

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

Season's Greetings

MULTIFLORA

BEGONIA

LA FAYETTE

Photo by

Rudolf Ziesenhenné



DECEMBER

1949



FIFTEEN

CENTS

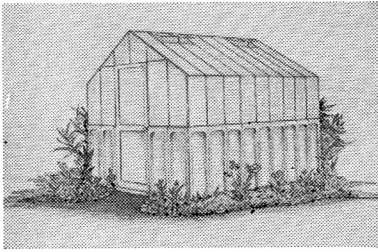


VOL XVI

No. 12



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 Citrus 1-7976

America's Most Spectacular GARDEN CENTER

Ornamental Trees and Plants
Fruit Trees
Camellias, Roses
Begonias and Fuchsias
Bedding Plants
Choice Bulbs and Seeds

•
Garden and Patio
Furniture and Equipment

•
Garden Supplies

•
Giftwares of Crystal, Porcelain
Pottery and Metals

PAUL J. HOWARD'S

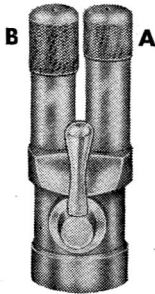
California Flowerland

11700 National Boulevard

LOS ANGELES 34

CALIFORNIA

NEW!



THOMPSON DUAL-SPRAY NOZZLE

DESIGNED FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF GROWERS
OF SHADE-LOVING PLANTS

Use the Fogger Nozzle "A" for humidifying the air in shade—
houses and conservatories. The Misty Spray Nozzle is used in
watering ferns or plants with delicate blooms.

No. 219 FOR 1/2" AND 3/4" HOSE

PRICE \$2.88 (Plus Sales Tax)

FOGGER NOZZLE

To be installed in permanent
spraying systems. Pipe is drilled
with 1/8" pipe tap.

No. 218 - A - 1/8"

PRICE \$.48 (Plus Sales Tax)

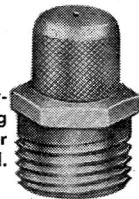


FOGGER NOZZLE

For ready installation in per-
manent spraying systems using
pipe and fittings. The adapter
is threaded with 1/2" pipe thread.

No. 218 - A - 1/2"

PRICE \$.60 (Plus Sales Tax)



THOMPSON MANUFACTURING CO.

SINCE 1907

2251 E. SEVENTH ST.

LOS ANGELES 23, CALIF.



The BEGONIAN



Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society
General Office: Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California

OFFICERS

W. E. Walton.....	President
1415 Acacia Avenue, Torrance, Calif.	
Frank S. Moore.....	President-Elect
425 No. Avenue 56, Los Angeles 42, Calif.	
Col. Carroll M. Gale.....	Past President
Calvin E. Trowbridge.....	Treasurer
4411 3rd Ave., Los Angeles 37, Calif.	
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell.....	Secretary
1719 Alamitos Ave., Monrovia, Calif.	
Elmer Lorenz.....	Membership Secretary
Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California	
J. W. Bailey.....	Director, 1 Yr.
Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield.....	Director, 2 Yr.
Mrs. Edna Korts.....	Director, 3 Yr.
H. M. Butterfield.....	Nomenclature Director
39 Giannini Hall, U. C., Berkeley, Calif.	
Nomenclature Committee	
Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton, Mrs. Emma M. Carleton, Mrs. Alice M. Clark, Dr. V. T. Stoutmeyer, Frédrick J. Bedson FRHS, Herbert P. Dyckman, R. S. French.	
The Clayton M. Kelly Research Dept. Research & Seed Fund Director..... Mrs. E. Carrell	
214 North Yale Street, Fullerton, Calif.	
Hybridizing Chairman.....	Mrs. Mary Choate
3970 Grandview Blvd., Culver City, Calif.	
Librarian.....	Mrs. Gladys C. Nolan
2840 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 26, Calif.	
Assoc. Librarian.....	Mrs. John W. Crowder
Historian.....	Mrs. Hugh Hixon
76 W. Home St., Long Beach 5, Calif.	
Chairman Speakers' Bureau.....	Frank E. Clark
and Kodachrome Slide Library 2168 Cooley Place, Pasadena 7, Calif.	
Flower Show Chairman.....	Calvin Trowbridge
4411 3rd Ave., Los Angeles 37, Calif.	

The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p.m., January 23, 1950. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

Public Relations Director.....Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger
Cantera Ave., Hope Ranch, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Public Relations Committee

S. A. McClanahan.....	Northwestern, Chairman
334 9th Ave., West, Seattle 99, Wash.	
Mrs. Lillian Ashe.....	Northern California, Chairman
1855 33rd Ave., San Francisco, Calif.	
Mrs. Frances Downing.....	Round Robins Chairman
Rt. 1, Box 11, Calera, Alabama	

LIFE MEMBERS

Mrs. Gonda Hartwell.....	Frank Reinelt
Worth A. Brown.....	Mrs. Alice M. Clark
Mrs. Myrtle Shepherd Francis	

PAST-PRESIDENT LIFE MEMBERS

Herbert P. Dyckman.....	1932-'33-'41
Fred Reidman.....	'34 Ferdinand P. Neels ..'42
J. Paul Walker.....	'35 Clarence A. Hall ..'44
Dr. M. B. Dunkle.....	'36 Arthur E. Nelson ..'45
T. H. Smith.....	'37 Harold W. Hart ..'46
J. S. Williams.....	'38 George Lawrence ..'47
Dr. W. M. Casey.....	'39 Mrs. M. Drummond ..'48
Fred Harrison.....	'40 Col. Carroll M. Gale ..'49

BEGONIAN STAFF

Editor.....	Mrs. Dorothy S. Behrends
1633 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.	
Co-Editor.....	Mrs. Gladys C. Nolan
2840 Herkimer Street, Los Angeles 39, Calif.	
Reviewer.....	Frank H. Overton
1348 Winchester Ave., Glendale, Calif.	
Business Manager.....	Frank S. Moore
425 No. Ave 56, Los Angeles 42, Calif. ALbany 2206	

★ Annual Subscription — One Dollar Fifty Cents.
★ Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Los Angeles, California, under the act of March 3rd, 1879.

INDEX

ADIANTUM OR MAIDENHAIR FERN	268	GREETINGS	268
ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS	270	LIBRARY NOTES	270
BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES	274, 275	MEETINGS OF THE NEW ENGLAND BRANCH	269
BRANCH NEWS	267, 269, 271, 272, 273	MEMBERSHIP	269
CONDENSED MINUTES	273	SHELTERED GARDEN BOOK REVIEWS	268
CORRECTION	269	SIGHT SEEING FOR BEGONIAS	264
COVER PICTURE	268	THE GESNERIA FAMILY	266
FOR GROWING AND DISPLAYING BEGONIAS INDOORS	267	TUBEROUS BEGONIAS	261
GLANCING BACK	265	YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED	272

**FUCHSIAS - BEGONIAS
PHILODENDRONS**

Georgia Peat - Oregon Green Moss
NO LIST OR MAIL ORDERS
M. C. MATTHEWS NURSERY
7039 East Myrrh St., Paramount, Calif.
(1 block south of Compton Blvd.
½ block east of Orange Ave.)

AFRICAN VIOLETS
LEAVES - PLANTS

We grow over 30 varieties, including the lovely
new "LADY GENEVA."

Write for List

E. H. THOMAS

R.R. 2, Box 633 Walnut Creek, California

Do Your Begonias
have those LUSH, LAVISH,
COLORFUL

LIQUINOX

BLOOMS?
A patented, balanced food in
liquid form . . .

ORDER TODAY!

1409 W. CHAPMAN

ORANGE, CALIF.

ROSE BUSHES

Shipped to You Postpaid

All the All-Americans . . . The Best Patents

. . . and Your Old Favorites . . .

No. 1 Dormant Stock

**ASK FOR YOUR FREE ROSE CATALOG AND
PLANTING GUIDE**

BETTER GARDENS

2446 Huntington Dr. San Marino, Calif.

"THE HOMESTEAD FLOWER GROWER"
brings you money-saving bargain offers in seeds,
bulbs and plants from many sources. Features
Exchanges, Wants, Bargain Offers, Bargain Seed
List, Ideas, Tips, Hints and Articles in every issue.
A big little magazine that you will like.
Sample copy 10c. Two years, including ten
generous flower seed packets, \$1.

THE HOMESTEAD FLOWER GROWER
Route 2H Rockville, Connecticut

3 "WICKIE" SELF WATERING PLASTIC POTS \$1.75
P. P.

Excellent for house plants, particularly
AFRICAN VIOLETS AND BEGONIAS
SPECIAL OFFER \$1.75 p.p. 3 { 4-inch Plastic Pots
Jardinieres
Fiber Glass Wicks
COLORS-RED, YELLOW AND GREEN
The Wickie Co., 8 France Pl., Larchmont, N. Y.

Take the guesswork out of gardening. It
doesn't take 3 separate products to get
acid food, humus, nitrogen and moisture
retention.

GEORGIA PEAT

. . . has them all . . . naturally blended
for thousands of years. You can make
a more productive soil mixture, easily
and at much less cost.

**YOU SHOULD HAVE ORCHIDS
IN YOUR GLASSHOUSE**

Orchid Manor

CARO and GRACE KREBS

1010 Floral Drive, Whittier, Calif.



Inspection By Appointment Only
Phone WHittier 4-4136

CALIFORNIA
RANUNCULUS

**LARGEST STRAIN
IN WORLD!**
Bargain Offer



Uniformly double, full petal-
ed—a majority of the
Carnellia flowered type. Riot
of colors include red, orange,
apricot, gold shades, edged
whites and yellows. Easy to grow. Plant
now for long blooming season. Unsur-
passed as cut flowers. 50 Bulbs Only \$1

GIANT ANEMONES

Large 3 to 4 inch, poppy-shaped flowers of
varied, vivid shades. Especially rich in exquisite Blues and Vio-
lets, they are delightful companion flowers to Ranunculus
50 Bulbs Only \$1 Postpaid
SPECIAL COMBINATION OFFER - 100 bulbs \$1.89
(50 Ranunculus and 50 Anemones) postpaid only

FREE! GARDEN CATALOG Featuring Chrysanthemums, Carna-
tions, Tuberosus Begonias, Perennial Phlox, Gladiolus,
Iris, and many others. WRITE TODAY!

GERMAIN'S CALIFORNIA'S LEADING
HORTICULTURISTS SINCE 1871
Dept. BE, 6133 Ethyl Ave., Van Nuys, Calif.

50
BULBS
Only
POSTPAID
\$1

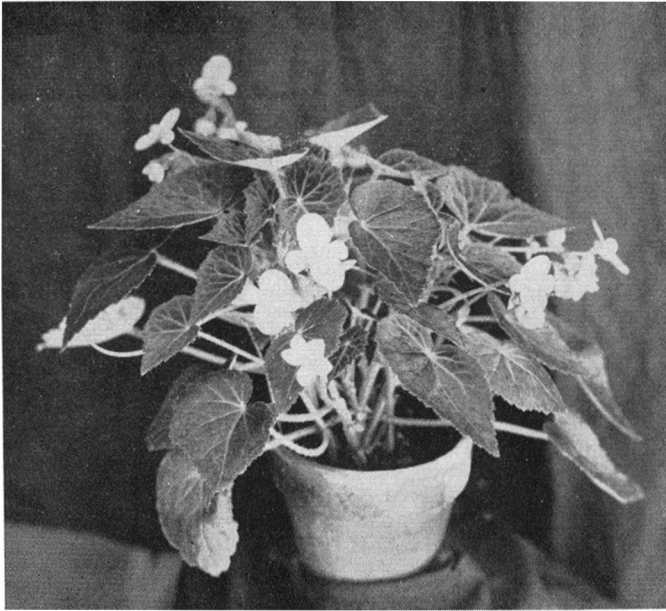


Photo by Rudolf Ziesenhenne

Begonia Pearcei

Tuberous Begonias

by F. J. Bedson*, President National Begonia Society

Begonias, although earlier known by other names, received their present name in 1700, following Charles Plumier's 1690 discovery in the West Indies of several species which bore no relationship to any known genera. It commemorates Michel Begon, then Governor of Santa Domingo, who was Plumier's patron.

In 1777 Dr. William Brown sent *B. nitida* from Jamaica to Kew Gardens, and this was the first living begonia to reach Europe. In 1813, after its introduction to England by William Kerr, *B. Evansiana* was the first begonia to be figured and described in Curtis' Botanical Magazine, and the first tuberous species to reach this country. Then 1835 saw the first American tuberous begonia, *B. octopetala*, brought to the Glasgow Botanical Gardens from Peru.

None of these, however, were progenitors of our modern tuberous hybrids, which are almost entirely derived from six species found high up in the American Andes and only introduced commercially in England between 1867 and 1879, that hey-day of plant collecting. Hortus Veitchii records of these in 1906 "To the student of the evolution of our garden plants, and to the intelligent cultivator, there is not a more interesting group to study, as it is within a comparatively short period, not

more than 35 years, that the work of hybridizing begonias was commenced and the foundation laid of that magnificent race common in our gardens today." Certainly few flowers reflect greater credit to our hybridists.

Early Introductions

B. boliviensis, found by Richard Pearce in the Bolivian cordilleras, was put into commerce by James Veitch and Sons in 1868. It is about 18 inches high, with drooping branches, scarlet fuchsia-like flowers, and narrow "elephant ear" leaves, similar but inferior to our *pendula* varieties of today which have inherited its chief characteristics.

B. Pearcei, another Bolivian species found in 1865 by—and dedicated by Veitch to—Pearce, is a low-spreading plant, around 1 ft. high, with 1 inch primrose-yellow flowers and slender, velvety-marbled foliage. Not only has it helped to reproduce these features, but being the only yellow-flowered of the Andean species, colors from palest creamy yellow to bright orange could not have been produced without it.

B. Veitchii, the third Veitch introduction by Pearce in 1867, was collected in the Peruvian Andes at over 10,000 ft. elevation, and has been most valuable in contributing the round

Turn to next page

flower characteristic. It is almost stemless, has rounded, long-stemmed leaves, and the 2 inch vermilion flowers are four-petaled in the male, with five in the smaller female.

B. rosiflora, the fourth species that came from Pearce for Veitch, also from Peru, first flowered at Chelsea in 1867. This, again nearly stemless, had kidney-shaped, red-edged leaves with deeply impressed veins, borne on stout red stalks, and numerous 2 inch pale rose-pink to white flowers, reminiscent of the briar rose. Seedlings from this gave us the white and blush pink color range.

B. Davisii, the fifth Veitchian, and another high altitude Peruvian, was a later importation through their collector Walter Davis, and not commercialized until 1879. It soon found favor with the hybridist, transmitting its free-flowering, dwarf compact habit and bright blooms held erect on upright stems. The flowers are bright scarlet-orange, and the heart-shaped, slightly hairy foliage is lighter veined, and reddish beneath. Modern *multiflora* varieties have a large percentage of *B. Davisii* strain, taking their main form from it, and it has also contributed notably to the development of the larger race.

B. Clarkei, our last species, is the only non-Veitchian, although used by them and others in early hybridizing. It first flowered with Colonel Trevor Clarke of Welton Place, Daventry, in 1867, being a Henderson introduction from the Andes. A little less hardy than the others, it grows to about 2 ft. high, stout and erect, with 6 to 8 inch typical elephant's-ear leaves and abundant pendant 2 inch rose-red flowers, the closest species in appearance to modern, large-flowered hybrids. Although not much used in its early days for cross breeding, it later proved of great value.

Mention might also be made of *B. cinabarina*, another Andean, for although used in but few early crosses, I find strong evidence that it may have been the mysterious unknown parent, with *B. boliviensis*, of the first hybrid, *B. Sedeni*, and it is interesting to notice how the original characteristics of these species show up in varying degrees in the hybrids.

B. Sedeni was raised by John Seden, Veitch's foreman propagator, and first catalogued in 1870. Between then and 1882 he made 15 other named crosses, using one of these species as a parent, and two sports were introduced, the most notable being the first white begonia, Queen of the Whites, in 1878, from *B. rosiflora*. His best hybrid was Viscountess Doneraile (*B. Monarch* x *B. Sedeni*, 1881) which is also noteworthy as one of the parents, with *B. socotrana*, of John Heal, the first English winter-flowering begonia to be distributed.

Around 1875 others were becoming inter-

ested in this new and promising summer-flowering group, and famous hybridizers of the day were T. S. Ware of Tottenham, James O'Brien of Henderson and Son, William Bull, John Laing of Forest Hill, Henry Cannell and Sons of Swanley, and the two well known houses of James Carter and Sutton and Sons, the latter being the only firms "still going strong" 75 years later.

Continental growers were also competing to produce the best varieties, the most successful being Lemoine of Nancy, Van Houtte of Ghent, Thibaut and Keteleer, Felix Crousse, and Haage and Schmidt. The honor of producing the first double went to M. Lemoine, with *B. Lemoinei*, which first bloomed here in 1876 with Mr. W. E. Gumbleton, a keen Irish begonia fancier, but it was a poor semi-double, and somewhat ragged. Lemoine then crossed this with *B. boliviensis*, obtaining Gloire de Nancy, the first commercial successful double. Even so, these early doubles were of poor shape, evolving from singles which had developed a few extra petals.

Other sections were now forming, including the various classes of large-flowered single. In 1878 the first *pendula*, hybrid was listed, and in 1893 the first double *pendula*, while in 1885 the first double *multiflora* made its appearance.

What British Growers Have Done

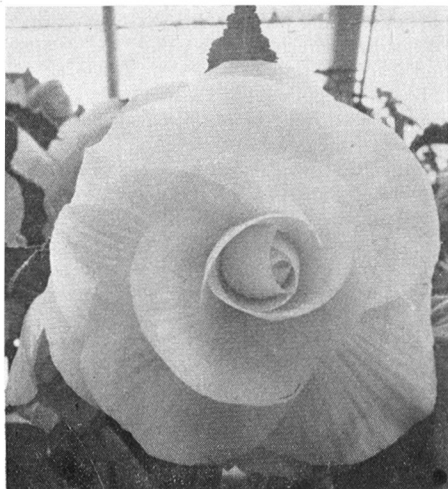
British growers concentrated mainly on the large-flowered types, and the specialists obtained all the varieties they could from both home and continental raisers, crossing them with their own seedlings, and selecting the best for further propagation. The two leaders at this time were no doubt John Laing, whose Forest Hill strain gained the R. H. S. Jubilee Gold Medal and other "Golds" and F. C. C. awards, and the Swanley collection of Henry Cannell and Sons. Cannell won the first Gold Medal awarded for begonias, and had eight 100 ft. greenhouses and an acre of ground devoted entirely to begonia culture.

Laing, who started in 1875, had some good hybrids by 1878, but by 1886 had evolved his Royal series with flowers 7 inches across and fine plants in their day, but lacking most of the good points we look for today.

In 1887 C. F. Langdon commenced cross breeding with the notable Jubilee Set of that year, which comprised a dozen double varieties of the best then in commerce. From this grew the famous begonia nurseries of Blackmore and Langdon of Bath, who from these and later introductions of their own and other raisers patiently created the strain now so well known to begonia enthusiasts.

It should be remembered, of course, that all progress was not due to crossing, but this, in

conjunction with intelligent selection and ruthless discarding by growers of seedlings below standard, has resulted in the race improvement.



The Writer's Photo

Begonia Salmonea, a new hybrid

Do you recall Chelsea, 1939, when begonias won the premier Gold Medal awarded for the best exhibit of the Show? Many thought that plants then staged like H. F. Frankling and Lord Lambourne were reaching the limit of the hybridist's art. But, by 1945, Salmonea, a lovely shade between salmon and orange, and Ballet Girl, a white with waved petals edged pink, both awarded A. M., showed a new trend. Pamela Simpson, a fine, rich yellow, followed in 1946, then Red Emperor in vivid scarlet, and Harmony, a blush picotee. Next we had Dream, a pale pink with slightly serrated petals, Moonlight, a creamy yellow, and Rhapsody, a pleasing salmon-pink. All these are very beautiful and no more difficult to grow than poor specimens.

Meantime the begonias of the Midlands were returning to their pre-war standards, and among their novelties we find Alf Edney, a large exhibition pink, John Woolman, salmon-orange with slightly serrated frilled petals, and Rose Edney, an outstanding crimson scarlet.

In Scotland we find a fine named collection with exclusive specialties, two of particular interest being Lovely, a blush pink, and Betty McCullough, an exhibition yellow.

All these growers offer the *Pendula* begonias, two of the latest and best of these being Dawn, buff yellow, and Broadacre, deep rose.

Free-flowering Species

Multiflora varieties have always been somewhat a continental specialty, but a few of our nurseries again carry a small range of named hybrids for those who find pleasure in these smaller but very free-flowering plants. We feel they deserve a thought from our hybridists, for, like basket begonias, they have their separate place in the summer display. Their value as purely bedding subjects suggests their garden value.

For 1950 the begonia enthusiast can look forward to growing the five latest and finest doubles yet introduced. Diana Wynyard, the largest and best white; Golden Gleam, a rich golden yellow; Mother of Pearl, a dual-toned, bluish white; Priscilla Lewin, a new shade of salmon-apricot, and last, but leading anything yet produced, the giant Hercules. This salmon-scarlet produces large flowers with great prodigality, and its vigor is unsurpassed. Well may we forecast that it will prove the parent of even better strain in years to come.

What more lies ahead? In the large-flowered double, the aim among other points the hybridist bears in mind, has been to achieve perfect shape, center and texture, and erect flowers. Development now turns also to new color blends in dual and pastel tones, and improved varieties with ruffled, fringed or serrated petals.

As far back as 1871 O'Brien of Hendersons tried tuberous crosses with fine foliage and Rex varieties which failed, and today this aim revives in the U. S. A. with the difficult basic crosses already accomplished.

In 1892 Lemoine used the scented tuberous begonia, *B. Baumannii*, in tuberous breeding. This quest for fragrance was sought some years ago in Scotland, and is again arousing the attention of American hybridists. While wishing them every success, however, we fear it must be some years before these aims can be realized without sacrifice of flower quality. It does, however, give a thought on the future and shows that there is no limit to the possibilities of hybridizing, and scope for all ambitions.

* Reprinted from *GARDENING ILLUSTRATED* by permission of A. G. L. Hellyer, Editor.

A membership in the A. B. S. entitles the member to twelve issues of the *BEGONIAN*. Give a membership to your friends and relatives. The membership card will be enclosed in a Christmas card and mailed to this member, if you tell the Membership Secretary you intend it to be a gift when you mail the required amount, (one dollar and fifty cents a year) for each membership. Send it in today, for a year long gift. Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, Calif.

Sight Seeing for Begonias

by G. E. Ramer, Miami, Florida

We do not think that it gets very warm here in Miami during the Summer as we generally have cooling breezes from the ocean and occasionally showers. Most other places in the States are warmer. Los Angeles had 103 degrees, also some strong wind, while it was 85 degrees here, so guess we cannot complain. What gets us is the relatively high humidity, month after month, so we try to get up into the mountains for relief and a change.

This year we decided to take our time and motor as there was no hurry. Driving slow one can see more of the country, and after covering 100 miles one notices the changes in the vegetation. The corn and cotton bloom earlier and ripen faster in the Southern States and later in the north and at the higher altitudes.

Being a Begonia fan I could not help but notice the many begonias to be found, in front of the houses, all along the highways. Nearly every other cabin or farm house sported some kind on the front porch, which is the extent of most of the gardens. Nearly all of them had some kind of geranium or coleus along with begonias. These were all in pots, cans, tubs, pails, boxes, and what have you. Whether these contained some of the special begonia soil mixtures, I do not know, but they were all growing and most of them were blooming profusely. The great majority of them were of the *semperflorens* varieties, but once in a while we would see a special plant that no doubt was some one's pride and glory.

All through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Washington, D. C., Delaware and Pennsylvania, in the lowlands and the highlands, in the sun and shade, dry and hot, wet and humid, there seemed to be Begonias everywhere, grown by white and colored alike.

Where these people in these isolated sections obtain these plants is a question. No doubt they propagate them from year to year, and take them into the house in the winter. Down here in Miami begonias bloom in the winter and spring, but the farther north they grow, they bloom later and longer. Probably because they get more sunlight in the northern States, as they have longer days and longer twilight.

All of these States have different kinds of soils, and they are different even in the same State, yet the plants seem to do all right. These people in the outlying country places do not have slat houses or greenhouses, nothing but the front porch in the summer and inside

the house in the winter. A good many of them do not have much of that either, and yet they find space and time to have their Begonias.

I saw one pink *rubra* six feet high, growing in a pot near the foot of the Great Smokies, at about two thousand feet elevation. This plant was literally covered with blooms and it was in the sun a good part of the day. We found *semperflorens* blooming in all their glory way up in the mountains of North Carolina, at about 4000 feet, surrounded by clouds and raining for days, and where it was cool enough at night to sleep under a blanket.

We visited the Longwood Gardens in Penna. and saw at least 1800 tuberous begonias growing in pots, and blooming in a large variety of colors. They were growing in a large conservatory, where the temperature and humidity conditions were kept fairly constant. These were raised from tubers from Holland. Here are to be found *B. rubras* and *B. lucernes* twelve feet high, that were reported to be thirty years old. There were many fuchsias in hanging baskets and a number of bushes about five feet high. They had quite a collection of orchids most of them in full bloom. I believe these orchids are the same plants that I took pictures of ten years ago.

Then we visited the Green Tree Flower Gardens in Phila. and found nearly all their plants out doors but in some shade. Saw several varieties that I had not seen before and selected a few plants to add to my collection.

We tried to visit the Botanical Gardens in Philadelphia and Washington, D. C., but unfortunately at a time when they were not open. No doubt there were many other places to see begonias, but it became so warm down in the lowlands, we hastened back into the mountains where it was cooler.

I never saw so many begonias before and do not expect to see as many again, unless I make a trip to California. It is amusing to think that I was born and raised in California and lived there for forty years, and hardly remember ever seeing a begonia.

What struck me more forcibly than anything else on this trip was the fact that, after being impressed by reading of raising begonias in slat houses, glass houses, and as house plants, with special soils, in shade, no drafts, etc., etc., that I saw so many growing outside, in shade, sun, heat and cold, wet and dry, sea level and high in the mountains, that I believe begonias can adapt themselves to most conditions, and still grow and bloom. So now I have hopes for my own little garden.

Glancing Back

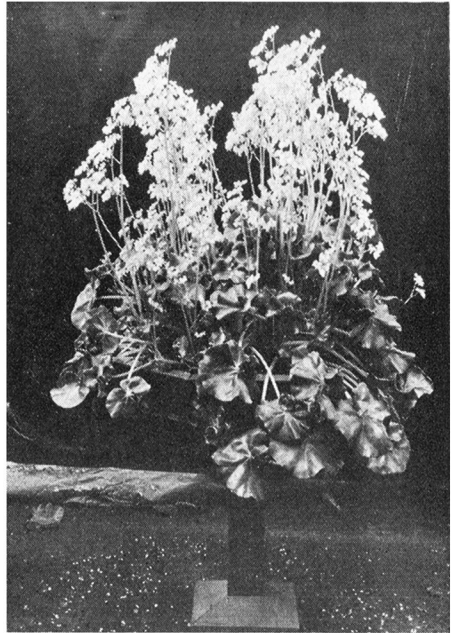
The late A. D. Robinson wrote of a tray in '44.

There have been a large variety of flower and plant containers all alike in one particular, their unfitness for the job. There seems little excuse for grass sprouting all over a pig, flower blooming out of a duck's back, or roses, (even the baby kind) springing from a slipper or cradle. We are familiar with those parts of huge tall colored vases with small mouths that, making their first appearance, are proudly displayed on each side of the front door to be demoted from spot to spot until a kindly accident relegates them to the junk pile, but this writing has more to do with plant containers and was inspired by a wondrous specimen of *Begonia bunchii* that appeared for years at our local flower show growing in a shallow, round galvanized washtub. I have these washtubs, for they are perfect for soaking and carrying small pots, but they are too nearly related to the tin can, which I have always adored as a plant container, so from a tub I got down to a tray and herewith submit pictures and particulars of a final model, the outcome of many experiments though it looks simple.

The tray is hexagonal, the individual sides are fifteen inches by twelve, six inches deep, one inch thick, which makes a pleasing flare allowing pots to be arranged close to the edge. The bottom is put UNDER, not IN the sides, so as to carry the weight, and extending beyond the sides one inch. The standard was more trouble than the tray, but evolved as a four by four inch upright with a foot square top and bottom, the ends are made by sawing 4 x 4's on the bias so as to have lengths tapering from three to one inch and this is mitered to fit around the upright and nailed on so as to leave the upright half an inch short of level, which offsets any tendency to rock on an uneven surface. These standards are made in three heights, two feet, thirty inches, and three feet. Anything higher calls for a hanging basket. Both tray and standard are made of rough redwood, unstained as the object is to feature the plant, not the container. However, a pleasing old age grey effect can be had by brushing with a THIN mixture of ordinary cement and water.

Though the illustration shows *Begonias* (*Feastii helix*) in one of these trays, they are admirable for displaying a great variety of plants which only show off to best advantage when massed, such as *Primula malacoides*, Saintpaulias, (African violets), the double *Lobelia Kathleen mullard*, and even the ubiquitous Pansy. Pots of these rounded up

to the center, padded in with moss, are most effective and replacements are only a matter of minutes. Then possible, it is better to use potted plants, rather than planting directly in the trays, because of the considerable increase in weight. But for the best effect with the *Begonias*, next to be considered, direct planting must be practiced.



Spiral Leaved Feastii

Of this group of low growing *Begonias*, the best known is *B. Feastii*, which under different names such as Edmondsi, Beef Steak, Water Lily, etc., is in thousands of homes throughout the United States. Its thick leathery foliage is very resistant to insect attack or injury from changes in atmospheric conditions. Though varying somewhat in flowering season, they may all be classed as winter or early spring bloomers and they have two definite periods of growth, one in the summer when they develop their leaves, and the other the flowering season. During the summer leaf production they enjoy a shaded, cool situation. Contrary to a widespread belief they can be well grown without leafmold, a good turfy loam free from alkali, with one quarter coarse sand and a free sprinkling of small charcoal, will do admirably. Good drainage is absolutely essential and a fine silt-like soil is anathema. Hard water can be softened by the use of alum, one-half ounce of saturated solution to the gallon of water. Let stand overnight and use water from the top. (Turn to next page)



An A. D. Robinson Tray

The soil in the trays should be rounded up in the center and have at least an inch of drainage material at the bottom. Five plants from four inch pots will be ample, as too crowded leafage will cause stem rotting. Half the leaves on the begonia illustrated had to be removed, to let the flower stems come through. It was equally handsome before it bloomed.

In the one group there are *B. Feastii*, *B. Bunchii* (not so called because of the frilled foliage but from its introducer, Bunch), *B. erythrophylla helix* (*B. Warszewiczii*) shell-leaved, and *B. heracleicotylo* (Mrs. Townsend), the last with the darkest and almost chocolate flowers and the last to bloom.

The two manicata Begonias, *manicata* plain and *manicata aurea*, (yellow and green variegated) have lighter green and thinner foliage, and leaf stems have rings of reddish hairs with blooms smaller and daintier than the other group. They are not as hardy although needing the same culture.

In true trailing Begonias there are the two scandens, *alba* with white sprays of bloom, like pearls, (this will climb by roots along the stem like an ivy) and *B. glaucophylla* (*Limminghei*) with coral blooms, edged with white.

Then there is the large assortment of so-called Bedding Begonias that are charming subjects for this grouping, and so arranged, are much more appealing than in large plantings out of doors.

There is no thought of putting over an all-purpose plant stand, but an offering of the result of much experimentation to find a cheap, effective and fitting method of massing the smaller plants for in an outdoor display.

Editor's note; These trays are still in use and may be seen today, at Rosecroft on Point Loma.

THE GESNERIA FAMILY

by Carolyn Rector, San Pedro, Calif.

In the writer's opinion, *Episcias* are the most beautiful plants in the Gesneria family, even if they never bloomed. The leaves are gorgeously colored and marked. There are about thirty species, all tropical American, semi-trailers, and stem from a creeping root. Leaves are opposite, mostly hairy, with tubular flowers. Give Gloxinia culture, with no sun at any time. Six species are known to be grown in this country, and there are probably others in private collections. The six are:

E. chontalensis, with purple and green leaves, white flower.

E. coccinea, dark metallic green leaves.

E. cupreata, copper-colored leaves, scarlet flowers.

E. fulgida, dark green leaves, bright red flowers.

E. tessellata, bronze and purple leaves, yellow flowers.

E. viridifolia, leaves a peculiar green, scarlet flowers.

There is a seventh, *E. hybrida*, but there is considerable disagreement about it. Some claim it is a *Naegelia*, and others claim it is the cross between *Episcia* and *Naegelia*. In any case it is a beautiful plant and well worth cultivating.

The genus *Gesneria* consists of fifty or more tuberous rooted plants of tropical America, having soft, heart-shaped, opposite leaves, and brilliant, tubular flowers in clusters. Culture same as for tuberous Begonias. Do not spray or sprinkle unless absolutely necessary for insects, as it will spot the leaves. The best known species are:

G. cardinalis (*macrantha*), large, velvety green leaves, bright red flowers.

G. Hendersonii, green leaves, and 3-inch long scarlet flowers.

G. longiflora, small green leaves, white flowers.

G. Leopoldi, leaves purple and green, flowers scarlet.

G. Donkelaeriana, purple and green hairy leaves, flowers dull red.

G. Exoniensis, velvety red and purple leaves, flowers orange red.

G. refulgens, hairy red leaves, vermilion flowers.

G. umbellata, velvety green leaves, deep red flowers.

True Gloxinias are not cultivated here. The species are *Gloxinia maculata*, and *G. speciosa*, both of Brazil. The plant grown here as a Gloxinia is the result of hybridization with the *Sinningia*. The true Gloxinia does not have tuberous roots.

Haberleas are dainty little herbaceous perennials, which look very much like our African Violet in growth. Only one species is known. *H. Rhodopensis*, and is found growing wild in only one place in the world, a single valley in Thrace. It is perfectly hardy, and in spring bears a few scapes four to six inches high, each having from two to five nodding, thimble-shaped flowers about an inch long and an inch across, lavender in color, and looking like a small Gloxinia.

Isolomas and *Tydaeas* are either the same plants, or have been hybridized till they are not distinct. Some authorities claim they were not distinct to begin with. They are low-growing or creeping, with hairy leaves and scarlet or orange flowers like small Gloxinias. They are also called *Koblerias*.

Isoloma amabile is also called *Tydaea amabile* having dark rose flowers.

Isoloma Bogotense is called *Isoloma Tydaea* and *Tydaea picta*.

I. Erianthum is called *Gesneria eriantha*, *Brachyloma erianthemum*, and *Kobleria eriantha*.

I. ocellatum is also called *Achimenes ocellata*.

I. hirsutum has purple flowers.

I. hondense, flowers are yellow with red hairs.

I. Bogotense flowers are red, spotted with yellow.

Naegelias have gorgeously lovely leaves, are grown from either seeds or tubers, and they require the same culture as Gloxinias. The plants grow in pyramid shape, with thick, velvety leaves and hairy stems.

N. golden king has lovely marbled leaves and deep yellow flowers.

N. monarch has bronze leaves and large red flowers.

N. orange delight has orange red tints in the leaves, and flowers yellow on the outside and slightly speckled inside.

N. orange king is a very fine uniform orange color.

N. rose queen has flowers carmine pink with a creamy interior speckled pink.

N. zebrina discolor is rather sensational in appearance. The leaves are dark crimson, while the bell-shaped flowers are flaming red on the outside, and deep golden yellow on the inside spotted with mahogany brown.



The Writer's Begonias

FOR GROWING AND DISPLAYING BEGONIAS INDOORS

by Paula Hoisington, Muskogee, Oklahoma

A very attractive, inexpensive and clever idea for a plant display table and magazine and book shelf may be made very easily.

Any tin shop will make the necessary two trays measuring 8 feet long, 12 inches wide and 1 inch deep.

After placing eight stacks, of three bricks each, in two rows, place a board (pine serves very well) 12 inches wide and 8 feet long on each row (2 boards), allowing the boards to have a six inch over-hang at each end. Then again place eight stacks of bricks on these boards (3 high) and again place 2 boards, same size, on these bricks. This forms the top of the plant display table, ready for the galvanized trays and will give you a shelf for magazines and books, as may be seen in the illustration.

One may obtain any color bricks that blend with the rest of the room and the boards may be stained or painted accordingly, for a very beautiful, modern effect, near a large window.

As can be seen, begonias grow very well in Oklahoma, indoors, with pea gravel $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep, in these trays. Water is replaced whenever evaporation takes place. This helps keep the humidity high, which is so beneficial to begonias and other shade plants.

GLENDALE BRANCH: Held their October meeting in the regular meeting place, with a very large crowd in attendance. Mr. Charles A. Richardson, program chairman, introduced Mr. Gordon Baker Lloyd as speaker, his subject "My Begonias and I". As always, he gave a very interesting talk including the romance of the Begonia. The stage setting was very attractive with a miniature glasshouse and lathhouse filled with beautiful begonias. A social hour and plant sale concluded a very worthwhile evening.

Mrs. Isabel J. Mullen, *Publicity*



Photo by Bill Bayer

Adiantum Gracilum*

ADIANTUM OR MAIDENHAIR FERN

by Urie G. Caress, Los Angeles, Calif.

One of the most popular plants of the fern family is the Adiantum or Maidenhair fern, of which nearly two hundred varieties are found in all parts of the world.

This fern is becoming more and more popular as a lath or glasshouse addition to shade loving plants and in planting with begonias and fuchsias, it has almost become a background necessity.

The native Maidenhair of California is found in hollows and shallow caverns in our National forests. These plants are becoming largely domesticated and are most attractive grown in the ground, in pots or hanging baskets.

The fronds are branching with delicate wire-like stems of a purple-brown color, supporting small, green leaves notched on their upper edges. The more mature fronds have tiny dots of sporangia on the edges of the undersides of the leaves, which, when ripe is carried by the wind into new locations, but only a small percentage of the spores become fertile to produce new plants.

In cultivation, the ferns should be planted in draft-free, shaded places, in soil consisting of peatmoss, leafmold and sand, keeping the roots moist at all times. The plant itself is rather unhappy with too much water on its foliage. Grown under favorable conditions, the Adiantum is a charming addition to any plant collection.

* Also called Misty Fern. Plant grown by Mrs. Grace Bayer.

Square dance lessons and a series of square dances will begin Dec. 9th at 8 p.m., sponsored by the Inglewood Branch at their regular meeting place. You are all invited.

GREETINGS

For the children, this time means gifts and candy, for the women it means shopping and hurrying, but for all it is the time for joy, cheer and forgiving. This last brings a large amount of satisfaction and happiness, but for the preferred few who grow tuberous begonias from seed, there is an additional pleasant outlook, for this is the time to start work on a new year of gorgeous bloom.

For each of you, my sincere hope, and also the hope of the entire Board, is that you can enjoy to the greatest possible degree all of the pleasures and happiness that Yule and the New Year Seasons bring.

W. E. (Bill) Walton, *President*

SHELTERED GARDEN BOOK REVIEWS

CARE AND CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS. FOURTH EDITION 60c, By Loyd Putnam Lindsey

This tiny booklet of 27 pages could well be called a laboratory manual for the African Violet enthusiast. No time or space is wasted on unnecessary descriptions. Concise, yet complete directions are given for all phases of care from propagation by seeds and leaf cuttings through watering, fertilizing, repotting, control of pests to cross-pollination, with plenty of Do's and Don'ts under each heading.

THE CAMELLIA. ITS CULTURE AND NOMENCLATURE. Published by the Southern California Camellia Society. 1949 Edition. \$1.25.

This booklet will be welcomed by all camellia growers, both amateur and professional, who are desirous of seeing further clarification in the confused and muddled nomenclature of this beautiful plant. Many hundreds of names are listed with color, size and form of bloom, type of growth, blooming period, with what are considered the best known synonyms. A tremendous amount of time and effort have gone into the compiling of this list, and, while it is admittedly incomplete, it is a great step forward and the thanks of all who are interested in camellias are due the members of the committee who have made it possible. In addition to the nomenclature list a great deal of excellent information, with sketches, on the care and propagation of camellias is included.—Frank H. Overton.

COVER PICTURE

The Begonia tuberhybrid multiflora La Fayette is of importance for its very beautiful bronze foliage. This begonia is used as a parent, when foliage of this type is desired.



Courtesy Bessie R. Buxton
Begonia Ross Swisher

MEETINGS OF THE NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

During the summer of 1949, five meetings have been held, in addition to the Annual Meeting, all except one in Massachusetts where three quarters of our members live. We now have a total of 95 members, a small gain over last year. The first meeting was held in May at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. I. Merry, Needham, Mass. Mr. E. K. Logee spoke on Unusual House Plants and Mr. W. E. Starr on Plant Propagation. The June meeting was at Danielson, Conn. at the Logee Greenhouses. Mr. Starr spoke briefly on nematodes, Mrs. Buxton on *B. dichroa* and *B. cathayana* and their hybrids, and Mr. Logee on the modern work with *B. semperflorens*. Mrs. Robert Michaelson of Denville, N. J. Eastern Public Relations Director was a guest. The third meeting was with the Greenlaws in Concord, Mass. Mrs. Buxton spoke on New Begonias. Two guests from Freehold, N. J. were present. The fourth meeting was held at the Carter Greenhouses in Tewksbury, Mass. Mr. Carter spoke on House Plants from the commercial angle. The September meeting was in Peabody with the secretary. Mr. Logee spoke on Miniature Begonias, Mr. Starr on the Andean tuberous, and slides of California begonias were shown.

The Annual Meeting was held at Horticultural Hall, Boston, in October, and the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Dracut, Mass. Vice-president, Mrs. A. H. Farnham, North Andover, Mass. Secre-

tary, Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Peabody, Mass. Treasurer, Mr. W. C. Atherton, Wakefield, Mass.

One new begonia introduced in 1949 was reported *B. Ballet* a sport of *B. Bo-Peep*, by Mr. E. K. Logee, Danielson, Conn. The N. E. Branch made an excellent exhibit of begonias at the Harvest Show in Boston in Oct. receiving first prize. Mrs. H. H. Buxton received second prize in this class for an exhibit of begonias, and Mr. E. K. Logee received a prize for his exhibit of house plants, which included many begonias.

In Mrs. Buxton's exhibit was shown, for the first time, a group of five Swisher hybrids. These plants are seedlings of *B. aconitifolia*, var. *Hildegarde Schneider*, and were raised in 1943 by Mrs. Ross Swisher of Sycamore, Penn. With one exception, they have been named for members of her family. *B. Ross Swisher* has deeply cut leaves of shining dark green, silver spotted, and rose-pink flowers. *B. Love Swisher* is a medium grower with light green, silver spotted leaves and white flowers. *B. Elvira Swisher* has broader leaves, dark green above, blood red beneath. The spots are few and faint. The flowers hang in large clusters, cream-white pink flushed. The plant has a lower, more spreading growth than the others. *B. Querci* is a very tall grower, with satiny dark green leaves which have a ruffled red edge, and very few spots. The flowers are all males, white with a hairline edge of pink, on red pedicels. *B. Dora Swisher* has light green leaves, not so deeply cut as the others, and with few spots. The flowers are white. It is a tall grower.

Bessie R. Buxton, *Secretary*

MEMBERSHIP

Our new Membership Secretary has now had time to thoroughly review our files and begin to get them in order. As your President, I must say, I am very pleased with the conscientious and diligent effort he is putting forth. We also want you to know that if you are not getting your magazine or know of anyone else who is not getting theirs, please send that information to the Membership Secretary and although there may be some rechecking necessary, the trouble will be cleared up.

We request your cooperation in helping us find every paid up member who is not getting proper mail service—W. E. Walton.

CORRECTION

The *Eichornia crassipes* or water hyacinth, is not in the *Bromeliaceae*, as reported in the November *BEGONIAN*, but in the *Pontederiaciaceae*.

Mrs. Elizabeth Schlenker was not responsible for the fine article about the Petaluma Flower Show in the same issue.



Armchair Explorers

December Newsletter

Begonia plants can be trimmed back and cuttings made but you will need bottom heat to get them to start. I found a good many *semperflorens* begonias among my little seedlings this past year and I was disappointed to find them because I felt the seed should have been as marked. How these seeds get in with the others, is beyond my power to figure out, but there they are. Right now I am enjoying 'unwanted plants', for they are in bloom and are filling up some vacant spaces around my yard and are very attractive. Why not grow some for those places in your yard, where the more tender plants will not grow? I have seed at 15c per packet which I guarantee will grow 100 percent.

Some folks are inquiring about multiflora begonia tubers and asking if I will have them again. The answer is—yes and no. I will not undertake the task of mailing out small orders of bulbs again, but if you send me a stamped postcard I will give you information on the subject.

Begonia seeds are now coming in from our collectors and are being packaged for the January distribution. Do not fail to mail in your \$2 fee for the advanced seed collection or \$1 for the beginner's collection *this* month. Folks are continually getting disappointed because they find some choice types of seed gone when they get around to order. I expect to have some extra choice begonia seeds for you this season mostly from India, Mexico, Guatemala and the Philippines.

One of our Armchair Explorers, Mrs. Amelia Thompson of San Francisco, is leaving for Europe and will attempt to locate sources of rare seed for us. She expects to return in time for our next convention.

If you are one of those to whom I still owe a letter, please continue to have patience with me for I hope to get to your reply soon. Again I feel the need of either a housekeeper or a secretary but having neither you will have to understand that I am doing my best. If I did not enjoy this contact with you, I would not attempt to carry one with all this extra work.

This month finds me trying to get all my

little seedling philodendrons and anthuriums and ferns transplanted. I found the seed came up very, very well. Other little seedlings I have that are interesting are those *Aeschynanthus ramosissima* (Gesneriads) with the bright green fleshy leaves. I now have seeds of hybrid streptocarpus at 25c for those of you who have been wanting them, plant now and have early flowers. Several have asked if I would mix the South Africa seeds for those who want only a seed or two of a kind—yes, you may have a mixed package for 25c or a large mixed package for 50c.

I wish all of you a Merry Christmas.

Cheerio, your skipper, Florence Carrell.

LIBRARY NOTES

Your librarian is happy to report that a new library list is now ready for distribution and may be obtained by writing direct to the American Begonia Society, 2840 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, California, enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request. All the new books and pamphlets which have been added to the library to date have been included in this list and it should prove a source of reference material for the use of all members of the A. B. S.

The following books have been donated to the library during the past month and many are already in circulation:

BEAUTIFUL LEAVED PLANTS—E. J. Lowe, donated by the Glendale Branch.

A HANDBOOK FOR AFRICAN VIOLET GROWERS—Mary Margaret Odum, donated by Mrs. E. L. Korts, our new Director.

CARE & CULTURE OF AFRICAN VIOLETS—Lloyd Putnam Lindsay, donated and autographed by the author.

Mr. Lindsay generously autographed the copies obtained by your librarian and any one purchasing this new fourth edition (\$0.60) thru the library, will be fortunate.

Copies of the new edition of *THE CAMELLIA—ITS CULTURE AND NOMENCLATURE*, (\$1.25), recently issued by the Southern California Camellia Society, may also be obtained thru your library. This new edition is a beautiful pamphlet and should be welcomed by all who grow this lovely flower. (See book reviews in this issue).

THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA, by Allan G. Langdon is available at \$2.00 a volume. See the October *BEGONIAN* for more information on this new book.

I would like to suggest that you rush your Christmas gift orders, for the new books, in order that they may be shipped ahead of the holiday mail rush so no one will be disappointed.

Holiday Greetings to you all.

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.

GLENDALE BRANCH: Will honor Charter Members and Past Presidents at their December meeting, Tuesday the 27th, this being the Ninth Anniversary of the founding of the Branch. Wm. E. (Bill) Woodroof will speak on Camellias. Come to the Birthday Party.

ROUND ROBIN NEWS-LETTER

Most of our members belonging to the Begonia Robins for Beginners have graduated and are now in the Advanced Groups. This speaks well for the progress that we have made, for when the A. B. S. Round Robins started flying about five years ago, most of the groups were for the beginner.

As we have only a few groups for the beginner, we are extending a special invitation to all new A.B.S. members to join our ranks so that we may start new Clubs for the Beginner. When writing me, asking for membership in a begonia Robin, please state whether you are a beginner so that I may place you in the proper group—rather than the Advanced Group where you might feel lost. These Robins for the Beginner are guided by Advanced Directors that are willing to help you with your begonia problems. If the need arises they will gladly advise you through personal correspondence.

We have a new General Begonia Robin for Advanced members who have the newest and rarest begonias, in their collections and there is still room for a few more members.

The Swap Robin has been very active this year. Reports of many satisfactory exchanges have reached me. Exchanges have been made not only of begonias but of perennials, shrubs and bulbs.

Our Gloxinia Robin No. 1 is flying complete with twelve members. We are now ready to start Gloxinia No. 2. Gloxinia fans who would like to join in time for the first flight please send me your requests promptly.

Our Fuchsia Robin with 12 members is in need of director. Who would like to direct this Group?

The Impatients Robin is in need for a Director and has room for several new members.

Would you like to join the Lily or the Amaryllis Robin? These Robins would welcome a few more members.

The Director of the Orchid Robin wishes there were more members in her group and hopes that Orchid fans living outside of California would join her Orchid Robin.

And once again—it is time to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Frances Downing.

DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH: Held their November meeting at the home of the president, Mrs. Edwin Crosby, where dessert was served at seven thirty o'clock. The centerpiece was a Swedish glass bowl of pink blossoming begonias of five different varieties. (This is in Flint, Michigan in November).

The branch voted to change the time and hour of future meetings. Members and visitors, please note the change in the Branch Roster in the *BEGONIAN*. Election of officers will be held at the February 6th meeting.

Dorothy Pierson Barton, *Director*.

EAST BAY BRANCH: Was fortunate in having as speaker for the October meeting, Mr. Carl F. Meyer of the San Francisco Branch. His Subject was "How to Grow Prize Winning Begonias". Altho the Meyers have been growing Begonias only three years, Mrs. Meyer won the sweepstakes, in the amateur group, in Begonias at the Annual San Francisco Flower Show in August.

Slides were shown of the Meyers' lovely garden and specimen plants, and of other green and lathhouses of San Francisco Begonia members, displaying a wealth of tuberous bloom and fine fibrous and rex plants.

Many nice plants were given as door prizes, and the evening concluded with a social hour over coffee and doughnuts.

Mrs. H. E. Thorpe, *Secretary*.

New Crop
Choicest Rex Hybrid Begonia Seed
\$1.00 per packet
RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE
 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOU AND YOUR XMAS GIFTS

50 Metallic Books of

Lucky-Lite

MATCHES

ASSORTED COLORS

Your name or initials stamped in gold

\$1.50

Prepaid

BOXED STATIONERY

fine quality bond paper in the plain white box

50 sheets 6" x 9"

50 matching envelopes

\$1.00

prepaid

Your name and return address printed in black or blue ink—your choice.

DISHIAN'S

2431 Dallas St.

James Dishian
 Los Angeles 31, Calif.

YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED

A letter from H. K. P., San Jose . . . have had good results propagating multiflora begonias by inserting the long stems in rooting medium, having heat under the flat, and find they sprout in about two weeks. They make small bulbs the first year if I follow this procedure early in the season. Although these stems root well later in the season, only a small percentage form bulbs when I start them late. The bulbs may be purchased from Antonelli's.

Two publications that are very worth while, for five cents each. Send to; University of California College of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Station, Berkeley 4, Calif. and ask for bulletin number 713, by A. Earl Pritchard, *CALIFORNIA GREENHOUSE PESTS AND THEIR CONTROL*. The other pamphlet is number 1872, *House Plants*, put out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A drawing and description of a new begonia introduction, by Rudolf Ziesenhenné. This is the first of a series of articles, by the eminent Begonia authority. As these should follow in the same volume, rather than start at the end of the volume, the first article will appear in the January issue. Watch for it, it is invaluable to the Begonia enthusiast.

A wonderful sensation when she saw Susie Zug's private Begonia garden. This is separate from her commercial grounds and it is breath-takingly beautiful, due to her beautiful rex begonias interplanted with fibrous and rhizomatous specimens. The sheltered garden is the full length of her house and she is able to view this garden from every room on that side of the house. It is truly an inspiration, eating ones' meals while able to view such a beautiful scene. Susie extends a warm welcome to you all, stop in to see her, in San Dimas.

So many encouraging letters this past year, It has been impossible to answer each individually. She has appreciated each one. A big 'thank you' to all the generous contributors of articles, these are especially appreciated and each of you may feel you have done a great service to our many members. We need you all. A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and may the light of Begonias grow ever brighter.

USE HALF GEORGIA PEAT
... For starting and growing begonias and fuchsias. Growers are getting better results from its higher content of humus, acid food and nitrogen.

BELFLOWER BRANCH: Had two guest speakers at their November meeting. Mr. Roy K. Dere spoke on Sponge-Rok and Mrs. F. L. Macy demonstrated Christmas Decorations. Refreshments and a lively plant sale closed an interesting meeting. The Christmas Party to be held on our regular meeting night, will be a pot-luck and all members and visitors are urged to attend, bringing their necessary 'pot'.

New officers elected for the coming year are Mr. Leo Milan, president, Mrs. Pauline Knapp, vice pres., Mrs. Mildred Marshall, secy., Mrs. Leah Fournier, treasurer, Mr. Lewis Reese, national representative.

Mrs. M. Hanson, *Publicity*

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH: Are proud to report their Shade Garden exhibit at the County Fair won First Prize of one hundred and fifty dollars. The plot was triangular shaped. Across the deep corner we had a large shadow box effect, with a solid fence made in stair step fashion, on both sides. This was made of old weathered, gray moss spotted lumber. In the shadow box was a large, bright red hanging begonia. Lovely rex begonias and ivy was placed on each step. Planted in front of the steps were pteris ferns, fibrous and rhizomatous begonias and other shade plants. Lobelia and semperflorens begonias bordered the lawn in front of this arrangement, highlighting the tuberous begonias interplanted in each side strip. Weathered grape stakes formed a low fence across the front.

A 'Garden Ramble' has proved very popular, starting in Fortuna we visited the Robert Damon, Guy Wooden, R. J. Minnie, L. T. Erwin and Sidney Armer homes, where we viewed shade gardens, fall flowers and many begonias. Mr. Armer exhibited many of his lovely flower paintings, which was a special treat. Going on to Ferndale the group visited Mrs. Mildred Grinsell and enjoyed their picnic lunch among the magnificent display of fall flowers. Then to Mrs. L. E. Goff's home where an outstanding display of begonias and fuchsias were admired. The 'Garden Ramble' then journeyed to Eureka to the home of Henry Papke where they had a very wide variety of begonias to enjoy viewing, added to fuchsias, ferns and miniature arrangements, tuberous blooms floated in the pools and the sunporch held many African violets in pastel shades. The last stop was at the home of Mrs. Effie Randall, where her begonias are growing out of doors, under lath and make a beautiful sight to behold. This 'Ramble' promises to be an annual affair.

Mrs. Violet Wooden, *Historian*

Look over the ads in this issue and past issues. There are many good ideas for Christmas gifts for your gardener friend. Buy from our advertisers and mention the *BEGONIAN* when you do.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH: Will hold their annual Christmas Bazaar on Dec. 8th and you are all invited! There will be the famous cake contest and the regular bazaar tables with all kinds of items for gifts. President Gordon Baker Lloyd will give Timely Tips for the month and Mrs. Ida Newcomer will demonstrate Christmas decorations. Refreshments and fun are in store for everyone.

The annual Dinner will be in January instead of February, this year, so save January 12th, 1950 and treat yourself to a super Hollywood Branch Dinner.

Mary Hazel Drummond, *Publicity*

RIVERSIDE BRANCH: Has had a very active program the past few months. An outstanding meeting in September was the 8th Anniversary Meeting. The meeting and dinner was held at the home of A. J. Bazil, in their shade garden. The past presidents were honored and Mrs. T. E. Topham, the first president, gave a resume of the history of the branch. National president, Bill Walton was in attendance and gave a brief talk on the pleasure he has derived from growing Begonias. The October meeting was held at the Curtis Smith home and the annual flower arrangement showing was held. The competition was keen and the results were amazing. The men's exhibits created a great deal of interest and their originality far surpassed the ladies' arrangements. Our president, Bill Allen is doing a fine job.

Ruth L. Gall, *Publicity*.

Members are proud of their affiliation with the American Begonia Society. Display a membership sign among your shade plants. Send twenty five cents to the Editor, for two. Branches may write, for quantity prices.



For
BEGONIAS
use
ORCHID SPRAY

It's effective and **SAFE**

DESTRUXOL CORP. LTD.

Pasadena 1, California

Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 24th, 1949

CONDENSED MINUTES meeting National Board A. B. S. held in the City Hall Los Angeles, Calif., Oct. 24th, 1949, President Walton presiding.

Salute to the Flag; statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society.

Reading of Minutes of meeting of Sept. 26th dispensed with.

President Walton stated he would hereafter call the meeting to order at 7:30 and urged members to try to be on time; this would allow for an earlier closing time and enable members coming from a distance, an earlier return home.

Reports from Business Manager, Treasurer, and Membership Chairman read and approved as read; reports laid on the table for perusal by the members should they wish to look them over.

President discussed the meeting of the United Horticultural Single Plant Society to be held in New York Oct 30th and 31st and stated that the Board had asked our member Mrs. Buxton to give us a report, as she would be in attendance, and after receipt of her report it would be brought before the meeting for discussion and such action as seemed feasible.

President stated an audit had been made of the Treasurer's books for the year ending Sept. 1st, 1949 and the Auditors reported "We have examined the books and accounts of the Treasurer, Mr. Bozon and have found them correct and in order." Copy of their report will be placed in the files of the Secretary.

Treasurer read copy of his budget for the time Sept. 1949 to Sept. 1950. President explained the budget as set forth and further stated that there would have to be some funds allotted to the Nomenclature Department; the library is self-supporting as is also the Seed Fund. At the conclusion of the discussion and explanation motion by Mrs. Korts, seconded by Mrs. Nolan "That the budget be adopted as presented." **SO ORDERED.**

Public Relations Director reported for her department;

That the Redondo Beach Area Br. be given their Charter.

Am working on the "Red Book" and hope to have it ready to present to the Board very soon. Am working on a new Branch.

Frank Clark for the Slide Library: I have gone over the slides with our President and have one group now ready for circulation; Santa Monica and Parent Branch have already used them; hope to have the rest of the slides classified in the next week and ready for circulation.

Mrs. Korts reported for the Begonia Pin; "I am still selling a few but still have quite a number on hand. Please contact me should anyone desire these pins.

BRANCHES represented and reporting at the Board meeting—Long Beach Parent Chapter, Southgate, Hollywood, Pasadena, Inglewood, Riverside, San Gabriel Valley, Glendale.

Mrs. Hixon, as Historian, reported she was working on the 1949 History of our Society and had it completed (but not typed) up to August.

Librarian Mrs. Nolan reported for her department and listed some very nice additions to the library; also 3 interesting donations of books sure to be in demand—two on African Violets and one "Beautiful Leaved Plants". The latter book was donated by the Glendale Branch to the Library.

Mrs. Hunter of Rosecroft Gardens speaker at San Gabriel Valley Branch October 26th. Gave a most enjoyable talk and proved herself a very versatile speaker. Capacity house for the program and ham dinner.

Mr. Terrill for Riverside; "At our Sept. meeting we had a talk on Flower Arrangements and then at the October meeting each member was to bring a flower arrangement; over 50 percent of the arrangements were good enough to enter in a regular Flower Show.

President, in answer to inquiry, stated Mrs. Behrends, Editor, had agreed to continue as Editor until such time as we can secure a replacement.

See your *Begonian* for Branch reports, Branches urged to report to the *Begonian* each month the special interest happenings.

Meeting adjourned to meet again Nov. 28th, same place; time 7:30 p.m. **SHARP.**

Gonda Hartwell, Secretary.

Give the *BEGONIAN* this Christmas.

Branch Meeting Dates and Places

BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH

Regular Meetings 1st Mondays in February, May, August and November. Two annual exhibits, May and September, 1:30 p.m., Dessert Mrs. George W. W. Barton, Director 929 East 7th St., Flint 3, Michigan.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Dec. 5, 6:00 p.m., Pot-Luck I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts. Mrs. Mildred Marshall, Secretary 8733 East Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. Willard School, Ward Street Mrs. H. E. Thorpe, Sec. 1692 San Lorenzo Ave., Berkeley 7, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Dec. 15, 8:00 p.m. Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 160 Mrs. Mary-Bradley, Cor. Sec. 701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Dec. 2, 8:00 p.m. Woman's Club House, 1008 Azusa Ave., Azusa Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary 228 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8:00 p.m. 206 West Cypress Mrs. F. M. Brown, Sec. 3633 Revere, Los Angeles 26, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m. Community House, LaJolla Tillie Center, Corres. Secy. 7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 27, 10:30 a.m. Home of Members Box Lunch 12:30, Program following Mrs. Frank H. Mather, Cor. Sec. 515 Windover Rd., Hatboro, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m., Bazaar Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Mrs. Alberta King, Sec. 939 So. 3rd Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Dec. 19 Roosevelt High School Cafe 1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif. Mrs. Mildred Ogden, Secy. 114 East Olive St., Compton 3, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif. Miss Margaret Smith P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 8, 8:00 p.m. 325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Leo McBride, Secretary 3665 Mountain View Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m. La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif. Mrs. Ida M. Barker, Secy. 7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif. Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treas. 1506 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m. Simpson Memorial Garden Center Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec. 2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2 p.m. Member's Residence Mrs. Bruce Dill, Sec. 3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec. 114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Houghton Park Club House Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach F. John Nackbor, Secy. 6217 Butler Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange Sec.-Treas., Ann Peterson, 414 E. Palmra, Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m. 208 Social Hall, Pasadena City College, Colorado Blvd. Mrs. Fred E. Distel 1320 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. Danish Hall, 19 Main St. Mrs. Elizabeth Schlenker, Sec. 18 10th Street, Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Mrs. Lillian Watts, Sec. 405 Cotswald Lane, Wynnwood, Pa.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, Dec. 23, 8:00 p.m. Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue Redondo Beach, Calif. Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Sec. 522 So. Guadalupe Ave. Redondo Beach, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Dec. 14, 8 p.m. Member's Residence Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Sec. 7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m. 3030 Homer Street, San Diego 6, Calif. Mrs. R. K. Whitney, Secretary 4661 Brighton Avenue, San Diego 7, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Dec. 20, 8 p.m. Garden Center, McKinley Park Miss Mona Carnahan, Sec. 4416 East E St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Thursday, Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m. Salem Y.M.C.A. Miss Ellen Quail, Sec. 202 Rural Ave., Salem, Oregon

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Dec. 26 Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave. Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec. 1225 Madison Ave., San Diego, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. Encino Park, 17301 Ventura Blvd., Encino, Calif. Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary 20047 Armita, Canoga Park, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m. American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St. Sec., Mrs. Walter L. Morrison 2075 Tenth Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Dec. 28, p.m. Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave. Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, Sec. 911 No. 2nd Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St. Santa Barbara, California Roy G. Pierce, Secy. 914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

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

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. Bowling Club House at Douglas Park Chelsea and Wilshire, Santa Monica, Calif. Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary 933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

See next page

SANTA PAULA BRANCH
 4th Thursday, Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m.
 Steckel Park
 Mrs. Shirley Friedrich, P. O. Box 888
 Santa Paula, California

SEATTLE BRANCH
 3rd Tuesday, Dec. 20
 Member's Homes
 Mrs. W. A. Walker, Secy.
 4727-34 N. E., Seattle, Washington

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH
 1st Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
 Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
 Mrs. Clyde Snodgrass
 Rt. 2, Box 54, Ventura, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH
 3rd Thursday, Dec. 15, 8 p.m.
 Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
 Mrs. R. Clark, Cor. Secy.
 1687 Grand Ave., Piedmont, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH
 4th Tuesday, Dec. 27, 8 p.m.
 Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park
 Miss Ellen P. Dionne, Secy-Treas.
 3189½ Illinois Ave., Southgate, Calif.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.
 4th Wednesday, Jan. 25, 8 p.m.
 Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.
 Cleveland, Ohio
 Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.
 Lakewood, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH
 4th Tuesday, Dec. 27, 7:30 p.m.
 Union High School, Room 19
 Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
 Mrs. Dorothy Hovanec, Secy.
 630 Palm Avenue, Whittier, Calif.

OL. 0154 HOURS 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

IVANHOE NURSERY & FLORIST

2835 GLENDALE BLVD.
 LOS ANGELES 26, CALIF.
FLOWERS BY ANN

F. MANGOLD HORTICULTURAL ADVISOR

GEORGIA PEAT

... Costs you less. Actual surveys prove that you get more humus, acid food, nitrogen and moisture retention for less cost in GEORGIA PEAT. You also get better plant growth. Try it!

Palos Verdes

BEGONIA FARM

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-Way, WALTERIA, Calif.

All types of
BEGONIAS and SHADE PLANTS

Hardy Orchids — Fuchsias
 Specialty: **HYBRID NERINES**

1½ Miles East of Redondo Beach, Hi-way 101

Antonelli Brothers

Begonia Gardens

WRITE FOR CATALOGUE

Capitola Road

Santa Cruz, California

Give the *BEGONIAN* this Christmas.

SWEET PEA SPECIAL

1 ounce Campbell's Sweet Pea Seed
 5 lbs. Sweet Pea Food, 1 pkg. Nitrogen
ALL FOR 95 CENTS

• **FREE GARDEN CATALOGUE** •
CAMPBELL SEED STORE

137 W. Colorado Blvd, Dept. B
 Pasadena 1, California

BEGONIAS — ORCHIDS

EXOTIC PLANTS FOR HOUSE AND PATIO

Wiltse Begonia & Shade Gardens

Earl and Emma Wiltse, Proprietors
 204 S. Catalina St. Redondo Beach, Calif.
 Phone FR 2-5657

FUCHSIAS

Introductions for 1949

"PINK QUARTET"

"PRIDE OF DOWNEY"

"CALIFORNIA CENTENNIAL"
 and all other varieties

3" Pots.....35c each

3 for \$1 in 3" pots

FUCHSIA-LA NURSERY

3569 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.
 Phone 432-21 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

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

SPECIAL LAWN FORMULA HI-GREEN 15-8-4

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.

POSTMASTER
Return Postage Guaranteed
Please notify Elmer Lorenz
of all charges.
P. O. Box 2544
Los Angeles 54, Calif.

ORCHIDS

Cattleya Hybrids Cymbidiums
Anthuriums

We have an outstanding collection of high quality from small seedlings to flowering plants in the above classifications.

Price Lists on Application

FRED A. STEWART

114 S. Burton Ave. San Gabriel, California
Phone ATLantic 4-8522

THE CAMELLIA - Its culture and Nomenclature. 1949 Revision. Much enlarged and illustrated. Purchase at your Book or Seed Store, Nursery, or direct \$1.25. Or this book with membership, including subscription to the Society's Magazine, published eight times a year, \$4.00. Also Camellia Seed, \$2.50 per hundred to members, \$5.00 to others.
SO. CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
40 F N. San Rafael Ave. Pasadena 2, Calif.

Buy from our advertisers.

S P O O N I T

A PENNY POST CARD

entitles you to membership in the SPOONIT CLUB. Just ask for FREE SAMPLE CAN of this "different" fertilizer.

P L A N T S M I T H

Box 818

Palo Alto, Calif.

NATURAL

ORGANICS



in
LIQUID FORM

GARDEN EXCHANGE MAGAZINE
That "biggest little" publication for gardeners that features EXCHANGES of garden ideas, tips, hints and articles—as well as its main feature, EXCHANGE of seeds, plants and bulbs! **YOU'LL LIKE THIS!**
Sample Copy 10c; Year \$1.00
Published Monthly
E. JOHNSON
683 NEVADA ST. RENO, NEVADA

YOUR GARDEN NEEDS NITROHUMUS

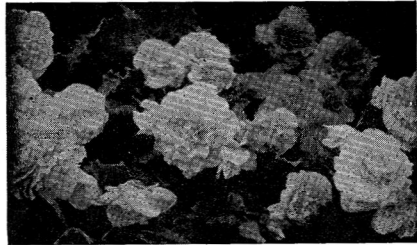
It needs the soil building qualities, the mild but long lasting diet contained in every bag of Nitrohumus. Thousands of professional and hobby gardeners are getting more colorful flowers, sturdier stem growth and healthier roots with this organic plant food.

Write to Dept. B for Descriptive Folder

KELLOGG SUPPLY CO.

204 West Sepulveda, Wilmington, Calif.
Phones TE. 4-6479 NE. 6-1376

KELLOGG'S
NITROHUMUS
FERTILIZERS



THE LARGEST ASSORTMENT
AND FINEST NEW DEVELOPMENTS

of the
PACIFIC STRAIN

of
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Write for Catalog

Vetterle and Reinelt

Capitola, California