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VOL. XIX

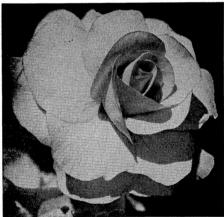


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The next Board meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 1305, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 26, 1953. Use Main St. elevator. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

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A. H. Gere Photo, Courtesy Helen K. Krauss

BEGONIA x DISHASTA

264 THE BEGONIAN

DECEMBER-

A month of love and light, With flowers red and white.

Begonia x Dishasta

By Marie Minter, Encinitas, California

Before attempting to describe this particular begonia, a word of explanation is called for, because of variations between different plants.

Mrs. Robinson made the original cross about 1938. As is customary with crosses of this kind, many plants have to be grown in order to determine which is the best of the group. However, visitors at the Rosecroft gardens fell in love with the plants while they were still in flats, and a good many plants were sold before the name was officially given to any plant in the group. So there will be variations between different plants grown in different gardens. As a consequence, we here in California have been reluctant to call any one particular plant by the name of either 'Dianna', 'Dierna' or 'Dishasta'. Rather we call them a "series" of either of the above names.

The 'Dishasta' series was a cross of B. x Shasta x B. dichroa. It is the tallest and largest leaved of Mrs. Robinson's crosses. I have seen plants here that have gone to over six feet in height. The leaves are shaped more on the B. dichroa order. They vary only in the coloring on the back of the leaves. The surface of the leaf is green but the coloring on the back varies from a reddish flush to a full red.

The flowers are large and range in color from a pure scarlet to a scarlet with orange overtones, depending on the plant.

Some of the plants in this group seem to want to reach the sky without many leaves on the lower parts of the canes, while others will be fully clothed. Any of this series will make a handsome specimen for the lath house and, by using it as a background plant, no one will notice whether the stems seem rather bare.

Clues to Some of Your Problems

By Marie Minter, Encinitas, California

I have had many requests in the past for help in understanding what different descriptions mean, and it is in the hope of giving some help to the amateur that I have compiled an amateur's list of the more common terms used, particularly with reference to begonias.

I have also included in this series some of the more commonly used synonyms, so that anyone can find the corrected name of his particular plant. One question will be raised in this list, so I'll answer it before it raises its head. There is a plant called B. 'alba perfecta'. It is a small-leaved version of B. 'perfectiflora'.

In the past, not understanding that latin names should be given to species plants, some amateurs have applied quite suitable descriptive names to their hybrids. In order not to cause any more confusion than already exists, the hybridist should take care that other names be found for their successes.

Turn to next page

Glossary of Botanical Terms

Adventitious leaves: Leaves appearing on occasion rather than in regular places and order, as those arising on stems and

Alternate: Any arrangement of leaves or other parts not opposite or whorled: placed singly at different heights on the

Ascending: Rising up: produced somewhat obliquely or indirectly upward.

Axil: Upper angle that a petiole or peduncle makes with the stem that bears it.

Axis: The main or central line of development of any plant or organ; the main

Base: The bottom or lower end of a part or structure or organ, even though this part may be uppermost as the organ hangs on the plant.

Beard: A long awn or bristle-like hair.

Bottom-heat: A term used to designate the condition that arises when the roots of plants, or the soil in which they grow, are exposed to a higher temperature than that of the air in which the aerial parts are growing.

Bract: A much reduced leaf, particularly the small or scale-like leaves in a flower cluster or associated with the flowers.

Chatoyant: Having a changeable luster.

Ciliate: Fringed with hairs; bearing hairs on the margin.

Cutting: A severed vegetative or asexual part of a plant used in propagation: as a cutting of root, of stem, or of leaf.

Cyme: A broad, more or less flat-topped, determinate flower-cluster.

Dentate: With sharp spreading teeth. Digitate: Handlike; compound, with the members arising from one point.

Division: Propagation by means of separing the root system or rhizome system into parts: cutting up the plant into several root-bearing parts or pieces, as when one rhubarb plant is made into two or more.

Entire: Margin not in any way indented; whole.

Fibrous: Fiber-like, containing fibers or thread-like parts.

Flora: The plant population of a given region.

Floriferous: Flower-bearing.

Fruticose: Shrubby or shrub-like in the sense of being woody.

Germination: The unfolding of the embryo and becoming self-established of the plantlet.

Glabrous: Not hairy.

Glaucous: Covered with a "bloom" or a whitish substance that rubs off.

Habitat: Particular place in which a plant grows: as a swamp, roadside, woods, hillside.

Hairs: A general name for many kinds of small and slender outgrowths on the parts of plants; special kinds of hairiness are designated as setose, villous, comose, pubescent, hirsute, and others.

Hirsute: With rather rough or coarse hairs. Hirtellous: Softly or minutely hirsute or

hairy.

Hybrid: A plant resulting from a cross between two or more parents that are more or less unlike.

Indigenous: Native to the region: not introduced from some other country.

Inflorescence: Mode of flower-bearing; technically less correct but much more common in the sense of a flower-cluster.

Internode: The part or space of stem be-

tween two nodes or joints.

Introduced: Brought from another region, either intentionally or otherwise; in horticulture, used to designate the intentional bringing of plants into cultivation either from another country or from the wild.

Lacin ate: Slashed into narrow pointed lobes, Leaflet: One part of a compound leaf; secondary leaf.

Leaf-stalk: The stem of a leaf: petiole.

Lobe: Any part or segment of an organ: specifically, a part of petal or leaf that represents a division to about the middle.

Node: A joint where a leaf is borne or may be borne; also, incorrectly, the space between two joints, which is properly an internode.

Oblique: Slanting; unequal-sided.

Oblong: Longer than broad, and with the sides nearly or quite parallel most of their length.

Obovate: Inverted ovate. Obtuse: Blunt, rounded.

Offset: A plant arising close to the base of mother plant, from its rootstalk.

Ovary: Ovule-bearing part of a pistil. Ovate: With an outline like that of hen's egg cut in half lengthwise, the broader end toward the base.

Palmate: Lobed or divided in a palm-like or hand-like fashion.

Pedicel: Stem of one flower in a cluster.

Peduncle: Stem of a flower-cluster.

Peltate: Attached to its stalk inside the margin, peltate leaves are usually shieldshaped.

Persistent: Remaining attached; not falling

Petal: One of the separate leaves of a corolla.

Petiole: Leaf-stalk.

Pistil: The ovule bearing and seed-bearing organ.

Pistillate: Having pistils and no stamens: female.

Pollen: Spores or grains borne by the anther, containing the male element.

Pollination: The mechanical or physical operation of transfering pollen from stamen to pistil.

Procumbent: Trailing or lying flat, but not rooting.

Proliferous: Bearing young plants as offshoots or bearing redundant parts.

Puberulent: Somewhat or minutely pubes-

Pubescent: Covered with short, soft hairs; downy.

Punctate: With translucent or colored dots or depressions or pits.

Raceme: A simple, elongated, indeterminate cluster with stalked flowers.

Reniform: Kidney-shaped.

Repent: Creeping; rooting at the joints.

Rhizome: Rootstock or prostrate stem of rootstock appearance on or under the

Rib: In a leaf or similar organ, the primary vein; also any prominent vein or nerve.

Scale: A name given to many kinds of small mostly dry and appressed leaves or bracts.

Seed: The ripened ovule; the essential part is the embryo and this is contained within integuments.

Seedling: A young plant raised from seed; a plant direct from seed without the intervention of grafting of any kind.

Self-fertilization: Secured by pollen from

same flower; close fertilization.

Self-pollination: Transfer of pollen from stamen to pistil of same flower; close pollination.

Sinus: The space or recess between two lobes of a leaf or other expanded organ. Slip: A softwood cutting "slipped" off or pulled off.

Stamen: The pollen-bearing or "male" organ. Staminate: Having stamens and no pistils; male.

Stem: The main axis of a plant; leaf-bearing, and flower-bearing, as distinguished from the root-bearing, axis.

Stigma: The part of the pistil that receives the pollen.

Stipule: A basal appendage of a petiole; the three parts of a complete leaf are blade, petiole, stipule.

Tomentose: With tomentum; densely woolly or pubescent; with matted soft wool-like hairiness.

Vein: A branch of the evident woody framework of a leaf.

Woolly: Provided with long, soft and more or less matted hairs.

SYNONYMS

These are the clues to synonymous names applied to Begonias.

(Single quotation marks indicate variations of species probably due to garden cross-pollinating or known hybrids.)

Synanyme

Corrected Name

Synonyms	Corrected Name
(or formerly used names	
which are incorrect be-	
cause they apply to diff-	
erent blants.)	
alle toutacta	undulata
'alha perfecta grandiflora'	'berfectiflora'
'Angular Compta'	'Grev Feather'
argyrostioma	maculata
'alba perfecta grandiflora' 'Angular Compta' argyrostigma 'Beefsteak'	'erythrothylla'
'Bertha von Lothringen'	'Perle Lorraine'
diadema erecta	sceptrum
ecuadoriensis	rigida
Faureana	
'Feasti'	'arythrothylla'
Feasti erecta'	'Ressie Buyton'
'Feast: belix' 'erg	athrothulla halin'
Florida Species Poper	pooi var florida
'Hairy Thurston'	(Cradnori)
'Iossio'	'thullomaniaca'
'Hairy Thurstoni'' Jessie'' Lady Waterlow'	pryttomantata
Lady Wateriow	dishotoma
Lindleyanalucerna x Sutherlandi	'Tylond'
'Kimball Hybrid' 'Ame	ochum's Dinotala'
Killibali Hybrid Alli	esbury's Dipetala
macrocarpa pubescens 'Mrs. Townsend'	taeteviriaes
Mrs. Townsend	peracieicolyle
Mrs. W. S. Kimball	aipetaia
'multiflora rosea'	Jiorivunaa
palmata "W	aconitifolia
Peach Leaf W	asnington Street
rubra 'rubella'	coccinea
rubella	_ Juscomaculata
'Sandersoni'	'aigswelliana'
Scotch Luxurians	subvillosa
Tewksbury Red	Red Compta
'Tewksbury Red''Tingley Mallett'	. Mme. Lionett'
Trout'	argenteo-guttata'
urophylla	'Houghtoni'
'Westport Beauty'	'Gustav Lind'
sk sk	*

These are the clues to the difference in naming between Mrs. Buxton's book "Begonias and How to Grow Them" and Mrs. Krauss's book "Begonias For American Homes and Gardens".

Buxton	Krauss
Scandens, alba	scandens
glabra scandens	cordifolia
'Winter Jewel'"	Bartonea"
coriacea	
macrocarpa macrocarpa acontifolia var. Hildegarde Schnei	pubescens
	sceptrum
'Lady Waterlow'	'Catalina'

Haageana 'President Carnot', fibrous. 'President Carnot' 'President Carnot', rex 'President' glaucophylla 'Limminghei' conchaefolia 'erythrophylla helix'

Here are some of the clues by which plants identify and describe themselves:

alba: white argenteus: silvery coccineus: scarlet incarnatus: flesh-colored niger (nigra): black roseus: rosy ruber (rubra): red

sanguineus: blood red virens, viridis: green xanthinus: yellow leaved

These are clues to part of plants, usually

used as suffixes: -anthus, -flores: flower -folius, -phyllus: leaf -carpus: fruit

-caulis: stem -pes: stalk, foot -petalus: petal -sepalus: sepal

These are clues to size and shape, usually

used as prefixes: macro: large longi: long

Lati: wide micro: small brevi: short

These are clues to some common plant habits and characteristics. (mascullins

ending given in some cases): cultorum: of cultivated type florepleno: double flowered

giganteus: very large gracilis: slender grandis: large, great humilis: dwarf, low growing

odoratus: fragrant pendulus: hanging

Here are other clues pertaining to be-

gonia descriptions: atrococcineus: dark scarlet cordifolius: leaves heart shaped

elatior: tall fimbriata: fringed

grandiflora: large flowered

glaucus: grayish incana: grevish, hoary luminosa: luminous

magnifica: great multiflora: many-flowered maculata: spotted

margaritaceae: pearl-like nana: dwarf

persicifolia: peach-leaved picta: picturesque venosa: veined

Library Notes

It is always a delight to add new books to our Library shelves for your armchair gardening during the winter months, and I take especial pleasure in announcing the

following acquisitions: BON SAI, a long awaited and greatly needed book on miniature trees, is an exquisite little volume distributed by the Japanese Travel Bureau, profusely illustrated with actual photographs and containing invaluable information on the shaping, propagation and culture for our devotees of this horticultural art. Copies may also be purchased thru your library (\$2.00)). California

members kindly include state sales tax.

PROPAGATION OF PLANTS, by Kaines and McQuesten, is a complete practical guide for both professional and amateur growers and covers all methods of propagation very thoroughly. It is well illustrated and is used as a text book in many agricultural col-

leges.

OUR GARDEN SOILS, by Charles E. Kellogg, "makes the complex knowledge of soil science available to you for solving the problem of your own garden." Sounds very technical, but may I assure you it is written in nontechnical language and is enjoyable reading to those interested in bettering the growing medium of their choice plants. Mr. Kellogg's chapter headings, i.e.

"Organic Matter, the Gardener's Elixir", or "Plenty of Well Behaved Water", give you some idea of the amusing and informative reading offered on this subject so essential to good gardeners.

MODERN FOLIAGE PLANTS, by Albert B. Graf, is a splendid pamphlet containing a wealth of information on decorative indoor plants, their characteristics and care; includes 31 actual photographs which should be an invaluable aid in identification of those we now grow. Also for sale, \$0.50.

The following exchange publications have been bound for circulation: NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE Vol. 30, 1951. JOURNAL OF THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Vol. XI & XII, 1950-51. CALIFORNIA GARDEN Vol. 42, 1951.

PLANTS & GARDENS publication of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Volumes 6 and -1950 and 1951.

You may also purchase copies of the NEW PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY OF PLANT NAMES, thru the Library—\$0.25 This should meet the need of those members who have frequently requested such a book-

Happy Holidays to one and all-Gladys G. Nolan, Librarian.

The New Fleecealba Begonia

By Florence Knock, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The joy we acquire during the anticipation period is alone almost enough to encourage hybridizing. Finally the day comes when the seed pod is mature, brown and ready to harvest. Later comes the time to sow the seed, which holds such great potentiality within its wee self. When we see the miracle of germination we almost hold our breath until the true leaves come and we can see which parent the foliage most resembles.

This was my experience when I crossed the rhizomatous begonia 'Sunderbruchi' and "Manda's Woolly Bear". The seed seems to be viable about 100%, and the third generation seedlings are a perfect copy of the first generation. They have characteristics of both parents and that is why I call the new begonia 'FLEECEALBA'. According to the Nomenclature Director, Mr. H. M. Butterfield, this is the second begonia to be registered with The American Begonia Society.

From 'Sunderbruchi' it inherited an upright rhizome and fourteen-inch flower

stems, which are three-parted. The oneinch flowers are pure white, with the usual golden stamens. The largest cluster had 100 flowers and formed a real bouquet all by itself, blooming in late winter.

The first two leaves on the seedlings come shiny, bright green, and the third and succeeding leaves come pure white and heavily fleeced. As the leaf grows, the felt becomes more like "Woolly Bear's", and it has that firm, glossy texture. The leaves are peltate and have one point. The foliage somewhat resembles Kellermani, but is thicker and not cupped and larger. The leaves are seven inches by five on a mature plant. The leaf felt becomes cream-white on older leaves and not brown as on "Woolly Bear". The pure white fleece on the new leaves also resembles the fleece of venosa.

'Fleecealba' is an unusually sturdy and easy plant to grow and its large clusters of flowers and its fleecy foliage will arouse new window gardening interest for any house plant connoisseur.

Round Robin
Notes

Mona Ayers, Kansas City, Mo.—To aid in preventing damping off of seedlings, use semesan solutions in the proportion of ½ teaspoon semesan to 1 quart water.

Thelma Henson—I pot ferns in the same soil I use for begonias, if they become potbound. I feed them, giving them a very mild solution of lime water. Some growers may not approve of this, but I've noticed that humusy, acid soil tends to become dark and sour after a year or more in the same pot and the lime water helps to sweeten it. I've noticed, too, that many of the ferns, begonias, and violets grow naturally in limestone regions in pockets of humusy soil.

Vern Dixon, Santa Maria, Calif.—Filtered sunlight is required by most ferns; holly ferns do well here in deep shade.

Mona Ayers, Kansas City, Mo.—For Gloxinias, use wood ashes, one to two tablespoons on top of soil near edge of pot. Water from the top.

ROUND ROBIN NEWS

Dear Members: Holiday time again and what could be nicer than a pretty plant as a gift, especially to some shut-in. This is the time of year when the Robins are really uplifters. Everything may be dreary outside and then a cheery Robin flies in with new houseplant ideas.

We need members for the Seed, Orchid, African Violet Hybridizing, Daylily, and Cacti and Succulent Robins.

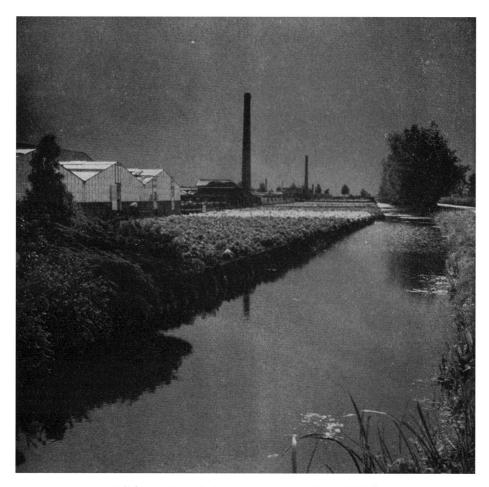
If you have any suggestions, send them in; we all want to improve the Robins in every possible way. Also please continue sending your courtesy cards; the directors' hands are tied without them. Members who don't send one in twice may be dropped. Don't let that happen.

My very best wishes for a Happy Christmas to all A.B.S. Members.

Your Chairman, Sophia Baker

United Nations

Newton Highlands recently staged a Hobby Show which was attended by some of the United Nations representatives over the week-end for whom they had a square dance and true New England supper of beans, brown bread, frankforts, apple pie, etc. I had needlepoint as well as begonias and The Begonian there. More than half the exhibitors were garden club members, one of whom, Prof. Morse, had very interesting articles from all over the world on display.—Catherine M. Sheeban.



A Tuberous Begonia Nursery near Amsterdam, Holland

Through the Camera to Europe

Courtesy of Mrs. Marjorie Wihtol, Red Bank, N. J.

Mrs. Wihtol sent the accompanying photographs and said:

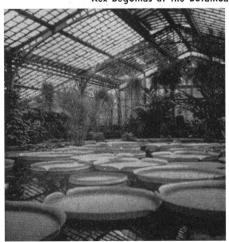
We had a rapid 7-week drive in Europe, landing at Cannes, thence to Venice, Como, Switzerland, Germany to Amsterdam, Holland, and then south through Belgium to Paris and the Chateau country to Carcasonne and back to Cannes. "Actually, I saw few begonias in Europe . . . rexes

in Germany and tuberous in Holland (by the acre) . . . Of fibrous I saw none.

"What I did see, which is worthy of great praise, is the display of Gloxinias in the Schweizerhof Hotel, Lucerne. The whole interior is lined with them, in all colors, with leaves up to a foot in length. The hotel owns a greenhouse, and the gardener changes the plants daily. They were magnificent."



Rex Begonias at the Botanical Gardens, Frankfurt, Germany



Giant pads of the Amazon Water-lily, Victoria regia, fill the pool in the tropical house at the Frankfurt Botanical Gardens.

Sign Here

New England Branch has a wonderful new sign, the handicraft of Mr. Stuart Bastow, grower of fine tuberous begonias in Rhode Island, who made it, together with a wooden case in which to keep it, for his contribution to our sale to raise money for expense of sending a delegate to the convention at San Francisco. His idea came from the official begonia pin, being a large relief of the leaves in a half-round pot on a half-round shelf over a large white board blazoning New England Branch of THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY. The leaves are finished in gold-leaf and the whole is very well-proportioned and outstanding.

—Catherine M. Sheehan.

Begonia Soil

By Rudolf Ziesenhenne

Quite often the limiting factor to growing good begonias is the potting soil. While various soil mixtures from pure clay to pure sand have given satisfactory results when properly managed, it is possible to prepare a soil mixture which will give consistently good results with not too exact handling

and only the usual watering.

My requirements for a good potting soil are definite. First it must be a loose, porous mixture which drains quickly, yet stays moist, and does not pack. It must not fall apart when the plant is knocked out of the pot for shipment. It must have sufficient fertilizer for satisfactory growth immediately and yet must break down slowly so that ample food is available for at least one year without the addition of anything but water. It must maintain an acid condition to counteract the alkaline salts in our city water. It must be free of soil animals, especially root nematodes. It must be standardized so it can be readily and repeatedly duplicated.

All of these problems were satisfactorily worked out and I have been using the following soil mixture since 1939 with consis-

tently good results.

In measuring the materials I use a onecubic foot capacity bucket but any size container may be utilized so long as it is used for all measurements. I use, by volume, 2 parts of leafmold composed mostly of leaves of scrub oak or mountain lilac (ceanothus). The common live oak leaves are usually so rich in tannic acid that the bacteria will not attack them readily and they will decay too slowly to feed the plant. I usually screen the leafmold through a half-inch mesh hardware cloth screen to remove sticks, stones, and large pieces of leaves, which, if used, will keep the soil too open. Next, one part European peat thoroughly wet. This peat, a dark reddishbrown when wet, is used primarily for its ability to hold water. The peat is valuable because when leafmold alone becomes dry in a pot, it refuses to get wet again and water applied will run right through the soil and out the pot without getting the leafmold wet.

When European peat is used, it absorbs the water and wets the leafmold through its contact with it. The peat also swells up in size when it absorbs water. This forces out the old air, and, as the water is used, the peat contracts and sucks new air into the soil. This expanding and contracting keeps the soil loose, which is important, for one must not cultivate around surface-feeding

plants. The Canadian and United States peats contain so little acid that they break down too rapidly and free too much nitrogen at once and thus cause poor results. One part compost or rich soil is added to furnish immediate food elements as well as bacteria and mineral matter. It also furnishes weight to the mixture, which helps to supply the proper compacting material to create numerous small air spaces in the soil and also keeps the pot from falling over. If the leafmold is mostly leaves and the compost mostly sandy soil, add one fourth part clay, for it has the ability to hold fertilizer elements to itself and thus prevent them from washing out of the pot. One balf part cow or steer manure (just decayed enough to prevent its heating up) furnishes a reserve of available fertilizing elements and plant vitamins as well as all the beneficial materials still unknown which makes this manure retain its title as the best general fertilizing material and soil conditioner. To a total volume of about 3½ cubic feet (one construction wheel barrow-full) of the above materials, add the following materials: One four-inch pot hoof and horn shavings, which furnish a slow form of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and lime as well as other minor elements; one five-inch pot of oyster shells (as supplied to chicken raisers), to furnish a steady supply of lime; one two-inch pot of air-slaked lime to supply an immediate source of lime; one four-inch pot of charcoal (of mixed sized particles), which has the ability to absorb large amounts of ammonia gas and thus keep the soil smelling sweet as well as saving the ammonia (a nitrate) to feed the plants; one four-inch pot of bat manure to supply immediate as well as a long-time supply of nitrogen, phosphorous, potash, and other elements; one two-inch pot of superphosphate to furnish a steady supply of phosphoric acid and lime; one and a half-inch pot of sulphate of potash, which furnishes sulphur and potash steadily; one four-inch pot of Scotch Soot, supplying readily available nitrogen as ammonia and carbon; one two-inch pot of Vaporite to act as a mild fungicide and repellent to worms and soil animals. If the soil is not to be steamed, then add one four-inch pot of the Vaporite. I place the soil in nursery flats and steam it, trying to hold the temperature of the soil at 180 degrees for one-half hour.

It will be noted that the above potting mixture does not contain sand which is inert as a fertilizer and always packs the soil, an undesirable trait. When sand had been added to the above soil mixture I

always obtained poor results. Besides, nearly all the sand available in Southern California and probably into Central California is infested with root nematode, which will cause untold damage to plants.

Since this soil is prepared to fight an alkaline water it will not give good results if you use soft or sulphur water, for the soil will become so acid that fertilizing elements will be made unavailable to the plants.

Because of the abundance of potential fertilizer in the soil mixture it is best to allow the soil to become slightly dry on the surface between waterings as this slows up the action of the bacteria. Also, if you keep the soil too wet in the lower part of the pot air will be excluded, bacteria will develop swamp gas, and the roots will never penetrate the lower soil. When you water, water thoroughly so that the soil ball is soaked, but remember that the water which runs out of the bottom of the pot takes with it in liquid form the fertilizer which you have thoughtfully provided. For this reason, if you stand the potted plant in a pan of water, only pour in as much water as the

pot will take up.

To use this mixture for tuberous begonias you must have the plant well rooted before it is potted or the tubers may rot. It is best to start the tubers in peat moss, leafmold, or in a small pot in the soil in which the plant grew last year, and then shift into the rich soil after the roots are well developed. Plants of various begonias in active growth may be transplanted directly into this preparation. Cuttings of begonias rooted in pumice or sponge rock may also be placed in the mixture but they should be heavily watered once in order to wash out the excess available fertilizer.

While this soil was especially prepared for begonias, it has proved an excellent soil mixture for coleus, gloxinias, cyclamen, saintpaulias, ferns, primulas and cinerarias. For cymbidiums this same soil mixture, used half and half with oak leaves or leaves of the same texture and acidity, will give excellent results for two or three years with only the addition of water. The mixture, used with two parts garden soil, will give good

results with other plants, also.

BRANCH SHOWS

The second "ALL BEGONIA" Show was a huge success, over 400 visitors registered. Ten States and France were represented.

(We had lots of competition: Rose Show; Air Show; Opening of Veterans Hospital and

a Garden Tour at Lexington.))

314 entries consisting of 127 named varieties, all but 2 classes had entries, 30 persons entered plants. (5 members brought

207 and 25 brought the rest).

Mrs. Ralph Seever won the ribbon for the Best Begonia in the Show, a lovely B. foliosa that sat on a stand; its branches grew down around the pot on all sides like green lace. No one had ever grown any-

thing like it in Kansas City. Mrs. H. E. Dillard, who has only been growing begonias for a year and a half, won the sweepstakes. We are very proud of our President. Mrs. Breshears won 2nd and Leora Calmese 3rd. Division ribbons were given this year, Mrs. Dillard earned 4; Mrs. Breshears 2; Mary Wood 1; Mr. Weakley 1; Mrs. Seeves 1; and the Weakley's young son 1. Mrs. Mary Wood's B. picta was in full bloom, measured 15" x 18"

and was out of this world. Mrs. Katie Baughman was in charge on the educational table. 30 different articles were on display, begonias in all stages of growth from seedlings in jars to plants five feet tall. There were also 25 large

begonias on display.

A luncheon was held before the Show at which Mrs. Emma Carleton of Berkeley, California, was the guest of Honor. Mrs. Carleton spoke to the group during the luncheon then helped our three local Judges in judging the begonias in the Show. We only regret that she could not stay over for the regular meeting.—Leora Calmese.

Your editor noted with interest the great number of classes set up in the Missouri Branch Show Schedule-96 in all, including a special division for children under 16. Mr. Lysle Hackler of Whittier also reports that Mrs. Peggy McGrath of that branch was able to attend their show and brought back a news clipping of the good reports thereon, she having enjoyed the show very much and says, "Missouri is doing a wonderful job."

CENTRAL FLORIDA:

Our first begonia show was held October 4th and 5th. The members of this branch are residents of Winter Park, Orlando, Lakeland and Deland. The show was entirely non-competitive. Those who visited the Begoniarium, the setting for the show, were intrigued with the number of plants shown, their arrangement, and the added attraction of an educational exhibit near the plant sale table. It was felt as a result of the show, that Florida will

obtain many new begonia growers.

The staging of the show was under the inspired direction of Mrs. George R. Crisler, President, who graciously opened her grounds for the event. (See The Begonian for August, 1950). In the carporte on the way to the patio were the flower arrangements under the chairmanship of Mrs. H. C. Sharpe, an accredited National Flower Show judge. A feature of this arrangement was a miniature garden, table-

(Turn to Page 275)

NOW

COLD FACTS

By Sidney Sampson, Duluth, Minn.

Growing begonias from seed I have used Vetterle & Reinelt and Antonelli Brothers seeds. Although I have two 35-foot greenhouses, I use a glassed-in sun porch to grow a thousand or two each year. Under such conditions, it calls for close attention.

Starting in December (our season is short), I use a $16x14x2^3/4$ inch cedar flat. I do not use smaller containers because they call for too frequent watering, which means "too wet," "Just right", "too dry" too often. With a good sized flat the "just right" condition lasts for a longer period of time, which is most important to germina-tion, and the "too wet" and "too dry" periods are less frequent.

I use one-third peat, one-third sand, onethird rotted barnyard manure-not too fine a mixture. I prefer sterilizing with boiling water. When cool enough to handle, squeeze out excess water by handfuls and your soil is ready at once to plant. Keep the soil very loose; do not pack it down, but pack about one inch of the soil around the edge very firmly. This avoids cracking and

drying out of sides.

Mix your seeds with fine sand and use a pepper shaker to distribute your seeds evenly on the surface. Soak down with a clothes sprinkler. Cover with strips of glass about four inches wide. (Try your hardware dealer or glazier for scraps.) Leave a small crack between the strips for ventilation, which can be adjusted accordingly. Do not use a solid sheet of glass because air circulation is not so good. Your germination will be better if you use a pinch of Fermate with your seed. Your germination temperature should be about 70 to 75 degrees, but do not fail to remove to a growing temperature of about 60 degrees as soon as germination takes place, which should be about the 10th to 11th day. Seedlings grown cool are far superior in quality.

Do not water your flats by soaking; your soil will be too soggy. Use a clothes sprinkler; shaking aerates the water. A pinch of Fermate in the water keeps rot away. Too much Fermate may slow growth, tho.

Transplant early and grow seedlings in a well-lighted, cool window. The maximum amount of light, the minimum amount of sun, is ideal. Night temperatures of 50 degrees will do no harm. Keep glass strips over your seedlings as long as possible as they hold the humid condition begonias like.

MAGAZINE

Small, interesting—flowers, gardening, bird and nature notes, poems, ads.

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GARDEN GLEANINGS 2B, Baroda, Michigan

TIMELY TUBEROUS TIPS

Glenn W. Motschman

Monthly cultural information on growing the Tuberous Begonia in Southern California.

At this time of the year the Queen of our Begonia family is ready for a short rest period. Normally the stalk will wither and separate from the tuber soon after watering is stopped. However, if the weather remains warm, it will be necessary to lift the plant out of the ground in order to force it to go dormant. If the plants are in pots or redwood containers, place the pots or containers on their sides. Soon the stalk will wither and drop. Do not break or tear the stalk from the tuber. To do so will usually result in losing the tuber through decay, as part of the stalk will remain on the tuber, and when the stalk decays it will destroy the tuber. Should by accident a bit of stalk remain on the tuber, cut it away with a sharp knife and dust the wound with sulphur, charcoal or semesan in order to prevent decay. The tuber should be carefully washed, then dried in the sun for a short time before being placed in trays for storing. Dust a small amount of Napthalene flakes (powdered moth balls) over the tubers to prevent thrips and other pests from infesting the tubers.

This month we should also sow our tuberous begonia seeds. There are many ways to successfully germinate and grow tuberous begonia seeds. My method is one that is used by many leading growers and has given me maximum germination of seeds for many years. It is simple to grow tuberous begonia seeds if one does not neglect them or get careless. Sterilization of soil and container is a necessity; so I suggest that you do not attempt short cuts. All steps are necessary to grow the plants from seed.

Use a clean redwood flat that has been sprayed with a full strength solution of semesan. The size will depend on the amount of seed you wish to grow. Remember, a packet contains several hundred seeds, so a standard flat (18 inches x 18 inches) is about the right size. Fill the lower half of the flat with German Peat Moss as it comes from the bale. Pour boiling distilled water over it and lightly tamp to level the peat in the flat. Sift through a window screen about a shovel full of black, well decomposed Oak Leaf Mold. Bake the screened leaf mold in an oven for one hour at 225 degrees. Sift through a window screen a like amount of German Peat Moss. Place the Peat Moss in a clean bucket and pour boiling distilled water over it until saturated, then mix thoroughly the sifted oak leaf mold and peat moss together. The moisture in the peat moss will be partly absorbed by the hot leaf mold and the final result should be a mixture that is damp, but not soggy wet. This mixture is then placed on top of the rough peat about ½ inch deep. Lightly tamp and smooth the surface, being careful not to pack the soil. The seed should be sown immediately while the soil is warm. Place the seed on a small card. To evenly sow the seed over the entire flat, curl the card between your fingers, and, by lightly tapping the card as it is moved over the surface of the flat, you will see the tiny round seeds roll off of the card. Then spray the entire surface with a full strength solution of semesan. Cover the flat with a sheet of glass, and over it place a heavy paper or other material that will exclude light.

The germinating tray should then be kept at a temperature of no less than 65 degrees or more than 69 degrees in order to secure maximum germination. This is best accomplished in a hot bed over a soil heating cable that is thermostatically controlled. However, any device that will achieve proper conditions will do nicely. Germination occurs within one to two weeks. The seed will be swollen to about twice its size and

bits of white will appear. At this point remove the paper covering over the glass. Place small sticks about one quarter of an inch thick under the glass at the corners of the flat. This is necessary so that the tiny plants will receive light and air. Be careful that no direct sunlight reaches the plants. In a few days after growth is visible, remove the glass.

From now on it will be necessary to keep a constant check on the moisture, for unless the humidity can be controlled, evaporation will be rapid, and if the surface of the soil becomes dry, you will lose the tiny plants.

It will be a little over two months after sowing seed before the third leaf will appear, so we will cover transplanting in next month's article.

May I recommend that you purchase your seed from the reliable dealers that advertise in *The Begonian*. It will be seven months before your seedling plants bloom, so it is very advisable to procure the finest seed available.

MRS. BUXTON'S TOUR

Following the Convention at San Francisco we have received word from the Santa Barbara Branch that Mrs. Buxton had an enjoyable stay there before equally pleasant trips to Pasadena and San Diego.

The Santa Barbara News-Press quoted her as saying, "Your California plants make me dizzy, they are so big and more colorful than we can raise in the East." She shipped some of the new Santa Barbara plants to the New England Branch for their Horticultural Show. Accompanying Mrs. Buxton was Mrs. Catherine Sheehan of Newton Highlands, Mass., who showed her slides of New England gardens and famous houses.

They visited many gardens including that of Public Relations Director Louise Schwerdtfeger, hybridizer Mrs. Elsie Frey, and the famous establishment of Rudolf Ziesenhenne and motored to Ojai to visit Mrs. Henry Flaitz' collection of marvelous rex hybrids.

Later we received word both good and bad that Mrs. Buxton had been stricken with illness when she reached Dallas, Texas, and was confined to a hospital for some time but that she had recovered and returned to her home. Mrs. Dorothy B. Bearden writes that the Dallas County Branch was honored by Mrs. Buxton's personal report of the National Convention and Show at a special meeting held September 23, 1952, and also that their members paid a number of visits to Mrs. Buxton at the hospital during her convalescence during which they had the pleasure of improving their acquaintance with this charming lady and were graciously given many valuable begonia pointers. They extend their best wishes to her for a full

recovery.

We are sure that everyone's good wishes will strengthen and encourage Mrs. Buxton.

Branch Shows, cont. from page 273

high for viewing, with begonias, miniature shade-loving plants and furniture at the end of a tiny walkway.

Under the oak trees in the patio were the plant sale table under Mrs. H. M. Kopf, the educational table under Mrs. T. H. Wolf. Visitors were guided thence along a walk through begonias and other shade plants to the permanent terraces of the Begoniarium and next to the amusingly named "Slum Section" where an aviary of wrought iron six feet high filled with brilliant little tropical birds presided over the 616 plants exhibited by members, including such gems as blooming orchids, bromeliads, anthuriums and the black bloom of the "Devil Plant".

Returning to the educational table, visitors viewed it with new interest and noted the different species of begonias; the demonstration of their propagation from seed, leaf or stem; the various transplanting stages up to 3 inch pots, and a vertical section of a pot illustrating the proper materials for drainage, aeration, feeding and support of the plant. It was popular among those who had purchased plants and wished additional information about them, and in turn it also created a desire to patronize the plant sale table.

The entire Show was under the chairmanship of Mrs. L. M. Donnell, who is an enthusiastic grower and could easily give a one man show with her many specimen plants.—Mary C. Black

Begonias in Houston Texas

Courtesy of the Houston Post

Mrs. Clara E. Cooper of the Houston, Texas, Branch and her "175 Varieties" were featured this summer in the Houston Post's feature magazine, "Texas Living" with an article by May Del Flagg. Mrs. Cooper, of course, is our old friend from Kansas City, who moved to Houston two years ago. Incidentally she represented Houston at the recent San Francisco Convention.



A Corner of Mrs. Cooper's Patio

-Photo Courtesy of The Houston Post, Texas

Mrs. Flagg reports that Mrs. Cooper is one of those rare people—an impartial lover of begonias-everything from semperflorens types to the huge rhizomatous ones and that, although her plants are all labeled she identifies each by its foliage and habit of growth, out of her 20 years of experience

Among those specifically mentioned in

Mrs. Cooper's collection were:

'Cernacroa', Mrs. Cooper's own hybrid between the cane 'lucerna' and the hanging dichroa which developed the tall cane habit and coral red flowers continuously produced from January through summer.

Hanging basket types such as dichroa,

epipsila, and 'Braemar'.

Fragrant 'decorus' and 'Tea-rose', with

white and pink flowers respectively.

Mrs. Cooper's procedure in caring for her lovely collection in the Houston climate is to keep them in her brick-floored patio area between the house and garage during the summer, covered overhead with lath and muslin and move them to her greenhouse and home for the winter months. During the summer she sprays water over all three times a week and feeds the pots once a month with mild liquid fertilizer (either barnyard tea or commercial (and checks them every day to be sure they are neither dry nor soggy. During winter they are carefully arranged to allow each sufficient light and air as well as humidity and during severe weather a small gas stove supplies sufficient heat for the greenhouse.

Her soil mix is 1 part peatmoss, 1 part leafmold, 1 part sand and a teaspoon of superphosphate to each 4-inch pot to stimu-

late flowering.

She says any greenhouse grower who can raise snapdragons or petunias from seed can also raise begonias from seed. She was busy transferring the tiny seedlings from the seed flats to small pots set on a two-inch bed of coarse, moist sand in large tins. When the plants have filled the little pots with roots she transplants them to large pots and baskets. The sand provides both free drainage and humidity.

Companions to her favorite begonias are some 40 varieties of Saintpaulias, episcias,

coleus and ornamental caladiums.

May Del Flagg specially noted that Mrs. Cooper and her daughter, Mrs. Frances Carroll, built the lean-to greenhouse with hardware cloth cover and laid the brick flooring of the patio themselves!

THE SEED FUND STORY

In answer to the query, "What has happened to the Seed Fund?" the ensuing story was complied from the records.

A small group of A.B.S. members, headed by the late Clayton M. Kelly, became interested in obtaining begonia seeds from far away places in 1935. With the importation of seed, the possibility of finding new and rare begonias was the greatest hope they could realize.

Each member contributed one dollar to finance the first Expedition of the Seed Fund. All seed obtained was equally divided

and distributed.

"Many very worthy additions have thus been made available to all members of our Society." (From March 1940 BEGON-IAN.)

This group was soon dubbed the ARM-

CHAIR EXPLORERS.

With interest becoming keener in begonias, a Research and Seed Fund Department was created with the late Clayton M. Kelly becoming its first Director. It is interesting to note, the first cultural bulletins were printed by the Research Department from funds in reserve, over and above expenditures necessary to obtain seeds.

Mr. Lambert E. Day was the Director following Mr. Kelly and contributed many

fine articles to the BEGONIAN.

In 1941 BEGONIAN, p. 41, a report was "THE ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS have returned and report a very pleasant and profitable voyage".

Mr. Day reported in the BEGONIAN on p. 141, 1941, "We were fortunate in having an unusually large quantity of seeds begonia species to distribute to members the ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS this year. Nearly three thousand packets of seeds were mailed out, which included thirty-seven different varieties.'

Becoming a member of the ARMCHAIR EXPLORERS was a privilege extended to any member of the A.B.S.

The Research Department was reorganized in 1942 by the appointments of a separate Research Director and a Seed Administrator.

Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenne was appointed Research Director and served for one year, having served as Nomenclature Director for several years prior to that time. Mrs. Clarrisa Harris accepted appointment as Seed Fund Administrator.

The Research Director proclaimed the rules and duties of the separate Chairman of each office on page 20 of the 1942 BE-GONIAN. "The Seed Fund Administrator shall have charge of soliciting funds in the form of a pool, and shall endeavor to spend such funds in an honest effort to obtain seeds or plants of begonias not in cultivation in this country, and send them out to various members who have contributed to

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the fund on an equal basis and that some of each seed or plant shall be turned over to the Nomenclature Chairman to be grown and identified if possible. The Seed Fund Administrator shall submit, on request, a financial statement to the Research Director and shall submit an annual report and financial statement at the close of each year." The following amendment was made to this rule: "All money now in the seed fund, except that specifically contributed for 1942, is placed in a permanent Reserve Fund belonging to the Seed Fund; and all monies coming in afterward be spent, so far as needed, for seed to be distributed among the contributors, and any surplus remaining to be turned over to the general fund of the Research Departments.

Clayton M. Kelly, Charter Member of the American Begonia Society, passed away in February 1942. In the December BE-GONIAN of that year, p. 181, "It was decided that since Mr. Kelly was the organizer of the Research and Seed Fund Department of this Society it would henceforth be known as "The Clayton M. Kelly Research and Seed Fund Department of the American

Begonia Society."

Mrs. H. W. Bridges became Research Di-

rector in 1943.

Mrs. Helen K. Krauss was Research Director in 1944 and some very interesting articles were written by her during that

year.

Mrs. Clarrisa Harris was appointed Administrator of the Seed Fund in 1942 and for four years operated under the original plan of any A.B.S. member interested in seeds being able to join the Seed Fund Expedition for one dollar and share equally in whatever seeds were obtained. After her four years, her final annual report (1945) showed a balance on hand of \$39.70.

President Harold Hart appointed Mrs. E. Carrell as Seed Fund Administrator in January, 1946, and she served in this ca-

pacity, until September, 1952.

Membership in the Seed Fund was raised to \$2.00 in 1946, with the money being paid *prior* to the launching of the Expedition.

A letter from Mrs. C. Harris was read at the March Board Meeting asking disposition of the Seed Fund balance of \$39.70.

Secretary Hartwell was instructed to write to the former Seed Fund Administrator and ask that she deposit the money with "the Treasurer to be reallocated as the Board might see fit".

At the April, 1946, Board Meeting Mrs. Carrell reported 67 members (\$2.00 each—\$134.00) for the Seed Fund Expedition, "And with the monies received she had been able to secure begonia seeds of many kinds and to send small packets to each contributor."

The annual report of August, 1947, showed the increase of enthusiasm for growing begonias from seed, as Mrs. Carrell reported 156 members (\$312.00) joining the

Armchair Explorers Expedition. This was a gain of 92 but her report showed an expenditure of \$333.12 for seed and expenses for the year. Mrs. Carrell sent out 35 kinds of begonia seeds.

The report of 1948 showed an income of \$550.00, expenditures \$521.50 leaving a

balance of \$28.50.

Rudolf Ziesenhenne loaned his copy of the World of Plant Science Institutions and Societies to Elmer Lorenz in 1948, whereby he was able to ascertain the addresses of many possible sources of seed for the Seed Fund. Mr. Lorenz donated his time in writing more than 100 air mail letters to the addresses Mr. Ziesenhenne had made available; the postage was paid by the Seed Fund. Mrs. Carrell reported a very small percentage of these people responded, but Mr. Lorenz felt the few were worth the effort he expended in helping Mrs. Carrell in her quest for seeds for the A.B.S.

Enthusiasm in the Seed Fund grew by leaps and bounds. The late Mrs. Boeshar contributed thousands of tiny envelopes for the seeds and Mrs. Maud Nichols did the packaging, as the Seed Fund Administrator received more requests for seeds than she

could handle alone.

Mrs. Carrell changed the system of pooling the funds for the entire amount of seeds obtained, with the 1950 seeds. Separate groups were made available in smaller amounts at prices varying from \$1.00 to \$2.00 a group.

As there was quite a little dissatisfaction expressed over this method, a better suggestion is being awaited at this date.

All seeds offered by the Seed Fund were for the express purpose of conferring an added privilege to be gained by being a member of the A.B.S.

However, the A.B.S. seed list was printed in the GLOXINIAN during this past year and the seeds were made available to people, other than A.B.S. members, without authorization of the Board.

The necessity of a financial statement from the Seed Fund Administrator was overlooked for several years, and, as it is a requisite of all officers, as per the A.B.S. Constitution, a request was made this past year for a report.

A letter from Mrs. Carrell containing a report and her resignation was received and read to the membership at the Annual Convention in San Francisco.

A registered letter was written to Mrs. Carrell by the secretary September 15, 1952, accepting her resignation, with regrets, and directing all material and records be sent to the secretary. It is presumed that the matter of the A.B.S. Seed Fund records and seeds will be forthcoming soon. As is customary, after the books are audited, a new Administrator will be appointed.

Administrator will be appointed.
See the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund column for further details of future Expedi-

tions.

Your Editor

Well, under pressure, I let Dorothy Powell, our Publicity Director, take a candid camera shot of me one evening so that those members who so desired might have some idea of what that editor - person is like.



-Dorothy Powell Photo

(I'm glad that's over!) So, Merry Christmas, one and all!

More Convention Notes

Seems like we knew we would omit something from all that show report—and we did—

First, the Petaluma Branch had a fine big booth on the same side as the San Francisco City College and the East Bay Branch and we didn't mean to ignore them, you may be sure, with their fine big plants.

Also, we never did get a complete list of the number of visitors from out-of-state and whence they came, but a partial one would include, besides Mrs. Buxton, and New England representative, Mrs. Catherine M. Sheehan; the Pennsylvania—New Jersey representative, Mrs. Elsa Fort; the Houston, Texas, representative, Mrs. Pollyanna Cooper, and another member of their branch; Mrs. David Talbot of Vancouver, Washington, representative of the Portland, Oregon, Branch; and Mrs. Sophia Baker of Portland, the Round Robins Chairman. How many more there were I do not know, but this was certainly one of the most widely represented conventions yet.

While you were in San Francisco, did you notice how many folk extolled FISH fertilized for their tuberous begonias. I was amazed.

Christmas Corsages

Mrs. Alma Walton of Torrance sent in a Los Angeles Times clipping recently which quoted Dr. A. M. Kofranek, assistant professor of horticulture at U.C.L.A., to the effect that due to the progress being made in blooming tuberous begonias out-of-season by artificial light application, it will not be long before florists will be handling those Christmas-red flowers for holiday corsages. He says the light treatment tends to elongate the plant stems too much for desirable pot plants but that the blooms will be excellent.—San Francisco, how about that?

A Letter from Oregon
I feel certain that I am qualified to attest to the lasting qualities of the fascinating hobby of begonia growing. At one time in New England, I grew upward of four hundred and fifty species, varieties and hybrids, many of them specimens of large proportions. I became commercial and for

a while begonias were almost literally my whole existence. Then circumstances arose making it necessary for me to sell my beloved plants, and for about seven years I hardly saw a begonia, my memory of names grew dim, and the fund of cultural knowledge I had stored up was shelved indefinitely. Then last winter I settled down in Oregon, married a horticulturally-minded wife just prior to Christmas, renewed my subscriptions to garden magazines including The Begonian, and began to think again about acquiring some plants.

One evening Marion and I visted Mrs. Sophia Baker, the able A.B.S. Round Robin chairman. That really began things. I found myself in two begonia robins where I met several old friends, we started attending branch meetings, and in February we moved from Portland to the coast where I have the use of a good part of an eighteen

by twenty foot greenhouse.

Through purchased plants, gifts of friends, and exchanges I now have somewhere around three hundred kinds, a lot of them new to me. Already many are growing magnificently, albeit alarmingly, and the old, old problem of winter housing that I always had to face is imminent. Granted, all my beautiful basket tuberous and the various tuberous species will relieve the various tuberous species will relieve the various tuberous from seed acquired from Florence Carrell (formerly chairman of the Clayton Kelly Seed Fund) that I know will by winter be making demands on my meager space. Then, too, I never could resist making cuttings.



Philip Post's Begonias

During the seven years when I didn't own a plant I knew I wasn't really cured of the begonia disease. I was just an arrested case. Some of us have other plant hobbies. I grow some other things myself, to be sure, but for me there is a deadly similarity, a monotony within each of the other plant families. Once before in *The Begonian* I said, and I will say again, that I am convinced there is not another group of ornamental plants which presents such an infinite variety of form, foliage or flower, or such an enduring appeal as do begonias.

-Philip Malcolm Post.

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American Gesneria Society

Mr. Esler Johnson writes that his group has incorporated under the above name and will soon commence issuance of their own bi-monthly publication, although they enjoy and recommend "The Gloxinian" also. Looks like our allies, the Gesneriaceae, are going to blossom out into lots of publicity!

National Horticultural Magazine
As you no doubt know, the American
Horticultural Society, with which we are
affiliated, issues a quarterly publication of
the highest quality. Your editor has been
honored by the offer of space in each of the
1953 issues for articles about begonias.
Other plant societies are also being offered this opportunity for wider dissemination of information about particular plant
groups. We hope to present four facets of
the Begonia story in such a way that new
converts will be made.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

The 1953 Seed Fund Expedition will be launched as in former years. This Expedition will produce seeds from foreign sources only. The seed will be distributed separate from seed collected in the United States.

The only way you may share in the newly imported seeds is to join the Seed

Fund.

To become a member of the Expedition, a contribution of \$2.00 will be required *prior* to the 'sailing'. Send in your membership today.

In addition to the available seeds, listed in the November *BEGONIAN*, we have fresh, mixed fern spores and *B. Evansiana* bulbils at 25 cents a pkt. and Camellia seeds at fifty cents a dozen.

The benefits from this department are for A.B.S. members only. It is another one of your valuable membership privileges.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund—P.O. BOX 2544, Los Angeles 54, California. (Be sure to use the Zone number.)

Seeds from Mexico

Collected by William Brooks

As described in Aug. and Sept. Begonian 50c per packet

TURNER'S SHADE GARDENS

P. O. Box 18 Temple City, Calif.

AUTOMATIC-WATERING PLANT GLASWIKS

4" WIKS: 7/32"—A .08c, 7/32"—B .10c 1/4" .12c, 3/8' .15c. Use 7/32"—A in 3" and 4" pots; 7/32"—B in 4", 5" and 6" pots; 1/4" in 6", 7" and 8" pots and 3/8" in 8", 9" and larger pots. Write for bulk prices.

JOHN P. TOBERMAN

102 Ave. A. North

Bellaire, Texas



DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING THE A.B.S. WAY

How about an A.B.S. pin for your best begonia friend, \$3.32 sent to Mrs. Gonda Hartwell at 1719 Alamitos Ave., Monrovia, Calif., does it.

A year's dues in the A.B.S. costs only \$2.50. Lots of your friends would appreciate this. (Don't forget to put the zone number 54 when writing to the Membership Secretary.)

A.B.S. membership signs are two for a quarter from Mrs. Dorothy S. Behrends, 1633 Golden Gate Ave. Los Angeles, Calif.

1633 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
Look through our "Begonian" advertisements and you will find many wonderful gifts, very, very acceptable to any of the various garden lovers on your Christmas list—and, you will be strengthening your Society through such support of its magazine's advertisers.

Give begonias! Put your best garden picture on your Christmas cards! Follow Mrs. Buxton's example and put your brightest plants in your Christmas window! Let's be

self-expressive this Christmas!

Wm. Kirch -- Orchids, Ltd.

Growers and hybridizers of the finest in orchid plants for amateur growers. Hard grown plants that are easy to acclimate to your conditions. Write for price lists on Vandas, Dendrobiums, Cattleyas, Phalaenopsis, Species, and Botanicals.

Wm. Kirch - - Orchids, Ltd.

732 KAPAHULU AVENUE

HONOLULU, HAWAII

Calendar

(Visitors Always Welcome) December 5th

Florida Branch: Shade-loving Plants will be discussed by Mr. R. Mc-Cauley; Mr. and Mrs. Winfrey, Hosts.

December 11th

Inglewood: Christmas Party and Installation of Officers. Also a Scotch auction to aid some kindly deeds. Come and really have fun.

December 16th

Glendale: Joint Christmas Party with the California Fuchsia Society; brief business meeting with installation of officers by National President Edna Korts; talk-Bibical Plants; entertainment; refreshments!

December 17th

San Gabriel Valley: Christmas Party with gift exchange—bring something—not over a \$1.00 value—you would like to receive. Fun with all the trimmings. Bring a friend. Wear a Christmas corsage and compete for the prize.

1953

January 2nd Central Florida: Mrs. Leo Shippy of New York begonia fame is scheduled to speak on "My begonias"; hostesses, Mrs. Hull and Mrs. Lepponer.



HUMUS-LIFE

A composite humus rich in beneficial micro-organisms and plant foods, naturally balanced. Gives a slow, steady release for lasting, healthy

plant growth.

Very beneficial to shade plants (and others)
when used in potting mix or as a top dressing
Sickly plants have made remarkable recovery;
seed germination has increased many-fold.

5 lb. size \$1.00 20 lb. size \$3.00. (Postpaid)

Soil Organics

10248 S. Valley View

Whittier, Calif.

Vistin' Time is Any Time

Mrs. Breshears, Missouri Branch's nomenclature teacher made a trip to California and returned to our branch with a word picture of each garden she visited. Mrs. McNeely of Trenton had visited the International Flower Show and begonia and other flower growers and also gave a fine description of these places. Both ladies spoke of the wonderful hospitality showered on each of them.

We extend an invitation to anyone visiting Kansas City or coming through to let us know, and we will arrange to take you around; please don't hesitate.

-Mrs. Leora Calmese

Autonelli Brothers

BEGONIA GARDENS

WRITE FOR CATALOG

Santa Cruz, California Capitola Road

A New Begonia

Begonia hepatica-maculata An outstanding new and distinctive Mexican rhizomatous Begonia with emerald-green leaves, blotched with large liver-colored markings.

Price \$1.50 each F. O. B. Santa Barbara

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

Santa Barbara, Calif. 1130 N. Milpas St.

NEW OFFICERS

Hub City: President, Mrs. Marian Parsley; Vice-President, Mr. Oran DeBois; Secretary, Recording, Mr. R. E. Brodie; Secretary, Corresponding, Mrs. Dorothy Sarson; Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Marsh; National Director, Mrs. Dorothy Powell.

La Mesa: Secretary, Peggy Owens. Theodosia Burr Shepherd: President, Mr. Ted Lemmon; Vice-President, Mr. Jack Skinner; Secretary, Mrs. M. E. Ramelli; Treasurer, Mrs. H. Fox; National Director, Mr. B. Woods; Membership Secretary, Mrs. W. Smith.

GESNERIADS

Interested in this beautiful group of plants? Subscribe to the GLOXINIAN. \$1.50 per year.

Sample copy, 25c. Write:

THE GLOXINIAN, Gray, Oklahoma

Palos.

Begonia Farm

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-way, Walteria, Calif.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Complete Selections of BEGONIAS and SHADE PLANTS

Fuchsias - Camellias Open Every Day

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop

11/2 Miles E. of Redondo Beach, Hi-Way 101

BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

(Visitors always welcome at these meetings.)

(Visitors always we CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH 1st Friday, Dec. 5, Jan. 2, 6:00 p.m. Lounge, Florida Power Co. Winter Park, Fla. Mrs. Martha Gipson, Secy.-Treas. 861 Juanita Roeal, Winter Park, Fla. DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH. TEXAS 1st Thursday, Dec. 4, 7:00 p.m. Member's Residences Mrs. Russell B. White, Sec'y.-Treas. 919 N. Clinton St., Dallas 11, Texas EAST BAY BRANCH

EAST BAY BRANCH
2nd Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward Berkeley

2nd Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward
Berkeley
C. F. Jensen, Secy.
3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.
EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH
3rd Thursday, Dec. 18
Jennie Baker School 12043 Exline
Jean Cross, Cor. Secy.
1304 Elm, Alhambra, Calif.
FOOTHILL BRANCH
3rd Thursday, Dec. 18, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Recreation Hall
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland
FORT ELSA BRANCH
1st Saturday, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, 2:30 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628-Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N. J.
GLENDALE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, Dec. 16, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Cor. Secy.
1301 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 8, Calif.
GRAY. EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH
3rd Monday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.
GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH
(March through November)
Hoquiam Pub. Library, or Messingale &
Rosenear Music Store, Aberdeen, Wash.
Alice Hardman, Secy.
The Flower Studio, Aberdeen, Wash.
GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Dec. 23, 10:30 a.m.
Home of Members
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following
Mrs. Ernest Jones, Secy.
R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.
HEART OF AMERICA BRANCH
2nd Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Member's Residences
Mr. George Knoupf, Secy. Treas.
2912 Delevan, Kansas City, Kans.

Member's Residences
Mr. George Knoupf, Secy.-Treas.
2912 Delevan, Kansas City, Kans.
HOLLYWOOD BRANCH
2nd Monday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Florence F. Flynn, Cor. Secy.
1319 N. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles 46, Calif.
HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH
2nd Friday, Dec. 12, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, Herman Park
Mrs. E. H. Claggett, Secy.
4415 Austin, Houston, Tex.

HUB CITY BRANCH
COMPTON-LYNWOOD
3rd Monday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Roosevelt High School Cafe
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Sarson, Secy.
1108 E. Glencoe Ave., Compton 1, Calif.
HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Dec. 8, 8:00 p.m. Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif. Miss Margaret Smith, Secy. P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif. INGLEWOOD BRANCH 2nd Thursday, Dec. 11, 8:00 p.m. 325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Dorris Motschman, Secy.

9601 Haas Ave., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH
2nd Monday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blyd.
Peggy Owens, Secy.
4275 Nabal Dr., La Mesa, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER 2nd Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m. Colonial Hall, 10th and Locust Mrs. W. Cox, Secy. 3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Dec. 23, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Secy.
3340 S.W. 24th Terrace, Miami, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1:00 p.m.
American Legion Bldg., Linwood & Paseo
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Mary Wood, Secy.
626 W. Charles, Independence, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy. 170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH 2nd Monday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. Houghton Park Club House

2nd Monday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, N. Long Beach
Mrs. Beatrice White, Secy.
1411 Poppy St., Long Beach, Calif.
ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH
1st Thursday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 S. Main St., Orange
Mrs. Evie Darden, Secy.-Treas.
6701 S. Fee Ana St., Rt. 3, Anaheim, Calif.
PASADENA BRANCH
3rd Monday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Casitas del Arroyo. 117 S. Arroyo, Pasadena
Mrs. Lois Williams, Secy.-Treas.
1674 Monte Vista St., Pasadena 4,
PETALUMA BRANCH
3rd Friday, Dec. 19, 8:00 p.m.
Dania Hall, 19 Main St.
Mrs. Hazel Chappell, Secy.
222 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, Calif.
PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

Pasadena 4, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH
2nd Friday, Dec. 12, Members Homes
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.
3311 Fremont St., Camden, N. J.

Mrs. Robert York, Secy.
3311 Fremont St., Camden, N. J.

PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH
4th Friday, Dec. 26, 8:00 p.m.
Journal Bidg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.
Mrs. George Venner, Secy.
7604 S. E. Tolman, Portland 6, Oregon

RAYTOWN MISSOURI BRANCH
4th Tuesday. Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.
7708 Sni-A-Bar Terrace, Kansas City, Mo.

REDONDO BEACH AREA
4th Friday, Dec. 26, 8:00 p.m.
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Secy.
522 S. Guadalupe Ave., Redondo Beach, Calif.
RIVERSIDE BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Member's Residence
Mrs. Arline Porter, Secy.
4106 Adams, Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH
4th Friday, Dec. 26, 10:00 a.m.
Homes of Members

SACRAMENTO BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, Dec. 16, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, McKinley Park
Mrs. W. M. Kelso, Secy.
1848 Markham Way, Sacramento, Calif.
SALEM OREGON BRANCH
1st Tuesday, Dec. 2, Jan. 6
The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem
Mrs. Loren H. Edlund
863 Edina Lane, Salem, Ore.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH
4th Monday, Dec. 22
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & University
Mrs. Phyliss Kausky, Secy.
4543 36th St., San Diego 16, Calif.
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH
2nd Monday, Dec. 8
Homes of Members
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secy.
18635 Calvert St., Reseda, Calif.
SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
1st Wednesday, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, 8:00 p.m.
1641 Taraval St.
Mrs. Anne Mitchell, Secy. 1st Wednesday, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, 8:00 p.m.
1641 Taraval St.
Mrs. Anne Mitchell, Secy.
2370 18th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH
3rd Wednesday, Dec. 17, 8:00 p.m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Cynthia Slater, Secy.
2317 Whitney Dr., Alhambra, Calif.
SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
2nd Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.
Mrs. Ada Schaefer, Secy.
1103 W. Micheltorena St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH
1st Tuesday, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, 8:00 p.m.
V.F.W. Hall, 311 Pacific Ave.
Miss Hazelle E. Oxley, Secy.
428 Davis St., Santa Cruz, Calif.
SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH
2nd Friday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
1130 Lincoln Blyd., 7th St. Entrance
Santa Monica
Mrs. S. S. Gross Secy. Santa Monica
Mrs. S. S. Gross, Secy.
1116 S. Carmelina Ave., Los Angeles 49, Calif.
SEATTLE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7:45 p.m.
University of Washington Arboretum Clubhouse
Mrs. Paul Deiro, Secy.
4618 13th Ave. South, Seattle 8, Wash.
SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.
1st Tuesday, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura
Mrs. M. E. Ramelli, Secy.
575 Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.
SOUTHERN ALAMEDA
COUNTY BRANCH
3rd Thursday, Dec. 18, 8:90 p.m.
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Cor. Secy.
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.
SOUTHGATE BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.
South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern
Mrs. Ernestine Hess
320 W. Ullback Ave. Monterey Park Calif South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern Mrs. Ernestine Hess
129 W. Hellman Ave., Monterey Park, Calif. TEXAS STATE BRANCH
4th Friday, Dec. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. D. W. Briggs, Secy.-Treas.
2349 13th St., Port Arthur, Texas
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, Dec. 10, 11:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Walter H. Kirch. Secy. Homes of Members
Mrs. Walter H. Kirch, Secy.
Clearview Rd., Glenshaw, Pa.
WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH
CLEVELAND, OHIO
4th Wednesday, Jan. 28, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.
Clearlied Obio Cleveland, Ohio

Cleveland, Ohio
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy.
25912 Westlake Rd.. Bay Village, Ohio
WHITTIER BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Dec. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Carolyn Spitz, Secy.
7721 Vannort Ave., Whittier, Calif.
WILLIAM PENN BRANCH, PA.
3rd Tuesday. Dec. 16, 2:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. J. H. Ward Hinkson, Secy.
Wallingford, Pa. CONDENSED MINUTES
October 27, 1952, 7:30 p.m.
Convened at Los Angeles City Hall as usual. DECEMBER, 1952

Officers present: Mmes. Korts, Schwerdtfeger, Nolan, Fowell, Graham, Spaulding, Hartwell, Motschman; Messrs. Trowbridge, Motschman, Richardson, Spaulding, Lorenz, Small, Terrell, Rich. Branches reporting: Foothill, Glendale, Hollywood, Hub City, Inglewood, North Long Beach, Parent Chapter, Orange County, Pasadena, Redondo, Riverside, San Gabriel, Santa Barbara, Ventura.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Past-president Trowbridge; Aims and Purposes of the Society read by President-elect Motschman. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Treasurer reported gain of \$345.66 for the

month.

Membership Secretary reported 67 new members, 164 renewing members.

Business Manager's report read giving \$109.00 income from advertising.

Editor reported Mr. John P. Toberman wished to contact branches about selling his products for a commission which they could use to help offset their operating expenses. Agreed Mr. Toberman should be instructed to contact Branch Secretaries individually.

Reports accepted as read on motion of Mr. Motschman, seconded by Mrs. Kerlin.

Motion by Mr. Trowbridge that President appoint a committee to approve all but regular bills before payment by the Treasurer, seconded by Mr. Small; carried. President Korts appointed Mr. Trowbridge and Mr. Motschman as the committee.

mittee.

President announced that Mrs. Hartwell had returned a check from the A.B.S. for postage and Mr. Trowbridge stated she should be commended as she has never accepted any money for postage in all the years she served as A.B.S.

for postage in an analysection of the postage of th

Texas, Branches

Branches.

Publicity Director Powell announces she had sent out 33 free mats to all branches who had not previously received one and had received only 1 request for others from the Southern Alameda County Branch.

Librarian Nolan reported 43 books in circulation during the month.

Mr. Small announced he was working on the speakers list and it would be ready for publication in a short rine.

speakers list and it would be ready for publica-tion in a short time.

Slide Librarian Terrell announced 3 sets used.
Flower Show Chairman Rich stated plans are being made for the A. B. S. exhibit in the International Flower Show to be held next March and asked for volunteers to help get some of the material together.

and asked for volunteers to help get some of the material together.

Mrs. Korts read a report on the Clayton M. Kelly Research and Seed Fund Department suggesting it be handled under the name of Grace Adams. Mr. Motschman stated he thought the Board owed Mrs. Korts a vote of thanks for her work in reestablishing the Seed Fund and moved that the Board authorize Mrs. Korts to continue to handle if in the manner requested. Seconded by Mr. Richardson. Carried. Secretary read report of Seed Fund including seeds to be offered for sale in November Begonian.

Mr. Trowbridge reported on bids for printing manila envelopes, and the Dishian bid of \$9.00 per 1000 being lowest, it was moved an order for 20,000 be placed, one-half to be delivered and billed at once and the other half in six months; seconded by Mr. Motschman; carried.

Old business. Motion made by Elmer Lorenz at the last meeting to give Mr. MacDougall a life membership in the A.B.S. Frank Rich reported Pasadena suggested branches make up the \$50.00 necessary. Discussion on possible financing; motion tabled until branches have time to discuss and submit opinions at next meeting.

Elmer Lorenz asked all Branches to be sure to show the zone number 54 on all correspondence to the A.B.S. box number so mail will not be misdirected to another station.

Mrs. Korts read a letter from Vice-president (See Next Page)

(See Next Page)

POSTMASTER Return Postage Guaranteed P. O. BOX 2544 Los Angeles 54, Calif.

CONDENSED MINUTES—Continued

Ruthanne Williams submitting suggestions for operation of National conventions and shows as tabulated in the North. Copies were given to all directors and officers to be discussed at the next meeting. A letter by Mrs. Schwerdtfeger with other such suggestions is to be mimeographed and

Mrs. Schwerdtfeger announced Mrs. Buxton had been very ill in Dallas on her return trip

home and the Secretary was requested to send a condolence card.

Mrs. Korts announced Mrs. Helen K. Krauss had accepted the duties of representative for the A.B.S. at the American Horticultural Council's November meeting in Philadelphia.

Meeting adjourned after branch reports.

Respectfully submitted, Dorris Motschman, Secy.

WORMS

-For fishing or the compost. \$4.00 per 1000, shipped anywhere. Phone: ELliot 8-5929

Write: Mrs. L. E. Brown 415 W. Palm, Monrovia, California

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LOVERS

 Rainbow Coleus English Primrose

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From Seed

• Tuberous Begonia Pkts. 50c each, All 6 \$2.00—FREE CATALOG

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137 W. Colorado St., Dept. B PASADENA I CALIFORNIA

NEW

N

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)



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

No. 218 - A - 1/8"

FOGGER NOZZLE

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

No. 218 - A - 1/2"



PRICE \$.54 (Plus Sales Tax)

PRICE \$.66 (Plus Sales Tax)

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LEAVES — PLANTS The best of the older varieties and many new ones Write for list

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