

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

22ND ANNUAL CONVENTION AND FLOWER SHOW



THE
QUEENLY
TUBEROUS
BEGONIA

Glenn W. Motschman
Plant



Glenn W. Motschman
Photo



SEPTEMBER
1954



TWENTY-FIVE
CENTS



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Table of Contents

Feature Articles—

AMONG THE FAVORITE RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS OF YESTERDAY	202-203
A REX BEGONIA HAVEN	201
BEGONIA 'LYRIC'	221
BEGONIA 'MARJORIE DAW'	227
BEGONIAS IN THE FAR NORTH	214
CONFESSIONS OF A NURSERYMAN	233
HOW I RAISE RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS	205
HOW I RAISE THE REXES	227
HOW WE RAISE TUBEROUS BEGONIAS	197
KINGS OF FLORIDA	222-223
LET'S GROW LEAVES	220
NEW ROYAL REXES	225
REX BEGONIAS SELECT	229
ROSECROFT BEGONIAS IN CALIFORNIA GARDENS	205
SHOULD WE STERILIZE THE SOIL?	233
SOME BEGONIA OBSERVATIONS	214
THE BEGONIA YOUNGER SET	207
THE DOUBLE ROSE BEGONIAS	198-199
THREE PLUS—B. 'BOW-JOE'	226

American Begonia Society—

A.B.S. NEWSLETTE	223	CORRECTION	233
A. D. ROBINSON MEDAL AWARDS	210	MEMBERSHIP BLANK	215
ARMCHAIR GARDENING	234-235	Members-at-Large	231
Book Review	234	MORE ACCREDITED JUDGES	231
Calendar	235	OPEN GARDEN	225
Library Notes	235	PRESIDENT-ELECT — JACK KOEBIG	215
Round Robin Notes	235	PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE —	
Seed Fund, C. M. Kelly	234	GLENN W. MOTSCHMAN	196
BRANCH MEETING DATES & PLACES, 236-237		REGISTERED BEGONIA HYBRIDS	
CONVENTION AND FLOWER SHOW ..216-218		AND CULTIVARS	208-209
Convention Officers	217	SLANTED TOWARD THE BEGINNER	213
Point System for Judging Begonias	218	THE BEGONIA BRANCHES	230-231
Program of Events	216		

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General Offices: Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California

AIMS and PURPOSES

This Society shall be conducted on a non-profit basis, and its purpose shall be to stimulate interest in begonias and shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of begonias and related plants; to gather and publish information in regard to the kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and other shade-loving plants; and to issue a bulletin which shall be mailed to all members in good standing.

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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., September 27, 1954. Use Main St. elevator. Park lower garage, south entrance on Main Street.

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GLENN W. MOTSCHMAN, *President*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The members of the International Board of the American Begonia Society join with me in extending to each member and visitor our very warmest welcome to this, the twenty-second Annual Convention and Flower Show, the first to be nationally sponsored by the entire membership of our Society. We know that you will have an enjoyable time meeting with other begonia enthusiasts who share your love for plant life, which plays such an important part in each of our lives.

The past year has been another year of achievement for our Society. This was made possible through the splendid work of those members of your International Board who so closely worked with me. Their support and untiring efforts in building a greater American Begonia Society is deeply appreciated.

We look forward to assisting the newly elected and appointed Board of Officers who, we feel sure, will carry on the important work of our Society as those before them have so earnestly strived to do.

Glenn W. Motschman

The BEGONIAN

SEPTEMBER - - - CONVENTION MONTH

Flower Show Theme

"Begonias - New and Old"

HOW WE RAISE TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

By M. Dave Miller

Grand Forks, North Dakota

We purchase our tubers at the first of the year from Vetterle & Reinelt, Capitola, Calif., and from Antonelli Bros., Santa Cruz, Calif.

To get the large blooms, we buy the *California-grown* tubers "choice select" large and medium size. (Catalogs from these companies contain complete growing instructions.)

We start or "awaken" these tubers by placing them in a warm dark, dry place until the sprout, that comes from the concave or depressed side, has grown from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. These sprouted tubers are then placed in flats containing a soil mixture of $\frac{1}{3}$ sand, $\frac{1}{3}$ rich black dirt and $\frac{1}{3}$ dampened peat moss. Sprouted tubers are planted level with the soil, or nestled in. We do not cover them. *Water sparingly*, keeping the soil moist but *never wet*.

The flats should then be placed in the warm sunshine to keep plants from becoming spindly. (In some areas, the sun is too strong and *filtered* sunshine is recommended.)

When the begonias have attained a height of 3 or 4 inches, they are transplanted into the pots in which they will stay for the remainder of the season, never using less than an eight inch pot, for large, choice select tubers. We fill the pot with soil, to within $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch of the rim and do not water newly transplanted begonias for 24 to 48 hours.

We use a soil mixture of $\frac{1}{3}$ sand, $\frac{1}{3}$ rich black loam and $\frac{1}{3}$ peat moss. We also add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup granular charcoal per 8 inch

pot, and mix 2 heaping tablespoonfuls of cottonseed meal into the lower half of the pot.

We water the young begonias sparingly, always making sure the soil is moist, however. As the plants grow larger, watering is increased. When the begonias begin to bloom, we water them every noon by filling the pots with water from an easy-flowing hose.

Be sure the pots have excellent drainage, so that the excess water can drain off easily, or the begonias will damp off.

In hot weather, we spray the leaves and the areas around the plants with water to increase the humidity. We try to avoid spraying the flowers, because we feel they last longer when not sprayed.

Each potted begonias is given 1 cup of a liquid mixture of 2 heaping teaspoonfuls of FOLIUM to one gallon of water, *each week*.

We find begonias do best in *open shade*, the north side of a building being ideal. Begonias will not bloom in direct sunlight and they become too spindly when the shade is too heavy.

We tie the main stem of each begonias with a light stake placed in back of the plant, (making sure to avoid damaging the tuber when inserting the stake), to insure protection against the wind breaking the plants off at the tubers.

We have included Company and brand names in the above article, because we have tested their products; they do not pay us for this.

THE DOUBLE ROSE BEGONIAS

By Joy Logee Martin
Danielson, Connecticut

We are frequently called on to supply begonias that will bloom the year around. The double flowered *semperflorens* begonias can and do fill this need . . . especially the dark leaved Logee hybrids. For the window with partial shade or full sun, this begonia gives a wealth of bloom during the darkest days of winter. They have been grown by house plant lovers throughout the country and we receive a constant succession of letters singing their praises as the perfect begonia for beauty and ease of culture.

The original hybrids were the work of Prof. W. D. Holley during his years at the University of New Hampshire. They were 'Indian Maid' crossed with his own improved double *semperflorens* New Hampshire Hybrid; the latter, a green leaved wax begonia with very large double flowers in pink, white and red. One of the first named was 'Red Holly' . . . a small double flowered dark red with bronzy leaves. The New Hampshire Hybrids were a great improvement on the Geneva and Gustav Lind, having more vigor and larger blooms.

When Prof. Holley came to the University of Connecticut, he gave to my brother, the late Ernest Kimball Logee, several of his dark leaved hybrids. Working with Prof. Holley's foundation plants, my brother spent the last eight years of his life perfecting these beautiful treasures for begonia lovers everywhere. Since I am familiar with the hours, days and weeks of concentrated effort that he put into them, I feel certain that most of the re-named kinds of Begonias in this class are our own hybrids. One such is 'Carmen Queen', which was originally introduced as 'Pink Camellia'.

The first in the Mother Goose series to be introduced was 'Pied Piper'. (See BEGONIAN, July 1950) Then followed two larger flowered thimble types: 'Curly Locks' — a very large flower with yellow stamens and pink outer petals; 'Thimbleberry' — the same form but with red stamens. Both are upright growers but do not have the compact growth of some of his later hybrids. 'Firefly' is a bright red thimble type, a hybrid of 'Pied Piper', with better form and larger flowers. Several years elapsed before a pink sport was discovered and named 'Cinderella', having the same free-flowering habit and a lovely color of bright rose-pink.

'Bo-Peep' was distinctly a dwarf, and if my brother had a favorite plant among his dark leaved hybrids, this was it. The flowers are like little pink balls, completely covering the plant. During a tour of our greenhouses by the Springfield Garden Club,

one of the members selected a plant of 'Bo-Peep' to take home with her. My brother had keen eyes and noticed a very tight bud on the plant with a tinge of white. He refused to part with it, and was overjoyed to find that the little bud developed into an almost pure white sport. This plant was named 'Ballet' by a vote taken by the New England Branch of the A. B. S. during the summer meeting at our greenhouses in 1949. 'Ballet' has the same free-flowering habit and dwarf growth of 'Bo-Peep' with larger blooms. There is a slight tinge of pink on the outer petals which enhances its beauty.

'Pistachio' is a curiosity among the thimble hybrids and was named and selected because of its unusual coloring. The center of the flower is pistachio green — the outer petals pink. It is very dwarf and slow growing.

The best in the double pink class is 'Joan Strong', named for a summer student who helped my brother in pollinating. It is a prolific bloomer with well-rounded fully double flowers of light rose pink. 'Winkie' is a dwarf hybrid of real merit, as it combines compact growth with extra large bright rose all double flowers.

'Ernest K.' was a selection of Red Camellias named in memory of my brother. A beautiful dark leaved plant with extra large, bright red perfect camellia flowers. It has successfully been used in window boxes, making a beautiful show throughout the summer. In the fall the plants were cut back and potted, coming into bloom again for Christmas.

Some people were not fond of the dark foliage and asked my brother to make a green leaved thimble begonia. He did this with perfect results, giving it the name of 'Green-leaved Thimbleberry'. It has more yellow stamens than the dark-leaved hybrid and is a real novelty. Another noteworthy hybrid with green leaves is 'Pink Wonder'; so named because the flowers are such wonderful balls of pink, growing on a very dwarf plant. There are eighteen named kinds, which are the successful accomplishment of a horticultural career devoted to Begonias. I have covered only the varieties which seem to be the most popular.

The culture of the *semperflorens* begonias is very simple and easy. We find a good, well-drained soil mixture of compost, well-decayed cow manure or leaf mold, with the addition of bonemeal is ideal. We also add a generous portion of charcoal and sand. The plants should be allowed to become a little dry and then thoroughly watered. This will encourage strong growth and more abundant bloom.



—Ernest E. Martin Photo

B. 'JOAN STRONG,' One of Logee's Begonia Hybrids

They are easily propagated from basal cuttings, rooted in water or sand. Cuttings taken from the top flowering growth never branch and therefore will produce but one spindly stalk. A friend of mine had one such plant which grew to a height of three feet without a single side-shoot, continuing to bloom as it stretched. It is important to properly pinch the plants and to

know when they should be cut back. For constant bloom, pinch back the flowering growth that has become leggy. If real compact plants are desired, they must be kept pinched from the cutting on through to a three inch pot size. It is best to pinch the stalk back to the first break or sideshoot. This will make a better shaped plant in the long growing period of producing a specimen.

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—Mary Gillingwaters Photo

Upper Left—B. 'Riverside Benny'
Lower Left—B. 'Vigorosa'

Upper Right—B. 'Mount Baldy'
Lower Right—B. 'Gray Satin'

A REX BEGONIA HAVEN

By Dorothy S. Behrends

The finest specimen rex begonias are growing in an area absolutely contrary to conditions found in their native habitat — and like it! This is at *Casa de Gillingwaters* in Upland, California, near the base of Mt. Baldy.

With a fluorescent tube wall being the only protection from prevailing winds, loving care and attention has enabled Mary Gillingwaters to raise handsome specimens, from seeds produced by her own efforts at hybridizing.

Her first yen to hybridize rex begonias began in 1950. The results are being admired today but will not be available for distribution until next year, when it will be announced in the *BEGONIAN*. (*Do not write for these plants, they are unavailable.*)

Begonia 'Riverside Benny' is an exceptionally beautiful rex with heavy silver mid-zone; the center zone, the broad veining areas and wide border being a brown-green. The green veins are red-flushed with the surface having a deeply roughened texture.

B. 'Riverside Benny' is a tribute to the late, beloved Begonia Benny, editor of the *Riverside Branch Newsette*.

Begonia 'Vigorosa' is true to its name,

a vigorous rex begonia. This also is a large type begonia. It has a heavy silver surface with pronounced wide, green veining. The shallow-lobed leaves are deeply roughened.

Begonia 'Mount Baldy' is also well named. The large, very heavy-silvered center zone reminds one of Mt. Baldy capped with snow in the winter. The dark-green outer zone is reminiscent of the foliage at the base of the mountain.

Begonia 'Gray Satin' has shallow lobed leaves that are very full from the center. The mottled triangular zones are dark-green with each pebble containing one hair. The bright-red undersides are very showy, due to the fullness of the leaf.

Begonia 'Upland Crest' (not pictured) is a handsome begonia having B. 'Fireflush' ♂ as a parent. The double spiral leaves have bronze-green veining with the chatoyant black-green areas smooth-textured; the chartreuse-green areas are pebbly or roughened; the margin is medium-crested and the leaf stems are heavily covered with red hairs.

With these fine rexes available in the near future, with even more to come, is it any wonder we are all becoming eager to grow the King of Begonias?

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PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA

AMONG THE FAVORITE RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS OF YESTERDAY

By Charlotte M. Hoak

To even write on all the outstanding begonias of yesterday would resolve itself into a prosaic cataloging of names of little interest to the reader and of little aid to those who wish to select the best for their collections.

Begonias came early to California, and some of the older ones were recorded by the pioneer nurserymen who made the westward trek, enticed by the lure of gold which brought thousands west, into this state in the 'fifties'. They were horticulturists, and found California the ideal place to establish nurseries, unhampered by the climatic difficulties which they had to battle with in the long cold winters of their Eastern and European homelands. Begonias came in the company with the roses, camellias and geraniums, as did scores of choice plants that had been hitherto restricted to the artificial atmosphere of greenhouses. They, too, made their escape, and like their companions, took to the western out-of-door life and thrived amazingly in our congenial climate.

In glass porches, often opening off steamy kitchens, they wintered over in a climate, which was similar to their homelands, under constant 60 to 70 degrees F. On the plant-stands of pioneer housewives, they spent a very happy summer, to become the show plants of their owners.

If you will read through some of the early catalogs (if you are fortunate to own any, or have access to copies which have been preserved in our libraries), you will be surprised to note the number of begonias listed. Many of them have weathered neglect, indifference, and competition with 'fine new hybrids', and are still winning blue ribbons, still holding places of honor in notable collections, and even in their old age, becoming the parents of some of our finest new hybrids.

Sacramento, Oakland, San Francisco and San Jose were the favorite locations selected for nursery sites. The nursery of W. C. Walker of San Francisco listed *Begonia manicata* as early as 1858, and it was still popular in 1875 when James Hutchinson of Bay City Nurseries in Oakland, listed it along with fifteen other varieties. Col. Warren of Sacramento 'Camellia' fame, also listed them. At a time when the nurserymen were importing the famous Alene Sisley, the first double white geranium for \$10, a plant, many fine begonias were also received. Seeds of Lemoine's new hybrids were imported, and sea captains brought choice treasures in their Wardian Cases. The powder-light begonia seeds came also from seedsmen in Scotland, England, Germany and Belgium.

Since one of the members of the hardy rhizomatous begonia group, *B. manicata*, came first, let us follow through by mentioning some of the outstanding ones which are still popular, not only for their fool-proof resistance to neglect and hardy usage, but for beauty of form, foliage and bloom. After *B. manicata* came the famous variegated form, the acme of fine variegation, brought out by Lemoine in 1884, which shared with that popular mid-victorian geranium, the phrase 'Sunny Skies of Italy'. To catch the veiled light shining through thin, filmy cloud-cast leaves, grow them in sandy soil and expose to considerable sun, and get the alluring rosy lights around these awry clouds. Find a better all-year basket plant if you can, in bloom or out of bloom. Among the derivatives of *B. manicata* is the old-time favorite, *B. 'Erythrophylla'*, whose name got lost in transit; Dr. Feast of Baltimore had his name attached to it, and many older growers know it as *B. 'Feasti'*. Our grandmothers called it 'Beef-steak Begonia', on account of the red back facing on the leaves. This vigorous begonia gets hefty with age, and has the reputation of filling a good-sized washtub. There is a handsome mutant of this plain-leaved one, which is known as *B. 'Bunchi'*, whose lighter-green, red-tinged leaves are artistically ruffled and crested at the margins. *B. 'Erythrophylla helix'* goes further in the way of ornamentation, and spirals its ruffled leaves. Do not make the mistake of calling it *B. conchaeifolia*, which is an entirely different begonia, a tiny mite you always lose sight of, having a leaf shaped like a mussel shell.

B. 'Bessie Buxton' which appeared in 1893, and sometimes called *B. 'Feasti' erecta*, is an upright grower. Added to the ornamental leaves of this group, are the innumerable sprays of rose-pink flowers in late winter and early spring. *B. manicata crispa* is a choice member of this family, with crested leaf margins, reputed to be difficult to grow, which originated in an English nursery, about 1903. Other famous members, *B. manicata aureo-maculata crispa* and *B. 'Crestabruchi'*, came later. Not to be omitted from the early favorites is that striking one with thick, upright rhizomes and handsome glossy, bright-green, six-lobed leaves, *B. 'Verschaffelti'*, developed in Switzerland by Dr. Regel in 1853.

The head of another famous family is *B. heracleifolia*, the cowparsnip leaved one, discovered in Mexico about 1830. Many famous begonia 'stars' are in her line, all of them exceedingly ornamental. One of the most widely distributed members of her distinguished train is *B. b. sunderbruchi*.

Many of the old-time begonia fans have loved and grown this beautiful begonia, and we resent having misnamed 'stars' imposed upon the fine original we have grown for more than sixty years. If you are not familiar with this worth-while begonia whose ageless charm will always hold us when we behold a well-grown specimen, read the splendid description of it in the July, 1944 issue of the *BEGONIAN*, written by our artist begonia lover, Alice M. Clark of San Diego.

B. 'Silver Star' or B. 'Green Star' may be beautiful, preferred by some, but give me the rainbow-hued true B. 'Sunderbruchi' with its richly colored stars, when grown with the proper culture in just the right location. Of course, the champions for the latest 'stars' are going to say, "How about the flowers, which do not appear until the leaves are past their glory"?

In this cow-parsnip group is that oldest of the begonia hybrids, B. 'Ricinifolia', which lifts aloft its parasol castor-bean leaves and 4-foot stalks of rose-pink flowers intermittently. It is happiest if set out in the ground where it can really grow. Resembling this giant are two moderns, purported to be seedlings, B. 'Marian' and B. 'Immense'. Line them up together and you will detect the differences. Then, there is B. 'Fisher's Ricinifolia', whose leaves do not look at all like the other three, but the flowers are similar. This latter variety makes one of the finest pot-plants. I believe the black and white cut in Bessie Buxton's "*Begonias and How to Grow Them*" is this one, instead of B. 'Ricinifolia'.

We are all familiar with that old-timer we call 'Mrs. Townsend', in spite of being told

that it is *B. heracleicotylo*. Why 'Hercules Cup', Mr. Veitch? The leaves and habit of growth resemble B. 'Erythrophylla'; the flowers being stiffly set, but a lovely pink and borne in profusion. *B. h. major* has larger leaves and *B. h. venus* has darker ones.

From the Orient comes that greenhouse dependent, *Begonia goegoensis*, brilliant 'Fire King', discovered in Sumatra in 1881. Its showy, round, peltate leaves suggest that it might belong to the *Rex-cultorum* group. It needs leaf mold to which bonemeal and soot has been added. This fragile mid-victorian beauty is one of those species desirable for collectors.

Begonia acida, found in Brazil about 1843, has large, rounded leaves which are puckered on the top surface. The two-foot tall inflorescences fork near the top, bearing drooping white flowers. There is a fine picture of it in Bessie Buxton's book, between pages 44-45. It does well, if given a warm location.

The rhizomatous begonias, those which have had the hardihood to endure the exigencies of cultivation, are the begonias 'par excellent' for the busy amateur who does not have the facilities to grow difficult varieties. They stand the trying atmosphere of gas-heated homes, will grow in heavier soils, stand more neglect and are extremely easy to propagate by division, leaf cuttings and small sections of the rhizomes. If you want begonias which will grow in spite of your lack of horticultural skill, start with some of these, which were well-known in the pioneer gardens, the "Begonias of Yesterday".

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Rosecroft Begonias In California Gardens

Begonia collectors showing their specimens, nearly always point with pride to one or more of their plants and say, "This is one of the Robinson Rosecroft introductions". The object of their reverence is a well-grown fibrous cane-type Begonia, proudly labeled. These older introductions are too seldom seen in the later collections, their beauty and hardiness notwithstanding. Begonia hobbyists are fortunate to find someone to share plants or slips with them.

Older members of the Society have carefully prolonged the life of these named varieties by slipping vigorous shoots each year to preserve their specimen. So often some of the older Begonias become extinct because of this lack of foresight.

In a local garden recently visited, one saw such Begonias as: Lugano, Helen W. King, Lecco, Alzasco and Jinnie May. This was a rare treat. These hybrids of Mr. Robinson are listed in his Rosecroft Begonia Catalogs of 1935 to 1940. While they are all cane-stemmed and could be classified, in general, as mostly Coralline and Rubra seedlings, they vary in many respects.

Helen W. King is the favorite of many because it is a semi-trailer, with long, loose branches, well-covered with magnificent olive-green leaves with a bronze overlay, stippled with irregular-sized, solid silver circles. The stalks are medium green, with short dashes of a lighter green on their

smooth round surface. Petioles are less than an inch long, red and smooth. The shape of the leaf is fascinating too, as it has a forty-five degree angle at the top and side of the larger section of the otherwise rounded lobe. It is a long leaf (approximately eight or nine inches), narrow (about two inches), tapering to a sharp point.

Begonia 'Helen W. King' blooms steadily all summer. The male bloom have two large, roundish petals and two long, narrow, short ones. The female blooms are five petaled, four equal and one small. Peduncles and pedicels are a rich, red tone. The flowers are "corinthe Pink" to quote one of the Robinson Catalogues.

Begonia 'Jinnie May', introduced in 1925, is another Rubra offspring. While it could almost be called a dwarf or midget, it has a charm and color that has made it cherished, especially for indoor window-sill devotees. Its flowers are bright red and quite small. The leaves are dark green and narrow, but they hide the short stalk well as the nodes are spaced so close together.

A few BEGONIAN advertisers have a limited number of these hardy, rare plants, that are so often neglected in the drive to collect new hybrids. These Robinson seedlings may be seldom mentioned but they are excellent additions to "old and new" Begonia gardens.

—J.K.

HOW I RAISE RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIAS

By Leora Calmese, Missouri

Winter is the blooming season for rhizomatous begonias (other than the rex types). After blooming, they enjoy a rest period and then in the later summer and fall, they put out their best growth.

I do not feed begonias during their rest or dormant season, just keep them damp, *not wet*. By putting these begonias out of doors in a protected location, as soon as the weather permits, they are ready to repot in late summer. Then it is time for the growing cycle to begin.

Just prior to the growing season, is a fine time to propagate by rhizome cuttings. By cutting the rhizome in lengths containing at least three eyes (by the nodes), dusting the cut ends with sulphur and nestling these pieces into the rooting medium, plants will develop readily and the new plants will be ready to pot up by November.

When rhizomatous begonias are potted up, one should place the plant next to the side of the pot, not in the center, then the

growth end will grow the width of the pot, *on top of the soil*.

Shallow pots are preferable and it is well to remember that rhizomatous begonias like a heavier soil than other types, and are grown more on the dry side, than the damp side. If you do not have shallow pots, just put more drainage material in the bottom of the deeper pots. **GOOD DRAINAGE** is a requisite of all begonias.

THE LOS ANGELES BRANCH of the American Begonia Society

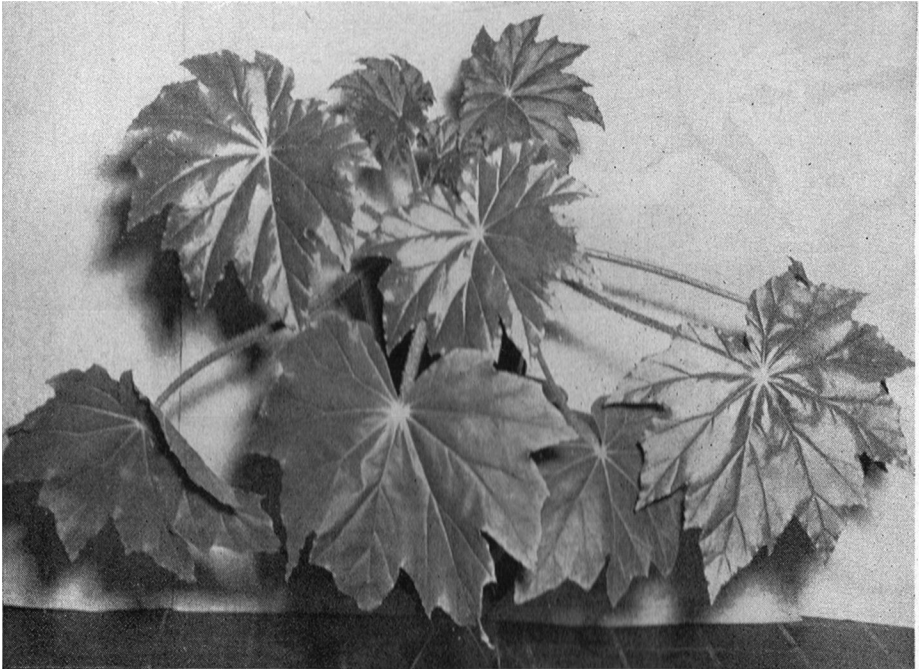
invites anyone interested in studying Begonias to attend their meetings, the 4th Wednesday of each month, beginning with a Pot-Luck luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own service. For additional information,

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THE PLANT BY THE FIREPLACE

By Ruth Peirce Merry
Needham, Mass.

Whether it be the hybridizing of begonias to gain a more beautiful variety, the collection of as many species and varieties as facilities will hold, or simply the joy of growing a few plants to as near perfection as possible, to the begonia lover there is a never ending fascination in the study of this plant family.

This past winter, we, my husband and I, have been particularly interested in the development of a plant, now two years old, whose name is a question, which has grown to an alarming size. I use the word "alarming" purposely, since it will push us out the door, if it grows much larger. For New England, where, we are told, we are conservative, this plant does not show that characteristic.

This begonia has *Ricinifolia* in it somewhere. It does not quite fulfil the description of *Marion*, neither does it completely fit the description of *Immense*, although an A.B.S. member was positive it was the latter. The leaves, seven-lobed and serrated like those of *Ricinifolia*, sixteen inches across, of extremely heavy texture, spring from a heavy rhizome on long hairy stems with tiny red spots at the base of the hairs. When they first appear, the leaves are a very handsome bronze, lined with red, but they gradually turn to olive green as they age. The plant is over four feet across.

Apparently it just grows, regardless, since

it is still in a seven and one-half inch azalea pot, which cannot hold much soil in proportion to the size of the plant. Due to its weight and size, it has been set inside a larger pot to keep it from falling. It has been in the living room, in front of the fireplace, away from the windows, for nearly three months, but it has continued to grow just as well there as it did in the sunporch, directly in front of a row of southwest windows, and is now throwing up flower spikes. The flowers are pale pink, and eventually will be high above the plant. It has had no special treatment, just the regular watering and feeding, which all of our plants receive.

Although this plant is by no means our favorite begonia, in fact, we like so many of them we really have no favorites, and are just as interested in growing *B. Aridicaulis*, its exact opposite in size, we have been fascinated by its growth. Who knows its name?

NOTE—

In the consensus of opinion of the various *Begonia* growers questioned, this plant is *B. 'Ricinifolia'* (the true, old-time variety).

This is the 1st prize-winning article in Class III of the Contest.

—The Editor

THE
YOUNGER
BEGONIA
SET



—Mary Gillingwaters Photo
Annette Sue Gillingwaters and
Begonia 'Annette Sue'

Interest in begonias and the exhibiting of begonias by the younger set, the forging ahead and is extremely encouraging.

Annette Sue Gillingwaters is one of the "younger contributors" to our Flower Shows in this area. She and her thirteen year old brother, Joel, have been entering exhibits and winning blue ribbons in local Flower Shows for four years, and she is only sixteen now. Joel and Annette plan and execute their own exhibits.

They are fortunate in having their own glasshouse and specialize in growing ferns, begonias and tropical plants in an area foreign to such growth. The hot, dry winds of Upland, blowing across virgin land covered with rocks and sage, is not the recommended atmosphere for Begonias.

But this has never daunted this young begonia fan, Annette Sue, so it was with pride that her grandmother, Mary Gillingwaters, the originator, named this lovely rex begonia in her honor.

Begonia 'Annette Sue' is an exceptional begonia with a silver, lavender-rose flushed center zone and a green, flushed silver outer zone, having a deep rose to lavender border. The leaf stems are heavily covered with red hairs, and one may see by the illustration that the fullness and immensity of the leaves makes a remarkable plant of beauty, for the sheltered garden.

As long as the interest in begonias among the younger set keeps increasing, we know the Royal Hobby will continue to be strong.

—D. B.

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REGISTERED BEGONIA HYBRIDS AND CULTIVARS

File No.	Name	Originator	Class	Year	Parentage	Reg. Date
58	Emma Palmer	Emma Palmer	Fibr.	1945	Unknown	Sept. 1953
59	Lillian Sloan	Jack Lighthart	Rhiz.	1950	Fernando-costae ♂ metallica ♀	Sept. 1953
60	Kumwa	Donald Horton	Rhiz.	1952	kenworthyi ♀ Reichenheimi ♂	Jan. 1954
61	Cardoza Sloan	R. Ziesenhenné	Rhiz.	1946	Chance seedling	Jan. 1954
62	Star-Crest	Murie Turner	Rhiz.	1950	fuscomaculata ♀ manicata cristata ♂	Mar. 1954
63	Bow-Joe	D. MacLanahan	Rhiz.	1951	Joe Hayden ♂ boweri ♀	May 1954
64	Bright Eyes		Rhiz.	1952	C. 42 ♂ John R. ♀	
65	Nibowcans		Rhiz.	1953	Bow-Nigra ♀ heracleifolia ♂ v. nigricans	
66	Mandiana		Rhiz.	1953	leptotricha ♀ schmidtiana ♂	
67	Tebalhia		Rhiz.	1952	C-42 ♂ Ricky Minter ♀	
68	Annette Sue	M. Gillingwaters	Rex	1951	Bonnie Jean rex seedling	June 1954
69	Mount Baldy		Rex	1951	Pink Lady Fire Flush	
70	Riverside Benny		Rex	1951	rex hybrid Fire Flush	
71	Vigorosa		Rex	1951	Adrian Schmidt rex seedling	
72	Dutchman's Breeches	Jerome Hunter	Rex	1950	dichroa undilata	
73	Art Anthony	S. Leatherman	Rex	1949	Greyback Mountain ♀ Silvertone ♂	July 1954
74	Bob Smith		Rex	1949	Grace ♀ Snowdrift ♂	
75	Bronco		Rex	1950	Big Beauty ♂ Greyback Mountain ♀	
76	Dale Andrews		Rex	1949	evansiana ♂ Silver Green Heart ♀	
77	Don Gwinup		Rex	1949	Big Beauty ♀ Curly Rajah ♂	
78	Edward Platnico		Rex	1949	Frosty Morn ♀ Silver Sweet ♂	July 1954
79	El Diablo		Rex	1950	Helen Lewis ♂ Nigger Tree ♀	
80	Honey Bug		Rex	1950	Grace ♀ J. D. Rockefeller ♂	
81	Lime Ade		Pex	1950	evansiana ♂ Silver Green Heart ♀	
82	Louise Lackey		Rex	1950	El Monte ♂ Greyback Mountain ♀	
83	Pink Petticoat		Rex	1950	Greyback Mountain ♂ Spider Web ♀	
84	Bronze Charm	W. C. Mueller	Rex	1950	not listed	
85	Silver Thread		Rex	1950	not listed	
86	Stormy Weather		Rex	1950	not listed	
87	Wee One		Rex	1950	not listed	
88	Kongo	S. Zug	Rhiz.	1952	kenworthyi ♀ mzae ♂	
89	Chorwon	D. Horton	Rhiz.	1952	barkeri ♂ Reichenheimi ♀	
90	Dark Sheen		Rhiz.	1952	boweri ♂ Joe Hayden ♀	

91	Emerald Sheen		Rhiz.	1952	boweri ♂ Joy Hayden ♀	July 1954
92	Golden Sheen		Rhiz.	1952	boweri ♂ Joe Hayden ♀	
93	Inje (In-jee)		Rhiz.	1952	dayi ♂ Sheen ♀	
94	Mottled Sheen		Rhiz.	1952	boweri ♂ Joe Hayden ♀	
95	Rama		Rhiz.	1952	acida ♂ Reichenheimi ♀	
96	Sampson		Rhiz.	1952	barkeri ♂ maddockalli ♀	
97	Poplar	S. Zug	Rhiz.	1951	acida ♀ pearli ♂	
98	Aquamarine		Rhiz.	1952	ludwigi ♀ Silvadore ♂	Aug. 1954
99	Del Ray		Rhiz.	1952	dayi ♀ Sheen ♂	
100	Lyric		Rhiz.	1952	kenworthyi ♀ liebmanni ♂	
101	Red Bluff		Rhiz.	1952	Dark Sheen ♀ manicata ♂	
102	Silver Day		Rhiz.	1952	dayi ♀ Sir Percy ♂	Aug. 1954
103	Verde Grande		Rhiz.	1952	Dark Sheen ♂ manciata ♀	
104	d'Artagnon	M. Turner	Fibr.	1951	epipsila ♀ Scharffiana ♂	
105	Rola-Y		Fibr.	1951	hugeli ♀ metallica ♂	
106	Marmin		Rhiz.	1950	Lettonica selfed	
107	Alta Maiden	M. Gillingwaters	Fibr.	1952	Indian Maid ♂ Scharffiana ♀	
108	Gray Satin		Rex	1950	Adrian Schmidt ♀ Spiral rex hyb. ♂	
109	Upland Crest		Rex	1950	Fireflush ♂ Pink Lady ♀	
110	Foxy	C. E. Fisher	Rex	1952	Bertha MacGregor ♀ unnamed Seedling ♂	
111	Lady Joanne		Rex	1952	Carnot (rex) ♀ unnamed Seedling ♂	
112	Curly Haze		Rex	1952	Mountain Haze ♀ Chance seedling ♂	
113	Freckles	C. E. Fisher	Rex	1952	Bearded ♂ Madge Henderson ♀	Aug. 1954
114	Pequeña	M. Gillingwaters	Rex	1951	Adrian Schmidt rex seedling	
115	Charlotte Hoak		Rex	1950	Pink Lady Fireflush	Aug. 1954
116	Pinafore	Ernest E. Martin	Fibr.	1951	Elaine Seedling	Aug. 1954

NOTE—This completes the list of Begonias registered by H. M. Butterfield, Nomenclature Director, to August 11, 1954.

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A. D. ROBINSON MEDAL AWARDS

The Committee of Awards recommended the awarding of two Medals, at their meeting on July 20, 1954, at the home of Chairman, Edna L. Korts.

The International Board of the American Begonia Society voted on these Awards at the July 26th meeting, and it will be an honor and a pleasure for President Glenn Motschman to present these Medals, for two outstanding begonias; the 1949 Medal for Begonia 'Golden West' and the 1950 Medal for Begonia 'Ricky Minter'.

Frank Reinelt crossed *Begonia martiana* with a large, apricot camellia-flowered tuberous begonia, that had weak stems. This produced a series in 1944, of large flowering baskets in apricot tones, something entirely non-existent, then. These were the progenitors of all the apricot shades and B. 'Golden West' is the latest advance made in this class.

As the naming of tuberous begonias is very limited in the United States, it took five years to produce enough stock to be introduced, and it was not until 1949 that this begonia was available. It is now considered a yard-stick or goal in which tuberous hybridizers feel a basket-type cross, must measure up to its quality. It is either "as

good as 'Golden West' or nearly as good as 'Golden West'."

This will be a much sought after tuberous begonia, but remember, do not try to buy a named tuberous begonia at the corner nursery, in the summer. Purchase them from dealers specializing in tuberous begonias, in the winter, as you would unnamed tubers. (More information on this begonia may be found in the 1950 BEGONIAN, page 241.)

Begonia 'Ricky Minter' is a favorite with everyone growing rhizomatous begonias. The acceptance of this fine begonia, introduced in 1950, has been tremendous, because it is tolerant to a certain amount of abuse, and may still be a handsome plant.

Approximately twenty-five plants were obtained from a cross made by Marie Turner. This plant was selected as the outstanding representative of the cross of *Begonia manicata cristata* ♀ x *B. mazaе* ♂.

This begonia is available all year long from many sources, as rhizomatous begonias are easily propagated. (More information may be found on this begonia in the 1950 BEGONIAN, page 215.)

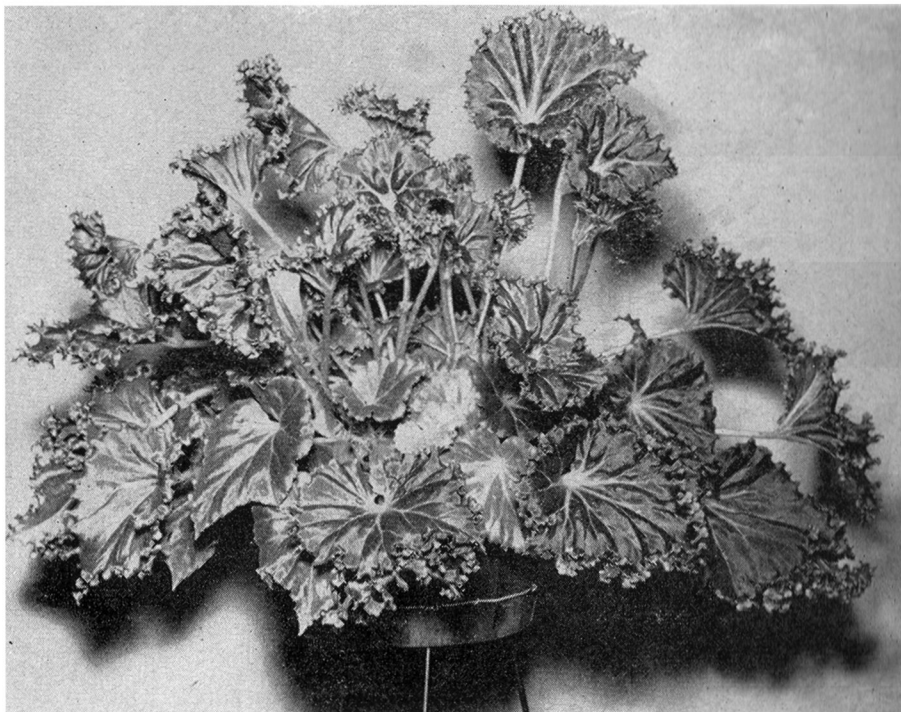
DOROTHY S. BEHREND'S

Member of the Awards Committee



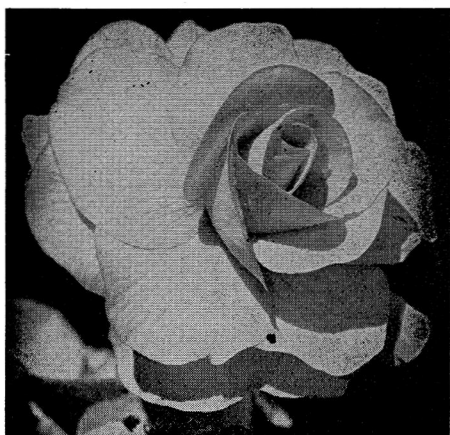
—Vetterle & Reinelt Photo

Frank Reinelt and His Begonia 'Golden West'



Begonia 'Ricky Minter'

—Glenn W. Mutschman Photo



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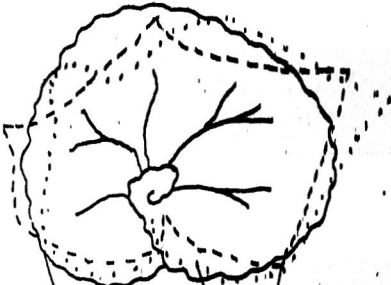
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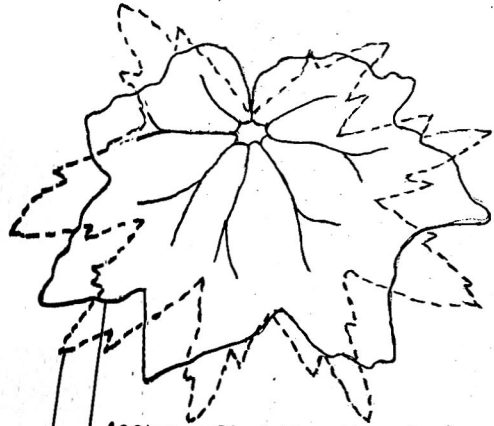
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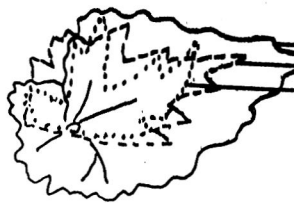
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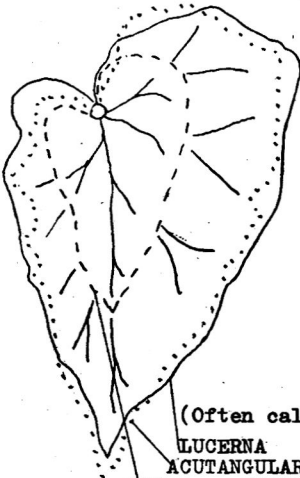
(Often called Kidney Begonias)
ERYTHROPHYLLA DICHOTOMA
 (Beefsteak) **VITAFOLIA**



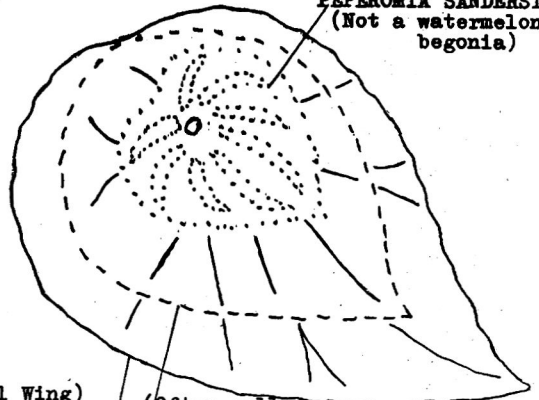
(Often called Star Begonias)
FISCHER'S RICINIFOLIA
HERACLEIFOLIA



(Often called Maple Leaf)
WELTONIENSIS
MACBETHI
RICHARDSIANA



(Often called Angel Wing)
LUCERNA
ACUTANGULARIS
RUBRA or **COCCINEA**



PEPEROMIA SANDERSI
 (Not a watermelon begonia)
 (Often called Lily-Pad Begonias)
INCANA
BROOKS' CARLOTA & **NELUMBIIFOLIA**

DSB

Slanted Toward the Beginner

By Dorothy S. Behrends

Begonia members not affiliated with a Branch are often at a disadvantage in not being able to discuss problems that arise on various begonia subjects.

An important item is the confusion that is found in Begonia Classifications in Flower Show Schedules, that are compiled for district, state and international flower shows. These members-at-large are unable to enjoy the interest and knowledge of other begonia growers, by discussing these problems. So it is that we hope to make their problem lighter by trying to imagine the types of begonias the persons compiling the Schedules, had in mind.

These Schedules are incomprehensible for possibly two reasons, either the Schedule Committees are unfamiliar with begonias or they believe the public is uneducated in recognizing begonias and their Classes.

No matter what the reason may be, perhaps this chart and outline will help solve the dilemma.

Many of these Schedules call for a flowering begonia. That could be any begonia with more than one flower. If it says fibrous begonia with flowers, it could mean any begonia other than the rhizomatous and tuberous types.

When the Schedules define the Classes to read Semperflorens or Wax Begonias, that means the bedding type. They are all in the same class.

When the Schedules call for an Angel Wing begonia; small, medium or large, that is confusing. All begonia leaves are uneven or oblique. If the leaf also has a point, that means the begonia is uneven and has a shape, we suppose to be, the same as we believe an Angel to have. By stretching our imaginations, we have many people calling these begonias, Angel Wing Begonias.

The small, so-called Angel Wing begonias could include 'Medora', *acuminata* and 'Albo-Picta', to name a few.

The medium-sized Angel Wing begonias may be 'Limminghei', Orange Rubra, 'Dutchman's Breeches' and most of the *coccineas*, commonly called rubras.

The large Angel Wing Begonias would probably include 'Lucerna', 'President Carnot', 'Haageana', etc.

The size of begonia leaves of a given variety may vary considerably. This is more apt to be due to growing conditions, rather than the variety. Warm, moist atmosphere tends to produce lush, succulent growth. A hot, dry location will produce smaller leaves and more stunted growth. By this reasoning, you may see that growing conditions could easily place the same named variety in different Classifications. (When grown under different conditions.) This may happen when the Schedules are not well defined.

However, an exhibitor must abide by the rules and accept the conditions as printed in the Schedule, if they intend to exhibit their plants in the Show.

Exhibiting plants in Flower Shows may be fun, if the advent is taken in an attitude of good sportsmanship. Good losers are just as important as the winners. Exhibitors are very necessary to all Flower Shows, so you may be sure the management will be as considerate as their "harried time" will permit, in lending a helping hand to those important persons.

The American Begonia Society is anxious to help Flower Show Schedule Chairmen, by giving experienced advice and making suggestions on individual shows, when that help is desired. Chairmen should write directly to the Flower Show Chairman of the A. B. S.

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SOME BEGONIA OBSERVATIONS . . .

By Rudolf Ziesenhenne

On page 13 of the special Begonia number of the Journal of the New York Botanical Garden, published for February 1940 and consisting of articles reprinted from the Journal, appears an illustration of a lovely unidentified Mexican begonia collected by Thomas MacDougal. This begonia is known to begonia fanciers as Begonia 'Page 13'.

Making a nice specimen without special care, it is a true rhizomatous plant with the stem creeping on the soil. The leaves are almost round, of a green color with thinly scattered brownish flecks, under some light conditions becoming silvery, making them most attractive. The flowers produced on a long stem are pinkish. On mature plants the leaf stems sometimes split and display lentil-shaped brown marks. "Page 13" is probably a hybrid. An attempt at self-pollenization resulted in only two plants with much larger leaves than the parent. They do, however, resemble the parent.

A number of years ago I received two similar begonias under the numbers Mexican No. 76227 and Mexican No. 76228. I assume the numbers are those of the New York Botanical Gardens. These two plants are identical from all general appearances, but one blooms while the other does not. The plants have rather thick stems but they are erect and may occasionally trail, and they do not have a typical contracted rhizome. For some reason people are calling these plants "Page 13." The stems of No. 76227 and 76228 are more on the nature of *B. loculata* or *B. vitifolia*, and will grow a foot or more tall. The leaves are yellow-green, flecked with brown but they never have the silvery cast on the leaves of 'Page 13' and are more glossy. They both have hairs on the leaf stem and on the undersides and margins of the leaves, but the hairs on 'Page 13' are shorter and not so prominent.

On page 51 of the March 1952 BEGONIAN is an article "Bill Brooks' Two New Begonias" by Dorothy Behrends. One of the begonias called 'Lucy Brooks' has proved to be *B. Balmisiana* Ruiz. The clinical studies of the medicinal value of this begonia was described in Spanish in a book published in 1794.

The other begonia, called 'Carlota', is *B. nelumbiiifolia* Cham. and Schlecht. This is the begonia which is so widely used in the gardens of Hawaii. It adds a very tropical look to the garden for the leaves resemble the water lotus.

A begonia found by William Brooks has variously been called 'Ruby Jewel', 'Fuchsia-flora' and 'Pendant Jewel', as well as Seed Fund No. 113, but has proved to be *B. Candollei*, Houghton. This plant was collected by Dr. Ghiesbrecht, his No. 683, and is deposited in the Grey Herbarium. Dr. Houghton describes it on pages 34 and 35 of his unpublished work, "A Monograph of the Begoniaceae of North America." This plant resembles *B. incarnata*, Link and Otto, in growth, leaf and flower. However, it is easily identified by the female flowers which carry the seed on plates extending from the cell wall, thus presenting a new section, or sub-genera, called *Parietoplacentalia*, Houghton. The plant also sends new stems radiating in all directions from a common pedestal which stands on the surface of the ground.

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Begonias In the Far North

"Alaska may seem a long way from most of your members but I've been growing several kinds of begonias in the past three years. The tuberous begonias are growing more beautiful every day and the fibrous ones, seeded in March, are showing color now. I also have about forty tuberous begonias from seed, in three inch pots, not blooming yet but coming on nicely. I have four other varieties I have not been able to identify as yet — one is an "Angel Wing", one a small leaf with a tuber and pink flowers, and one is fibrous rooted with leaves quite like a tiny "Angel Wing". I am afraid the Dangels have the Begonia Bug!

All our gardening is done in our sun porch and unheated greenhouse. There is a small propagating bench in the greenhouse with a soil wire but other than that, we depend on "Solar Heat". We get lots of laughs from that, as so many stop to ask, "What kind of heat is that?" There is no way of heating a greenhouse here except by stove oil, and that is too expensive for amateurs. Winter finds us with potted plants all over the house, and the sun porch very crowded. This is our third year at gardening and greenhousing, and we are learning as we go along."

WALTER A. DANGEL
Sitka, Alaska



—Glenn W. Molschman Photo

JACK KOEBIG — PRESIDENT-ELECT

Mr. Koebig will be installed as International President of the American Begonia Society at the Annual Banquet

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THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The Begonian is the official monthly magazine of the Society and is devoted to all shade loving plants giving the culture of Begonias, Ferns, Saintpaulias, Fuchsias, Camellias, Bromeliads, hardy Orchids and many other exotic plants.

The excellent articles cover a wide range of territory in helping solve problems of culture and disease, for members from Maine to Florida, Canada to Mexico and West to include Australia. The majority of our members, are not Branch members, but are active members at large. For those living near a Branch (listed in the Begonian), one has an added advantage of sociability and are welcome to join any Branch.

Membership dues in the Society (which includes the immediate members of the family) is \$2.50 per year, which also entitles the member to receive the Begonian. If you neglected joining while attending the Begonia Show, fill in and mail attached form to:

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

22nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

GLENN W. M.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

All meetings and events of the 22nd Annual Convention and Flower Show will be held on the second floor of the New CLARK HOTEL, 426 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, California.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1954

The Exhibition Rooms will be open for setting up the general Flower Show, as well as Branch Exhibits.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1954

The Exhibition Rooms will be open for setting up the general Flower Show, Branch Exhibits and to receive competitive entries.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1954

The Exhibition Rooms will be open to complete Branch Exhibits and receive competitive entries. All competitive entries and exhibits must be in place by 11.00 A.M.

1:00 P. M. — Flower Show will be closed for Judging.

1:00 P.M. — Registration of A. B. S. members opens.

(Registration fee — .50c)

7:00 P.M. — Flower Show Preview.

(Registered A. B. S. members only)

(Public Admission — \$1.00)

9:00 P.M. — Reception for A. B. S. members — International Board Officers, Hosts.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1954

10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. — Flower Show open to the public. (Public Admission — 50c)
Short lectures by Begonia Hybridists in Nomenclature Room.

2:00 P.M. — Annual Business Meeting. President Glenn W. Motschman, Presiding.

6:30 P.M. — Annual A. B. S. Banquet, \$2.85 per person.

Presentation of Robinson Memorial Medals — President Glenn W. Motschman.

Presentation of Trophies and Awards to Show Winners

Flower Show Chairman, Cal Trowbridge

Installation of International Officers — Frank S. Moore.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1954

10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. — Flower Show open to the public. (Public Admission — .50c)
Short lectures by Begonia Hybridists in Nomenclature Room.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1954

10:00 A. M. to 4:00 P.M. — Flower Show open to the public. (Public Admission — .50c)
Short lectures by Begonia Hybridists in Nomenclature Room.

ON AND FLOWER SHOW

N, President

CONVENTION OFFICERS

Convention Manager	Jack Koebig
Flower Show Chairman	Cal Trowbridge
Convention Secretary	Arline Stoddard
Convention Treasurer	Joe Taylor
Publicity	Dorris Motschman
Hospitality	Frank and Violet Moore
Banquet	Mae Koebig
Advertising	Dorothy Whitaker
Convention Issue of the <i>BEGONIAN</i>	Margaret Fenn Dorothy S. Behrends, Jean Kerlin, Mae Koebig and Dorris Motschman.
Nomenclature Room	Edna L. Korts — Jean Kerlin

Flower Show Committee:

Branch Exhibits	Mary Gillingwaters
Garden Club Exhibits	Roy Joyce
Commercial Exhibits	Glenn W. Motschman
Seed Fund Booth	Della and Jack MacLanahan
Membership Booth	Dorothy S. Behrends
A. B. S. Library Booth	Arline Stoddard

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ENGRAVINGS

AWARDS

POINT SYSTEM FOR JUDGING BEGONIAS

FIBROUS and RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIA SPECIMENS:

Cultural perfection	50
Foliage	15
Difficulty of cultivation	15
Quantity and quality of flowers	15
Correct and suitable labeling	5
	<hr/>
	100

REX BEGONIA SPECIMEN:

Cultural perfection	40
Foliage	20
Distinction	10
Size of plant	10
Difficulty of cultivation	15
Correct and suitable labeling	5
	<hr/>
	100

TUBEROUS BEGONIA SPECIMEN PLANT:

Number and size of blooms in proportion to size of plant	40
Cultural perfection	25
Healthy foliage	15
Erect flowering stem	10
Quality of flower	10
	<hr/>
	100

CORSAGE OF BEGONIA FLOWERS:

Color combination	25
Proportion and balance	25
Suitability of occasion	10
Style and grace	25
Distinction and originality	15
	<hr/>
	100

BEGONIA FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS:

Color combinations	25
Proportion and balance	25
Distinction and originality	20
Relation to receptacle	10
Condition	10
	<hr/>
	100

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The handsome Greenhouse, given away at the Annual A. B. S. Flower Show in September at the Clark Hotel in Los Angeles, was most generously donated by the Southern California Greenhouse Manufacturers. This is one of their Budget-Ray models, measuring 9 feet, 4 inches by 12 feet, worth approximately \$400.00. It will be set up without charge, on the winner's property, anywhere within 50 miles of the Hotel. If installed outside of this area, there

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Members of the Society have donated the many lovely plants of Begonias and other shade plants that fill the greenhouse. A prize well worth winning, and one you would be proud to own.

Just in case you should not be the lucky one, you might drop in and make a deal for one of your own. Where? At the Southern California Greenhouse Manufacturers in Rosemead, of course.

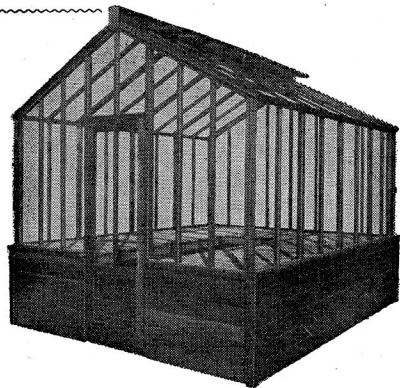
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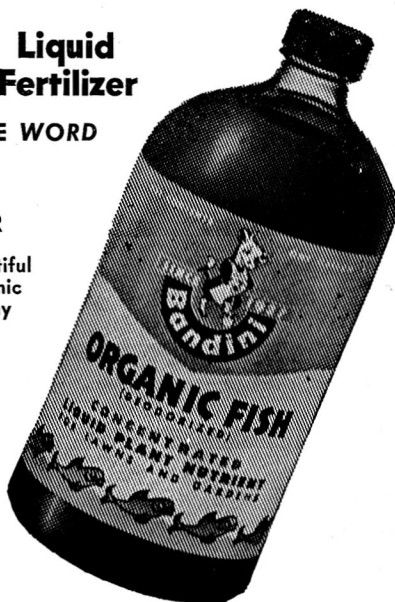
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IT'S ECONOMIC—Bandini Organic Fish is highly concentrated—very little goes a long way.

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LET'S GROW LEAVES . . .

By Kenneth M. Mosher — *Seattle, Wash.*

Although most house plant growers know at least vaguely that Rex Begonias may be propagated from leaves, it took the recent craze for African Violets to popularize the use of leaf cuttings as an everyday operation. However, few begonias hobbyists realize that some of our finest house plant begonias will grow from leaf cuttings as easily as African violets. Of course, some begonias grow more easily in this way than others, and among the easiest to start with are: *Begonia boweri* and its relatives and hybrids, *Begonia mazaræ* and its hybrids (B. Joe Hayden is especially recommended), the Rex varieties, the star begonias and most of the large leaf begonias. Actually many of the foliage types will grow into show specimens much faster than African Violets. To reach their prime, the Saint-paulias must bloom which usually takes a year or more from the time the leaf is planted, but the foliage begonia will be beautiful as soon as it gets a few leaves, often in a few weeks.

The only way to find out if a begonia will grow from a leaf is to try it. If the first one fails to grow, try the same variety again, for seldom do all leaves started, develop new plants, even from the easiest-to-root varieties. The vigor of the leaf and the conditions under which grown all affect the success of any planting. You will be surprised by the number of types you can grow in this manner, and after you adopt this method of propagation you will be rewarded with many beautiful plants for yourself and friends.

The actual operation is simplicity itself, and just the same as for African Violets. Cut off a fresh, vigorous leaf and bury the stem $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 inch (or deeper according to

the size of the leaf) in a moist medium. Set it aside out of the direct sunlight, and keep it uniformly moist until it roots. In due time, a cluster of small plants will push through the soil and when large enough, they may be carefully separated and potted up as desired. Replant the leaf with all the roots that remain, after taking off the small plants, and wait for the next crop of plantlets. The second and third crops do not require as long to develop, since the leaf is now already rooted, so that the new plants often show above the soil in two or three weeks.

For the easier-to-root types, and during the spring and summer months when the urge to grow is strong, plant each leaf individually in a small baby-food or mushroom can. Use any combination of vermiculite, sand, peat moss, leaf mold, Sponge rock or loam to provide a light, porous medium which will not dry out too rapidly. For the more difficult types, during the colder months of the year, or when in doubt as to the ease of rooting of a leaf, place a large mouthed gallon jar (which you can get for 15 or 20 cents at a delicatessen shop) on its side, and fill in to a depth of one and one half to two inches with the mixture mentioned above. Plant the leaves in this miniature Wardian Case and water them to settle the stems in the medium. Set the jar in a light situation, but out of the direct sunlight, in the window garden, kitchen, porch or greenhouse. In the warmer months, leave the lid off the jar, but during colder weather close the jar until the plants are growing rapidly, when the lid should be removed. When large enough, take out the cluster of plants

(Cont. on Page 221)



Bottle Wardian Case Showing Leaf-Cuttings in Various Stages

BEGONIA 'LYRIC'

(*Kenworthyi* x *Liebmanni*)

Pewter-silver embossed on dark, blue-green leaves is the pattern of color for Susie Zug's recent hybrid introduction, B. 'Lyric'. This plant clearly indicates the parentage in texture, growth habit and beauty.

It is classed as a "plain-leaved, star rhizomatous Begonia", but the leaves are anything but plain; the shallow lobes result in long acuminate points only faintly reminiscent of true star type Begonias of older varieties, such as the *B. heracleifolia* group.

The texture of the foliage is medium and crisp as the edges curl slightly to display the slight pink flush beneath, as well as the long petioles (14 to 16 inches) that are red-flecked. Each red dot on the petioles surrounds a soft, white hair. The veins feather out from the small sinus, pale green and fairly prominent, due to the color. The leaves measure eight by ten inches or more at maturity.

One of the best features of B. 'Lyric' is that it bushes out from the medium-sized rhizome to make a well rounded specimen plant. Mrs. Zug grows the plant slightly on the dry side, as the rhizome stays horizontal and does not like to be soggy at any time. It demands considerable filtered light to maintain its fine color.

B. 'Lyric' is listed by the Nomenclature Director, H. M. Butterfield, under File No. 100, and collectors that have viewed this hybrid, predict that it will add one hundred percent pleasure to those Royal Hobbyists able to obtain this handsome plant in 1955.

—J. K.



—Susie Zug Photo
Begonia 'Lyric'

LET'S GROW LEAVES . . .

(Cont. from Page 220)

with a small fork, separate and pot up the plants individually, the same as those started by other methods.

Let the growing of begonias from leaf cuttings be a challenge to you and find new enjoyment in your gardening.

NOTE— This is the 1st Prize Article in Class I of the Contest. —The Editor.

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KINGS OF FLORIDA

By Jane Crisler — *Winter Park, Florida*

Central Florida's six months of summer-high humidity, and 40 to 50 percent in the winter, seem to be ideal growing conditions for rex, rhizomatous, cane and some tuberous rooted begonias. Our begonias, over one thousand plants, which include 430 odd varieties, are planted in the ground, in pots, in wire baskets and on coquina rock. They are growing under camouflaged netting and oak trees, complemented by tropical and sub-tropical plants, — terrestrial orchids, African violets, vines, bromeliads, azaleas and camellias. Since rex begonias are surface feeders, I prefer them planted in the ground with as good drainage as one would have in pots.

The soil used for ground planting of rex begonias consists of a well-decomposed leaf mold and steer manure. For summer planting in pots, I prefer leaf mold, manure, German peat moss, coarse sand and charcoal, for winter pot planting, — coarsely cut sphagnum moss is added to hold more moisture and the coarse sand sometimes eliminated. Perhaps there are just as many combinations of potting soils as there are begonias growers. Most important is to learn the natural habitat of your begonias, and try to duplicate as nearly as possible, the soil, watering, sunlight and temperature requirements.

Begonias give a perfect signal to you that they require less water when they begin their dormancy and blooming season, so water and fertilize well during their growing period. When the first cold night comes along, decrease the water and eliminate the liquid fertilizer until they begin to grow again. If one wishes to hold back the dormancy of the rex and desires more leaves, keep all buds pinched off. This will hold off dormancy from two weeks to a month or more on some varieties.

I have found it is best to water on the rising temperature in the winter time. But if begonias in the ground need water, they have received it with the temperature in the low 40's. During the summer, even after having a cloudburst, I have watered the camouflaged netting on the sides of the 'Begoniarium', and saturated the sides of the Slum Section, to lower the temperature. Sometimes this brings the humidity up to 98 percent, but does not increase wet rot or fungus. Rex begonias do require excellent air circulation during the high humidity months.

Seven years ago when first beginning to grow rex begonias, some were dug up and brought into the house when a cold snap of below 38 degrees was forecast. That mistake taught us to leave them outside because they could not take the sudden change of temperature. Since then we have successfully planted rex, cane, rhizomatous and trailing begonias in the ground on the north side of the house which has an oak tree for protection.

Since rex leaves can be propagated all the year around in Florida, it is possible to have rex begonia plants at their off season. However, after one or two years, their regular season cycle becomes established. In the winter time, because of low humidity, the leaf and 3 inch stem is placed horizontally, one-half inch below the ground surface. When cutting a leaf off of the plant for propagation, I like to leave at least one inch of the parent plant, so when it finally drops off, there is a natural scar. If one desires more plants per leaf, stick the thumbnail in along one side of the stem about an inch apart. One should have the center leaf plant and one to three babies at each scar on the stem. In the summer time, the leaf and stem are placed vertically with the stem one inch in the ground. This is to allow air circulation because of fungus, slugs and the usual humidity pests.

What do I use for propagation soil? Whatever is under any of the nine tables in the 'Slum Section'. One has German peat moss, and others leaf mold and steer manure, or leaf mold alone. Some say sand is the best, but I like the easier process where the baby plants will obtain some food and I will not have to think of fertilizing while they grow.

Rex begonias are very hardy, for when transplanting or replenishing leaf mold beds, they can sit with exposed roots on the cool, moist, shaded cement for three days, showing little or no shock when returned to the enriched soil. Should the begonias droop, daily sprinkling and watering plus an application of liquid fertilizer will revive them.

Since there are many varieties of rex begonias, I have given up the struggle of trying to grow those that do not survive our summer and winter climate. Now we are relaxing and enjoying our hobby of growing begonias in Central Florida.

The following are a few of the named Rex Begonias which we have successfully grown in Florida, either in the ground or in pots:

Purple Curly Star Dust
 Star Dust
 Winter Queen
 Twisty Spot
 Lavender Glow
 Rose Marie
 Purple Glory
 Adrian Schmidt
 Fiesta
 Drew
 Mrs. Moon
 Carmelita
 Thunder Cloud
 Leatherman's 700
 Ballet Girl
 Double Black Twist
 Helen Lewis
 Gay Time
 Princess of Hanover
 Rajah
 Mikado
 Curly Silver Sweet
 Prince Charming
 Lord Palmerston
 Emerald Giant
 Perle de Paris
 Sea Nymph
 Marion Louise

A. B. S. NEWSETTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY 26TH BOARD MEETING

Convention Chairman Koebig expressed his thanks to the Glendale, Redondo Area, Inglewood, Ventura, Houston, Los Angeles and El Monte Branches for their donations to the Convention Prize Fund.

Convention Treasurer Joe Taylor was authorized to administer all receipts and disbursements of Convention monies.

A Tally Committee of Jack MacLanahan, Chairman, Roy Joyce and Fred Schultz was appointed to count the election ballots.

Patsy
 Taffeta Lady
 Curly Fire Flush
 Okefeenokee
 Dew Drop
 Curly Louise Clossen
 Helen Tupel
 Patented American Beauty
 Lavender Ruffles
 Curly Carnot

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Makes hard soil easy to work . . .

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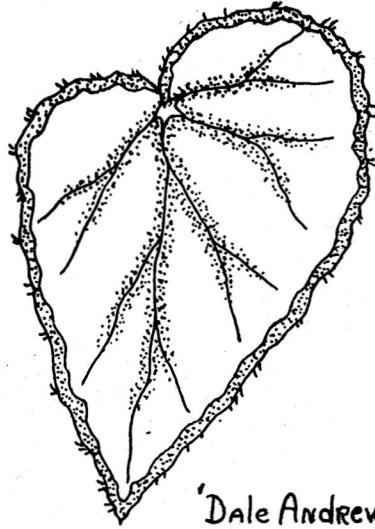
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Tel.: KEystone 5-6290

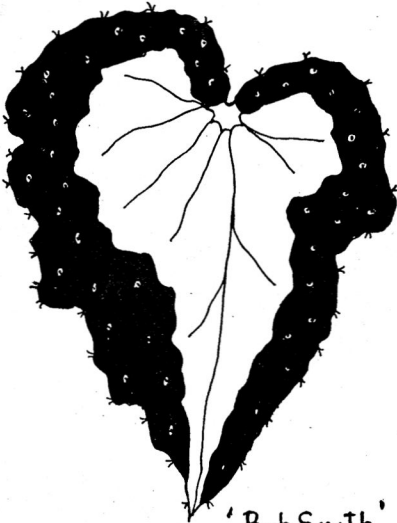
ANAHEIM, CALIF.



'BRONCO'



'DALE ANDREWS'



'BOB SMITH'



'EDWARD PLATINICO'

DSE

NEW ROYAL REXES

By Jean Kerlin

With the advent of so many lovely rex begonia cultivars, it gives us great pleasure to register varieties that will be propagated vegetatively, to insure true named varieties.

The following are some of the rexes that Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman has produced with medium sized leaves, making them attractive to the Royal Hobbyist that are limited as to space in which they may raise plants.

Begonia 'Bronco' is a cultivar from 'Big Beauty' ♂ x 'Grayback Mountain' ♀. It is a semi-miniature type in that it attains a size of approximately 6 inches in diameter. It is a double spiral and a handsomely marked begonia.

This begonia has a heavy-silver mid zone, the center and outer zones are olive-green, spotted with heavy silver; the margins are reddish.

B. 'Bronco' is named in honor of the mascot at the California State Polytechnic College, and is available now.

Begonia 'Dale Andrews' is a plant having interesting parentage in that the combination of *B. evansiana* ♂ x 'Silver Green Heart' ♀ is unusual. The results of this cross has given us a bright-green leaf with narrow, red-veined areas. The veins and margins are also red although the immature leaves have brownish areas that change to red, at maturity. It is an upright grower with leaves approximately 8 inches in diameter, allowing it to be grown in window gardens. It is definitely rex in appearance, and we suppose the red veining is due to *B. evansiana*.

B. 'Dale Andrews' is named in honor of a young El Monte man who served his country well, in the U. S. Coast Guard.

Begonia 'Bob Smith' is a cultivar from 'Grace' ♀ x 'Snowdrift' ♂. As it attains the size of approximately 8 inches in diameter, it will be a fine window garden subject. The heavy-silver center zone is a lovely contrast to the olive-green outer zone;

coupled with dark-red, wavy margins and red veining, the white hairs on the stems are quite a contrast.

B. 'Bob Smith' was named in honor of a young El Monte man who also served his country well in the U. S. Coast Guard, with Happy Leatherman, on the U. S. C. G. C. Gresham.

Begonia 'Edward Platnico' is a cultivar from 'Frosty Morn' ♀ x 'Silver Sweet' ♂. This begonia will also be recommended for window gardens as the leaves attain the size of approximately 7 inches in diameter.

The black-green surface is a striking contrast to the lighter begonias and the dark-red margin and veining areas, combined with silver blotches, makes an interesting addition to the rex begonia lists.

This begonia is named in honor of a young Kansas man that served his country well, in the U. S. Marine Corps.

Unfortunately, the beauty of rex begonias cannot be transmitted by black and white pictures or drawings, creditably. By reading the short descriptions and studying the drawings, it is hoped that a likeness may be imagined.

The last three named begonias will be available in 1955, and it is suggested that begonia growers should watch for the announcement of their release, in the BEGONIAN. No doubt many servicemen's families will want to grow these begonias in tribute to these fine boys.

OPEN GARDEN

Although the listing of OPEN GARDENS was not continued for the month of September, one of our members living in South Carolina has extended an invitation to Begonia lovers to visit her garden during September and the first of October. She lives away from the "beaten path" but will be at home, if visitors will contact her ahead of time, any day. Located only 1½ miles off the shortest route from New York City to Miami, Florida, Begonia travelers will find this an enjoyable stop-over, as well as those living near the area. Mrs. Waltzer has between 50 and to large plants with several small plants of other varieties, she says. If interested, contact Mrs. Ruth Waltzer, R. R. 2, Box 178-A, Sumter, South Carolina.



RARE WHITE CALLA QUEEN BEGONIA

Variegated foliage; white leaves edged in pinks and reds, formed like miniature calla lilies. Pot-grown blooming size—\$1.75 ea.

3 for \$5.00

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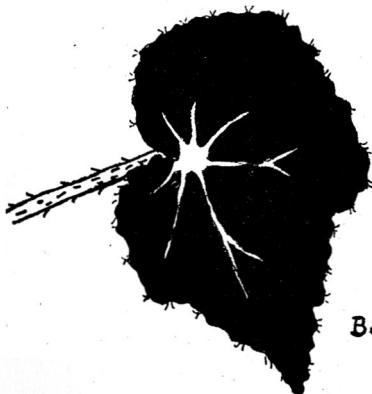
By Jean Kerlin

Della MacLanahan gave us three new hybrids called Begonias Bow-Nigra, Bow-Arriola and Bow-Chancee. Recently she added a fourth to the trio, and now we present B. Bow-Joe.

The name is short, the plant is low and compact. Any collector cramped for space, and all houseplant growers, will have no trouble finding a very small niche for this black beauty with the green eye.

This petite rhizomatous was developed in 1951, but was held in seclusion until this year, when it will make its debut at the Convention and Show. Mrs. MacLanahan tried many methods to increase the size of the leaves and rhizome, hoping all the while that B. Bow-Joe would retain its dwarf stature. Three years of testing established beyond any doubt that it is a true miniature, with petioles only two and one half inches long, leaves but one and one half inches, with flower spikes only four and one half inches high.

It is an irregular bloomer which in no way is a detriment, as the tiny, compact plant is so bushy, with such dark coloring on the leaf surface and a twinkling sinus of light green, that you can't fail to admire it.



Bow Joe

As it is the offspring of B. Joe Hayden and B. Boweri, one notices the former's dark leaf color and the latter's eyelashes on the margins. The flowers are pale pink, quite small, but dotted with red. They have two petals, with equal wings, and are held erect, slightly above the foliage. It is spring flowering.

CONGRATULATIONS A. B. S.!

Leatherman's Gardens

First Offering of Two New Begonias

BOW-JOE—Rhizomatous. Hybrid of Della MacLanahan

BRONCO—Rex Hybrid of Sylvia B. Leatherman

Strong Plants—\$1.50 Each—F.O.B.

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VISITORS WELCOME

How I Raise the Rexes

By J. E. Seal
Singapore

Our climate does not particularly lend itself to rex begonia cultivation, because the temperature averages 80 degrees F., with a relative humidity of 87 to 97 percent, with hardly any change throughout the year.

After many series of experimentations, my own methods of cultivation are as follows:

POTTING MEDIUM:

80% broken bricks
20% limestone

There is no organic matter in my medium, all fertilization being done in solution.

FERTILIZATION:

1 lb. chopped fish left for 6 days in 4 gallons of water. Mix with 12 gallons of water after decomposition. (6 days only) Urine, left four days, then dilute with 8 times its bulk, in water.

1 lb. soya bean cake mixed with 3 gallons of water. Dilute with 10 gallons of water and strain off.

FERTILIZATION CYCLE:

1st Day Fish Water
4th Day Urine water
8th Day Fish water
11th Day Soya bean water
15th Day Fish water
Repeat cycle over and over.

Normal methods of propagation are from leaf cuttings, struck in a medium of broken down cocoanut husks, known locally as 'coir dust'.

I note that photographs in the BEGONIAN show pots to be deeper than they are broad. We, in Singapore, find shallow pots best.

I spent some years during the war, in the Far East with the R. A. F., and saw rex begonias growing on mountain sides in Assam. Nearly always, they were on limestone cliffs; their rootstalk spreading usually twice the diameter of the plant in moss! In cultivation, I find they are at their best when really potbound. I have one specimen 2½ feet high and 1½ feet in diameter, in a four inch pot.

We grow a begonia in Singapore, we call the "Iron Cross", that enjoys our very moist, warm climate. The leaves have a mid-green outer zone and a chocolate-brown 'cross', with the entire leaf covered with red hairs.

It is known as the Iron Cross Begonia, in Singapore.

Begonia 'Marjorie Daw'

By Irene M. Narr,
Pennsylvania

"Should it ever become necessary for me to dispose of all of my begonias and keep only one, my choice would certainly be B. 'Marjorie Daw'. Such was the consensus of opinion of most of the Philobegonia Branch members at a recent meeting. The specimen plant we studied was one of outstanding beauty, displayed on a pedestal, allowing its long branches to trail gracefully around each side. It was literally covered with clusters of gorgeous pink flowers, growing from the top stem as well as along the side branches. It really was a plant of outstanding beauty, enhanced by its pink pedicels, its pinkish-green peduncles and its glossy green leaves, with their slightly ruffled edges.

It inherits the triangular ovate-shaped leaves from one parent, *B. coccinea*, and from the other parent, *B. 'Limminghei'*, it gets its trailing branches. The flowers on this particular plant are distinctive with five petals, while the ovary or seed pod has three wings, one slightly larger than the others. The center of the ovary is very light green, appearing almost white against the brilliant pink in the petals.

The member of our branch who grew this plant keeps it on her enclosed porch where the temperature drops occasionally to a low of forty degrees at night. It is evident, therefore, that it can stand cool nights, and it has been determined that strong sunshine is injurious. It needs plenty of light and morning sun to bring out its brilliance. It started blooming before Christmas and was blooming profusely in March, and gave every evidence of continuing to bloom for some time to come.

It had been potted originally in very good soil in a good-sized pot, to allow for ample root growth so that it would not require repotting; it was fed only once during the winter and it requires considerable water.

It may be propagated easily by inserting any side cutting (where there has been no bloom) into sharp sand or vermiculite, making sure the latter is not packed too tightly. Given sufficient water, it should root in a short time. The plant was about a year old at this time and the owner felt that she would keep it at least another year before cutting it up to any great extent, to start new plants.

We of the Philobegonia Branch heartily agree that Theodosia Burr Shepherd's Begonia 'Marjorie Daw' is one of California's finest, for simple care; it will give the grower a plant that will be a joy to have and behold.

GREETINGS FROM

MACLANAHAN'S NURSERY

We Specialize in Begonias
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
3734 OVERLAND AVENUE

VE. 8-7654

Los Angeles 34, Calif.



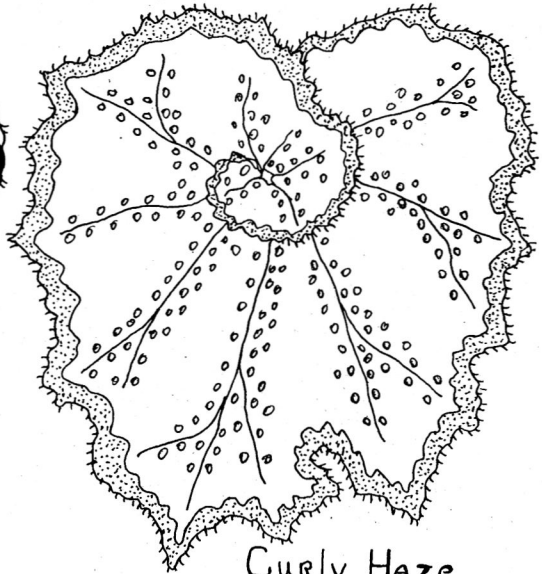
Freckles



Lady Joanne



Foxy



Curly Haze

DSB

REX BEGONIAS SELECT

By Dorris Motschman,

The late Elizabeth Fisher tradition of selecting the best obtainable rex begonias for hybridizing, plus selection and discarding of culls, is being carried on by Carl E. Fisher, her husband.

Begonia 'Freckles' is as the name implies, freckled, with big silver freckles. This is a cultivar between B. 'Bearded' ♂ x B. 'Madge Henderson' ♀, a cross that is quite distinctive with a dark-green center zone and wide border. The heavy-silvered mid zone is complemented by the circle areas or freckles, in the border, with each freckle containing one stiff hair.

Begonia 'Lady Joanne' was produced by crossing B. 'Carnot' ♀ with an unnamed seedling. It has a pebbly or quilted texture, containing sparse, stiff, white hairs. The center and border areas are dark-green with a heavy silver mid zone.

Begonia 'Foxy' is a cultivar claiming B. 'Bertha MacGregor' ♀ as a parent. It has sharp, shallow lobes and a heavy-silvered center zone. The outer zone markings are

dark-green, with the sparse, stiff, red hairs on the outer zone a fine contrast. The underside is dark-red and may be viewed equally because the leaf curls from fullness in the outer zone.

Begonia 'Curly Haze' is a handsome begonia claiming B. 'Mountain Haze' ♀ for a parent. Lavender-silver is the predominant color of this begonia. The veining areas and border margins are dark-lavender, spotted silver. The rest of the leaf is a light-green, flushed silver. The leaves are very full from the center, and the plant makes a large specimen.

Statewide interest is being shown in Fisher's Select Rex Begonias, by the evidence of travelers from all over the State, dropping in on their trip south, to inspect these exceptional plants.

Mr. Fisher is proud to present the first of his registered creations, but they will not be available for distribution until next year. Watch for the announcement in the BEGONIAN.

CARL FISHER REX BEGONIA NURSERY

9221 HOUSTON STREET

ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

REX BEGONIAS

We have spiral, plain, silver, bronze and red leaf varieties—Our choice

6 for \$5.00 Postpaid — 13 for \$12.00 Postpaid

Growing instructions with each order

Drive out to this Rex Begonia Nursery, just 1 1/2 miles east of Buena Park—Visitors welcome.

10% Discount, When You Present This Ad

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays

Discount not allowed on mail orders.

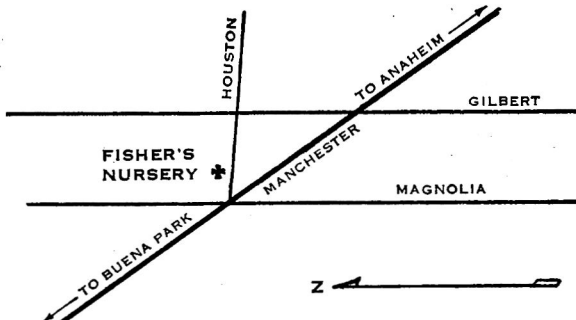
EPIPHYLLUMS

Cuttings, rooted cuttings or plants, 200 named varieties.

- Send for Price List

FERNS

A wide selection of fine ferns.





The Begonia Branches

The MISSOURI BRANCH met at the home of the President, Mrs. Breshears, for the July meeting. After a lovely luncheon, the hostess spoke on Begonias, showing five very beautiful seedlings of her own cross. She told the members how she is able to keep her begonias growing so beautifully during the hot weather (113 degrees) — twice each day she takes the hose and lets the water run all over the outside of her greenhouse; some of her begonias are against the glass but have not been hurt by the heat. The begonias in the garden have about two hours of sun each day. She cools these plants gradually with a very fine mist, from the top, until they are thoroughly watered, and has thus kept them from having any sign of sunburned leaves.

MRS. B. E. WISE
National Director

The WHITTIER BRANCH held a pot-luck dinner for their July meeting at the lovely garden of Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Hackler, with thirty-five members and friends present. A tour of the lath and glass houses of the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Holmes, Miss Ann Rose, and the lovely fuchsia garden of Mrs. Cahill was enjoyed by all, who viewed the display of beautiful specimen plants of Rex, Fibrous and Tuberous Begonias, Fuchsias and other shade-loving plants.
—Haidee Hackler

The LA MESA BRANCH began their new year with a pot-luck dinner in June at the Portes Park Clubhouse, with a large attendance of members and guests. Mr. Robert Allen was the speaker on Plant Novelties, and the unusual but simple ways to start seedlings and cuttings. Pot-luck dinners have been planned for all the summer meetings.
—Lena Deem, Secretary

Our new officers were installed at the July meeting by Mr. J. W. Jensen. Mrs. Jensen and all other future installing officers for the Hub City Branch will be presented with a year's paid membership in the A.B.S. in appreciation of services rendered. Also, the Branch now presents a year's paid membership to their incoming President, as well as continuing the policy of giving the outgoing President an A.B.S. Pin.

Officers for the 1954-1955 term as follows:

President — Mrs. Martha Powell.
Vice-Pres. — Mrs. Tom Witt.
Rec. Sec'y — Mrs. Dorothy Powell.
Corr. Sec'y — Mrs. Kathryn Hodgson.
Treasurer — Mrs. Walter Marsh.
Nat'l Dir. — Joe E. Ogden.

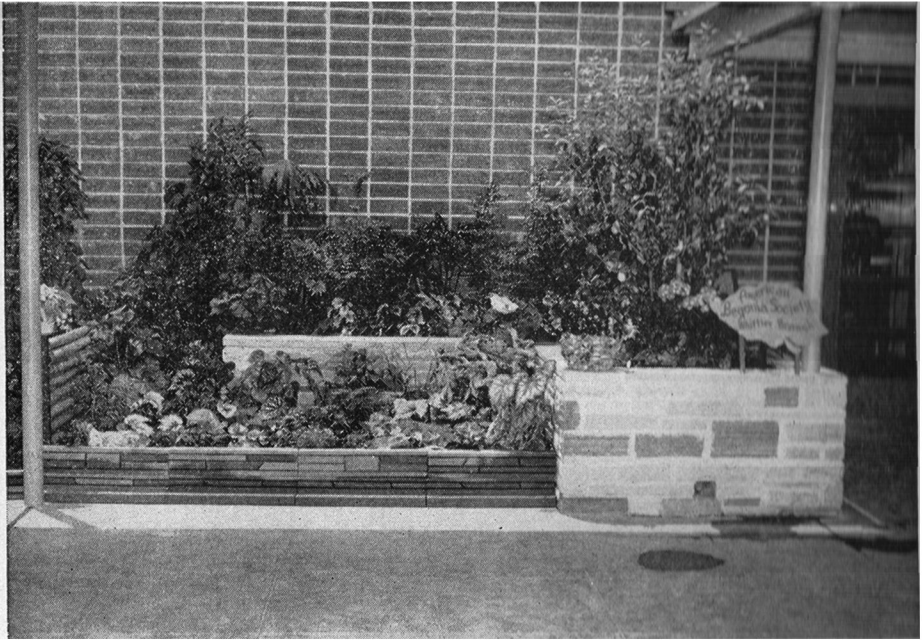
DOROTHY POWELL

The GLENDALE BRANCH of the A.B.S. meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 400 No. Central in Glendale, promptly at 8 P.M. Convention Month brings out the exhibitor's spirit among our membership as we have our Hobby Show in conjunction with our fine plant tables. The feature attraction of the evening will be a discussion of "Winter Care for Begonias" by Winona Jensen, of the Jensen Begonia Gardens in Bellflower. We urge you to attend and be cordially welcomed by the Branch, and to see our fine Hobby Show.

GLENDALE BRANCH

WELCOMES YOU

Meeting Date—4th Wednesday Each Month
400 NO. CENTRAL GLENDALE, CALIF.



—Photo Courtesy Haidee Hackler

Begonia Display

The members of the Whittier Branch of the American Begonia Society assembled this cool and colorful display at the recent Festival of Flowers at Dexter School. Included were Tuberous, Rex and Fibrous Begonias, with Coleus, arrayed in a shady, fern-lined setting.

The display was arranged by members

President Bill Spitz, Ann Rose, Mrs. Haidee Hackler, Mr. Hackler, Mrs. Marie Moore and Mr. Remley.

Plants for the display were furnished by Mrs. Haidee Hackler, Ann Rose, Mrs. Gladys Holmes, Mrs. Peggy McGrath, Mrs. Edith Humiston and Mrs. Marie Moore.

HAIDEE HACKLER

BEGONIA SHOW

The Inglewood Branch had a small begonia show at their July meeting. Many varieties of begonias were displayed and ribbons and trophies were awarded. The judges graciously consented to present the program, and told in detail why each plant won a ribbon, and why some did not win. This instructive program was enthusiastically received by the members, as they now know which of their plants they should exhibit at the Convention Show, and how to groom them.

C. B. MAY
Director

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend

THE INGLEWOOD BRANCH

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1954—8:00 P.M.

AMERICAN LEGION HALL

3208 W. 85th Street

Inglewood 4, Calif.

MORE ACCREDITED JUDGES

Certificates of Judging have been awarded to the following, on completion of examinations:

MRS. MARION THOMPSON,

Elsa Fort Branch, New Jersey.

MRS. POLLYANNA COOPER,

716 Chelsea Blvd., Houston 6, Texas.

MRS. E. H. CLAGGETT,

4415 Austin, Houston 4, Texas.

MRS. B. A. RUSSELL,

Houston Texas Branch.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Members not affiliated with a Branch of the A. B. S. should mail their renewal dues to the Membership Secretary, Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, Calif. Please make all checks and money orders payable to the American Begonia Society.

Branch members should pay their dues directly to their Branch Membership Secretary.

S T A R T . . .

All of Your Blooming House Plants in
BLACK MAGIC AFRICAN VIOLET MIX



A Specially Prepared 8-Ingredient Planting Medium



FEED THEM REGULARLY WITH
BLACK MAGIC BLOSSOM BOOSTER

*A Complete Liquid Plant Food
Fortified to Promote Blooms Without Harmful Forcing*

FOR BETTER GROWTH AND BLOOM

Choose From

**KELLOGG'S FAMILY OF
ORGANIC FERTILIZERS**

BASED ON MELLOW NITROHUMUS*

All Kellogg's Special Blend Organic Fertilizers Have a Nitrohumus* Base

- CAMELLIA-BLOOM
- ROSE-BLOOM
- ACID FERTILIZER
For Shade Plants
- DICHONDRA FERTILIZER
- BIG SIX for Grass Lawns

AT YOUR NURSERY OR GARDEN SUPPLY DEALER

*No Inert Filler

Confessions of a Nurseryman

By I. M. Tyred

There comes a time in the life of most home gardeners when the thought of turning professional is most attractive. This is often the case of single plant specialists, and Begonia fanciers are no exception.

Let me give you a little tip about the charming business called, in polite circles, "Retail Nurseries", not "Day Nurseries" (that is where the young stock talks back to you). Well, anyway, lets get on with the requirements for your business venture.

First, make up your mind that to be successful, you must be able to answer questions ordinarily directed to the following craftsmen: Physician and Surgeon, Botanist, Taxonomist, Chemist, Engineer and Landscape Gardener. If you are fortunate, you should have a few sidelines such as: Book-keeper, Janitor, Dietician and Water Carrier.

In simple terms, as a Physician, you doctor ill plants; as a Surgeon, you cut off limbs; as a Botanist, you describe plant life in the raw to curious visitors and/or customers; as a Taxonomist, your answer writ-

ten inquiries about plant classification; as a Chemist, you describe the contents of unpronounceable drugs in fifty-eleven brands of fertilizers, dusts, sprays and anything else that can be packaged and aimed at plant deficiencies; as a Landscape Gardener, all you have to do is tell where to put what, and for what reason (keep it polite).

If you still want to be a Nurseryman, take Hope. One thing you won't have to worry about is hiring aid to file your income tax report. One word of caution, though — you had better like people, all kinds, sizes and varieties of people, as they are much more difficult to master than plant growing. Your best insurance for success is one extremely large dose of good humor, — without this trait, you are hopelessly lost.

Oh, yes, just one thing more. I may not always have all the answers to the questions I am asked during the day, but I do not need sedatives to rock me to sleep, my doctor bills are nil and I just enjoy a good old-fashioned American way of life. Won't some of you Begonia enthusiasts join me??

CORRECTION

Inadvertently, a phrase was omitted from the FOR SALE ad of Mr. Stewart, on page 189 of the August issue of the BEGONIAN. The Ad should have read:

FOR SALE: Entire Collection Begonias, Camellias, other shade plants. Attractive prices. For appointment, Phone evenings, ARIZONA 3-8549. STEWART— 270 Oceano Drive, Brentwood.

Mr. Stewart is a private collector, not commercial. Please accept our apologies for the error.
—The Editor.

WATANABE NURSERY

Flowers, Plants, Shrubs, Fertilizer and Seeds
Landscapeing—Wholesale and Retail

3530 SO. WESTERN AVENUE

RE. 3-7367

Los Angeles 7, Calif.

SHOULD WE STERILIZE THE SOIL?

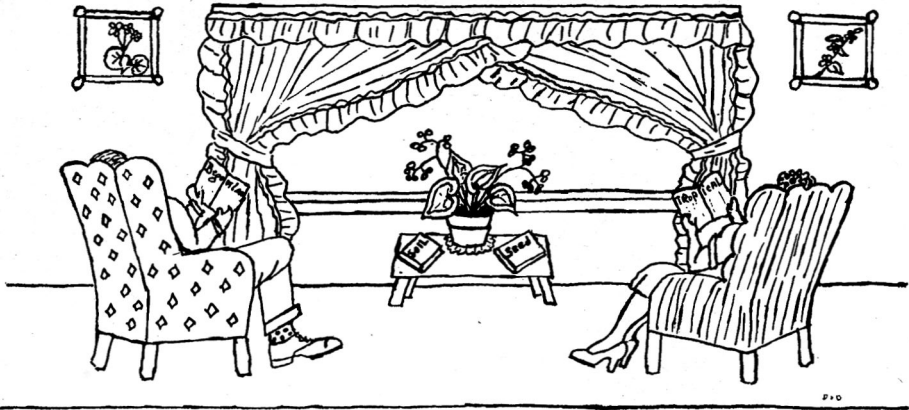
Excerpts from a talk by Dr. R. Atkinson has us realizing we may be doing an injustice to the soils, when we sterilize it.

"When we sterilize the soil, killing good as well as bad bacteria, we open the door to the pathogenic fungi, and they have a field day. By leaving the beneficial bacteria in the soil, they are natural enemies that kill the harmful bacteria and fungi."

"Organic matter acts as a buffer against damaging salts, often in the water. Kellogg's Nitro Humus is a condensed fertilizer and organic matter. Too much Nitrogen (for

growth) in fertilizers, depletes flowering, therefore, a balance should be found with the proper addition of Potassium and Phosphates." (Read the label on the container, before you buy fertilizers.)

"A recommended soil mixture for house plants would be dampened peat moss, Sponge rock, Nitro humus and soil sulphur. Always include the soil sulphur in the soil, when you can mix it in well. Use this when you live in an area with water having a high alkalinity content. This will help release the locked-in elements in the soil."



Armchair Gardening Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

Our Special Offer of six for \$1.00 or fifteen for \$2.00, as listed in the July and August issues, is still good for the month of September.

From the Himalayan Mountains in India comes the new seed we have to offer this month, special at four for \$1.00, as follows:

bouringiana
roxburghi
megeptera

From Germany we received seed of which is supposed to be the true *B. dichroa*. We can only take the sender's word for it, as it would be impossible to grow the plants for proof. We also have fresh seed of *hydrocotylifolia*, *quadrelocularis*, *Zebrina* and *Sunderbruchi*. Four packets for \$1.00.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the Convention this month, especially at the Seed Fund Booth, as that is where you will find us.

THE MAC LANAHANS
Seed Fund Administrators
3734 Overland Avenue, L. A. 34, Calif.

BOOK REVIEW . . .

PLANT BREEDING FOR EVERYONE by JOHN Y. BEATY, (102 PAGES, PRICE \$2.75; CHARLES T. BRANFORD COMPANY, 551 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass., Publishers).

Here is a new book telling how to develop your own new varieties of fruit, vegetables and ornamental plants. Mr. Beaty instructs you in the procedures of hybridizing and plant breeding. He writes and presents drawings so clearly that the most inexperienced gardener may learn to introduce new varieties.

Then, after you have a plant different from any ever seen, the book shows the way to put it on the market and make money. The author gives many examples of plants that are well known today which reaped great profits for the owners and creators.

If you are struggling for ideas on where

to begin, read this new book. It is practical, scientific, but written in the amateur's language.

The book has been checked by many horticulturists. Authentic, stimulating, profitable and easy reading. "Plant Breeding for Everyone" will carry the reader down the road of gardening to a place of rich experiences.

—Stanley Spaulding

Raise	From Seed
SHADE LOVERS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainbow Coleus • English Primrose • Tuberosus Begonia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuchsia Hybrids • Impatiens • Calceolaria
Pkts. 50c each, All 6 \$2.00—FREE CATALOG	
CAMPBELL SEED STORE	
137 W. Colorado St., Dept. B	
PASADENA 1	CALIFORNIA



Calendar



September 12th

New England Branch: Fall Flower Show, at the Workshop of the Newton Highlands Woman's Club.

September 16th

Footbill Branch: Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Weaver. Mr. M. C. Pears of Pomona will talk on seasonal plants.

September 19th

El Monte Branch: Pot luck dinner, 4:00 P.M. in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Frosgig, 4139 No. Arica, Rosemead.

September 20th

Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch: Mary Gillingwaters will give an illustrated talk on "Building a Winning Exhibit".

Round Robin Notes

"We place our plants on the cement floor of a cloth house, during the days of extreme heat and keep the cloth walls and floor damp at all times." (The new foggers would make this possible, with little effort.)

Missouri.

"Begonia 'Marjorie Daw' is a favorite house and enclosed-porch plant, in the east. It produces an abundance of bloom and will tolerate a variety of temperature changes".

Penna.

"My *B. foliosa* was a nice plant in the greenhouse, then I placed it in the lath house and it went to begonia heaven. Oklahoma weather was too severe for it, I guess. *B. illustrata* is at a standstill in the lath house, but *B. pearl* is sending forth new leaves".

Oklahoma.

"The Star Begonias, including 'Mrs. Townsend', prefer a heavier soil than other begonias".

New York.

The A. B. S. Round Robins are a separate department intended to further begonia and shade plant culture. Separate problems of culture and propagation are discussed and solved by members giving words to their trial and error experiences.

These Robins are open to all members of the A. B. S. in good standing. The only expense involved is the postage of mailing the letters to the next Robin member.

If you are a member in good standing and wish to become a member of a Robin, to share your problems and experiences with other members, write to the Round Robin Chairman, listed on the page of active officers in the front of the BEGONIAN.



WEAR ME AT THE CONVENTION

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.

Library Notes

Another new book has been added to the Library, forwarded by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Spaulding. A review of this book by Stanley Spaulding will be found elsewhere in this issue. It looks like it would be very interesting and helpful to those who are interested in this subject. The book is "Plant Breeding for Everyone" by John Y. Beatty.

The committee appointed by the National President to go through the back copies of the BEGONIAN and arrange for the disposal of the surplus copies, have spent many hours at the task. There are no complete files, many numbers are missing and will never be available. Files have been made up as complete as possible, and any Branch wishing a file for their Library may have one by paying the postage. Any member wishing a file or a single copy may purchase them at the usual rate. I wish at this time to thank the committee who worked so hard and spent so many hours getting these files ready — Margaret Fenn, Los Angeles Branch; Ruth Taylor, Dione Williamson, Alice Martin and Mae Koebig, Redondo Area Branch.

ARLINE STODDARD

Librarian

Notice to New Members

The seeds sent to new members, or to those sponsoring new members, are Mixed Fibrous Begonias.

BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

(Visitors always welcome at these meetings.)

BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy.
Kent, England

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, 8:00 p.m.
Lounge, Florida Power Co.
Winter Park, Fla.
Mrs. Lou Mankamyer
20 Pershing Place, Orlando, Fla.

DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, 7:00 p.m.
Member's Residences
Mrs. W. H. Buntin, Cor. Secy.
3113 Parker Dr., Dallas, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward
Berkeley
Mr. Robert May
1140 Evelyn Ave., Albany, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Sunday, Sept. 19, 4:00 p.m.
Frosig Home
4139 No. Arica, Rosemead, Calif.
Mrs. Virginia Brandon, Cor. Secy.
3012 W. Norwood Pl., Alhambra, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Sept. 16, 8:00 p.m.
Weaver Home
1349 E. Sierra Madre, Glendora
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland

FORT ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 2:30 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N. J.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Sept. 22, 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, Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.
7356 Eads Ave., La Jolla, Calif.

GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 13, 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, Sept. 28, 10:30 a.m.
Home of Members
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following
Mrs. Ernest Jones, Secy.
R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, Sept. 15, 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

1st Saturday, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, Herman Park
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12600 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Tex.

HUB CITY BRANCH

COMPTON-LYNWOOD

3rd Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6:30 p.m.
Witts Home
731 W. 157th St., Gardena, Calif.
Mrs. Kathryn Hodgson, Cor. Sec'y.
813 S. Pannes, Compton

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 13, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Sept. 7, 8:00 p.m.
American Legion Hall
3208 W. 85th St., Inglewood 4, Calif.
Mrs. Pearl Parker, Secy.
726 W. 81st St., L. A. 44, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blvd.
Mrs. Lena Deem, Secy.
9022 Grossmont Blvd., La Mesa, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Fox Home at 2255 Elm Ave.
Mrs. Alberta Logue, Secy.

6050 ATLANTIC AVE., LONG BEACH, CALIF.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Sept. 22, 11:30 a.m.
American Legion Hall
3755 Sawtelle Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Marcia Solovy, Secy.
9617 Haas Ave., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:00 p.m.

HOMES OF MEMBERS

Mrs. James A. Whitaker, Secy.
1225 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge, La.

MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Vivian J. Ennemoser, Secy.
1295 N. W. 54th St., Miami 42, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 21, 1:00 p.m.
American Legion Bldg., Linwood & Paseo
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Mary Wood, Secy.
626 W. Charles, Independence, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Sept. 18
Homes of Members
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

OCEAN COUNTY NEW JERSEY BR.

1st Monday, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, 12:30 p.m.
Members Homes
Mrs. Gertrude Buek, Secy.
Box 244, Bayville, N. J.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Grange Hall
1 Block South Center of Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Evie Darden, Secy.-Treas.
6701 S. Fee Ana St., Rt. 3, Anaheim, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, Sept. 20, 8:00 p.m.
La Casita
117 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasadena
Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy.

515 El Centro St., South Pasadena

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Sept. 10, Members Homes
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.
3311 Fremont St., Camden, N. J.

PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, Sept. 24, 8:00 p.m.
Journal Bldg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.
Mrs. Altermatt, Secy.

1104 S. E. 148th, Portland, Oregon

RAYTOWN MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 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, Sept. 24, 8:00 p.m.
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Mae Koebig, Secy.

2717 Monterey, Torrance, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Kay Elmore, Secy.
3935 McKenzie St., Arlington, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH
 3rd Friday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m.
 Homes of Members
 Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.
 4285 Sierra Vista, San Diego 3, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH
 1st Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7:00 p.m.
 Mrs. Gladys Pirkner, Secy.
 750 48th St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM OREGON BRANCH
 1st Tuesday, Sept. 7, Oct. 5
 The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem
 Mrs. Loren H. Edlund
 865 Edina Lane, Salem, Ore.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH
 4th Monday, Sept. 27
 Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & University
 Mrs. E. R. Bohe, Secy.
 3145 N. Mountain View, San Diego 15, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH
 1st Wednesday, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, 8:00 p.m.
 Forest Lodge
 266 Laguna Honda Blvd., San Francisco, Calif.
 Mrs. George Leslie Kuthe, Secy.
 1095 Market St., San Francisco 3, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH
 4th Wednesday, Sept. 22, 8:00 p.m.
 Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
 Arcadia, Calif.
 Mrs. Calvin T. Adams, Secy.
 911 N. Second Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
 2nd Thursday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.
 Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.
 Mrs. Mary Wegener, Secy.
 1611 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH
 3rd Tuesday, Sept. 21, 7:45 p.m.
 Trinity Parish House
 609 Eighth Ave.
 Mrs. H. G. Bamford, Secy.
 810 W. Lee St., Seattle 99, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.
 1st Tuesday, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, 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, Sept. 16, 8:00 p.m.
 Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
 Mrs. Alice Zedalis, Secy.
 Don Coats Nursery, Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH
 4th Tuesday, Sept. 28, 7:30 p.m.
 Hall's Home
 4861 Clara St., Bell, Calif.
 Mrs. Jennie Hamilton, Secy.
 2501 Palm Pl., Huntington Park, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH
 4th Friday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.
 Rose Hill Club
 Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy.
 2822 - 8th St., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
 2nd Wednesday, Sept. 8, 11:00 a.m.
 Homes of Members
 Mrs. Joseph Rock, Corr. Secy.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH
 CLEVELAND, OHIO
 4th Wednesday, Sept. 22, 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 Friday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.
 Hinshaw Dept. Store Aud.
 Whittier Quad, E. Whittier, Whittier, Calif.
 Mrs. Gladys B. Bruce, Secy.
 6102 Milna Ave., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH, PA.
 3rd Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2:00 p.m.
 Homes of Members
 Wallingford, Pa.
 Mrs. Joseph B. Townsend, Jr., Secy.
 Baltimore Pike, Wawa, Pa.

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