

SEEDING ISSUE

# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

JANUARY, 1955

Price 25c

VOLUME XXII — NUMBER 1

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



## From the President . . .

We have been very pleasantly busy this past month attending all the Christmas partys we could crowd into a few days and having the honor of installing new officers at the Inglewood, Orange County, Redondo, and El Monte Branches. We met a lot of old friends and welcomed many new ones into the society. Spirits are high as we stand on the threshold of a new year. There seems to be quite a few new members who we can take by the hand and lead firmly but gently into the pleasant rut of growing better begonias and better begonia branches, attending board meeting, and branch meetings, voting against flower shows and then putting our heart and soul into every one of them (because we enter every one) and then the Picé De Résistance THE CONVENTION where we may all be together again.

To all these things I toast:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## From the Editor . . .

Happy 365 days of 1955! I hope that you will have all of your wishes come true in the coming bright new year! How good to have a new year roll around when we can wipe the old slate clean of the former months and block out a whole new program and future of doing better.

Thanks for all the kind mail and even the very few who said what they thought in disagreement to our new policy. Those are important, too, and we will weigh them over as we go along. Most all of these few who really exploded wanted more pictures. That I agree with heartily. But do they have the money to give us for extra cuts?

Just have patience and you will get them! About more info on begonias? Sure—you write it and we will use it! In the meantime we may have to delve into the past for some material. The entire magazine will always carry material on shade gardening which goes along with begonia growing. This balance makes folks more interested in our magazine and Society.

Only a very small percentage of our membership are “rabid” begonia growers and want technical information. So we will work our policy along with the average backyard gardener, in the coming year, that writes to us.

How happy to hear from the folks in the East. Over half of our letters came from there. Let's have more from you good folk—and more reports too, for our Branch news. Let's have some short notes on what you have found out new in begonia growing—and send pictures too, of what you are doing.

One thing that will please us more than anything is to send for pamphlets when offered. These mean a lot in getting advertisers on a national basis for our magazine. The more we have of them the more we can do what we all want.

This year is a good year ahead for our Society. We have a fine board, a good, young up and coming president, and a top staff surrounding him. Let's grow this year by at least a thousand members! Spread over 47 branches, that's not too many per branch! Are you with us?

As ever, Happy New Year!

## Care of Begonia Seedlings . . .

—LOUISE SCHWERDTFEGER,

*Santa Barbara, California*

Growing begonias from seed is most fascinating and begonia growers sooner or later yield to the desire to grow their own plants from seed, only to find how disheartening it is to have planted rare begonia seed, watched it germinate and become a miniature green lawn of innumerable seedlings in the best of health, and then lose the young plants during the early stages of growth.

Most failures are caused either by overcrowding of the seedlings, the under or over watering, in the handling of the tiny plants, or the lack of protection after transplanting.

To avoid overcrowding of the seedlings use only the slightest amount of seed for the given area and distribute it evenly. Begonia seed is minute and very few seeds are necessary for a small container.

Dampening-off can be most destructive, but is seldom encountered unless the moisture of the growing medium is allowed to dry out and then become too wet. During the whole period of growth, the medium must be kept at a constant moisture, just damp.

It is usually during the first transplanting or "pricking-out" that the greatest loss occurs. Begonia plants are very succulent in their early stages of growth and are tender and brittle. The young plants are composed of a series of cells arranged like tubes and are kept upright by the force of the plant liquid within these cells. To

break into even one of the cells will allow loss of moisture and the stem or root can easily become contaminated. Handle each seedling as if it were a precious piece of fine china or delicate glass. It is not wise to leave the seedlings in the seed pan until they are a mass of tangled roots and intertwined stems. The usual time for pricking-out is when the third leaf has developed and the fourth leaf unfolding.

To successfully prick-out the seedlings with the least risk of injury, one must have an appropriate tool. One of the best is an old fashioned pen with a steel point. To prepare this sort of a tool, hold the pen point over a flame until hot, then gently press on a hard surface until the point separates and divides. When cooled it will be slightly curved and remain open. The use of tweezers is apt to bruise the tender stems and leaves.

Use a flat three inches deep of any size. Thoroughly soak it so that it will not absorb the moisture of your medium. Prepare a medium of moist leafmold or leafmold and sand. Never use fertilizer of any kind in this first medium. Place about an inch of medium in the flat and level off. Screen some of the same medium through a kitchen sieve or window screen, over the entire surface and gently firm down—do not pack—making a level planting surface. I prefer using the medium moistened before using rather than soaking the whole after planting. The pen will make an excellent tool to

—continued on next page

—continued from preceding page

make the small hole to receive the seedling. Make a row of small holes about an inch apart across the flat.

Holding the pen lightly, place the open point beneath the leaves of the tiny seedling and lift gently straight up. The slightest pressure will lift the seedling without injury to the root or stem. Lower the seedling into the prepared hole only deep enough to cover the root. Press the earth around each seedling, taking care not to bruise the stem. Continue one by one, until row after row has been planted. Sprinkle the planted flat with a fine spray in order to settle the earth around the seedling.

All young begonia plants are tender and delicate and should be protected until they have at least five or six well-developed leaves and had time to establish a root system. Use a pane of glass or translucent covering over the entire flat and set in a good light under cloth or similar shade, in a temperature of from 60 to 65 degrees.

Check the flat about once a week for drying out and then use water sparingly when needed. Too wet or too dry at this stage spells death to the young plants.

It is time to plant into new medium when the seedlings have established a good root system, usually as their leaves touch and they fill the flat. At this stage there is little danger of losing any. Prepare leafmold to which a little fertilizer has been added. It can be coarser this time. Place the well mixed and moistened medium in a standard flat about two inches deep and level off. Prepare to place 25 to the flat, making the holes large enough to receive the seedlings without crowding the roots. You will need to prepare more than one flat. Some of the seedlings will be larger than others and you can plant them according to size. With a dull paring knife or similar tool start lifting from the corner; dig beneath the roots and gently lift the seedling, keeping as much earth as possible around the roots. Set into the medium and press the soil around the roots. Soak each planted flat until moisture appears on the surface. The plants will not need further watering until they show new growth. Use your own judgment as whether to keep covered or not, but the smaller seedlings should be protected until their roots start growing in the new medium.

During this stage top watering can be used.

In the case of Rex begonias. Transplant the young seedlings closer together about 42 to the flat and keep them protected until they have completely filled the flat before attempting to pot them up.

Before potting-up rather have your young plants well developed than to risk moving them when they are too small. You will lose fewer seedlings if you use 2½ inch pots, then later pot into 3 inch pots. Use regular potting soil. Have the pots thoroughly soaked beforehand. Place the potted seedling in a pan of water to thoroughly soak. Water again only after the surface shows dryness.

So don't undervalue your ability to raise begonia seedlings. Using every precaution, you are apt to find yourself with hundreds and hundreds of seedlings and then WHERE will you put them. Well, that will be your problem—So good luck and good growing.

## Camellias Donated . . .

Edna Korts of 3628 Revere Avenue in Los Angeles 39, OL 4553, has donated to the ABS National Board some lovely camellias to be sold with money going to our Society. Contact her or Daisy Walker, 4412 Gaviota, Long Beach for more information. These camellias should be worth from ten dollars up, as they run from 4 to 6 feet in height.

Camellias offered are Alba Plena, a large formal double, bushy growth; Mme. Hahn, bright pink, vigorous upright growth; Mrs. Charles Cobb, dark red, semi-double, vigorous spreading form; High Hat, light pink sport of Daikagura; Mathotiana, scarlet, very large rose form double, vigorous compact upright growth; Eleanor Hagood, pale pink, medium to large formal double with vigorous upright growth.

ABS members should take advantage of this offer as soon as possible, as they need to be removed along. Thanks, Mrs. Korts!



# "How I Grow Begonias" . . .

—from the Members

## Begonia Braemer

Begonia Braemer is a beautiful dark-green above and glossy red beneath leaf begonia. It is of the hirsute group.

An oak leaf mold with a little bone meal and dried cow manure keeps this plant looking its best. It likes a good light, but not the direct sun. It does well outside in the summer in a protected begonia flower bed. But when it is time for the frost to get on the pumpkin, it is well to rush those pretty begonias into the house right quick. Begonia Braemer is of unknown origin but it's tops with me.

—Mrs. Olive St. Clair, Fairfield St.,  
Ligoneer, Pa.

## B. Bow-Chanceé

It was originated by Della MacLanahan with the help of B. Boweri, for one parent and the unexpected help of the bees, for the other—hence the name—Bow-Chanceé!

The leaves are a bright chartruese green with chocolate-brown irregular markings

*A—Side view of seedlings growing in bottle. Cap is barely screwed on . . . This lets in air but holds moisture.*

on wavy margins, that are covered with eyelash hairs. It is a semi-dwarf of the rhizomatous group and it makes a wonderful indoor house plant for winter gardening, for it will light up any room in late winter and early spring with a heavy bloom of lovely pink blossoms—and it can even be trained on a trellis or totem pole.

My method, or I shall call it, recipe—for growing this begonia in 50 words is:

Mix together thoroughly—

2 parts heavy loam

1 part leaf-mold and peat-moss (combined)

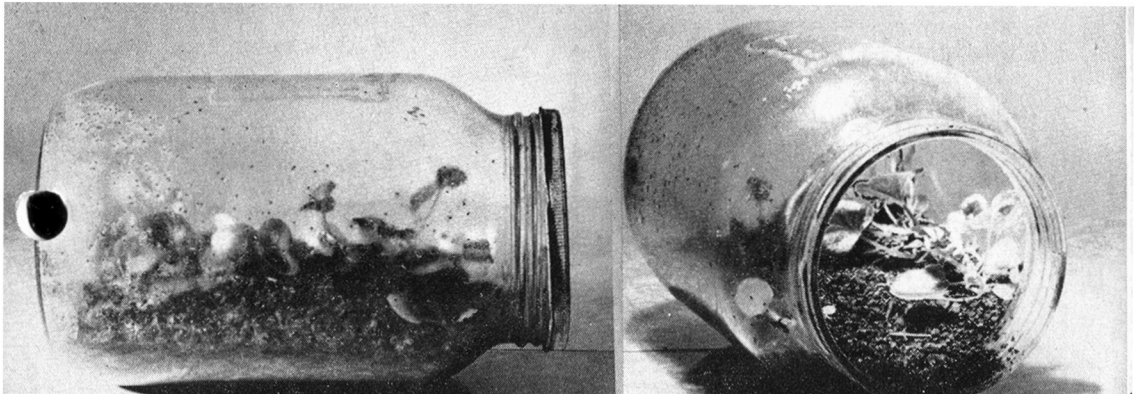
1 part builders' sand

½ part aged manure.

Put a little insecticide containing chlorodane into bottom of house or garden container begonia sits in—to kill mites or worms in soil. Grow on damp side (not wet or dry). SPRAY!

—Mrs. Margaret Buell, 3413 Pine Ave.,  
Manhattan Beach, Calif. (Redondo  
Area Branch A.B.S.)

*B—Front view of bottle showing mix and seedlings growing. This same bottle treatment can be used for growing cuttings, both leaf and stem types.*



# Iceland Poppies — For Winter Gardens . . .

Winter gardens are often unnecessarily drab. There are enough plants that will give satisfactory color under winter growing conditions that there is no reason to accept the feeling that winter gardens must be bleak and bare. Besides all of the shrubs such as *Leptospermum*, *Pittosporum*, *Tobira*, *Flowering Quince*, the *Viburnums*, *Camellias* and the *Azaleas*, there are many bedding plants that are tailored to the cool weather and short days of winter and will still give eye pleasing color. Some indeed, such as Iceland Poppy will thrive only during the season when the weather is definitely on the cool side. For this reason alone, it is a wise selection for using in the garden at this time. Also, it is an attractive plant long before it comes into flower as it has a low broad tuft of foliage in a rich gray-green color. The individual leaves are deeply indented and shed water like a duck's back.

Iceland Poppies are available as nursery transplants with blooms already showing. At this stage they will transplant nicely and continue blooming without a break. Flowers on Iceland Poppy are a gay cheerful sight. Breaking clear above the foliage on long leafless stems they lift up their bright saucy faces as if to greet you. Colors center around the orange, red and yellow shades, although there are a few pink and white flowers. The form of the flower is a standard poppy bloom, but unlike most poppies, the Iceland Poppy is usable as a cut flower.

While Iceland Poppy thrives in cool weather, it also does its best when planted in the full sun. Planted in shade it will tend to go to leaf with little or no bloom and will be very weak stemmed. Soil should be loose and sandy with little fertilizer added. Drainage should be excellent as Iceland Poppy does not like water standing around its roots. Little cultivation is needed, especially if the soil is loose and friable.

Iceland Poppy will show to its best advantage when planted in masses. Because it is somewhat dainty in its appearance, it

shows to best advantage when viewed at close range or when placed so that it can be viewed from an elevated position. This is due to the cup shaped blossom which looks doubly large from the top.

According to the California Bedding Plant Advisory Board, Iceland Poppy is one of the pest-free bedding plants. Generally it can be grown to maturity without any spraying or dusting being required. Occasionally a dusting with *Bordeau* is required to control a leaf spot that appears.

Because of the brightness of the colors in a planting of Iceland Poppy, it is well to use the cooler colors to tone it down in a combination planting. The gray foliage of *Dwarf Dusty Miller* or *Cerastium Tomentosum* is ideal for this purpose. Also yellow *Pancy* or *Viola* or white *Alyssum* will combine beautifully with the Iceland Poppy. Many other plants are possible to suggest, but the important thing is to remember the many orange shades that are going to appear in a planting of Iceland Poppy and to choose harmonizing color combinations.

## ★ Free Leaflets . . .

Again the *Begonian* offers a number of interesting pieces of literature that will help you in your gardening anywhere in the country. When you send for these you also show our prospective advertisers what we can get in interest in our magazine. Send all requests to Box 337, San Gabriel. (You can still send for the ones offered last time).

1. Interested in dry foliage and drift woods from the desert and high mountain regions of the West? This little booklet and pictures of arrangements are most unusual.
2. The Plant Tower has a catalogue sheet on description, price and how to get it.
3. Two pieces of literature on house plant care and care of African violets prepared by the planter mix folks with the 8 ingredients.

# Ferns — Culture and Use . . .

—Reported by LOUISE CRAMER

San Gabriel Valley Branch

"Ferns, Their Culture and Use" was discussed and illustrated with specimen plants and fronds, by Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman at the San Gabriel branch of the American Begonia Society in November.

Sylvia, as she is known by her many friends in the begonia growing world, was advised to get out doors for her health. First, she started with a small lath house raising begonias and collecting ferns. The cold winters forced her to build a glass house and the hobby mushroomed into an active business. Her personal hobby is collecting ferns from all parts of the world.

Nature made ferns for pure leaves in various interesting shades and shapes. Ferns cannot be hybridized because spores are sterile until planted and somewhere in a jungle may be found a specimen of what appears to be the only plant "in captivity." A fern is rare only when it is not found in quantity in a certain district.

California is said not to have any native ferns as the spores have blown in or have been brought in by very early travelers, but we have seen for so many years the brach of the Redwoods, Woodwardia, (*Athyria felix-feminan*) the common lace or lady fern and the deer fern (*blechnunspicant*), that we feel they are natives.

Mrs. Leatherman advises using ferns in landscape work because they are easiest to acclimate. For low foundation plantings, the *pteris Wilsonii*, a fern of medium shade of green which looks like a cross between celery and parsley; *Rivertoniana*, a very toothed and cut medium green. She does not recommend the common sword fern because it is so common, but I still use it and like it to hide a fountain because it is so hardy and needs no care.

For tall growing, there is the *pteris longifolia* (palm leaf), *pteris tremula* (Australian brach) and *glaucofila*, which is best in a corner as it needs a large space. The two holly ferns (*cyrtomium Rockfordianum* and *cyrtomium faleatum*), *pteris ovardii* and (*poly-stichum capense*) the leather leaf

fern are also recommended with their stiff upright fronds.

Most ferns are hardy to 32 degrees, but to be safe, cover those in the garden with a cardboard carton so the sun coming out will not burst the frozen cells and kill the plant. The Hawaiian tree fern now used in tropical plantings has not been fully tested for winter hardiness in our area.

Mrs. Leatherman recommends growing ferns in baskets as beautiful specimen plants because the top will not only be covered with a plant, but the "pups" will sprout through the spagnum lining the wire basket and soon the whole carrier is covered. For baskets, she recommends the beautiful Boston ferns (*nephrolepis*) and Boston fish tail (*davalliodes* variety *furcans*), fluffy ruffles (*Whitmanni craigii*), *aspidium tsussimense*, and the unusual (*polypodium intergrifolia*) the fish tail fern with tall upright stiff leathery fronds split and crested like the fan tail gold fish. Also used in baskets are the bears paw fern, a light green, in shape given by name and *microlepia spelunca* and *microlepia platyphylla*, both hardy ground growers.

Unusual pot specimens in her glass house were the bead fern which looks like a string of beads, the button fern with round button-like projections down the center of the fronds and the climbing fern (*stenoclea*). The rabbits foot fern with its brown furry feet is good either in pot or basket.

Sylvia advises the following planting and care of ferns. Ferns, when first set out in the garden, should have a larger hole dug than needed by the plant and this hole should be filled up at the bottom and around the sides with a mixture of one part each of leaf mold and sandy soil to each gallon of which is added 3 tsp. each of soil sulfur, bone meal, super phosphate and Humisite. Their needs are like those of camellias, needing acid soil condition, no wind and filtered sunlight. Some can take

—continued on next page

—continued from preceding page

more sunlight, but know something of your variety. Pots and baskets of ferns need the same soil mixture and should be fertilized every 3 or 4 weeks with a half strength fish emulsion solution and 3 tsp. of blood meal first mixed to a paste and added to 1 gallon of water. This feeding is done during the growing season which is during cool weather.

The hardy ferns in the ground need 3 inches top dressing spring and fall of a mixture of equal parts leaf mold and steer manure. Do not cover the crown and work in under the raised crown. Two exceptions to the potting mixture are Davallia-Canariensis which grows best in peat with sponge rock and the maiden hair which grows in leaf mold but anchors its roots on lime rock in the ground or needs ground oyster shell when grown in a pot. This maiden hair grows exceedingly well in hollow cement blocks.

Scale, mealy bug and aphids are chief pests of ferns. They may be controlled with a nicotine base spray for aphids and an oil base or malathion spray for the mealy bugs and scale. Never use an oil spray on a hot day on ferns. Use in the evening and wash with a water spray the next morning, advises Mrs. Leatherman.

One grower has found that ferns grow well in nemetode infested soil and the nemetodes leave for more fertile fields because they have no food as they do not penetrate fern roots.

## In Memoriam

*Mrs. George R. Crisler, 42, wife of a prominent Winter Park physician, died of a coronary attack Sunday, October 24, 1954, at her home, 251 Cortland Ave., Winter Park, Florida.*

*Best known for her interest in raising begonias, Mrs. Crisler was one of the founders of the Central Florida Branch of the American Begonia Society which she served as president for several years.*

*Her Begoniarium at her home held some of this section's rarest and most prized plants. When she visited California in 1953, her love for begonias became apparent to all of us who were fortunate enough to make her acquaintance.*

*The American Begonia Society and the Central Florida Branch have suffered a great loss in the passing of Mrs. Jane Crisler.*

# Contest Winner . . .

## BLOSSOM AND BUD DROP

—by HELEN JEFFREY

From my experience of sixteen years of growing tuberous rooted begonias, I have found that overwatering or severe drying out causes bud drop. The ground should be moist but not soggy. I like to irrigate the soil and give superficial misty sprinklings to provide overhead moisture and humidity. Do not spray enough for much water to reach the soil. The purpose is to raise the humidity around the plants, thereby discouraging bud drop.

On extremely hot days, I give frequent, but quick sprinklings—this is when the air is hot enough to evaporate the moisture rapidly. I definitely never put any water on the beds after three o'clock in the afternoon. Here in our valley we have cool nights and a low hanging haze, which necessitates having the begonias go into the night on the dry side, thereby discouraging bud drop, stem rot, and the ever imminent invitation to slugs.

In June when I put the plants into the ground, I see to it that they are kept on the dry side until they are well established, about three or four weeks, when more moisture is provided. In my particular location, I do not use any peat, as we are in a wooded section and my soil is decayed leafmold with the addition of coarse sand and some well-rotted cow manure. (Personally, I have found that peat is too retentive of moisture and with no nutritive value).

## Slides . . .

Six sets of slides are now available for the use of the branches and may be obtained by writing to your Slide Librarian, Mabel Anderson.

- One set of Rex
- One set of Gardens and Shows
- One set of Fibrous
- One set of Tuberous
- One set of Rare and Small leaved types
- One set of Rhizomatous.

Additions to this list will be announced in the *BEGONIAN* when they become available.

# My Begonia Garden . . .

—HELEN M. JEFFREY

*Daisy Hill Farm, Chagrin Falls, Ohio*

My begonia garden lies in a natural woody setting where hundreds of trees have stood for many, many years and where a clearing was made so that a house could be built. The terrain is rolling and has three natural terraces leading down to a picturesque lake where fish abound and swans lend beauty by their grace amid the water lillies. Enhancing the lake setting are weeping willow trees, white and black birch, beech, larch and black walnut trees. Creeping honeysuckle and myrtle covers a large area of the ground. (In spring it is yellow with daffodils and jonquils).

My begonia garden lies amidst all of this in a cool, moist location, under the canopy of tall majestic trees, and in it are the shade loving plants—six hundred tuberous-rooted begonias planted in rich, virgin leaf-mold soil in a bed 30 x 17. As a background, there are the blue browallia and heliotrope which are such appropriate companion plants to begonias. Along the entire front of the bed is a border of torenia and several hundred multiflora begonia. Guarding the whole are the stately caladiums. Suspended from the tree branches are hanging pots of pendula begonia.

A picture window which comprises one complete wall of the house, looks out and over this large begonia bed. It is flanked with benches of pendula begonia and spreading euonymus. The whole area is surrounded with large and perfect rhododendrons, evergreens and leucothoe. In nearby border beds are the shell pink impatiens sultana and various-hued coleus. There is a succession of Nature's own wild flowers which come up of their own accord in this woody setting, and whose simple beauty adds surprise and wonderment. European ginger, hardy, grows in the corners of my sheltered garden, and the foliage of the Christmas roses adds a cool and interesting note. I plant many lantana in these beds to give a lacey, verbena-like accent.

I must not forget to add that the begonia yield is tremendous and the flowers are as large as saucers. The plants grow tall and

lush. There is every variety that can be purchased and in all the magnificent begonia shades.

I can never forget this garden. It is one I have dreamed of and my dream came true. Every flower was planted by my own hands. The beauty of it all is too tremendous to put down, but my heart remembers it all winter long. I wish that I could keep it forever and ever the same, but when changes come, as come they must, I shall, in retrospection, hold the picture of my shady garden close to my heart, because . . .

This treasured garden I hold most dear,

To do the things that are pictured here  
Is a task I love, a work of pride,

And makes happy hearts around my  
fireside.

## In and Out Gardening

Well, to be trite, every dog has his day and so had ours. My husband has been very proud of, and yes, I would say a little smug over his success at growing beautifully a large tub of crotons in the house.

I will admit that healthier or more luxuriant growth is not often seen in these rather hard to grow plants. Trustingly, said tub has reposed in our living room—that is until one day this past week when same was upturned and uprooted into the middle of the carpet by "the Dawg."

It did give a colorful effect of a Persian carpet to an otherwise somber domestic pile, it may be noted. Planter mix, leaves, dog, man and temper added much zest to a few minutes of that day.

Outdoors I noted the peach is losing its leaves and the alba plena camellia is full of perfect white bloom. The pot plant collection on the front porch is in need of re-furbishing now that the mums have hit their zenith.

But there is no problem here, for the

—Continued on Page 15



# Easy Gardening . . .

—by GORDON BAKER LLOYD

## LESSON 3 — “FOOD FOR PLANTS — FROM THE SOIL”

**The fourth link in our chain** The fourth link in our chain of what makes good soil is the amount of food to be found in the soil—and these we can call elements in the soil. These foods or elements are needed to make plant growth of all kinds—seeds, fruit, leaves, roots, flowers and branches. In many of our soils are found a lack in these elements, perhaps because the soils have had them taken out by other plants; perhaps because they have disappeared by floods, upheavals, and other tricks of nature. Often they are not there at all and we must supply them in the form of plant foods in commercial fertilizers and other types of fertilization as manures, etc. This lesson is not to be one on plant feeding but to basically see why you should feed a plant and to encourage you in good plant feeding.

**What a plant eats** We generally say a plant needs at least 12 or more elements for its complete growth. Three of these are used in greater amounts than others—nitrogen, phosphorous, and potash, and are generally talked about more and given preferred listing on our fertilizer bags. The rest of the elements are called minor elements—minor only because in amount used and not in their importance. In fact, the minute loss of some of the minor elements works complete havoc with many of our plants. It is my own belief that we need to think a lot more about minor elements and the completeness of a plant food than some of the foods we use that contain only one element and are “hot shots” to the plants.

**Elements needed** The three elements that are used in greater amounts are nitrogen, first found listed in the order of the formulation on your fertilizer package. Nitrogen makes for the green growth in our plants. Phosphorous is next listed. It makes for good root growth, seeds, fruit, flowers, stems and branches. Potash, the last in the three listed, is used for the general strength of the plant and other important tasks in plant growth. When one of these elements is lacking, the plant gets into trouble quickly and we see “trouble” effects almost at once.

The minor elements all have their jobs to perform, although the results in deficiency in these may not be seen so quickly—nevertheless they are seen and likewise are much slower and harder to correct. Much more attention is going to be given to the use of minor elements in the future for shade and sun plants, than we are giving now.

Already we are finding out that we don't need the great amounts of nitrogen we thought we needed; we are finding out that many of the minor elements are needed to make nitrogen and the major three elements available; we are also finding that heavy dosages, force feeding, is not accomplishing what little amounts of food given frequently, and food with less amounts of the major three elements.

**Complete foods** What every home gardener needs to feed over his garden is a food that is called complete—containing all the elements needed for plant growth. This food, often called a commercial fertilizer, may be organic or inorganic—as long as it has all the elements needed. One new food soon to cover the nation will be a food based on a new mineral that contains all the elements needed for plant growth—and in their right proportions. This new food holds in the soil and feeds slowly; doesn't burn; and it costs half what ordinary foods cost now. The formula is completely different in that there are small amounts of nitrogen, phosphorous and potash, and the proper amount of minor elements. It is even on the acid side—which in the southwest makes it ideal for even the shade plants.

May I caution you in the use of single element foods in feeding your plants in your own yard. You can cause results, sure, but often you and I don't know enough about balancing the plants diet over the year and so the plant gets too much of one thing and not enough of the other.

We can easily give a plant the wrong push in the wrong way and cause lots of trouble. Let's reason out then, plant feeding, just like we feed ourselves with the proper diet and don't get lopsided.

**Amount of food needed** Follow directions given by the manufacturer of the food. Don't work on the basis that a little more will do a little more. In fact if anything, cut the amount of the feeding program in half and do it twice as often. Little amounts of food given more frequently, which the home gardener can do—will accomplish a lot more. Never over-dose—and never over-feed.

**What kind of food?** If the plant food you have contains organic matter—fine, it will last longer and no doubt hold longer in the soil. In other words it feeds a little slower. The organic content will help to promote life in the soil—but organic or inorganic, when it is all broken down it goes into the plant in the same way and bacteria make it available. What hurts plants, life in the soil, and you might say hurts soil, is high-powered plant food used hit and miss to force plants to bend to the owners wishes.

**How does food become available?** Let's say plant food is first broken down by the life in the soil and then moisture in the soil dissolves it and it goes into the plant. That's it briefly with air, light and other plant processes helping. It has been found that in 80 percent of all back yard gardens, that less than half of the plant food applied even gets to the plant and into its life stream. What a loss of food. Part of that is to know where to feed, but most of it has to do with life in the soil. That comes in our next chapter.

(NEXT MONTH . . . "LIFE IN THE SOIL")

1. What are the major elements? Name 5 minor elements.
2. How does food become available to our plants?
3. Does over-watering effect availability of food?
4. What is a complete food?
5. Do inorganics hurt our soil?

## January Contest . . .

NAME THE BEGONIA . . . Tell in as many words as you wish how you grow it—Prizes include publishing in *BEGONIAN*, plant food, sprays, and indoor planting mix, tops for growing begonias.

Contest will be judged by originality and content of material. In case of duplication, the judges will choose by first post mark mailing. This begonia gets much larger than pictured, but this accurately shows leaves which quickly identifies the begonia.



# The Begonian Newsletter . . .

*TOP SOIL: Begonia growers, shade lovers and anyone else gardening at one time or another collects top soil and needs it. The most of us don't have enough information as to what constitutes good top soil and so we are at the mercy of any seller. The quality of the soil does not depend upon color—even though its good and black. To help you "Beware" here are some things to remember:*

- 1. Look at the source of soil before you buy. Don't just call in an order unless you know about where it comes from.*
- 2. Look out for soil with underground stems, and parts of weed roots.*
- 3. If the soil is black and fluffy—beware again for this may blow away easily when used.*
- 4. Does the soil crumble easily? If it doesn't, beware. Soil structure is a lot harder to build than fertility.*

*Unless you need top soil for special mixing or for filling, forget it and work with the soil you have on hand. You can generally work your own soil over better than bringing in what looks like better soil!*

## *A THOUGHT FOR ALL OF US:*

*"The pleasantest things in the world  
are pleasant thoughts,  
And the great art in life is to have  
as many of them as possible."*

*—Bovee*

## *MAKING A CORSAGE?*

*Winter time is a great time to experiment with all types of pods, and dried materials in corsage making. Add to them some leaf material from your shady plants. And don't forget, let's wear stems down just like they grow in our gardens. The ribbon you use should blend in with the foliage or dried materials and not be so strong that attention is called to the bow rather than to your corsage.*

## SOIL STORING:

*In many of the areas now no dry soil is available. It is hoped your soil is stored and ready for the various mixes and seed sowing in the coming months. Soil storage according to our begonia fans can be done in so many ways. One ardent grower puts soil all mixed into nail kegs. They have been painted inside and out to look neat. They store easily under the bench in their garage. The main thing to remember is to have small enough amounts stored so that you can lift the containers easily to the bench where you will work. Before storing, mix your ingredients, moisten just a trifle, and label type of mix. You will find your best seeding and potting mixes have been those that have aged for over a 12-month period!*

## NEW BOOK:

*A very handy book to keep your daily engagements recorded in is the "Flower Arrangement Calendar" by Helen Pelt Wilson. This one for only a dollar is a good gift for yourself—and each page has an arrangement, thought for the week and room to write in appointments for morning, afternoon and evening of each day. I use mine for a calendar of bloom in the garden and around my area. . . . For those of you interested in natural methods of gardening, the new "Gardening with Nature" by Leonard Wickenden, Devin-Adair Co., publishers, contains 392 pages of rather interesting materials. It covers vegetables, flowers and fruits grown with compost and other suggested natural methods. Well worth reading even though you may not be a confirmed organic gardener.*

## NEW POTS:

*Have been trying in the house some new Vio-pots from Monmouth, Ill. These new ones with the fine ceramic outside, color blue to buff, have very good lines. Separate little clay insert keeps mix from falling to bottom. Side of pot has unique drainage hole for pouring out excess water. Wonderful for any house plant and have found them tops for violets. They are still new to most folks on the West Coast. How begonias grow in them! Looking for larger ones to hold some of my large rhizomatus. I have found you can sub-water with them too, which is convenient in many plants.*

# Begonia Seed Growing . . .

—DR. W. C. DRUMMOND,  
*Hollywood, California*

## SOIL MIXTURES

To those of you who never have grown begonias from seed the following are presented as dependable methods. Here then, is the first growing medium or soil mixture. By bulk measure, use two parts of loam which is not too heavy or too sandy, yet when moistened and molded, it should retain its shape, but be easily broken, only slightly sticky when moist and readily rolled into long slender rods. Soil a little heavier than silt is about right. Heavy black soil is not loam, it is clay. Loam used for this purpose should originally contain about 20 per cent clay, and on the other hand the loam should not contain too much sand. It need not be too rich in organic matter, compost sod soil would be good. The other parts are one part acid peat moss, and one part clean washed sand. Mix the sand and loam together and sterilize by pouring over it 3½ gallons of boiling water to each standard flat, which is 18 x 18 x 3 inches deep.

## SOWING BEGONIA SEED

Plant seed evenly by first mixing with a small amount of sterile sand. Do not cover the seed, just spray lightly. Cover the flat with a sheet of paper to exclude the light and catch the drip and cover with a pane of glass. (Or ground glass will serve for both). Keep at 65 to 70 degrees F. When the seeds emerge remove the paper and give more light and air, but no direct sunlight at any time. Keep seed flats in a warm place. Always, in growing begonia seed keep the soil just moist, never too wet, as this encourages damping off and drives the air out of the soil. Oxygen as air in the soil is necessary for root growth. Begonia seedlings require a high relative humidity, a few hours of dry air and they are gone. Remove glass gradually. If the seedlings grow tall and spindly, they are not receiving enough light. Where sand or vermiculite are used alone the seedlings should be fed.

Here is another seed growing medium

which I have used for some time with good results. Screen through hardware cloth, 4 mesh to the inch, dry sphagnum moss, or use screened leaf mold, using it in the bottom of the flat, for the top ¼ inch of flat use sphagnum only, screen through a fly screen. Wet well, using rain or distilled water if possible. After wetting thoroughly and then squeezing by hand, the moisture left in the moss will be about correct for planting. Add the same 3 level teaspoonsful superphosphate and according to soil reaction 2 level teaspoonsful of chalk or gypsum, mix well by sifting several times. Place evenly and with a little pressure in flat. Sow begonia seed, not too thick, on top of sphagnum, using no covering, simply spray lightly with a rose spray, again cover the glass, etc. Be sure not to over-water the sphagnum medium. Write for leaflet 243, Sphagnum Moss for Seed Germination, U. S. Plant Industry Division, U. S. D. A., Beltsville, Md.

Another way of growing begonia seed, and one I call the automatic way, is to grow the seed in a square, large mouthed, gallon glass bottle. A round bottle may be used. I have used this method with success many times. Always have the bottle lying on its side. Place your preferred growing medium in the bottle about ¾ inch thick, level and sow seed. Well screened sphagnum is a good medium in which to grow seeds in bottles. To sow seed, mix with a little sterile sand and use a long knife. Do not sow too thickly. Moisten the soil mixture before placing in the bottle, squeezing out excess water from sphagnum. Do not cover the seed, but spray lightly to settle them. Replace lid after sowing. Remove to a dark warm place, 65 to 70 degrees F. There will be no need to water at any time. In transplanting so as not to damage seedling roots, where sphagnum is used, remove from seed bed by lifting with a knife a fair sized piece, then carefully break apart.

Another method quite similar to the bottle method, for small lots of seed, is to use a glass cover dish with tight fitting glass cover. Soil temperature, etc., all remain the same.

In the moist brick method use one or two porous building bricks. Enclose them with a box like affair to hold soil. Have the sides about 1½ inches high with no bottom or top. The bricks act to keep the soil moist. Have soil moist to start with. Cover with a sheet of glass, otherwise the same cultural care.



azaleas are coming along and I've about decided to pot up pansies this year. I haven't tried them before in pots, so I think they will be fun. We also have collected a number of beautiful Hawaiian ferns in tubs and are using them for porch and pot subjects.

And the pride and joy of the house is our gorgeous begonia—all of 2 feet across and 2 feet high—name slipped me now. It's gone through three winters and hasn't frozen yet in our down to 24 degree temperatures.

Our indoor garden, barring the ill fated crotons which I think will survive their upset, does beautifully. We concentrate for size on the ever satisfactory, and to me, fascinating rubber family. We use colored glass vases and objects interspersed among the pots for added color and interest.

Now to go out and bottle up my herbs that have been drying in the garage. With the holidays coming up now, calling for savory flavors, they are just what are needed. So until next time, go do good gardening.

—VIOLET ROW

## FUCHSIAS ARE NOW RESTING . . .

With all plant life and functions reduced to a minimum, fuchsias are now taking a much needed rest. If the rainy season has not set in with regularity, then we must continue to irrigate lightly. Beds and more particularly pots should not be allowed to become bone dry as the roots are still alive and must have some moisture. However, all feeding must be stopped. Winter pruning should still be deferred until late in February and early in March. Only those fuchsias which went dormant early and that will be needed for early flowering, can be pruned at this time. Now is a good time to renew constricting or loosened ties. Stakes and other supports should be firmed and if necessary replaced. Heavy crowns should be given extra support in anticipation of winter storms.

Under no conditions prune any of the young plants started this fall, however it

## Missouri Begonias . . .

Although the thermometer soared up to 110 degrees this summer and many nights were almost as hot; this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Missouri Branch of the A.B.S.

It took some ingenuity to keep the begonias happy. Additional cloth protection over and under the glass in the greenhouses. Spraying and more spraying; keeping the plants moist, wetting down the paths many times during the day, carrying plants into basements which were cooler—using fluorescent lamps for light. Giving the begonias as much attention as one gives small children, seemed to be the answer, and it paid.

True, many leaves dropped from the plants, but the plants were saved. In October, when I had the pleasure of visiting in Kansas City and Independence, I saw new leaves forming on the plants. Many cuttings were being started for plants to be shown at their 1955 All Begonia Show.

It was a privilege to attend their Begonia meeting, and to be the lucky winner in their drawing—a beautiful five-inch pot B. Carmen, double pink, full of blossoms. In spite of almost continuous rain, we visited many begonia gardens (in their winter homes). I saw many of the old tried and true begonias (many of the members were in Mrs. Gray's Robin). There were begonias from the East, which I had not seen in California, and many of the newer California Hybrids, growing beautifully.

You will enjoy visiting with members of the Missouri Branch. If you are in Kansas City, or intend going there, just phone or write the Secretary. Attend one of their meetings—schedule is in the *BEGONIAN*. You will be welcome.

---

will be wise to keep them growing and protected through the winter. The replacement of favorite varieties, which have become mis-shapen or that may be damaged by frosts can be anticipated by taking cuttings now and starting them in heated rooting beds. Stored plants should be watered sparsely, preferably in the morning to allow the foliage to dry out during the day. Where there is danger of stored plants freezing, they should be kept on the dry side to prevent ice forming around the roots. Cover all such pot plants with a heavy mulch.

Editor .....Gordon Baker Lloyd, Box 337, San Gabriel, Calif.

Advertising Manager .....Emri Stoddard, 768 Avenue B, Redondo Beach, California

Copyright 1954 by the American Begonia Society, Inc. — Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society and The American Horticultural Council — General Offices: Box 2544, Los Angeles 54, California — Annual Subscription, Two Dollars, Fifty Cents. — Entered as Second-class matter at the Post Office of Los Angeles California, under the act of March 3rd, 1879.

For dues, Address Changes, or Magazines . . . write to Membership Secretary, Box 2544  
Los Angeles 54, California. Branch members pay dues to branch.

## Aims and Purposes of the American Begonia Society, Inc.

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.

### OFFICERS

President .....Jack E. Koebig  
2717 Monterey Street, Torrance, Calif.

Pres.-Elect,  
Ways & Means Chairman ..... Joe Taylor  
301 Anita Street, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Past President .....Glenn W. Motschman  
9601 Haas Ave., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

Treasurer .....Mrs. Marie Trowbridge  
9600 So. Van Ness, Los Angeles 47, Calif.

Secretary ..... Mrs. Arline Stoddard  
768 Avenue B, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Membership Secretary .....Jack MacLanahan  
3734 Overland Dr., Los Angeles 34, Calif.

Vice-Pres., 1 year.....Mrs. Ruthanne Williams  
2160 Stacia Way, Sacramento, Calif.

Vice-Pres., 2 yrs.....Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger  
1450 Cantera Ave., Hope Ranch,  
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Vice-President, 3 years .....Fred Browne  
817 Novelda Road, Alhambra, Calif.

Editor .....Gordon Baker Lloyd  
Box 337, San Gabriel, Calif.

Nomenclature Director .....H. M. Butterfield  
121 Giannini Hall, U.C., Berkeley, Calif.

Nomenclature Committee—Mrs. Bessie R. Buxton, Mrs. Emma M. Carleton, Dr. V. T. Stoutmeyer, Frederick J. Bedson FRHS, Herbert P. Dyckman, R. S. French.

Slide Library .....Mrs. Mabel Anderson  
1064 Davis Ave., Glendale 1, Calif.

Flower Show Chmn. ....Calvin E. Trowbridge  
9600 W. Van Ness Avenue  
Los Angeles 47, Calif.

Historian .....Mrs. Gonda Hartwell  
1719 Alamitos Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

A.B.S. Librarian .....Mrs. Lucy A. Sault  
26938 Dapple Gray Lane, Rolling Hills, Calif.

### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Public Relations Director ..... Frank S. Moore  
1857 Fair Park Ave., Los Angeles 41, Calif.

Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger.....Assistant Director  
1450 Cantera Ave., Hope Ranch,  
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Mrs. David Talbot .....Northwestern Chairman  
6209 Riverside Drive, Vancouver, Wash

Mrs. Elsa Fort .....Eastern Chairman  
6123 Cedar Ave., Merchantville, New Jersey

Mrs. Marie Reed .....Round Robin Chairman  
325 Breed Ave., San Leandro, Calif.

Mr. E. Weaver .....Southern Chairman  
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

Research Director .....Mrs. Edna L. Korts  
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

Seed Fund .....Mrs. Florence Gee  
4316 Berryman Ave., Culver City, Calif.

Advertising Manager .....Emri I. Stoddard  
768 Avenue B, Redondo Beach, Calif.

Chairman of Awards Committee  
Mrs. Dorothy S. Behrends  
1633 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

Parliamentarian .....Sam Sault  
26938 Dapple Gray Lane, Rolling Hills, Calif.

# Changes Proposed For International Code . . .

—Reported by DR. H. M. BUTTERFIELD

At the time that the International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants was adopted in London, it was recognized that certain changes might be desirable and steps were taken to make such changes possible. At the annual Congress of the American Horticultural Council, Inc., held in Boston October 27-30, 1954, The American Begonia Society was represented by Mrs. Bessie Buxton of Peabody, Mass. Out of this Congress came certain recommended changes, some of which will be of interest to begonia fanciers. Minutes of the Congress have been published and are on file in case the action needs to be reviewed. Some of the points raised may be briefly mentioned.

At the last International Horticultural Congress in 1952, American horticultural organizations did not have official direct delegates, but instead this country was represented by the American Attache of the American Embassy in London and finally rested with the U.S.D.A., which took no action to advise American organizations of national scope. Complaints resulted in certain Americans being listed as "delegates." It is said that not one of these "delegates" was a taxonomist and it is not surprising that certain changes seem to be advisable.

First, the Congress of 1952 proposed that cultivated plants given a horticultural name be referred to as "cultivars" and not "varieties." The term "variety" was to be reserved for botanical names. In principle this action adopted seems to be good except that it will be awkward to talk about the Begonia "cultivar" rather than the Begonia "variety." Seedsmen have to live up to certain laws which refer specifically to a variety or varieties and such laws are not so quickly changed in the various states. It may take several years to make these changes when considered desirable. So a motion was passed that the word "variety" be allowed in practice where the seed trade and importation laws of certain countries define the term in a particular manner, at least until the laws are changed to conform with the terminology of the code.

While certain botanists have prefixed the sign of "x" to a name to indicate hybrid origin, the fact remains that this use was

not being accepted in the trade or in much of the horticultural literature, and many persons have refused to admit it. A motion from the Horticultural Council suggests that instead of using "x" to denote hybrid, the term itself be used and abbreviated, as *Begonia* hybr. 'Freddie' or *Begonia* 'Freddie,' hybr.

Objection was also raised as to the action taken by the 1952 Congress in regard to the translation of names not in Roman letters. Those at the recent Horticultural Council meeting agreed that priority of a cultivar name should extend back of any translation to the time the original name was published and not to just the time the name was translated. This would seem a desirable step to protect the originator against infringement on his development and his right to name.

Due to the confusion in having horticultural organizations represented in the International Congress, it was felt that a better system of representation should be worked out for the next Congress to be convened at Scheveningen, Netherlands, Aug. 29 - Sept. 6, 1955. Naturally the American Horticultural Council seemed to wish that it be designated as the authority within the U.S. and be authorized to represent the society through the Director of the Bailey Hortorium at the XIV International Congress for the purpose of attempting to have that Congress recognize for such genus a registration authority existing or to be established in the U.S. But whether or not such a step is recognized, many thought that each country should have its own registration authority for a genus and in turn this national registration authority should clear through the international registration authority when it became a reality. It was pointed out that many individuals in a country would not go abroad with their claim for registration and might be ignored as seems to have been the case already in the case of the genus, *Narcissus*. So the American Begonia Society was fortunate in being represented at the recent meeting and in being advised on minutes of the meeting. We should continue to be represented in all such important actions in the future.

# BOARD MEETING NOTES . . .

Meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society, held November 22, 1954, 7:50 p.m., Los Angeles City Hall. President Koebig presided. Pledge of Allegiance led by Past-president Korts, Aims & Purposes read by Past-president Moore in absence of President-elect Taylor.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Treasurer Trowbridge reported a balance in the General Fund of \$649.20.

Bills: Secretary Stoddard, Supplies, \$31.80

Moved by Lloyd, seconded by Schwerdtfeger that bill be paid. Carried.

Communications: From American Horticultural Council that resolution had been passed in recognition of exhibit of begonias set up at American Horticultural Congress and Citation of Merit to Mrs. Bessie Buxton, also special mention to Mrs. George Greenlaw of New England Branch. Letter from Seattle Branch requesting information about setting up their show.

President-elect Taylor sent \$41.44 from Convention fund.

Vice-president Brown reported on Finance committee meeting. \$900.00 paid on bill to Inglewood Book and Stationary Co., balance to be paid as soon as possible.

Membership Secretary MacLanahan reported \$387.30 remitted to treasurer, renewing members 92, new members 58, Begonians sold 8, Cultural Bulletins 15.

Slide Librarian Anderson reported that after purchasing materials for library there was deficit of \$3.05. Rebinding of slides complete, 3 sets on loan, needs viewer for reviewing of slides.

Moved by Moore, seconded by Browne that the expense of \$3.64 for a viewer be allowed. Carried.

C. Trowbridge as chairman of committee to prepare officers duties reported that it would be best to purchase loose leaf binders and have each officer log the duties of their office. Instructed to learn cost of binders, report at next meeting.

Librarian Sault reported 18 books on loan, 2 books sold, 6 Begonians sold, \$7.81 to treasurer. "Complete Culture of Tuberos Begonias" added to library.

Public Relations Director Moore reported new branch, American Begonia Hybridizers Branch, and read highlights of the Constitution. Moved by Moore, seconded by C. Trowbridge that the application for

a Charter be accepted and that we approve the Constitution. Carried. Moore reported Bonds on officers renewed.

Research Director Korts has appointed committee and will have articles on new species of Begonia in *BEGONIAN*. Offered seven large Camellia plants to be sold to make money to purchase two steel files, one for Editor, one for Secretary. Moved by Browne, seconded by Schwerdtfeger, that we accept Mrs. Korts offer and the funds received be used to purchase the files for the Editor and Secretary. Carried.

Seed Fund Administrator Gee reported seed purchased \$3.00. \$38.62 remitted to Treasurer. Balance on hand \$100.00.

Editor Lloyd sold *BEGONIANS* after showing magazine on TV. Received letters both favorable and unfavorable about new *BEGONIANS*. Hopes members will continue to send letters.

Advertising Manager Stoddard sent letters to advertisers but no reply.

President Koebig appointed Jean Kerlin on Awards committee.

Mrs. Korts presented Gordon Baker Lloyd Trophy to Marie Turner for Begonia Rickey Minter. Trophy won at 1950 Convention but not presented at that time. Mrs. Turner expressed pleasure at receiving Trophy even though presentation was delayed.

MacLanahan stated that he had envelopes for December only.

Moved by Moore, seconded by Schwerdtfeger that 10,000 envelopes be purchased for membership secretary. Carried.

Treasurer Trowbridge asked that definite amount be set for monthly payment on bill of Inglewood Book and Stationary Co.

Moved by Lloyd, seconded by Korts that, if we have it, \$100.00 be paid to the printer each month. Carried.

President Koebig asked if copyright on *BEGONIAN* should be renewed.

Moved by Korts, seconded by Lloyd that the copyright on the *BEGONIAN* be continued. Carried.

Mrs. Walker appointed the following to serve on committee to review old minutes. Moore, Trowbridge, Schwerdtfeger, Walton, Korts and Williams.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 to meet again January 24, 1955.

Respectfully submitted.

ARLINE STODDARD, *Secretary*

# Branch Happenings . . .

GLENDALE—Mr. Norris reported they would have a Christmas Party at the next meeting, everyone welcome.

INGLEWOOD—Mr. May. Next meeting to be Christmas party and Installation. Giving Christmas gifts to needy family.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER—Mrs. Walker. Dinner at last meeting, netted good sum. Introduced Mrs. Arbuckle as new representative.

LOS ANGELES — Mrs. Gee. Christmas party at next meeting.

REDONDO AREA—Mr. Stoddard. Gordon Baker Lloyd and Sassie with Christmas

program at next meeting. Will send Christmas gifts to Childrens' Hospital.

RIVERSIDE—Mrs. Gillingswoter. Dorothy Behrends was speaker for November. Gordon Baker Lloyd to be next speaker.

SANTA BARBARA — Mrs. Schwerdtfeger. Christmas meeting for members only. Mrs. Weber to be new representative.

SAN GABRIEL—Mrs. Humphrey. Sylvia Leatherman to be next speaker. Will give gifts to Girlstown for Christmas. Installation in January.

SOUTHGATE—Mrs. Arbuckle. Members will bring choice plants to meeting and give a talk on their culture.

# Armchair Gardening . . .

## Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund 1955 Special Flights

Straight from Panama, Ceylon, Mexico, and Germany comes our new seeds for our Special Flight offer. We are offering two special flights as follows:

Flight #1 is made up especially for beginners and consists of fifteen packets for \$2.00;

Flight #2 is for more experienced growers and consists of ten packets for \$2.00.

The majority of seeds offered in these special flights are fresh and new and have not been on our seed listings before. Our Special Flight offer will continue through March with our regular monthly offering.

We are very excited over the possibility of obtaining seeds from one of our most beautiful and exotic plants. Watch for the announcement later in the Begonian.

—MRS. FLORENCE GEE  
Seed Fund Administrator  
4316 Berryman Avenue  
Los Angeles 66, California

# American Begonia Hybridizer's Branch . . .

The American Begonia Society is fortunate in having as members many Begonia Hybridizers. Their work in the group has been outstanding. Follow the dictates of the aims and purposes of the A.B.S. Constitution, "to encourage the introduction and development of new types of Begonias," a group of recognized hybridizers have organized a unit to be known as the American Begonia Hybridizer's Branch.

This team labors to increase the field of new and different begonias and to help cope with the problems of publicizing the scope of growing begonias in the home and garden throughout the country. Their work will benefit old, new and prospective members of our Society. Be on the alert for more information about begonias from the American Begonia Hybridizer's Branch of the A.B.S.

—EDNA A. KORTS,  
Director to the A.B.S. National Board



# New Officers For 1955 . . .

## REDONDO AREA—

President .....Delmer Cunningham  
 Vice-President .....Mrs. Emma Wiltse  
 Nat'l. Repr. ....Mrs. Dione Williamson  
 Secretary .....Mrs. Ella Cunningham  
 Treasurer .....Mrs. Lillian Peters  
 Director .....Weston Williamson

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH—

President .....Mrs. Rudolph Ziesenhenn  
 Vice-President ....Mrs. William Wegener  
 Secretary .....Seth C. Langdon  
 Treasurer .....Mrs. Rolland J. Brines  
 Nat'l. Representative ....Mrs. Kem Weber

## SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY—

President .....Mrs. Peter Guerich  
 Vice-President .....Vincent Peck  
 Recording Secretary ....Mrs. Fred Roberts  
 Corresponding Sec'y. ....Bob Oliver  
 Nat'l. Representative .....Harry Swager

## MISSOURI BRANCH—

President .....Mrs. William Breshears  
 Vice-President .....Mrs. Leora Calmese  
 Secretary .....Lucille Taylor  
 Nat'l. Representative .....Mrs. B. E. Wise

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD—

President .....Mrs. Ann Meyer  
 Vice-President .....Mrs. Gertrude Temple  
 Secretary .....Mrs. Wilma Renshaw  
 Treasurer .....Mrs. Mary Auen  
 Nat'l. Representative ....Mrs. Pearl Bauer

## MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM BRANCH, Hatboro, Pennsylvania

President .....Mrs. Henry Schaffer  
 Vice-Pres. & Rep.....Mrs. Thomas Kilderry  
 Secretary .....Mrs. W. Ernest Jones  
 Treasurer .....Mrs. J. L. Lehnen  
 Corresponding Secy.....Mrs. Adolph Belser

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

President .....Zena L. Twomley  
 Vice-President .....Dora Bazil  
 Secretary .....Irene Springer  
 Treasurer .....Edna Trausch  
 Nat'l. Representative ....Rowland Maddox

## EAST BAY BRANCH—

President .....Mr. Forrest Huntwork  
 Vice-President .....Mrs. Fred Clute  
 Secretary .....Mr. Stuart Smith  
 Treasurer .....Mr. Floyd Jensen  
 Nat'l. Repr. ....Mrs. Emma Carleton

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH—

President .....Sylvia Leatherman  
 Vice-President .....Charolette Gay  
 Corr. Sec'y. ....Virginia Brandon  
 Treasurer .....Ruth Hickman  
 Nat'l. Representative ....Marion Frosig  
 Branch Repr. ....Cora Lee Walters

## CAPITOL BRANCH—Baton Rouge, La.

President .....Mrs. F. O. Day  
 Vice-President .....Mrs. J. W. Smith  
 Sec'y.-Treas. ....Mrs. R. L. Wilkerson  
 Repr. Director .....Mr. C. L. McAdams

## AMERICAN BEGONIA

### HYBRIDIZERS BRANCH

President .....Louise Schwerdtfeger  
 Vice-President .....D. Jerome Hunter  
 Sec'y.-Treas. ....Daisy I. Walker  
 Nat'l. Director .....Edna L. Korts

## LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH—

President .....Mrs. Alberta Logue  
 Vice-President .....Mrs. Gertrude White  
 Secretary .....Mrs. Alice Waldow  
 Treasurer .....Mrs. Mary Fox  
 Nat'l. Repr. ....Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle

## WHITTIER—

President .....Mr. William Spitz  
 Vice-President .....Mrs. Anne Rose  
 Secretary .....Mrs. Alice Rose  
 Treasurer .....Gladys Holmes  
 Nat'l. Repres. ....Mrs. Winona Jensen

*We would like "happenings"  
 to be short and brief and to  
 be of interest to some other  
 group or person that might  
 read them.*

# BRANCH MEETING DATES . . .

(Visitors always welcome at these meetings)

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy.  
Kent, England

## CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, 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, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, 7:00 p.m.  
Member's Residences  
Mrs. W. H. Buntin, Cor. Secy.  
3113 Parker Dr., Dallas, Texas

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 13, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward  
Berkeley  
Mr. Robert May  
1140 Evelyn Ave., Albany, Calif.

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Wilmar Women's Clubhouse  
Emerson and Isabel Sts., South San Gabriel  
Mrs. Virginia Brandon, Cor. Secy.  
3012 W. Norwood Pl., Alhambra, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Jan. 20, 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, Jan. 1, Feb. 5, 2:30 p.m.  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.  
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N. J.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Jan. 26, 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, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.  
7356 Eads Ave., La Jolla, Calif.

## GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 10, 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, Jan. 25, 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, Jan. 19, 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 Friday, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, 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, Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Rm. 19, Roosevelt Jr. High School  
1200 E. Olive St., Compton, Calif.  
Mrs. Kathryn Hodgson, Cor. Sec'y.  
813 S. Pannes, Compton

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 10, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Jan. 4, 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, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blvd.  
Mrs. Lena Deem, Secy.  
9022 Grossmont Blvd., La Mesa, Calif.

## LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Fox Home at 2255 Elm Ave.  
Mrs. Alberta Logue, Secy.  
6050 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## LOS ANGELES BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 10  
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, Jan. 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. James A. Whitaker, Secy.  
1225 Stuart Ave., Baton Rouge, La.

## MIAMI FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 25, 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, Jan. 18, 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, Jan. 15, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.  
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

## OCEAN COUNTY NEW JERSEY BRANCH

1st Monday, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, 12:30 p.m.  
Members Homes  
Mrs. Gertrude Buek, Secy.  
Box 244, Bayville, N.J.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, Jan. 11, 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

2nd Wednesday, Jan. 12, 8:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy.  
515 E. Centro St., South Pasadena

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Jan. 14, Members Homes  
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.  
3311 Fremont St., Camden, N. J.

## PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, Jan. 28, 8:00 p.m.  
Journal Bldg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.  
Mrs. Altermatt, Secy.  
1104 S. E. 148th, Portland, Oregon

## RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.

## REDONDO BEACH AREA

4th Friday each month  
2308 Rocketeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Mae Koebig, Secy.  
2717 Monterey, Torrance, Calif.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.  
Mrs. Ethel Prior, Pres.  
4345 Fifth, Riverside, Calif.

## ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, Jan. 21, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.  
4285 Sierra Vista, San Diego 3, Calif.

## SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Gladys Pirkner, Secy.  
750 48th St., Sacramento, Calif.

## SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Jan. 4, Feb. 8  
The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem  
Mrs. Loren H. Edlund  
863 Edina Lane, Salem, Ore.

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Jan. 24  
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & University  
Mrs. E. R. Bohe, Secy.  
3145 N. Mountain View, San Diego 15, Calif.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, 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, Jan. 26, 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, Jan. 13, 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, Jan. 18, 7:45 p.m.  
Trinity Parish House  
609 Eighth Avenue  
Mrs. H. G. Bamford, Secy.  
810 W. Lee St., Seattle 99, Wash.

## SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 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, Jan. 20, 8:00 p.m.  
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. Alice Zedalis, Secy.  
Don Coats Nursery, Hayward, Calif.

## SOUTHGATE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Jennie Hamilton, Secy.  
2501 Palm Pl., Huntington Park, Calif.

Choicest Rex Begonia Seed

\$1.00 per packet

**RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE**

1130 N. Milpas St. Santa Barbara, Calif.

## TROPICAL GARDENS NURSERY

Rare and Unusual  
PHILODENDRONS — BROMELIADS  
FERNS AND BEGONIAS

Visitors Welcome — No List  
1510 West Carson Torrance, Calif.

BEGONIAS, FUCHSIAS AND A  
COMPLETE SELECTION OF ALL PLANTS  
FOR THE SHELTERED GARDEN

## RAINBOW NURSERY

1635 W. Florence Ave., Los Angeles 44, Calif.  
Phone: Pleasant 3-6121

## SPOONIT

### FLOWER FOOD

Send postal card for a wee sample and  
information about my trial offer

## PLANTSMITH

Box 818 Palo Alto, Calif.

## TEXAS STATE BRANCH

4th Friday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.  
Rose Hill Club  
Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy.  
2822 8th St., Port Arthur, Texas

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Jan. 12, 11:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Joseph Rock, Corr. Secy.

## WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH

**CLEVELAND, OHIO**  
4th Wednesday, Jan. 26, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy.  
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

## WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center  
1643 W. Floral Drive  
Mrs. Alice Rose, Secretary  
13926 E. Close St., Whittier

## WILLIAM PENN BRANCH, PA.

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Wallingford, Pa.  
Mrs. Joseph B. Townsend, Jr., Secy.  
Baltimore Pike, Wawa, Pa.

# GARDEN SHOPPER

## Tropical Homes and Gardening

Is the Leading Lower South and  
Sub-Tropical Gardening Magazine

One Year \$3.00      Two Years \$5.00

CORAL GABLES      BOX 804      FLORIDA

FINE BEGONIAS, FERNS, SHADE PLANTS

Send Stamp for Catalogue

## DRESSEL'S FRIENDLY GARDENS

Route 2—Lebanon, Illinois

## Begonias, Fuchsias, Tropicals, House Plants

The Best of Everything for Your Garden

### FIFTH AVE. NURSERY AND GREENHOUSE

2510 W. Manchester, Inglewood, Calif.  
Don and Ron Stanley      Ph.: Pleasant 1-0874

### OUR CHOICE FISHER'S SELECT

6 Rex Begonias, postpaid ..... \$ 5.00  
13 Rex Begonias, postpaid ..... \$10.00

Growing instructions with each order

Also Choice Rex Begonia Seed, per pkt., \$1.00

### CARL E. FISHER

9221 HOUSTON STREET, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA  
(1½ miles east of Buena Park)

## MAGAZINE

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

\$1.00 per yr.; 25c, 3 months; Sample, 10c

## GARDEN GLEANINGS

2B, Baroda, Michigan

**HYPONEX**<sup>®</sup>  
SOLUBLE PLANT FOOD COMPLETE  
Grows Better Plants in Soil, Sand or Water  
Simply dissolve and water all your house  
plants, garden flowers, vegetables, shrubs  
and lawn. Feeds instantly. If dealer can't  
supply send \$1 for 1 lb. Makes 100 Gal.  
HYDROPONIC CHEM. CO., Copley, Ohio, U.S.A.

## BEGONIAS — RARE PLANTS

Over 400 Varieties

Illustrated Catalog, 10c

## LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES

Danielson, Connecticut

*Palos  
Verdes*

## Begonia Farm

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-way, Waleria, Calif.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Complete Selections of  
BEGONIAS and SHADE PLANTS

Fuchsias — Camellias

OPEN EVERY DAY

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop

1½ Miles E. of Redondo Beach, Hi-Way 101

## AFRICAN VIOLETS

LEAVES — PLANTS



The best of the older varieties  
and many new ones

—WRITE FOR LIST—

## ORCHARD NURSERY

4011 Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Lafayette, Calif.

*For a Better Garden!*

## ATLAS FISH EMULSION

- 100% ORGANIC FERTILIZER
- DE-ODORIZED
- NON-BURNING
- Feed as you water
- Inexpensive
- Gives vigorous growth

Pilgrims learned from Indians  
to use Fish Fertilizer

At Nurseries and Garden Stores

*Antonelli Brothers*

## BEGONIA GARDENS

WRITE FOR CATALOG

Capitola Road

Santa Cruz, California

IN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS

PLEASE MENTION

"THE BEGONIAN"

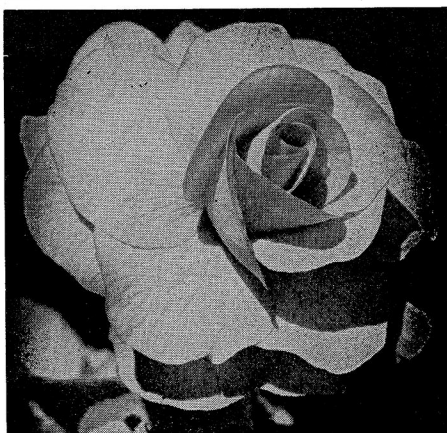
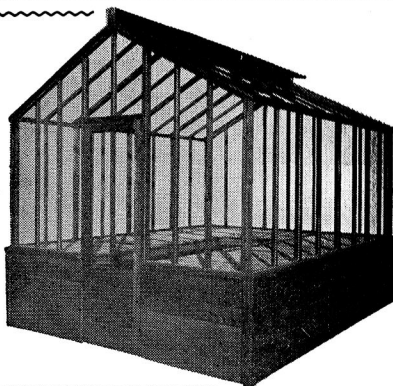
POSTMASTER:  
Return Postage Guaranteed  
P. O. Box 2544  
Los Angeles 54, Calif.

## YOUR GREENHOUSE CONSULTANTS

We invite our good friends in The Begonia Society to drop in and talk greenhouses at any time. And don't forget that we have a complete line of supplies, including GE Soil Cable—ideal for seed flats.

**SEE OUR PERMANENT DISPLAY  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
GREENHOUSE MANUFACTURERS**

3266 North Rosemead Blvd., Rosemead, Calif.  
Cumberland 3-3388



### The One and Only Pacific Strain of TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Originated by Frank Reinelt

The largest assortment and finest new developments in rose form and ruffled novelties available this year!

WRITE FOR FREE CATALOG

**VETTERLE and REINELT**  
DEPT. "B", CAPITOLA, CALIFORNIA

**GIANT  
RANUNCULUS**  
only **2¢** each  
**50 BULBS \$1**  
Postpaid only

**LARGEST STRAIN IN WORLD!** Uniformly double, full petaled—a majority of the Camellia flowered type. Riot of colors include red, orange, apricot, gold shades . . . edged whites and yellows. Easy to grow. Plant now for long season of brilliant multi-colored blooms. Beautiful in the garden and unsurpassed as cut flowers.

**50 BULBS postpaid only \$1**

**GIANT ANEMONES** Large 3 to 4 inch, poppy-shaped flowers of varied, vivid shades. Especially rich in exquisite Blues and Violets, they are delightful companion flowers to Ranunculus.

**50 BULBS postpaid only \$1**

**SPECIAL COMBINATION OFFER—100 Bulbs** **\$1.89**  
(50 Ranunculus and 50 Anemones) only **\$1** POST PAID

**FREE! FALL BULB CATALOG**—full color illustrations of your favorite flowers.

**GERMAIN'S**  
SINCE 1871

**WRITE DEPT. 0000**  
6133 Ethel Ave.,  
Van Nuys, California