

# The BEGONIAN

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**BEGONIA**

**NO. 38**

**India**

**Species**

**Photo by**

**Bill Bayer**



**JUNE**

**1949**



**FIFTEEN**

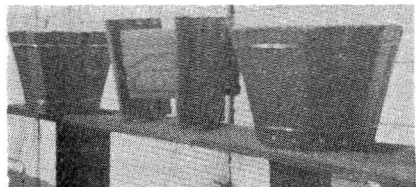
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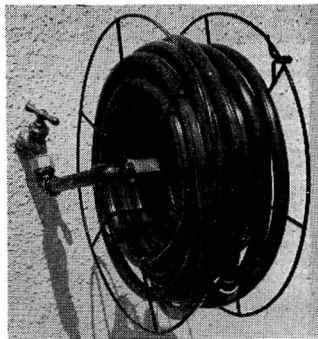
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The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 27, 1949. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

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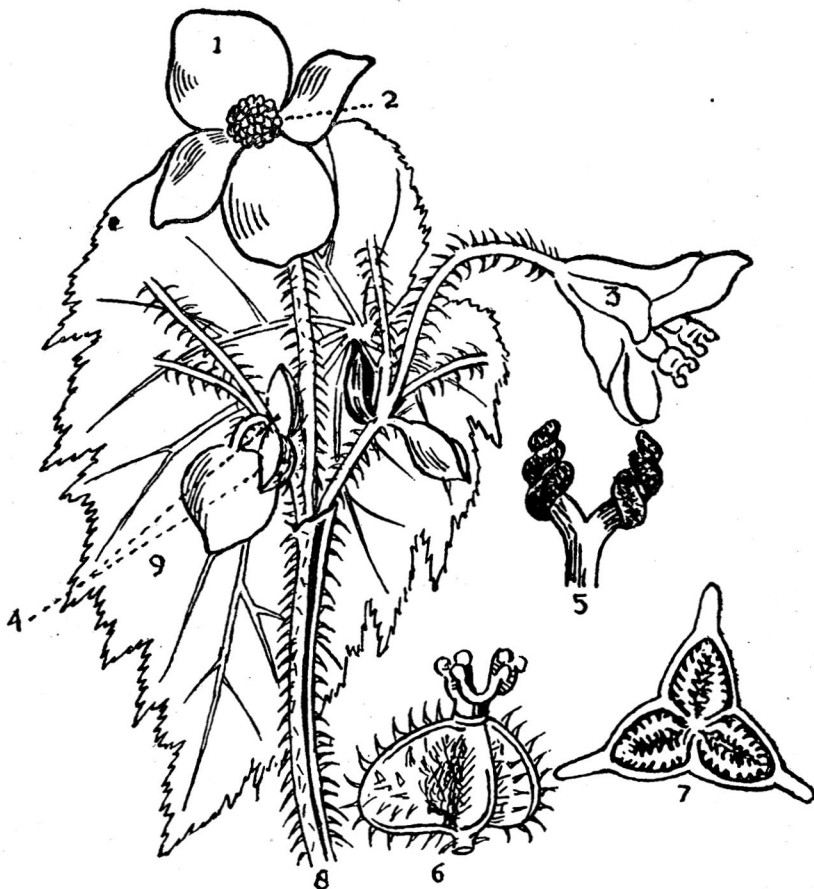
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*Begonia Cathcartii*

1 stamenbearing flower. 2 stamens. 3 pistil-bearing flowers. 4 stipules. 5 twisted stigmas (stigmas much enlarged) 6 ovary showing stigmas. 7 horizontal section of the fruit which resembles a gothic church window. 8 peduncles. 9 leaf, notice how the two portions of the leaf differ in size.

## Himalayan Begonias

by B. N. Ghose, Townend, Darjeeling, India

A charming little family of pretty flowers is formed by the Begonias. It is true that the flowers of the wild ones can hardly be compared with the modern varieties we find in cultivation in conservatories and in our gardens. They are the handsomest of all the many summer flowering plants, possess varied colors and distinct forms. One doubts that the humble begonias we so often gather have become the gorgeous flowers of the florists. Yet they have, by cultivation and careful hybridization. Those wild begonias have intermarried with species found in various parts of the world.

The wild begonias of our glens and dales are either herbs or undershrubs with tuberous or rhizomatous roots, their stems are cylindrical

and jointed, generally swollen at the nodes and they possess watery acidulous juice. They grow in the ground but are also found on rocks or clefts of trees where a little earth has accumulated. The Nepalese call these plants *Manger Kanchey* and sometimes eat the stems. In the cool valleys of Chittagong the natives use the leaves as pot herbs, the taste is pleasantly acid and not unlike sorrel.

In most cases these plants have one half of the leaf smaller than the other, the base forming two rounded lobes. All the parts of the plants are particularly tender and brittle. The flowers grow in axillary peduncles branching into a cyme, each of the ramification of the cyme

*Turn to next page*

has a pair of stipules at the base. The flowers stand upon slender stalks. There are two kinds of flowers one having stamens only and the other bearing pistil only.

The stamen-bearing flowers consist of two large obtuse sepals and 2-5 petals. Both the sepals and petals are similarly colored, and one cannot distinguish the one from the other. In their center there is a round ball of anthers, the filaments of which are united into a common stalk. The anthers are usually club shaped, fleshly yellow bodies, having a curved pollen cell on each side. They discharge pollen grains.

The pistil-bearing flowers have a calyx and corolla like the other flower. Beneath the calyx of this flower is a fleshy thick part, usually having three unequal wings, divided into 2-4 cells containing minute ovules. The ovary is terminated by 2-5 stigmas each of which has two very much twisted hairy lobes.

When ripe the fruit is a berry or a thin brown case having three wings of which one is very much larger than the other two. It contains a multitude of small seeds of an oblong form usually covered with a net work, the meshes of which are disposed with wonderful regularity. If a slice were cut off a little below the calyx it would have quite the appearance of a gothic church window.

Begonias thrive in moist, shady places in the subtropical zones of the world—India, Africa and South America. Our Sikkim Begonias also grow in similar climatic conditions. We find that the subtropical region in Sikkim penetrates far into the interior along the banks of the great rivers. Here the summers are warmer and the winters cooler, when compared with regions in similar latitudes. Owing to the humid climate and the absence of excessive cold at any season of the year, and from the dripping nature of the climate of the misty region which extends above 4000 feet from sea level, begonias are generally found on rocks, stems of trees or growing on the ground. They are all most graceful objects and in the most moist uncultivated valleys, where undisturbed they attain their full luxuriance in small groups. Below 4500 feet elevation several handsome ornamental species associated with ferns and other herbaceous vegetation are found. Most begonias flower in the summer and have the ordinary habit of shedding their stock or leaves towards the end of autumn and remaining bare till spring.

For ready identification begonias may be divided into five groups.

The first group comprises two species that have their fruits more or less fleshy and round and without the papery wings that are so characteristic of this genus. To this group belongs *Begonia Roxburghii*. It has succulent,

glabrous stems two feet or more high, with large glabrous ovate leaves, minutely pubescent on the nerves bearing a few white flowers in short cymes near the axils. The fruit is a four celled, four angled, succulent body. The other plant is *B. inflata*. It bears narrow oblong lanceolate leaves on long, erect stems in each branch. Fruit very leathery, three celled and trigonous.

The species falling under the next group all have tuberous root stock, their capsules are three celled with three papery wings of which one is much larger than the other two. Most abundant in this group is *B. picta*. They grow on rocks or in crevices of stone walls. The flowers are rather large and conspicuous and of a pale rose color. The leaves are nearly equally cordate pilose above and often variegated and very ornamental.

*Begonia satrapis* is also a very beautiful, small plant bearing bright rose-red flowers on peduncles rising much higher than the highest leaves.

*Begonia Josephii* is a denizen of the misty regions growing as it does, above 5000 feet elevation and can be easily recognized by its peltate leaves. This plant is very variable in size and habit, carrying small rose-red flowers.

The much incised and lobed *B. gemmiphra* has its flowers in pendulous cymes. The flowers are white striped with rose and are of medium size. This curious species clothes the moss grown trunks of trees and rocks at 8000 feet elevation. In some of the axils of the peduncles we find quadrangular cups, neatly and closely packed with small bulbils.

*Begonia Ameana* is a small plant with glabrous leaves bearing few flowered scapes. The styles are persistent *i. e.*, they remain even when the seed is ripe in the fruit.

One other small begonia of this group is *B. Ovatifolia*. It has roundish (ovate) leaves about two inches in diameter and grows on steep slopes in the Tista Valley. The peduncles are 4 to 8 flowered, bearing white or rose colored flowers, capsule small with persistent style.

The next group have 2 celled compressed capsules, triquetrous, having one broad and two narrow papery wings. These have thick woody root stock with fibrous roots.

The most conspicuous in this group is *Begonia gigantea* which has thick, woody root-stock bearing stems two to three feet tall, very rarely branched. This is the largest of Indian Begonias. The leaves are very unequally, deeply auricled on one side. The peduncles are short, dichotomous with many small white or pale pink flowers.

To this group, belongs the very thick rhizomed *Begonia Xanthima*, which has ovate leaves and which are unequally cordate. The

## NO. 38 INDIA SPECIES 1948 SEED FUND

by Marie Minter, Encinitas, California

flowers are of medium size and conspicuously yellow. Capsule has unequal wings, one very much elongated.

The caulescent *B. rubro-Venia* with its elliptic, lanceolate, acuminate leaves, can be easily recognized by its rose red veins specially on the under surface of the leaves and by the greyish-white, large irregular patches on the upper surface of the green leaves. The flowers are borne in auxiliary peduncles, usually branched near the top, bearing a few white flowers. Capsule often recurved, about half inch including the wings.

The next group have long creeping root stock which are neither woody or tuberous. *Begonia laceneata* (*laciniata*) bears roundly, ovate leaves on long petioles. The leaves are unequally cordate and acutely lanceolate. The peduncles are axillary as long as the leaves, bearing two to six flowers of which generally more than half of them are stamen bearers. There are several varieties, the most outstanding being *B. laceneata var-lutea* and bears fine yellow flowers.

The creeping root stock of *Begonia megaptera* is thick and woody and the stems erect. The leaves are unequal at the base. A large number of elongated peduncles rise from the upper axils bearing on each a few large pink flowers. The flowers completely cover the plant and produce a charming effect.

*Begonia Sikkimensis* has thick woody rootstock. When mature it carries a stem fifteen inches high. The leaves are round lobed almost to the very base and the lobes themselves are also incised and lobed. They grow on rocks and shed their stems and leaves at the advent of winter. Very easily recognized on account of their lobed leaves.

*Begonia Cathcartii*. It has cordate leaves that are acute and glabrous. It is very easily distinguished by the numerous scattered hairs on its stems above 5500 feet elevation.

The next group is represented by *Begonia Rex* which has a fleshy creeping rhizome which is subterraneous. The leaf stalk is round, red in color and setose. Leaves are about ten to twelve inches broad, its surface is rugose or bullate with a metallic lustre, having a broad silvery band running all round the leaves about one inch away from the margin. Flowers are borne in erect branching cymes, large, of pale rose color. This magnificent species is the progenitor of numerous ornamental foliaged begonias.

---

Members living outside the U. S. as well as those in the U. S. are urged to contribute articles to the *BEGONIAN*.

Considerable confusion exists as to whether this particular begonia (*cover picture*) is a true species or a hybrid. At present it is under study and perhaps we will have the answer before too long. As far as the seeds were concerned, the plants came true from seed but there were variations in minor details between each plant. However, in some species such as *B. Roezli* and *B. rubro-venia*, there are variations in different plants which horticulturists have not been fully able to explain. If this is a species plant the variations should be overlooked.

The plant in question has fairly large leaves, medium green in color and all leaves have a red sinus. This red marking is also at the base of the petioles and stipules. The new stipules are light green in color but soon turn brown. As they dry the red marks disappear. The flowers are white and look very much like a typical *semperflorens* flower which gives rise to the interesting speculation as to whether this is not the other parent of *B. rosea gigantea*. We know one parent was *B. Roezli* but *Roezli* does not have a red sinus.

It is too bad the average person is limited to the amount of seedling plants they are able to handle. In cases like this, one person's plants may be different in some details from some one's else plant. In such a situation we consider that a plant has come true from seed if the leaf shape has no variations and the flowers are alike. The principle markings should all be the same.

I took off about three dozen seedlings and some of the minor differences which I was able to discern between the plants may help some one else.

On some of the plants the stems grew at angles but on others the angles were not so pronounced. Some of the leaves showed faint red flushes on the backs which extended over only a quarter of the surface. Others had a pronounced red flush which covered half the leaf. In none of my plants did I find a leaf which had a full red back. Some of the stems were entirely green, others showed a reddish flush and on the particular plant which I saved for my collection, the stems were decidedly red fading out to a light green, only on the new growth. Regardless of the color of the stems, all plants had white dots scattered over the surface of the stem.

All plants were well branched and they send many shoots from the base. It should be a

Turn to page 132

# KANSAS AND BEGONIAS

by Helen Patten, Manhattan, Kansas

I am told that in the early geographies of our country, the mid-west was called the Great American Desert. I think that is the way a great number of people still think about it. As a matter of fact, we are far from a desert. We have to use trial and error methods, in order to make the most of our resources, as no printed material is available to gain such knowledge. Garden magazines print material on gardens for the north, south, east and west, but we are in none of these areas. One might almost say, we are a mixture of them all. But we must do our work in ways that are best fitted for the *mid-west* conditions.

I will give you a brief picture of Kansas. Our weather is very unpredictable going from one extreme to another in spite of the weatherman's predictions. July and August are our hottest months and January and February are the coldest. We have our heaviest rainfall in the spring months with scattered rains throughout the season. Our snows are usually light and seldom stay on the ground for more than a week or two at a time.

We have extremes of heat, such as 90 and 95 degrees with an occasional rise to 100 degrees. I do not know the average relative humidity for this area, but I know it is very low. Situated as we are between two mountain ranges our air has enough movement so that it cannot hold a constant supply of moisture. Our low temperatures are of short duration, therefore we exercise a little patience and soon temperatures averaging around freezing, are back again.

I suppose we might say, this variable climate makes life very interesting. With such an introduction, I will try to give you some idea of how we grow begonias and allied plants, where Mother Nature never intended such plants to grow.

We take our plants outdoors during the summer months. Some of the more tender ones are only out for short periods. Frosts are still possible until the latter part of May.

The beds or locations, are chosen with care. Trees, shrubs and walls protect them from wind and give the shade needed from the hot sun. Porch boxes and tables on porches are also favored places. If the plants are set directly in the ground, the soil may have to be reconditioned. We are fortunate in having good, rich loam in most parts of the State, but it is not semi-acid. To make it so, we add leaf mold or compost. Most of our trees drop their leaves in the fall and these leaves with other garden refuse, are combined into compost piles. They either break down naturally

or chemicals are added to hasten the decomposition. Such materials mixed with a little sand, makes a light soil, which most begonias require.

Our heaviest rains come in the spring, so our plants get off to a good start. As the summer advances and the hot winds blow, and the rains do *not* come when they should, we have to do all we can to see that conditions are not more than they can bear. A mulch is placed between the plants to hold the moisture and to keep the soil as cool as possible. Begonia roots do not go very deep and they must be protected. This mulch consists of lawn clippings, hay, peat moss or even shavings. Anything that will hold the moisture and permit slow evaporation.

Boxes or baskets may be placed over individual plants, burlap curtains may be stretched on the windward side, but whatever method is used, it must be firmly anchored, or the wind will carry it into the next lot or even farther. Whichever method is used, the idea is the same, to make it possible for the plants to suffer as little as possible until the sun and wind go down. Then we uncover and sprinkle (wet down) the plants and surrounding soil and walls or trees, in order to raise the humidity. In a surprisingly short time they show their appreciation and are ready for another day.

Artificial watering is necessary, of course, but nothing takes the place of a long gentle rain. We usually get enough rain in August so that our summer-weary plants begin to show great improvement. It is at this time that we take a distant view into the winter. It is time now to make our plans as to what we will want to take indoors for the winter. We must not wait until cold days come before we make that decision. If we do, we are apt to jam plants into pots without enough care as to size of pots, or quality of soil, setting them here and there, anywhere to get them out of the cold. They resent this sudden change from the great outdoors, to the cramped, confined conditions of the home. Hot, dry air adds insult to injury. No wonder they sulk. We should begin early to make our choice. Have prepared soil and clean pots ready to use, and know where we plan to keep them during the winter months. After the plants are potted, they may be left outside for a few days, to become adjusted to their pots, under the previous conditions. They must be brought in before any very cold weather comes. This gives them a chance to become adjusted to indoor conditions, while doors and windows are still open much of the time and artificial heat is not present to dry the air.

While the plants were out of doors, they were watered and sprayed with the hose. Now that they are indoors, it must not be forgotten that they still need this attention. Since we cannot shower a whole window full of plants, each plant should get its bath as often as possible. The water should be room temperature, as cold water will shock the plant. The water washes off the dust from the leaves and opens up the pores. Some begonias will thrive in dryer air than others, but all appreciate a warm moist atmosphere. Since such a condition is good for humans too, we should strive to create that condition. Vessels of water should be placed on heating devices and kept filled. Pots may be placed in metal trays filled with pebbles and filled with water. The water is at room temperature and a gradual evaporation of moisture is around the plants. Such conditions keep the plants in an active growing condition and discourages many plant diseases and insects. Again, may I stress caution in the water temperature. Always use warm (room temperature) water. Cold water shocks the roots and such a set back may retard bloom.

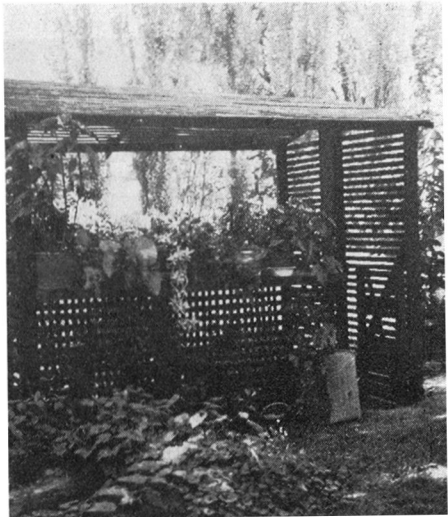
It is most necessary for us to know our plants, than those gardeners living in more favored climates. Some plants will grow here but will not bloom. Some will not grow without a great deal of pampering. To some of us who cannot resist the temptation to prove that it can be done we are able to grow a fair example of rex begonias and a few tuberous. But they do not like it here. Our air is too dry, with strong, hot winds in the summer. *B. tea rose*, *B. medora*, *B. nitida*, and *B. angularis* are a few I have tried to grow that do not bloom.

So far, I have generalized a good deal stating conditions as they apply to the average flower lover, who have a few plants they desire to keep from year to year. Some of us outgrow that stage and when windows will no longer hold all we have or hope to have, then its time for new plans to be made. I reached such a place three years ago. A small lean-to greenhouse was the answer to my problem.

It is placed on the south side of my home. The door faces west and the entire house protects it from the cold, north winds. The roof has a rather steep slope to allow for snow and rain water to run off. It has a small ventilator in the roof, just over the stove, which is a single gas burner. It burns natural gas. The burner is one that is especially constructed for greenhouses. Around this burner I have built a brick form to protect the flame from draft and to act as a support for the reservoir of water I use for watering. It also keeps a constant supply of warm, moist air circulating at all times. I have city water in the house,

but the water is too cold during the winter months. I cannot spray with that unless the day is very warm and the air will warm the water as it falls.

Plants that like extra warmth are grouped about the fire. Others are placed up or down on the shelves and benches as they seem to show what they like best by their response to their environment.



*The Writer's Lathhouse*

Shade is necessary the year around. We do not need to worry about cloudy days. The few that come do not make much difference. I do not shade the side walls, plants that require more sun can take such places and are seldom hurt. On many days, the sun on the roof will raise the temperature to extreme heights, requiring no heat, even in the winter. I do not have a thermostat, so I must keep a constant vigil. Mist spraying lowers the temperature and raises the humidity.

I have around one hundred begonias and most of them have grown very well. Of course there are a good many varieties that I have never tried to raise and there are some at which I have failed. The Seed Fund begonias are always interesting and now I have the hybridizing bug. It seems there is no limit to the lengths to which a begonia fan may go, even in Kansas.

Now the winter months are past and spring is here, we must begin to plan a place to settle our plants for the summer. I have read so much about California lathhouses, I wondered why I could not have a Kansas version? After drawing the plans, our nephew built the structure for me. It is situated under two large black walnut trees. It gets morning and afternoon sun and good filtered light, the rest of

*Turn to page 132*



## INDESTRUCTIBLE BEGONIAS

by Genevieve A. Kinney\*

My garden is about twenty years old. It is a walled garden filled with flower beds, edged with boxwood. The old wall is covered with vines and a large maple tree planted more than fifty years ago gives ample shade.

The flower beds are dappled in sun and shade and were planted for spring and fall bloom. In early spring, they were filled with three shades of hyacinths which were followed by small-flowered bedding begonias, *B. semperflorens*. These plants remained until frost.

Each year the same succession of planting was repeated until the coming of World War II, which stopped the importation of bulbs from Holland, and caused the labor shortage which forced drastic changes. So the flower beds were planted with grass and on the whole, the garden looked crisp and green and very charming in its quiet restfulness, reminiscent of the old southern gardens.

Four years went by; every week during the growing season the lawn mower went over the grass in these beds. Then, one day late in the fall, the sharp, keen eyes of my grandchild spied blossoms along the edge of the grass inside of box-edged beds. These proved to be seedling plants of *Begonia semperflorens*, which must have sprung from seeds which had lain in the soil for at least four years. The box hedge is eighteen inches high, the situation shady and cool, and the soil clay and leaf-mold at the roots of the box bushes.

We lifted the little plants, potted them up—57 of them—and carried them over to the greenhouse. By the end of April, some of them were 8 inches tall and in good bloom, one-quarter of them red, three-quarters pink.

The plants used in these beds originally were pink and red mixed. So far as I can tell, all of them conform to the original type planted.

\* Reprinted by permission of the Journal of the New York Botanical Garden.

### ANNUAL CONVENTION BULLETIN

Mr. Clarence Hall, National Past President, has accepted the Chairmanship of the Annual Convention to be held in Ventura August 27th, 1949. Mr. Marion Walker is the very able Flower Show Chairman of the Annual Meeting and he urges everyone to plan to attend and bring at least one begonia to enter in the Begonia Exhibit.

The Annual three day Flower Show is to be held August 26, 27 and 28th at the Ventura Jr. College and it is hoped that members will feel free to 'come early and stay late'. Anyone unable to stay over night will be permitted to enter their plants early Saturday morning, August 27th, and take them away the same night, if that is their desire.

Information concerning reservations, show schedules and meeting places, will be in the July *BEGONIAN*. Watch for it.



# DE-MINERALIZED WATER

by Frank H. Overton, Glendale, Calif.

To most of us in Southern California who grow shade loving plants in pots, baskets, tubs or containers, the problem of supplying them with the proper kind of water is an important one. We all collect rain water when we can, but its storage presents a problem and the supply in this area is limited.

The local water, whether from Owens Valley, from the Colorado River or from wells, is quite hard, containing approximately 300 parts per million of dissolved solids, consisting principally of mineral salts such as Sodium Chloride, Sodium Sulphate, Calcium Carbonate, Magnesium Sulphate, etc. It is also definitely alkaline, having a pH of 8.2 to 8.4. Much of it is highly chlorinated, as well.

It is reasonable to assume the frequent applications of such water to an acid soil in which shade plants are growing must, after a time, result in a considerable concentration of mineral salts in the soil with a decided reduction in its acidity.

Thanks to the development by modern chemistry of a group of remarkable synthetic chemicals called Ion-Exchange Resins, it is now possible to remove these mineral salts so completely from such water that the result is equal to distilled water in every respect insofar as its mineral content is concerned. Even the chlorine and trace elements are removed.

This demineralization process operates without heat or power or any moving parts other than the opening and closing of a valve or two. The apparatus consists essentially of two metal cylinders connected to the water supply and with each other by suitable pipes and valves. The first cylinder is packed with a granular resin called the Cation Exchange Resin and the second with one called the Anion Exchange Resin. These resins are quite insoluble in water and contribute nothing harmful to it.

When the valve is opened on the outlet side of the system, raw water passes through the bed of resin in the first cylinder giving up its Calcium, Magnesium, Sodium and other metallic elements and passes on into the second cylinder where the Anion Exchange Resin combines with Sulphate, Chloride, etc. It then flows out of the outlet valve completely stripped of its mineral content and definitely acid in reaction, due to its content of Carbon Dioxide (Carbonic Acid) which has been released from its erstwhile combination with lime as Calcium Carbonate.

The capacity of the resins for absorbing the mineral elements is limited, of course, and after a varying period of use, depending upon the hardness of the water and the size of the

demineralizing unit, they must be regenerated, an operation which consists of passing a dilute water solution of a few cents worth of chemicals through the system. This regeneration may be repeated over and over again with practically no loss in efficiency of the resins. The point at which regeneration is needed is indicated by a meter accompanying the unit.

This method of demineralizing water must not be confused with the so-called "water-softening" units installed in many households and widely used by laundries and other industrial operations. They depend upon the use of a mineral called a zeolite which is a form of Sodium Aluminum Silicate having the property of exchanging its Sodium for Calcium and Magnesium when hard water is passed over it. Such "softened" water, while excellent for household and laundry purposes, is quite unsuited for horticultural purposes since it is much more alkaline and has a much higher content of sodium salts than the original untreated water.

Demineralizing units have been installed in a number of greenhouses where orchids are grown, with very satisfactory results, and the University of California Citrus Experiment Station has reported that its use as a substitute for distilled water in the preparation of nutrient solutions for plant growth studies, was quite satisfactory.

There are a number of manufacturers who can supply these demineralizing units which range in price from \$75.00 for a small laboratory unit to \$1100.00 for one producing 120 gallons per hour and with a much greater capacity between regenerations. While the initial cost of these units seems rather high, the cost of the water produced is quite low and in this area, should not exceed ten to fifteen cents per 100 gallons, including the cost of regenerating the resins.

If one of our problems in growing shade plants is due, as we suspect, to the use of highly mineralized, alkaline water with a building up of alkaline and saline matter in the soil as a result of it, then it would seem that this relatively new process of demineralizing such water might offer a solution to the problem.

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## ROUND ROBINS

For information concerning the Round Robins, write to Mrs. Frances Downing, Rte. 1, Box 11, Calera, Alabama. Almost every subject and phase of shade plant gardening is handled, at no additional charge to the member.

# Tuberous Begonia Corsages

by Mary Hazel Drummond

June ushers in summer with prom dances, graduations, weddings and vacations. Enthusiasm grows keener with excitement as we approach these events.

The tropical beauty of hybrid tuberous begonias in exquisite shades of yellow, orange, red, pink and white with sizes ranging from the small Loydii (hanging-basket begonia) to the large, fringed fimbriata types resembling large carnations to the shaded picotee, rosebud and narcissiflora, all of which are ideal for corsages. With the delightfully versatile array of shades and forms to choose, you may style your corsage to match or harmonize with your formal or sportswear costumes.

To retain the freshness of your blooms, cut in the early morning. Cover with a piece of tissue or thin layer of cotton, sprinkle generously with cold water, and place in the shade, out of draft for two hours or longer. Tuberous begonias absorb water through the petals. The water in the tissue or cotton counteracts the escape of moisture from the petals and keeps the blooms fresh. If care is exercised in handling the blooms, they will stay fresh and be a joy to wear.

**THE PROM . . .** A dainty hair-piece styled with one small bloom and a few of the Loydii will delight the heart of the co-ed. Equally smart for her to wear, would be two or three blooms at the waist-line, fashioned with a velvet or taffeta bow with two long streamers, and on each one, pin a bloom.

Graduation is an important event in the life of a girl and should be marked with gifts and flowers. After the graduation ceremony (flowers are not worn with cap and gown) she may wear a single bloom styled in the tailored manner omitting the bow. And, for her formal evening wear two or three blooms using ribbons and frills to make the corsage as festive as the occasion demands.

**THE BRIDE . . .** Angelic charm will be evident in the formal wedding by the bride choosing pure white tuberous begonias for her bouquet. The beauty of the bridal procession will be enhanced by the bride's attendants carrying blooms in harmonious shades blending with the color of their dresses.

The 'suit-and-corsage' bride may choose tuberous begonia blooms in a shade to match or blend with her suit and complement it with a bow.

The VACATION tuberous begonia corsage, strictly tailored, will see you through two or three days and perhaps four, with a little attention and care on your part. Remember, before retiring, to cover the blooms with

tissue or cotton and sprinkle with cold water. Moisture evaporation will be reduced if the corsage is placed in a box. If it should have a bow and the ribbon is not water repellent, remove it.

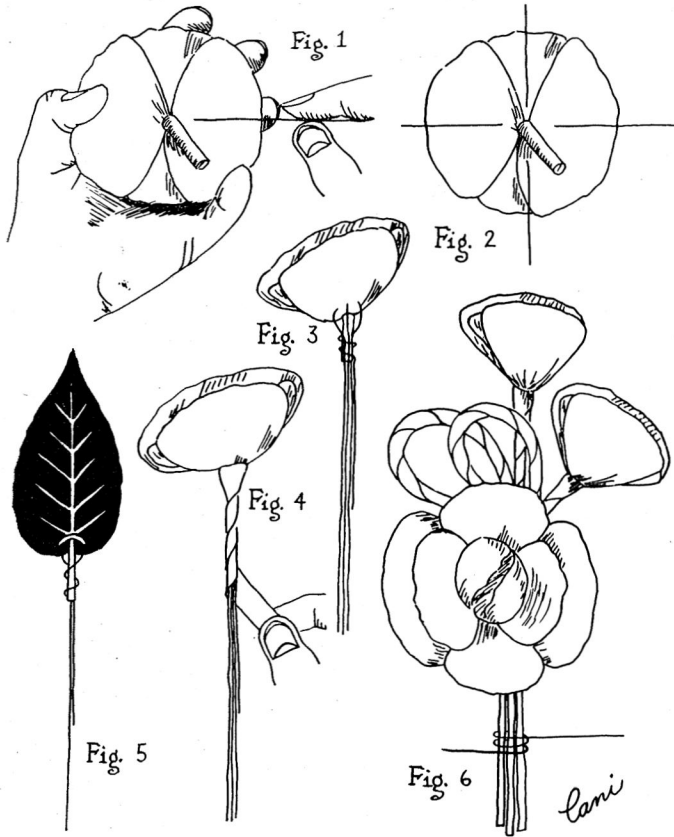
## TECHNIQUE FOR WIRING, TAPING AND ASSEMBLING

To make the corsage, you will need thirty and twenty-six gauge wire, florist's tape and ribbon. Camellia or Ivy leaves may be used as they support the blooms and assist in keeping them fresh, especially in very warm weather. Cut the tuberous begonia stem leaving it one inch long and hold the bloom gently upside down in the palm of your hand. Pierce petals with the fine wire by inserting across the base of the bloom. The wire should go in one side and come out on the opposite side. Then bend the wires down parallel with the one inch stem and twist them together forming one wire or false stem. Wrap the wire (stem) with the florist's tape, stretching the tape slightly to make a smooth and lighter finish. If the blooms are large and heavy use your twenty-six gauge wire. The leaves are wired separately and placed in back of the bloom before you wrap the tape on the main stem. (See line drawings). When you assemble two or more blooms wire and tape each one separately, and then wire them together with your twenty-six gauge wire, covering the wires with tape. (Refer to line drawings).

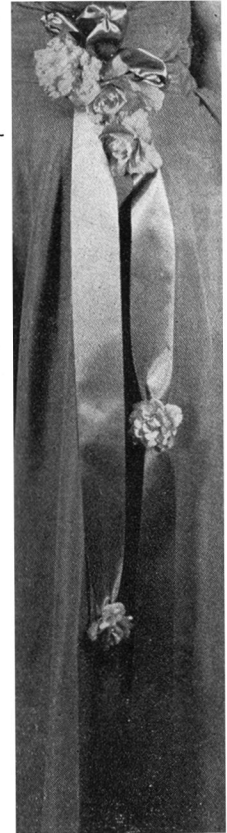
To style the hair-piece take two of the smallest Loydii blooms holding one in front and a little above the other and wire them together. Wrap the wire with tape. Wire three more in a group, graduating them from the smallest to the largest bloom, wrapping with tape. Wire the center bloom the same as the corsage previously mentioned and complete with more of the small blooms. (See line drawings). The hair-piece may be worn to follow the hair parting, be clustered in the curls, or posed at the center back of the head. You may purchase hair-clips or combs.

Bows should be in a color to harmonize or match your blooms. A five-eighth inch width ribbon is the appropriate width to use on the larger blooms, and a half inch for the smaller blooms. This will serve as a guide in purchasing ribbons.

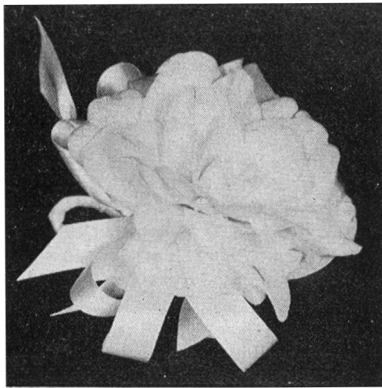
With a little practice you will master the art of styling corsages and find a keen pleasure using tuberous begonias. You may enjoy wearing these blooms from early summer to autumn. As a cut flower the keeping quality is excellent, and they will add glamour to any costume for many occasions.



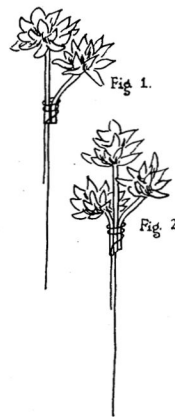
Method showing the wiring of the blossoms, leaves and grouping.



Hip corsage



A tuberos blossom corsage.



Wiring the Lloydii and finished hair piece.

*Editor's note; Our thanks to Pat Antonelli for furnishing the lovely, early tuberos begonia blooms for these corsages. The Lloydii begonias were not in bloom and you will notice the semperfloren were substituted.*

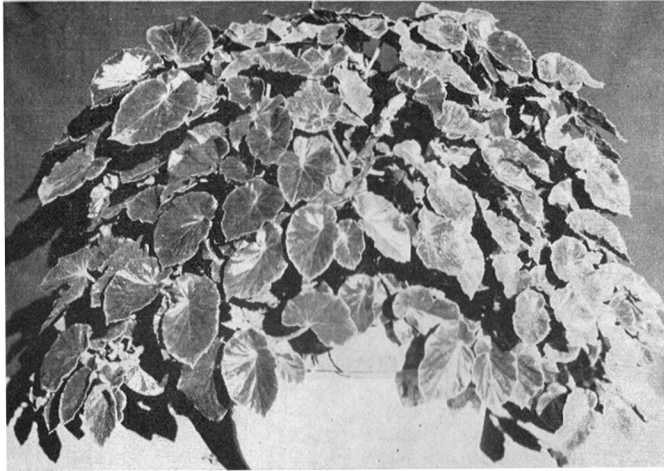


Photo by Rivira

## BEGONIA FRUTESCANS

by Mrs. Grace C. Spencer, Los Angeles, Calif.

The plant pictured has had several different names, during the years it has been hanging in the lathhouse. Begoniaters visiting my garden from time to time, would inform me that it was labeled incorrectly. Being an amateur, each time I would relabel it, the succession of names being *frutescens*, *sanguinea*, *frutescaria* and *frutescans*. The cutting was given to me in 1942 as *B. frutescens*.

After changing the labels many times, I decided to do a little research on this begonia. I have decided the plant is *B. frutescans*. *B. sanguinea* being one of the parents.

Possibly Mrs. Krauss gives the clearest description, and I quote, "Raised by A. D. Robinson in 1936, from seed imported from Germany. A graceful foliage begonia which shows a relationship to *B. sanguinea*. Low spreading leaves about half the size of *B. sanguinea*, leaves slightly thinner in texture and not quite as broad, slightly cupped, darker olive-green above and darker red beneath, margins slightly wavy; inflorescences short, few-flowered, flowers small, white. Excellent foliage begonia for suspended containers."

Mrs. Krauss describes *B. sanguinea* thus, "*B. sanguinea* (Raddi) discovered in Brazil by Sello before 1820. Medium, smooth; many reddish stems arising from the base, loosely branched; leaves broad-ovate, leathery, glossy olive-green above, glossy scarlet beneath; flowers small, white, in long, loose inflorescences. One of Sello's favorite discoveries".

The pictured specimen was moved from the lathhouse to the hot house about three days before the 'big freeze', so it has survived and is much larger than when this picture was taken in the fall. I did not move *B. sanguinea*, so it

has been lost.

In comparing the two plants, *B. frutescans* leaves measured four inches in length, while the leaves on the *B. sanguinea* measured six inches and were much heavier in texture. The distance between the leaf nodes of *frutescans* were one inch or less, while the distance between the nodes on *sanguinea* were three inches or more. By this comparison, one can see why the *frutescans* makes the better basket begonia, being more compact with the leaves closer together. It is very worthwhile.

In tracing the parentage of many begonias, I have found L. H. Bailey's *Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture* most helpful. Page 469 to 485.

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## THE TILLANDSIA

by Louis R. Schirmer, Fallbrook, Calif.

A perfect house or shade garden plant is the Tillandsia. There are many varieties and it lends itself readily to pot or basket culture.

It has been found easy to grow in or out of doors and will thrive where any other epiphytic plant will grow, provided the temperature does not drop below 28 degrees.

Exotic in its coloring, of silver green, with flower spikes shading from blue to red, to purple and even orange.

They may be mounted on wood or on a basket, using Oregon green moss. For pot culture, use half and half sand and leaf mold and water in the *cups only*, as you would any Bromeliad.

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Dead-line for the *BEGONIAN* is the tenth of the month. Please send Branch notices before this date.

## ADVENTURES IN HYBRIDIZING

by Mary B. Choate, *Hybridizing Chairman*

I am sure if there were ever a place where we could all meet with one common interest, it would be in the heart of a garden. Here Nature reigns in all her beauty and we find such perfect peace and contentment that we forget our cares and worries and feel very close to God.

It was through his garden that Father Johann Mendell first became interested in hybridizing, and through his interest in hybridizing that he discovered the facts which eventually led to the formation of the principles of heredity that are known throughout the world as The Mendellian Law. We also owe much of our present knowledge to the men of Science who, through the use of the microscope, have viewed and studied the tiny cells that control the characteristics of growth in every living thing.

Each growth cell contains little rod-like structures that are called chromosomes. One of the chromosomic factors are the genes, which are of two types, *dominant* and *recessive*. It is through the pairing and the combination of these growth factors that certain hereditary characteristics are determined and transmitted, such as form, color, texture, habit of growth, and sturdiness or weakness. Through careful observation and recording it is possible for us to determine the dominance of certain characteristics in our plant and through hybridizing, or crossing them, to achieve perfection in their growth. The Begonia family is so large and the plants so varied that it is sometimes quite difficult to determine whether a plant is a true Species, a form of Species or a Hybrid. Some plants show such purity of form that they are very similar to a true species because they vary only slightly in their reproductions. Others, such as *B. rex cultorum* vary greatly in their reproductive habits.

One member of the Star Begonia Family, *B. Sunderbruchii*, reportedly an offspring of *B. beracleifolia*, produces so true to type and shows such purity of form that the genes would predominate over almost any of the types that show such variety in their growth habits or coloring. But it is from the recessive genes that some of our most beautiful hybrids are produced and that is why it is so often necessary to cross back on a plant to bring out the desired traits.

Hybridizing is a wonderful hobby but success does not always come easy. Though the few rules are simple and very easy to follow, the selection of purpose is most important. There are many begonias that can be improved, and a number of crosses that would be interesting to make. For instance, as far as I know, there has not been introduced a true yellow

bedding type (*B. Semperflorens*). There are a number of people who spend a great deal of time improving the Tuberous Begonias and some of their efforts lead toward producing a fragrant flower. Our late Mr. Robinson spent years in trying to produce a perfect orange flowered begonia of the cane-type, and he did introduce some of our most beautiful hybrids. Many growers, advanced and amateur, have been working on the *B. rex cultorum* Miniature varieties, and with interesting and varied results. I can think of nothing more fascinating than these miniatures, for they are the result of a very difficult cross and a test of hybridizing skill.

Here are a few ideas I have found to be helpful, and I would like to pass them on to you. It is well to segregate plants to be hybridized by placing them in a sheltered and well protected nook, where they may receive the special care they require, before and after pollination. Caution should be used in watering as a heavy spray of water can do great damage. Too much water spoils the pollen, and a heavy spray might cause the complete destruction by breaking the stem. A small cover for the female bloom is a necessary precaution. This may be made of muslin or waxed paper with small holes for ventilation but not large enough to allow contamination by insects. If the seed pod seems heavy or in danger of dropping, as is often the case with tuberous and rex varieties, it is well to use a support. This may be a fine wire loop holding the pod and attached to an upper branch or a forked wooden stake bracing the pod. However if a partially developed pod falls, do not discard it, for they sometimes mature.

There are two methods by which pollen may be transferred. A fine camels hair brush may be used, but this is not too practical, as it must be thoroughly cleansed after each application of pollen. The most common way, and in my opinion the best way, is by plucking the male bloom when the pollen is fully developed and gently brushing the pistils of the female flower until they are well covered with the germinating dust. Pollen is very susceptible to the weather and is at its best on a warm day between ten o'clock in the morning and mid-afternoon. The female bloom is also more receptive at this time of day, although I have pollinated begonias at night with some success. A male bloom may be used several times if placed in a dust-proof container and stored in a cool dark place.

A plant will set seed better if kept on the

*Turn to next page*

dry side and not fertilized too heavily, though I do recommend the use of Vitamin B as a supplement and conditioner. A careful record is a necessity, as there has been and still, is much confusion concerning the origin of certain plants of the begonia family. I think we could profit by this mistake and keep a record of all pollinizing, whether it is a cross or not. A looseleaf note book is best as it can be used for a longer period of time by adding more pages when necessary, or a small index-card file is very nice. An entry should be made at the time of pollinization giving the name of both plants, the female preceding the male and a number given the cross. A duplicate of this should be made on a small tag or a slip of paper and fastened to the plant until the matured seed pod is removed. In removing this pod you must be very careful as seed is best when left on the plant until fully matured, it then turns yellow or brown and is slightly dried out. However, if it becomes too dry it is apt to split and the seed will spill out, so it must be watched carefully. Removing the seed from the pod is tedious and care should be used or else part of it might be lost. Take a small square of heavy tissue paper and place directly under the seed pod then gently pull it apart releasing the seed from the chambers. Fold the paper carefully and place it in the small envelope with the same information as listed in the record or file. This is important later and prevents confusion when the seeds are planted. Begonia seed resembles nothing so much as gold dust, having a far greater potential value and a magic all its own.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our members for the many nice letters I have received and hope to answer soon. I am glad so many are interested in Hybridizing. I wish you luck and hope that this department can be of help to you in growing 'more and better Begonias.'

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### A. B. S. LIBRARY

Your librarian has Mr. A. A. Longmire's book "Secrets of Successful Propagation—Methods Old and New", which Mrs. Carrell recommended in her May News Letter, at \$3.00 a copy.

The following pamphlets by the same author are also available and of interest to Begonia fans:

*Begonia Propagation and Gesneriaceae Propagation.* These are \$0.50 each. Order early to be sure to obtain your copy.

Write for your list of Books and pamphlets available on loan if you have not already done so (enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope). Remember the long summer days ahead when you may find time for reading and

get your order in soon for those books on Begonias you have been promising yourself to order. Hope to hear from you.

Gladys C. Nolan, *Librarian*

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### IT HAS BEEN SAID

There are two kinds of electric heating cables in general use. One is covered with plastic and the covering of sand or soil must never be allowed to become *dry*. The other cable has a lead covering and is more durable. It is advisable to have thermostats on heating cables, to regulate the temperature.

The *BEGONIAN* is a perfect gift for an all year remembrance.

Water plants *only* when they need it. Roots will rot on continuously wet plants.

Place a piece of broken pot over the hole in the bottom of the pot and then a little clean gravel or charcoal to help drainage and to keep the soil sweet.

Every gardener should have a compost pile. The compost pile is a collection of decaying vegetable matter, as leaves, weeds, straw, grass cuttings and manure. When partly decayed, it is added to the garden soil. The compost pile must be kept moist at all times.

When the soil is kept too wet or continuously wet we drive the oxygen (air) out of the soil. Without oxygen in the soil, the roots of begonias die.

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### NO. 38 INDIA SPECIES, cont. from page 123

good plant for the 'house gardener' as it blooms over a good share of the year. It is attractive at all times with its shiny leaves with a red spot. Where one is not limited on space, the plant should make a handsome specimen in a short time.

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### KANSAS AND BEGONIAS, cont. from page 125

the day. It has a lath roof and has shelves on either side. A stone walk is laid in the center with plants either in pots or planted in the ground under the benches. We get rains during the summer but not enough to do the plants any harm. A hot wind is the most harmful factor with which the plants have to contend. Plants that *cannot take it*, have to be placed in sheltered places or left indoors.

It is a well known fact that in certain sections of California, the best natural climatic conditions may be found in which to raise begonias. This makes it easy to grow begonias to the height of perfection. But I wonder when it is so easy to have them and care for them if the Californians feel the same pride and sense of satisfaction that we do, when we have to overcome so many difficulties and accept numerous disappointments? And yet we have been able to produce a thing of beauty and a joy for every one who views our success.





## Armchair Explorers

June News Letter

Have you transplanted those little begonia seedlings yet? Perhaps you started your seeds in glass jars. Exceptional care must be given in transplanting those incubator babies. They will need a great deal of protection for several weeks until they become adjusted to the 'less than one hundred per cent humidity'. (Seedlings growing in covered jars are in 100% humidity. They must be hardened-off slowly.) It is a good idea to water the newly transplanted seedlings with diluted fertilizer and I would like to suggest a product put out by one of our members, Mr. E. F. Smith, the Plantsmith of Palo Alto, Calif. (See ad in the *BEGONIAN*). Use one level teaspoonful of Spoonit to a quart of luke warm water and notice how it dissolves instantly and turns the water a pale yellow color. I use this for all my potted plants. Plants should be fertilized regularly to make good, strong growth. Of course if you can grow your plants in leaf-mold or compost, you will not need to use fertilizer, but many of us are not fortunate enough to have these soils for our plants.

Your Research Department is expanding, have you noticed? There are four Regional Chairmen (see elsewhere in *BEGONIAN* for addresses). You may send them information of new plants, seed germination or new ideas. You may also plan garden tours or even find out the addresses of other Armchair Explorers, living in your region. Our Regional Director, Elmer Lorenz, has asked to be relieved of his duties as his time is filled, in assisting your Skipper in the search for new begonia seeds, which is an unending task of letter writing. I am appointing a new Regional Director, Mrs. Marie Minter, Route 1 Box 180 Encinitas, Calif. This will be news to her but as she is such a willing worker, I am sure she will not fail me. Thank you Marie.

All reports may be forwarded to her and she will compile them for publication. She is already busy working on the identification of the begonias I am importing through our department.

Mrs. Mary Choate, Hybridizing Chairman, is another good worker in our Research Depart-

ment. She hopes to compile all the data on new begonia hybrids. Send her the data on all your crosses. Mary is one of those expert begonia growers, walking off with most of the prizes at Flower Shows. I am very proud to have such fine folks to work with.

Recently some small rex and tuberous-type begonia roots arrived from India, very much dried out. I immediately soaked these in warm water and placed them on wet peatmoss over the coils in my propagating case. Now I see they are making good growth and I have identified one as *B. picta*. I hope to grow these and display them at the coming Convention. If there is enough interest in them, I shall order a large quantity, for our members, next spring.

New begonia seeds are; Brazil red flowering 25c, Colombia rex from hybrid forms obtained in Europe, 50c per pkt. We also have *Bacconia frutescens*, a good ornamental foliage plant, large handsome pinnatifid leaves, shrubby, with small greenish flowers in foot long panicles. It is hardy and easy to grow. This seed was gathered by our collector in Colombia, priced at 15c per pkt. Large pkts. of mixed begonia seeds at 25c per pkt., Australian tree fern spores, 10 per pkt.

Plant seeds now for our Begonia Convention display. We will have a table for plants grown from seed supplied through your Seed Fund, with prizes offered for these plants. Plan to *bring* some of the specimens you have grown from the Seed Fund.

*Note regarding the Ghose article;* Your Skipper purchases seed from this firm and now has on hand, a fresh supply of most of those described, all others are on order and will be available to members as the seed ripens. Order through you Seed Fund.

Cheerio, your Skipper,  
Florence Carrell

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### A. B. S. MEMBERS AS EXPERTS

A 'board of experts' served on Gordon Baker Lloyd's Television Garden Program. Of the six 'experts', five were members of the A. B. S., Mrs. M. H. Drummond, Mrs. L. Crandall, Bert Slatter, Leroy Chitwood and Cal Trowbridge. Dr. Irwin of the Epiphyllum Society also served and we hope the contact with the Begoniaites will prove contagious!

This program proved so popular it is now a weekly TV show called *Mid-Week Gardener* and is able to be viewed by all of Southern California. Turn your dial to KFI-TV every Wednesday at 3:20 p.m. or you are welcome to drop into the studio, near First on Vermont, and join the audience in asking the questions. There are prizes galore.

## RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

If you have any problems on culture, propagation or housing of begonias, please write to the Regional Research Department Chairmen. Choose the one living nearest to you, as that Chairman will know more of your problems, than one living farther away.

Always enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope.

For your convenience, consult the following list;

Mrs. Marie Minter, *Regional Director*  
Route 1, Box 180, Encinitas, Calif.

Mrs. Dorothy Michaelson, *Eastern Section Chairman*

P. O. Box 818,  
Denville, New Jersey.

Mrs. A. W. Knock, *Midwestern Section Chairman*

3836 36th Avenue S.,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Mrs. Lois Tanner, *Southern Section Chairman*.

P. O. Box 33,  
Cheneyville, Louisiana.

Miss Lena Higgins, *Western Section Chairman*.

2224 Orange Avenue  
Long Beach, Calif.

## SHeltered Garden Book Reviews

*THE CAMELLIA*, compiled and published by the Southern California Camellia Society. 1947. \$1.00.

This is the answer to a great need in establishing correct names and synonyms of this popular family of flowering shrubs.

With an attractive, paper cover, the booklet of sixty seven pages, gives Pacific Coast gardeners some good advice on culture. The major part of the booklet is devoted to the nomenclature of camellias. This is handled well, with a very complete list of names and synonyms.

*HOW TO GROW TUBEROUS BEGONIAS* by Cecil Solly, Revised enlarged edition, 1948. Thirty cents.

This is a very complete and attractive booklet of twenty four pages, containing two pages of colored illustrations and fifteen black and white illustrations of begonias of all types. The culture, propagation, transplanting and soil mixtures are handled very thoroughly. This Reviewer recommends this booklet for anyone wishing a condensed form of tuberous reference material.

Frank H. Overton

Books and pamphlets Reviewed in the *BEGONIAN* may be purchased through the Librarian.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS

President C. M. Gale is proud to welcome the following as members of the Nomenclature Committee;

H. M. Butterfield, Director.

39 Giannini Hall U. C., Berkeley, Calif.

Mrs. Bessie Buxton (Mrs. Henry H.)

114 Central Street, Peabody, Mass.

Mrs. Emma M. Carleton (Mrs. J. B.)

1430 Oxford St., Berkeley, Calif.

Mrs. Alice M. Clark (Mrs. John G.)

3030 Homer St., San Diego 6, Calif.

Dr. V. T. Stoutemyer, University of California at Los Angeles, Calif.

Fred J. Bedson, Esq., President National Begonia Society of England and Wales.

Forest Gate, Crowborough,

Sussex, England.

Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman,

141 West 53rd Street, Long Beach, Calif.

Mr. H. M. Butterfield, Nomenclature Director, appreciates the fine cooperation offered by his Committee and he shall also have the help of an Advisory Counsel. It is hoped each A. B. S. member will benefit from the task this department is undertaking, of straightening out the tangles in Begonia Nomenclature.

## COMMITTEE ON AWARDS

The following Committee on Awards have been appointed and accepted, to serve their respective terms;

Mrs. Alice M. Clark, 3030 Homer St., San Diego 6, Calif.

Mrs. Emma M. Carleton, 1430 Oxford St., Berkeley 9, Calif.

H. P. Dyckman, 141 West 53rd St., Long Beach, Calif.

Louis J. Kuester, 319 East 197 St., New York 58, N. Y.

Dr. E. J. Wimmer, 1830 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas.

Mrs. Bess Shippy, 536 Willow St., Lockport, N. Y.

The advertisers in the *BEGONIAN* have shown their good will. Be sure to patronize them and mention the *BEGONIAN* when you make those purchases.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH: Are celebrating their First Anniversary on Sunday, June 12th, about 2:30 p.m. This is to be a pot-luck dinner, held at the Earl Bushey home, 724 West Mildred Street. Members of all branches are invited, to help make the happy occasion a memorable one. Coffee will be furnished. Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger will be the speaker.

Mrs. Mary Bradley, *Secretary*

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### APPOINTED

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED-

Pursuant to Article IV of the By-Laws as members of the Nominating Committee:

Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman, President, North Long Beach Branch

Mr. P. J. Miller, President, Whittier Branch

Mr. E. O. Sherer, President, Santa Monica Bay Branch.

*C. M. Gale, President*

**RIVERSIDE BRANCH:** Reports their revised list of officers as; William S. Allen, President, 7904 Magnolia, Mrs. Dora Bazil, Vice Pres., 4275 Luther Ave., Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Secretary, 7154 Magnolia, Mrs. Violet Whitmore, Treasurer, 5409 Palm Ave., R. H. Terrell, National Representative, 6848 Leland Ave., Mrs. Ruth Gall, Publicity Director, Rte. 5, Box 510, all of Riverside, Calif.

*Wm. S. Allen, President*

**INGLEWOOD BRANCH:** Takes great pleasure in extending a welcome, to all the members able to come to Los Angeles Sunday, June 19th, to attend a Tea and Auction at Laura Crandall's home, in her very interesting and enviable garden.

The auctioneer will be none other than the well known Gordon Baker Lloyd. Items to be offered will range from the plants and their accessories, to a canary in a cage. There will be many items of good use. Tea and sweets will be served by our branch. Please make a note on your calendar for the following date

Tea and Auction, Gordon Baker Lloyd, Auctioneer in Laura Crandall's garden.

2760 Redondo Blvd., L. A. 16

(Just South of Adams Blvd.)

Phone WH 4034 Sunday, June 19, 1:30 p.m.

*Leo McBride, Secy.*

**FOOTHILL BRANCH:** Wish to remind you of the demonstration of carnation and chrysanthemum culture along with colored slides, by Hal Roberts, June 3rd. Announces the picnic dates of July 1st, August 5th and September 2nd. These picnics will be held at San Dimas Park and you are all invited.

*Edwin O. Williams, Publicity Chairman*

**NEW ENGLAND BRANCH:** Held their May meeting at the Merry's in Needham, Mass. Mr. W. E. Starr talked on Begonia Propagation. The June meeting will be held at the Logee's North Street Greenhouses, Danielson, Conn. Mr. Ernest K. Logee will talk on Semperflorens Varieties. Registration at 11 a.m. Please bring picnic lunch, and small plants and cuttings to sell for the benefit of the treasury. Business meeting and speaker at 2 p.m.

*Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Secretary*

**SANTA MONICA BRANCH:** Is having a super-duper Chili Supper on June 14th, at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the lovely, large home of Mrs. Amanda Gross, 1116 Carmelina Avenue (just off Wilshire) at seventy five cents per plate. Santa Monica urges all members of the A. B. S. to attend, but make reservation before June 11th. Either call Mrs. Gross, ARizona 7-4453, Mrs. Haskell, ARizona 3-5589 or Mrs. Hull, Santa Monica 5-6857.

*Mrs. Evelyn Thompson, Vice President*

**EAST BAY BRANCH:** The April meeting was one rife with celebrities. An eminent authority on tuberous begonias, Dr. Richard French was the speaker whose subject "The History of Explorers in Horticulture and the men who brought the plants back", took his listeners on expeditions over a period from the days of Alexander, the Great up to our present day and pointed out how much is owed to Arabia, Africa, China and South America for much of our present day flora. The meeting was under the Group Chairmanship of Mr. and Mrs. Clette T. LeHew who were introduced by President John Paul Edwards. The Branch membership is divided into four groups and each group is responsible for obtaining speakers and making arrangements for three meetings a year.

Another Begonia Society member of note attending this meeting was Mr. W. E. "Bill" Walton, President Elect who was introduced to the Branch members and who extended greetings from the Parent Society.

The meeting was brought to a close with the distribution of many valuable begonia and other shade loving plants.

*Mrs. H. E. Thorpe, Secretary*

**SALEM, OREGON BRANCH:** Had ninety seven in attendance at their May meeting. Mr. John G. Bacher of Portland, was guest speaker. He is a well known garden authority and has won the Johnny Apple Seed Award for his Horticulture and Floriculture achievements. Mr. Bacher spoke on tuberous begonia and fuchsia culture. He stressed the fact they are good companions in garden arrangements. His colored slides highlighted the talk, followed by a lively plant sale and refreshments.

*Miss Ellen Quail, Secretary*

### Choicest Rex Begonia Hybrid Seed

\$1.00 per Packet

**RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE**

1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH:** On April 6th, thirteen members of the Southern Alameda County Branch visited the San Francisco Branch, to hear Worth Brown, the eminent grower of Tuberhybridas and author of the new "Tuberous Begonia Book". Mr. Brown's talk was very instructive and enjoyable.

Mr. Arthur Mann, Vice-president, acting president during Ira Allyn's illness, suggested that the several branches in this vicinity have a joint picnic this summer, so that we may become better acquainted with our fellow Begonia lovers.

Our regular meeting on April 21st, was well attended and as we had a full program scheduled, the business was short. The Hayward High School botany ground has been chosen as the place for the Begonia and Shade Loving Plants, Flower Show, but the date has not been definitely set.

Mr. Harry Swager of the East Bay Branch, and an associate member of Southern Alameda County Branch, spoke on Fibrous and Rex Begonias. He told of his experiences during the freeze and the splendid recovery of the majority of his plants. He brought several healthy specimens to demonstrate the different ways of propagation; from leaves, rhizomes and the stem and leaf cutting of the Star Family.

Mr. Alfred Stettler, of the San Francisco Branch, spoke on "Camellia Culture in the Bay Region". The lush green foliage of this plant forms a perfect background for begonias. Mr. Stettler emphasized the fact, when selecting Camellias it is imperative to purchase only named plants from reliable nurseries who specialize in their culture.

Care must be exercised in not planting them deeper than they were originally grown, as covering the roots too deep with soil, may cause the plants to die. Immediately after planting they must be watered thoroughly. In general, camellias require constant heavy irrigation of the soil as well as frequent overhead sprinkling. *Good drainage* is imperative to the well being of camellias.

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.

With careful selection you can have camellias in bloom from September to July. Not more than two buds should be permitted to remain on one axil. Excessive buds should be removed. This prevents dropping of buds and assures more strength in the flower and increase in size of bloom.

The ground should be fertilized in May, August and November by adding a good commercial fertilizer with thorough watering before and after, being careful not to touch the roots.

Mr. Merrill Butler, of the San Francisco Branch, acted as projectionist, while Mr. Stettler was narrator during a fine selection of his colored slides, representing individual flowers, bushes and flower arrangements from the Berkeley, San Francisco and Pasadena Camellia Shows.

Susan Ramsey, *Publicity Chairman*

**DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH:** Meet quarterly but really make it a gala occasion. Kodachrome slides were shown, with descriptions and commentary given with each slide. There was much discussion on these begonias and each of the attending fourteen members felt they had gained much in begonia knowledge. The meeting was held in a member's home and as she had just returned from a visit to Denmark, the theme was carried out in the refreshments, on Danish china and a talk on Danish dolls dressed in different costumes of the different islands, followed. The table centerpiece was a choice porcelain family group in miniature, around whose feet were hollow places to hold water. These were filled with begonia cuttings which were shared with all the members. This branch in Flint, Michigan was the first branch to borrow and enjoy the Kodachrome slides from the library.

Mrs. Geo. W. W. Barton, *Nat'l Representative*

**THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH:** Has an exceptionally well planned Garden Tour and pot-luck lunch slated for June 26th. The Tour begins at 8:30 a.m., from their regular meeting place at 902 East Main Street. The pot-luck lunch will be held at Camp Comfort about 2:30 p.m. Everyone is invited, we will be glad to see you and your friends.

George Fitch, *President*

**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

**CONDENSED MINUTES** meeting National Board American Begonia Society held in City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., April 25th, 1949 with President Gale presiding.

Meeting called to order at 8 p.m. Mrs. Drummond lead in Salute to the Flag.

Board members present for the meeting—Messrs. Gale, Bozon, Moore, Dere, Hixon, Bailey; Mesdames Behrends, Drummond, Schwerdtfeger, Nolan, Hartwell; Representative Directors El Monte, Glendale, Santa Barbara, Inglewood, Parent Branch, North Long Beach, Whittier, San Gabriel Valley, Pasadena, Santa Monica.

President Gale announced Board meeting for May 23rd would be held in room 150—floor just above. Urged Representative Directors to take message back to their Branch.

President announced that all Branch Presidents, Secretaries and Representative Directors would receive copy of News-Letter. If this is not received, please check with Membership Secretary to see that he has your correct address.

President appointed a committee Librarian Nolan (Chairman), Editor, Membership Secretary, and Public Relations Director, to act on requests for free begonia literature and magazine exchange coming in from libraries and universities.

Business Mgr. asked to go into the matter of insurance on our Slide Library and report at next meeting.

Librarian asked Representative Directors to take word to their branches that she now had a supply of the Longmire books on hand.

Public Relations Director presented for acceptance the Constitution and By-laws of the Mid-West Branch and moved for acceptance. CARRIED. Read letter from Round Robins Director indicating much activity and formation of a new Robin on Begonia Research; busiest month since formation of this department.

Slide Librarian Grace Bayer reported six groups of slides have been completed and a good start on the seventh; have purchased 125 slides; have had 210 donated making a grand total of 335; 20 were discarded because of poor quality leaving 315 slides in circulation.

Flower Show Chairman Trowbridge reported he and his committee were working on schedules for future shows and when same were completed they must be perfect in every way so it will take some time yet, but progress is being made.

Mrs. Mary Choate, Hybridizing Chairman gave a very interesting report on her work—see Begonian for her articles. Treasurer instructed to set aside sufficient monies to take care of postage and other incidental expense for this department to be issued as needed.

President read letter from Mr. Butterfield relative to his work on nomenclature and things he hopes to accomplish.

Dr. Drummond reported progress on the Pest Control Bulletin.

Mrs. Korts, Chairman of Committee on Begonia Pin, again called attention to the pin design. After considerable discussion the following resulted:

Treasurer set aside the sum of not to exceed \$175.00 for the initial order of 50 pins, which amount includes tax etc. Pins to resell at \$3.32 which includes tax. Future orders for pins must be accompanied by cash. Will try to have the 50 pins ready for the May meeting. Branches ordering pins please take note.

President announced his wish to appoint 10 Honorary Vice Presidents and asked Branches to submit names and a brief sketch of reasons why parties named should be appointed to this office.

See statement in the May issue of the Begonian for further amendments to the Constitution which will come up for action at the May meeting. The amendments were read at the April meeting of the National Board.

President appointed a committee consisting of George Lawrence, (Chairman) Gonda Hartwell, Roy Dere and Louise Schwerdtfeger to work on the by-laws and have all changes ready to present to the Board meeting which will precede the general meeting on May 23rd; Committee to submit in writing their recommendations.

Branch reports from El Monte, Glendale, Inglewood, Santa Barbara, Pasadena.

Public Relations Director asked that each Representative Director prepare a written report each month, report to be handed to Secretary for use in News Letter.

Secretary instructed to send letter of condolence to the Bob Anderson family; also get-well letter to Miss Flossie Kelly.

Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

### PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS

Article 1 Divide Paragraph 7 making the business Manager part of par. 8.

Par. 9 (Research) Deplete that part pertaining to library and copies of the official publication.

Par. 11 (Public Relations) Deplete that part pertaining to publishing activities.

Par. 12. Add—to read as follows:

The President shall appoint, with the concurrence of the Directors the following:

a. A Librarian whose duties shall be to establish and maintain a circulating library for the use of the officers and members.

b. A Publicity Chairman whose duties shall be to see that the affairs of the Society receive the fullest publicity.

c. A Chairman of the Speakers Bureau and Slide Library whose duties shall be to provide lists of speakers and slide library for the use of Branches.

d. A Flower Show Chairman whose duties shall be to prepare show schedules and encourage begonia shows and the use of begonias in flower shows.

e. A Historian whose duties it shall be to maintain a complete history of the Society.

Article IV Par. 1 Change last sentence to read "An official ballot containing the names of all nominees shall be sent to each eligible voter not later than thirty days prior to the annual meeting.

Par. 2 Change to read "Members of Branch Societies may cast their ballots at the first meeting of the branch succeeding the mailing of the ballots; the results of such balloting together with the ballots cast, shall be sent immediately to the Secretary of the National Society.

Par. 3 To read as follows: "Eligible voters may mail their ballots to the Secretary of the National Society at least ten days prior to the annual meeting. The Secretary shall report the results of all balloting, together with the ballots cast, to the Annual Meeting.

Article VI Par. 1 Make last sentence read "A member of one branch may not become an active member of another branch but may become an affiliated member of such branch.

Par. 2 2nd clause "It shall require that all active members etc.

Add Par. 6 Each Branch Society shall immediately notify the National Secretary the results of all elections for officers of the Branch.

Article VIII These By-laws be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors present at any regular meeting of the Board, etc.

By Public Relations Director:

"I suggest that steps be taken to make our voting in elections by secret ballot, and that the ballots be mailed to all members in good standing, and that these ballots be kept secret and opened the morning of the convention by the appointed election board."

Discussion: The ballots can be mailed as before to our Secretary but opened and counted by the election Committee appointed for that purpose. In former Annual meetings the election committee only verifies the count and has done so during the meeting. This seems unfair to the committee as they are forced to withdraw and miss the proceedings of the meeting. Having our Secretary compile the ballots is unnecessary work for her and seems uncalled for. It is not a question of her integrity, but I feel that the ballots should be opened only by the Committee in charge, and the counting made just prior to the Annual Meeting.

Dear Mrs. Hartwell:

At the last meeting of the LaMesa Branch of the A. B. S. a motion was made "That this Branch write to the National Board recommending all changes in the National By-laws be put to a vote of the entire membership through the Begonian."

Kindly read this letter at your March 28th meeting, and oblige.

Ida M. Barker,  
Secy. LaMesa Branch A. B. S.  
7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

Give the *BEGONIAN* as a gift to the garden-friend. They will like it, all year long.

## Branch Meeting Dates and Places

### BARTON, DOROTHY PIERSON BRANCH

Regular meetings, Quarterly, 1st Fridays  
Flint, Michigan, Aug. 5  
Mrs. S. V. Clark, Sec.,  
1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Mich.

### BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.  
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.  
P. Knapp, Secretary  
6144 Blackthorne Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

### EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, June 16, 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, June 16, 8:00 p.m.  
Columbia Grammar School, Rm. 160  
Mrs. Mary Bradley, Cor. Sec.  
701 Asher St., El Monte, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, June 3, 8:00 p.m.  
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa.  
Mrs. Phyllis Heth, Secretary  
228 Bonita Ave., Azusa, Calif.

### GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 28, 8:00 p.m.  
206 West Cypress  
Mrs. F. M. Brown, Sec.  
3633 Revere, Los Angeles 26, Calif.

### GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, June 20  
Community House, LaJolla  
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.  
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

### GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 28  
Member's Residence  
Mrs. Frank H. Mather, Corr. Sec.  
515 Windover Rd., Hatboro, Pa.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 9, 8 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Miss Marjory Robinson, Sec.  
1137 No. Orange Dr., L. A. 46.

### HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, June 20  
Roosevelt High School Cafe  
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.  
Mrs. Eloise Scheller, Sec.-Treas.  
3536 Imperial, Lynwood, Calif.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, June 13, 8 p.m.  
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church  
Miss Margaret Smith,  
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, June 9, 8 p.m.  
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Leo McBride, Secretary  
3665 Mountain View Ave., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

### LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, June 13, 8 p.m.  
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.  
Mrs. Edna F. Barker,  
89 Central, Lemon Grove, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.  
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic  
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Roy Ohlson, Sec'y.  
1925 Marine Avenue, Long Beach 6, Calif.

### MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 28, 8 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.  
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 28, 2 p.m.  
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary  
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, June 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Houghton Park Club House  
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach  
Mrs. Merle Penrose, Sec.  
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, June 2, 7:30 p.m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.  
Sec.-Treas., Ann Peterson, 414 E. Palmyra,  
Orange, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

1st Tuesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Longfellow Hi School, E. Washington St.  
Mrs. Fred E. Distel  
1320 Elizabeth St., Pasadena, Calif.

### PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Danish Hall, 19 Main St.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Schlener, Sec.  
18 10th Street, Petaluma, Calif.

### PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

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

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, June 8, 8 p.m.  
Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Sec.  
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

### ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, June 28, 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, June 21, 8 p.m.  
Garden Center, McKinley Park  
Miss Mona Carnahan, Sec.  
4416 East E St., Sacramento, Calif.

### SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Thursday, June 2  
Salem Y.M.C.A.  
Miss Ellen Quail, Sec.  
202 Rural Ave., Salem, Oregon

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, June 27  
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.  
Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec.  
1225 Madison Ave., San Diego, Calif.

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Cierce Jr. College, 6201 Winnetka Ave.  
Canoga Park. Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary.  
20047 Armita, Canoga Park, Calif.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, June 1, 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, June 22, 8 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, June 9, 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, June 8, 7:30 p.m.  
University High School, Room 232  
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles  
Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary.  
933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

### SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, June 23, 6:30 p.m.  
Steckel Park  
Mrs. Shirley Friedrich, P. O. Box 888  
Santa Paula, California

### SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, June 21  
Member's Homes  
Mrs. W. A. Walker, Secy.  
4727-34 N. E., Seattle, Washington

*See Next Page*



**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, June 7, 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, June 16, 8 p.m.  
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. R. Clark, Cor. Secy.  
1687 Grand Ave., Piedmont, Calif.

**SOUTHGATE BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, June 28, 8 p.m.  
Girls Scout Clubhouse, Southgate Park,  
Miss Ellen P. Dionne, Secy-Treas.  
3139 1/2 Illinois Ave., Southgate, Calif.

**WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.**

4th Wednesday, Bimonthly, July 27, 8 p.m.  
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St., Cleveland, O.  
Mrs. Fred McCune, Secy., 1470 Waterbury Rd.  
Lakewood, Ohio

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, June 28, 8 p.m.  
Union High School, Room 19  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Mrs. Haideo Hunkler, Secy.  
219 S. McNeess St., Whittier, Calif.

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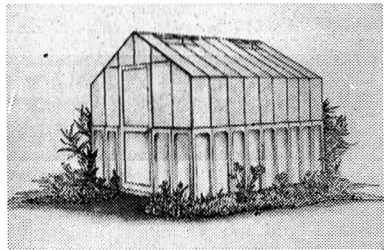
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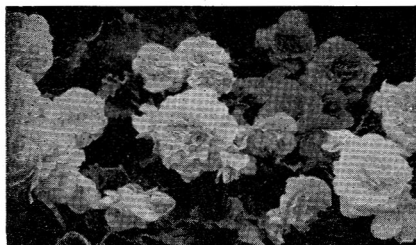
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