

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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Begonia Catalina in Landscape

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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.

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Incoming President's Message

AS YOUR incoming President, it will be my privilege and an honor to serve you.

I will at all times endeavor to fulfill the trust and confidence you members so graciously extended to me by electing me your President.

We all go into a new office with our heads held high with plans and ideas—all the plans and ideas are of no consequence if we do not have the full support of the membership. I feel sure this is one thing I need never have apprehension about.

My predecessor, Mr. Calvin Trowbridge, has paved a highway of success this past year for the American Begonia Society. With the highest of hopes and with Mr. Trowbridge's guidance and the support of the Board of Directors and members, we are looking forward to another great year for our Society.

FRANK COE

A Letter From Connecticut

THANK you for the information on begonias. Your letter arrived with time to spare.

I don't know quite what you would like in the way of notes on our display so I shall tell you about our project from the beginning.

We decided that we would raise begonias as a horticulture project sometime last year. In September of 1956 we ordered a selection of begonias from a nursery in Maine. They arrived in good condition in one and one-half inch pots. Some of these were known to be hard to grow. Our New England winters are not conducive to good plant growth. Our homes are mostly too warm and dry. The days are short. This past winter we had many dark days as well. So, it is a struggle just to keep our plants alive. Some of our begonias did quite well, a few were lost.

We featured the plants in our flower show on May 15th. Using a world globe, we attached ribbons to the country on the globe where the plant originally came

from or in some cases where the particular plant was developed. We had some fairly good specimens. The best were probably *B. "Alto Scharff"* (hairy leaved), *B. "Tingly Mallet"* (fibrous rooted), *B. incarnata* (small leaved, branching), and *B. "Mme. Fanny Giron"* (trailing). We had specimens from many places in the world as you will note in the picture.

Thank you again for the information. I am sorry to be so late in replying.

ANN OSTERLING (Mrs. Marvin)

* * *

The picture sent was in color and can not be used in *The Begonian*. The large world globe was elevated, well above the plants, and the specimens were indeed plants to be proud of. The club entering this display was House and Garden Club of West Hartford, Conn. Congratulations for a job well done. The picture will be turned over to our Historian, Pearl Bauer, for the A.B.S. Scrap Book.

SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN
Research Director

Stag Horn Ferns

AMONG the 8,000 varieties of ferns we find some very queer forms, some not resembling the ordinary varieties at all, but having the botanical qualifications to class them as true ferns.

The Stag Horn ferns, sometimes called the Moose Horn ferns, are in this class. There are about eight varieties of this type; all are of a gray-green leathery texture, and shaped like the horns of deer or moose according to variety, comparing in size with the horns of the animals for which they are named.

These ferns are native to Madagascar, West Africa, India, Malaya, and several other parts of the world. Some of the best varieties for California come from the Hawaiian Islands, one of these being *Platycerium alicorne*, perhaps the hardiest for this vicinity, as it will grow outdoors at all times. It is nicknamed Elk

Horn as it resembles the horn of that animal more than the moose.

The *Platycerium grande* is one of the finest and largest of this class of plants, having very broad many-pointed palmated fronds—resembling the Western moose very closely. This variety will need a little protection in our climate from the winter frosts but if given this care will grow rapidly and make a handsome specimen.

In their native haunts these ferns grow on dead stumps of trees and will cover large areas, growing from runners or creeping root stocks to form new plants. Being saprophites they require no soil but do well on sphagnum moss, tree trunks, or slabs of dead wood.

The plants are propagated from the small plants which form on the creeping

(Continued on Page 207)

Shade Garden This Winter

By KENNETH TERRY

WE ARE still having summer weather. Gardeners should not be fooled into a false sense of beauty by it. Colder weather is coming. The plants that have been blooming through the summer months will not carry on after the weather is cooler. Each year, we forget to plan for cooler climate, because plants show a riot of color during our beautiful fall weather.

In the lath house, CYCLAMEN should be potted into four inch pots if they are to give us good color for Christmas. Use a good mixture of one-half and one-half of peat moss and leaf mold. If it is obtainable, mix a little horn meal into the mix. The best proportion is one four inch pot full to a wheelbarrow load of soil. Cyclamen should be potted fairly loose. These plants like to breathe under ground. Even small plants purchased now should give riotous color for Christmas and all though the early months of the new year.

For bedding in the shade garden as well as in pots, are the CINERARIA. This easy to grow plant may be grown from seed, even at this late date. Seed should be sown in a mixture of peat moss and Sponge Rok, the proportion, about one-third of Sponge Rok, and two-thirds of peat moss. Use about the same mixture for potting. Plants that come from seed sown early should be in five inch pots about the middle of January. It is seldom that cinerarias can be brought into bloom before the middle of January, even under the most favorable of conditions. It seems to take the turn of the new year to bring them into bloom. Regardless of any publicity, cinerarias are past their peak at Easter. As an Easter pot plant, they are unsurpassed, but after that, the warm weather seems to put them into the second quality class.

One of the best plants for potting, or bedding in shade, or partial shade is the PRIMULA MALACOIDES. In colder areas, this plant is used as a florists' subject, both as potted plant, and as cut flowers.

In our mild Southern California climate, even as far North as San Francisco, this lovely plant is used for bedding. It may be grown from seed, but extra precaution must be used. The seed is very fine, so it must not be buried, but sown on top of the soil mixture. As in most plants, the seed bed must be as open and loamy as possible. The seed is sown on top of the seed bed, and covered with paper, or glass. This cover must be removed as soon as the seed germinates. Seedlings may be potted in small pots, or pinched out into flats or boxes as soon as they have grown four leaves of their own.

Use a leafy, peaty mixture at all times. Seed sown now will develop into fine five inch pot size plants by the middle of February. Seeding your own plants gives you the advantage of selecting your own colors. Most Nurseries offer only mixed colors.

For other fine potted plants for winter color in your lath house, try potting plants of PRIMULA OBCONICA, and PRIMULA POLYANTHUS. These two lovely plants will give color unsurpassed. *Primula obconica* produces flowers in large heads of pink, pure white and deep ruby reds. It is easy to grow, but if you grow them, work with canvas gloves, because many people are allergic to the leaf hairs, which cause a rash. The plant is not poisonous, but a word of caution may save much discomfort.

Primula polyanthus is much slower to bring into bloom, but forms blooms in lovely shades of ruby, orange, yellow and shades of pink. The plant is a hardy perennial, so plants may be saved from year to year, making lovelier plants from one season to the next.

These plants are difficult to grow from seed, so it is best to purchase plants from your nurseryman. Try some of the better strains, such as the Vetterle and Reinelt,

(Continued on Page 211)

Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

Naming Hybrids

THE NATIONAL Convention and Show has just ended and another great flower show has become history. Always one of the most interesting exhibits of the Flower Show is the new seedling division. Here hybridists show new hybrid begonias to the general public for the first time.

Hybrids are shown by commercial growers such as Susie Zug and Louise Schwerdtfeger, as well as by amateurs. Last year the hybrid begonia that garnered the second most points (Mrs. Zug's "Silver Jewel" got the most) was *Begonia* "Leslie Lynn," which is a product of the only rhizomatous cross ever made by Dorris Mitschman, an amateur.

An interesting sidelight on hybridizing is that old problem of selecting names for the new hybrids. Naturally, the hybridist feels that his products need fitting names but choosing that name is not always so easy.

Some plants are named after people, such as *Begonia* "Leslie Lynn" or *B.* "Mrs. Fred Scripps." Other plants are named for places such as *B.* "Lexington" or *B.* "Kumwha." And many begonia hybrids are given a descriptive name such as *B.* "Silver Jewel," *B.* "Fleecealba," or *B.* "Dark Beauty."

A plan that has been advanced is to have each hybridizer use some kind of scheme in all of his names for his hybrids. An example would be to name them after mythological characters. Then whenever someone saw a begonia hybrid named "Mercury," "Thor," or "Apollo" he would know who had produced it.

But in naming begonias there are several necessary rules that have been imposed by the International Code of Nomenclature. One rule is to avoid abbreviations and initials. Thus, begonias should no longer be named Mrs. or Mr. something - or - other. Similarly, unless called for by linguistic custom articles such as "a" or "the" should not be used.

Names of living persons should not be used without their permission and names of politically prominent persons should not be used at all. The logic of this latter rule is seen in the recent request to have the name changed of the hybrid *Cattleya* "Joseph Stalin." A request that was denied, incidentally.

For the sake of brevity, names should be restricted to only two words. Superlatives are not to be used either. Where would a begonia named "Smallest of All" be if a smaller one came along?

But whatever name is given to a begonia, the important thing is that it be worth naming by being both pretty and distinct from existing plants.

And, above all, a new hybrid begonia should be registered for it is only through registration that we can keep begonia names from getting into a hopeless muddle by insuring that names are valid and without duplication.

—B—

Nomenclature Note

IN THE BEGONIAN of May 1956 the Seed Fund offered seed of a Brazilian species named *Begonia schmopetala rosea*. We thought it was a new find, but now we know that it is *B. echinosepala* (Regel) which was discovered in Brazil in 1870 by C. Gauthier. Mrs. Carleton and Mrs. Gee both have identified it. Mrs. Gee's plant is now blooming and she says it is a beautiful bushy grower that needs much water for lush growth. It is pictured on the February *Begonian* and appears among the species shown on the August cover. Mrs. Turner says her plant came to her as *B. schmopetala rosea*, but that she noted its likeness to *B. echinosepala* and had been waiting for it to bloom so she could definitely identify it.

Who else has grown plants from this seed?

ALVA GRAHAM, Member
Nomenclature Committee

Crinum's Are Beautiful With Begonias

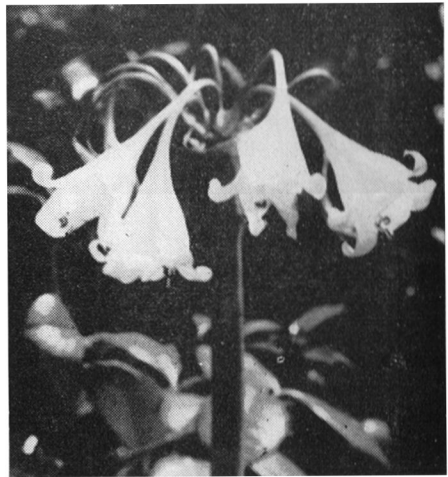
By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

HAVE you ever considered using the evergreen crinum's with your begonias? You will be surprised to see what fine effects you can get with the striking and massive plants, especially if you live in the Southwest or in the Southern States. Explore a bit in the nurseries dealing in unusual plants or visit old gardens of yesterday.

Crinum's are tropical and semi-tropical bulbs of that large Amaryllidaceae family. They have evergreen foliage and many of them bulbs by a famous authority on the amaryllidaceae produce large bulbs, aptly called "he-man" bulbs by a famous authority on the amaryllidaceae. *C. asiaticum* and *C. amabile* are especially impressive and might be called "colossal," to indulge in a Hollywood term which has become a cliché in Western garden literature.

Crinum's grow easily and soon establish themselves, blooming freely year after year. In colder sections you can grow them in tubs or plant some of the hardier ones outside and apply a deep mulch of sand and straw to carry them through the winter weather. You can hardly find a more statuesque flower with its tall stems bearing huge trusses of flowers, which are mostly fragrant, above a green fountain of broad green leaves.

New species are being discovered even at this late date, and there are many splendid hybrids offered by bulb specialists. One of the most spectacular of these is Cecil Houdyshel. It is a most profuse bloomer, bearing rose pink flowers on tall stems. It likes partial shade and is seldom out of bloom. By giving it ordinary care it becomes a lasting ornament in your garden. Besides this stellar production, Cecil Houdyshel, who is one of our veteran growers, has produced several other outstanding hybrids, among which are Virginia Lee and the snowy white Gordon Wayne. It reproduces prolifically from seed and will take considerable sun. In summer gardens use with it the blue



agapanthus and an edging of pink semperflorens begonias, and you will have a beautiful picture to photograph.

Burbank worked with crinum's, producing many hybrids. One lovely one, White Queen, has survived the years and can now be obtained from one of our bulb specialists. It has bright green foliage and in the spring sends up numerous flower stems carrying many flowers which are pure white, bell-shaped and large, with the petals sharply reflexed. Because it does not reproduce from offsets the stock will always be limited.

One of the hardiest of the white ones is *C. bulbispermum*, formerly known as *C. calense* and *C. longifolium*. It is usually the pink form that is offered for sale, and this is a robust grower with bright pink flowers in umbels. One can hardly find a more profuse grower and bloomer.

If you like color select Ellen Bosanquet, which is a deep wine rose. The flowers are large and fragrant.

C. moorei is widely distributed in Southern California and in the gardens of the South, where it is a great favorite.

(Continued on Page 207)

Something About the Cover

By CAL TROWBRIDGE

THROUGH the years a begonia for me must stand the test of time. A begonia such as this is the one I am writing about pictured on the front cover of this magazine. This plant is without a doubt one of the most hardy begonias it has been my pleasure to work with. Being in the landscape business I am constantly on the lookout for new plant material that is both rugged and colorful. I like a plant that will take a certain amount of wind, a hot sun, and too, one that will inevitably catch a certain amount of the usual community newspapers. The plant about which I am writing is *Begonia* "Catalina."

Five years ago when we first planted the landscape around our house we chose plants that would have to stand a certain amount of strong wind and a bright western sun, and too, to give us the tropical effect we wanted. For the background we planted *Philodendron selloum* in a planter three feet above the ground level. Next, immediately to the right we planted *Cyperus papyrus*, then on the left we planted *Sreelitza reginae* (Bird of Paradise). Immediately in front of the Selloum we planted *B. "Catalina."* We put in five plants out of eight inch pots, planting them about eighteen inches apart. These plants have now grown to one of the finest specimens you will see anywhere. It has a spread of about ten feet with a depth of about four feet. Each year the plants creep out a little farther into the lawn area.

The plants are fed with a spray applicator each time the lawn is fed, which is once a month I use a liquid fertilizer which is washed off the foliage immediately after feeding. This keeps the plants growing and in a good healthy condition at all times.

B. "Catalina" is one of the early hybrids of Mrs. Theodosia B. Shepherd of Ventura, who has given us so many other fine begonias. This particular hybrid is a low spreading or trailing begonia. It is

sparsely stiff-haired with pointed ovate leaves whose margins are toothed, undulate and ciliate, with depredded veins and pronounced petioles. The flowers borne in the leaf axils are large, white on the inside and rose-pink on the outside. The leaves will color considerably when in full sun. This is one plant that caretarily comes under the ever blooming classification. In my home garden it blooms the year around.

This plant is undoubtedly one of the most versatile in the begonia family being used extensively in landscape work. It is excellent as a hanging basket type, is a good pot plant subject, is used in rockeries and as a ground cover.

For my money, it is truly a begonia that has stood the test of time.

—B—

Round Robin Notes . . .

NOW THAT the A.B.S. Convention is over and a new staff of officers have been installed there will be a new Round Robin chairman and whoever it may be, I sincerely wish that she will enjoy the Robins as much as I have. In the three years I have been chairman I have acquired many friends whom I hope to keep for many years. I want to thank every member in the Robins for the many lovely cards they sent me while I was ill and the remembrances at Christmas time. Also to those who responded to my requests for letters and to the Editor for publishing the letters sent by the Robins under Robin Notes, I am very grateful.

As I finish my chairmanship of Robins I feel as though I am closing the door on something very educational and interesting. If you find time I would be so happy to hear from you. It is my sincere hope that all the better things in life come to you.

Sincerely,
MARIE REED

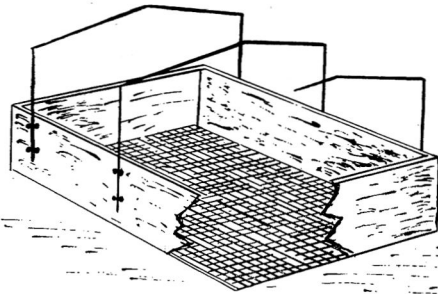
The Lippagator Method of Plant Propagation

By HELMUT TUTASS

Missouri Botanical Garden

IN RECENT years, methods of vegetative plant propagation have developed which are superior to those practiced in the past. One which has proven to be especially valuable to the gardener whose greenhouse is the living room kitchen or basement, involves the use of the "lippagator" (named for Mr. Louis Lipp of Holden Arboretum near Cleveland, who promoted the use of this method of plant propagation). The lippagator is a flat box filled with a loose rooting mixture and covered with a plastic sheet supported by a frame. Such a box can be built easily at low cost and has been used successfully in homes as well as here at the Garden. It is used in our plant propagation class for amateurs here at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Many of our former students came back and reported 100% success. Others reported that even though not everything rooted, they were more successful than in the past. This is especially true of amateurs growing begonias and similar plants.

To build a lippagator (see sketch), use a greenhouse flat or a box approximately 21 inches long, 15 inches wide and six inches high, made of wood or light



weight metal. In the bottom drill holes one-half inch in diameter, about three inches apart, to provide the necessary drainage. If a wooden box is used, the bottom can be made of wire screen—quarter-inch mesh is good for most root-

ing mixtures (sand may require a finer mesh). Good drainage is essential to prevent the water from becoming stagnant and the cuttings from rotting. For the frame, use any wire which is strong enough to support the weight of the plastic sheet and which can be bent easily into the form illustrated. The distance from the bottom of the box to the highest point of the frame is about 14 inches; the outer edges should be 1 to 2 inches lower so that the water which condenses on the inside of the plastic can run down the sides, instead of dripping on the cuttings, causing them to rot. The plastic should be large enough to cover completely the top and sides, with margins wide enough to be folded beneath the box and held by its weight. Since the plastic holds moisture and thus maintains a high humidity, yet is porous enough to permit such gases as oxygen and carbon dioxide to pass freely, it creates in the lippagator a microclimate which has proved favorable for root growth.

A good rooting mixture can be made with peat moss mixed with equal parts of one of the following: Styrofoam, Perlite, or medium-coarse sand, washed; all of which can be obtained at a garden supply store. Put a 4-inch layer of one of these mixtures into the lippagator box and sprinkle it thoroughly with water. Into this loose mixture, insert the cuttings. If the cuttings are from several kinds of plants, differing in their rooting habits, it is best to keep the different kinds in separate pots or pans, filled with the rooting mixture, which can be set in the lippagator box. This will allow removal of plants that are well-rooted without disturbing those less well-developed. Furthermore, if rooted in separate pots, the cuttings will not need transplanting when they are taken from the lippagator, but rather, they can be removed undisturbed

(Continued on Page 205)

Growing Begonias in Australia

By J. H. KIRBY

IN SPITE of climatic conditions which are quite different from those in England and Wales, the begonia can be successfully grown in Australia without undue anxiety. On the whole, modern begonias are only just beginning to interest amateurs here in a very small way, but they have arrested widespread public attention because they are increasingly the pride of City Council Conservatories in the cooler Southern cities of Australia.

In very recent years, the Rose Begonia has perhaps received wider general publicity here than in the United Kingdom, as the sizeable and beautiful City of Ballarat in Victoria has adopted it as the local "National Flower." The city is situated high above sea level, in fertile, hilly country, and consequently provides reasonably cool conditions compared with other areas.

Two large greenhouses are situated in the heart of the most attractive Botanical Gardens, which themselves contain a high proportion of established European deciduous trees. One house is reserved for rose and double varieties, and the other for singles. Virtually all begonias grown are Messrs. Blackmore & Langdon's named varieties, and they are turned outwards so that the many thousands of viewers do not have to enter the houses.

Quite recently, Ballarat started a "Begonia Festival," which I know my readers will agree was a delightful idea. It was a great success, and looks like being perpetuated. A "Begonia Queen" is elected annually, and the shops display cut blooms in their windows, and these are supplemented by paper imitations in less convenient places. The event is much publicized in the national press, and the climax came when the queen was pleased to visit and inspect the begonias during her recent tour of Victoria.

Generally speaking, any city situated north of Ballarat is too hot, but I have

seen a quite creditable display in the Council glasshouse in Bendigo, which is an old and hot gold-mining town in North Victoria. Until recently, the Conservatory in Hobart (Tasmania) Botanical Gardens produced an excellent display, but they have recently suffered the serious effects of a virus imported in begonias from a foreign country. Pests are not a worry, but in past seasons I have suffered serious damage through a solitary caterpillar egg deposited in the growing tip by a small moth. The creature is microscopic at first, and the damage is done by the time he can be found. Regular dusting of the tips with DDT powder has settled the matter.

Very few householders in Australia possess greenhouses, but a number have erected a timber lattice structure known as a "fernhouse." For most plants, this is quite satisfactory, and it also reduces the intensity of the sun sufficiently to suit begonias, but no protection is thus provided against the devastating north winds which are common during the summer months. These blow with considerable intensity, and are as devoid of humidity as the proverbial Sunday Gas Oven, whilst their temperature can be as high as 110° F. or more. The effect of "burning" on fresh begonia blooms can be imagined!

I use a long glass structure which runs along and adjacent to the rear wall of my house, facing east. There is no artificial heating of any kind, and none is necessary. I have successfully raised batches of Blackmore & Langdon's seed in proper box conditions on the open bench in the spring, and corms seem to start up rather more naturally under these conditions. The growing season is longer here, and corms increase in size at about the normal rate. In addition, cuttings enjoy a protracted period of growth, and dormant corms are left in their pots

(Continued on Page 208)

Who Am I?---a Guessing Game

I WAS born in Canada, migrated to California at an early age, and now live in Torrance. Married to a "native son," I am definitely over voting age, having one daughter who has herself passed that milestone. Embarking upon a newspaper career at the age of 14 by doing the school news, I have been working at similar occupations ever since. In addition to newspapers, the fields of advertising, personnel, public relations, and social service, both volunteer and paid, have been explored.

Irish, with most of the "auld sod" characteristics, be they good or bad, I like people, little people, growing things—in fact, all nature, dogs, music, and laughter. The potentialities contained within a blank page of paper have never ceased to fascinate me.

Perhaps you have guessed the riddle, but there is, alas, no prize. Formally known as "Adelaide Brest," I am addressed as "Ad" by most of my acquaintances. I am your new editor. If you have not so far formed an opinion as to my character, you now have the clue.

"AD" AND SUBTRACT

The objects of the new editor can be simply stated: I hope to edit a publication that will reflect the desires and needs of the membership. This idea can only become a reality if there is free interchange between the membership and myself. It is by expressions from you, the members, that such a publication is formulated. We welcome all opinions, and, believing strongly in democratic action, will give equal weight to all—be they "for" or "agin."

The above can be accomplished by two methods: writing a letter or submitting an article telling of your experiences. If you feel help is needed, it will be gladly given. Incidentally, the editor herself needs help for she is a newcomer to the begonia family, and has much to learn.

The achievement of a publication that strengthens the American Begonia Society because it is the true expression of the people comprising the organization will be realized by "adding" those articles most desired and "subtracting" any of doubtful appeal.

LET'S GET BUSY AND HELP AD OR SUBTRACT!

THE EDITOR

in rose form and ruffled novelty

**New
for 1957
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VETTERLE & REINELT

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Notes From Your Library

SEVERAL new books have been added to your Library, and they should be interesting to our Begonia Society members. "Window Gardening" by Henry Teuscher gives many valuable suggestions about plants in boxes, tubs and hanging baskets. This book can be borrowed from the Library, or can be purchased for \$4.50 plus tax. All who are fond of window gardening should have it for reference.

Even though "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens" by Helen Krauss is not new, it is a most valuable book, and has a wealth of good information. We have it for loan or for sale.

Who does not thrill to a beautiful rock garden? The new book, "My Rock Garden" by Reginald Farrer tells how you can have one, and is well written.

"Ferns for Garden and Greenhouse" by A. J. Macself is a very outstanding book on this subject and we recommend it to all those who are interested in fern gardening.

Anyone who is interested in making corsages, which are now in such great demand, may learn much from "Styling Corsages," by Mary Hazel Drummond. We have it.

We all want to know "How to Increase Plants." This book by Alfred Carl Hottes will give you the know how.

Bessie Buxton, now deceased, left behind her a wonderful book, "Begonias and How to Grow Them." We have this for loan or for sale. All of the above listed books may be borrowed or purchased through your Library.

We have back copies of *The Begonian* which are for sale. Issues prior to 1951 are not complete, but we have complete years from 1951 to the present time. All copies prior to 1952 sell for 10 cents per copy, and from 1952 to the present time are 25 cents per copy. There is much good information in these bulletins.

The attention of all members is directed to the term of loan for all Library books. This term is 30 days from the day you receive the borrowed book. At the

present time, we have many books out on loan which are months overdue. Please remember that there are many members who are patiently waiting their turn to borrow the book you have kept out over time. So if you have a book out over 30 days, please return it at once. If this is not done, it is necessary to turn the matter over to the National Board for their action.

The attention of all Library patrons is called to the fact that many of you sign your letters as "Jane Doe" and we do not know if it is Miss or Mrs. It is important that we have this information. Also we often see an address stated like this: "1357 Howard." Now we do not know if it is Howard Street, Way, Place, Avenue or Boulevard. Please see to it that the full street address is given on all correspondence.

We would like to ask that those who have any of the earlier copies of *The Begonian* consider donating them to your Library. If this is done, it will make our files more nearly complete. It is the desire of your Librarian to make the Library outstanding in every way, that we may better serve all of our members. You can help by returning borrowed books promptly.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as your Librarian for the past three years, and to have had contact with so many interesting people. It is hoped that the coming year will see many new Library patrons. If you desire books that we do not have, remember that we can always get them for you, and it will be our pleasure to serve.

MRS. LUCY A. SAULT, *Librarian*

26938 Dapplegray Lane
Rolling Hills, Calif.

Phone: DAvenport 6-5218

—B—

COPY DEADLINE

All copy for *The Begonian* must be received by the editor not later than the first of the month preceding date of publication.

The Lippagator Method

(Continued From Page 201)

in the pot and, therefore, can better withstand the change to the more normal climate of the greenhouse or living room.

Rooting hormones can be used to speed up root development on plants known to respond favorably to their influence; however, for those plants whose response is not known, the use of hormones should be avoided, since they may have injurious effect.

After the cuttings have been placed in the lippagator, cover the frame and box with the sheet of plastic, tucking it under the edges in such a way that one end can easily be lifted as a window to check on the progress of rooting. It can be done once a week. This is one of the great advantages of this method. A steady care, which was required in other propagation methods is not necessary and additional watering may not be necessary for three weeks; however, if the bedding material becomes dry, water thoroughly, using a gentle spray and warm water (slightly higher than room temperature). Cold water shocks plants—the yellow leafspots on African violets, for example, are well-known signs of such mistreatment. The lippagator should be kept at about 60° to 75° F. (room temperature) for most of our plants. Some may require a higher temperature but others, like evergreens, like it cooler. It should be in a bright place but not in direct sunlight, especially in summer. Good locations are an east, west or north window and in the shade of a tree in summer. So far I have not been troubled by fungi or insects, but some of our students report loss due to leaf mold. I recommend "Kaptan," which is used against leaf mold in the lippagator by nurserymen. If you are troubled by leaf mold try to prevent it by using only strong healthy cuttings, which are free of any disease and disinfect the lippagator and rooting mixture.

As soon as the cuttings have rooted, they can be removed from the lippagator.

They wilt slightly for a few days until they become acclimatized to the conditions of the open air. If but one kind of plant is put into the lippagator, the cover can be removed gradually, permitting the plants to adjust slowly. In addition to using the lippagator for propagation, it is also my "recovering chamber." Plants shipped, which arrive in poor condition, or plants which become root sick (in most cases by over watering) are placed in the lippagator. This way I save many plants which would be lost otherwise.

This method of propagating plants is simple to use; it requires little care, and the results are excellent.

* * *

Permission for this use of this article with additional notes by the author was given to the A.B.S. The article appeared in *The Missouri Botanical Garden Bulletin*, Dec., 1956. The Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the A.B.S. Test Gardens.

How many times have I heard someone say, "I can not do any propagating as I do not have a greenhouse." After I read the above article by Mr. Tutass and after you read it, I am sure there are going to be a great many more members starting begonias. We appreciate the use of this material and we thank the persons responsible for making it available to us.

Notes on the above article: The size of standard flats varies in districts. In Southern California the trade name for Permalite is Sponge Rok. Members living in areas where powdery mildew is so prevalent note the "leaf mold" treatment.

SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN
Research Director

—B—

Some can pot a begonia,
Some can bud a rose,
But some cannot be trusted
With anything that grows.

Succeeding With African Violets

By ROSANNA HORTON

WATER, light, earth and air—the proper mixture of each of these elements for raising African Violets was suggested by Mrs. Cecil Houdyshel, specialist in rare plants, before the Orange County branch of the American Begonia Society and guests at the Garden Grove Grange hall.

"If your plants are dying down I'd look into the water," she said. "Depending on where you live, you may be using large amounts of Metropolitan Water District water."

She explained that salts used in purifying Metropolitan Water District water are harmful to African violets. Salts used in home water softeners also cause damage. One solution is to use bottled water for African violets, but if the collection is large and bottled water would cost too much, she suggested that once a month the plants be watered with a solution of one teaspoon of vinegar to one quart of water.

According to Mrs. Houdyshel, if the water has noticeable amounts of chlorine in it, the harmful effects of chlorine can be eliminated by drawing water from the tap and allowing it to sit overnight before use on African violets. Rain water or melted ice from refrigerator coils will not have harmful salts.

Watering overhead, provided the water is not too cold, is perfectly acceptable, according to Mrs. Houdyshel. In her nursery it is the only feasible way to care for all the plants. She warned, "Do not let the sun hit them when the foliage is wet, as that will spot the leaves." Collectors who do have small collections and the time to water from below should continue doing so.

Mrs. Houdyshel's formula for soil is slightly more than half compost, which has been sterilized, and a little less than one-half peat moss, with a pinch of Sponge Rok. Sterilization is a defense against nematodes. She soaks her flower pots in a vinegar solution to eliminate alkali, then inserts the plants in loose soil.

Houseplants need air. In the Summer a house may be closed up too tight, and if a person comes in to water the African violets in a closed home, they actually may be harmed. For leaving the plant for long periods, the speaker recommended enclosing the plant and pot in a polyethylene bag. The plant should be watered the day before it is enclosed. In that way it will be moist, but not too wet while under wraps. Before enclosing it in the bag the grower should remove all the blossoms as they would fall off and rot the plant.

If a violet does not bloom, a likely cause is lack of light. There must be light at the crown of the plant for it to bloom. Mrs. Houdyshel indicated that it is difficult to say what exposure in a home will provide the diffused light that is best for African violets. So many details enter into the lighting, not only whether it comes from North, East, West or South—an overhang may cut down illumination from one window; yet a basement can afford sufficient light by use of fluorescent bulbs.

African violets like humidity. They dislike drafts, heat, excessive light and will react to leaking gas.

Mrs. Houdyshel concluded her remarks by showing examples of interesting new African violet varieties. Lou Scalley, president of the Orange County Branch, A.B.S., presided over the meeting.

—B—

TREASURER'S REPORT

Opal Murray Ahern, outgoing National Treasurer, submits the following condensed report:

Income This Month.....	\$644.31
Disbursements This Month.....	642.77

Net Income	\$ 1.54
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General Fund, Last Month.....	\$306.82
General Fund, This Month.....	308.36

OPAL MURRAY AHERN, *Treasurer*

Crinum Are Beautiful . . .

(Continued From Page 199)

One of their leading growers says of it, "*Crinum moorei* is possibly the most delicately beautiful species of all, in flower with blush pink tinted trumpets on a slender scape above a handsome crown of leaves." In the garden of the late Charles Gibbs Adams in South Pasadena there is a most notable planting of it around the circular brick terraces where it has the partial shade of tall trees. It is this same crinum which the late Fred Howard used to produce his famous bi-generic hybrid, *Amarcrinum howardii*, which won the Cory cup when exhibited in England in 1928. Its other parent was *Brunsvigia rosea* (Amaryllis Belladonna). It is still our most outstanding evergreen bulb for Southern California, coming into bloom in September and lasting until the middle of November.

The Powell group has many outstanding members. *C. "Powellii Album"* is an extremely beautiful pure white which rivals the Easter Lily and is often used as a substitute. *C. "Powellii Krelagei"* is a lovely pink which was produced in Holland.

The "milk and wine" lilies are great favorites in Southern gardens. The prominent pink, rose or rose purple stripes on the white petals give them this poetic name. Some of the best of these have flowers which are as wide open as Amaryllis.

Take the trail and hunt up some of the hybrids which have been lost. Just lately in the Oakhurst Gardens we photographed a fine vigorous white one which grows very tall and increases rapidly by offsets. We dubbed it "Fair Unknown." Years ago I got a fine hybrid from Zimmerman, called *C. "Zimmermani"*. It was a veritable "pot buster" and after ruining a number of large pots I took it down to the Agricultural Center in Los Angeles, where it is still growing. It is a shy bloomer and does not produce offsets.

Stag Horn Ferns

(Continued From Page 196)

root stock, being taken off when quite small and attached to their own little piece of bark or dead moss. The Grande does not grow these runners, being the single exception in this group, and so has to be propagated from spores which form on the under side of the frond. This is a slow process and requires sterile conditions and proper temperature. The other varieties produce spores also but because of the runners which they also produce the spore process is seldom used.

In our climate the best place to grow this rare plant is hanging on trees in wall pockets filled with sphagnum moss, or on pieces of oak slab covered with the same moss. They require very little water and can go for long periods without water at all. However, they will grow faster and have a green appearance if kept moist at all times. Unless there is an infestation close on some other plant, pests of all kinds seem to leave these ferns strictly alone.

Add the Platyceriums to your collection of rare plants and you will find it a very interesting and attractive addition.

Calendar

Sept. 11—Riverside Branch—Pot luck dinner, 1083 N. Benston St., Upland, Calif. PROCEEDS TO ARBORETUM GLASSHOUSE FOR BEGONIAS.

A. B. S. STATIONERY

(Cost Price to Branches)

	per 100	per 50	per 25
Letter, sm.	\$.80	.40	.20
Letter, lg.	1.10	.55	.30
Envelope, sm. . . .	1.25	.65	.35
Envelope, lg. . . .	1.55	.80	.40

For A. B. S. Stationery, Pins and Signs
Write to: Fred Browne
817 Novelda Road, Alhambra, Calif.

Growing Begonias in Australia

(Continued From Page 202)

throughout the winter without fear of frost damage.

The natural flowering period commences in about mid-January, but experience has shown that the searing north winds from the desert are definitely to be avoided if possible. I have contrived to bloom them a month later instead, when the hot winds become less prevalent. Incidentally, one cannot avoid the effects of this wind merely by closing down, as the entire atmosphere is affected. Some of my present corms were brought with me from England, and are in some cases seven years old. I can say without doubt that the begonia is at least as adaptable to harder and changed conditions as most plants. It used to be said that slow growth of the bud produced a larger and better formed flower, but in spite of fast growth I have had many a bloom a full 8" in diameter and 5" deep. Most of my readers will be familiar with the well-tried variety "T. B. Toop," and will realize that this old timer does not carry the largest blooms by any means. For this very reason, my photograph will have a meaning even for the less experienced, and it shows a 1954 specimen of this variety growing in a 9" pot and carrying eleven fully extended flowers measuring up to 6" across. Whilst on the subject, I wonder how many of you realize that Mr. T. B. Toop was responsible for starting begonias at Ballarat? He is an Englishman, and I found him very alert when I last met him two years ago. He was then 93 years old, and still lives as I write.

All my begonias this year are growing particularly well in a mixture entirely devoid of both leaf mold and sand. At

Ballarat, the oak leaves are saved from the trees in the Botanical Gardens, but, owing to the aromatic nature of the native trees elsewhere, I have had to resort to leaf mold from under the native Titi-tree in past years, with considerable success. This contains a fine sand of doubtful quality, and so I resolved to select and stack some red mountain soil from the nearby Dandenong Ranges.

In final preparation, the sods were broken up by hand, allowing any loose soil to fall away generously. This gave an extremely fibrous consistency, and, what is more important, the fibers each carried good soil on them instead of a doubtful foreign matter. The roots ran around the pots very quickly, with the plants responding accordingly. Massive specimens were built up, and they carried and maintained a good supply of high quality bloom over the extended season.

All this took place in one of Melbourne's outer suburbs, without the advantage of height, and with temperatures at an average of about 10-15 degrees higher than Ballarat, which itself can reach the century mark occasionally.

I am pleased to report that interest amongst amateurs is now sufficiently aroused for the local Horticultural Society recently to request a repeat lecture on begonias in the Town Hall, and the questions which followed the talk were most encouraging. Mention of the excellent work of Messrs. Blackmore & Langdon was received with live interest. Thus, the begonia is fast gaining in general popularity in the more southerly areas of the continent, and there are now signs that the numbers of amateurs are about to expand rapidly. There is no doubt that our flower can be grown here in certain congenial areas with complete success, but the climatic conditions do call for a degree of ingenuity and added patience at times.

Reprinted by permission from National Begonia Society of England and Wales Quarterly.—ED.

BEGONIA KUMWHA

One of the Most distinctive rhizomatous begonias. Grayish star type leaves. White flowers. Good bloomer.

\$1.50 F.O.B. Santa Barbara

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

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

Meeting of National Board of American Begonia Society called to order at 7:50 P.M. in Los Angeles City Hall, by President Trowbridge. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance to Flag led by Past President Taylor and reading of Aims and Purposes by President-elect Coe.

Secretary and Treasurer's reports read and approved.

President-elect Coe reported on progress of Convention plans. Dick Lane of TV fame to be speaker at banquet.

Vice-president Graham reported that she had finished typing the Buxton glossary and had made inquiries into the printing.

Moved by Edna Korts, seconded by Fred Browne that the book be titled "Buxton Checklist of Begonias" in smaller print is to be the words "Revised by the American Begonia Society, 1957." Carried.

Moved by Bill Walton, seconded by Clarence Hall, that recognition be given Mrs. Graham in the foreword. Carried.

Mrs. Graham offered to finance the printing of the book until such time as the Begonia Society could reimburse her.

Moved by Joe Taylor seconded by Fred Browne, that we accept Mrs. Graham's offer with sincere thanks. Carried.

Membership Secretary Walton reported new members 46, renewing members 116.

Seed Fund Chairman Gee reported income \$92.70, expense \$17.70. Received from Branches for Seed Fund Booth at Convention \$25.00.

Librarian Sault reported Books sold 3, Begonias sold 26, books loaned 3. Balance on hand \$77.13.

Mrs. Korts, Chairman of Judging, read her yearly report and presented a check for the balance in Judging class fund.

Chairman of the Awards committee, Ethel Arbuckle, stated that Constance Bower had been chosen for the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. Mrs. Arbuckle read the questionnaire that had been worked out to send to those requesting Certificates of Award.

Slide Librarian Anderson reported a balance of \$9.00 in Slide Fund, \$3.17 in operating fund.

Branch reports given.

NEW BUSINESS

President Trowbridge introduced the new Editor, Adelaide Brest, and she spoke briefly of her plans for *The Begonian* and asked the help of the members.

As the American Begonia Hybridizers Branch is not meeting at the present time—moved by Edna Korts, seconded by Pearl Bauer that the name be removed from the magazine. Carried.

The president stated that the books of the Treasurer, Business Manager, Member-mittee.

Bill Walton, Joe Taylor and Emri Stoddard were appointed to count the ballots. There being no further business the meeting Secretary and Librarian must be audited August 18th. Clarence Hall was appointed to audit and is to choose his coming closed at 10:15 P.M. to meet August 31st at 2:00 P.M. in Plummer Park.

Respectfully submitted,
Arline Stoddard, National Sec.

(Ed. Note: To illustrate the timelessness of good gardening practices, the following article by J. Paul Walker, one of the pioneers of A.B.S., is reprinted from *The Begonian* for September 1936.)
THE TUBEROUS season is passing but the other types, especially the fibrous, are at their best. As the nights become cooler, the plants should be watered less and that done in the morning. Feeding should be cut down as the plant passes its heavy blooming period and discontinued before it goes dormant.

It is now time to plan the winter garden. Replace those begonias that are going dormant with the winter blooming fibrous and semperflorens kinds and intersperse with various other complementary plants.

TUBEROUS—If decay has developed in the stems of a plant this rot is apt to follow down the stem into the tuber, destroying it. A plant showing wilt should be removed from the bed and the soil in the pot watered only enough to keep it from being actually dry. Remove broken and dead stems and leaves which tend to start decay if left in contact with other parts of the plant. Early blooming plants are now beginning to go dormant and require less water. Healthy growing plants may be treated as one usually treats them.

FIBROUS—Now is the time to sit back and enjoy your fibrous begonias. They still require considerable water and may be fed such plant food as one usually has found successful. Visit your neighbor's garden and pick up new kinds to grace your own.

BEDDING — These kinds are easily grown. Water and plant food keep them blooming profusely. Seed may now be planted for late winter and early spring flowering plants. Some kinds grow well in winter and bloom out in the winter sun.

REX—Most of the rex are now at their best but will soon show signs of becoming dormant. As this occurs water less, for they do not need it as when growing rapidly.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1. B. Calla Lily—"Shasta Sunset." The aims and purposes of the seed fund are to collect rare and unusual seed of begonia and other genera for the members. For the past year we have searched diligently for the above mentioned seed and are happy to offer them to you at this time. This is a beautiful and hardy strain and does not have some of the bad characteristics of some of the older strains. We have "Shasta Sunset" growing in a 5" clay pot and at times it has been sadly neglected but it keeps right on growing and blooming. If it is grown in direct sunlight the white leaves will take on a beautiful almost red tinge while in the shade the leaves will remain almost pure white. We suggest that you grow these plants by the same method as other *semperflorens* type begonias. We cannot state accurately what percentage will be true calla lily type, however, a grower states that she had 98% come true. All seedlings that are all green should be removed from seed pan. This will give the true calla type a chance to grow. Here is a plant we are sure you will enjoy growing. Supply of seed is limited. Please do not request more than one packet. 35c per packet. **No. 2. B. Frosty.** *Semperflorens* (formerly listed as *B. Karin*). Repeat request. Here is one of the most versatile *semperflorens* begonias we have ever grown. As a bedding plant it is unsurpassed. The medium compact growth together with contrasting dark foliage and white flowers attracts a great deal of attention in the garden. Flowers will vary. Some are white pink-tinged and others a deep rose. A friend in South Africa was fortunate in having a pink and white double. 35c per packet.

A friend traveling in Europe this summer collected the following for the seed fund. **No. 1. Corbeille de Feu.** Picture in Krauss. (*B. semperflorens* x *B. fuchsioides miniata*.) Tall, to three feet, erect; leaves small, oval, glossy bright green; coral-red flowers in numerous small clusters. **No. 2. B. oadi**—seedling of *B. odorata alba*. To two feet tall; leaves ovate, pointed, glossy green; large, pale pink flowers. **No. 3. B. Ivy**

Ever. (*B. matiana* x *B. Limminghei*). An interesting evergreen and distinctive begonia; drooping habit with numerous stems arising from the base. Leaves are broad heart-shaped, glossy green with metallic purple between the veins; flowers are large, pink and attached close to stem. **No. 4. B. dregei**—Africa—species. Picture in Krauss. Medium, smooth, branched, leaves small, green with purple veins; flowers white in small terminal clusters. **No. 5. B. richardsiana**—Africa—species. Picture in Krauss. Smaller in habit than *B. dregei*; leaves smaller with a red spot at the inner angles of the lobes; flowers white or pinkish white. **No. 6. B. Ingrami** (*B. nitida* x *B. fuchsioides*) syn. *B. robusta*. Very ornamental, tall and bushy. Leaves are small, long-ovate, pointed, glossy bronze-green. Flowers dark pink. **No. 7. B. Weltoniensis.** "Summer Lorraine" (*B. sutherlandi* x *B. dregei*). Picture in Bedson book. Distinctive hybrid of tuberous origin. Bushy plant with light purple-veined leaves. Flowers pink with yellow stamens. **No. 8. B. Colombia species No. 15.** No description available. **No. 9. B. Sunderbruchii** x *B. Autumn*—No description available. **No. 10. B. Kewensis**—Seedling from Kew gardens. Resembles *B. undulata*. All the above are 25c per packet.

In addition to those mentioned above, we offer the following choice begonias:

Special begonia seed: No. 1. B. manicata aureo-maculata. Rhizomatous. A variety with yellow blotched leaves. Occasionally rose-red blotches appear. Presumably originated in Italy. **No. 2. B. Gernando Costae**—A fleshy, low growing plant, almost stemless, with large soft hairy leaves and erect clusters of white flowers. Choice plant. **No. 3. B. boweri mixed** (*boweri* either as seed parent or pollen). *B. boweri* is an attractive miniature with creeping rhizomes. The small leaves are a vivid deep green, with a blackish brown mottling along the edges, from which long hairs stand erect. Above 3 packets for \$1.00 or 35c per single packet.

Miscellaneous begonias: No. 1. B. mazae—Mexico. Creeping stalks, red flecked and white streaked. There is

considerable variation in the coloring of the small heart-shaped leaves. Some are light green with a blanket stitched edge marking in black, some a deep rich green, and one of the best has tawny brown markings. Seed we offer are from the last mentioned. **No. 2. B. deliciosa** syn. Bhotan species. Picture in Krauss book. Distinctive foliage. Medium, bushy, smooth; leaves deeply palmately lobed, dark olive--green, grape-spotted, red beneath; flowers large, soft pink. **No. 3. B. tenuifolia**—Java. Medium, rhizomatous. Leaves broad - ovate, pointed, bright green. Flowers large, soft pink. **No. 4. B. hirtella**. Low, bushy, hairy species; leaves small, flowers white. **No. 5. B. d. macbethi**. Africa. Small, leaves deeply cut; flowers white. **No. 6. B. Matador**. Semperflorens. Small growing plant having green leaves and coral flowers. Above 25c per packet.

Greenhouse plants: **No. 1. Columnea banksii**. Robust plant for hanging baskets. **No. 2. Recheineria cardinalis**. Green velvety foliage, red flowers. Climber or basket. **No. 3. Gloxinia**—Many colors and types. **No. 4. Blue stroxinia** (streptocarpus x gloxinia). Interesting and easy to grow. **No. 5. Ardisia**. Shrub to three feet; wavy-margined leaves resembling holly. Flowers insignificant, but red, brilliant berries appear lasting several months. Drainage is important, but roots must not dry out; spray foliage often. Ornamental. Above 25c per packet.

Other genera: **No. 1. Ornithogalum caudatum** (sea onion). Lily family. Hundreds of greenish white flowers are borne on tall stalks. Leaves are tall and succulent. **No. 2. Habranthus robustus**. "Rain lily." This is one of the best of this family. Large pink flowers are borne on twelve inch stems. **No. 3. Habranthus dark pink**. Similar to the above but with darker flowers. **No. 4. Scilla peruviana (clusi)**. Choice plant, ideally adapted for planting in partially shaded locations. Blue flowers are produced in dense heads 6 to 10 inches across, individual flowers are an inch across. Fairly long flowering season and hardy except in extremely cold climates where they may be grown indoors. **No. 5. Moraea polystachya** (African iris). Slender plant with bright lilac with orange eye flowers. Profuse bloomer es-

pecially in mild climates. **No. 6. Ismene** (Peruvian daffodil). A hybrid. Flowers are largely white and spidery. **No. 7. Arum dracunculul.** Dragon lily. See story in July issue of *The Begonian*. **No. 8. Stapelia**. Member of the succulent family with large red flowers. Other genera 25c per packet.

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
4316 Berryman Avenue
Los Angeles 66, California
—B—

Shade Garden . . .

(Continued From Page 197)

or Clarkes. Your nurseryman will have them for a few pennies more.

Fall bulbs, too, may be used to color the shade garden during the winter and early spring months. The varieties of NARCISSUS called CHINESE SACRED LILIES, and SOLEIL D'OR will bloom real early if they are potted and buried under sand about six inches deep until the green shoots appear above the sand. Then dig them up, and in a few weeks they will bloom. Bulbs planted in September, as soon as the bulbs are on the market will bloom shortly after the turn of the new year.

While the old fashioned forget me nots are not adaptable to pot culture, it will pay the hobbyist to sow some seed for a ground cover around bulbs, or as a border plant. They will thrive in a shaded location.

Truly, in a climate such as ours, you can have flowers in bloom for the whole year.

—B—

Correspondence

Do you wish to correspond with other members in your own or other localities? Send us your name, address and preference and we will act as your contact. If the membership indicates interest in a project of this kind, a column could be established in *The Begonian*.

—B—

The Arboretum is yours to enjoy. You benefit esthetically, educationally, and economically.

The Evolution of the Tuberous Begonia

IN THE year 1886 the horticultural world was just awakening to the possibilities of the tuberous begonia as a greenhouse plant; wonderfully free-flowering, with a varied habit of growth combined with bright colors, they were an important acquisition. Having been brought to Europe some twenty years previously, the six species, *B. davisii*, *B. clarkii*, *B. pearcii*, *B. boliviensis*, *B. veitchii*, and *B. rosaeflora*, all from Bolivia and Peru, were found to hybridize freely. Many horticulturists and plant collectors in England, France, and Germany were engaged in begonia culture, concentrating their efforts on producing rounded petals rather than the more or less pendulous ones of the native species. The hybridizer of that day, having the florist's ideal always before him, aimed at a completely spherical flower—impossible without the aforementioned rounded petals.

Work toward the development of an upright stem which is a prerequisite for any decorative work, also went on apace, and this soon was attained in the single varieties. The doubles, however, continued to be very pendulous and their beauty could only be appreciated when displayed in hanging pots.

By Queen Victoria's Jubilee year, 1887, those working with begonias had produced 12 double varieties, comprising a full range of colors and were able to "show" a collection which included all of the best from the various growers. These early plants in subsequent years, proved useful as parents.

The double varieties soon took first place in public favor because of their free-blooming habit and rich and delicate colors, however, the stems were still thin and weak and the heaviness of the best double flowers—much larger than those of today—required especially stout stems to hold them up, a stiff rigid stem was a "must." Combined efforts of English and French raisers had, in a few years, obtained the objective—truly a real achievement—and one which benefits all of us even today.

So it was, in the early twentieth century, begonias had become the chief specialty of many horticulturists and their perfecting proceeded rapidly. Many thousands of seedlings were raised yearly, with minute attention given to quality of flower, shape, and habit of plant when making the hundreds of crosses annually. So progress kept up, naturally varying in degrees each year—sometimes a great advance was made, in others, not much improvement was apparent. Slowly but surely, however, each decade produced an immense improvement in form, size, color and habit.

The double begonia, starting first as a flower consisting of a mass of petals without any particular form, was made gradually to conform first to that of the double pelargonium, then the gardenia, the camellia, and finally, the rose—of course, with many modifications of both. The flowers of today are more like enormous roses than any other flower but are usually fuller, deeper, and more highly colored. To quote C. F. Langdon, one of the early English hybridizers, "It seems like a fairy story that such marvelous flowers should have evolved from the little single flowers such as were the species introduced such a short period before.

A. B.

—B—

SUGGESTIONS FOR BEGINNERS

Those members of A.B.S. who are beginners in begonia culture may find the following suggestions helpful:

CLEAN POTS — This is fundamental. Give old pots a thorough washing and sunning to kill spores of fungus and mosses.

PERFECT DRAINAGE—Provide this by placing a layer of coarse gravel or pieces of clean broken pots in bottom of pots.

THREE POINT POTTING SOIL— $\frac{1}{3}$ sharp coarse sand, $\frac{1}{3}$ well rotted manure, $\frac{1}{3}$ oak leaf mold, not too fine. The proportions of this soil formula are to be altered as later experience, location, or environment indicate.

Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

GLENDALE

Cal Trowbridge, master of Tommy Trowbridge (a fabulous talking bird), two time winner as President of A.B.S., discussed "Semperfloren Begonias and Their Varieties and Uses." Long an advocate of landscaping with floriferous type of begonias, he was a fine speaker—took lessons from his bird.

John Thieben, chairman of Identification Garden and consistent sweepstakes winner in the Begonia Derby at Convention time, supplied the plant table to the delight of Edna Korts.

Bert Slatter, Inglewood Branch President, guested also.

—B—

HOLLYWOOD

New officers elected are: President, Mrs. Lloyd M. Jackson; Vice-President, Curtis Freiler; National Representative, Mrs. C. T. Harrison; Treasurer, Mrs. Gladys Holmes; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Helen Murphy; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. C. Jenks.

—B—

RIVERSIDE

Riverside Branch will have a Jitney Potluck Dinner Wed., Sept. 11, at 6:50 p.m. in the garden of Mary Gillingwaters, 1083 N. Benston St., Upland. Proceeds from this meeting, the last of three, go to the glasshouse for the arboretum. Speaker from California Spray Chemical. All branches are invited.

—B—

SAN FRANCISCO

A capacity group of begonia growers, including delegations from the East Bay and Southern Alameda County branches, assembled in Forest Lodge to hear Frank Reinelt speak on what to expect in the way of new tuberous begonias. While great advances have been made during

the past ten years, there is still room for improvement, and the desired results are sturdy plants that hold the blooms upright without any support, more perfect flower forms, and some color improvement. The hanging begonias will have larger blooms and also better formed flowers. Mr. Reinelt concentrates on only two flower forms, rose and ruffled camellia, as those are the types the growers want. With Mrs. Reinelt as projectionist, Frank made appropriate comments about his outstanding collection of colored slides, many of them taken of this year's flowers. These included begonia plants from the seedling stage to full grown plants used for seed production. Each year a few of the best plants of each type are selected from the one and a half million grown, and these are used for further hybridizing. In addition to the slides on begonias, a number of primroses and delphinium slides also were shown. In addition to the slides, plants and cut blooms from Vetterle & Reinelt hybridizing gardens were on exhibit.

The slides and front of the hall were lined with begonia plants and blooms exhibited by members in a begonia show sponsored by Jim Miller. In spite of the earliness of the season, some good specimens of tuberous begonias were shown, as well as some outstanding plants of rex, rhizomatous and fibrous.

—B—

(Ed.: Due to the change in editors, Branch news in this issue is necessarily brief, however as we write this, we still have hopes that more will arrive in the mail. It would be helpful if items for this column could be received earlier so that they could be given the attention they deserve.)

A. B.

—B—

For A.B.S. pins, stationery and signs, write to Fred Browne, 817 Novelda Rd., Alhambra, Calif.

Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy.
Kent, England

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Leo Spengler, Cor. Secy.
15 West Preston Ave., Orlando, Fla.

DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
Members' Residences
Mrs. Ruth Cook
923 S. Edgefield, Dallas 8, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward,
Berkeley, California
Mrs. E. H. Ellerbusch, Secy.
1051 Ordway, Berkeley 6, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Daisy Morrow, Cor. Secy.
2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Community Bldg.
2039 Third St., La Verne
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

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

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central
Mrs. Cleo Price, Cor. Sec.
377 Myrtle, Glendale 3, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Mrs. Charles Calloway
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Hoquiam Public Library, or
Messingale and Rosenear Music Store
Aberdeen, Washington
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Adolph Belser, Cor. Secy.
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Ruth Anderson, Secy.
Underwood, Iowa

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. J. C. Jenks
6807 DeLongpre Ave.
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, Herman Park
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12601 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Texas

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

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

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Inglewood Women's Club
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Hattie Bradford, Secy.
1825 W. 73rd St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, members' homes
Mrs. Chester Terry, Secy.
5511 Richmond Ave., Dallas, Texas

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.
Mrs. Rosa Cox, Sec.
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Glenn Morrow, Secy.
2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

First Friday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Thos. O. Day, Secy.
4065 Hollywood St., Baton Rouge, La.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Ray Rosengren, Secy.
5530 N.W. 21 Ave., Miami, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

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

OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., members' homes
Mrs. Anna Peck, Secy.
23 So. Gateway, Toms River, N.J.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall
Century and Taft Streets
Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.
604 South Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on call.
Homes of Members
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.
40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Charles J. Allen, Sec.
Woodside Lane, Riverton, N.J.

PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, 8:00 p.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. Helen Parrott, Secy.
3955 S.E. Kelly, Portland 2, Oregon

RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH

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

REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each month
 2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.
 Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.
 1304 Poinsettia Ave.
 Manhattan Beach, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington,
 Riverside, California
 Mrs. Ethel Prior, Sec.
 4345 5th St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m.
 Homes of Members
 Mrs. Harlie Brown
 3233 Tennyson, San Diego 6, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
 Mrs. Gordon Long, Secy.
 5416 Dana Way, Sacramento, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday
 Hard of Hearing Hall,
 Herbert & University
 Mrs. Maurice P. Mitchell, Secy.
 2329 Bancroft St., San Diego 4, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
 Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.
 Mrs. Louise Allmacher
 1963 45th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
 Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
 Arcadia, California
 Mrs. E. F. Slavik, Sec.
 300 Hacienda Dr., Arcadia, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday
 Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
 Ida M. Barker, Secy.
 7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Girl Scout Clubhouse,
 1838 San Andres St.
 Mrs. Maria Sanchez, Secy.
 1753 Glen Oaks Dr., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
 Green Lake Field House
 7201 Green Lake Way
 Mrs. Carl Starks, Secy.
 6116 Greenwood, Seattle 3, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main,
 Ventura, Calif.
 Mrs. Oakley Murphy, Secy.
 119 E. Simpson, Ventura, Calif.

SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday of each month
 John C. Irving, Cor. Secy.
 1940 Simmons, Salina, Kan.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BR.

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
 Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.
 21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.
 Mae Bolyard, Cor. Secy.
 2425 Thornton Ave., Newark, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.
 South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
 Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Dr.,
 Fort Worth, Texas

Mrs. Joe X. Schad, Sec.
 3766 W. 4th St., Fort Worth, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday night in members' homes
 Mrs. William Demland, Secy.
 2400 19th St., Port Arthur, Texas

TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH

4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.
 Homes of Members
 Mrs. Harold Renshaw, Secy.
 2521 37th St., Galveston, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.
 Homes of Members
 Mrs. Albert S. Lash, Cor. Secy.
 1228 Oklahoma Ave., Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Palm Park Community Center,
 1643 Floral Drive
 Mrs. Rebecca Olson
 714 N. Palm Ave., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.
 Homes of Members
 Mrs. Ernest C. Drew, Sec.
 Box 331, Narberth, Pa.

C O N T E N T S

Incoming President's Message.....	195
Letter From Connecticut.....	196
Stag Horn Ferns.....	196
Shade Garden This Winter.....	197
Seeds, Seedlings, and Hybrids—Naming Hybrids.....	198
Crinums Are Beautiful With Begonias.....	199
Cover Picture.....	200
The Lippagator Method of Plant Propagation.....	201
Growing Begonias in Australia.....	202
Who Am I?—a Guessing Game.....	203
Notes From Your Library.....	204
Succeeding With African Violets.....	206
Evolution of the Tuberous Begonia.....	212

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