and liquid stimulation.

Well, it was, and is, a lot of fun, and next summer in my lath house I'll forget the cares and worries and Japs and Germans and lack of sugar and lack of gas and lack of youth, and the Lord, with my help, will grow another magnifica.

**Question:** How may I keep some pet Begonias I have from being injured by frost? They are planted where I should like to keep them, and here, in No. California, we are apt to lose them during the winter.

**Answer:** You do not mention what type of Begonias you have growing outdoors, nor whether you are inland or near the ocean . . . but, as a matter of precaution, we know of nothing better for outdoor plants that are liable to frost injury than a heavy mulch of coarse Sani-Soil (which is a top-notch insulator) to keep your plants protected yet dry around the stems, with all the ventilation they need. Some of this may be piled up between the stems, for it does not absorb moisture, therefore cannot cause stem rot.

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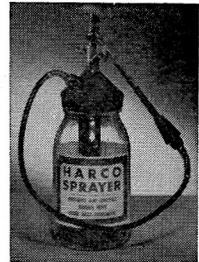
(Descriptions, Cultural Directions, Planting and Blooming Times)

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# Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

by JOHN S. VOSBURG  
Hollywood, Calif.

• Here's where you have to believe in fairies, for *Primula malacoides* has well earned the common name of "Fairy Primrose."

It has been long one of the most popular of all the Primrose group because of its adaptability as either a potted or bedding plant. It is very successfully grown out-of-doors here in Southern California and anywhere we go, there it is, looking so dainty and pretty.

Much improvement has been noted in this flower in the last few years, both as to color and size of flowers and size and style of flower cluster. This cluster is explained as a superimposed umbel of flowers that are either single or double. They flower over a long period, blossom very early in the cold weather and continue to do so until late in the Spring. They prefer shade with rather a leafy soil and not too much fertilizing. They require little cultivation and hardly any care to produce flowering stems twelve to eighteen inches tall.

As a potted plant they are one of the easiest to grow, but being in pots they respond according to the amount of care given. I have seen plants in eight or ten inch pots that ranked with the best of any kind of plant life for show and effect. One of these pots with twenty or more umbels of these daintily fashioned and delightfully colored flowers is representative of fairies indeed.

◆  
• Questions regarding lathhouse building will be welcomed by the Editor who will refer them to Mrs. Robinson prior to publication herein.

◆  
• Anyone who has a fine and successful lathhouse should send us pictures and story.



## The Librarian's Message to Everyone

• An announcement of interest to all, from the American Begonia Society Librarian, Mrs. John W. Crowder, tells us that through a purchase of a large number of **Bessie Buxton's** book, "**Begonias and How to Grow Them,**" she is able to supply them to members at a special price of 85c each. This is a publication no lover of begonias can afford to be without, as anyone who owns a copy will say. Send direct to Mrs. Crowder, 1857 W. 166 Street, Moneta, Calif.

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# Invitation From Valley of Paradise

by MRS. WM. PURCELL GALL  
Riverside, Calif.

Dear Begonians:

Would you like to hear from the Valley of Paradise? In this Valley of Paradise we raise Begonias of all types and varieties. Yes, I said raise Begonias, for the reporter herself has raised Tuberos Begonias and Gloxinias. I have made conditions possible for seeds to germinate, but the death rate of young seedlings has been appalling. However, with much tender care I have several dozen blooming plants. With temperatures varying 40 degrees in twenty four hours the death rate of seedling plants is expected to be rather high. The grower must have a well heated greenhouse. However, it has been fun knowing how to make it possible for one tiny seed to make one pot full of glorious beauty.

In this Valley of Paradise we find that October is one month of our gardening year when we do enjoy our enclosed shade gardens. We have enough warm sunshine in the day time to promote plant growth. When the fall winds swish the autumn leaves about, then we hustle our potted plants under glass or muslin houses.

Among our Begonia members you would be surprised to know what beautiful shade gardens you will find. Take Mrs. Topham, our president, who has one of the show gardens in the Valley of Paradise. Her rock garden design is original, and you would be amazed to see her mix mortar. Then Mr. and Mrs. Glenn have proved to us that they can grow and sell Begonias that will equal any in Southern California and if you want to have your plants identified, ask Betty or Port Glenn, they know. Mr. Twomley, a retired machinist, spares no patience in developing beautiful plants. He even waters plants with a medicine dropper. Mr. and Mrs. Twomley have a dream of a little glass house heated with automatic control. If you want a special treat, go feast your eyes upon their orchids. A place that one could close his eyes and say "now I am in fairyland" is in Miss Tratt's artistic lathgarden. Her hobby is specimen fibrous Begonia plants. Dear Mrs. Porter has most wonderful success raising Rex Begonias from leaf cuttings and she knows

exactly how to mix the soil, too, to make them grow lush foliage. Then there is sweet little Mrs. Schaffer, an artist with her hands. She has everything about her in her well built lathgarden. Her money plant is most unusual in that it has draped itself all about her shade garden. Mrs. Meyer our capable Secretary and Treasurer is building a fine new lathhouse and we have enjoyed her spacious patio for our meeting place on several occasions. Mr. and Mrs. Andrews have a thriving nursery on the main boulevard leading through the Valley of Paradise, where we all enjoy visiting from time to time. Our Mrs. Mansperger has a petite lathhouse which she enjoys each time she opens her kitchen door. Should you drive out a winding country road by the river side and stop by a trickling stream of water and chance to cross over a narrow bridge you would enter the most ideal shade garden under spreading aged walnut trees, and then, behold, you would catch a glimpse of Mrs. Parks' glass and lathhouse well filled with most anything that should choose to grow in the Valley of Paradise. We pay tribute to our beloved Mrs. Frank Lord who has recently slipped away from us, she was well known to all the Valley of Paradise for her foliage plants which adorned her front porch. Our little, busy body, Mrs. May, has green fingers in a very special way. She is one of our members who is always willing to try something new in Begonias, in fact, anything that grows in earthen pots. Mr. and Mrs. Farrar are among our new members whom we count on to help us in most every way. Mr. Farrar can auction a Begonia away and make a "right smart" sum for the treasury. Mrs. Farrar is our new corresponding representative. She will keep us posted on the affairs of the National Begonia Society for the duration. Mr. Terrell, a well known garden authority in our Valley of Paradise, writes a column for our daily newspaper. He is a valuable member of our society. If it's bugs that's bothering your beloved plants, "Dr. Terrell" can give it the dope. When a shade plant is named, Mrs. Mac Pharren's face will glow with interest and she will soon relate her joys and difficulties in raising shade plants. Mrs. Smith has a special gift with Epiphyllums, ask her why your Christmas cactus does not bloom? She will tell you Epiphyllums are not cacti. Mrs. Bogart

**The Hollywood Begonia Branch** members are dedicating themselves wholeheartedly to the growing of plants for camouflage as well as all the food plants they have room for, besides keeping up their shade gardens so that the few spare moments they have may be spent in pleasant surroundings with a colorful background. The last meeting brought an unusually large number of Begonia enthusiasts to hear Mr. Ross speak on Rex Begonias. The following officers were installed for the ensuing year, by Mr. Wm. Ross:

President: Mrs. Wm. C. Drummond  
 Vice-President: Mr. John Parker  
 Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. R. J. Caup  
 Nat'l. Representative: Mr. Wm. Hawkins  
 Director: Judge James Pope.

The past year has been enjoyed particularly by one and all, and the new year bids very fair to be an enthusiastic one also. Congratulations and good luck to all. The January meeting will bring to Hollywood Mr. Henry Murietta, famous Horticulturist, to talk on Tuberous Begonias and their culture. Mrs. Jay C. Jenks, who is also a member of the Los Angeles Committee on Home Food Production, advises anyone interested on improving "Home Food" conditions to write for the circular by that name from the Agricultural Extension Service, 524 No. Spring Street, Los Angeles, Calif. (It is free for the asking.)

**Bellflower Branch:** The members of this Branch closed a very successful year and began another auspiciously when they re-elected their officers of last year. This past November they celebrated their first anniversary with 47 paid members, while they have new members at every meeting. Their Xmas party was made very interesting through a splendidly in-

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has a special gift of calling all of her Begonias by their botanical names, and she insists on having potted plants that bloom. Looking into the face of Mrs. Wood one would know that the beauty of flowers and plants has enriched her life. Mrs. Higday, our brand new member, has been welcomed by our group in a very "flowery" manner.

We, Begonians of the Valley of Paradise, extend a hearty welcome to Begonians in other valleys to visit our sheltered gardens.

structive talk on Fuchsias by Mrs. Grace Collins of Long Beach, who is also an authority on Begonias. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month, and want you to know: "Visitors are always welcome." Officers:

President: Mr. Merrill B. Teaney  
 Vice-Pres.: Mr. Ralph Boggs, and  
 Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer.

**Herbert Dyckman Branch:** It is understood that this Branch will continue to hold its meetings at the home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins permanently. Up to the time of going to print only the name of the new Secretary-Treasurer Mrs. Rush T. Lewis, was at hand, but it is hoped to be able to publish the names of the other new officers in the next Begonian.

**Long Beach Parent Chapter** enjoyed a particularly fine Xmas party with a large Turkey dinner and all the other activities attending such a celebration. That was a splendid manner in which to say "Thank You" to the officers of the last year and a delightful way in which to initiate the new ones. We are sorry we missed the party, but we welcome the following officers and wish them much good luck and success in the present year:

President: Mr. B. C. Bulgrin  
 Vice-Pres.: Edna Ziesenhenne  
 Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. M. S. Algeo, and  
 Nat'l. Representative: Mr. Harry Harker.

**San Gabriel Branch:** Already the members of this Branch are thinking and acting in terms of The Annual Meeting of 1943 under their sponsorship. Each member was asked to comb the lathhouse and garden for plants to be sold at the last meeting in order to have funds with which to do things nicely. This is where they get their members going and coming, as it were, bringing plants to sell to each other. Nice spirit, and what fun. Of course, if you stop to think of it, this is one of the nicest things to which you can introduce your best friends, they will soon be friends of Begonias and Begonians, if they are not already.

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**FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND  
REPORT OF LIBRARIAN, AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, 1942**

Received from J. N. Nutter on April 29, 1942, check No. 449.....\$25.00

**DISBURSEMENTS**

Stamps .....	\$1.00	
Typing paper, stamp pad, clips, catalog cards.....	1.00	
Buxton—Begonias, 3 copies @ 85c.....	2.55	
Postage .....	.42	
	\$4.97	4.97

Balance on hand .....\$20.03

In April the holdings of the American Begonia Society were transferred from L. E. Day, through Rudolph Ziesenhenne, Research Director, to the present librarian.

The outstanding books in the collection are: "Les Begonias" by Charles Chevalier, published in French; "Die Begonien" by Karl Albert Fotsch published in German; and "Begonias and How to Grow Them" by Bessie Buxton, published in English. The library has several outstanding contributions to the literature of Begonias in pamphlet material. Magazine holdings consist of files of horticultural publications numbering over 100 which have been indexed for Begonia articles this year.

Mrs. Annie Robinson donated a copy of "The Philippine Species of Begonia" by E. D. Merrill, published in 1911.

The Agricultural Index was checked for articles published on Begonias from 1928 to 1942. Fourteen of the most important horticultural publications in the United States and Great Britain are listed in this index. It will now be the endeavor of the librarian to secure copies of as many of these articles as possible for the ABS library.

Loans of books and printed material to members have been the chief joy of the librarian this year. Most of the loans have been made by mail, sending books and pamphlets as far away as Michigan. It is interesting to note how much enthusiasm for the art of growing begonias comes from all parts of the country. All members have been most meticulous in observing the due dates and returning all loans on time with the postage to cover the cost of mailing.

The librarian has given another service to the members this year which has been greatly appreciated. Books for individuals have been ordered through the librarian, thus saving members time and money.

Correspondence with outstanding writers and research workers on Begonias has resulted in leads to printed material in existence that may be added to the library in the future.

A fund of \$25.00 for library expenses was received in April from J. N. Nutter. A financial statement is attached.

Respectfully submitted

Eleanor Crowder, Librarian  
American Begonia Society

November 7th, 1942

**BRANCH NEWS CONTINUED**

• **Inglewood Branch:** It has been decided to meet on January 9th, at the usual hour of 7:30 p.m. at 148 No. La Brae, Inglewood, and the long awaited talk on the culture of Caladiums by Mr. Harold Hart will be the feature of the evening. Mr. Hart will bring some of his outstanding Fancy-leaved Caladiums and will also show some special slides on the subject. Those who have heard him know what a treat is in store for those who attend.

**Question:** What should be done to Begonias that were frozen down last Winter?

**Answer:** If you have any Begonias that were frozen down, wait until the new growth begins and has made a little headway, before cutting back the plant, however, a mulch of leaf-mold will help a lot to give the plant a little sustenance and coolness of root during the hot days.

• **Our Advertising Brings Results -- Do YOU Need More Business?**

# 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 January (2nd Monday) American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in Board of Directors Room, Retail Merchants Credit Assn., 417 So. Hill, Los Angeles, Calif., Jan. 11th, 7:30 p.m.

## PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Tuesday, January 5th, 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,  
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, January 5th.  
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,  
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

## BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, January 5th, 8:00 p.m.  
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,  
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, January 5th  
American Legion Hall.  
North California St., Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.,  
515 So. Evergreen Drive, Ventura, Calif.

## DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, January 7th  
Dominguez Casualty Station,  
2171 So. Alameda St., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.  
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, January 7th  
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.  
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.

## HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, January 8th  
Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins,  
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Rush T. Lewis, Secy.-Treas.  
3733-A California, Long Beach, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Saturday, January 9th  
148 No. La Brea, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary  
Speaker: Harold Hart  
Subject: "Caladiums and Their Culture"

## EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, January 10th, 2:30 p.m.  
Greenhouse, Lakeside Park  
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,  
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, January 11th, 7:30 p.m.  
5660 Atlantic Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.  
5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, January 11th  
4037 39th Street, San Diego  
Mrs. Edwin F. Barker, Secy.-Treas.,  
4561 El Cerrito Dr., San Diego, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, January 12th, 7:30 p.m.  
Pasadena Library, Walnut and Garfield  
Samuel R. Works, Secy.,  
71 N. San Gabriel, Pasadena, Calif.

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Friday, January 14th, 7:30 p.m.  
124 Ferns Temple  
705 Elm, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. M. S. Algeo, Secy.-Treas.  
112 Gardena, Long Beach, Calif.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, January 14th, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. R. J. Caup, Secy.-Treas.  
Speaker: Mr. Henry Murietta  
Subject: Tuberous Begonian and Their Culture

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday Evening, January 15th, 7:30 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, January 18th  
329 No. Brand Blvd.,  
New Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,  
709 Milford Ave., Phone Citrus 17517

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, January 18th  
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,  
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

## VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, January 21st  
11228 Atlantic Ave.  
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,  
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Sunday, January 23rd, 1:30 p.m.  
Rosecroft Begonia Gardens  
Mrs. George S. Graves, Secy.-Treas.

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, January 26th  
Mrs. M. S. Prince, Secy.,  
Hatsboro, Pennsylvania  
Home of Mrs. W. E. Jones, Willowgrove, Pa.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Meetings Suspended  
Miss Annabelle Sylvester, Secy.,  
Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

No Meeting in January  
1060 Francisco St.,  
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,  
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,  
210 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

## 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.

## 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.

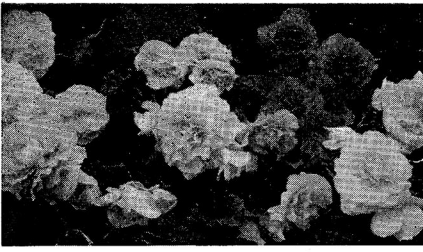
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