

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens



BEGONIA KELLERMANNII (C. D. Candolle)

ORCHIDS

- 25 CYMBIDIUMS
- 25 COELOGYNES
- 25 CYPREPIDIUMS
- 25 DENDROBIUMS
- 25 VANDAS

in different sorts

ALL FULL FLOWERING SIZE PLANTS

Each Collection Delivered Free By Air Express

\$38.00

Only 4 Days Journey from Calcutta

Best for Commerce — Prompt Delivery
Cash With Order
Complete Price List Free

D. SHAMSER

65B Sambhunath Pandil Street
P. O. BHOWANIPUR, CALCUTTA, INDIA

CAMELLIAS

A wonderful collection of these beautiful shade-loving Plants, including more than 200 varieties of popular and rare Camellias.

Hundreds of Plants

Now in Bloom



Weekdays

8:30 — 5:30

Open Sundays

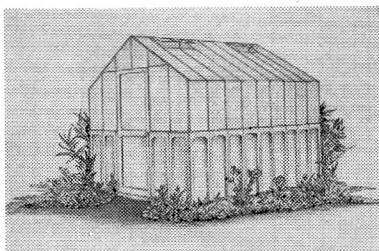
9:30 — 5:30

PAUL J. HOWARD'S

California Flowerland

11700 National Boulevard
LOS ANGELES 34 CALIFORNIA

HOBBYIST GREENHOUSES



**EVERLASTING — NON CORROSIVE
ALUMINUM CONSTRUCTION**



DURABILITY PROVEN BY YEARS OF
EXPOSURE TO CORROSIVE INDUSTRIAL
ATMOSPHERES WITHOUT CLEANING
OR PAINTING



Foundation of Pumice Concrete to
Equal the Endurance of Aluminum
Structure

A Size and Type for Every Need

WILBUR G. WOOD

1621 Irving Ave. — Glendale 1, California
Phone Cltrus 1-7976

CAMELLIA-FLOWERED

BEGONIAS

From one of America's finest growers
offered in 3 different size tubers.

1 to 1 1/4 Inch 15c

6 colors
10 for \$1.25; 25 for \$3; 50 for \$5

1 1/2 to 2 Inch each 25c

6 colors
10 for \$2; 25 for \$4.50; 50 for \$8

2 1/2 to 4 Inch each 50c

5 colors
10 for \$4; 25 for \$9; 50 for \$17.50

OTHER TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Hanging Basket, 8 colors; Crested, mixed colors
only; Multi-Flora, 5 colors. All fine bulbs.

\$2.50 doz., each 25c

OTHER SEASONABLE BULBS

GLOXINIA—6 colors each 35c
GLADIOLUS—9 prize varieties Doz. \$1
TUBEROSE—Singles Doz. \$1
PINK CALLAS—For pots, garden each 35c
AMARYLLIS—Giant hybrids each 50c
FANCY L. CALADIUM—10 colors each 35c
SPREKELIA—Velvety-red, each 35c
TIGRIDIA—6 separate colors, Doz. \$1.50

Mailing Charge, 15c plus Calif. Tax

Bob Anderson

1417 Echo Park Ave., Los Angeles 26

The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman, January, 1932

General Offices: 1618 Fickewirth Ave., El Monte, Calif.

Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society

- Annual Subscription Fee: One Dollar and Fifty Cents.
- Entered as second-class matter, September 21st, 1946, at the Post Office of El Monte, California, under the act of March 3rd, 1879.

STAFF

Maria Wilkes Editor
508 Moreno Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
Bessie R. Buxton Co-Editor
114 Central Street, Peabody, Mass.
Assistant Editors—Dr. W. C. Drummond, Prof. Le-
roy Chitwood, Miss Charlotte Hoak, and Miss
Peggy Sullivan.
Mrs. Verna Johnson Advertising Manager
1320 Ramona Road, Arcadia, California

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Myrtle Shepherd Francis, Ferd P. Neels, Her-
bert P. Dyckman, J. Paul Walker, T. H. Smith,
Fred Riedman, J. S. Williams, Dr. W. N. Caseley,
Frank Harrison, Harold W. Hart, Clarence A. Hall,
Arthur E. Nelson, Frank Reinelt, George Lawrence.

HONORARY DIRECTORS

Mrs. Annie C. Robinson Frank Reinelt
Mrs. Henry H. Buxton Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray
T. H. Goodspeed T. H. Everett
George Otten E. D. Merrill

HONORARY VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mrs. Henry H. Buxton Peabody, Mass.
Mrs. Lee Krauss, Wynnewood Plaza, Wynnewood,
Pennsylvania
Mrs. John G. Clark San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Emma M. Carleton Berkeley, Calif.
Fred Willard Pasadena, Calif.

The next meeting of the American Begonia So-
ciety Board will be held in the Los Angeles City
Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p. m. (4th Monday) May 24th,
1948. Park Lower Garage South Entrance on Main.

OFFICERS

Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond..... President
1246 No. Kings Road, Los Angeles 46, Calif.
George L. Johnson President-Elect
1320 Ramona Road, Arcadia, Calif.
W. E. Walton Treasurer
1415 Acacia Ave., Torrance, Calif.
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell Corresponding Secretary
1719 Alamitos Ave., Monrovia, Calif.
Roy K. Dere Membership Fees
1618 Fickewirth Ave., El Monte, Calif.
Mrs. Frances Downing Organization Chairman
The A. B. S. Round Robins
R. F. D. Calera, Alabama
The Clayton M. Kelly Research & Nomenclature
Committee:
Mrs. Helen K. Krauss Director
Wynnewood Plaza, Wynnewood, Pa.
Mrs. Lillian Ashe Ch. Tuberous Begonia Sec.
1855 33rd Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.
Miss Charlotte M. Hoak.....Ch. Fibrous Begonia Sec.
1125 Stratford Ave., So. Pasadena, California
H. L. Swager Ch. Rex Sec.
1201 Hopkins, Oakland, California
T. John Parker Questions-Answers Chairman
8531 W 3rd St., Los Angeles 36, Calif.
Mrs. E. Carrell Seed Fund Administrator
214 North Yale Street, Fullerton, Calif.
Mrs. John W. Crowder Librarian
9838 Easton Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.
Mrs. Jay C. Jenks Publicity Chairman
1414 Quintaro Street, Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Director Pub. Relations
Cantera Ave., Hope Ranch, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. Grace L. Bayer Chm. Speakers' Bureau
Slide Library (Kodachrome and B. & W.)
907 North Pass Ave., Burbank, Calif.
Mrs. Etta Pinnell Ch. Flower Shows
82 LeRoy Ave., Arcadia, California
Mrs. Hugh Hixon Historian
Long Beach, California
George Lawrence Past President
Mrs. Sue McRae Director One Year
Hugh W. Hixon Director Two Years
J. W. Bailey Director Three Years

C O N T E N T S

Begonia Kellermannii (C. D. Candolle)	108
Frontispiece and	108
The Greenhouse and Relative Humidity.....	98, 99
Branch News100, 102, 109, 111, 113	
Botanically Correct	101
Tuberous Begonias in Allentown, Pa.	101
Staking	103
1948 Annual Convention at Glendale	103
What About Your Flower Show?	104
Epiphyllums, Jewels of the Plant World	104
Questions and Answers	104, 105, 110
Vigor Tells	105
Propagation of African Violets and Gloxinias..	105
The Annual A. B. S. Convention Has Much To Offer	106

Begonias in the Garden	106, 107
Seed Mailing Suggestion	107
Special Small Plant Gifties	109
Wet Feet	109
Begonia semperflorens cultorum	110
Fuchsias in Southern California	111
Officers of Glendale Branch	111
Fibrous Begonias Outdoors in San Francisco, California	112
Propagation Box or Seed Incubator	114
Notes from Directors' Round Robins	113
Board Minutes	114
Begonias As Food and Medicine	114
Seed Fund News for May	115
Calendar	116

THE GREENHOUSE AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

By Dr. W. C. Drummond, Los Angeles, Calif.

It is in the greenhouse where we have the greatest control over humidity, light, heat and air movements. For this control is the function of the greenhouse. Of all the environmental factors influencing plant growth, the amateur is prone to overlook these. This article will therefore deal with some aspects of greenhouse control so far as humidity, light and air movements are concerned.

As a rule a high relative humidity should be maintained in the greenhouse only in the presence of much light, with the humidity somewhat reduced at night. One of the greatest benefits of a greenhouse, is our ability to control the relative humidity therein. Many small greenhouses, when ventilated to reduce the temperature, may quickly become too dry. Yet in our desire to increase relative humidity, ventilation, the interchange of gases and air movement should not be overlooked.

The balance between ventilation, humidity and watering of plants is the fine art of greenhouse gardening. If one is entering a small greenhouse many times a day, the changes of gases will in all probability be taken care of that way. The size of the house as well as the construction means much in ventilation. Besides the changes of gases, as the amount of oxygen and carbon dioxide present, the air movement plays a large part in relation to disease. Where there is no air movement, even a medium humidity may encourage disease. The greatest humidity is immediately around the plant leaf and the leaf axis. It is here the plant transpires. Here then is where disease starts. Air movement so reduces this humidity as to prevent disease without the necessity of lowering the humidity of the whole house. A small ventilator at the ground level and a skylight opening helps create this air movement. Remember, where humidity is high and without air circulation, some plants as temperate zone and xerophytes, may develop disease.

The humidity of the greenhouse should be watched so that it does not become too dry due to the heating system. Open flame gas produces much moisture, while steam and hot water systems tend to dryness. In extreme continued moist, foggy, cloudy or cool weather, it is better to give some ventilation and turn on the heat slightly, else we may have diseases, as mildew, develop from too great a humidity. If the soil is kept continuously wet from the so called foggers or misty sprayers, we may have fungi and bacteria develop. Try to keep the soil surface moist

but not soggy wet. Since stem rot may attack the plants at the soil line, use your misty sprayers high over the walks, not on the plants. When stem rot develops among a group of plants from too much water, replot in clean soil. Fungicides have been used for this condition with fair results, but it is best to keep plants drier in the first place. In other words, to increase the humidity so necessary for plant growth, keep the walks wet, keep the sand or gravel under pots damp but not wet, water frequently under the benches but do not splash and sprinkle water heavily all over the plants in the greenhouse several times a day, it may keep the soil or leaves too wet and cause disease to develop.

The correct relative humidity in the greenhouse, will depend on what we wish to grow. Some plants demand a higher atmospheric moisture and higher temperature than others. Conditions at their nativity should be our best guide. It should be recognized that the same temperature and relative humidity will not suit all plants even though they are grown under glass. Hydrophytes and epiphytes demand a high humidity.

Because of the following descriptions, it must not be inferred that the plants mentioned need be grown in a greenhouse in all climates. Where climate and humidity are suitable, many will grow as well or better outside the greenhouse, as in a lath house or open garden. They are grown in a greenhouse to give the same humidity and temperature of their nativity, yet not existing in the garden.

The Cool Greenhouse

It would therefore be well to divide roughly our greenhouse plant culture into three divisions. The cool greenhouse, with a night temperature of from 45° to 50° F. Here the daytime humidity need not be so high, around 40 to 50 per cent. Woody plants will grow well here, as camellias, also such plants as cyclamen, primulas, cinerarias, calceolarias, schizanthus, clivias and many scented leaf geraniums. The humidity should be watched in summer so that it does not become too dry.

The Warm Temperate House

In the warm temperate house with a night temperature of 50° to 55° F. a higher humidity will be welcome. Keep the daytime humidity 50 to 65 per cent. Ventilation rises will help hold down spindly growth and disease. In this house the gesneria family will be at home, as Saint Paulias, gloxinias, streptocarpus and achimenes and other plants

as impatiens, justicias and jacobinias, calceolarias, pink and white bouvardias and the streptosolen Jamesoni, as well as many common but tender plants belong here. Many of these plants grow better outside in a subtropical climate, like Southern California and Florida, other plants require greenhouse treatment. Their temperature and humidity requirements remain the same wherever grown. Thus fuchsias need a high humidity, tuberous begonias do best with a cool moist atmosphere and with some air circulation. Winter blooming fibrous begonias will do well with a warm moist atmosphere in winter. Tropical ferns naturally require a relatively high humidity.

Tropical Greenhouse

The tropical greenhouse, with a night temperature of 60° to 70° F. needs a high daytime humidity of 70 to 80 per cent, even 90 per cent for some plants. Gardenias, while growing at 50 or 60 per cent humidity, do best in a higher humidity and temperature. The fancy leaved caladiums belong here, as well as all the tropical arums, alopecia (elephant ear), the dieffenbachia, tropical syngoniums, philodendrons, anthuriums and spathiphyllum clevelandii. The columnnea gloriosa is glorious in bloom and needs a high humidity, of 70 per cent and a high temperature, as do the crotons, maranta (calathea), pandanus, vanilla vine (vanilla fragrans), and some dracaenas. Other dracaenas want a high temperature but lower humidity. The epiphytic billbergias and epiphytic tilandsias want a high humidity and belong in the tropical greenhouse. Most billbergias will grow well in California near the coast, out under lath. Most orchids want a high relative humidity in growing season, less water when dormant and less humidity when in flower. With some established plants, as orchids, a drying out each day seems beneficial. Too high a humidity at blooming time for phalaenopsis shortens the life of the flower. As a rule, humidity should be reduced at night for orchids and most plants. Cymbidiums want a high humidity, at least 70 per cent during growing season and where climate permits, do best outside as they like it cool with good air circulation.

Creating Humidity in the Greenhouse

For greenhouses, the old-time way of wetting the roof, thereby lowering the temperature, is probably the simplest. Some gardeners report a drop of as much as 15° F. by wetting the roof. Very thin cloth is sometimes stretched over the roof of the greenhouse, to hold the water, after spraying, relying on evaporation to cool the roof. Another old, favorite method is to give the greenhouse

roof another coat of paint. There are at least two disadvantages to painting. First, no direct sunlight is admitted; second, once applied, paint does not permit any variation in light conditions. It has however, the advantage of ease of application, economy and the overall lower temperature with consequent increase in relative humidity. Where paint is used narrow bands of paint running north and south are sometimes removed to admit direct sunlight. The aim should be to keep the greenhouse cool yet admit ample light.

The ideal, would be roller blinds made of slats spaced one inch apart and so arranged, they could be rolled up to let in more or less light, or fixed slats to be removed as the season required. Slats should run north and south and be three inches above the glass for the best results. Aluminum strips manually operated so as to let in more or less sun have been used. These strips of aluminum six inches wide and the length of the greenhouse are fitted with an axil at each end and on one side of each strip to a long strip of wood, this in turn, to a handle. The moving of this handle back and forth changes the angle of the slat to the greenhouse roof, just as a venetian blind does. By this arrangement all or no sun can enter the greenhouse. Air conditioning gives wonderful results. Many amateurs have rigged up electric fans, forcing hot dry air into the greenhouse from outside through a misty spray of water, thereby cooling and moistening the air. Misty sprayers inside the greenhouse give satisfactory results if used as suggested early in this article.

Temperatures in small greenhouses are harder to control than larger ones. The larger air space acts as a cushion, helping to control the temperature. Regardless of size much can be done to increase humidity in the greenhouse by placing sand or pea gravel (pea gravel preferred) or a mixture of same, on the benches. Sawdust is sometimes used, although shavings would be better. A depth of two inches is recommended. Sawdust or shavings eventually develop mold. Haydite is sometimes used.

Please make membership checks payable to American Begonia Society and address to Roy K. Dere.

SO. AFRICAN MOISTURE LOVERS

PINK & CREAM 'Poker' per pkt.50c

(Kniphofia tuckii)

Long sprays Orange-red Watsonias50c

(Watsonia galpini)

Purple-blue Geranium (part shade)50c

(Geranium incanum)

MARIA WILKES

508 Moreno Ave.

Los Angeles 24, Calif.

From the land where acid plants
grow naturally

GEORGIA PEAT

Brings to your soil the humic acids, organic nitrogen and moisture retaining qualities that have made growing so successful in gardens of the deep south.

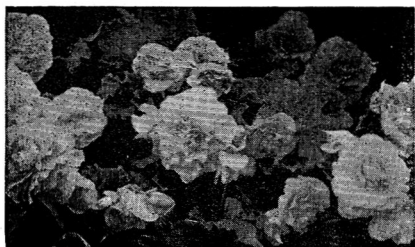
Begonias, fuchsias, camellias and all acid feeding plants require these ingredients stored by nature in GEORGIA PEAT.

It is odorless, sanitary, devoid of weed seeds, and will not burn. GEORGIA PEAT is used extensively for potting, seed germination, cuttings, and for outside planting.

Ask for it at your local nursery. Write for instructive folder on HOW TO GROW WITH GEORGIA PEAT.

GEORGIA PEAT OF CALIFORNIA
Subsidiary of Howard & Smith
1200 Beverly Blvd., Montebello, Calif.
Phone ANgelus 1-3183

Our advertisers look for your patronage.



THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT
AND FINEST NEW DEVELOPMENTS
of the
PACIFIC STRAIN
of
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Write for Catalog
Vetterle and Reinelt
Capitola, California

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

The Humboldt Branch of the Begonia Society met in Lanes Hall on March 8th. Mr. R. J. Minnie, our vice-president, presided. July was selected for Founders Month by this society.

Our next will be a guest meeting. Everyone is to bring a guest. Dr. Doris Gillespie Niles will give us a talk on ferns. Dr. Niles taught at Humboldt State College for a number of years and is well known for her knowledge of nomenclature.

Strawberry Weevil

Mrs. Jessie Thomas of Eureka brought a tuberous begonia with holes in it a little larger than a match stick. Mr. Frank Kemp said they were made by a strawberry weevil. The weevil is a grub, without legs, gray, light brown or pink in color, depending on what he feeds on. Take something and dig out the weevil, then pack the hole in the tuber with charcoal to which a little sulphur has been added. This will cause the raw flesh to heal.

Seed Incubator

Mr. Minnie told of his seed bed that he uses to start his begonia seed. He has made a double sided box. Between the boxes he has packed shredded bark for insulation. The bottom has two by threes in it to set the plant boxes on. The top is made of a hinged glass sash. Inside he has an incubator heater with a thermostat. At night he covers the sash with a sack to keep the heat in. Day times the sack is taken off for light and the sash can be raised for air. Mr. Minnie's seed bed is up on legs, waist high, out in his back yard, and he has very good luck with it.

Mrs. Violet Wooden received her Round Robin on hybridizing begonias. She took notes (See Page 113)

PASADENA BRANCH

The following officers were proud of the fine attendance at the April meeting to hear Rudolph Zieshenne. Mrs. Lawrence B. Sill, president; Mrs. Alva Graham, president-elect; Mrs. Frank Clark, sec.-treasurer; John L. Bailey, membership chairman; Col. C. M. Gale, national representative; and all the chairmen and their committees who have been working to make this event a happy and instructive affair for all who could be present.

Mr. Zieshenne's talk will be forthcoming to the Begonian pages for all to enjoy and be posted on old timers and new begonias for show purposes. It is invigorating to know that Rudolph Zieshenne is back in his greenhouse and lathhouses bending all effort to achieve new beauty and large specimens of old time favorite and new begonias.

BOTANICALLY CORRECT

By Charlotte M. Hoak, Pasadena, California

In the last chapter of Liberty Hyde Bailey's excellent book, "How Plants Got Their Names," we have a splendid and clear exposition of the botanical point of view with reference to correct spelling and correct pronunciation of botanical names.

Let us summarize briefly. Botanical nomenclature is Latin so that it may be understood by all peoples and in all languages. The binomial system of nomenclature moreover is made up of nouns and adjectives, the former are the generic names, the latter the specific.

As Latin is an inflected language we have different genders, masculine, feminine, and neuter. The specific names do not have gender but correspond to the gender of the generic ones. Thus, we say *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*, masculine, *Begonia nitida* feminine, and *Cestrum aurantiacum*, neuter.

Not all specific names are common adjectives. Quite often they are proper names in the Latin genitive which corresponds to our English possessive. This genitive is formed in several ways depending on which declension the genitive is. Latinized names usually end in *us*, therefore the genitive is in *i*. According to the International Rules of Nomenclature when the personal name ends in a vowel the letter *i* is added; when it ends in a consonant (except *r*) the letters *ii* are added. Thus, we write *Begonia Dregoi*, *Begonia Feastii*. Names of women are ordinarily in the first declension; and, as they end in *a* take *ae* in the genitive. Thus *Begonia Margaritae*. Certain other genitives are in the third declension and are formed by adding *is*. Thus, we write *Rosa Hugonis*, Father Hugo's rose.

Then comes the matter of capitalization. Many writers prefer to use no capitals in specific names, not even in those commemorating people of importance in the botanical world, the discoverers, the patrons, etc. This is done in the interest of uniformity and is the rule followed in the 2nd Edition of Standardized Plant Names. However, most botanists and many horticulturists retain these initial capitals, which practice is verified by such standard reference books as *Hortus Secundus*, and the *Encyclopedia of Horticulture*. As a justification for this practice Dr. Bailey, their author says: "This is in the interest of uniformity; but uniformity, which is the fetish of standardization, has no supernatural merit. It is much more desirable to dignity and emphasis than to insist on the flatness of regularity. Suggestion of much precious history is lost when identifying capitals are deposited."

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS AS GROWN IN ALLENTOWN, PA.

We would like to pass on to those who are interested in Begonias on the East coast, a successful method of growing tuberous begonias out-of-doors, as described in a recent letter from Mr. T. J. McNabb of Allentown, Pa. Mr. McNabb is a new member of the A. B. S. who has been interested in Begonia growing for some time. He grows his tuberous from bulbs secured from reliable firms. In February he wrote:

"I just started my bulbs last week in flats in the cellar and I believe that I counted some eight dozen bulbs. They will probably have two-leaves' growth in early May when I will set them out in the garden.

"You might be interested in knowing that I use enclosures or beds about four feet by twelve having a picket fence to keep out all dogs or pets and also to support a lath cover. The laths are in about eight inch squares and then covered with a double thickness of cheesecloth. This provides both the necessary shade and protection from the driving rains.

"For some years I had been planting my bulbs under trees in beds on the north side of the house with fair results but Mr. Howard Rich of Maine steered me into the lath idea and it has made a wonderful improvement in my blooms. I find tuberous begonias are less work and care than any other plants I have in the garden. After they are once set in the ground they require one staking and several feedings over the entire summer and we get at least four months of fine bloom. So far I have found no bugs to molest them nor have I had any disease of any kind to combat. From friends who have been on the West coast I understand my blooms are on a par with what they have seen out there."

(We welcome Mr. McNabb to our pages and wish him continued success in growing tuberous begonias with such splendid blooms. Mr. Howard Rich has been growing and hybridizing tuberous begonias in Atlantic, Maine, for the last 21 years and has developed several beautiful named varieties)—*Ed.*

Send to Roy K. Dere for American Begonia Society Stationery.

Send to Roy K. Dere for A. B. S. Cultural Bulletins at 15c each.

Formerly, the specific names of countries had their initial letters capitalized, but these capitals have been discarded. Thus we write *Begonia cathayana*, *Begonia domingensis* and *Begonia kewensis*. Specific adjectives are written with initial letters in the lower case. Thus, *B. argentea-guttata*, *Begonia coccinea*, etc.



TRUE ORCHIDS

The following choice orchids are all ideal pot plants, for home, conservatory or patio.

LAELIA ANCEPS—

Very showy orchid bearing purplish rose colored flowers. 3 to 4 on a stem.

Ea. \$5.50 prepaid

LAELIA AUTUMNALIS — Showy fragrant flowers of deep purple. A lovely orchid, easy to grow. Each \$5.00 prepaid.

ODONTOGLOSSUM GRANDE — Borne 3 to 4 on a stem. Individual flowers about 5 inches across. Yellow, lined and spotted dark brown. Deep golden yellow throat. Each \$5.50 prepaid.

Full Cultural Directions With Each Order

GERMAIN'S

Seed Growers and Horticulturists Since 1871

VAN NUYS NURSERY

6133 Ethel Avenue Van Nuys, Calif.

BEGONIAS and FUCHSIAS NEED NITROHUMUS!

Commercial and hobby growers are getting better flower and foliage color, and stronger plant structures since using NITROHUMUS in their potting soil.

The answer is in the milder but longer lasting organic food, and soil building humus contained in every bag of Kellogg's NITROHUMUS Fertilizers.

Use NITROHUMUS freely in potting and top feeding. Available at nurseries and garden supply dealers. Write for descriptive folder to Dept. 1B

KELLOGG SUPPLY CO.

204 Sepulveda Blvd. Wilmington, Cal.
Phone Terminal 4-6479

KELLOGG'S

NITROHUMUS

FERTILIZERS

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

We are advised by Sec. Mrs. A. Boyd Collier, 2777 Harkness Way, Sacramento, Calif., that the meeting place for this Branch has been changed to The Garden Center, McKinley Park, May 18th, 8 p. m., on the third Tuesday.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Miss Charlotte M. Hoak is drawing visiting members from other branches to hear her begonia lessons. Guests are welcome. Maria Wilkes spoke briefly on the building and planting of the various types of *Moss Walls*. The sheet moss wall with appended baskets; the screen moss wall, which may be beautiful on both sides, the fern grotto and the stuffed moss wall with all its permanent color and intricately planned or simply designed planting. As usual, the Plant Forum by President Ray Wilson pointed the current blooming plants to the gathering of shade garden makers.

PETALUMA BRANCH

A most instructive talk was recently given by Mr. Wayne Roderick, Petaluma Nurseryman, to the members of this group. Primroses were displayed and discussed. A demonstration of the pruning of camellias to maintain better form and uniform growth was followed by suggestion on their culture and two methods of grafting these exotic shrubs. By way of illustration Mr. Roderick brought many blossoms which were named and their blooming periods noted.

THE MIAMI BRANCH

The sowing of begonia seeds in large glass jars with a small thumb pot in the center of the growing medium for sub-irrigation was demonstrated recently by Mrs. Sacket. She advised her listeners to keep these jars in the shade at all times while seeds were being started.

Mr. R. Rosengren, president, spoke on the protection of begonias from insects and pests. Maintaining good looking plants by making a dip solution as advised by the Volck manufacturers, he said, is a very simple and efficacious process.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

The meeting place for this group has been changed to Steckel Park at 6:30 p. m. We are advised by secretary-treasurer Margaret Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 242A, Santa Paula, Calif.

Reserve June 22nd, 1948. Attend the Garden Club Conference *Begonia Day* sponsored by Gordon Baker Lloyd with Officers of the A. B. S. in charge of the program. Plummer Park, Hollywood, Calif.

STAKING

By Charles O. Dean, Springfield, Mass.

This is a "must" in the care of tuberous begonias as well as many other flowers.

First, let us discuss tuberous begonias and their staking care. Because of their height and stalk weight and the fact that the bulbs are shallow planted, they should be staked. Otherwise, the stalks are bent over to the ground with the consequent danger of serious injury to the plant.

Before we continue the discussion on staking, let us see what kind of stakes there are. Personally, for general staking I use wire stakes that I secure from a rose grower who has discarded them because they rusted and became too short for his purpose. These I use straight but with the top bent into an open loop into which the flower stalk was inserted. As these stakes were about four feet in length, they could be raised or lowered according to the needs of the plant.

Then there are the bamboo stakes which come in all sizes and lengths, and which are very satisfactory.

Last but not least are the sawed stakes, and if these are dipped in Cuprinol which is an excellent wood preservative, they will last a long time, and if green Cuprinol is used, they are less conspicuous.

I stake my tuberous begonias a couple of ways—one is a light stake on either side of the stalk with no tying, or a heavy stake to which the stalk is tied either with raffia or a twist-em, which I like as they are easy and quick to use and oftentimes I can use them a couple of times before they disintegrate.

The blooms I also stake with the exception of the multiflora as they grow so compact that it is not necessary.

For bloom stakes, one can make these by cutting out a moon shape with a knife or small saw at the top of either a bamboo or a cut stake. I have also used strawberry baskets cut in small pieces and glued to each side of the stake with airplane glue or miracle cement.

Another method which I like better is to staple these pieces to the cut stake with a stapler. When you employ this method, place your staple on a slant and then there will not be as much danger from splitting than if it was done straight as the staple is across the grain.

Place these stakes just under the bloom on the stem but do not place them so there is a strain on the stem because if you do, you are liable to snap the flower head off.

Some flowers such as dahlias, will need

GLENDALE BRANCH TO BE HOSTS FOR 1948 CONVENTION

Mark your calendar NOW: September 11 and 12, 1948.

Plans will be published as soon as they are formulated but in the meantime, all good Begoniaites will be grooming all their best plants for the many shows in the offing and particularly for the annual convention.

As usual, the very best plant you have, is the one to bring. One good plant will not work unusual hardship in a car with guests, or if several in a community will pool their plants in one car while the guests ride together in another, that also may be a good solution to getting plants there and back without any damage.

It will be a happy week end with the enthusiastic reunions and attractive and interesting program which will include garden tours.

Read this issue, as to what coming to the convention did for San Francisco members. We hope there will be representatives from many more Branches than usual in 1948. Plan your holidays to coincide with the Convention and take home unforgettable memories and helpful suggestions.

What ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE MIDSUMMER FOUNDERS CELEBRATION, July and August? Mrs. Alice M. Clark would like The American Begonia Society members to choose ONE DAY to be celebrated as TUBEROUS BEGONIA DAY during the Mid-Summer Founders Celebration period. That should be the same day all over the United States.

heavy stakes and I use a five foot oak stake which I treat with Cuprinol.

Last year I had some of Ball's marigolds that were five feet tall and they required heavy staking. Plants have a much better appearance if properly staked.

Perhaps you would like to know how easy it is to bend the wire stakes. Make a jig of a two by four as a base and place a heavy nail in position. Then nail securely a piece of pipe, broom handle, or any round object which is about one inch across in position. Then place a heavy nail in a bent position so you can move it back and forth. Insert wire between nail and post, bend around post, then over the edge at bent nail. This will give you the loop and flatten it out at the top. Push bent nail around and lift out finished stake. I place this jig in a large vise but if it is securely fastened down it will work satisfactorily.

"Save a Date"

**Spring's Drama
of Color**

now moves on to spotlight the

EPIPHYLLUMS

*The most exotically beautiful flowers
in cultivation*

**Our Jeweled
Corridor**

will offer a glorious vista of
over 1000 feet of dazzling colors.

**STARTING TO BLOOM
ABOUT THE END OF
THE FIRST WEEK
IN MAY**

they compose a unique pageantry.

**Over 200 different shades, includ-
ing many of our own introductions.**



COOLIDGE

RARE PLANT GARDENS

889 N. Foothill Blvd.

East Pasadena — SY 4-1121

Open Sundays 10 A. M. to 5:20 P. M.

AMPLE PARKING

**WHAT ABOUT YOUR
FLOWER SHOW?**

Last month your Flower Show Committee offered a few hints on preparation for your flower show. They continue by offering the following suggestions:

Having chosen the plants for your exhibit, study them as to their habits of growth and individual characteristics. A very profitable evening's program would be to take the plants to the meeting for an informal discussion as to their names, their age, size, culture and probable size by show time. Tabulate all information on cards in such a form that it may be displayed with the entry card after prizes have been awarded. Such a study would be invaluable to the grower and of interest to visitors who might be inspired to try for better begonias. Such a practice might influence shows for several seasons.

Also plan for variety in the exhibit. Have tall begonias, medium sized ones and low as well as rare ones. Set off their beauty by suitable flower and shade loving plants.

Read chapter seven in Bessie Buxton's book, "Begonias and How to Grow Them." There you will find much helpful material on flower shows. This chapter also contains a copy of the point system adopted by the American Begonia Society for judging begonias.

Write in to your National Begonia Society for any assistance you wish.—Etta A. Pinnell, Chairman, National Exhibits and Flower Shows.

EPIPHYLLUMS

Jewels of the Plant World

Of all the beautiful, flowering plants imported from the four corners of the earth, none can excel the Epiphyllum in spectacular appeal. Although native to the tropical countries such as Brazil, Mexico and the Argentine, the majority of these gorgeous types have been in the past hybridized in Europe. And now in our own Southern California numerous superior kinds are being developed. The "Jewelled Corridor" at the Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens in East Pasadena during May and June, with over 200 varieties on display, presents a spectacle of dazzling beauty that you cannot soon forget.

Q. Is it possible to grow *B. imperialis* without artificial heat?

A. *B. imperialis* will do very well under lath in summer, but requires some heat during winter months.

Send your quesies to our Questions and Answers Chairman.

VIGOR TELLS

By H. M. Butterfield, Berkeley, California

Your question asking about *why cuttings taken from profusely blooming plants rarely produce healthy-looking specimens that flower well* does not necessarily report the facts. I do not think that all begonia growers would grant the accuracy of this suggestion. Thinking of plants in general, we do know that occasionally a cutting taken from a very vigorous plant takes longer to reach the flowering or fruiting stage than cuttings taken from a less vigorous plant.

The botanist knows that plant tissue in certain stages of development may not be in the right condition to produce the most vigorous plant. If there is any truth in the implication contained in your letter, I think it would be associated with the condition of the plant from which the cutting was taken and that ultimately there would be no difference in the plants grown from rooted cuttings. Only rarely do we have mutations, and I do not believe that we need to assume that there is any permanent difference in most kinds.

Your next question has to do with *possible differences between the plants that prefer acid conditions and those that prefer neutral or alkali conditions in the soil*. I do not think that with our present stage of knowledge we are able to entirely explain why individuals differ in their requirements. Most likely many people will simply state that during the process of evolution individuals have varied along different lines and that this is often due to the environment. In other words, those individuals which were not suited to the local environment did not survive.

A blueberry grown in New Jersey seems to flourish in a soil that is highly acid, and the gradation from plants that do best in a very acid soil down to those that flourish in a neutral or slightly alkaline soil may be seen everywhere. If there is any chemical basis for distinction, I am not aware that this has been pointed out clearly in any popular literature.

No physical structure of the plant would seem to account for this difference. As a matter of fact, we can take a cotton plant and it will respond far differently to the Ph value of the soil in the hot interior than it will to the same Ph value in the cool coastal area. Too many people overemphasize the importance of the soil reaction. Personally, I would usually rank soil moisture and soil fertility ahead of the soil reaction as affecting plant growth. The same soil will vary from month to month in its soil

reaction, and we will find that the soil reaction differs in our garden or possibly in the greenhouse from one place to another at the same time.

I am not sufficiently familiar with the requirements of different begonias, and know of no one here who is sufficiently familiar with them to say whether some differ greatly in their soil requirements. It is the general opinion of commercial growers that the common kinds of begonias do best in a soil that is slightly acid and one that contains plenty of well-rotted leaf mold.

Q. Is there any way to get Marjory Daw to bloom?

A. Yes, Marjory Daw will bloom if kept in good growing condition. Requires proper potting and feeding.

PROPAGATION OF AFRICAN VIOLETS AND GLOXINIAS

Notes from Round Robins
By Frances Downing, Calera, Ala.

This is always an interesting subject to our hosts of African Violet and gloxinia lovers.

California dips the leaf stems of the African violet in rootone and places them in vermiculite for successful rooting. They are watered with weak Plant Chem while rooting.

Minnesota finds that the African violet blushing maiden, roots with unusual ease producing many small plants while Nebraska has to resort to placing one leaf in a very small pot which is then set in a larger pot with moist peat moss packed between the two pots. A transplanting medium is used on the seedlings and plantlets from leaves to avoid setbacks. Texas uses sifted oak leafmold for starting seed of gloxinias.

New York lets leaves for rooting stand a few hours before planting. This almost eliminates losses from rotting. She uses a large tin pan for rooting her African violet leaves. A layer of vermiculite is dampened well and it is then allowed to set overnight. A small clay pot with a cork in the drain hole is placed in the center of the pan and fills it when watering is necessary. The leaves are dipped in sulphur before they are placed in the vermiculite in the pan.

Ten and 40-watt fluorescent lights are used on the leaves. Rooting occurs quickly with few losses.

Space will not permit to give soil mixtures in this issue.

The Annual A. B. S. Convention Has Much to Offer

By Lillian Ashe, San Francisco, California

The A. B. S. has shown wonderful progress in the past two years. Several new Branches have been organized and we of San Francisco feel that much of the success of these Branches and the Society depends on the enthusiastic cooperation and friendly association such as we witnessed at San Diego and then at Long Beach, and looking forward to Glendale, Calif.

The members of the San Francisco delegation to the 1947 Convention and Flower Show at Long Beach devoted almost the entire following meeting to a glowing description of their trip.

Mr. Ira Allyn, being the President of the San Francisco Flower Show, was mostly interested in the flower exhibits. "They grow a great variety of Shade Plants," said Mr. Allyn, "and their Fibrous and Rexes excel in size and beauty. Unfortunately, climatic conditions in their region are not as favorable for the Tuberous; their Fuchsias also fail to attain the size and variety of those grown in our locality. The Gladiola exhibits were striking. Mr. Robert's display of Ferns contained many rare specimens. Several organizations had individual booths artistically arranged. The Flower Show was underwritten by private individuals. However, the Show was such a huge success, it has been decided to make it an annual event and the City Fathers again promise their valuable active assistance. Mr. Allyn was especially thrilled with the opportunity of describing the show over the radio.

Mr. George Hesketh, the National Representative, discussed the proceedings of the business meeting. The delegates were warmly greeted by Mr. Taylor, the President of the No. Long Beach Branch, who was one of three officers responsible for arranging the first Flower Show held in this city. (Byron Rownd and R. G. Hudson the other two). The reports of the Parent Chapter were followed by reports from individual Branches. It was very gratifying that the National Representative of each Branch was given the opportunity to report personally on the activities of his organization. Mr. Hesketh, as well as other delegates, were very favorably impressed by the procedure of the meeting ably conducted by Mr. Lawrence, and all of us were very happy to meet personally the officers and other members known only by name.

Mrs. Dorothy Kramer spoke on the Armchair Explorer's meeting, conducted by Mrs. Carrell. Among other speakers, Dr. Drummond delivered a very interesting and instructive talk on raising plants from seeds and we all

felt that we profited to a great extent by his experiences. "The Armchair Explorers," said Mrs. Kramer, "interchange literature and seeds among members located in 31 different states and many foreign countries. It is a thrilling adventure to plant unknown seeds received from overseas and watch them germinate and grow."

Mrs. Lillian Ashe spoke on the garden tour at Long Beach especially organized by Mrs. Ralph Boyd. She described in detail several gardens and called to the attention of the listeners the artistic manner in which the plants in the Lath Houses were arranged. She was especially impressed by the moss covered walls, supporting wire baskets lined with moss, in such a way that they seemed to be growing on the wall." The lathhouses contained many varieties of shade plants not only the usual Begonias and Fuchsias as we have here. The background of ferns adds considerably to the general effect."

"Not being satisfied with the Convention and the Flower Show alone," continued Mrs. Ashe, "the enthusiastic San Franciscans stopped in the beautiful City of Santa Barbara. Under the gracious guidance of Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, we visited several gardens and especially enjoyed having the privilege of seeing Mrs. Gulliver's superb lathhouse. Mr. Rudy Zeisenhenne impressed us all with his profuse knowledge of Begonias and his successful efforts in hybridizing."

Other delegates also talked on various aspects of the Convention.

"The banquet was a splendid event," said Mr. Kramer, Almost four hundred delegates participated. The stage presented an attractive garden scene with a beautiful "Queen for the Evening" greeting the guests. Gordon Baker Lloyd was master of ceremonies.

The newly elected President, Mrs. Hazel Drummond, was a gracious hostess. The evening ended with an amusing talk by Alfred Hottes entitled "Garden's Answer to Our Quest for Happiness.

The San Franciscans especially were deeply touched when the Barber Shop Quartet singled them out by singing "San Francisco, Open Up the Golden Gate."

"We all learned many new things, and it was an exciting experience to attend the Convention," said Mr. Kramer. He urged all the members to plan their vacations in such a manner that they may attend the 1948 Convention. "I shall never miss one in the future if I can help it," he said with enthusiasm.

BEGONIAS IN THE GARDEN

During the summer months most people take their begonias to the garden and put them into the open ground or merely sink the pot into the soil. In warmer parts of the country, the hardier types of begonias, such as *semperflorens* and the hybrids, *Coralline de Lucerne*, *pink rubra*, *argentea guttata*, *Haageana*, *Marguerite* and others are grown the year around in the garden.

The best location for begonias is under trees where they receive plenty of filtered sun. Trees with dense foliage must be thinned out before begonias are planted for they do much better and bloom more abundantly where there is plenty of sun and then, too, the colors are richer. Lacking tree shade, the plants should be planted on the north or east side of buildings. The west side is least desirable for the hot afternoon sun strikes the plants suddenly and harshly, but it will do if some shrubbery is available to shade the plants until 2 or 3 p. m., after which the full sun is not too hot.

To grow plants successfully, the soil should be prepared properly. The first consideration should be the drainage. If the soil is sandy and naturally drains, the grower is fortunate. If the soil is heavy or possesses a "hard pan" a little below the surface, you will find it much more satisfactory not to disturb the soil but to bring in a soil mixture and spread it onto the surface in a layer six inches deep. Do not dig into the soil and take out heavy, poorly-drained soil and then fill the depression with sand or rock for you will thus create a tub which will eventually fill up and cause the plants to die.

The essentials of a good begonia soil are humus, fertilizer, plenty of air, good drainage, and some lime. A good sandy loam, mixed with decayed cow manure, peat moss, and bone meal to supply lime and phosphorus, will give good results. For safety's sake do not use over one-third of the mixture of cow manure. In most soil the peat and manure will acidify the soil enough for, contrary to some reports, begonias do grow well in a soil which is almost neutral. If more acidity is desired, use leafmold. In the east the deciduous oak leafmold is very desirable. In California the leafmold from the *Ceanothus* or mountain lilac is the best to use. It is not too acid and is not full of soil pests and insects. Contrary to popular belief almost any leaves will grow good begonias if they are first thoroughly decayed. I have seen very nice begonias grown in the common pepper tree leafmold. *Eucalyptus* leafmold has produced some show specimens.

In planting the begonias, the soil should not be level but it should be raised into a mound

where each plant is to be set. If this is done, the plant will stand a little above the surrounding soil when the plant is finally "watered in" and you will be sure that water will not stand around the base of the plant. Be sure the plant is located where the drip from the roof or downspout will not pound the plant to pieces.

If the bed is well enriched with leafmold and cow manure when the plants are set, there will be no need for more fertilizer in areas of short summers. In warmer states a top dressing of manure may be spread on the soil around the plant in August. In California the plants should be fertilized in April and August. For quicker response of the plant the manure should be decayed before it is spread on the soil. Care should be taken to see that the fertilizer does not touch the stems of the plants. If your plant is growing tall with tip growth only and the stems are devoid of leaves and branches, lack of fertilizer is indicated. Where trees and shrubs surround the begonias, remember that you must fertilize them too.

The begonias love plenty of water but they do not like a soaked soil continuously. It is best to water the soil so it is wet at least six inches deep and then allow three or four days between waterings.

Where begonias are planted near shrubs and trees, one must remember to water all the soil and not just a basin around each begonia for if you do then the roots of the trees and shrubs will grow there. It is most advisable to water with a garden sprinkler. In my soil, I find that my begonias need watering once a week if I water with a revolving sprinkler. The sprinkler is allowed to water for one hour in each location. With this method the water penetrates the soil deeply and the tree and shrub roots stay deep where they belong. When the basin system of watering is employed, the surrounding dry soil will take much of the water away from the begonias by capillary action.

SEED MAILING

May I suggest that when seed is sent in a letter that you hand it in at the post office window with the request that the envelope be stamped by hand. This will save the seed from being crushed. Just writing "please hand stamp" on the envelope does no good, I have found out. Wrapping in cotton also helps, but even then it should not go through the stamping machine. Give special care to the sending out of precious begonia seed.

Florence Carrell

CALIFORNIA Liquid Fertilizer

A PLANT FOOD OF QUALITY

8-8-4 Promotes General Growth
2-10-10 (Acid Food) Develops Fruits
and Flowers

Acidate, Corrects Alkalinity
Plant foods so potent that one teaspoonful
in a quart of water feeds your plant for
a month

For sale at all nurseries and garden
supply dealers



Manufactured by the
California Liquid Fertilizer Co.
34 Pico Street, Pasadena 2, Calif.

**BEGONIAS, FERNS, DISH-GARDENS,
FUCHSIAS and allied garden needs**

NICOLL SHADE GARDENS

Wholesale and Retail

Open Sunday by App. Phone Torrey 7-4500
1035 So. Ardmore Bellflower, California

ORCHIDS

Species and Hybrid Cattleyas, Coelogynes,
Oncidiums, Odontoglossums, Epidendrums
For Lathhouse and Greenhouse

Evans & Reeves Nurseries

255 So. Barrington Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.
Arizona 3-6528 Brighton 0-4604

HOT HOUSES

Prefabricated

CAN BE ASSEMBLED IN 30 MINUTES

\$99.50



CYPREDIUMS

TO BLOOM THIS SPRING

98c

Visitors Welcome - Closed Tuesdays

FRICKER ORCHIDS

632 Sereno Dr., Rosemead, Calif. AT. 4-5577
1 mi. N. of Valley Blvd. on Rosemead

BEGONIA KELLERMANNII (C. D. Candolle)

By Charlotte M. Hoak, So. Pasadena, Calif.

This interesting begonia was discovered in the mountains of Guatamala previous to 1919. It somewhat resembles *B. incana*, but is daintier in every respect and is drooping rather than upright in character of growth. The leaves are white scurfy, deeply cupped and oval in shape. The inflorescence is drooping. Mrs. Alice M. Gobin, of Paradise, California, writes at length about this begonia which she has grown for many years and confirms the fact that it blooms in the late winter and early spring under glass. Our cover picture was taken by Mr. Ernest Williams of So. Pasadena early in March from a plant grown in Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman's greenhouse.

This is Mrs. Gobin's answer to my questionnaire:

The plants of *Begonia Kellermannii* are inclined to droop at maturity, so we stake them to keep them upright. The summer foliage is light grey green, heavily felted and during the winter this gradually changes to red then finally withers and dies before dropping off.

The female flowers are a pearly white very slightly flushed pink especially on the outside. There are two large petals and one small, narrow one. They stay about two-thirds open for a couple of days and then cup over the pistil for a few days before dropping. When they are open at their widest they are about five-eighths of an inch across. The ovary is light grey-green with a narrow green line down the center of each one, the three equal wings sometimes are flushed pale pink.

The male flowers, about an inch across, are clearer in color, a little more orchid pink toward the base of petals. They have two large and two narrow petals.

One plant started blooming the middle of March. It has two bloom stalks opening now and six more to bloom. Seed has never set unless the flowers have been hand-pollinized, thus, they produce a lot of valuable seed. We have to grow all begonias under glass in the winter and usually under lath in the summer. I have never tried *B. Kellermannii* in full sun in summer.

We left several plants in the lathhouse last fall, including two *B. Kellermannii*. These were unharmed when the thermometer outside went to 28 degrees but froze at 20 degrees.

(By the way, two plants of *B. Marguerite*, left next to these are still alive and starting new growth. Apparently they are the only begonias that survived in that group).

B. Kellermannii may be propagated from cuttings taken in early spring or just after the

FOUNDERS DAY INVITATION

Mr. Knecht for Ventura: For Founders Day we have a very nice plan. On a Sunday in July, we plan a potluck dinner at a park and as this park will seat at least 400 people we are extending a very cordial invitation to all of you to come and help us celebrate. We would like to have Mrs. Hixon bring her books and the Ventura Branch will furnish coffee, cream and sugar and I know we would all have a good time. I do not want any action on this tonight, but the President could get some idea of what the people think of it.

Vote taken and everyone heartily endorsed the idea.

SPECIAL SMALL PLANT GIFTIES

Mr. Wm. Ross, while in his Ecino Road home in Glendale, used to give his visitors a little Saint Paulia Violet, and many are the plants which are blooming gaily far and wide, thanks to him.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hart, also of Glendale. (One of our Past Presidents, Harold Hart, is the genial, witty and clever speaker who prides himself on being a true amateur of plant growing, excels beyond the reaches of many a professional in the fields he has explored so far.) He and Mrs. Hart like to have a little potted Pick-a-back-plant for their visitors. They have a colony in a corner shelf-bed in the lath-fern-house which is always brimming over with leaves offering their little baby Tolmieas. Of course, the soil is rich and loamy, for the Harts have a series of fine compost bins always in the making and some mature.

While contemplating the charm of these plants, one is intrigued with the possibilities of having enough of them to give to interested children as well as to adults—with the chance of making other garden lovers and makers early, with a lasting impression.

Nota Bene: If you have a plant you like to propagate for friendly distribution, please let us know what it is and how you grow it. How many use the Tradescantias and the Zebrinas, the Anthericums or the Mondos.

If you know of other plants that "Bring Them Forth Alive," we should like to know about them, that we may tell our readers.

—THE EDITOR.

blooming period. Cuttings taken in summer nearly always rot. It grows more readily from seed.

We keep the plants growing all year. They are grown in the same soil mixture as the rest of our fibrous begonias."

WET FEET

By M. B. Dunkle, Long Beach, California

Did you ever slosh around in your garden and get your shoes full of water? Doesn't feel good, does it? Think how a begonia feels when it is in a pot with poor drainage!

Roots want moisture but also air. That is why we use light, sandy loam full of humus and the partly decayed fibrous remains of leaf mold or compost for our potting soil. Yet many sick potted plants owe their condition to poor drainage in the pot, or to the pot being placed in a receptacle in which water can accumulate about the base of the pot.

If the pores of the soil are water saturated, fungi and bacteria attack the organic matter in the soil and the delicate root hairs, which are the absorbing organs of the plant. These root hairs consist each of a single elongated cell with an extremely thin membranous wall. These root hairs are the mouths of the plant. Water and the soil nutrients are absorbed through the delicate walls of the cell by osmotic action.

Changes in the chemistry of the soil due to "souring" and to changes in the concentration of soluble nutrients upsets the chemical balance of the absorptive process and the roots can no longer properly absorb food from the soil.

This delicate moisture balance is especially important in the growth of seedlings. Begonia seeds are so small that they must be seeded practically on the surface, embedded in a very fine mat of humus. This must be watered from below as sprinkling would disturb the sprouting seeds and compact the surface of the soil.

Saturated soil without drainage not only "sours," but the water rapidly absorbs additional mineral salts, and the chemical concentration becomes great enough to upset the osmotic balance.

Fill the bottom of your pots with broken, unglazed pottery and place the pots where any excess water can drain freely. As the water becomes cooler and the evaporation rate from both plant and soil is lowered; it is best to reduce the amount of water given to your potted plants. At this season morning watering is also preferable to evening watering.

Now that spring is here, and our thoughts turn to that list of Plant food, Insecticides, Seeds, Bulbs, Plants, Materials and Equipment, for the garden, won't you look over our "Ads" for these needs? Have you noticed how many new advertisers we have? And, more coming.

BEGONIA SCHARFFIANA

75c Postpaid

Rudolf Zieshenne

BEGONIA SPECIALIST

1130 N. Milpas St.—Santa Barbara, California

EPIPHYLLUM HYBRIDS ORCHID CACTUS

Exquisite flowers in a wide range of color and sizes. Specimen plants for sale. Postpaid Special 3 Fine Young Plants, Named \$1.00

BEAHM GARDENS

2686 E. Paloma St., Dept. B, Pasadena, Calif.

Take Los Angeles to Sierra Madre Street Car,
Get Off at El Rincon Stop.

CLOSED WEDNESDAYS — FREE CATALOG

BILLBERGIAS

and

Related Plants

Our Catalog Lists Many Varieties

J. N. GIRDLIAN'S

OAKHURST GARDENS

345 West Colorado Street—Arcadia, California

WE HAVE THAT
Miracle Worker

GEORGIA PEAT

Put it to work in YOUR garden.

We carry complete Nursery Stock.

SANTA ANITA NURSERY

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

SYcamore 2-8711

3833 E. Colorado

NEMATODES

The Underground Menace To

BEGONIAS

Can Be SAFELY Destroyed With

LAWN-A-GEN

Send for FREE bulletin on Nematodes

DESTRUXOL CORPORATION, LTD.

Pasadena 2, California

BEGONIA SEMPERFLORENS CULTURUM . . . AND . . .

This is the best time to make cuttings or divisions of most of the Begonia semperflorens cultorum. With these, including the Calla begonia, the basal shoots make the best cuttings since they have a whole lifetime ahead of them and are imbued with natural stamina. Cuttings made from tips of grown up branches—as everyone should know—are spent and lack the strength to make strong plants with a future. Often, when blooming plantlets are needed for party favors, such tips are rooted in a hurry which the innocent recipients take home to grow them onwards. Such plants are poor stock from which to perpetuate their kind, therefore, a mistake from the misguided beginning.

Divide and reset large clumps of Bergenia cordifolia, this plant so long known as Saxifraga cordifolia has the habit of showing an overlong brown neck after a succession of leaves have matured from the base. Plant the divisions so that the green leaves are resting right down on the soil.

Needless to say, the soil for these all-year plants should contain some good compost with a tablespoon of 50-50 bone and cottonseed meals to each cubic foot of soil and this should be done twice a year, Spring and Autumn. Plant more TUBEROUS BEGONIAS. Fertilize the REX systematically. Keep plants clean with protective spraying rather than curative efforts.—Maria Wilkes.

HORTICULTURAL COMMITTEE

North Long Beach, A. B. S. Branch

Herbert Dyckman, *Chairman*

Byron E. Rownd, *Assistant*

Q. When and how severely should fibrous-rooted Begonias be pruned?

A. Generally speaking, the fibrous-rooted begonias should be pruned severely after they have bloomed. B. Scharffi, for instance, however, should be kept under control by thinning out once in awhile. The Lucerna and coccinea groups should have the old dark wood removed close to the ground. The other types may be pruned to suit the grower.

Q. Should compost for begonias contain only organic material or should some kind of chemical be added?

A. It is recommended that no chemicals be added to compost.

Q. What special care is required for the successful culture of (fibrous-rooted) B. luxurians?

A. B. luxurians or sessilifolia, no special care required. But not recommended for open ground. Find suitable location for best results.

FUCHSIAS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Fuchsia Shows of the summer of 1947 set the pace for future exhibits and surprises will continue to awaken us to the possibilities of these special flowers that are so beautiful with BEGONIAS.

The Southern California Fuchsia Society and the National Fuchsia Society both held fine Fuchsia shows in June, 1947, and branches from all over the Southland from Pomona to the Beach, and San Diego to San Fernando took part in the staging of these beautiful flowers in their many colors and forms. It was decidedly notable that the POMONA exhibit was outstandingly lovely but nearly all BEGONIAS. The Orange County Branch likewise displayed really beautiful REXES and Redondo had some fine begonias with their fuchsias. Stunning effects were created by the use of gloriously colorful hanging basket tuberous begonias and potted upright tuberous begonias. The fibrous begonias also came into these displays to enhance the value of the fuchsia. Mr. Victor Reiter of San Francisco sent some very lovely fuchsias to be previewed.

Don't let your fuchsias bloom too soon. (About late May would be good timing for those who are planning to show their plants at the mid-summer flower show at Long Beach, California August 5, 6, 7, 8, 1948). Pinch them back at least three times. Each major stem should be watched and when it has a fresh tip growth of four nodes, take the fourth one off. This will then produce six branchlets, which in turn, will be nipped when they have three nodes. These will bring forth some twenty four new little branches and once more, if there is time, these may be nipped when the third node has grown. The accumulating branches will have made a fine blanket by now—of some thirty two branchlets which, of course, will bloom from the tips.

If the plant has been well cared for and

GLENDALE BRANCH OFFICERS

President, Mr. F. S. Moore, 4606 Argus Dr., L. A. 41; Vice President, Mr. C. A. Richardson, 1441 Fairfield, Glendale 1, Calif.; Treas., Mr. D. H. Winans, 215 Winchester Ave., Glendale 1, Calif.; Corres.-Sec'y., Mrs. Joyce Lorenz, 5227 El Rio Ave., Los Angeles 41, Calif.; Recording Sec'y., Mrs. Gladys Nolan, 2840 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 26, Calif.; Nat. Br. Representative, Mrs. Edna Korts, 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

Become familiar with these names. You will meet these officers and others in September at the annual A. B. S. convention.

the soil well bolstered by repeated, weak, different liquid fertilizers so that a balance of nutrients is obtained by the roots—the plants will be ready to burst with flowers.

In hanging basket fuchsias the same procedure is followed but it is advised that for the sake of more graceful cascades of flowers, every third branch is nipped at five buds, and here and there let the original branch go untrimmed until it reaches twelve inches before nipping it off at the very tip.

Check past Begonians for special soil mixtures which have proven very productive. If you have unusual success with your own methods won't you share your findings through *The Begonian*? You certainly don't want to win *all* the ribbons alone?

Captured By Photography

Please take pictures in both color and black and white through the year and let us have both for the magazine and for the slide department—The Editor.

WINNER OF 52 AWARDS OUT OF 64 ENTRIES

One of our members, Mrs. W. B. Mills, of Topeka, Kansas, who raises many other flowers besides begonias, won on thirty-six out of forty entries of daffodils and Sweepstakes, in the Daffodil Show last spring, then received sixteen awards out of twenty-four entries of tulips, giving her second place in the Tulip Show. We should like to have seen her counting her ribbons. We wonder how much competition she will have this year due to her lead.

Difficulty With Begonias

Excerpts from a recent letter of Mrs. Mills: "I enjoy *THE BEGONIAN* so much and hope some day to live where I can raise more begonias.

Our conditions here are not so good for them. If we have a real cold spell and the temperature goes down to 50 degrees or less in the home, it is too bad. Even though we have steam heat it has died out in the night upon several occasions, especially when it has been below zero outside.

Q. I have heard much in favor of the lowly earth worm but also I have heard of much harm to Begonias, potting soil and leaf mold. What is your opinion?

A. Earth worms are not injurious to plants of any kind. The main objection to earth worms when using organic potting medium such as leaf mold, they are instrumental in effecting a quick break down, requiring more frequent re-potting.

PATIO GARDEN NURSERY

FUCHSIAS - BEGONIAS - FERNS
NURSERY STOCK - POTTED PLANTS
INSECTICIDES - FERTILIZERS

4108 E. Compton Blvd. Compton, Calif.

FUCHSIA - LA NURSERY

Announcing our 2 Latest Fuchsia Introductions
"CHECKERBOARD" and "MISSION BELL"
NOW ON SALE

See our large collection of Hearty Mexican
Orchids - Open 7 days a week.

3569 Atlantic Ave.....Long Beach 7, Calif.

BEGONIAS—Over 300 Varieties

OUR LATEST INTRODUCTIONS
Thimbleberry, Curly Locks, Pied Piper, ea. \$2.00
Semperflorens with dark red foliage, striking
thimble type flowers of exquisite pink, yellow
and red.

Oldest established growers in the East.
ERNEST K. LOGEE
NORTH STREET GREENHOUSES
Danielson, Connecticut

Mention "The Begonian" to advertisers.

AFRICAN VIOLETS

45 Distinct Varieties - List 3c
BEGONIAS

CALLA.....DOUBLE.....75c ea.

Red, Blush, Pink and White - 50c ea.

MRS. T. C. BEE

Route 3 Newman, Georgia

BEGONIA SPECIAL

for
MAY

Digswelliana	each	35c
Nelly Bly	each	35c
Tea Rose	each	50c
Scabrida	each	75c
Loma Alta	each	75c
Multiflora Rosea	each	35c
Dwarf Houghtoni	each	50c
McBethii	each	35c
Arthur Mallett	each	75c
Medora	each	50c
Double Geneva (Rose Bud Begonias)		
Red, Pink or White	each	50c

STRONG 2½" and 3" POTTED PLANTS
Mail Orders Add 20%

FERNS—BEGONIAS—FUCHSIAS

PELARGONIUMS and NOVELTY PLANTS

Large Display of Begonias and Other Plants
We SHIP ANYWHERE—Price List on Request
VISITORS WELCOME—CLOSED WEDNESDAYS

LEATHERMAN'S GARDENS

1 blk. W. of Rosemead Blvd, 1½ blks. S. of
Garvey Road
925 Lee Ave El Monte, California

FIBROUS BEGONIAS OUTDOORS IN SAN FRANCISCO THROUGH WINTER

We hear from Mrs. Charles Edwin Edwards, one of our members in San Francisco, who is very active on our behalf as well as the California Spring Blossom and Wild Flower Association, and the California Garden Clubs, Inc., that she is becoming more enthusiastic about fibrous begonias since she has had a *pink spot Lucerna* outdoors through the winter and it was in fast growth in early April. With this were two *B. luxurians*, one a large leaf and the other a small leaved variety. The large leaved one was a tiny one she bought last May from Rudolph Ziesenne but already it is four feet high and is well branched and full from the ground up—while still going strong. Mrs. Edwards is a rex collector, having at present some 200 varieties in her greenhouse. Among them she chooses *B. r. c. Betty*, one she got from Mrs. Henry Flaitz of Ojai, Calif., last spring, for its hardiness, constant beauty and easy culture.

B. r. c. Edna Edwards

We shall hear more about Betty and its companions soon, but in the meantime a new rex has come along, introduced by Leslie Woodriff of Harbor, Oregon, named Edna Edwards. We shall look forward to having pictures and description of this good looking rhizomatous begonia.

Growing conditions vary so much from place to place that we are always eager to hear from our enthusiasts as to what makes their plants succeed. Remember—the contest on articles for The Begonian closes on June 30th, 1948—Maria Wilkes.

PROPAGATION BOX OR SEED INCUBATOR

By W. T. Pledger, Tyler, Texas

Across each end of an apple box nail a cleat on the inside 4" from the bottom of the box. Place on the cleats a box 3½" x 11¼" x 17½". Fill the box with soil.

Place several small flats about 1" deep—filled with soil suitable for starting seed upon the large box of soil. Pour boiling water over the whole, to partly sterilize the soil.

A 40-watt bulb in a No. 2 can is placed on the bottom of the apple box, beneath the large flat. The sides and bottom of the apple box are covered on the outside with one layer of pasteboard and two layers of composition roofing, to insure insulation.

A glass fitted snugly over the top of the box retains heat and necessary humidity sufficient to bring up the seed.

This has produced excellent results.

NOTES FROM DIRECTORS ROUND ROBINS

By Frances Downing, Calera, Alabama

A Pennsylvania member of the Hybridizing R. R. says—The wiser one becomes, the more there is to learn!

Begonia Crosses

This member has twenty nice plants from a cross of the begonias Westport Beauty and Woolly Bear. The plants are all of the semperflorens type with big fleshy leaves and large single pink flowers.

She also has crosses of *pink slipper gloxinia* and the hybrid G. Princess Elizabeth. The plants from this cross have giant flowered slipper type blooms.

Interesting Begonia Cross

An Indiana member crossed the *B. rubra* with a double flowered semperflorens begonia which produced a fine begonia with huge leaves and lovely blush-pink flowers.

The Kansas member, a doctor of biology, suggests that space be given in The Begonian to dominancy of begonias. He also suggests that a pollen bank be formed by the Hybridizing R. R. members.

Ferns From Spores

The Director of the Fern R. R. has over 125 jars of fern spores. She finds that the ferns which stay green much of the year and are the most desirable in any collection—take the longest to grow from spores. The so-called hardy ferns, which die down in winter are the easiest to grow in that manner. With the prospect of getting fern spores from Colombia through the Seed Fund Skipper, the future looks interesting.

Epiphyllums

From the Epiphyllum R. R. comes the admonition not to fertilize the Orchid Cactus when buds are forming. The fertilizer is apt to start the plants into such active growth that it may cast off its buds. Keep the soil about the epiphyllums damp, but not wet after buds have formed. Once the buds begin to show color do not turn or move the plants. Do not get water at the base of the tube. Give them filtered sunlight as for begonias. The direct sun may ruin the plants and flowers.

Cyclamen

Despite the worst possible luck with their subject, these members are starting all over again. Only the California member, who grows her plants directly in the ground in a lath-house escaped disaster to her plants this past summer. In the fall, when her tuberous begonias begin to fade, the cyclamen beds take over and are a mass of bloom all winter. She

gives them the same loose, acid soil so well liked by the begonias.

A Louisiana member lost her entire collection of 200 cyclamen due to summer temperatures of 110 deg. F. for weeks on end. Being an expert gardener, she nevertheless is busy planning ways and means of manufacturing cool breezes and sufficient moisture to combat a repetition of like torrid climate. If she succeeds it will be an achievement, since these plants prefer a temperature of about 60 deg. F.

A North Dakota Robin easily germinated a pan of seedlings but when the tubers were the size of peas they dwindled away, one by one. This is the turning point in the cyclamen's life. Any little setback at this particular stage, careless transplanting, lack of attention, too much or too little water or humidity—and they are gone for good.

Cyclamen must never dry out during the growing period or the tuber will be permanently injured. That is why growers recommend bowls, not saucers of water with the plants setting on blocks of wood, thus making it possible for the plant to retain an even, constant moisture once the blossoming season is due. Before that the regular daily sub-irrigation will suffice. Surface watering may be done only as long as the tuber is still round and sheds water easily. Winter sunshine is essential as long as they are not allowed to wilt. Toward spring the amount of sunlight should be reduced. The temperature and humidity maintained will govern the amount of water needed.

Cyclamen are beautiful but they are very prim in their mode of reproduction. There are no offsets, no little bulbils, no leaf cuttings or slips to be rooted or divisions to be made. The plants form seed, if the grower knows how to pollinize the blooms, and you grow them. It is as "simple" as that. The next round of the Cyclamen Robin will be devoted to soil preferences and the drying off period.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

Mrs. Thomas, the Round Robin chairman, reports. One of the hints given was to buy celluloid table mats and cut them up for plant and seed labels. The paper told how to distinguish the stamens of the male flower and the stigma of the female. How to use one on the other to pollinize the flowers for seed. Hints on storing pollen and viability life. This paper will be filed for future reference.

PLANTSMITHS SPOONIT

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION—
or, in other words, regular applications
of SPOONIT, and you need not worry
about a "cure" for alkaline sickness
in your plants.

SPOONIT promotes huskiness and vigor
and a more-than-generous production of
flowers.

Send one dollar for a 32 ounce can, post
and tax-paid.

PLANTSMITH
Box 818 Palo Alto, California

CONDENSED MINUTES

Meeting National Board, American Begonia Society held in City Hall, Los Angeles, March 22nd, 1948, President Drummond presiding.

Present for the meeting—Mesdames Drummond, Wilkes, Hartwell, Bayer; Messrs. Walton, Hixon, Bailey, Lawrence, Hart. Branches represented: Inglewood, Glendale, Parent Branch, North Long Beach, Bellflower, San Gabriel Valley, Hollywood, Pasadena, Santa Monica Bay, Hub City, Ventura Santa Barbara.

REPORTS

Editor, Treasurer, Membership Fees, Advertising Mgr. reports accepted as read and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Speakers Bureau—Grace Bayer reported gift of 89 slides for the Kodachrome library from Mrs. Krauss. Also working along other lines and hopes soon to have a workable number of slides for the use of the branches. Secretary instructed to send Mrs. Krauss a letter of appreciation for this gift.

Ways and Means Chairman called attention to the splendid article in the Home Section of the Los Angeles Times written by Charlotte Hoak and dealing of course with begonias.

Discussion called for as to whether or not we should have a Garden Tour this summer. At the conclusion of the discussion, President Drummond asked the Representative Directors to go into this subject at their Branch meetings and be prepared to report at the April meeting of the National Board.

Mrs. Hixon, Historian, reported she had prepared an article dealing with Founder's Day celebration which would be published in the Begonian and was also working on the history of our Society and would report on that later on.

Secretary read a very enthusiastic bid for the 1948 Convention and Flower Show from the Glendale Branch. This was received with a vote of thanks and appreciation and notice to this effect to be sent the Secretary of the Glendale Branch.

Mrs. Korts, as Representative Director from Glendale asked that the dates of Sept. 11th and 12th (Saturday and Sunday) be approved. More of their plans will be presented from time to time so watch The Begonian for information. Banquet Saturday evening; Flower Show and annual meeting Saturday with further visitation, etc., on Sunday.

Mrs. Sills, President, Pasadena Branch, invited everyone to come to their April 6th meeting, 2031

FOR OUT OF THE ORDINARY PLANTS

Our 1948 Catalog Is Yours for the Asking
KALLMAN'S GARDEN NURSERY
"EVERYTHING FOR THE GARDEN"

228 N. Milpas St. Santa Barbara, Calif.

East Villa St., Pasadena. Speaker — Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenn, Santa Barbara.

Mr. Knecht announced Easter Bonnet Parade for the next meeting of the Ventura Branch and invited everyone to attend.

San Gabriel Valley Branch: Mrs. Leatherman of El Monte our next speaker. Had about 190 members and guests at our last meeting. Sent an offer to Santa Barbara to take care of any of their plants until water conditions changed.

Chair appointed Mr. Leroy Frost, Inglewood, Mr. F. S. Moore, Glendale Branch, and Mrs. Jeff Butler, San Fernando Valley Branch, as Nominating Committee for 1948 and asked that they hand in their report by the June meeting of the National Board; ballots to be published in the July 1st issue.

Letter read from Gordon Baker Lloyd asking the Begonia Society to take part in the meetings of the California Garden Conference to be held in Plummer Park. After full discussion motion as follows by Mrs. Korts; second Miss Hoak: "I move that we accept June 22nd as the time and I think it would be fine for the different branches to attend to bring one or two plants." Carried. President appointed Dr. Drummond, Mrs. Korts, and Col. Gale as a committee to see about Begonia Day at Plummer Park. Dr. Drummond, Chairman.

Letter from Bessie R. Buxton stating, among other things, that she was working on a glossary (Begonia) and had upwards of 5000 names; plans a section for semperflorens and for rex, and that finally when this is completed the American Begonia Society shall have a copy.

Capt. Dere instructed to secure bids for printing a new supply of Leaflets, Rex and Fibrous Bulletins, and to report at next meeting.

Dr. Drummond reported Pest Control Bulletin was coming along very nicely and a typed copy would soon be ready to be read and passed on by the Board members.

A Committee composed of Maria Wilkes, Bill Walton, and Verna Johnson appointed to bring in a report at the next meeting on the advisability of adding additional pages to The Begonian.

Mrs. Drummond called attention to the April Flower Show to be held at Pierce Agricultural School and asked that the members support this show; they have allotted us a space 7 x 15 and if each branch would cooperate we could fill that space very easily. The date is April 3rd and 4th and bring the plants Saturday morning and they will be judged at noon. Contact Mrs. Drummond for further information.

Meeting adjourned to meet again, same place, 4th Monday in April, 1948.

Respectfully submitted, Gonda Hartwell, Secy.

BEGONIAS AS FOOD AND MEDICINE

Bailey's Encyclopedia, unfortunately, is not available to everyone. Every time one opens it, another train of discoveries is at hand for exploration in study. We have not done much to search the varieties of begonias of which "Many species contain oxalic acid and are eaten as salad and as a remedy for scurvy. The roots of some are astringent; others have a purgative root, used in certain tropics for syphilis and scrofula." This besides "The Begoniaceae is one of the most important ornamental families." It would be a splendid thing for all Branches to possess a set of The Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture with as complete a file of "The Begonian" as possible. Each Branch should maintain a membership just to receive "The Begonian" for its library.

SEED FUND NEWS FOR MAY

Dear Armchair Explorers:

August and our convention date will be here before we know it. Please do get busy with those plants of yours, get them growing right along and in shape for our Seed Fund table. Write and tell us if you can attend our convention and Armchair Explorer's meeting this year and what you can do to help put this over in a big way. My small children keep me home all the time and the best I can do is to spend long evenings at the typewriter, so I will need the help of many of you, also your suggestions.

This past spring several have given of their time to help get out the seed. Mrs. E. T. Boeshar of Hollywood, Calif., has made well over 5000 seed envelopes, some for the Seed Fund and those that packaged the Christmas seed gift from your A. B. S. president. Mrs. Maud Nichols of Burbank, Calif., packaged a good part of the seed. Our faithful friend Muriel Hylton of Huntington Beach, Calif., helped as usual in her generous way. Mrs. Viola Montgomery of Hughesville, La., made hundreds of those small envelopes for us. Your help has been so much appreciated not only by your skipper but by all Armchair Explorers. Many hands have made the work much lighter and I know I can truthfully say for all of us that we have enjoyed getting this seed ready for you.

Here is a letter from George Furniss of Oakland, Calif. Mr. Furniss has been a great help in suggesting foreign seed sources. Shall we add a new department to our Seed Fund? If so, who shall have charge of it? Let us hear your ideas.

Oakland, April 6th, 1948

Dear Mrs. Carrell:

You are doing a splendid job in interesting members in seed ventures and the satisfaction to you from so doing, is evidently offsetting the amount of detail and time required.

The prospect of getting anything of outstanding horticultural value is quite remote other than a chance mutation for the reason that the accessible regions you tap have been well explored. However, the real value in raising these species, aside of the pleasure from growing seedlings, is in the possibilities to come from cross pollination with plants now in our collections.

These little seedling strangers now being raised may have some trait or traits, which may be recognized as of value if inbred into some of our domesticated plants. Again, these seedlings as adults may be crossed with each other for possibilities. Very few of our cherished plants of today are natural species, but

instead, are the result of crossing and re-crossing. With this in mind, it seems about time that a section in genetics be set up as a subsection or co-ordination with your work for the purpose of plant breeding.

California is outstanding for its large number of hybridizers and notable results such as in tuberous begonias, fuchsias, roses, delphiniums, pelargoniums, diplacus . . . The American Begonia Society has a wide open and a most favorable field for exploration. The society has many members capable to explore and these only await instruction in some simple fundamentals to go ahead, under guiding leadership. This section might be called The Luther Burbank Section in honor of that distinguished pioneer of this state, who contributed so much to horticulture and agriculture. He was credited with creating plant life, a plant wizard, and falsified by commercial interests . . . all of which was not of his own doing, claim, or desire. He had a keen eye for crossing and selection and he made good. His name seems appropriate for carrying on this type of work which he so masterfully and successfully followed. A number of societies in the United States, independent of each other, have taken his name in honor of following his work. California should not be remiss to its own.

But to return to the suggestion. The section or sections should have a booth at the annual flower show for entry of seedling plants, interestingly labeled, and crossings when accomplished. Entries would be open to all for exhibits of plant breeding, mutations, and the unusual. This would not only stimulate effort but encourage others. The American Begonia Society should not stop with only making collections of what just each other has, but should be alerted to improvement and expansion for the new and better—Sincerely, George B. Furniss.

SEED OFFERS

Bulbils B. Martiana, mixed hybrid iris seed, Chirita mixed, India Impatiens seed, India gourd seed at 25c each packet.

Mixed Gesneria seed 50c.

New Zealand fern spores, 5 kinds for \$1.

Colombia fern spores, 5 kinds for \$1.

Mexican fern spores, 8 kinds for \$1.00.

I need a collection of small cacti plants to send to England—can anyone supply some in exchange for Begonia seeds?

Your skipper,

Mrs. E. Carrell

214 No. Yale St.

Fullerton, California.

Meeting Dates and Places

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, May 3rd, 7:30 p. m.
Washington Street School Cafeteria
Sec.: Mrs. Edna Leistner, 610 Nichols Street
Bellflower, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, May 4th, 7:30 p. m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Carolyn Peyton, Secretary
335A So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

1st Tuesday, May 4th, 7:30 p. m.
2031 E. Villa Street
Mrs. Frank Clark, Sec.-Treas.
2168 Cooley Place, Pasadena 7, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, May 5th, 7:30 p. m.
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.
Sec.: Mrs. Walter Ashe, 1855 33rd Ave.
San Francisco, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, May 6th, 7:30 p. m.
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Ethelyn Morgan, 250 N. Center
Orange, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, May 7th, 8 p. m.
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary
228 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH

1st Friday, May 7th
1016 Frost Street, Flint 4, Mich.
Mrs. S. V. Clark, Rec.-Sec.
1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Mich.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

2nd Sunday, May 9th, 2:30 p. m.
Crestwood Public Library, Crestwood, N. Y.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 10th, 7:30 p. m.
Pierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.
Canoga Park. Mrs. Frank Ecker, Secretary
21003 Devonshire St., Chatsworth, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 10th, 8 p. m.
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.
Sec.-Treas.: Dr. Constance Holmes
133 Prescott, El Cajon, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 10th, 7:30 p. m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
Miss Evelyn Peterson
1414 E. 68th St., Long Beach, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, May 10th, 8 p. m.
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church
Sec.-Treas., Margaret Smith, Fortuna, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, May 12th, 8 p. m.
Mrs. T. W. Gall, Sec.-Treas.
4518 Bandini Ave., Riverside Calif.

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, May 12th, 7:30 p. m.
University High School, Room 232
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles
Mrs. Denman Bemus, Sec.-Treas.
845 So. Anita Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 13th, 7:30 p. m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, Rec. Sec.
1633 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 13th, 7:30 p. m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Martha Ayersman, Secretary
1120 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, May 13th, 8 p. m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Harry B. Fasmer, Secretary
5129 So. Manhattan, Los Angeles 43, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, May 14th, 7:30 p. m.
Congr. Church Fireside Room, 5th & B Sts.
Mrs. Cuma Wakefield, Secy.
47 Fifth St., Petaluma, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

3rd Monday, May 17th
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Third Tuesday, May 18th, 7:30 p. m.
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Rose C. Hixon, Sec.-Treas., Long Beach Cal.

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 18th, 7:30 p. m.
Roosevelt Hi Sch. Cafe., 1200 E. Olive, Compton
Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Sec.-Treas.
3586 Imperial, Lynwood, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, May 18th, 8 p. m.
McKinley Park. Mrs. H. A. Sopwith, Sec.
2009 2nd Ave., Sacramento 17, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, May 20th, 7:30 p. m.
Willard School, Ward Street
Mrs. E. Carlson, Sec.-Treas.
2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

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

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, May 20th, 8 p. m.
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Corr.-Sec.
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, May 24th
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. L. J. Elliott, Sec.-Treas.
3794 Grim Ave., San Diego 4, Calif.

MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 25th, 2 p. m.
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

MIAMI, FLORIDA, BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 25th, 8 p. m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. W. G. Coffeen
1742 S. W. 10th St., Miami 35, Fla.

WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 25th, 8 p. m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Madeleine Hall, Secretary
509 Friends Ave., Whittier, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

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

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 25th, 8 p. m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Joyce Lorenz, Secretary
5227 El Rio Ave., Los Angeles 41, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

4th Tuesday, May 25th, 8 p. m.
Loma Portal School
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.
Louise Gardener, Secretary
3212 James Street, San Diego 6, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, May 26th, 8 p. m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.

4th Wednesday, Bimonthly, May 26th, 8 p. m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, O.
Phil Meyer, Pres., 2153 Lakeland, Lakewood, O.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, May 27th, 6:30 p. m.
Steckel Park
Margaret Richardson, Rt. 2, Box 242A
Santa Paula, California

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. M. W. Stewart
224 Armington St., Edgewood, R. I.

▶ H U M I S I T E ◀

A SOIL ACTIVATOR • AN ALL ORGANIC

- Use one 6 inch pot full per wheelbarrow load of potting mixture, for all plants.
- For the revitalizing of worn-out, dead, or otherwise nonproductive soils.
- Will bring your garden back to that "Virgin Soil" condition.
- Corrects many of the "Deficiencies."

Trial size, sufficient for liberal tests, sent Postpaid anywhere in U. S. upon receipt of \$1.00
No Stamps.

ORGANIC MILLING CO.

1161 SPAZIER AVE.

CHarleston 6-2721

GLENDAL 1, CALIF.

FIBROUS BEGONIAS

FOR MONTHS OF BLOOM

- DWARF — King of the Reds; White Pearl; Scandinavian Pink.
- TALL — Christmas Cheer (red) Ile de France (white) Masterpiece (rose).

★ Many others in our '48 Garden Guide

CAMPBELL SEED STORE

Since 1907

Pasadena 1, Calif rnia

Department B

KEEP INFORMED

... on the New Flowers, the New Vegetables, the New Bulbs.

A POSTCARD

Will Put You On Our Mailing List

BETTER GARDENS

2446 Huntington Drive San Marino, California

For
Beautiful Gardens
PLANT
AGGELER & MUSSER
SEEDS

AGGELER & MUSSER Packet Seeds are the products of over a half century of beautiful gardens.

Let A & M SEEDS make this year's garden the best you've had.

Buy them with confidence.

AT YOUR LOCAL DEALER

AGGELER & MUSSER
SEED COMPANY
157 MARKET STREET, LOS ANGELES 21, CALIF.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

CATTLEYS

All Blooming Size Plants in Excellent Condition with Five Bulbs or More

Cattleya Triannae ea. \$3.50 to \$7.50
Cattleya Mossiae ea. \$5.00 to \$20.00
Cattleya H. S. Leon ea. \$7.50 to \$25.00



Cattleya Back Bulbs
unnamed varieties, per doz \$5.00



Cattleya Seedlings Mossiae X Nebo—2" Pots
each 75c
Cattleya S. J. Bracey X Grandulosa, Yellow,
2" Pots, each \$1.50
Cattleya Estelle X Conciency, White, 2" Pots,
each \$2.00

ORCHID MANOR

CARO AND GRACE KREBS

1010 Floral Drive, Whittier, California
By Appointment Only — Phone Whittier 4-4136

POSTMASTER
PLEASE NOTIFY ROY K. DERE
1618 FICKEWIRTH AVE.
EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA
OF ALL CHANGES
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

RAMONA GARDENS

Azaleas ☆ Camellias ☆ Gardenias

WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT OUR GARDENS

Thousands of Azaleas Now in Full Bloom

2177 E. WASHINGTON

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

CAMELLIAS

Container Grown
Send for List

PAUL L. SCOTT

1931 So. Mayflower Ave. Arcadia, Calif.

*Palos
Verdes*

BEGONIA FARM

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-Way
WALTERIA, CALIFORNIA

All Types of
BEGONIAS and SHADE PLANTS
Specialty: HYBRID NERINES

1½ miles E. of Redondo Beach, Hiway 101

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

Our Specialty, Field-grown stock exclusively, NEW VARIETIES. FREE 1948 CATALOG describes feather and spidery types, large flowering exhibition and commercial, new English varieties, pompon, single, anemone, cascade and hardy types. Color plates, general cultural suggestions, instructions for training cascades.

BLANCHARD GARDENS

1137 Fairview Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Dept. B

HUNTINGTON BEACH BEGONIA GARDENS

220 13th Street

Seedlings, Blooms and Bulbs for Sale
Specially Prepared Soil
For All Kinds of Shade Plants

HAZEL AND SCOTTY HUDSON, Proprietors



Listen to Mirandy
Sat., KECA, 8:45 A.M.

*Thorough Fertilization
with Perfect Ease*

Likwid GRO evenly fertilizes each plant as you water. Ask your dealer about Likwid GRO today.

Price: 1 qt., 75c; 1 Gal., \$1.75

PESTLESS PRODUCTS CO.

4124 Bandini Blvd., Los Angeles 23, California