

# The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

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# The BEGONIAN

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## Foreword by The Editor

● This will mark the first edition of THE BEGONIAN from our Los Angeles publishers, The Commonwealth Press. We have been fortunate in making this liaison and look forward to continue producing a worthwhile magazine for all our readers. We are confident the physical makeup will meet with your approval, the substance of the material, however, will largely depend on each one of you. It is the aim of this Society to help every member, in every part of the countries in which our members may be. (Futile aspiration? We are optimistic.) To this end, we rely on your keenness of perception, your ability to obtain interesting facts that will make us all better growers of begonias and all shade plants. We depend on your goodness in sending such articles and pictures to the Editor direct who will

gratefully give them light as soon as space permits.

Mrs. Florence Knock finds herself too busy to write the monthly article we have been enjoying — other than an irregular one once in awhile. We need Eastern, Mid-Western, Northern and Southern contributors.

Dr. W. C. Drummond, who is quite modest, finally obliged us by writing a series of short articles which we are sure will be of value to us all. See next issue of THE BEGONIAN.

We hope we are not too late in wishing you a Happy Easter.

'Twas Easter-Sunday. The full-blossomed trees

Filled all the air with fragrance and with joy.

Longfellow — Spanish Student,

Act 1, Scene 3.

# Do You Notice Foliage?

By FLORENCE KNOCK, Crooks, S. Dakota

● One of our well informed Begonia Society members in Minneapolis said that she enjoyed her Begonia foliage almost as much as the blossoms. That was a rather new "brown study" to me, but it caused me to become more leaf conscious.

Her choice Begonia collection—75 plus—is pot grown the year around and hence the plants do not bloom as freely as the Begonias that summer in free soil. Sharing so generously too, does eliminate many flowering tips. Most of my original Begonias came from these Mpls. plants.

Only through intimate observation can we learn to recognize the limitless variety and grace of Begonia foliage. The large, the small, the thin, the succulent, the spotted, the smooth, the rough, the hairy, the scaly leaves, and countless others all have their individual charm.

From the species numberless hybrids have been developed by professional and amateur hybridists. Through this fascinating procedure many unusual leaf combinations have resulted.

The many forms of colored-leaved Rex begonias are grown because of the beautiful color combinations in the foliage, and they never cease to attract enthusiastic attention. The unusual spiralled forms are also richly colored. If they did not require bottom heat during the winter more Rex would be found in our homes.

Special soil mixtures are often used to deepen the leaf colors. Oak or other hard wood leaf mold, bone meal and scotch soot are the usual combination. Scotch soot is a combination of burned peat and wood. The carbon and ammonia in soot also serves as a repellent to soil pests.

The Brazilian species *B. phyllomaniaca*, also called "Jessie," has a peculiar way of producing tiny leaves and plantlets on its leaves and stems. Its name comes from two Greek words meaning "crazy leaf." Its seedlings, Templini and Paul Bruant, have inherited the peculiarities of its parent. Templini leaves are ruffled, and are mottled with cream, yellow and rose. The B. P. Bruant leaves are deeply serrate and have yellow-green midribs.

The Calla lily begonia has green basal leaves, the upper leaves are glistening white and shaped like miniature calla lilies. This is perhaps the most exquisite and delicate of the variegated semperflorence types. A tall Vernon type which used to be called lepidota, now *B. Manicata*, has lovely creamy yellow

blotched leaves, as has also the rhizomatous *B. manicata aureo*.

The hybrid *Druryi* has the darkest leaves of any begonia of its type, as one would expect since it is a cross between the deep leaved *cyprea* and *sanguinea*.

*Thurstoni*, which is a cross between *sanguinea* and *metallica* has the metallic glossy lustre of its parents and the handsome appearance of the popular plant depends on its glossy foliage.

Dorothy Grant is much like *Thurstoni* but has thick, foot long leaves when well grown. Among other large leaved types, whose leaves are quite similar, we have the tree formed *Corallina Delucerna*, *President Carnot*, *Helen* and others.

The *Corallina* seedling *Helen W. King* is especially lovely because the leaves are so unusually deep red beneath. Some leaves are outstanding because of the underside. Many have colorful and dainty petioles of varying lengths. Foliage presents an interesting study if we are alert enough to observe all they offer.

The intricate and colorful vein system of some leaves is worthy of close examination. The netted veins of *Bertha von Lothringen* are a deep wine color when viewed in the sunshine or under the electric light. Mrs. W. Kimball's fluted, red outlined leaves have colorful veins and petioles.

An interesting group of small begonias, having quite similar dark bronzy leaves, are *Preussen*, *Sachsen* and *Bayern*. Although *Vederi* is a *Compta* seedling it is not unlike the above three, and it does not have the grey center of its parent. *Jinnie May* is a dwarf grower but its leaves are much like the above plants. The degree of bronzy color is decidedly affected by the amount of light and sunshine.

The rough, bright green leaves of *ulmifolia* are more like elm tree leaves than begonia foliage. Even the veining and the rough, hairy surface on both sides of the leaf are similar to the elm.

Although the variance in begonia foliage is infinite I have mentioned only a few from my own collection. Since the appearance of the foliage is a true guide to the plant's state of health we have added reasons for close observation.

Several have asked about *Manda's Woolly Bear* seedling—if it is blooming yet. When it was one year old it was budding, and now the top of the plant looks like an interesting

## Branch News . . .

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

The February meeting was well attended with a large number of visitors introduced, twenty-six of them becoming members. Vera Corbett, secretary, says: "Our Branch is growing and we hope soon to have as large a membership as Ventura."

Through the courtesy of Destruxol Corporation, the speaker of the evening, Mr. Merrill Thompson, spoke on "Plant and Insect Life," illustrated with scientific motion pictures.

On March meeting, no report will be available until next month, but Mrs. Ruby Liedler is eagerly anticipated. She will speak on Fuchsias. The social hour over a cup of coffee after the meeting is becoming quite "the thing."

### Inglewood Branch:

Miss Peggy Sullivan spoke to a record attendance at the March meeting of this Branch. She chose to speak on "Unusual Shade Plants in relation to the Outside and the Inside of the Lathhouse." This Branch is revising the Constitution under the guidance of the President, Mr. J. S. Robson. The proposed revision, having been read this month, will be put to the vote at the April meeting.

Here, also, "The membership list is growing rapidly along with our enthusiasm," as Secretary Alice Whitman puts it.

### California Heights Begonia Club:

Announces that the April meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Bowers at 1020 Belmont Street, Long Beach, at 7:30 p.m.

(Continued on Next Page)

corsage. The two large erect clusters of white, slightly pink tinted, (especially the wings of the female flowers are pink) hairy and glistening flowers are backgrounded by small snowy white haired leaves and other new clusters of flowers. The white hair soon becomes brown fuzz. It is now also producing axillary branches all the way up the stem and each branch is decorated with flower buds. If the branches would grow longer it would become a bushy plant, but it is the habit of this begonia to grow tall for its width.

The October cutting, *Ulmifolia*, has tip clusters of small white hairy flowers. I notice Mrs. Buxton says that her *B. Kimball* blooms in December in Massachusetts. Mine bloomed in February in Minnesota and also in South Dakota. A well grown begonia, having a generous array of leaves, spotted, blotched or all green will give added interest to any room in the home.



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### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

We are grateful to the people who have responded to the question: "HOW DO YOU RIPEN BEGONIA TUBERS?" and we ask that more of you send in your method. It is going to be interesting reading for you when it is time to put them away again after they have bloomed. In the meantime . . . NOW IS THE TIME TO PLANT TUBEROUS BEGONIAS. . . . Every twelve- or eighteen-square-inch of space in the shade should have one of these beauties.

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### **Bellflower Branch:**

Since this group meets on the second Tuesday of the month there is hardly time for the current month's news to get in THE BEGONIAN in time. We do know that Miss Alice Bullard was eagerly awaited as speaker of the March 13th meeting, and having heard her, we know how well she will acquit herself and please her audience. Her subject of double importance, "Propagation of Fibrous and Planting of Tuberous Begonias," will be timely.

### **The Long Beach Parent Branch:**

Mr. Harker reported on the special meeting held to learn more about the effect of Colorado River water on acid soil loving plants.

It seems that Long Beach is not now receiving Colorado River water. In the meantime, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California of 306 W. Third Street, Los Angeles 13, Calif., has had prepared a leaflet of instruction on how to best succeed with shade-loving and acid demanding plants. This leaflet is reproduced here in toto, so that all who are interested may read and benefit thereby.

*"Suggestions for Growing Acid Loving Plants with Colorado River Aqueduct Water:*

"Certain plants grown in Southern California require, for the best results, an acid condition in the soil. The following suggestions are made in connection with the use of Colorado River Aqueduct water in growing such acid loving plants.

"Begonias, camellias, gardenias, azaleas and other plants requiring an acid soil for the best growth may need some special care where aqueduct water is used. Many methods other than the ones herein suggested may be equally effective, but these have been successfully used.

"*Acidity in Potting Mixtures.* Leaf mold is neutral or slightly acid, and Southern California soils are neutral or alkaline. Therefore, the use of acid peat moss in potting mixtures is recommended to produce an acid rooting medium. One part of good acid peat to 2 or 3 parts of leaf mold or loam soil will maintain

acidity (pH 5 to 6) for a considerable time with any alkaline water. Only the azaleas require more acid soil conditions; they should be planted in pure acid peat or peat plus a little leaf mold.

"*Acidity by Fertilization.* Cottonseed meal and sulfur are the most effective means of creating acidity or reducing alkalinity caused by aqueduct water. Cottonseed meal provides food and a slight acidity. Sulfur is not a plant food, but it produces soil acidity continuously for a period of 3 to 6 months. A mixture of 10% sulfur and 90% cottonseed meal can be fed to any of the acid loving plants once every 2 months during the active growing period. If azaleas are potted in pure peat, 5% sulfur is sufficient. In the case of heavy feeders liking a high level of nitrogen, make a light application of liquid fertilizer every 2 or 3 weeks between sulfur treatments. The response of the plant is the best guide to fertilization; if weather or other conditions cause slow growth, do not fertilize as frequently. By using this sulfur-cottonseed meal method less peat is needed in potting mixtures.

"Aluminum sulfate can be used to produce a quick and temporary acidity but the effect is not lasting. Azaleas, camellias, and gardenias planted in the soil may respond to aluminum sulfate treatment, but sulfur is more dependable. Aluminum sulfate is not recommended for azaleas potted in pure peat moss.

"*Drainage and Leaching.* Light, porous potting mixtures are essential for aeration and drainage. Aqueduct water contains small amounts of dissolved minerals, and, if only enough water is added to wet the soil these minerals will remain in the pot. A periodic watering with considerable excess water will wash out these accumulated minerals. By practicing this leaching every 6 to 8 weeks immediately preceding the addition of fresh fertilizer (i.e., cottonseed meal and sulfur) the waste residues from previous fertilizers and irrigation water will be removed.

(Continued on Next Page)

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## BRANCH NEWS

*"Rex Begonias and Ferns.* Sprinkling of begonia leaves with the water induces burning of the margins. By watering the soil in the pot without wetting the leaves except occasionally this burning can be made negligible. A high humidity can be produced by spraying walkways, benches, or walls of the lathhouse with a hose, or by means of air conditioning sprayers. A few varieties of fibrous begonias, ferns and azaleas may also show leaf burn if the leaves are sprayed in the sunlight.

"The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, 306 W. Third St., Los Angeles 13, Calif."

### Hollywood Branch:

Every new member received a corsage made by Mrs. W. C. Drummond. Announcement was made of the change of meeting place for dinner and Board Meeting on the **FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH**, starting with April, Fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m., **CLIFTON'S CAFETERIA**, at 7th Street and Broadway, Los Angeles, in **THE PINE ROOM**. Everyone interested, if member in good standing, is welcome. Members may bring friends.

### GENUS CAMELLIA

Speaker of the evening, member John Parker, gave a very interesting dissertation on the genus *Camellia*. Mr. Parker is a well-known horticulturist with experience in several countries, therefore his words carry authority. Since the time for feeding *Camellias* is here we are giving the pointers on this activity in case our readers want to start the building up for next year's bloom right away.

Feed *Camellias* as soon as plants are nearly finished blooming. The ground should be kept acid, not necessarily by an acid food but more through soil maintained just over neutral, unless *camellias* are combined with azaleas. If sulphate of aluminum is used it should not be abused as it will cause toxic conditions. 4 lbs. to 100 square feet washed into the soil twice a year is plenty. A 4-12-4 Commercial fertilizer may be used but 5 lbs. of soil sulphur to each 100 lbs. should be used to maintain about the right acidity with the proper soil conditions. 5 lbs. of soil sulphur added to 100 square feet will drop one degree of ph.

The leaves of *Camellias* are so heavy that

they cannot manufacture a sufficient amount of Vit. B<sub>1</sub>, which makes it rather necessary to add that to the water routine.

To make leaves greener: use 1 teaspoonful of Magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts) to 2 qts. of water sprinkled on the foliage and repeat in two or three weeks with sulphate of iron.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Mr. Flynn gave the lesson of the month on planting tuberous begonias now. Watch for the little pink sprouts on the tubers now and plant right away in equal parts of oak-leaf mold and peat moss with the crown buried three-quarters of an inch under the surface of this mixture. Place the shallow box in semi-shade. As soon as plants have developed four leaves transplant into almost any good soil, but compost of oakleaf mold and manure with regular soil with an acid reaction will be good.

Mr. Flynn recommends keeping a chart of the procedure carried out and listing thereto the types of begonia grown, the age of tubers and so forth. He has some tubers that have reached a ripe old age, testifying to a pretty good regime.

**WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THE PUBLICITY CHAIRMEN** of the other Branches? Surely each one has a good bit of news for us? Even if the report is of the last month it should be, and we are sure, still is interesting especially to those who are always looking through the news to find a new bit of advice — a new lead to something worthwhile, a new speaker with a good message to offer. The Branch News is intended to give our members just that and more. Send your news to the Editor directly.

### San Diego Branch:

The February meeting was called to order by E. D. Brooks, president, who presented the Russ Eakers with the certificates they won at the last Annual Begonia Show in Hollywood. Dr. C. E. Collins, vice-president, called attention to a blackboard captioned — "Here it is" — for those who wished certain plants or had surplus ones to exchange for something they wanted. Clarisse N. Carlton, of the Reynard Way *Camellia* Gardens, spoke on the exotic and exacting *Camellias*. She complimented us on our club growth in the two years since she spoke to us, and told us that she has

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added tuberous begonias to her hobby of plant raising.

Camellias should be planted or transplanted after the blooming period if they are budded or blooming. A place protected from heavy winds and with not too much sun is ideal. A "must" is good drainage and the soil may be heavy or light.

Plant a little above the ground, leaving the surface roots on top and mulch with peat moss. Never cultivate, for the roots are very close to the surface. Sprinkling powdered sulphur around the plant on top of the ground twice a year will produce an acid reaction beneficial to plants and a good pest repellent. Fertilize March through August, cottonseed meal is good, but not too much. Never let them dry out entirely and do not keep too wet. If care is exercised when selecting Camellias, blooms may be had for seven months of the year. Inferior stock may be used on which to graft better varieties sometimes not so strong in growth. Take slips with two to three eyes, strip bottom eye and put into coarse sharp sand, cover with glass jar and put in a shady place. It takes about a year for them to root.

Enormous pansies may be had by placing old cow fertilizer at bottom of flat, then sand and peat moss above in that order and put in plants. Mrs. J. A. Hegel, plant chairman, wore a corsage made of enormous blossoms grown that way. She said to be sure to dust tuberous begonia tubers with charcoal and sulphur before planting. She re-potted a Van Ex, shaking off all of the old soil from roots and re-potting in washed and water soaked pots. Cutting off the ends of the old roots and separating to make more plants and doing it very quickly to prevent shock to plant completed a very interesting example of how to grow good begonias.

## Begonia Mrs. [W.A.] Wallow in 1928

By MRS. KEM WEBER, Hollywood, Calif.

● Mr. Wallow of Long Beach had a fibrous seedling from a cross and this plant had such outstanding characteristics that he named it in honor of his wife "Mrs. W. A. Wallow."

He believed the cross could possibly have been Compta and perhaps one of the *Lucerna* types as the Wallow does show very definite characteristics of both of these.

That Mrs. W. A. Wallow is the original name seems to be established. Literature from the N. Y. Botanic Garden calls it just plain Wallow and so does the Rosecroft catalogue.

Mrs. Bessie Buxton describes it in her book as having been raised from German seed in 1933. We shall see what she says in the revised edition when it is published soon. So much for the name and origin. The Wallow is a fibrous tall growing begonia with an average height of six to twelve feet at best. The leaves are shaped much like the Compta with wavy, curved edges. The size, length and width and the coloring of the underside of the leaves is possibly derived from a *Lucerna* type begonia. The leaves are covered with minute hairs, with the long red pedicels and veins sparsely white hairy. It has large, green stipules.

It is a very prolific Winter bloomer, sending out rather large bunches of small, bright pink or white flowers in erect clusters. The blooms last a long time.

This begonia is one of the most desirable ones to grow in partial shade. It requires very little care, but should be pruned back in early Spring to procure healthy new growth.

It is easily propagated from cuttings and should be repotted frequently. It does well in pots and gives a beautiful effect against a white wall, also blends well in a bed of ferns and other begonias.

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# B X Rosea Gigantea

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego, Calif.

● When *Begonia semperflorens* was introduced by seeds in the soil of plants sent from Brazil in 1821, it was really an important event. To the average layman, the so-called "bedding" begonias are more familiar than any others, save perhaps the tuberhybrids.

Few "Begonians" realize just how avidly the *semperflorens* were seized upon by those early growers and crossed with everything, from tuberous to fibrous, with very worthwhile results.

Lemoine, the French hybridist, was especially successful with *semperflorens* as a parent for many crosses. Using it in 1883, with B. Roetzli (see March sketch), he obtained a taller, larger-leaved type which he called B. *semperflorens gigantea*. Working from this he produced two varieties with red flowers which he introduced as B. s. *gigantea rosea* and *carminea*. The magazines of the time said the two were very similar.

According to Mrs. Krauss, a tall plant from the Himalayas, with white flowers, was called "gigantea" so we must reverse our familiar name of *gigantea rosea*, lest it seem to be a pink variety of the other species. I wish it could have kept the full name of s. *gigantea*, var. *rosea*, which would have preserved its origin, while avoiding any confusion.

*Rosea gigantea* has had a reputation here of being difficult to grow. My illustration was done from a plant raised by a neighbor in a seven inch pot under a sycamore tree in a patio. It is just a foot high, though it grows much taller and I only selected one stalk out of several. They say it responds best to pure leaf mold. There was a very large and handsome specimen in one of the gardens we visited when the convention was held in Glendale. Perhaps its owner will tell us her cultural secrets.

The main stem of our plant is round, smooth and succulent and fairly upright. The base is dark green with whitish flecks and a red flush at the joints, which show papery rings. The distance between nodes is one and a half to two inches. The color changes to a lighter green, tinged with red, as it goes up.

The cold weather has curled the naturally wide-open leaves. The withered one is seven inches over but they often exceed that. The foliage is thick and glossy, somewhat kidney-shaped and of a light pea-green with pinkish raised veins radiating from a pronounced red sinus. The margins are pinked and scalloped and edged with bright red. A flush on the dull

green of the underside makes the green of the veins more pronounced. The petiole of the leaf is thick and strong, flattened rather than round on the top surface and decidedly reddish.

The flower peduncle rises from the leaf axil, stiff and straight for three inches before it branches and of the same brilliant vermilion hue as the flowers. Its two forks show almost before it loses its twin sheaths. It subtends again as it gets larger into smooth waxy all-red clusters of good size. In the colored drawing they are very gay.

The male bloom, less than an inch over, is larger than the tiny female flower, which is completely covered by an unusual frilled bract. Most of the time the buds are pressed tightly shut but I was fortunate enough to catch a few open, disclosing a lovely crown of golden stamens between the two petals.

When the male flowers fall the others grow to an equal size, while the little fringed bracts shrink down between the wings of the three-sided ovary, which is also pure carnelian red. The female bloom has from three to four petals which I have never seen open. Presumably there are few if any seed pods.

As can be seen, this plant is very floriferous. If it does well in window gardens it would make a perfect Christmas begonia as it starts blooming at that time and is still going strong. That B. *rosea gigantea* has been in cultivation for sixty-two years is sufficient evidence of the high place it holds in the begonia world.

NOTE: Through an oversight I wrote in my March article that there was no mention of Roetzli in *Die Begonien*, whereas it repeated about the same information as the other authorities.

## CYMBIDIUMS FOR SALE

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Special Trade packet.....\$1.50

LESLIE WOODRIF

Harbor, Oregon



B x ROSEA GIGANTEA





Here is Hazel Grigsby's second challenge — B. Rex President Carnot. Winner of second place in the large exhibition type of Rex. It was exhibited for the first time in 1944.

Photograph courtesy Mrs. Hazel Grigsby.

## A Challenge From Mrs. Grigsby

By MARIA WILKES, Los Angeles, Calif.

● In March, Mrs. Grigsby told us what she does to start off her lovely Begonia Rex on the road to SWEEPSTAKE calibre. She has said that she intends to "Go out after the GONDA HARTWELL CUP" which she has won twice. It must be won thrice before it may be kept in perpetuity. It is worth a trial. Last Annual show began to give Mrs. Grigsby quite a little competition, not close enough, but not far away. Hazel Grigsby will have to fight for it this year. She will not mind that, she is even good enough to tell you through this medium and The Fuchsia Fan how to grow fine specimens of your own.

She believes that rexes like to be well fed after they have gained a certain size. She likes to carry plants onward from pots that are almost full of roots into others that are just large enough to keep them working for a living and begging for more food, but it is a

mistake to let them "want" fertilizing. The feeding program begins when plants are in four-inch pots. By the time plants get into ten- and twelve-inch pots they get one cup of liquid steer manure through the Spring and the Summer through the whole of the growing period the while watching her plants carefully in case an overdose should cause dreaded brown spots on the leaves.

In fact, Hazel Grigsby's key to success in growing lovely Rexes is "watchful and constant care." She insists on the very best of Oakleaf mold that is well decomposed but still friable.

Everyone should know that the soil of plants should be watered well before applying liquid fertilizer. Almost every grower has a pet formula for the making of liquid fertilizer and the Nurseries have several excellent trade varieties on hand, but it might be as well to



**Begonia Rex Emperor.** This is the magnificent two-year winner of the Sweepstakes at the Annual American Begonia Shows, 1943 and 1944. This is Mrs. Grigsby's number one challenge. What are you doing to compete with Emperor? On October 29th last it measured fifty-two inches in diameter!

Photograph courtesy Mrs. Hazel Grigsby.

tell what Mrs. Grigsby does for her prize-winners so that when you bring your plants to the show you will not feel that she used black magic on hers.

### **Liquid Fertilizer for Rex Begonias**

Take one gallon of steer manure, which place in a seven-gallon container and pour six gallons of hot water onto it leaving it to cool overnight.

Very simple, and it is ready the next day.

The hot water draws all the substance from the manure and it may be used at the rate of a quarter cup for every three "four-inch pots."

This fertilizing question is worth studying, day in and day out, and it will be found that we have almost been working along—in the manner of "babes in the woods."

We all love pictures. There are two more fine scenes of Mrs. Grigsby's lathhouse which we shall publish next month.

# The Fuchsia Book

Published by

THE AMERICAN FUCHSIA SOCIETY

• This is the first book written in the English language on fuchsias—other than the Year books of the English Fuchsia Society.

It is most decidedly a "must-have" book to anyone who loves fuchsias and wants to succeed in the growing of these very delightful and versatile flowers.

To this reviewer, always interested in what makes the wheels turn around, particularly in soil conditions that with proper fertilization make for success in plant culture—the first article, "The Outdoor Culture of the Fuchsia in Coastal California," alone, is worth much more than the dollar fifty (plus tax for California) that is being charged for the book available through Mr. Will Crockett, 70 Arbor Dr., Piedmont, California.

The sixteen contributors, all leaders in the field of fuchsia development and production throughout California and well-known not only in the United States, with one from Oregon with valuable advice on how to carry fuchsias through winter cold and special pest attacks, give herein all the most important information possible on how to proceed in the growing of the various fuchsias.

One is guided interestingly from the very beginning of vegetative propagation to the growing of all kinds of garden and show specimens with detailed instructions on the training of special forms that the fuchsia will take.

Fine results are foreseen on the use of The Fuchsia Rating Report which will be instrumental in registering new introductions besides leading the amateur to make better selections.

The Check List of Varieties Introduced Since 1934 will be handy reference material to one and all. All aspects of the non-professional approach are well projected, simply and directly. Soils, insects and fertilizers, all are well dealt with, but most particularly, the flower in question is discussed from intimate angles so that the beginner and expert alike will enjoy the little book with its very fine colored pictures and line drawings depicting faithfully some of the most worthwhile of these lovely flowers. It will make many friends for the fuchsia. Credit is given Miss Alice Eastwood, beloved personage of the Horticultural world, Curator of Botany at the California Academy of Sciences, for much of the success of the American Fuchsia Society.

The Publications Committee, with Mr.

# ANTS MUST GO

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of Argentine and  
sweets-eating Ants with  
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### BEGONIAS

We have left a limited amount of ¾" CAMELLIA-flower doubles that we offer at 8 tubers for.....\$ 1.00  
100 tubers .....\$10.00

### GLOXINIAS

Also a few hundred 1" tubers for quick disposal at \$20.00 per 100; or each 25c

*Mailing Charge, 15c,*

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### PLEASE NOTE — EVERYONE

• We desire to draw your attention again to the change of MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN to Mrs. Mary Ellen Clark, 1618½ W. 52nd Street, Los Angeles 37, California. Please direct all dues, all requests and moneys for BULLETINS and back issues to Mrs. Clark.

The Editor wishes to have all mail pertaining to advertising and all MSS. for THE BEGONIAN sent to her address to avoid loss of time and to avoid extra work and postage. See front page.

## CULTURAL BULLETINS

Tuberous Begonias and Fibrous Begonias

and  
**THE REX**

Will help you to get good results from your efforts. Time is precious. Save it by following these Bulletins at 15c ea.

**MRS. MARY ELLEN CLARK**  
1618½ W. 52nd St. Los Angeles 37, Calif.

Alfred Stettler as chairman, is to be congratulated on issuing such an interesting, attractive and desirable book on fuchsias.

Maria Wilkes.



Photograph courtesy Reg. "Scotty" Hudson.

**Fuchsia "Cascade"** by Dr. Lagen, 1936, a cross between "Rolla" and "Amy Lye," is a beautiful plant in full bloom. These branches hung down three feet in a solid, artistic curtain well laden with the streamlined buds and substantial though lacy flowers.

## Fuchsia Cascade

• This outstandingly graceful basket type of fuchsia is one of the joys within reach of any gardener who can provide some shade, either under trees, under lath or open porch where the light still is bright. A little sunshine warms the buds into long globules of waxy

tube and sepals of pale rose madder which open into beautiful flowers with single corollas of rose Bengal, making a most colorful display. One very important condition must be added to the above—a humid atmosphere. If this can be attained even artificially, then

success will be more easily assured. Those who live within the reach of the cooling ocean breezes should take advantage of the situation and see that many fuchsias are planted in their shade gardens alongside of the limitless begonias which will make the summer a successive wave of color.

"Cascade" is well named. The lax quality of the branches makes them easy to train. The flowers last well and keep on blooming for months. Besides the charm of the plant as a whole it is rendered more lacy through the notable extension of the pistil and the anthers below the corolla to add volume and grace to the profusion of blooms. The foliage and flowers should never wilt for want of moisture, to this end most growers like to use wire baskets which are lined either with Oregon green moss or coarse redwood-bark filling the inside with a rich soil mixture containing much humus. Consistent feeding has to be maintained to keep up the show of flowers into Autumn when a well deserved rest should be in order.

This particular specimen of "Cascade" is one grown by Mr. "Scotty" Hudson of Huntington Beach, California, and the picture is one which does not do justice to the three feet long branches thickly draped all around, covered literally with hundreds of blossoms for the whole season. Mr. Hudson likes to embellish his lathhouses with glorious baskets like this one so as to enhance the beauty of the tuberous rooted begonias he grows so remarkably well.

To obtain a fully branched hanging basket like this one, it is necessary to pinch shoots back time and again—so that each successive pinching off of the terminal bud will force side shoots which, in turn, will grow and carry blooms. Fuchsias, with very few exceptions, bloom on new wood and the more branches produced the more flowers there will be.

## Tuberous Begonias

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Fuchsias

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of The American Begonia Society has had to change meeting place. You are invited to meet with the Board at the Clifton Cafeteria, 648 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, either at dinner or for the meeting at 7:30 o'clock in The Pine Room, April 23, 1945.

GONDA HARTWELL,

*Corresponding Secretary.*

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# GLOXINIAS FROM SEED

By MABLE PYLE, Russell, Iowa

● If you have never grown gloxinias, *Sinningia speciosa*, from seed you have missed a very pleasant and thrilling experience.

I am just an amateur, have only grown them for two or three years, but think I had beginner's luck for the first year. I grew (from one packet of seed) about two hundred plants. My first planting was in early March and by the first of September some of the seedlings had begun to bloom. Since the young plants must be kept growing, this was accomplished by transplanting from seed boxes or bulb pans as soon as the young plants had leaves the size of a pea. They were planted approximately three inches apart in flats of soil about two inches deep. The soil was two-thirds coarse leaf mold and one-third garden loam with some sand to make the soil porous. The flats were on an enclosed porch but in windows where there was a good circulation of air.

The soil was kept moist at all times, sometimes requiring water twice a day. When the gloxinias became crowded, the larger ones were removed to two and three inch flower pots. When the weather became cold the pots were removed to upstairs windows and kept watered. There they grew until perhaps mid-November, when they gradually ripened off and died down. The tubers usually remain dormant until about the first of February when they begin to sprout. During this time they are kept watered, never getting bone dry. They grow very rapidly and must soon be placed in larger pots.

Some of the bulbs get to be quite large while others are about the size of hazel nuts. They begin blooming in April. Seedlings make bulbs or tubers sooner than from leaf propagation.

The most difficult time in raising from seed is perhaps the first two weeks after the seed sprouts as they need constant attention to keep them from drying out as a few hours means death to the seedling, but after that they grow very rapidly.

I live in Southern Iowa where we have hot, dry Summers and usually after the old tubers bloom in the Spring they rest a while during our hottest weather, put out new growth and bloom again in late September or October.

Gloxinias do not bloom much in the fall but have four to six blooms to a plant. I have tried putting them in the basement over Winter but have had a high percentage of loss, and when they did survive they seemed to take much longer to come into active growth

# How To Organize A Branch Society

By GEORGE LAWRENCE

● Members of the American Begonia Society who are not members of a Branch Society do not receive the valuable information on growing begonias and other shade-loving plants as well as the fellowship enjoyed by the members attending branch meetings.

The large branch has certain advantages, mainly in being able to secure qualified speakers, however, the informal questioning and discussion possible in a small group is often of more real educational value, particularly to the beginner.

A lot of information and pleasure can be found by getting a small group together to discuss the Shade Garden and begonias in particular. If you have never contacted other begonia enthusiasts in your community you will be surprised to find out how many there are and what interesting people they are.

Suggestions on how to organize a Branch Society will be furnished, by the Director of Public Relations, to any one interested in forming a branch.

## South African Seeds for America

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mesembrianthemum loves to bloom  
in Spring, plant now, per pkt.....50c

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DAISY, 9" annual.....25c

**HELIOPHILA crithmifolia:** sheet of soft  
blue, 12" annual.....25c

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again whereas the ones left in pots and watered when I water my other plants soon start up again.

The hybrid seed has more variations of colors than the standard seed. Even the leaves have many variations. Some have five petaled flowers while others have six or seven petals.

The only pest is thrips which may be controlled by naphthalene flakes sprinkled on the soil, and occasional spraying with black leaf 40 also helps.

# Is This How You Do It?

By AN AMATEUR

● **REX BEGONIA CUTTINGS.** These cuttings may be started during any time of the year depending upon the facilities you have for handling them. During the cold months do not attempt this unless you have bottom heat in the cutting bed it is better to wait for warmer weather, I should say the latter part of March or April at the earliest.

All leaves used should be taken from good healthy plants, using only the mature, vigorous leaves, preferably those which have not yet started to dry at the edges. Break, do not cut is the advice given by the experts. These leaves may be propagated in many ways the favorite methods being:

1. **WEDGE-CUTTINGS.** Place leaf face down on a clean board and with a good sharp knife cut into wedge-shaped pieces, be sure that the point of each wedge is just below the point of a good vein junction. Insert the wedge point down into the soil for about one-third its length and at a slight angle to the soil, that is, leaning a little backwards with the vein junction buried in the soil as that is where the new plants start. This is called a strike.

2. **WHOLE LEAF CUTTINGS.** Place leaf face down as before but this time at the junction of the vein cut only part way through the veins; cut one-third of the way through the stem spacing the cuts about an inch apart the entire length of the stem. If you prefer break off the stem and discard but unless you can spare the leaves from the parent plant do not waste the stem as you are throwing away good plant material. Place the leaf, back down, on the cutting bed, press down, and fasten firmly with twigs or tooth-picks, cover the stem with a thin layer of soil.

Another method I have seen very successfully used is to make a slight depression in the soil by pressing down on the center of the leaf; this will cause the edge of the leaf to turn up so that the leaf forms a shallow bowl. Fill the center of the bowl thus formed with from one-fourth to one-half cup of clean, sharp sand which should not be much thicker than one-half inch at the deepest point.

**CUTTING BED.** Prepare cutting bed as described in the June, 1944, issue, pages 344 and 345. Keep cutting bed moist at all times, remember **MOIST, NOT WET.**

The new plants will be ready for their first pots in from 60 to 90 days. Put in small pots and increase size of pot as necessary, but since the beauty of the Rex depends upon the shape, color, and size of the leaves the plant should be slightly "pot bound" at all times. I cannot emphasize too strongly the fact that you must provide good drainage at all times.

I shall discuss Soil next month.

## A NOTE FROM WM. ROSS

Through unforeseen circumstances, Wm. Ross, formerly of Encino Gardens in Glendale and lately of Vista Nursery, Calif., has had to relinquish that place of business and has returned to Glendale, where he may be addressed care the Branch Secretary.

## SHADELAND GARDENS

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**Notice**—Due to lack of help we will not be able to ship or answer letters till further notice. Thank you.

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

By MRS. RUSSEL T. BAILEY  
San Diego, Calif.

Mr. H. Bishop of San Jose sent some leaves to be identified to Mrs. Bailey. They were too dry for certain naming. Her letter to him was returned — because of — incomplete address. Mr. Bishop — please note.

Q. I wonder if you could give me the names of several good double semperflorens Begonia. Is there a white double?

From Mrs. J. M., Milwaukee, Wis.

A. The only double semperflorens that I know by name are Geneva Scarlet Beauty (red) and Westport Beauty (pink). Miss Constance Bower tells me of a white one with a pale pink cast in the center, called Snow-blush, that she thinks is a development of Mr. Woodriff's. I have seen other doubles but they had no names that I was able to ascertain.

Q. I would like to know if Begonias could be grown in a large aquarium. I would like to put them in with their pots and partly cover with a glass.

From Mrs. J. M., Milwaukee, Wis.

A. Begonias are seldom house plants for us here in San Diego but I understand that they are often grown in aquariums in the colder climates or with inverted jars over the plants. Miss Bower mentioned hearing of *Imperialis*, Arthur Mallet, and *Acida*, in particular, being grown in that way in the East. (Watch for and read article by Lily Boysen.)

The names and addresses of all Officers should be sent to the Fees Chairman and the Editor.

Please be sure to comply.



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## Growing Tuberous Rooted Begonias From Seed

By CHESTER D. TANNER, Los Angeles, Calif.

### PART II

● In February we unceremoniously left our seedlings in flats planted for the second time two inches apart in a bland mixture. Now they are ready for transplanting into soil with a little more strength and into pots to facilitate either repotting or planting out into beds. The soil mixture should be approximately as follows: 1 part top soil, 2 parts oak leaf mold, one part steer manure and one tablespoonful of bonemeal to each square foot of soil mixture.

### SEASONAL NOTES

● Are you enjoying the beauty of begonia manicata through the Winter? Did you or are you noticing another Winter bloomer: *B. haageana*? We wish we could have a picture of it for you.

Should your tuberous begonias throw out more than one good sprout, retain the strongest and make cuttings of the others. Cut these with a little eye from the tuber, and leave the scar open for a day or two to dry off and heal evenly. The cutting should be placed in good sharp sand after cutting off half of each leaf. If one desires, six inches of leaf mold may be placed under the three-inch layer of sand in the cutting bench. In this way, one does not have to be rushing to pot the rooted cuttings if in haste, but let them take care of themselves until time is not so crowded.

● Excerpt from letter to Mrs. Hartwell, Sec., the ABS: "In 1943, I subscribed to 'The Begonian' and have found much valuable help I had been searching for." The Editor likes to help others, won't you aid us by sending in your helpful notes? We welcome good photographs with what data you have and we might be able to fill in missing information you may need.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIA TUBERS

Mixed Types and Sizes per dozen.....\$3.00

#### HELP WANTED

We need someone trained in begonia culture to help in growing and marketing our NEW VARIETIES.

#### LESLIE WOODRIF

Fairyland Begonia and Lily Gardens  
Harbor, Oregon

**CONDENSED MINUTES, NATIONAL BOARD, A. B. S.  
Meeting Held February 26, 1945**

Meeting called to order at 8 p.m. with President Nelson presiding.

Present for the meeting: Messrs. Hart, Hawkins, Hall, Lawrence, Nelson; Mesdames: Poole, Weber, Harker (substituting for Mary Clark), Wilkes, Hartwell, and Harris; Representative Directors: Cpt. Deere, Messrs. Bailey, Minehart, Harker, and Crawford; with Messrs. et Mmes.: Parker, Stocklasa; Mmes. Nelson and Bayer as guests.

Minutes of meeting Jan. 22nd read and approved. Reports of Treasurer, Business Manager and Editor, and Membership Fees Chairman read; approved as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

**REPORTS**

**Director Public Relations and Speakers Bureau—**

I am trying to get out a letter revising list of speakers and bringing it up to date. Also I have prepared a booklet, and present copy for approval, on "How to Organize a Branch of the A. B. S." This will simplify matters very much and it also contains a sample Constitution and By-Laws for Branches and also the Constitution and By-Laws of the A. B. S. I will be glad to send this to any group interested in forming a branch and it will save much correspondence. Have received the Year Book of the Glendale Branch, A. B. S., and find it very complete.

**Robinson Memorial, Mr. Hart—**

Just received the \$30.00 check from Hollywood Branch—their year's donation to the Memorial. Condition of plants about the same as a month ago; rexes possibly looking a little better.

**Seed Fund Chairman, Mrs. Harris—**

I have on hand \$53.70 in the Seed Fund. Was able this year to acquire \$25.00 worth of seed, but they were soon gone; I now have \$11.00 for subscriptions that I may have to return or wait until next year. Seed are very scarce except semperflorens. If anyone knows of any seed other than semperflorens will they please let me know.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The question of the Annual Meeting and Flower Show was discussed and the attached letter from the North Long Beach Branch was read. Mr. Hart made the following recommendation, "That in view of the circumstances and the edict of the Government—fully cognizant of whatever interpretation we may put on this ruling—that we relieve North Long Beach of any responsibility for the convention this year. Seconded, Mr. Hall. So ordered.

Rewriting and revamping Cultural Bulletins, particularly the Tuberous Bulletin. After considerable discussion, President Nelson asked Public Relations Director if he would take it over. In agreeing to do this Mr. Lawrence stated, "My opinion is that as we are a national organization the bulletins should be written not just for California but all regions and that we should have people up and down the coast and in the East work on these bulletins. I will be glad to see what I can do. Also we will consider using colored plates and combining the three bulletins in one booklet."

Editor briefly reviewed late book put out by American Fuchsia Society in San Francisco which she felt very worthwhile.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Editor reported inability of Green's Inc., to continue printing "The Begonian" and the necessity of securing a new printer. President Nelson reported he, in company with President-Elect Hart had made a canvas of many printing concerns in Los Angeles and had found The Commonwealth Press very reasonable in price and fully qualified to handle "The Begonian." Stating he had looked into this matter very carefully and from all angles, Mr. Hart felt we should sign a contract with this firm. Motion by Mr. Hawkins: "I move that we employ The Commonwealth Press to publish 'The Begonian' in the future." Seconded by Mrs. Wilkes. So ordered. President-Elect and Business Manager to arrange all further details and to secure the proper mailing permits.

Treasurer Hawkins informed the Board that the present meeting room of the Board was no longer available and a new meeting place would have to be found. President asked Mr. Hawkins, Mrs.

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"Seeds That Make Them So"

Pooler and Mr. Hart to see if they could find some place. Mrs. Wilkes suggested Clifton's Cafeteria. The change would be published in "The Begonian." Meeting adjourned to meet the 4th Monday in March.

Respectfully submitted,  
GONDA HARTWELL, Cor. Sec.

Exhibit "A"—

Bellflower, Calif., Feb. 26, 1945.

Mr. Arthur E. Nelson,  
President American Begonia Society,  
Los Angeles, Calif.,  
Dear Sir:—

The Executive Board of the North Long Beach Branch of the A. B. S. at its regular meeting held in Long Beach on the evening of Feb. 10th, 1945, voted unanimously to postpone the Annual Convention until such time as would be proper and fitting for an occasion of this magnitude.

This decision was arrived at upon recommendation of the City of Long Beach, the policy as set forth by the U. S. Government and also the ruling of the War Department.

Trusting that the near future will make possible the Convention as planned by this Branch, and for speedy restoration of normal activities, I beg to remain

Respectfully,  
RUBY W. LIEDLER, Secretary,  
North Long Beach Branch, A. B. S.

# 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.**

**The April American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place at Clifton's Cafeteria Pine Room, 648 S. Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif., Monday, April 23rd, 1945, at 6 p.m.**

## WHITTIER BRANCH

**Monday, April 2nd, 7:30 p.m.**

Jonathan Bailey School, Room 19  
Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif.  
Mrs. G. E. Polentz, Sec.-Treas.  
1000 West Broadway, Whittier, Calif.

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

**Tuesday, April 3rd, 7:30 p.m.**

American Legion Hall  
North Carolina St., Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Wm. Smith, Sec.-Treas.  
Ventura, Calif.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

**Wednesday, April 4th, 7:45 p.m.**

Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church  
c/o 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.  
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secretary  
2183 - 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

**Thursday, April 5th**

Laurance Archibald, Secretary  
1216 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

**Monday, April 9th, 8 p.m.**

42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Ruby W. Liedler, Secretary  
169 E. Artesia, Bellflower, Calif.  
"Country Store" Auction

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

**Tuesday, April 10th, 7:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-Treas.  
3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

## BELLFLOWER BRANCH

**Tuesday, April 10th, 7:30 p.m.**

At Community Presbyterian Church Hall  
Mrs. Ardel Radle, Sec.-Treas.  
920 Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

**Thursday, April 12th, 8 p.m.**

Woman's Club of Inglewood  
325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Fred Witman, Secretary  
3856 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

**Thursday, April 12th, 7:30 p.m.**

Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Helen Scherer, Secretary  
3222 Larissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

## CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

**Friday, April 13th, 7:30 p.m.**

Home of Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Bowers  
1020 Belmont St., Long Beach  
Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Sec.-Treas.  
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

**Tuesday, April 10th, 7:30 p.m.**

Pasadena Public Library  
Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.  
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

## EAST BAY BRANCH

**Sunday, April 15th, 2:30 p.m.**

Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary  
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

**Monday, April 16th**

Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.  
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

**Wednesday, April 18th, 7:30 p.m.**

Colonial Hall, Tenth & Locust Ave.  
Mary Hotaling, Sec.-Treas.  
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

**Tuesday, April 24th, 7:30 p.m.**

Hard of Hearing Hall  
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Sec.-Treas.  
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

**Monday, April 23rd.**

Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

**Tuesday, April 24th, 8 p.m.**

329 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary  
958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

**Friday, April 27th, 8 p.m.**

American Legion Hall  
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. W. H. Corbett, Secretary  
2017 S. Fourth Street, Alhambra, Calif.

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

**Friday, April 27th, 10:30 a.m.**

Hall, Point Loma Community Church  
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secretary.  
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

## PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

**Irregular Meetings**

Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treasurer  
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

**Irregular Meetings**

Thelma Sommerfield, Secretary  
210 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, Calif.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. David Finley, Secretary  
New Canaan, Conn.

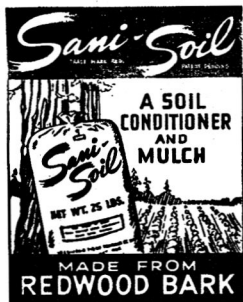
## SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secretary  
Box 12, Nipomo, Calif.



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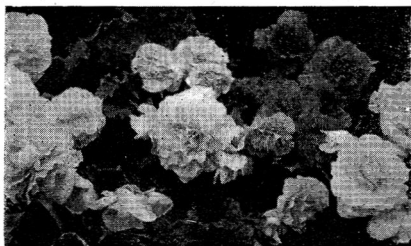
**SEED FUND NOTICE**

We regret to advise that there has been such a great desire on the part of members to raise Begonias from seed that the Seed Fund has sent out all the seed available for the time being.

Another year we may be successful in having a larger supply of seed to offer.

**CLARISSA HARRIS.**

*Seed Fund Administrator.*



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