

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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**AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.**

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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Begonia 'Iron Cross' — Texas size.

IRON CROSS - TEXAS SIZE

BY IRENE LINKENHOGER
Houston, Texas

Every time Begonia 'Iron Cross' is shown in a picture, it is a plant with five or six leaves — or smaller.

I have two plants that have grown to specimen size in a year and a half. I have both of my plants in shallow, wide top pots, using loose soil, and alternating fish emulsion and sheep manure for feeding.

'Iron Cross' likes water, but it must drain right through. I have each plant on a mound in the center of the pot, then I water around the edge of the pot. This begonia also must have humid surroundings.

I have found that it is easy to grow, and it is easy to start a new plant from it. I have never put a leaf or a wedge down for rooting that it did not "take".

I pinch all blooms or buds as they first appear, because I think that blooming would weaken the plant. I have enjoyed growing this begonia, as I think it is the most beautiful of all begonias.

In my hobby greenhouse I have over a hundred begonias. I am partial to the large leaf rhizomatous. I am interested in getting a collection of all the miniatures.

I also have a collection of ferns, as they add to the beauty of my first love, growing begonias.

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Orange Rubra'.

Photo by Bernice Brilmayer.

Begonia Growing in England

Excerpted from letter received from F. J. Martin, Hon. Secretary, The National Begonia Society, Birmingham, England.

Here in England the bulk of our members grow only the tuberous doubles; in fact I am sure that most members confronted with any other type of begonia would or might be confused. Mr. F. J. Bedson, Founder President and Editor of the National Begonia Society, and Mr. Mason, for whom *B. masoniana* is named, grow large collections of begonias, and many of our Botanical Gardens and parks also have reasonable collections.

Just over one year ago I thought that it would be a good idea to try to bring some of these plants to the notice of our members; I therefore started to gather a small collection. At our last Annual Show I was able to stage about forty different plants which attracted much attention; and after the show I cut most of the plants to "pieces" to provide members and visitors with cuttings and leaves.

In the Society we now have a few members who are growing up to about fifty different "kinds". A few have already joined the American Begonia Society; and as I circulate the monthly copies of THE BEGONIAN I am sure that many more will be joining. We find the monthly issues are a wonderful source of information. In the past there has been so little written about the plants that I have had to start preparing notes and drawings of all the plants that I am growing; and these will be inserted in issues of our quarterly bulletin. The great problem is to ensure that the plants are correctly named. I have one or two that are not listed in any book I have read; therefore I shall prepare descriptions and drawings and send them to the American Begonia Society in the hope that they will be able to identify them correctly.

While conditions in various parts of the U.S.A. must vary considerably, I imagine that most of you have better conditions

for growing plants in your house than we have, as most of us use open coal fires or electric heating. Most of our members, however, do possess a greenhouse where conditions can be better controlled; but the problem is keeping them warm enough for many of the begonias. I have a 12'x8' span house in which I am growing most of my species, and a north-facing leanto (12' x 8') in which I grow my exhibition tuberous doubles during the summer. My leanto is heated by electric heaters only, but the span house has an electric fan heater plus a coke-burning boiler connected to four-inch hot water pipes around the house.

Here in the industrial Midlands, it is essential to keep the glass as clean as possible during the winter so that the plants may get the maximum light; but many begonias tend to go dormant due to the low light values plus the low temperatures. I maintain about 45-50° F. as the minimum night temperature except on a few extra cold nights when it may drop to, say 40°. Grown under these conditions I find that most of the silver-spotted angel wing begonias tend to drop their leaves during November; but they start afresh again during February. *B. scharffi*, 'Luwalter', *masoniana*, and *angularis* appear to be tolerating these conditions quite well at present, although they are not making much growth, as is to be expected.

As yet I have not tried much hybridising except the tuberous doubles; but I have a few seedlings from the cross 'Joe Hayden' x selfed. Incidentally, my small plant of 'Joe Hayden' has made poor growth this year; therefore, next year I intend to propagate from it and try various composts, etc., as I believe that this is a popular variety.

I am at present struggling to grow plants of *cathayana*, *rajah*, and *diadema* in a heated propagator in the span house. *B. albo-picta* is another that has not done

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His and Her Majesty

BY DOROTHY S. BEHREND
Encinitas, California

The long, tapering irregularly lobed leaf of the choice rex begonia that has been grown in the San Diego area for many years, dating back to the late A. D. Robinson era, has always been called Begonia 'Her Majesty'.

As there is an obvious confusion existing (and the writer does not pretend to know the answer), a little background data has been uncovered, hoping to shed light on the mystery.

Is the listing in the Buxton CHECKLIST OF BEGONIAS correct or should it be corrected, as with the listing of the B. 'Leslie Lynn' parentage?

Is the parentage of B. 'His Majesty' and B. 'Her Majesty' correct? That is the question.

Helen K. Krauss lists the tapering-leaf begonia as B. 'Her Majesty' in her book BEGONIAS FOR THE AMERICAN HOME.

The A.B.S. sponsored Buxton CHECKLIST OF BEGONIAS lists the parentage of B. 'His Majesty' as *B. bowringiana* x rex (unnamed) as offered to the public by Sander in 1903. Reference data is listed as C. Chevalier. The same CHECKLIST lists three begonias as having been named B. 'Her Majesty' — two being the tuberous types. The rex begonia bearing this name merely lists rex (unnamed) as the parents with a 1921 date of an unspecified source, with the GARDENERS CHRONICLE as reference data. It would seem to be a typical rex begonia.

To go back to B. 'His Majesty' as listed in the CHECKLIST, we look for more data on *B. bowringiana*. We find there are at least two separate begonia species bearing this name — as synonyms.

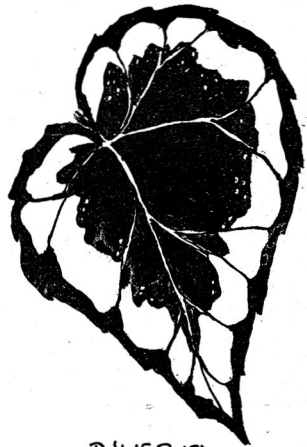
Begonia cathayana and/or *Begonia laciniata* has been accused (at various
(Continued on Page 34)



B. 'HIS (?)
MAJESTY'



B. CATHAYANA



B. 'HER (?)
MAJESTY'

Experience and Patience

BY RUBY WRAY BLAIR

In any endeavor, experience and patience are required to obtain results that are truly satisfying. This is especially true in the growing of plants or flowers from seed.

One of the requirements in planting seed is a moist planting medium. Now, just what is moist? For begonias it is just off the dry side. Too much water — no babies. Too little water — no babies. They either drown or dry up.

Three times I have planted seed of Begonia 'Iron Cross', and three times I have lost 'Iron Cross'. The first time the seed did not germinate; the medium was too wet. The second time three tiny seedlings came up and then just sat there. No amount of coaxing would make them move, and then there were no babies, not even one. So again I tried. This time germination was good. They were husky and green and going well. Disaster this time was caused by exposing them to the open too suddenly. One more try should get me some of the desired 'Iron Cross'.

My planting medium consists of one part milled sphagnum, two parts vermiculite, and two parts perlite, moistened with distilled water or water from defrosting the refrigerator, with three or four drops of pano-drench added. (Instructions call for 1/2 teaspoonful to 1 1/2 gallons of water).

A good method to determine if the water content is right is to let this medium set over night in a closed container. Then if it is still moist, not wet, the seed may be planted.

For seed boxes I use plastic refrigerator containers with lids. In these, if moisture gathers on the lids, the soil is too moist and should be allowed to dry out a little.

Fill the box about half full, and then either sift a good layer of the same medium over the top or cover it with moistened milled sphagnum. My first plantings were done on the top of the coarse medium without either a sifting or sphagnum. Needless to say, the ger-

mination was poor. The tiny seeds got lost in the medium.

Be sure to firm the soil to give a good base for the tiny plants as they germinate. A loose soil dries out too quickly and the plants just lay down and die. Firm the milled sphagnum and sprinkle the seed on top. A very gentle mist may be added to settle the seeds into bed. Put the top on the box and set it away out of harm.

Check within two or three days to see if the moisture content is right. If the soil is too wet, leave the cover ajar to permit drying. Within a week, check for germination. Some begonias germinate quickly, sometimes within a week. Others take longer — lots longer. As soon as germination starts, bring the box into good light, but not strong sunshine.

There is no food in this planting medium; therefore food must be given soon and continued once every week. As the tiny plants grow to about 1/4 inch to 1/2 inch in height, begin to set the lid open, gradually, or they will lay down and die — I know from experience.

When they are beginning to crowd, transplant them into a community pot or box, using the same medium with one fourth as much pasteurized soil. Continue feeding, increasing the amounts as they grow larger and can use more food.

Certainly you must have experience and patience to become a gardener, but the rewards are many. Try it, and see for yourself.

CORRECTION

The story titled "Suzie Zug — Hybridizer", in the January issue of THE BEGONIAN, stated that Suzie Zug was the recipient of the H.P. Dyckman Award for the Best New Introduction for 1960. This was incorrect. She received the Glendale Award for the Best New Cultivar, Begonia 'Whirly Curly'.

BEGONIA BASICS

By BERNICE BRILMAYER
West Redding, Connecticut



LIGHT AND SUNLIGHT

People have digestive juices and a complicated apparatus for transforming food into energy and growth. Plants have chlorophyll and roots. The roots take up food from the soil. The chlorophyll uses water, carbon dioxide from the air, and light to manufacture starch (which later becomes sugar) on which the plants live and grow.

The magic word here is "light". Without it — and without enough of it — plants starve to death, not because of insufficient food, but because of inability to use it.

This brings us to one reason why our indoor begonias are not at their best in winter. And I'm speaking, now, for those of us who live where winter days are "dark and drear," where the sun shines faintly for a few hours, if at all. Our days are too dim, and the hours of daylight too short, to keep a plant's digestive pro-

cess going long and strong enough for full health and beauty. And a pox on people who set down the rule that begonias should grow in an east window! At *this* time of year? In *my* house, whose east window is well-shaded by a blue spruce? In *your* living room, where the big bright picture window faces south?

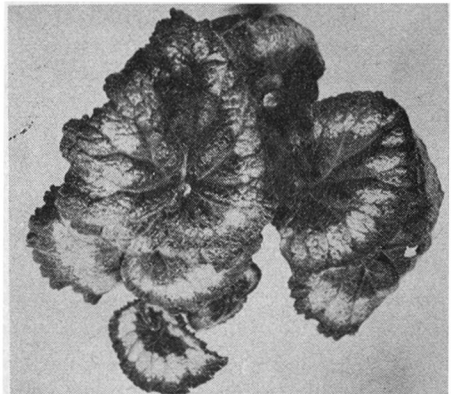
Except for California and other sunny climates, where begonias really are "shade plants", I contend that you simply can't give a plant too much daylight. And lack of light is probably what your begonias are complaining about, when they stretch out their stems to straggly lengths, and lean lopsidedly in one direction, on the windowsill.

So much for light. But sunlight is something else entirely. If you want your begonias to make flowers, you must provide sunlight — by no means full sun — for every minute of every day of the year. Full sun would burn begonias to a crisp on an August day in Kansas. (It might be all right in parts of Maine). But certainly "full sun" from October through March would have a hard time burning anything from the Mason-Dixon line north.

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Flowering angel wing begonias, like 'Veitch's Carmine', need more sunlight.



Rexes that feature foliage, like 'Princess of Hanover', need less sunlight.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1—*B. rajah*, Ridley—

Malay. Small, low, high-leaf begonia with creeping rootstock. Petioles thin, red, fleshy, rough-hairy. Leaves asymmetric, round heart-shaped, about 5 x 5 cm. Margins more or less dentate or setiform (bristly). Upper side of leaf bare, with green veins and areas on a reddish brown background of a soft silky gloss. Lower side pale reddish brown, hairy in certain places of the veins. Inflorescence sessile, red, fleshy, hardly surpassing the height of the leaves. Small pink flowers. Price \$1.50 per pkt.

Comment: After five years of constant search for the seed mentioned above, we have been rewarded with a fair amount of seed from a collector of rare begonias who lives in France. Many A.B.S. members have asked for seed of *B. rajah*, and we have authentic information that there are not more than two or three plants in cultivation in the United States. We wish to make it clear that this is a difficult plant to grow and is not for beginners, but we are sure that many experienced growers will welcome the opportunity to add this rare and beautiful begonia to their collections. Similar in appearance to *B. goegoensis*, it is better when grown in a shallow container where constant warmth and humidity are provided. It is well worth the extra care.

No. 2—*B. peltata*—

Java. Small plant with round, green, over-lapping leaves. Not to be confused with *B. peltata* with felted leaves. Practically unknown to the United States and will be welcomed by those who like small growing begonias. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3—*B. 'Prince Charming'*—

Frey. (*B. Cathayana* x *B. rex* cultorum). Medium, rhizomatous, leaves to eight and one-half inches long by six inches wide, ovate-pointed, olive-green at the center, shading to pea-green and deepening toward the margins, finely stippled with silver spots which run into each other in the central zone, each spot orna-

mented with a short scarlet hair, a tuft of long scarlet hairs at the basal sinus, margins red, obscurely lobed, toothed, and fringed with red hairs, under surface red-veined and hairy, bright red at the base and margins. Petioles red and long-red-hairy. Choice plant. Seeds are extremely fine; therefore it is impossible to remove all chaff without waste. Please excuse it. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. rex* crosses by Todaro—

Many choice American and German crosses which include spirals and all the popular rainbow colors. Seeds germinate readily in from three to six weeks where medium heat is provided. Do not transplant until seedlings are well established. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. rex*, Germany—

Ever popular rex from Germany. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. Heterosis semperflorens 'Scarletta'*—

Five to six inches high. Early weather resistant. Uniform plants hide themselves in flowers of intense, brilliant scarlet. Outstanding yellow stamens add to the beauty of the bloom. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. 'Gigantea'*—

'Paris Market'. Semperflorens. A compact strain, with strong, very resistant apple-green foliage. The two and one-half inch flowers are the largest known to this class. Free-flowering, non-fading, heat-resistant. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 8—*B. schmidtiana*, Regel—

Growth erect, semi-shrub-like, ramified profusely from the bottom up. Stems firm, fleshy, round, greenish red, densely covered with hairs. Leaves asymmetric cordate, egg-shaped, pointed or blunt. Flowers pink. Good begonia for many purposes. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. 'Boutonniere'*—

We have learned the identity of this begonia. It is a small cane-type, with

silver-spotted leaves, and is very worthwhile. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10—B. 'Helena'—
(White cane-type and B. 'Pink Parade')
By Florence Knock. Minn.

No. 11—B. 'Sutherlandii major'—
Same as B. 'Sutherlandii' but larger.
Tuberous species from Africa.

No. 12—B. evansiana rosea—
China. Grows to a foot or more in height. The stems are erect, and bulbils form in the leaf axils. If grown in the open ground, the bulbils will drop to the ground and new plants will spring up the following year. Being hardy, *B. evansiana* will come up year after year with almost no protection. Leaves are medium sized, with purple veins underneath. Flowers are pink. 25 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Achimenes—

'Magic Flower'. For the shady bed or as a choice hanging basket. Achimenes almost hide their decorative glossy foliage with beautiful, waxy, long-keeping flowers. The clear, jewel-like colors are the most pleasing in the Floral Kingdom, almost ever-blooming. Culture is the same as for gesneriads. 50 cents per pkt.

Eiscia hybrids mixed—

Special crosses. Most will have scarlet flowers, but blue, yellow, and white will occur. Foliage will vary in color and texture and is an outstanding feature of this lovely plant. 50 cents per pkt.

Primula malicoides—

Blood red. Important and easy to grow bedding or pot plant. Grown outdoors for color in the shade garden. 25 cents per pkt.

Primula obconica—

Bright pink. Large flowered and showy. Good greenhouse or outdoor plant. 25 cents per pkt.

Blandfordia flammea—

'Christmas Bells'. New South Wales. Tender rhizomatous plant adapted to greenhouse culture in cold climates. Leaves are in two vertical ranks, narrowly linear, hard, persistent. Flowers large,

long, showy, nodding, in short racemes, usually orange-red to crimson, with yellow tips. During the growing season they must be shaded from bright sunshine. Plants like a moist atmosphere and plenty of air, but not draughts. The chief element of the potting soil should be peat. Hardy as a lath-house plant in mild climates. 25 cents per pkt.

Rohdea japonica—

Liliaceae. Extremely durable, modest plant, with thick rhizome; basal rosette of oblanceolate, arching, channeled or plaited, thick leathery leaves, densely arranged somewhat in two ranks, matte green, white flowers aroid-like. Fruit a red berry. Four seeds for 25 cents.

Plectranthus oertendahlii—

Labiatae. Fleshy creeper with four-angled stem and small, broad leaves, friendly green to bronzy, patterned network of silvery veins, the lightly crenate margins purple, the surface short-hairy, older leaves purple beneath, petioles purple. Bilabiate flowers pale pink. 25 cents per pkt.

Platynerium bifurcatum—

'Staghorn Fern'. Easy growing epiphyte freely producing young plants on its roots. The basal fronds are kidney-shaped, in old specimen lobed. The usually laxly pendant, leathery, grayish dark green fertile fronds to three feet long and thinly covered with white, stellate hairs, and usually twice, long forked, sori only on tips of ultimate forks. 25 cents per pkt.

Pteris longifolia—

Tropical fern. Rapid growing, long leaved, graceful fern, with arching pinnate fronds to two and one-half feet long, the simple, dark green pinnae widely spaced, long and tapering to a slender point, stalks hairy. 25 cents per pkt.

OTHER GENERA

Viburnum tomentosa—

Medium shrub with ovalish leaves three to four inches long, hairy on the underside and toothed. Flower cluster long-stalked, more or less flat-topped, nearly four inches wide, the marginal flowers sterile and about one inch wide. Fruit

red, ultimately bluish-black. Nice shrub. 25 cents per pkt.

Telopoa speciosissima—

'The Warath'. One of the aristocrats among the flowering shrubs of New South Wales, it is one of the most spectacular plants to flower in the spring. 25 cents per pkt.

Ceratopetalum cummiferum—

'Christmas Bush'. The popular and well known New South Wales 'Christmas Bush'. A very showy shrub, which at Christmas time is covered with bright red bracts. These are preceded by a mass of starry white flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

Perilla nankinensis—

Herbaceous plant having green or dark reddish-brown leaves, in opposite pairs, inversely heart-shaped. Suitable for beds or borders where color contrasts are required. Sow seeds in February or March under glass in a temperature of about sixty degrees. 25 cents per pkt.

Salvia—

Clary, bouquet mixed. Grown for flowers and leaves, the leaves being used for seasoning. Requires open, sunny position and plenty of moisture. 25 cents per pkt.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE

Seed Fund Administrator

4316 Berryman Avenue

Los Angeles 66, California

HIS AND HER . . .

(Continued from Page 29)

times) of being *B. bowringiana*.

Begonia laciniata, by de Condolle. The manner of growth and color would not bear up the supposition that *B. laciniata* was a parent of either 'Majesty' with the exception of the irregular leaf-lobe often observed on well grown specimens. (Not always.)

The colorful *B. cathayana*, illustrated beautifully opposite page 64 in Fredrick J. Bedson's book *SUCCESSFUL BEGONIA CULTURE*, shows us the possible source of the texture found on the tapering, lobed leaf of Begonia 'His' (if Buxton's CHECKLIST is correct) or 'Her Majesty', if it is in error.

The color, texture and even the leaf lobe could possibly be traced to what is now termed *B. cathayana* and was also called (erroneously) *B. bowringiana*.

So the question today is: is the tapered, distinctly lobed leaf of a handsome rex begonia to be correctly called 'His Majesty' or 'Her Majesty'?

A beautiful illustration may be seen of the begonia with the tapered leaf, on p. 254 of *EXOTICA II* (Graf) as *B. 'His Majesty'*. The same page has a typical rex begonia pictured as *B. 'Her Majesty'* while p. 255 has a clear picture of a rex as *B. 'Her Majesty'*, with a single leaf pictured (appears to be from this plant) on p. 260 as *B. 'His Majesty'*.

One of these pictures is in error, but which one?

If the CHECKLIST is correct, the tapered, lobed leaf would seem to be *B. 'His Majesty'*. The typical rex would be *B. 'Her Majesty'*. In the event an error exists in the CHECKLIST (on these rexes), the opposite would be in order.

This is not a reflection on any individual, but is merely a plea to any and all persons having any supported knowledge of the plants to come forward and present their theory, or forever hold their tongue!

However, this is also a task for the Nomenclature Department and it is always an interesting challenge, to attempt to straighten out discussions, as this department of the A.B.S. is the recognized Registrar of Begonias for the International Code of Nomenclature for the world. It must also adhere to the rules of this body and cannot form opinions separate from this council.

It is sometimes a long and trying task to do this as definite procedures are outlined, to be enacted, before any decision can be given.

Whatever the answer, we need to put the rightful candidate on the "throne".

EXOTICA AVAILABLE

A new shipment of the book *Exotica* has been received by the A.B.S. Librarian. If you want a copy of this fascinating book, write to Mrs. Lucy A. Sault, 26938 Dapplegray Lane, Rolling Hills, Calif.

Index, The Begonian, 1960

To facilitate its use, this index is divided into four sections. The first is an index of American Begonia Society affairs, the second is a general index, the third is a list of 1960 contributors, and the fourth is a special begonia index. An asterisk (*) indicates an illustration. These four pages can be removed and filed with the THE BEGONIAN FOR 1960.

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To all members of the American Begonia Society:

I have recently learned that some members of the American Begonia Society consider the judging class as a Southern California project for local people. This is entirely wrong, as the mimeographed lectures are available to any member wishing to enroll and purchase the lectures.

If you have several members who desire to attend a judging class, we will endeavor to obtain a chairman in your district or Branch, if possible, so you may receive the lectures and study together. When the class is ready, a set of test questions will be sent to someone qualified to give such a test, and the accredited judge's card will be issued to those who pass the test.

To tell you something of these lec-

tures may I explain: they have been written by qualified, accredited judges, who have given much time and effort to the study of the plants of which they speak. If you will refer to the October, 1960, issue of THE BEGONIAN, you will find a complete list of the lectures and speakers, with a short resume of each one.

These are all, or any one, available to members of the A.B.S. or the California National Fuchsia Society. The price is \$1.00 for each lecture, or \$8.00 for the entire twelve. They are mimeographed on standard size, good paper, punched for filing in a binder.

I will be glad to help anyone wishing to become a judge, or to answer any questions regarding this class.

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BEGONIA BASICS . . .

(Continued from Page 31)

This is what I am trying to say — that all begonias need good, clear daylight, and plenty of it; and that the full-flowering types, like *sempreforens* and cane-stemmed, need sunlight in order to set flowers. How much they need is a matter of intensity and duration, not which way your window faces. And both intensity and duration depend upon the area in which you live, and upon the season.

What can you do if the only available light is dim? Well, you can get interested in the rex begonias, some of the shy-flowering rhizomatous varieties with gay foliage, or any type that doesn't depend upon flowering to give you pleasure. And even these may be helped along if you give them the benefit of supplementary artificial light; turn on a table or floor lamp after twilight on wintry days.

Or you can figure out some place to put your begonias where they will get more light and sunlight. Try an unshaded south window, at least until you see signs that the sun has warmed up enough to crisp a leaf edge or two. And even then, a transparent curtain will filter out any harmful heat.

So often I'm asked, "Why can't I make my wax begonias bloom the way they did at the greenhouse where I got them"? And so often the answer is, "They need more light and sunlight".

I can't help climbing up on my soap box for one final point about sunlight and summer-flowering tuberous begonias. In these parts as in others, we're told they'll grow in shade, and overwhelm us with tremendous flowers. But they won't. In summer shade in Connecticut, New Jersey, Long Island — and, I suspect, in many similar areas — they grow tall, limp, and lanky, and flower weakly if at all. I can't count the intelligent gardeners who have told me they finally, in desperation, set the plants out in the sun — and have been happy with them ever after.

(This is the first article of a continuing series to be contributed by Bernice Brilmayer, Eastern Editor.)

IN ENGLAND . . .

(Continued from Page 28)

very well for me; but 'Argentea-Guttata' makes a good show until it goes dormant around November. *B. boweri* and 'Bunchi' are still good despite the low temperatures; and I have a nice plant of *fernando costae* in bloom. None of my rex have gone dormant as yet; in fact, a plant of 'Curly Fireflush' looks lovely; it is about eighteen inches across. My only plant of *luxurians* would like things just a little warmer, I imagine, but it is going well and holding its foliage quite erect.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Barney J. McGrath, husband of Peggy McGrath, of Whittier, California, passed away December 31, 1960.

Mrs. McGrath has been an active member of the Whittier Branch of the American Begonia Society for many years, serving in various offices.

Her many friends in the A.B.S. extend their sincere sympathy to Peggy McGrath.

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CALENDAR

February 2—Westchester Branch. This will be a combination jitney pot-luck dinner and whoopee party. Dinner at 6:30 p.m. A talk will be given on the use of soil heating cables. Visitors are welcome. Bring a nice plant instead of a wrapped gift. For further information contact Agnes Thieben evenings after 4:30 p.m. ORchard 2-5112.

February 9—Inglewood Branch. Travel with the Fred Luthers via slides and story.

February 25-26—Fifth Annual Show of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, at Disneyland Hotel, Anaheim, California. Open from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

March 2—Westchester Branch. Loren Paulsohn, landscaper, will show his three-dimensional slides of step-by-step planning and planting a home garden, front yard, patio, rear and side yards. Members and guests make a note to attend this interesting meeting.

March 11-12—Seventh Annual Camellia Show at Descanso Gardens in La Canada, California. Open from noon to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

COPY DEADLINE

All material for publication in THE BEGONIAN must be received by the Editor not later than the fifth of the month preceding month of publication.

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Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

BESSIE RAYMOND BUXTON

On December 3 the annual Christmas party was held at the Pillar House in Newton. Mrs. Lester D. Fox, vice-president, gave a delightful account of the beginnings of the American Begonia Society, with reminiscences of early members of this Branch. It was an occasion to honor our charter members, three of whom were present: Mrs. Ernest E. Martin, Miss Alice Newell, and Stuart Barstow.

The following officers were elected for 1961: Mrs. Herbert E. Hurley, president; Mrs. Charles R. Scrymgeour, vice-president; Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, treasurer and membership secretary; Mrs. Percy I. Merry, corresponding secretary; and Mrs. Daniel L. Comiskey, recording secretary.

A plan was submitted for the begonia exhibit at the spring show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

The meeting concluded with an illustrated lecture by Miss Harriet Creighton, professor of botany at Wellesley College, who has just returned from a year of teaching in Peru.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

The Lone Star Branch and the Dallas County Branch joined for the December meeting in the home of Mrs. Ruth Cook, president of the Dallas County Branch.

Mrs. Builderback, a visitor, installed the new officers of both Branches with a wonderful and thoughtful message.

Following the program, we exchanged gifts and enjoyed lovely refreshments served by our hostess.

EAST BAY

The East Bay Branch extends its most cordial wishes for a Happy New Year to all its sister organizations.

Our Christmas party, under the supervision of Mrs. Myrtle May, was a huge success. The tables were beautifully decorated; the food was fit for a gourmet. Harry Ross, our chief host, kept the joviality of the occasion at its peak.

We all join in thanking our outgoing officers for their capable work. We hope that the year 1961 will prove to be as fruitful as the last year.

Newly elected officers are: Laura Hartman, president; Anne Strauch, vice-president; Lillie Hallahan, secretary; Dorothy Osborn, recording secretary; Floyd Jensen, treasurer; and Lena Rufener, chief hostess.

Thanks to Mrs. Floyd Jensen and her committee, more than a hundred dish gardens were distributed to the Veterans Hospital for Christmas. This project, started many years ago by Mary and Lena Rufener, is becoming a real project for our garden group.

The bedridden veterans find the dish gardens satisfying and a little bit of the great outdoors which they cannot see any other way. We hope that next year we may be able to send 600 or more. For this purpose, we are making a collection of dishes for these gardens. Anyone interested in sending us some dishes should contact the Rufener sisters at 4497 Howe Street, Oakland 11, California.

ELSA FORT

Happy New Year to all of you, and may it become one in which all your "growing" desires are fulfilled.

We said an early Merry Christmas to each other at our regular meeting. Marian Jones, with the excellent help of Marian Buck as co-hostess, had decorated her home early, so we enjoyed a delicious dinner, feeling that Christmas was really here. The gift exchange seemed particularly pretty this year, and everyone seemed so pleased.

We had a short business meeting when Marian Jones became our new president, and we thanked Betty Johnston, who had so admirably filled that place for two years.

As the new president, Marian Jones named Ruth Richardson to be program chairman, and we began to make plans which call for some very serious begonia study this year.

INGLEWOOD

The December meeting was a whopper. The first event was the installing of officers for 1961: Pearl Parker, president; Malcolm Rich, vice-president; Bee Olson, secretary; Wilbur Olson, treasurer; Malcolm Rich, national representative. The installation was conducted by the gracious Mrs. Bert Slatter, past-president of the Ebell Club.

The second event was a big Whoopee party. The exciting game was played by everyone present. A mountain of colorful gifts was placed on a table and each player picked the gift of his choice at the beginning of the game. However, as the game progressed, no one was in possession of the gift he had chosen.

The final event was the singing of Christmas carols, led by the golden voice of Floyd Hambright.

SACRAMENTO

The Sacramento Branch ended the year with a note of sadness. Our beloved president, Roy Wiegand, passed away in November and we shall certainly miss him. He was a wonderful person, always willing to help out in any way he could. His willing assistance and his personality, which constantly seemed to radiate good will, did a great deal for our Branch.

This has been a busy year for us. We participated in a Shade Plant Show, which is held annually in our Garden Center. We also had an entry in the Sacramento County Fair and took not only a blue ribbon, but a ribbon for best in the show. Frances Flannigan, our show chairman, is an expert in the staging of these exhibits and always has a display which is a credit to our organization. She deserves much credit for the blue ribbons we have won at our Fair exhibits.

Ruthanne Williams, our program chairman, has had some wonderful well-planned programs. She planned a workshop for our program in December, and we all participated in making wreaths and other Christmas decorations.

And so we come to the end of the year that has been a success, and we wish our new officers every success during their year of office.

SAN FRANCISCO

We had a wonderful Christmas party with 125 members and their children present. Santa (Ed Pynchon) was as jolly and as generous as ever, with gifts for all. Irv Kramer had an enjoyable selection of Christmas music which he played all during the evening. Beth Sackman was chairman for the party and, as usual, did an excellent job.

The pot-luck dinner and serving committee, as well as the table decorations, were in charge of Margo Corbelli. Three turkeys were roasted by Elaine Jordan and Jodephine Martin, and Alice Gold cooked two hams. Art Boissier, resplendent in his chef's hat and apron, wielded a mean carving knife.

Emma O'Neill presented a lovely copper bowl as a perpetual trophy to be won for amateur flower arrangements.

At this reading Santa will have come and gone; 1960 will be but a memory; and 1961 is ahead of us. Happy New Year to all the Branches and all the members of the American Begonia Society!

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA

Our December meeting was held on Saturday evening with a Christmas dinner, gift exchange, and party, at the La Casa, located in San Leandro. Tables were beautifully decorated by Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Bolyard, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Slutter, and Mr. and Mrs. Chester Bartlow, using sprayed pine cones, greens, red berries, and Christmas ornaments on a white table cloth.

Entertainment was furnished by a group from the Hill Dancing School. There were many outstanding acts.

Charles Congdon did a delightful job of installing the following officers for 1961; H. J. Bolyard, president; William Simon, vice-president; Mrs. Edith Slutter, treasurer; Mrs. Marie Reed, recording secretary; Mrs. Ann Bartlow, corresponding secretary; and E. L. Kappler, national representative.

We go into the coming year looking forward to many fine programs, garden shows, pot-luck dinners, and a keen interest in raising our begonias and other shade plants.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD

Teen-age members provided entertainment during the December installation meeting. The junior members, Travis Pepper and Tommy Seward, presented a program of piano and guitar. Group singing of Christmas carols was led by Travis. Tommy, in his role as Santa Claus, came down the chimney to distribute gifts to members and guests.

Installed by Rudolf Ziesenhenne of Santa Barbara were: Mrs. Dewey Hobart, president; Mrs. Catherine Moon, vice-president; Mrs. D. E. Claypool, secretary; Mrs. S. B. Reed, treasurer; Mrs. Harry Meyers, membership secretary; Mrs. Clyde Snodgrass, national director; Mrs. Louise Seaton, Ted Osborne, and Mrs. Ina Clayton, directors.

The meeting began with a dinner, served by Harry Meyers and his committee. The Christmas theme prevailed in decorations.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

For the September meeting, the Branch met at the home of Mrs. Frank Loughran in Saxonburg. Since it was a warm day, lunch and the business meeting was held under the shade trees on Mrs. Loughran's lawn. As the speaker was absent, there was a general discussion on the storing of tuberous begonias.

In October, members met at the home of Mrs. A. S. Lash in Dormont. After lunch, Mrs. McPherson described cane begonias and told of a trip to Mrs. Ross Swisher's home in Pennsylvania. Members answered roll call by naming cane begonias they owned. Plants were provided by the Branch and distributed to members, to be grown for the 1961 flower show. These were 'Nelly Bly', 'Medora', 'Holly', and a rex.

On a rainy day in November, members met at the Oakdale home of Mrs. S. A. Stewart. After lunch, the speaker being absent, Branch business and a discussion of the program for 1961 was held. Members voted to have a turkey dinner for the December meeting. They also voted that, instead of the gift exchange, each member would bring a gift for a needy child. Officers for 1961 were elected.

The December meeting was in the Pittsburgh home of Mrs. J. W. Dougherty. After a turkey dinner, Mrs. Ruth Perry gave an interesting description of her recent visit to California. Christmas gifts were turned over to the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* to distribute.

Installation of officers by Mrs. J. E. Magill completed our 1960 program. Officers installed were:

Mrs. J. W. Dougherty, president; Mrs. Margaret Bowser, first vice-president; Mrs. Edna Stewart, second vice-president; Mrs. S. A. Stewart, treasurer; Mrs. A. S. Lash, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ralph Reno, recording secretary, and Mrs. R. A. McPherson, publicity.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

We had our twenty-first anniversary banquet and the installation of our new officers on January 13, and it was also Friday, but we defied superstition. Having come of age, we feel confident of the future.

Maria Wilkes, the garden expert, conducted the installation. In her charming way, she instills friendly cooperation by everyone she contacts.

Neil Campbell, who conducts horticultural tours around the world and has just returned from abroad, showed moving pictures of "Gardens of Europe".

Our new officers are: Carl E. Naumann, president; Robert Wilson, vice-president; Mrs. Ruth Eppley, secretary; James Giridlian, treasurer; Margaret Moore, Branch director; and Mrs. Vera Naumann, national representative.

The meeting was held at Henry's Restaurant, near the Arboretum in Arcadia.

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Branch Directory

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England

BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Percy I. Merry, Secy.
109 Brookside Road, Needham, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:00 p.m., Members' Residences
Mrs. M. F. Scribner Corr. Secy.
1422 Marfa, Dallas 16, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California
Mrs. Jane Scalzo, Secy.
1126 Keeler Ave., Berkeley 8, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Miss Lenore Schroeder, Secy.
1828 So. 7th St., Alhambra, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Community Bldg.
2039 Third St., La Verne
Miss A. Esther Smith, Cor. Secy.
309 E. Foothill Blvd., La Verne, 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. Isabel Compton, Secy.
2339 Mayberry St., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

GRAY, EYA 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 Belsor Cor. Secy.
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

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, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. E. H. Claggett, Secy.
4415 Austin St., Houston, 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
395 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Bee Olson, Secy.
13715 Cordary St., Hawthorne, Calif.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York.
Mrs. Gertrude Ferris, Secy.
415 9th Ave., New York 1, N.Y.

LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes
Mrs. C. Neal Sikkelee, Secy.
3603 La Joya Dr., Dallas 20, Texas

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Linden Hall
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Machinists Hall
728 Elm St., Long Beach, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Leslie C. White, Secy.
3013 Addison 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, 1 p.m.
World War Memorial Bldg., Linwood and Paseo
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. R. H. Hyatt, Secy.
6812 Hunter St., Raytown 33, Mo.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Mel Westerdahl, Secy.
16422 Heim Ave., Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

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

PHIOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. J. Perry Long, Secy.
6532 E. Cedar Ave., Merchantville, N.J.

REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

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

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members
Miss Ruth Harrington, Secy.
372 Lloyd Ave., Providence, R.I.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

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

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
 Constance D. Bower, Cor. Secy.
 2413 — K St., San Diego 2, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
 Mrs. Dora Hale, Secy.
 Route 2, Box 1350, Florin, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbours Hall
 2717 University Ave., San Diego
 Mrs. Mildred Sima, Secy.
 7655 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
 Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.
 Mrs. Forrest Lee Jordan, Secy.
 95 Ravenwood Dr., San Francisco, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.,
 Los Angeles State & County Arboretum
 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
 Ruth Eppley, Secy.
 4858 Willard St., Rosemead, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
 Mrs. Ruth Brook, Secy.
 7151 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

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

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
 Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at
 Sunset 3-7122.
 Mrs. Hazel M. Starks, Secy.
 6116 Greenwood Ave., Seattle 3, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Alice Bartlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
 Mrs. Ted Lemmon, Secy.
 P.O. Box 678, Moorpark, Calif.

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday of each Month
 Mrs. Robert Nease, Secy.
 410 South Phillips, Salina, Kansas

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
 Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.
 21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.
 Mrs. Chester Bartlow, Cor. Secy.
 37075 Arden St., Newark, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

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

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
 Scott Hall, Ft. Worth, Texas
 Mrs. James O. Burdick, Sr., Secy.
 3211 Azle Ave., Fort Worth 6, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes
 E. Weaver,
 1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Westchester Women's
 Club,
 8020 Alverstone St.,
 Los Angeles, Calif.
 Mrs. LaNeta Myers, Secy.
 7550 Cowan Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

WEST VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Orcutt Playground
 Clubhouse
 21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park, Calif.
 Joseph Janatka, Secy.
 18641 Casandra, Tarzana, Calif.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members
 Mrs. Walter M. Cowles, Secy.
 1139 Mellon St., Pittsburgh 6, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive
 Anne L. Rose, Secy.
 1255 Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members
 Mrs. H. Rowland Timms, Secy.
 Willow Lane, Wallingford, Pa.

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