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FEBRUARY

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CENTS

VOL XXI No. 2



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Monthly Publication of The American . Begonia Society, Inc.



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FEBRUARY . . .

THE MONTH OF PROMISE

Time to plot and plan— Plants old and new— To enhance your garden— For pleasure in the view

White to Lighten Our Shady Garden Spots

By Ed. Carlson Berkeley, California

All of our sheltered gardens have a spot where white flowered plants will succeed and add greatly to their charm.

If one has a large area, the white flowered Camellias, such varieties as Purity, Grandiflora Alba, Alba Plena and Frimbriata, to name a few, could be used as background planting. These would give winter bloom of unsurpassed beauty.

Fuchsias are a must for sheltered gardens. These could be planted in front or interplanted, for summer bloom; the newer white and near-white fuchsias such as: Flying Cloud, Snow Flurry, Snow Ball and the new Sleigh Bells. With these for summer bloom could be planted the white hybrid Hydrangea.

As a lower planting in front of the tall shrubs, and for spring beauty, why not the white variety of Bleeding heart, Dicentra Formosa. This makes a delightful plant for the shaded garden, where it's translucent pale green leaves look as cool as a shaded woodland dell. Another spring beauty is the white flowered Astilbe Deuchland, adding its full measure of charm. The equally desirable Franco Ramosa for late summer and the white Wind flower, Japonica Anemone, one of the loveliest of shade garden perennials.

For early spring, that is still almost winter, a border of white Scilla, behind a planting of white Primula Malacoides would make a beautiful picture.

To complete the blooming cycle, try interplanting the white striped fern, *Pteris quadrianurita* with the white flowered bedding begonias and the tuberous begonias. A very pleasing effect can thus be created for summer and fall in a once dull and uninteresting garden corner.

Let us all think of the many white flowers that could be used to brighten the shady spots in our sheltered gardens, not only for daytime beauty but for evening beauty as well. Then plant and grow these lovely white flowers for our own joy and that of the beholder.

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Begonia Baby Bunting

By Jean Kerlin

Introduced in 1951 by Marie Turner, Begonia Baby Bunting is a semperfloren of dainty perfection that will work for you in devious forms. In a suspended basket, it is a "honey" as well as a ground cover, wall pocket specimen or decorative potted beauty. Planted in masses it is an eye catcher too.

The leaves aren't much larger than a half dollar, but bright green and succulent on both surfaces. The margins are finely hairy and the sinus pale green. The petioles are short and the nodes very closely spaced, so it branches freely. The stipules are the same shade of green. The leaves cover the stalks and it is a constant bloomer, with small male and female blossoms in great profusion. The blossoms are pale pink in contrast to the lovely green leaves, reminding one of a sprigged baby blanket, hence the choice of names.

It demands very little care. One grower planted it in a hanging basket in ordinary Begonia mixture, and with no feeding and a weekly soaking, it filled a basket and hangs heavy with blossoms under temperature fluctuations from 32 to 80 degrees in a twenty-four hour period for the past two months in a Southern California section.

Don't take B. Baby Bunting for just another semperfloren as its greatest asset is no visible dormancy period. This begonia can be tucked in any location and out-perform most of its rivals.

Our Cover Picture

A quite distinctive and popular begonia, although not one of the newer varieties, is B. Neeley Gaddis, originated by Mrs. Eva Gray in 1922. It has been called "the bride of the hairy group" and is a seedling of B. Viaudi. Densely white-hairy, with ovate-pointed leaves, larger than those of the parent plant, green on the top and red beneath. The flowers are large, creamywhite with orange stamens, white-hairy without; with a rudimentary leaflet at the inflorscence fork. Flowers are borne in clusters on long, red stems. Very similar is the pink variety, B. Pink variety, B. Pink Neeley Gaddis, also a seedling of B. Viaudi, raised by Constance Bower in 1927. The only apparent difference being that this variety has pink flowers and the undersides of the leaves are a bright tomato-red.

There is a definite need for this type of begonias, in that they are tall growers, to 4 feet or more, being wonderful for background plantings, with the added bonus of being profuse bloomers.

REMEMBER??

THE CONTEST

Deadline for Articles is

MARCH 31st, 1954

Control of Begonia Diseases

By John Paul Edwards

MILDEW ON BEGONIAS

A Captan spray (50% wettable powder such as Orthocide or 406) should be applied every week or ten days at a dosage strength of one heaping tablespoonful to the gallon of water; combine with this $\frac{1}{2}$ tablespoonful of Vel or Dreft as a spreader-sticker agent to increase the efficiency of the spray.

Start this spraying program with the wettable Captan material when the young growth is five to seven inches tall and continue to apply at intervals of a week or ten days throughout the season. Mildew is inclined to increase and be more difficult to control in the latter part of the flowering period.

In spraying, the leaves and stems must be thoroughly covered by the spray material, particularly the underside of the leaves. After spraying, a visible powdery residue will remain on the leaves. This residue serves to prevent further infection from airborne mildew spores. It can be easily washed off.

Another very effective spray for begonia mildew is found in a 26% calcium polysulfide spray such as the Orthorix spray. The only objection to its use lies in the fact that this and all other dusts and sprays containing sulfur will discolor and disfigure the begonia flowers.

Apply this every seven to ten days at a dosage strength of four teaspoonsfuls to each gallon of water as required for effective control. Spray preferably in the early morning at a temperature not higher than 80 degrees. Cover top and bottom of the leaves and all stems thoroughly, particularly the undersides of the leaves for this is where most mildew infections start.

Some expert growers use 26% calcium polysulfide (Orthorix) from the time the plant is five to seven inches tall until the bloming period when sulfur might injure the flowers. Then they change to spraying with the Captan wettable powder for the balance of the flowering season. This dual remedy treatment for the season has proven to be very effective and satisfactory.

The Orthorix spray has proven to be very effective control for mildew spots on Rex begonias and other varieties not grown essentially for their flowers. For many years, prior to 1951, the begonias of all types in the writer's garden and in those of his associates were virtually free of disease. Any fungus or mold trouble was rare and was localized to a single plant or two; a general wave of infection, such as our present one of mildew, was unheard of.

In the early summer of 1951, a strange thing happened; powery mildew came into our begonia gardens. It remains there today the number one problem of nearly all growers of tuberous and Rex begonias, a very difficult problem to control. Recently it has been prevalent on greenhouse-grown fibrous rooted begonias of some varieties.

It has been generally identified as the mildew that effects roses, Sphaerotheca pannosa var. rosea. I have just been informed by the best of authority that it is a different type, namely, the Erysithe polygoni or sometimes the Cichoracearum. These are the mildews sometimes appearing on cucumbers and other cucurbits.

I mention this difference in types as it helps to explain why begonias which have always been grown adjacent to roses have not been affected by their persistent mildewing. This is logical as the structure of the stems and leaves of the begonias are quite similar to those of the cucumber and other cucurbits.

The powdery appearance of the mildew lesions is due to the spores of fungus which are produced in great abundance. These spores are easily detached and carried about by air currents. Upon reaching a new location on a leaf or stem they germinate at once if conditions are favorable. Spraying with protective chemical materials such as Captan make these conditions unfavorable.

The most efficient control of mildew lies in prevention rather than cure after the plants have been affected.

Some definite progress has been made towards its control by fungicides. A relatively new material, Capan in wettable powder form, has proven to be an excellent preventive spray as well as an efficient control check after the mildew has set in. Best of all, Captan does not discolor or disfigure blooms.

A third remedy favored particularly by the professional growers of tuberous begonias is the use of sulfur or copper dusts.

Either of these dusts properly applied with effective dusting apparatus will give good begonia mildew control. The great problem with most amateurs is to apply the dusts lightly and thoroughly, covering top and bottom of the leaves, without excess. Any excess can be disfiguring and harmful to the leaves. The proper application of any dusts requires skill and experience as well as good dusting appliances.

Dusting sulfurs will spoil the blooms; a good copper dust, Copotox 10, will not harm them. Apply as required to keep the leaves and stems dust covered, usually about every ten days.

It is a wise precaution to dip all of your tubers and roots in a foliage strength solution of Captan spray before planting and the tubers, again, after cleaning and before drying and storing away at the end of the season.

Begonia mildew thrives under conditions of poor ventilation, particularly when grown too close together. The surface soils of your plants and the shelf areas around them should be kept clean and free of fallen plant parts and other rubbish.

Clean shelves and empty pots with a solution of 2 tablespoons of Clorox to a gallon of water.

NOTE: A bacterial leafspot of tuberous rooted begonias has been rarely noted in local areas. The technical name of the organism is PHYTHOMONAS BEGONIAE. This leafspot has never been of common occurrence or epidemic, and has no relation to the present wave of powdery mildew. The above notation is merely for the record.

STEM ROT.

Pythium stem rot, chiefly on tuberous begonias, is a thick brown slime or mold that accumulates and spreads on leaves and stems after its incidence.

This is usually caused by detached fragments of stems or leaves lying on or against a growing leaf or stem. This contact sets up a reaction causing the brown slime or mold to start, spreading decay on the growing stems and leaves of the plant. Often the decay eats sizeable holes in the main stems and if not checked may descend into the tuber causing it to decay.

This stem rot is stimulated by a lack of air circulation about the growing plants particularly when being grown too close together in a stuffy atmosphere.

This rot will rarely start if you are spraying the plant with one of the mildew

control materials which will control incipient decay. Watch your plants carefully and remove any fallen leaves or detached stem fragment.

As a remedy for stem rot, scrape the affected part with a knife blade and then wipe it off with a cloth to remove as much as possible of the slime mold. Then dust the wound plentifully with the Captan 50 powder used for spraying.

Browned leaf edges may be caused by excessively dry air, over feeding, water remaining on the edges after watering or by a fungus disease aggravated by the water. Trim off the damaged edge and spray the plant with the Orthorix mildew formula. If the brown edge has gone deeply into the leaf, remove and destroy it.

Botrytis, which occasionally blights the blooms of different begonia species with a brownish gray mold, is so difficult to control that it calls for the destruction of the infected plant. To avoid, keep plants well spaced and ventilated. Isolate any plant suspected of being infected.



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Slanted Toward The Beginner

By Dorothy S. Bebrends

At first glance, would you know Begonia leptotricha?

We have enjoyed growing this fibrous begonia in our borders, as potted specimens or allowed them to grow as volunteers for many years, as "Manda's Woolly Bear."

The latter name has an affectionate appeal because the medium sized $(11/2'' \times 3'')$ mature leaves are always heavily covered with a brown fuzz. This begonia is not only easy to grow, but endures a certain amount of abuse and neglect, even drought.

The surface of the leaves is a shiny, bright-green and offers a fine contrast to the fuzzy or tomentum covered underside. The veins are not conspicuous.

The immature leaves seem to unfold from a ball of white fur, as they mature, the tomentum turning to a cinnamon-brown. This fuzz is a characteristic that covers the entire plant—stalks, pedicels and peduncles (stems). Even the stipules are part of the "wooly" part of this begonia by being heavily covered with the brown fuzz and remaining on the plant.

The abundance of white flowers are produced in clusters, beginning at an early age. When the beauty of the blossoms have faded, the seed pods turn the same brown color as the "furry fuzz"; this also causes the begonia name "Woolly Bear" to continue to the popular.

The flowers have characteristic, additional appendages on the ovary or seed pod, that often carries through into hybrids.

B. leptotricha is a strong strain, in any hybridizing, and also gives hardiness to its resultant crosses.

At first glance, would you know Begonia schmidtiana?

This species was originally found in Brazil and is classed as a semperflorens, but this begonia is quite different than the commonly called "wax begonias".

It has many qualities, one being ease of culture.

The small (approximately $1 \ge 2$ inches) hairy, dull-green leaves have a dark-red zone on the underside. The underside really appears to be red with a narrow, green margin.

The fun of raising this particular begonia is its adaptability. It will grow in a small pot, set in an attractive container on a table in an average living room. It sends its branches out in an uninhibited manner and blooms profusely, if given sufficient light. (All begonias may not be recommended thusly.) If a branch or stem is broken by accident or purposely trimmed, it immediately produces new branches and its beauty is not marred. The peduncles (leaf stems) and the pedicels (flower stems) are dark-red and are heavily covered with short, white hairs.

When *B. schmidtiana* is grown in a greenhouse or protected area, in companionship with other plants, it is interesting to note the chance seedlings that arise voluntarily. They are *not* pests, because the writer finds there is always some one that will admire them and want them.

Several natural hybrids or chance seedlings have been noted in local collections that have *B. schmidtiana* as a parent, but to date there has not been any registration of these begonias.

Like so many fibrous begonias, it requires perfect drainage, well balanced, weakened fertilizer in liquid form and a location enjoying good light, but not direct sun, if it is through a window pane.

THE BEGONIAN







male

Blossoms

Bedonia schmidtiana

Leaf underside surface

DSB

Drawings by Dorothy S. Behrends

Paladiums ...

FANCY DAN

By Pat Down

Fancy-leaved caladiums are intriguing ornamental plants with highly-colored foliage, but often overlooked by the amateur grower. Being tropical plants, they require lots of humidity and thrive in high temperatures, but are fast-growing under ideal conditions, especially in glasshouses. They also make excellent house-plants, and the cut leaves last indefinitely in floral arrangements.

These bulbs are available now for planting, and if planted at once will produce lovely plants in time for Easter. Caladiums can be either planted in the pots they are to grow in, or started in flats and then transplanted. If started in flats, a medium of one-third coarse sand, one-third oak leaf mold and one-third coarse poultry charcoal can be used. Place bulbs on a bed of the starting medium in the flat, and cover with a one-fourth inch layer of the same. Maintain the flats at 70 to 75 degrees night temperature, keeping plants damp but not watering too heavily, until time to transplant.

When foliage develops, from six to ten inches in height, transplant into pots, using a mixture of one-third loam, one-third oak leaf mold and one-third rotted cow manure. Pots should be larger than the bulb, two inches at least between bulb and side of pot. Be careful not to impair roots when transplanting; lift plant carefully and gently shake the soil off. Roots are quite coarse, from one to five inches in length.

Place bulbs in pots and gradually fill in loose mixture. Press the soil down firmly in pot, tapping the pot gently on bench to settle the soil around the roots. Be sure that the top of the bulb is not over an inch below the surface of the soil. Good drainage is very essential; use plenty of crockery or pea-gravel in bottom of pot. Water sparingly until plants are firmly established.



Large specimen plants require lots of water, as well as ample feeding, during growth. Using a liquid fertilizer every two weeks will produce fast and lush growth.

Caladiums go dormant naturally in the fall, but can be forced into dormancy at any time, if desired. When a plant shows a fading of color and looks past peak growth, let the soil and bulb thoroughly dry out. Remove the bulb when dry, and store in a well-ventilated, warm but dry place, until ready to plant again.

Here is a plant that is relatively free from pests. Occasionally aphids will attack them, but are easily controlled by washing off with water or using any of the ordinary insecticides. A more rare invasion of mealybug can be routed by a high pressure steam of water.

In tropical climes, such as Florida, these plants can be planted in shady corners of the garden beds; elsewhere they must have protection. Most sections of California are not suitable for outdoor culture of caladiums, because of the cool night temperatures.



BRAZILIAN BEGONIA Echinosepala

By Jean Kerlin

In 1870 this species was discovered in Brazil and the seeds sent to Europe. Many hybridists have welcomed this addition to the Begonia family but the species has not had the popularity it merits from the average hobbyist.

It is a very bushy, fibrous-rotted plant. In the hirsute division. The surface leaf is olive green, shiny and sparsely hairy. The ovate pointed, one by three inch leaves have pronounced depressed veins with a dentate margin. The underside of the leaves is dull red extending to vein edges, leaving a narrow rim of plain green as a border. The depress sinus is not pronounced as it is scarcely lighter than the leat color. There is no collar at the tip of the very short channeled petioles. The stipules are persistent. Begonia echinosepala is easily identified by the swollen reddish nodes.

It is not a prolific bloomer; the white blossoms having five equal female petals, two narrow and two oval-shaped. The ovary wings are small, greenish white and equal sized. Stamens are numerous. Summer is its blooming season.

Treat it as a shrub and shape the plant with early pinching. In mild climates very little protection is needed, but the plant should be mulched.



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STROXINIAS ARE . .

A cross between the Gloxinia, which grows from a tuber and the Streptocarpus (Cape primrose) which is fibrous-rooted. They are both members of the Gesneria Family, related to the African Violet, Achimenes and Espiscia.

They will thrive on the same culture that you use on your Gloxinias. After the tubers have been sprouted, plant them in large pots, giving them plenty of room to grow. They like a rich, porous soil mixture, good drainage and lots of light, altho' not direct sunlight. Stroxinias also require copious watering during their growing season, but should never stand in water.

Let's experiment . . . try some of this new strain.





NOW

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA . .

This month is your last chance to plant seeds, if you are in the "slowpoke" class and didn't get around to planting them during December or January. Directions and suggestions for planting can be found in the December BEGONIAN. If you planted them earlier, "were on the ball", as to say, then they should be ready to be, or have already been, transplanted. For your information, a method of transplanting was described in the January issue.

For those who prefer to grow their plants from tubers instead of seed, now is the time to rouse those dormant tubers. They can be sprouted (started) by placing them crown, or concave side, up on top of a bed of dampened peat moss (German), about one inch thick in the bottom of a shallow tray or flat. Set the container in a warm, humid dark place, of an average 65 degrees F. temperature. Very little moisture is required to start growth on dormant tubers so remember that a wet starting medium or watering as though they were growing plants, will only result in rot and the probable loss of the tuber.

The next step is to prepare the rooting trays or flats with a two inch layer of a mixture of two parts well-decomposed Oak leaf mold and one part German peat moss, that has been sifted through a quarter inch wire mesh screen. When the tubers show signs of life (sprouts), place them about five inches apart in the tray. Cover the tops of the tubers with about one-half inch of the same mixture. Water sparingly, keeping the soil damp, but not wet. The amount of water can be gradually increased as the top growth develops.

The well-rooted tubers will be ready for transplanting to pots, baskets or beds when the top growth is about four inches in height. You can be fairly sure of blooming plants by late May or early June, if you start your tubers now.

With Tuberous

To have lovely, lush, healthy plants and blooms, it is essential to obtain the best of seeds and tubers. May I suggest that you buy them from our advertisers, who stock only the best of both seeds and tubers in quality. —The Editor.



Blooming Tuberous Begonias in Winter

An Experiment by Glenn W. Motschman

JANUARY 1, 1954—It is now just three months since the dormant tubers were started in my greenhouse. The plants are still growing very vigorously and have reached an average height of about eleven inches. Each plant has produced many flower buds. No bud drop has occurred, and the first buds to appear are now opening, so we should have blooming plants before this report reaches you.

Growth has been most satisfactory under artificial light. To date the lights have gone on at 4:00 p.m. and off at 10.00 p.m. each day. In order to more closely simulate the long days of summer the lights will be turned on at 4:00 a.m. and off at 7:00 a.m., then on at 5:00 p.m. and off at 8:00 p.m. The Inter-Matic Portable Plug-In Time Switch supplied by the International Register Company, 2624 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago 12, Illinois makes it possible to automatically control the light periods each day. It's a wonderful gadget that will turn the lights on and off when needed.

The plants have received one application of fish emulsion fertilizer since potting. From now on the feeding will be done weekly using fish emulsion at one quarter strength. No mildew has appeared to date, however on December 15, 1953 I applied a mildew spray as a preventative. The plants are pot watered weekly, and receive a fine overhead spray of water every other day.

This report will continue each month in THE BEGONIAN until the experiment is complete.



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FEBRUARY, 1954

BEGINNER'S NOTEBOOK

Most shade plant growers are attracted to Begonias by the lush beauty and color of the Tuberous Begonia, unaware that it has hundreds of relatives, many of which far surpass it for beautiful foliage, although maybe not for blooms. Realizing that over 200 species of begonias are existent in the world, not to mention the uncounted hybrids between the begonia groups, is overwhelming to the experienced grower. It is needless to say that the beginner is discouraged and often loses all interest, when faced with the problem of learning to identify begonias.

To help clarify this problem, the accompanying chart and definitions are presented for your benefit. Begonias are classified into five general groups, roughly, as illustrated. The bulbous, tuberous, semi-tuberous, fibrous and rhizomatous comprise these groups.

The bulbous group is represented by the only true bulb, *B. socotrana*, a native of the island of Socotra, in the Indian Ocean. This is a difficult plant to grow, coming from very hot regions and requiring greenhouse conditions. Much hybridizing has produced the *B. cheimantha* (Christmas-flowering) group and the *B. hiemalis* (winter-flowering) group.

Tuberous begonias are familiar to most growers, with their lovely exotic blooms, both in pot and hanging basket varieties. The tubers of present day hybrids are quite large, from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 or 5 inches in diameter, in contrast to the very small tuber of the species. These plants are generally considered summer bloomers.

A semi-tuberous begonia is not a true tuber, in that it cannot be dried and stored until ready to plant. Instead, they go partially dormant during the winter, often causing the leaves to drop or the stem to break off near the surface, although the plant is still alive. Return of warm weather brings the plant to life.

The rhizomatous begonias are characterized by succulent stems, ranging in size from the pencil-like stem on *B. Boweri* to the thick stems of *B. ricinifolia*. These stems assume various forms; some are erect and upright; some root as they creep along; others are prostrate, trailing around the pot. In general, they all show the depressed areas, called leaf scars. Some varieties branch, while others start new growth only from the base of the plant. The Rex begonia, with its beautiful, colorful leaves, is a member of this group.

Fibrous begonias may have either woody

or succulent stems, but not swollen at the base, from which comes masses of fine roots. These begonias range from the tall cane varieties with their many varied leaf shapes to prostrate growers. This is the most versatile group, covering a wide selection of leaf size, shape and coloring; blooming periods and requirements of culture. Some need some shade, others stand a good deal of sun; some are more or less ever-blooming, while others are ideal for background planting.

General characteristics that are notable of the begonia family are the three-winged seed pod of the female flower and the stipules. The latter are the nearly transparent leaf-like sheaths that cover new leaf growth. These sheaths dry, turn brown and sometime drop from the plant. On the flowering part of the plants, this growth is called a "bract". Also, begonia leaves may vary extremely in form, size and color, but grow alternately from the stem.







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Begonia Branches

GLENDALE BRANCH held its annual Executive Board Dinner in December. Their out-going President, Fred Hummel, gave one of the finest speeches it has been our pleasure to hear; and we feel it is worth repeating excerpts herein. We quote, in part: "It seems to me that an occasion such as this, dedicated as it is to good food and good fun and good fellowship would be slightly meaningless without a few serious words from your president, and so perhaps you will pardon me if I ask two questions and briefly try and answer them. 1. Does our Society make a sufficiently constructive impact on our National scene to justify its existence? 2. Has the rewards I've received for assuming the responsibilities of the Office of President been worth while, and if so what are these rewards?

Three years ago I had the unique experience of arriving in the capitol city of our land, Washington, D.C. about 5:30 on a Fourth of July morning. It was unique because it being a holiday the streets were absolutely deserted . . . Here I stood all alone on a beautiful summer morning with everything so fresh and green from the effects of the rain . . . The scene was pastoral, quiet and peaceful . . . I thought as I stood there this scene could be duplicated in any Country in the world. Beautiful buildings, beautiful trees, beautiful mountains, beautiful rivers, beautiful flowers, peaceful pastoral landscapes. What a beautiful,

bountiful home has been provided for the inhabitants of this earth by the Creator. And suddenly this thought flashed through my mind. How true it is that the only evil which exists in the world exists in the minds of mankind. Now if this be true, it is not the action which is evil, it is the thought coming out of the mind which precedes the action which is the evil thing. It seems logical then, that any club or society or activity which has a tendency to keep the participants' minds filled with happy, healthy, constructive thoughts is a highly desirable thing. And it is in this direction that the justification of the existence of our Society lies. I say that our Society and our loyal hobby provides a definite hygenic mental and character building environment . . Or would the Country be better off with the type of spare time thinking which goes on around here - What is the best soil mixture? What kind of fertilizers are best? Why does my Acmea Fassicito refuse to bloom? How can I duplicate the jungle atmospheric conditions in my backyard . . .

I am sure no one needs to, and I'm sure that no one does, apologize for the Glendale Branch of The American Begonia Society. We have every right to be proud, as a component part of our Country, of our contribution to its welfare. We have supplied our Country with a group of citizens who are happy and busy — who are engaged in constructive activities, with a group of citizens who have character, with a group of the type of citizens who form the backbone of our Country.

And so it is easy to answer the second question. My reward has been the privilege and honor of serving you this year. I say sincerely that I believe that I have won the respect and friendship of each of you. These twins, Respect and Friendship, are not material values, they are spiritual values,



This is a photograph of our garden display at the South Texas State Fair held in Beaumont, Texas, last October. It depicted a tropical garden, with a hut woven from marsh grass, found in this part of Texas. We came out on top with the "Blue Ribbon", which paid our Branch \$50.00. This is the second year we have won the first prize. Our Branch entered five shows during the year of 1953, with a record of 3 Blue ribbons, 4 Second ribbons, 1 Third ribbon, 1 Honorable mention and 1 Special merits award. This will give you some idea of the things we are doing down South. Let's go all out for 1954.

-E. Weaver.

and as such are pearls without price. Whether or not the year has been a successful one for each of you and the Society is for you to determine. For me it has been wonderful. Thank you."

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH: National Director Sally E. DeCou reports about their December meeting, "We discussed the Pagein The Begonian to be devoted to activities in the East. We all hope to be able to have something interesting for that page as time goes on. We think it a very good idea. More items both for and from growers and lovers of Begonias in the East appearing in The Begonian have been something I have felt we needed. After our regular meeting we had our Christmas party. Santa's representative visited all of us with lovely gifts. It was a lovely day — a good meeting—and a gala party. We parted with a determination to make the coming year a good Begonia year — not only in the growing of them but in the learning about them."

FEBRUARY, 1954

Palendar

February 11th

Inglewood Branch: Stuart and Virginia Smith will tell how to grow prize-winning Gloxinias.

February 18th

El Monte Branch: Mr. Merle Thompson will be the speaker.

March 7th thru 13th

International Flower Show: Sponsored by the Horticultural Society of New York, will be held at the Kingsbridge Armory, Bronx, N. Y. Open Sunday, 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Guest tickets for sale.

April 3rd and 4th

Third Annual African Violet Show of the Lincoln African Violet Society will be held Saturday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday, 12 noon to 6 p.m. Federal Bldg., 1235 "N" St., Lincoln, Nebraska. No admission charge.

September 4th and 5th

Convention and Flower Show of the American Begonia Society will be held in Los Angeles, California.

NOW.

YOU CAN DO A REAL JOB

By Stanley W. Hopkins

A very important garden accessory is now available, — the STANLEY SOIL STERIL-IZER. Now you can sterilize soil, leaf mold, sand, pots, seed pans, etc. There has been a long felt need for a compact, portable home unit that does an efficient job. The sterilization unit used by commercial growers is not only too expensive, but it is all out of proportion to the size needed by home gardeners.

So, we hobbyists have had to use the oven in the kitchen! This is certainly inconvenient and the escaping odor is not pleasant. The result has been, therefore, that most of us have not bothered to sterilize. Yet this operation as we all know, is one of the most important "musts" for better germination.

The STANLEY SOIL STERILIZER makes the operation very pleasant and easy. The HOME MODEL, No. 102 is 10¹/₂" x 18" x 12" and weighs 8 lbs. The sterilization tray holds the equal to one-half a flat of soil. This quantity is sufficient to fill many seed pans. The GREENHOUSE MODEL, No. 103 is $16\frac{1}{2}$ x $16\frac{1}{2}$ x 12" and weighs $15\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. It holds slightly more than a flat. This is the perfect size for those who do a great deal with seeds.

The operation is easy. Simply place the Sterilizer within reach of an electrical outlet. Being portable, it can be used outdoors in the garage or on the porch — in the lathhouse or greenhouse. There is virtually no escaping odor. After 2 to 3 hours of heat treatment at approximately 200 degrees, the soil is rid of all nematodes and foreign matter that would otherwise cut down germination.

The STANLEY STERILIZER is manufactured of non-rust steel with a beautiful silver-gray hammertone finish. It definitely fills an important need.

BRANCH OFFICERS FOR 1954

EL MONTE BRANCH

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SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH: President—Mr. William G. Damerow President-Elect—Mrs. Hyacinth Smith Treasurer—Mrs. Molly Steele Secretary—Mrs. George Leslie Kuthe National Representative—Mr. Wm. Meyer Directors: Mr. Don Thomas Mr. Dan Buckley

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Library Notes

Our new book this month has nothing to do with shade plants, but of course we realize that most of us do have a lot of space that we must devote to other plants. With this thought in mind, I have added to the Library for your reading pleasure, "Perennials For Every Garden" by Helen Van Pelt Wilson. Mrs. Wilson is well-known for her books, "Enjoy Your House Plants" and "Book of African Violets". You will find her new book even more interesting than the others. She lists the best varieties of plants and their culture, plants for shade and dry areas, suggests moonlight and fragrance gardens. Advice is included on soils, fertilizers, pest control, etc.

I want to thank all those who took advantage of the opportunity to purchase back copies of the BEGONIAN at ten cents per copy. Your orders are helping to swell the Library fund, so keep up the good work. We still have an abundance of these magazines for sale.

> ARLINE STODDARD Librarian

. THE 1953 INDEX

The 1953 Index has not been completed, but will be ready for the March issue. Due to the immense amount of compilation required, covering subjects and events of the past year, the BEGONIAN Staff was not able to have it ready this month. Please be patient.

-The Editor



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 137 W. Colorado St., Dept. B

 PASADENA I

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

We are still holding a few reservations, waiting for you to send your card or letter telling us the flight you wish to take. Will you please get your requests in as soon as possible, in order that we may send your seeds to you in time for early spring planting

We have also received reservations for the seed flights without any money with the orders. Some of our new members do not quite understand the workings of the seed fund, so will try to explain in detail as much as possible, for their benefit. The seed fund is not set up as a purely

money-making proposition, but rather as a

plan to locate seed for our members that they otherwise would not be able to obtain. It is not included in, but entirely separate, from your membership in the Society. The small sum charged for the seed covers the expense of searching for various seed and in payment of such seeds obtained, thus making the seed fund self-sustaining.

So, don't forget to include your mon-ey when ordering seeds. The flights are \$2.00 each; the prices of other seeds being included in the listings. Do hope that this explanation answers the inquiries as to why there is a charge for the seed.

We have received	the	following	seed	recently	and	are	offering	them	for	our	extra
flight this month:											

Philodendron seed from the Philippines; have not yet identified it, but want to offer while it is still fresh. 12 seeds
Philippine fern spores, unidentified here but it is called "Lechos de Alambre" in the Islands; fresh. Per packet
From South Africa comes the following seed, all good, fresh seed: Protea cynaroides; this plant is very interesting as it follows its namesake, Proteus, the sea-god, who is said to have changed into many and various forms. It is a shrub- type plant and is ideal for pot culture. The flowers are bright pink and last for a long time. 6 seeds
Vallota speciosa (syn V. purpurea Lily). Scarlet flowers. Per packet
Watsonia longifolia, grows similar to Gladiolus, either pot or ground culture. Per packet
Babiana, bulb of the Iriidaceae family, in mixed colors. Per packet
From Costa Rica comes the seed of a very exotic and gorgeous plant, it is an epiphyte, meaning it derives its sustenance from the air, called <i>Cochliostema</i> . These seeds are quite scarce and rare here in America, and should be grown under glasshouse conditions. Per packet
Our special Begonia seed for this month is the Holly Begonia, Brevicaulis, and Begonia Bhotan species. Per packet
Begonia Picta rosea, Pink Shasta and tuberous multiflora. Per packet25c A Happy and Successful growing Season to each and every one.

THE MAC LANAHANS

Seed Fund Administrators 3734 Overland Ave., L. A. 34

NOTICE TO NEW MEMBERS . . .

The seeds sent to new members are Mixed Fibrous Begonias, not tuberous begonia seeds. Tuberous Begonia are not grown as universally as the easier to grow types, therefore, tuberous seeds must be ordered separately.

THE BEGONIAN

WHERE . .

1. 'may I obtain information as to why begonias just grow and do not flower? Mrs. J. F. J., Calif.

2. 'may I obtain material on correcting a situation whereby my tuberous begonias develop dry rot (stem rot). I have grown this type of begonias for the past four years with wonderful results. M. E. M., Wisconsin.

3. 'may I purchase flats, often mentioned in articles in the Begonian? A. C. R., Penna.

WE FIND . . .

J. K., Texas. Pink Pearl and White Pearl wax begonias are listed in Rex Pearce's catalog and the Geo. W. Parks Seed Co. catalog of Greenwood, South Carolina.

E. J. H., New Jersey. The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund had a small amount of B. picta seed. Write to them, if you enjoy growing your begonias from seed.

Mrs. K. C., Michigan. A powdered sulphur listed in the beautiful Antonelli Bros. catalog, should help control the mildew.

E. R. H., Calif. Tropical Gardens Nursery of Torrance, Calif., and Logees of Danielson, Connecticut are both sources of the B. luxurians.

"Members that know the Answers" are urged to answer the questions listed in the WHERE column, beginning in the November issue. Mail your questions and answers to WHERE, c/o A. B. S., Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California.



Do you have one of these attractive green and gold pins for your lapel?

Send your name, address and \$3.32 to Mrs. Edna L. Korts, 3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif., and you, too, will be wearing your membership emblem.



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MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Added incentive to you for bringing in new members is the Seed Offer. Your choice of any seed, as published in the last three issues of the BEGONIAN, for each new member you sponsor.

LET'S GO, Seed growing enthusiasts!

BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

(Visitors always welcome at these meetings.)

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH 1st Friday, Feb. 5, Mar. 5, 8:00 p.m. Lounge, rlorida Power Co. Winter Park, Fla. Mrs. James W. Merry, Secy. 1581 Grove Terrace Winter Park, Fla. DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS Ist Thursday, Feb. 4, Mar. 4, 7:00 p.m. Member's kesidences Mrs W H. Buntin, Cor. Secy. 3113 Parker Dr., Dallas, Texas EAST BAY BRANCH 2nd Thursday, Feb. 11, 7:45 p.m. Willard School, Telegraph at Ward Berkeley Mr. Robert May 1140 Evelyn Ave., Albany, Calif. EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH 3rd Thursday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. Wilmar Woman's Clubhouse Emerson at Isabel South San Gabriel Mrs. Virginia Brandon, Cor. Secy. 3012 W. Norwood Pl., Alhambra, Calif. FOOTHILL BRANCH 3rd Thursday, Feb. 18, 8:00 p.m. La Verne Recreation Hall Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy. 358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland FORT ELSA BRANCH Ist Saturday, Feb. 6, Mar. 6, 2:30 p.m. Miss Lola Price, Secy. 628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N. J. 628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N. J. GLENDALE BRANCH 4th Wednesday, Feb. 24, 8:00 p.m. Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central Mrs. Irma Brown, Cor. Secy. 3633 Revere Ave., L. A. 39, Calif. GRAY. EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH 3rd Monday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Community House, La Jolla Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy. 7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif. GRAYS. HAPBOP BPANCH Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy. 7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif. GRAYS HAPBOR BRANCH 2nd Monday, Feb. 8, 8:00 p.m. Hoquiam Pub. Library, or Messingale & Rosenear Music Store, Aberdeen, Wash. Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy. 1013 Harding Road. Aberdeen, Wash. **GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH** 4th Tuesday, Feb. 23, 10:30 a.m. Home of Members Box Lunch 12:30, Program following Mrs. Frnest Jones, Secy. R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa. **HOLLYWOOD BRANCH** 3rd Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd. Mrs. Maude A. Cooper, Cor. Secy. 1014 Havenhurst Dr., Hollywood 46, Calif. **HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH** 2nd Friday, Feb. 12, 10:00 a.m. Garden Center, Herman Park Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy. 3735 Darcus, Houston, Tex. **HUB CITY BRANCH COMPTON-LYNWOOD** 3rd Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Roosevelt High School Cafe 1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif. Mrs. Kathryn Hodgson, Cor. Sec'y. 120 E. Olive St., Compton **HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH** 2nd Monday, Feb. 8, 8:00 p.m. Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif. **MISM BOLDT COUNTY BRANCH** 2nd Monday, Feb. 7, 7:80 p.m. Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif. **MISM BOLDT COUNTY BRANCH** 2nd Monday, Feb. 18, 8:00 p.m. Los Asis, Ferndale, Calif. **MISM BOLDT COUNTY BRANCH** 2nd Thursday, Feb. 18, 8:00 p.m. INGLEWOOD BRANCH 2nd Thursday, Feb. 11, 8:00 p.m. 325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif. Mrs. Pearl Parker, Secy. 726 W. 81st St., L. A. 44, Calif.

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LA MESA BRANCH 2nd Monday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blvd. Peggy Owens, Secy. 4275 Nabal Dr., La Mesa, Calif. LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER 2nd Tuesday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. Fox Home at 2255 Elm Ave. Mrs. W. Cox, Secy. 3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif. LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH Homes of Members 2nd Thursday, Feb. 11, 7:00 p.m. Homes of Members Mrs. James A. Whitaker, Secy. 1225 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge, La. MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH 4th Tuesday, Feb. 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, Feb. 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, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Houghton Park Club House Harding & Atlantic, N. Long Beach Mrs. Beatrice White, Secy. 1411 Poppy St., Long Beach, Calif. OCEAN COUNTY NEW JERSEY BR. 1st Monday, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, 12:30 p.m. Members Homes Mrs. Selma Brown, Secy. 37 Broad St., Apt. 4-D, Tom's River, N. J. ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH Ist Thursday, Feb. 4, Mar. 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, Anabeim, Calif. PASADENA BRANCH 3rd Monday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Cositas del Arroyo, 117 S. Arroyo, Pasadena Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy. 515 El Centro St., South Pasadena PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH 2nd Friday, Feb. 12, Members Homes Mrs. Robert York, Secy. 3311 Fremont St., Camden, N. J. PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH 4th Friday, Feb. 26, 8:00 p.m. Journal Bidg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts. Ronnie Hiersch, Sccy. 6831 S. E. Flavel, Portland 6, Oregon RAYTOWN MISSOURI BRANCH 4th Tuesday, Feb. 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, Feb. 26, 8:00 p.m. 2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif. Mr. W. C. Cocke, Secy. 417 Calle Mayor, Redondo Beach, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH 2nd Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m. Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif. Mrs. Kay Elmore, Secy. 3935 McKenzie St., Arlington, Calif.

THE BEGONIAN

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH 4th Friday, Feb. 26, 10:00 a.m. Homes of Members Mrs. L. Carringer, Secy. 825 Harbor View Pl., San Diego 3

SACRAMENTO BRANCH 3rd Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7:00 p.m. Herbert R. Fitch, Secy. 1125 • 54th St., Sacramento 19, Calif.

SALEM OREGON BRANCH Ist Tuesday, Feb. 2, Mar. 2 The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem Mrs. Loren H. Fidund 663 Edina Lane, Salem, Ore,

5AN DIEGO BRANCH 4th Monday, Feb. 22 Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & University Mrs. Alice Sheticr, Secy. 4551 Kensington Dr., San Diego 16, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH 1st Wednesday, Feb. 3, Mar. 5, 8100 p.m. 1738 - 9th Ave. San Francisco, Calif. Mrs. George Leslie Kuthe, Secy. 1099 Market St., San Francisco 5, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH 4th Wednaeday, Fub. 24, 8 100 p.m. Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave. Arcadia, Callf. Mrs. Gonda Hartweil, Sacy. 1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia,-Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH 2nd Thursday, Feb. 11, 7:50 p.m. Girl Scout Clubhouse. 1838 Sun Andres St. Mrs. Mary Wegner, Secy. 1611 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH 1st Tuesday, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, 8:00 p.m. V.F.W. Hall, 511 Pacific Ave. Miss Hazelle E. Oxley, Secy. 428 Davis St., Santa Cruz, Calif.

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH 3rd Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. 1130 Lincolu Blvd., 7th St. Entrance Santa Monica Mrs. Eduard Franz 153 So. Burlingame Road. Los Angeles 49

SEATTLE BRANCH 3rd Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7:45 p.m. University of Washington Arboretum Clubhouse Mrs. H. C. Bamford, Secy. 810 W. Lee, Seattle, Wash.

SHEPHERD. THEODOSIA BURR BR. Ist Tuesday, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, 7:30 p.m. Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura Mrs. Harry Fox, Secy. 3877 Mound Ave., Ventura, Calif.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH 3rd Thursday, Feb. 18, 8:00 p.m. Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif. Mrs. Ila Shank; Secy. 1824 "B" St., Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH 4th Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern Mr. Walter Partridge 4849 Beck Ave., Bell, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH 4th Friday, Feb. 26, 7:00 p.m. Rose Hill Club Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy. 2822 - 8th St., Port Arthur. Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH 2nd Wednesday, Feb. 10, 11:00 a.m. Homes of Members Mrs. R. L. Simpson, Corr. Secy. 35 Fayette St., Oakdale, Pa.

FEBRUARY, 1954

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH CLEVELAND, OHIO 4th Wednesday, Feb. 24, 8:00 p.m. Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St. Cleveland, Ohio Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy. 25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. Union High School, Room 19 Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif. Mrs. Gladys B. Bruce, Secy. 6102 Milna Ave., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH, PA. 3rd Tuesday, Feb. 16, 8:00 p.m. Homes of Members Wallingford, Pa. Mrs. J. H. Ward Hinkson, Secy.

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IN ANSWERING

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