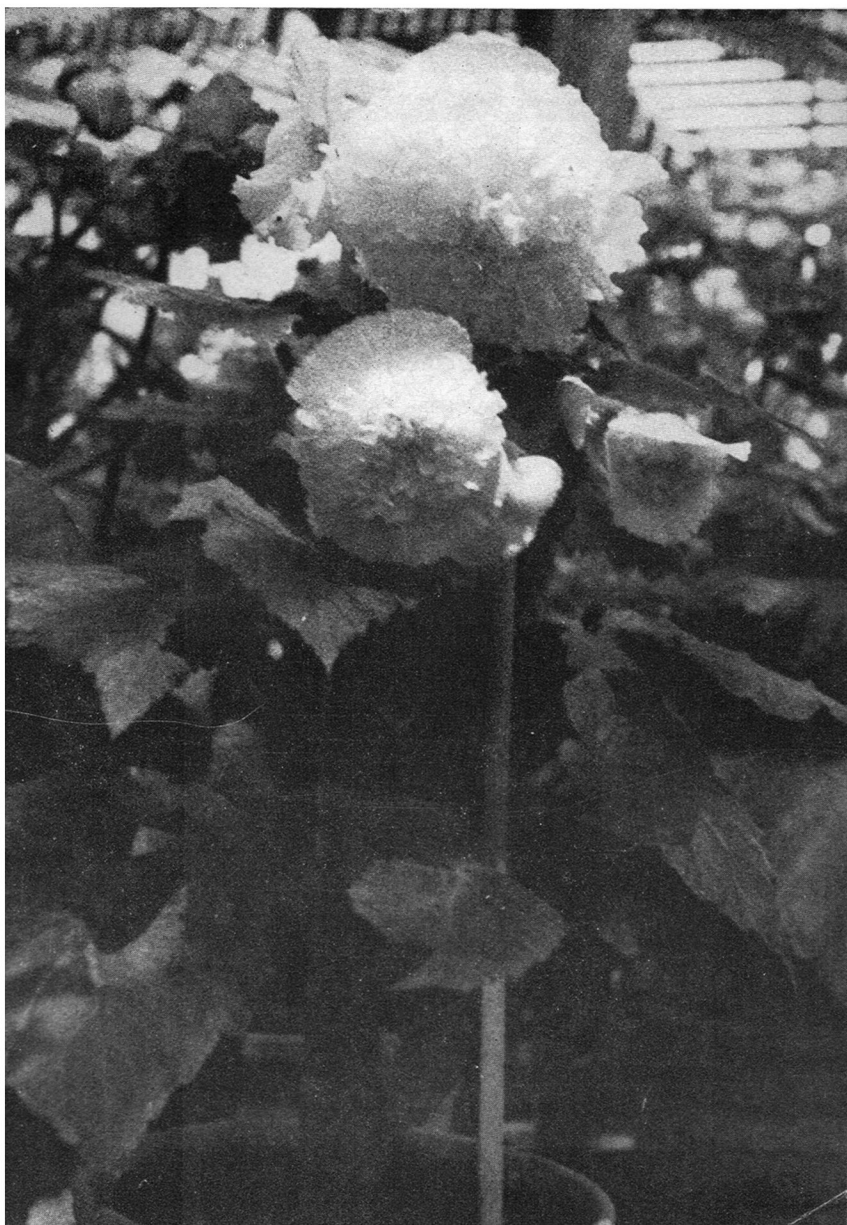


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VOL. XIV—No. 5

**MAY, 1947**

FIFTEEN CENTS

# The BEGONIAN

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# Growing Rex Begonias from Seed

By Louise Schwertfeger  
Santa Barbara, California

Have you ever tried growing Rex Begonias from seed? If not, then you have missed one of the greatest pleasures in Begonia growing.

Too hard, you say, and you would never have any luck? Well, it does require a great deal of patience, yet the surprises and the results you will obtain will more than repay you for time spent.

Rex Hybrid seed is not difficult to buy these last few years, so secure some and experience the excitement of growing your own individual Rexes.

Rex Begonias have been used to a vast extent in hybridizing, consequently we have now very few Rexes with pure Rex "blood" in them. In fact the Rex species are quite rare and many have been lost. Seldom do Rex seedlings come true or do they even resemble their parents. Plants produced from the same seed pod will give you a wide variation of Rexes.

My first experience in growing Rexes from seed still thrills me. I was given a ripened seed-pod of Carmelita, a spiral, by Mrs. Elsie Frey and she assured me that I too, could grow Rexes successfully from seed. I planted and watched over the seed and obtained some 300 plants no two of which were identical. There were more than a hundred curls, or spirals. As they developed the range of colors and designs in the leaves of the seedlings was amazing. There were greens and browns and greys and silvers in all shades and variations. Some were flushed with lavender. There were those with striking zone patterns. Some had leaves that were smooth, some were pebbly, some had hair on them as does the Princess of Hanover. There were plants with thick leaves while others the leaves were of a fine texture. There was even a variation in the color and appearance of the leaf stem. Several of the plants developed into large-leaved Rexes while there were two or three that remained near miniatures. The seed was planted five years ago and there has been little change in the plants since the end of the first year. For some unknown reason I found that the slowest growers turned out to be the most outstanding plants both in color and form.

Under ordinary cloth-house conditions April and May are good months to plant the tiny seed. It gives the seedlings the benefit of the warm summer weather also time to develop into sturdy young plants before the chill of winter.

Rex seed requires a longer period of germination than do most begonia seed. So do not become discouraged if the tiny plants do not appear until the third or fourth week. Use the same method in planting as you would tuberous seed. Sterile leaf-mold and clean pans are to be used. Cover with glass and keep moist, with bottom watering, at all times. Rex seedlings are much smaller than the tuberous and develop more slowly, but like tuberous seedlings must be transplanted as soon as the third leaf has formed. Using a deep flat, plant the seedlings an inch apart in about an inch and a half of pure screened leaf-mold, but be sure to put the coarser of the leaf-mold on the bottom to assure good drainage. By all means do not use any type of fertilizer. Keep the seedlings covered with glass until they have developed a good root system and grown five or more leaves. Always place the flats where they have good air circulation from the bottom, this prevents the tiny plants from damping off. The seedlings should not be transplanted again for from six months to a year, when they can then be planted into four inch pots in your regular begonia soil mixture. Always keep the young plants moist by watering the flats from the bottom until after the fourth leaf has developed, then you may use a fine spray.

Like human babies Rex children all look somewhat alike when tiny. Yet after the first transplanting, each day brings a new surprise that reminds us of the days when we watched our babies grow up. Like finding a new tooth we discover that the third leaf has acquired a few silver spots or has developed a leaf of a different shape. Then when the fourth leaf has unfolded we find that each plant has become a begonia child with a distinct individuality. By now there is no need to tell you how to watch over your seedlings for you will care for them with a parental instinct.

By all means experience that wonderful thrill of growing Rexes from seed and be justly proud of your very own Rex Begonias.

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## Getting Ready for the A. B. S. 1947 Convention

We are very nearly "all set" for the biggest and best convention the American Begonia Society has ever had. Are you?

Arrangements are almost completed. A few details are yet to be worked out, but when this is done, Oh brother, what a show. You can bet all the begonias in your lath-house it will be something worth traveling to see. We want each branch to have an exhibit, also individual exhibits. You ought to see the perpetual trophy for the branch showing the best exhibit.

Start right now and groom your plants. Long Beach will be ready and waiting for you.

We will give you all the details later . . . BUT start working NOW. There will be some competition, of that you may be sure.—E. A. Taylor, president, North Long Beach Branch, A. B. S.

---

*Prominent and distinguished MR. JOHN C. CLARK of San Diego, California, passed away on Monday, April 21, 1947.*

*Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to his widow, our beloved and gifted ALICE M. CLARK in her bereavement and irreparable loss.—The Board of the American Begonia Society.*

---

## New Director of Public Relations

To all of the Branch Societies we take pleasure in introducing to you our newly appointed *Director of Public Relations*, Mr. Frank E. Clark, 2168 Cooley Place, Pasadena 7, California. Mr. Clark will be glad to assist you with any business relative to this department.

With all good wishes to our branches for your continued support of the American Begonia Society.

Mary Hazel Drummond  
Pres. Elect., A. B. S.  
Chairman, Ways & Means.

## BRANCH NEWS

**THE MISSOURI BRANCH:** From all reports of the Missouri Branch they are progressing nicely. They are making plans to enter a begonia exhibit in the May Kansas City Garden Club Show.

The officers of this new branch are ready for a fine inaugural year. We hope that all who are within attendance distance will avail themselves of this group's friendliness.

*BRANCH NEWS Continued on Page 88*

## BEGONIA PROPAGATION — ROUND ROBIN NOTES

By *Bessie K. Buxton*  
*Peabody, Mass.*

This is splendid time for propagation of she says whimsically. She saves soot when cleaning her chimney, mixes a handful in a gallon of water and waters her seedlings with it once a week. A New York member uses the soot for larger plants, one teaspoonful to a four inch pot. Stir into the soil and dampen gently. Soot stimulates growth, improves the color of foliage and flowers and repels soil dwelling pests. For flower beds, use one pound to thirty square feet of surface.

One Florida member has a dozen dishes of seedlings, two weeks old. She plants the seed in flower pot saucers, using a thin layer of clean sand covered with an inch layer of screened peat. This is set in a larger saucer which is kept half full of rain water, covered with a sheet of glass and set on the top shelf of a pit, about 15 inches from the top. Naphthalene flakes are sprinkled on the shelves around the pots for protection from ants. A little later, the glass is raised a bit and the tiny seedlings dusted with fine sulphur to prevent damping off. The sulphur may be put in a thin muslin bag and shaken lightly over the saucers.

Far away, in mountainous Colorado, pots of seeds were set on the back of the kitchen range, with heavy paper catalogs under them to temper the heat. When the top of the pots felt warm they were removed from the stove for a time. Still further north, in Minnesota, a member germinated seeds in eight days in fruit jar in moist sifted soil—the lid tightly closed, and the jar set on a desk where there was good light but no sun. Each evening the jar was set under a desk lamp. They grew well and now have been successfully transplanted. She has also grown tuberous begonias from seed. When large enough to handle, they were transplanted into a coffee can one third full of leaf mold. In a week's time the leaves were touching the glass cover, so a stick was set in the center of the can to support a cellophane cover, which gave more room. An Oregon member has raised three dozen tuberous of the hanging basket type, and seven dozen of the bedding kinds from seed. They were transplanted from the seed bed when they produced the first true leaf, into soil like that in the seed bed, and from that into a soil mixture, then into a large flat. "They are used to traveling,"

Growers of tuberous begonias are active now, and another Oregon member has a very interesting story of growing tuberous plants from bulb cuttings. Last year she made her first attempt at this method, and now has a dozen bulbs the size of a quarter, making good growth. When the sprouts were three or four inches high, she cut them with a sharp razor blade, taking care to cut off a small portion of the tuber. The cut surfaces were dusted with powdered charcoal, and the cutting set in a small pot of sand and leaf mold, without a cover. The pots were set in the lath house and kept moist, but not wet. A Canadian member says it is June before she takes cuttings of the tuberous, waiting until the plants show strong growth. She prefers one stem to a plant, but occasionally allows two to grow. She, too, takes a very small piece of the tuber with the cutting, but prefers a pocket knife to a razor, because of better control. A small cut is made around the stem, close to the tuber. Holding the tuber in one hand, the cutting is carefully broken off. It is then dried for two hours to form a callous, dusted with flowers of sulphur or charcoal and set in sharp sand, with a dusting of Rootone. After the roots have formed, the cuttings are planted out doors on the north side of the house, where the soil is damp and cool. Instead of using a knife, the shoot may be very carefully twisted off with a tiny scab on the end. This will form a tuber, but not so quickly as when a knife is used. Sometimes these cuttings bloom the first year, with blooms three or four inches in diameter, but it is better to remove the buds and let the tuber grow larger. Tuberous begonias move easily. She has brought them over two hundred miles successfully, setting out 125 seedling plants without loss. Blooming plants may be moved from one pot to another without loss of flower or bud. This should be done in the evening and they will settle themselves during the night. Grow the best tubers obtainable, for they require no more time or space. If the

## MARICA GRACILIS

South American Irid commonly called the Walking Iris. They have shiny, bright evergreen foliage in fans resembling Iris japonica from the center of which rises the flower scape looking just like another leaf. Near the tip of this scape the flowers develop and bloom, after which young plants are produced from the same point. As these young plants become large the scape is caused to bend down, touching the ground, when the plants take root and the first step is taken in the process of walking. In pot culture they may be trained to hang, making cascades 4 to 6 feet high. In warm sections they may be planted in the open. They like light soil with leafmold. Delivery throughout the year. The flowers are extremely beautiful, fragrant, 3 inches across and last one day, but several flowers are produced on each scape. The color of the falls is purest waxy white. The standards are reticulated deep blue and white and the center of the flower is brown. Delivery throughout the year.

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## Begonia Propagation

(Continued from previous page)

buds drop, the plants are not wet enough, for with good drainage they can hardly have too much water. She has raised 112 cuttings by this method, and the blooms average seven or eight inches in diameter. Only one stalk is left on a plant in order to get larger and finer flowers.

The results that some enthusiastic gardeners get in leaf propagation are nothing short of amazing. From a single leaf of Rex Silver Chord, fifteen little plants were produced in a few months time. As the leaf was still fresh, it was replanted, and eleven more plants were produced. A third planting produced only two plants and the leaf then died, having produced twenty-eight little plants, all of which grew well. Can this record be excelled, or even equalled? I doubt it!

When rooting leaves, the old leaf should be retained. Use a very small pot, planting close to the soil. To keep the leaf in position, one member uses a wire hairpin, woman's universal tool, running it through the leaf into the soil, holding the leaf upright. Our Florida member prefers tin cans to clay pots, because the pots absorb the moisture and it is difficult to know when the plant needs water until it is too late. The tin can retains the moisture, is easily obtained without expense, may be painted to suit the taste, or plunged into the outdoor beds.

A California member advises another coat of green kalsomine on the greenhouse glass as the summer advances, to temper the heat of the sun. Watering should be done before 7 a. m. She finds tuberous begonias do not thrive under this green shading, but must be set under trees where they get a little early morning sun.

Our Minnesota member has used aluminum sulphate successfully on her plants. The powder is put in a can, a little water added and stirred until smooth. More water is added and the mixture stirred until the powder is dissolved. It should be kept in a bottle, closed, and stand 24 hours before using. Use a scant teaspoonful to one quart of water. A Missouri member says she had little trouble with leaf dropping last winter, and thinks watering with warm water prevented it. She uses Black Leaf 40 much weaker than directed, and always sprays the plant with clear water in a few hours, thus preventing burned foliage.

Anyone desiring the Federal and State Plant Quarantine laws may obtain them by writing the U. S. Department of Agriculture, 266 Glenwood Avenue, Bloomfield, N. J.

## HOW ABOUT GESNERIADS FOR YOUR SHADE GARDEN?

By Florence Carrell

Fullerton, California

Several years ago a flower correspondent sent a list of plants she had available for exchange, all new to me, so I got down my set of Bailey's Cyclopedias and proceeded to search them out. In the list was *Episcia cupreata*, described in Bailey's as "Choice and interesting warmhouse plant, much prized for baskets" and there was a picture of a trailing plant, soft coppery leaves, sending out runners from which new plants dangled. It told that *Episcias* were in the Gesneria family along with Saintpaulias and Gloxinias, so I pricked up my ears and read more and then wrote my friend to please, by all means, send on that *Episcia*. In due time the *Episcia* arrived, more beautiful than I had pictured in my mind and before long it made runners with many new plants and soon a few buds, my greatest surprise was to see the brilliant red flowers open. I then knew that I must learn more about the family, Gesneriaceae. But where could one get more information on this group of plants? Bailey's is the best literature published on the subject, but it did not tell where these plants could be purchased. My next step was to get acquainted with the entire family, since I didn't have the faintest idea where I could buy the plants. I learned that Gesneriaceae was divided into 18 tribes, with many genera in each tribe, and many species in each genus. *Episcia* is in the Tribe Columneae and the other members are *Drymonia*, *Tussacia*, *Alloplectus*, *Trichantha*, *Columnea*, *Nematanthus*, *Hypocyrtia*, *Codonanthe*. I found out that they were native to Mexico and northern South America and the West Indies. Now where could I get myself some seed?

I knew that some 50 years ago European nurserymen had sent collectors to Tropical America after rare plants of all kinds and that many Gesneriads were grown in Europe and much hybridizing done. So off went letters to European seed firms inquiring for seeds, only a very few seeds were obtained most replies stated that their rare plants had all been lost during the war. Before World War II I had often purchased rare seeds of *Begonias*, etc., from Europe, but now I must get such seed from the tropics myself if I am to grow these Gesneriads with which I had fallen so in love.

Off went another batch of letters, this time to the tropics, advertising in foreign magazines, writing to every address I could get hold of, and then a long, long wait. Patience is usually rewarded, and so at last

I found a botanist who would go out into the forests and gather *Gesneria* seed for me. The sad part of this story is that although I have obtained many kinds of Gesneriad seed, yet not even one seed of *Episcia* have I been able to get, however, I can still hope!

Some of the Gesneriads of which I have obtained seeds are: *Drymonia rubra*, grows to 8 feet in forest shade, branches brittle, leaves large, flowers rather a dark red with deep buff tube. 4700 ft. alt.; *Drymonia parviflora*, one of the most conspicuous of all Gesneriaceae, grand as foliage plant, has large variegated leaves, huge clusters of canary yellow flowers; *Columnae Warscewicziana*, trailing plant, fuzzy leaves, flowers scarlet red with pale yellow underneath; *Columnea microcalyx* which resembles the bicolor variety with red and yellow flowers, berries snow white.

From other tribes of the Gesneriad family I received seed of *Besleria formosa*, dark heavy leaves, thick and veined, flowers waxy and of a deep orange color; *Besleria solanoides* grows to 4 feet and flowers 2 years from seed, found in damp pockets in loose soil of forest or in shade by streamlets, flowers of tubular form, orange color. In flower much of the year; *Besleria triflora* a shrublet of 4 feet high in Caribbean cloud forest zone, berries pure white; *Koellikeria argyrostigma*, grows 2 to 3 feet high, erect stems, plush like foliage, many pink and rose colored flowers pubescent in bud and flower, blooms 6 months of the year; *Campanaeae Oerstedii*, large flowers of creamy yellow with purple spots, short climbing vine, leaves hairy and often reddish beneath. These were all found growing in deep shade, soil was the forest floor leafmold in a temperature of 60 to 65 degrees.

Although I am still searching for *Episcias*, I am enjoying growing these other Gesneriads from seed. It is always more exciting growing something entirely new—most of these have never before been introduced into American gardens. Perhaps some day I can do some hybridizing, shall enjoy trying. Remember, all Gesneriads have beautiful foliage and flowers—all of them! If you like this story some time I may tell you about some of the other members of this grand and charming family of Gesnerias.

---

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## Branch News



### TRUE ORCHIDS

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## PLANTSMITH

Box 818

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The MIAMI BRANCH of the A. B. S. meets 4th Tuesday at 8 p. m. in the Simpson Memorial Garden Center. At the March meeting Mrs. Lucille Kendrick discussed the Four Types of Begonias. To make the subject even more interesting she brought specimens of the four types for exhibition. Mrs. E. Peterson, one of the oldest begonia growers in Miami, gave very generously, cuttings of *B. incana* to the members present. Francis Michelson, Director.

The SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH. At a recent meeting Mr. James Giridlian showed his splendid colored films of "Lilies and Shade Plants." This branch did not give us data of the April Flower Show in time for the April Begonian. The Fiesta of the Flowers scheduled for April 26, 27 and 28, 1947, is a show that is gaining a good deal of recognition. It is managed by Leroy Chitwood, for the Los Angeles Board of Education. Mr. Chitwood is president of the Santa Monica Bay Branch of the A. B. S. Of course, Begonias are given a nice place in the schedule.

The ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH of the American Begonia Society held their April meeting as usual at the Farm Bureau offices in Orange.

Several visitors were present among whom was Mrs. Mary H. Drummond, the president elect of the national Begonia Society.

Mrs. Perry V. Grout of Orange was a speaker of the evening. She spoke on *Rex Begonias*. Mrs. Grout gave a brief history of the begonias, named several kinds of rex begonias and told how to start and care for them.

Color motion pictures of *Rex Begonias* from the greenhouse of Byron Rownds of Long Beach, tuberous begonias of "Scotty" Hudson of Huntington Beach and orchids of Dr. Brastad, Anaheim, were shown by Joseph Stoklasa of Long Beach.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD Branch: An unusually large visiting delegation of 14 San Gabriel members attended the April meeting of this Branch. Mr. James Fairclo of Gardena, California was the speaker. Mr. Fairclo stressed the point that amateurs should not waste time trying to grow fuchsias from seed but stay with cuttings for regular propagation. Fuchsias do not reproduce true to the parents unless they are species, and the cross pollenization should be done with some scientific knowledge as well as a good acquaintance with the great number of fuchsias already on the field.



# *Begonia Experiences of a Northmidwestern Collector*

*By Mary Duncomb, Luverne, Minn.*

No collection of houseplants is quite complete without the Begonias, whether of the cane type, the Rex, the usual run of the bedding varieties, or some of the choice rare ones. After growing a great many of the different kinds, lack of room sometimes brings matters to a crisis where one must decide just which one must hold on to from year to year and which ones must give place to other plants. The moments of decision are sad ones, each one is so dear and precious and hard to part from. But if we are to learn more about the different varieties, and there is lack of room to place them, it is well if we grow a few to perfection, pass them on to someone else and go on to new or different kinds, for the average home cannot possibly hold all of the many, many varieties, even if fully adapted to do so. Especially if there are other houseplants also dear to the heart of the owner which must also have a place to live. Sometimes the decision is made for us, either by our own carelessness, or ignorance of the plant's needs or maybe the weather may take a hand in it, much to our dismay.

In my own experience, I lost a number of Begonias, carefully grown from cuttings, assembled the hard way—by exchanges with other fans, because I fertilized not wisely but too well while they were in a dormant condition, not realizing plants should not be fed while they are resting. A hot dry summer when it was difficult to carry water from the well' which was a considerable distance away and uphill at that, was hard on some, while still others were lost one very dry Fall when the ground was so hard it was difficult to find a decent time to transplant them in. These were hard, costly lessons to take, but were profited by. Thenceforth, very careful feeding was observed, and a loose friable fertile soil on the north side of the house took care of the other two mistakes. The last one was also rectified by planting cuttings of duplicated small plants in large dishpans in carefully prepared soil and setting them in the corner formed by two adjoining buildings to the east and west, further aided by the shade of a large locust tree on hot summer afternoons. This northwest corner was a moist but well-drained one and proved to be just what the Begonias liked, for by fall the containers were full of lovely foilage and bloom. They were carried right inside with no disturbance of roots, where the plants could be removed at leisure. The contents of one dishpan are still intact and lovely. They

often go down into the dirt basement when the house air becomes too warm and dry to regain vigor. In this pan are Begonia decora, B. lepidota, B. Weltoniensis rosea, and B. nitida. They have made a beautiful display. If the air in the living rooms should become too warm and dry for our Begonias, no matter how well we may try to remedy this condition by placing pans of water on the stove or among the plants, we should place them in a cooler room for the time being, or the leaves may fall.

Among the different Begonias I have possessed, here are a few of my favorites and why I liked them. B. Abel Carriere, offspring of a Rex and B. evansiana, French in origin, as all who have grown it know, supremely lovely in a copper pot in a hanging basket. Its leaves root so surprisingly readily that it is a pleasure to own a plant even for the satisfaction of rooting leaves for friends. Sometimes I have forgotten to whom I have given the leaves and later on have seen an unusually nice specimen in the window of a friend who assures me I had once given her a leaf. B. cathayana, truly representative of its Chinese origin was the most thrilling of all the Rexes I have ever owned. The coloring of the leaves is so unbelievably beautiful. Unfortunately, it was mine when I was new at the business of growing Begonias, and no one told me it was going dormant, and when at last it finally went to sleep, I was so sure it was dead, that I discarded it. But its memory lingers on. Always give your Rexes a fair chance to recover themselves from their seasonable rest. B. decora, with the white sweet-scented flowers and shining pointed leaves; Corallina Delucerna with its huge pendulent trusses of deep pink bloom; the lovely foliage of B. Weltoniensis and Macbethi; Druryi with the wine-colored lined leaves; B. franconis, whose succulent stem and white flowers look so becoming in a white pot; five-fingered B. Palmata; and B. haageana and B. Houghtoni whose flowers resemble "purses in bud"—and many more serve as appetizing reminders that we must further increase our knowledge of their interesting family.

## WARNING

Do not send any money to the Pan-American Society of Tropical Research, Box 315, Quito, Ecuador, South America. They are a FRAUDULENT Society, according to the Postmaster General.

(Signed) ROY K. DERE  
Mailing Chairman

## B. Barkeri, Knowl., and West

By Alice M. Clark, San Diego, Calif.

Last fall, in Mrs. Fewkes' collection of begonias in Montalvo Gardens, I noticed *B. Barkeri* as a nice full leafy plant. When I suddenly came upon it, on Easter Monday, in full bloom, it was literally breath-taking. It is hardly fair to paint such a beautiful specimen when there is no place that I know of, where it can be obtained. If, instead of this small stalk—one of seven big ones—you could see the large mass of leaves, 30 inches across by 18 inches high, with 14 stems of bloom a foot above that, the line of coveters would form right at my shoulder.

There is a dearth of information about *B. Barkeri*. Mrs. Buxton says it was found in Mexico in 1830 by Mr. Ross, a collector for Mr. Barker, for whom it was named. This begonia was not mentioned in the N.Y.B.G. booklet, nor by Fotsch, but Chevalier says: "... a distinctly beautiful species, originally from Mexico, much appreciated in America." Certainly, with a century since its introduction, it should be found in every nursery. Perhaps it is better known on the eastern coast.

The stalks of *B. Barkeri* are three-quarters of an inch thick, with nodes the same distance apart and brown stipules that persist even at the base of the plant. Instead of circling the plant, the joints make a half-moon on alternate sides where the leaves come. The trunk is a bright green, flecked with white spots, but completely covered by a brown bloom as soft and firm as a suede glove. To a greater or less degree, this fuzz covers every part of the begonia, except the flowers.

In my drawing, a leaf is turned to show the growing tip with the beautiful pattern made by the pointed, pale green, white-dotted stipules, before they turn brown. They are one inch wide at the base and one and one-half inches to the apex. A wooly young leaf is just emerging. The flower stems rise from the upper leaf axils, while the lower ones have bulgy brown bracts from which two small leaves unfold, one after the other, so quickly that they seem to be twins. This is the way the branches begin, building up each side into fine bushy plants. The smaller pairs of leaves in the painting illustrate this, but I omitted a bushy branch, with flower, on the left side. New trunks also come up around the base.

The leaves of *B. Barkeri* are greatly varied. The one in the lower right-hand corner of the picture is very peltate, 6 by 8 inches, with a few pointed hooks on the edge.

Others are more dentate on the outside, almost lobed, and partly cut in on the top, but never all the way to the center. The veins are a rusty gray, like a cobweb around its hub, showing clearly against the bright green of the leaf. Between the veins, many puckers give delightful highlights. Even when full grown, the tomentum on the leaf looks like brown dust. It wears off with age, while the leaf color grows a brighter green, eventually fading to cream with splashes of pinky rose on the edge, a mixture to rival the best autumnal display. The texture is thick and firm.

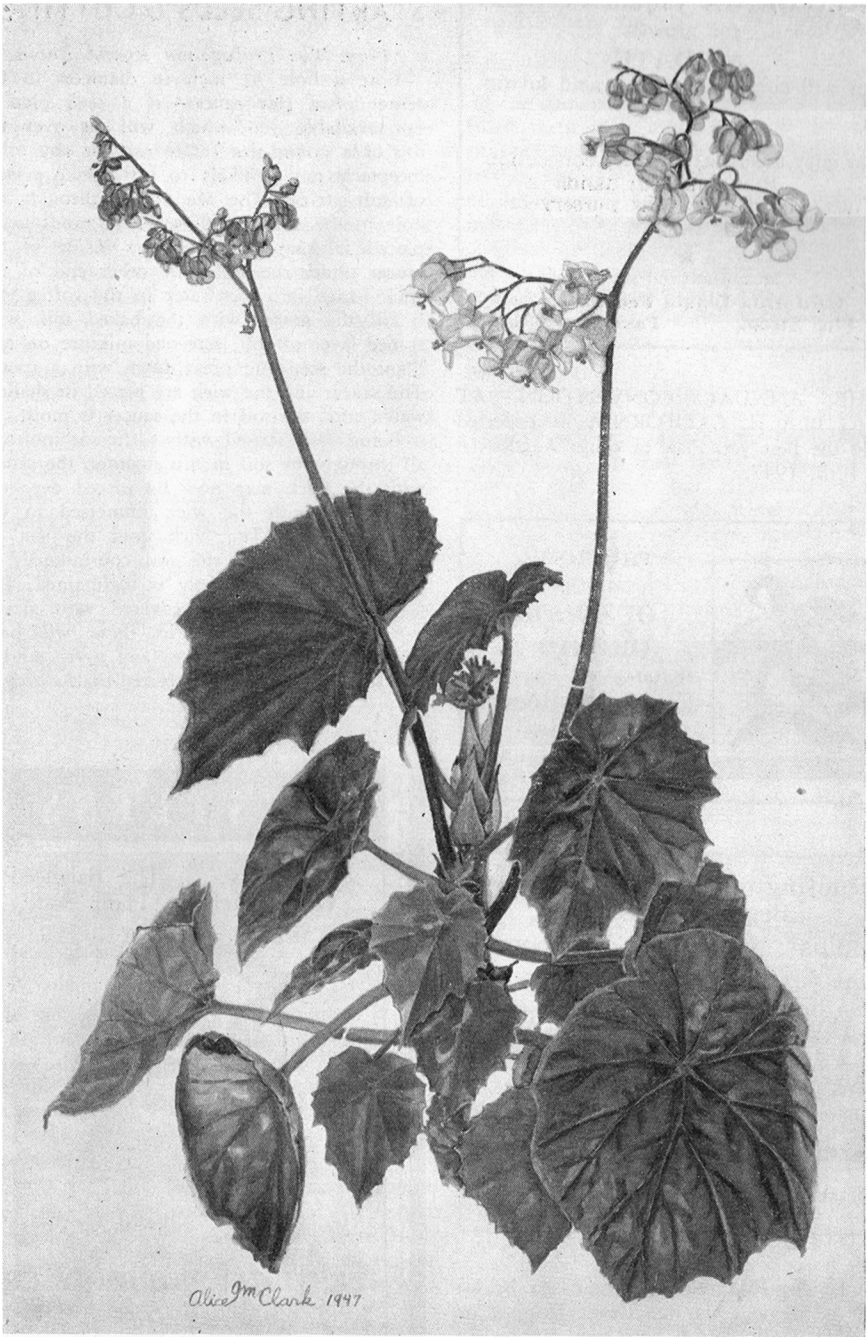
The petioles are almost half an inch wide, usually as long as the leaf. The inverted leaf on the left has a break in the stem, indicating that its 8 inch length was too much for the page. It shows the brown tomentum on the raised veins of the back and the pale jade color, about the same shade as the stems.

By contrast, the flower peduncle is a deep wine-red softened by brown pubescence. It is thick and strong, seeming proud to bear its beautiful crown of pink bloom. As it soars 12 inches before branching, I have made a break in each stem to show I could not get the full length on the page. None of the lovely color comes from the male flowers, which seem to "die a-borning." They fall before they open, but I did find one large enough to pry apart. It unfolded two tiny inside petals and a very full bouquet of emerald green stamen. I note that some of the smaller umbels from the lower branches have stronger looking staminate flowers, so perhaps they will develop later.

The female bloom has a luscious waxy-pink texture, like that of a cymbidium. The rosy wings add as much to the color as the two perky oval petals. The ovary is a pale greenish white on the lower side. I found one flower with a tiny supplementary petal, like a feather in its cap. A begonia "Oscar," I suppose. There are 10 to 16 blooms to each of the three branching sections of each panicle. They twist and turn in the most graceful arrangement of any begonia of similar type, that I have seen. They need the contrast of a woody background to bring out the freshness of color in the flowers. The pedicels are longer than most and a fuzzy red, while the buds are protected by slender pale-green bracts.

I am sorry you cannot hurry out and buy this handsome Easter begonia. If all those little male flowers lose their heads, how can

(Continued on Page 92)



**B. BARKERI, KNOWL., AND WEST**

## CALIFORNIA Liquid Fertilizer

for growth  
**ACIDATE**

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No odor, no messy, smelly concoction that soils your hands

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Telephone 3811

there be any seed? Perhaps some can be located in Mexico, via our clever Skipper or Armchair Explorers. I hope you appreciate what she is doing. If I were not drawing, I would be outside right now planting all the seeds she might send me, so there would be no chance of missing other beautiful introductions like B. Barkeri.

## HOMEMADE WICK-PANS FOR STARTING SEEDS & CUTTINGS

*From The Propagation Round Robin*

Bore a hole  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter in the center of a clay saucer—if a seed plan is not available yet—which will fit over the top of a pound-size coffee can, or any other receptacle not so likely to rust. Make a wick of soft string. The wick goes through the hole in the saucer with several strands being placed fan-shaped around the inside of the saucer under the soil. The other end of the wick hangs into the water in the coffee can.

Fill the saucer with the baked soil, with a nice layer of soft, screened mixture on top. Plant the seed and press down with a spoon. The saucer and the wick are placed in shallow water until the soil in the saucer is moist.

Being well started with sufficient moisture all through the soil in this manner, the saucer with the wick may now be placed over the coffee can with the wick immersed in the inch of water. The wick does the rest by drawing water into the soil continuously as long as the water supply is maintained. The saucer should NOT be covered with glass.

Cuttings root nicely in these wick-pans with a mixture of peatmoss and sharp sand—or any of the mediums preferred by the grower of the seed.

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## PESTLESS

# Rex Begonias

"Remarkable for their Propagation and Beauty and Most Prized"

By Lillian Asbe, San Francisco, Calif.

The mutual interest among the branches of the American Begonia Society located in the Bay area was well illustrated at the April meeting. We invited as the speaker of the evening, Mr. Walter G. Talbott, prominent member of the East Bay Branch. In fact, it was a pleasant surprise to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Talbott were accompanied by several fellow members, Dr. Fred Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Swager and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Carlsen. It brings to mind, that last January we attended a lecture in Berkeley given under the auspices of the East Bay Branch, by Prof. Goodspeed, who recently returned from an extensive expedition to the West Coast of South America.

Mr. Talbott specializes in growing Rex Begonias and made quite a study of them. He quoted an interesting statement made by Prof. Asa Gray of Harvard in 1868, who, after making passing remarks about roses and fuchsias, said, "*The Begonias are somewhat succulent of peculiar aspect, remarkable for their propagation and beauty and most prized.*"

The first specimens of Rex Begonias were sent by J. Simons in 1856 from Assam, India, to Jean Linden in Belgium who described the new plant in Flore des Serres the same year. They were first sold for 50 francs a piece. This magnificent plant became immediately popular and the prices soared to several thousand francs. However, the market crashed very soon due to the extraordinary ability of the Rex to propagate so rapidly. Several new hybrids were developed but since then, many of them were lost entirely.

Begonias are divided in two main classes, Tuberous and Fibrous rooted. The latter include the rhizomatous group of which Rex is the most prominent. In the early days, Rexes or King's Begonias, were called "Elephant's ear" due to their resemblance in shape to this organ.

The peculiarity of the Begonia rhizome is the fact that it grows backward. The most sensational quality of the Rexes is their ability to propagate. A new plant can be grown not only from a small piece of rhizome, but even from parts of leaves as well, provided they contain a vein junction. In this manner, the speaker succeeded to raise from 15 to 17 plants from a single leaf. He showed how the leaf should be cut for that purpose, although he prefers to tear it instead. Then he cut a milk carton forming two containers; cut

off the corners at the bottom for drainage and filled them with sand. Next, he set in the cuttings at an angle 1 to 1¼ inches apart, facing leaf toward the light. Keep moist until they begin rooting. Transplant into 2½ inch pots filled with a mixture consisting of one-third each sand, peat and leafmold, adding Plant Chem and weak garden tea (liquid cow manure) every two weeks alternately. The plants should be repotted 2 or 3 times a year, each time in a container one size larger.

Rexes must be kept in the shade away from direct rays of the sun. They should be watered regularly maintaining high humidity since there is a very heavy rainfall in their natural habitat in the Himalayas. It is a good idea to plant the Rexes under trees or ferns, creating conditions similar to those in which they thrive in their native state. It is advisable to let them rest in the winter by reducing the watering and fertilizing. While Mr. Talbott has an overhead watering system installed in his garden, he admits that other methods have their merits.

Among the many varieties *Adrian Schmidt* and *Queen of Hanover* are the most popular as they are hardy plants, easy to grow and beautiful in appearance. He also mentioned, as a curiosity, the *Wild Begonia* which continually reproduces itself by means of small bulbs formed under the leaves.

Mr. Talbott illustrated his talk, interspersed with anecdotes and witty remarks, and by drawings on a blackboard which greatly assisted in conveying his ideas.

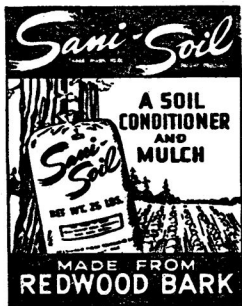
## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING ROSE AND FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SHOW, May 3 and 4, 1947. I. O. O. F. Temple, 175 Los Robles, Pasadena, Calif.

California Spring Garden Show, Oakland, Calif., to continue until May 4, 1947.

CALIFORNIA FUCHSIA SHOW: June 21 and 22, Saturday and Sunday, 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. No admission charge. BAAKE NURSERY, 2616 Sawtelle Blvd., West Los Angeles, Calif.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC., 16th ANNUAL MEETING, HOTEL HUNTINGTON, Pasadena, Calif., May 26, 27 and 28, 1947. Registrations: Mrs. Kilpatrick, 1545 Chelsea Road, San Marino 9, Calif.



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## Begonia Notes Taken at the March Meeting at San Diego

By *Jennette Moore, San Diego, Calif.*

Those who attended the banquet of the American Begonia convention in San Diego remember Mrs. Don Hunter of Rosecroft, who entertained us so delightfully with her bird calls. She spoke to us at this regular meeting on Begonias. They are classified by the manner of carrying their seeds as well as their root structure, which in the fibrous spread out directly from the slender stem; the rhizomatous and rex type having fine roots on the thick, curving root-stalk; and the tuberous, with fine roots spreading from the bulbs. They are all surface feeders, with a mass of fine roots near the surface.

The popular favorite of the tuberous group is the large flowering tuberous begonia. The seed of any of the begonias may be successfully grown. It is all powdery fine and may be blown into a mixture of leafmold and sand. They should germinate in three weeks to a month. Your potting mixture should be started eight months before using and Mrs. Hunter uses one and a half measure leaf-mold, one half steer manure and one half rich garden loam.

Last year she had a seedling *Lloydii* with three foot sprays loaded with blossoms in November. She doesn't transplant her mature tubers but puts rich compost with extra fertilizer near bottom of the large pot it will be grown in, with just enough space at the top to put in peat and sand to start the tubers in. Late in summer when they get tired and need it the long roots will find the fertilizer and it will give them the lift they need for further growth and bloom. Don't water too much. Tubers like the morning sun and the plants won't grow spindley if the soil is right and they have sufficient sun and water.

Mr. J. C. Young spoke of a way to supply heat to the tubers while they are sprouting. He takes a five gallon oil can and takes out one side and places a twenty five watt globe at the bottom and puts the tubers on the rack above.

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**BEGONIAS**

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ORANGE SWEETY

## FRAGRANT DOUBLE TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

**ORANGE SWEETY** (Fairyland Hybrid). It is still the best double fragrant Tuberosus. Lovely double orange flowers up to 5 inches in diameter borne in great profusion with a lovely rose fragrance usually quite noticeable day and night but strongest in the morning. Lovely pot plant and graceful basket plant. Orange Sweety is a deeper and more brilliant orange color than the photograph reproduced in our catalog. Our electricity was low the day the photographs were taken and they did not reproduce true to color.

**YELLOW SWEET** (Fairyland Hybrid). The original sport of Orange Sweety with double yellow flowers about 6 inches in diameter also with a good fragrance. Makes a fine basket or pot plant.

**PATTY SWEET** (Fairyland Hybrid). Lovely camellia type with pink flower up to 5 inches in diameter. Lovely rose scent slightly different than Orange or Yellow Sweety. Rather difficult to hold over winter. Also makes a good pot or basket plant.



Excerpts from New Catalog of

## FAIRYLAND BEGONIA AND LILY GARDENS

Harbor, Oregon

Courtesy of LESLIE WOODRIF

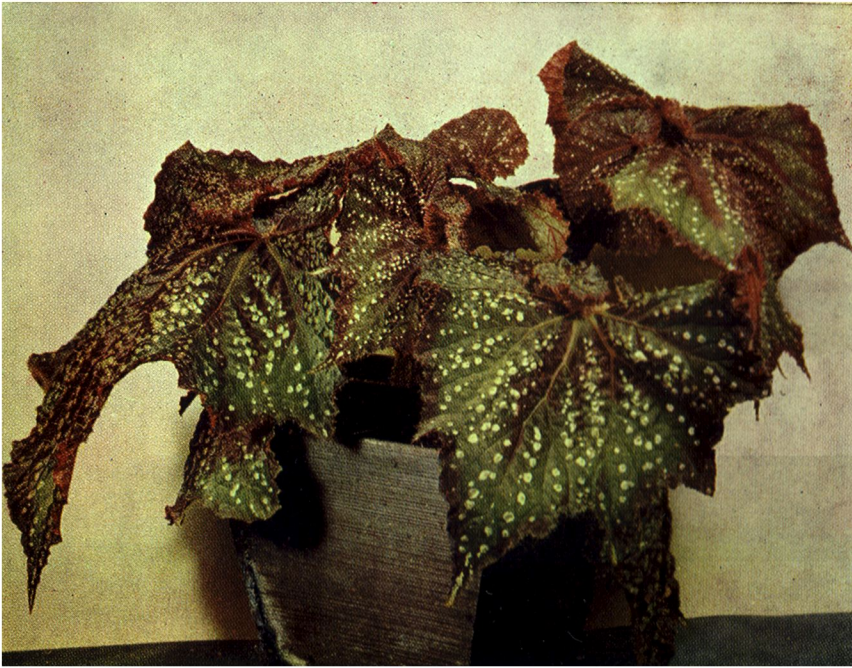


(Left to Right)  
 TOP ROW—PACIFIC SUNSET, CORDOZA GARDENS, SILVER SWEET, SILVER PINK,  
 INSERTED SPIRAL, CURLY STARDUST  
 MIDDLE ROW—HELEN LEWIS, GIANT TWIST, BABY RAINBOW, TWISTY SPOT  
 BOTTOM ROW—SINGLE BLACK TWIST, CALICO, ROSE MARIE, MOUNTAIN HAZE



(Left to Right)  
 TOP ROW—PEACOCK, FIREFLUSH, PINKIE, PURPLE GLORY  
 INSERTED ROW—IMPERIALIS, IT  
 MIDDLE ROW—CATHAYANA, CURLY CARNOT, PINK FLUSH, IMPROVED COUNTESS ERDODY,  
 OUR INDIAN  
 BOTTOM ROW—GLORY OF ST. ALBANS, SEED TWIST, LAVENDER GLOW





TWISTY SPOT (REX BEGONIA)

## REX BEGONIAS

**TWISTY SPOT** (Fairylend Hybrid). Lovely spiral leaf with bronze and green shades blended to form a perfect background for the silver spots each of which have a hair in the center, giving an unusual effect to the leaf. Medium leaf.

**CURLY STARDUST** (Fairylend Hybrid). A spiral counterpart of Stardust. Medium sized leaf. Olive green leaf, with tiny silver spots, black center and edge. The medium sized spiral leaves look up at you rather than hanging to the side as do most Rexes. One of our customers remarked, "It is the cutest Rex you grow."

**DOUBLE BLACK TWIST** (Fairylend Hybrid). Both lobes are very spiraled or curled. A plant with several leaves gives the appearance of a pot of curls. It is hard to tell where one leaf finishes and the other begins. Medium sized leaf.

**GIANT TWIST** (Fairylend Hybrid). Huge spiral leaf. Green and bronze leaf with silver overlay. The small plants are much more brilliantly colored, taking on rose shades in strong light. The larger plants do not retain the rose shading but are still lovely.

**SILVER SWEET** (Fairylend Hybrid). It is one of our own hybrids that has been sold for the past five years but is still one of the finest silver leaved varieties we have. Has green central zone surrounded by silver. Pink fragrant flowers add much to the character of the plant. An outstanding house plant growing in house conditions that other Rexes won't take. Medium sized leaf.

**CALICO** (Fairylend Hybrid). Medium leaf. We believe this is the loveliest spotted variety we have ever seen. Leaves up to 6x10 inches, colored with purple-black center zone and edge, green central zone with whole surface covered with silver spots around 1/4-inch diameter. In strong light they take on a lavender shading which makes it one of the top five or six Rexes we have seen. No two leaves are just exactly alike which makes them all the more interesting. Stocks limited till summer.

**IT** (Fairylend Hybrid). IT is making a very popular florist plant as well as window garden plant. IT grows to about 14 to 16 inches high with medium sized bright green Rex leaves with silver spots and is very well branched. IT carries a cluster of flowers from every joint with individual clusters stringing their flowers out one after the other to as much as 30 in a four-branched cluster, making sometimes over 100 flowers from each cluster over a period of several months. The plants are a literal shower of flowers. The lovely pink flowers are carried well above the foliage and they have a wonderful fragrance somewhere between a Rose and a Freesia. IT flowers the year around but is best from December to May. It is a magnificent houseplant.



BEGONIA PINK FAIRY

**PINK FAIRY** (Fairlyland Hybrid). In Begonia crossing it sometimes takes 500 crosses before one gets a pod of seed to set on a tuberous x fibrous cross and there may be only a few seed in the pod. When one gets the seed the next job is making it grow, so it is not an easy task. We were fortunate in being able to grow a few plants of tuberous x Imperialis and out of all of them our PINK FAIRY is the best. The leaf is somewhere between the tuberous and Imperialis. It is medium green and sparkles like crystals when the sun shines on it. Leaves can go up to 5 inches in length. Flowers are a medium shade of pink, around 3 inches in diameter with full Camellia center. They will flower the year round with the proper temperature.

**ORANGE RUBRA** (Fairlyland Hybrid, 1947). These are our crosses between Dichroa and Coral Rubra back with Dichroa, giving plants that grow erect like Rubras but not as tall, with the lovely orange Dichroa flowers. Cuttings from a selection of the best seedlings of this group. Stock is very limited.

**PINK SPOT LUCERNE** (Fairlyland Hybrid, 1947). One of a group of seedlings, crosses between Coralline Lucerne and Dichroa, that in place of normal silver spotting on the dark green leaves has lovely pink spots. It is much shorter than Lucerne, growing only 3 to 3½ feet high. Flowers are in slightly smaller clusters and a darker color—light red. It is greatly admired by our customers who see it here. We believe this is one

of the most interesting groups of crosses for house plants that can be made. We plan this summer to grow a large number of second generation seedlings from this group. Stock is very limited.

**FANTASY** (Fairlyland Hybrid). Our Rex x Tuberous cross that has the Rex leaf with lovely salmon colored Tuberous flowers. This is the first and finest double flowered hybrid between the Rex and the Tuberous that we know of. Flowers are Carnation type, salmon pink, 3 inches across in clusters of 3 doubles and 2 seed flowers. Green, silver marked Rex leaf. Grows from leaf cuttings, and is everblooming at temperatures above 50 degrees. Limited stock.

## NEW FAIRYLAND LILY

**TWINKLE** (Fairlyland Hybrid). We have a few bulbs to spare this year of our latest and most highly colored Speciosum seedling. Flowers are medium sized snow white with a bright red blotch in the center of each petal. Each peduncle carries up to 4 flowers. Flowers start to open in the middle of cluster and have top ones opening at same time as bottom ones, making over half the blooms open at the same time. It makes a bouquet in itself. Visitors who see it here at our gardens rave over its outstanding beauty and uniqueness. October flowering. Plant grows to 5 feet and for past three seasons has had over 35 flowers per stem.

Excerpts from New Catalog of

**FAIRYLAND BEGONIA AND LILY GARDENS, HARBOR, OREGON**

Courtesy of LESLIE WOODRUFF

# CALADIUM NOTES

## From the Caladium Round Robin

Directed by M. O. KENT, Okeechobee, Fla.

● The Director of this group has over 200 varieties of caladiums. He has found that while these plants, in their native haunts, grow in acid soil, they will reach maximum growth just as quickly in sweet soils. His favorite soil mixture is rich black sand plus a large amount of sheep manure. He prefers sheep manure because it contains more potash than cow manure. One does not worry about getting too much manure in soil for caladiums. It does not burn these tubers. If the tuber does not have visible eyes, be very careful about overwatering the first few weeks. Dormant tubers rot very easily—if much water is given while the root system is still in the fashioning. If they have white shoots when they are planted, they will come into leaf quickly, then there is little danger of overwatering, however, drainage must be good. Caladiums will not tolerate water standing around the roots.

After the plants come into leaf, feeding is in order. Liquid manure is preferred and is given about every two weeks. The following are methods for storing tubers over winter:

During the summer the plant has very probably increased until in some cases there may be a dozen or so small tubers around the mother. Very small offsets will not keep over the winter unless attached to the mother tuber. If you intend to divide these tubers—wait until next spring, just before planting.

For storing these clumps: They may be left in the pot in which they grew all summer out of doors (if in frost-free sections) but in cold climates place the pots in a warm place and sprinkle lightly with water once a month. Some growers store the tubers in boxes of sand, peat moss or sawdust. The points to remember are: Keep in a warm place (55° minimum at night) and do not allow the tubers to become too hard and dry during the dormant period. They will "petrify" and remain forever dormant. Caladiums have eyes just like potatoes and these eyes will grow and make plants if cut into pieces and planted like potatoes. Dusting the cut parts with powdered sulphur or powdered charcoal will prevent decay.

Some growers insist that commercial fertilizer increases brilliance of coloring. Others maintain that it does not. There is room here for some careful experimenting.

One member had to give up most of her

work with flowers, due to a heart condition. However, as caladiums are lazy gardener's plants, she finds she can still create some lovely garden pictures by combining caladiums with billbergias, daylilies and other easy doers.

Another member has 250 varieties of caladiums. Sixty of these being her own seedlings which she hopes will form tubers large enough to bring through the winter. She uses rich black dirt, lots of stable manure, coarse sand and peat-muck for the soil mixture.

Another soil mixture uses raw bone meal, commercial fertilizer, one-year-old steer manure and heavy, black, "custard-apple" muck. This is mixed well, moistened and allowed to ripen 48 hours before being used.

All members agree that soil for caladiums should be light, porous and rich. Most of the members use gallon cans for containers and find them very satisfactory.

Nearly all the members grow other shade plants and they find that caladiums blend in beautifully with their ferns, begonias, etc.

The Director promises colored photographs and lists of named varieties with descriptions for Round 2 of this Caladium Robin.

FRANCES DOWNING.

Was your Speaker interesting at the last meeting? What was said that would be of interest to your fellow-members?

—Maria Wilkes.

## A. B. S. Cooperative Spirit

By Frank E. Clark

*A. B. S. Director Public Rels., Pasadena, Calif.*

The first garden tour sponsored by the American Begonia Society was held on Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22, 1947, at Pasadena, Calif. It was a beautiful California day and the gardens were greatly enjoyed by several hundred visitors. Branches were represented from San Diego to as far north as Santa Barbara.

The success of our tour was due entirely to the fine cooperation of the many members who assisted the general chairman by giving generously of their time and effort.

The officers and directors wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated in this event. They also hope the convention at Long Beach, Calif., next August 16-17 will be equally as well attended.



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One of the ancestors of the modern Rex.

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Santa Barbara, Calif.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Q. Can you tell me the name of a salmon or orange flowering begonia? I prefer the fibrous for a house plant.

From Mrs. F. J. W., Augusta, Mich.

A. The orange color is very rare among the fibrous begonia. *Cathayana* and *Dichroa* both have it but are rather difficult to grow successfully. *B. limminghei* (*glaucophylla scandens*) is another orange flowered fibrous begonia but it is so trailing that it definitely must be grown in a hanging basket or hanging pot for the house or over a mound of earth, if in the garden. Among the tuberous begonias the orange and the salmon flowers are much more frequently found. The tuberous varieties from South Africa might be used if they can be placed on plant stands with plenty of room or as hanging baskets. See Mrs. Clark's article and sketch of them in the September issue of *THE BEGONIAN*.

Q. Should steer manure be used for fertilizing in a decomposed—or fresh stage?—How are special bedding begonias propagated?

From Mrs. C. E. F., Paradise, Calif.

A. Manure should never be used for fertilizing until it has rotted enough so that the

heat has gone out of it, or it will burn the plants. If it can be composted by the Indore System of Sir Albert Howard, that much better.

If you want to perpetuate the same kind as the parent, do so by cuttings.

Q. One of a shipment of plants that I received will not brace up, does not die, just wilts and stays limp. Can you tell me what is wrong?

From Mrs. C. M. C., Exeter, Calif.

A. The trouble with your begonia is, *shock*. Every grower figures on losing a certain percentage of his plants even in his own nursery. Often, the shock of moving a plant to a different location in the same town or even of the same garden is too much for it, particularly if it should be replanted immediately. If plants have to be shipped from one climate to another, the best time to get them is the spring rather than the cold of winter or the heat of summer.

Sometimes Vitamin B1 is of help in combating shock. There are also a number of Vitamin with Hormone compounds on the market that are very efficacious in offsetting effect of transplanting.

## Round Robins Have Problems

By Frances Downing, Calera, Ala.

From the director of the Small-leaved Begonia Round Robin come these comments, concerning the large letter packages and the type of envelopes used.

"On different occasions bulky Round Robins have arrived in a damaged condition. The most outstanding instance being the Seed Sowing Robin which arrived with only one small packet of seed. Sometimes as many as a dozen packets are enclosed in these Robins. In this case we do not know how many were lost as there were quite a number.

A postal clerk told me that the canceling machine often damages such packages. We should have manila envelopes for such bulky Robins and we should print on the envelope "USE HAND BAT" which method of canceling stamps would not damage the enclosed seed nor tear the envelope."

It is hoped all the Round Robin members will consider the excellent advice given by the postal clerk and endorsed by this Director. The simple Botany R. R. and the Orchid Robin still await Directors. The Hem Robin for New England is making its first flight. A Hem Robin for members of ALL THE STATES is being formed.

The Rex Robin for New England members is flying. No. 2 of this group must soon be started.

Members are needed for the following Robins: "Pansies, Violas, Violets;" "Garden Photography," Perennials, "Scented and Variegated Geraniums," Annuals, Flowering Shrubs, Primroses and the "General Seed Sowing Robin." The Director of the Rose Robin eagerly awaits NEW MEMBERS to start this group on its first flight.

The GESNERIACEAE Robin No. 4 is forming ... as is "The African Violet and Gloxinia Robin No. 6. These Robins have enjoyed much popularity due to that small, lovely plant the AFRICAN VIOLET which has won a place for itself in the hearts of window gardeners everywhere.

The Zonale Geranium Robin No. 3 will soon be complete when No. 4 will be started.

Suggestions are always welcomed from all sources, especially from the Directors and members of the Robins. We do want to improve the Robins and their usefulness. Is there a new Club subject you would like started? If it is to do with plants—at all—we shall be glad to give your club a place with the other American Begonia Society Round Robins.

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# FERTILIZERS

**CONDENSED MINUTES** meeting National Board held March 24th, 1947, at Clark Hotel, 4th and Hill Sts., Los Angeles, Calif. Meeting called to order at 8 p.m. with President Lawrence presiding. Board members present Messrs. Lawrence, Hart, Hixon, Walton, Dere, Clark; Mesdames Weber, Drummond, Wilkes, Hartwell. Branches represented: Inglewood, Hollywood, Pasadena, Glendale, Foothill, Santa Monica, Santa Barbara, Parent Branch, North Long Beach, Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Carrell.

On motion reading of minutes of last meeting dispensed with. Reports of Editor, Membership Fees Chairman, and Treasurer read and on motion approved as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

President announced change in printer for the *Begonian*; the El Monte Press will now handle this.

Mr. Clark presented detailed report of the Garden Tour and moved "That this report as made out by Col. Gale be accepted and filed. Second Mrs. Wilkes. CARRIED.

Mrs. Drummond reported newly organized Branch Kansas City, Mo., was coming along nicely and hopes to have more news later on; also new branch at Santa Paula organized with 45 Charter members; have held election of officers and going ahead.

President spoke on recent offer of Mr. Woodriff to supply a 4-page insert for the *Begonian*—2 pages colored pictures of begonias and two pages of text—free of expense to the Society. After expression of opinion from those present, it was the consensus of opinion that it would add materially to the *Begonian* and be of interest to the readers. Motion made, duly seconded, to accept Mr. Woodriff's offer and use this material at an early date in the *Begonian*. Editor to handle the details.

Editor brought up the matter of a joint meeting with the Horticultural Society but after full discussion moved "That we carry this joint meeting over for another year in view of our early Annual Meeting and Flower Show and the work necessary to put on a joint meeting. CARRIED.

President Lawrence called attention to the fact that in April, 1942, a motion was made "That Past Presidents be made Life Members of the Society but this motion set no definite starting date for this action." Motion by Mr. Hart, second Mrs. Wilkes, "That the Membership Fees Chairman be instructed to add the names of Messrs. Walker, Smith, Riedman and Williams to the Life Membership list to make the list complete from the beginning of the Society to the present time." CARRIED.

The matter of housing and continuing the Robinson Memorial in San Diego was brought up and after discussion, President Lawrence instructed Mr. Hixon to contact the Alfred Robinson Branch in San Diego and get some kind of an agreement with them as to just how this will be handled, etc., etc., and report to the Board at the next regular meeting.

Mr. Walton, as Chairman of a Committee to consider the question of investing monies received from Life Memberships, reported the following decision: "The committee has decided the best action would be to invest the monies in Government Savings Bonds and we further move that the Board appropriate \$6.25 from the General Fund and purchase a \$25.00 and a \$50.00 Savings Bond for the money we now have." CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was decided to have the April meeting in the Clark Hotel same time; those desiring dinner please be there promptly at 6:30 as the meeting will follow dinner immediately.

On motion adjourned to meet again the fourth Monday of April—the 28th—1947.

Respectfully submitted,

GONDA HARTWELL, *Corres. Sec.*

## So. Alameda County Branch Proud of Members

The Third Annual Begonia Show was instrumental in bringing forth lovely show

## BEGONIA BARTONIA

By Eva Kenworthy Gray, San Diego, Calif.

This is a small grower, about twelve inches tall and rather bushy. The leaves are small, round and scalloped on the edge. The top leaf is mottled brown with green veins, while the underside of the leaf is rusty brown with the same green veins. The flowers are in small, dainty, fairylike pink clusters. I think it may be a native of a warm country since it loves warmth.

Last summer it set one seed pod which did not look very promising as it was so small and dry. However, I saved it and this January planted it in a glass jar.

I use the square mayonnaise jar method which keeps its position without rolling. First, I partly sterilized the soil by scalding with hot water, then when partly dry I put two inches of the soil in the flat side of the bottle. The seed was mixed with a spoonful of dry sand and scattered thinly over the soil in the bottle, pressing it down with a spoon. The soil should be moderately damp, not soggy, as the seed would rot if too wet. The lid being closed on the jar, it was then placed in an eastern window but not in direct sun. The seeds showed up in about thirty days. They are now showing their second leaves but I shall keep them in the jar until they get good and strong.

After transplanting they will need some protection until they are acclimated to the weather. I use rain water for all seedling plants, which is much better if it is slightly warm.

Growing plants from seed is always fascinating and challenging.

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plants and flowers of high quality.

Mr. Clyde Hildreth of Sausalito won three awards. Mr. H. J. Halliday of Mill Valley, three awards. Mr. Archie L. Culpepper, of Larkspur, four awards. Mr. James Massara of Ross, four awards. Mrs. Rose Gambastiani of Inverness-Pt Reyes, four awards, and Mr. David B. Fyfe of San Rafael won twelve awards. Mrs. Rose Gambastiani received the highly prized gold ribbon for the BEST Flower in the Show. There were also many other winners of honors with one and two prizes.

Much credit for the success of this show is due to the sponsorship of the First National Bank in San Rafael with the able direction of Mr. Frank C. Burns.

The various Nurseries, Parks, and estates of the San Rafael district entered complimentary exhibits which always adds immeasurably to the value of a flower show.

## Meeting Dates and Places

*The next meeting of the American Begonia Society Board will be held in the Clark Hotel Grill Room, Hill Street, Monday, May 26th, 6:30 p.m.*

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

*Thursday, May 1st, 7:30 p.m.*  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.  
Doris Burdick, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 4, Box 296,  
Anaheim, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

*Friday, May 2nd, 8 p.m.*  
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa.  
Mrs. James M. Reed, Secretary  
643 No. Wabash Ave., Glendora, Calif.

### BELLFLOWER BRANCH

*Monday, May 5th, 7:30 p.m.*  
Washington Street School Cafeteria  
Sec.: Mrs. Edna Leistner, 610 Nichols St.,  
Bellflower, Calif.

### THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

*Tuesday, May 6th, 7:30 p.m.*  
Alice Bartlett C. H. 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Harry Meyer, Secretary, 111 Leighton Dr.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

*Wednesday, May 7th, 7:45 p.m.*  
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.  
Sec.: Mrs. Walter Ashe.  
1855 - 33rd Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

### SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

*Wednesday, May 7th, 7:30 p.m.*  
Union High School Horticulture Dept.  
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles  
Mrs. Denman Bemus, Secy-Treas.  
345 So. Santa Anita Ave.  
Brentwood, Los Angeles 24, Calif.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

*Thursday, May 8th, 7:30 p.m.*  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Vera Lynde, Rec. Sec.  
1030 N. Orange Grove Ave.  
Los Angeles 46, Calif.

### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

*Thursday, May 8th, 2-4 p.m.*  
Alhecama Theatre, Room 5  
914 Santa Barbara St., Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Mrs. E. H. Mercer, Secretary  
2019 Bath St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

### CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

*Friday, May 9th, 7:30 p.m.*  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Esther L. Randall, Sec., 3638 Cerritos Ave.  
Long Beach 7, Calif.

### SEQUOIA BRANCH

*Friday, May 9th, 8 p.m.*  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Albert Lowery, Secretary  
620 W. Grove St., Visalia, Calif.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

*Friday, May 9th, 8 p.m.*  
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Laura Crandall, Secretary  
2730 Redondo Blvd., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

### LA MESA BRANCH

*Monday, May 12th, 7:30 p.m.*  
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. J. Porter Hock  
4494 - 32nd St., San Diego 4, Calif.

### NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

*Monday, May 12th, 6:30 p.m.*  
57th St. and Dairy, North Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Harry H. Boyd, 5670 Walnut Ave.  
Long Beach 5, Calif.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

*Monday, May 12th, 8 p.m.*  
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church  
Sec.-Treas.: Dorothy Lark  
Box 16, Scotia, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

*Tuesday, May 13th, 7:30 p.m.*  
Pasadena Public Library  
Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.  
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

*Wednesday, May 14th, 8 p.m.*  
Mrs. T. W. Gall, Sec.-Treas.  
4518 Bandini Ave., Riverside, Calif.

### SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

*Thursday, May 15th, 8 p.m.*  
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss  
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

### NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

*Sunday, May 18th, 2 p.m.*  
Crestwood Branch, Yonkers Public Library, N. Y.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley  
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

### PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

*Irregular Meetings*  
May T. Drew, Pres.  
Box 331, Narbeth, Pa.

### EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

*Monday, May 19th*  
Community House, LaJolla  
Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.  
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

### SANTA PAULA BRANCH

*Thursday, May 22nd, 7:30 p.m.*  
Memorial Hall High School  
Mrs. C. F. Crang  
907 Pleasant St., Santa Paula, Calif.

### ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

*Friday, May 23rd, 7:30 p.m.*  
Loma Portal School  
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. J. J. Howarth, Secretary  
4319 Del Mar Ave., San Diego 7, Calif.

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

*Monday, May 26th*  
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.  
Mrs. A. P. Carlton, Sec.-Treas.  
624 Arroyo Dr., San Diego, Calif.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

*Tuesday, May 27th, 2 p.m.*  
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary  
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA, BRANCH

*Tuesday, May 27th, 8 p.m.*  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. W. G. Coffeen  
1742 S. W. 10th St., Miami 35, Fla.

### WHITTIER BRANCH

*Tuesday, May 27th, 7:30 p.m.*  
Union High School, Room 19  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Madeleine Hall, Secretary  
509 Friends Ave., Whittier, Calif.

### EAST BAY BRANCH

*Tuesday, May 27th, 8 p.m.*  
Council Chambers, Berkeley City Hall  
Mrs. Emma Carlton, Secretary-Treas.  
1430 Oxford St., Berkeley 9, Calif.

### MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

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

### GLENDALE BRANCH

*Tuesday, May 27th, 7:30 p.m.*  
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.  
Charles Richardson, Secretary  
1441 Fairfield, Glendale 1, Calif.

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

*Wednesday, May 28th, 8 p.m.*  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary  
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

*Thursday, May 29th, 7:30 p.m.*  
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th and Atlantic  
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. E. G. Arbuckle  
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

### SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau  
Nipomo, Calif.

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