

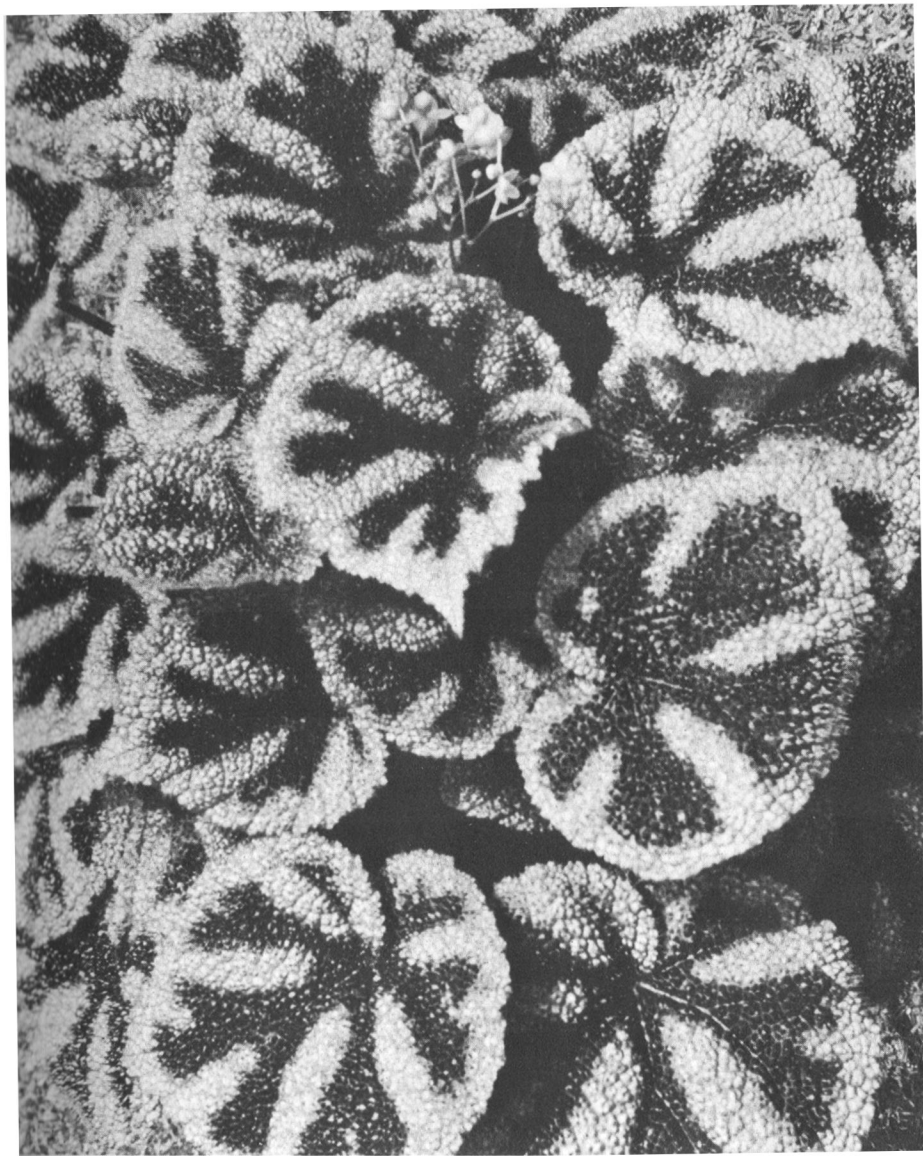
The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

SEPTEMBER, 1963

PRICE 25 CENTS

VOLUME XXX NUMBER 9



EditorN. Trumond Peterson, 1641 W. 125th Street, Los Angeles 47, California
Advertising Manager Ruby M. Budd, 6440 Will Rogers Street, Los Angeles 45, California

Copyright 1963 by the American Begonian Society, Inc. — Affiliated with The American Horticultural Society, The American Horticultural Council, and The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

General Offices, Dues, Address Changes or Magazines:
Daisy Austin, Membership Secretary, 1810 Kimberly Ave., Anaheim, Calif.

Annual Subscription, \$2.50. Branch members pay dues to branch. Foreign rate, including Canada \$3.00.

Air mail rate within U.S. \$4.50.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Anaheim, California, under the act of March 3, 1879

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.

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Carl E. Naumann
652 W. Bennett Ave., Glendora, Calif.
President-Elect . . . Mrs. Terry Olmsted
8717 S. La Cienega Blvd.,
Inglewood 1, Calif.
Past President . . . George A. Schlunert
13611 Wheeler Pl., Santa Ana, Calif.
Secretary . . . Mrs. Margaret B. Taylor
111 Evelyn Drive, Anaheim, Calif.
Treasurer Earle E. Budd
6440 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.
Vice-Pres. 1 year Esther Long
5416 Dana Way, Sacramento 22, Calif.
Vice-Pres. 2 years . . Mrs. Ernest C. Drew
635 Moreno Rd., Narberth, Pa.
Vice-Pres. 3 years . . . Howard Small
1034 Balboa Drive, Arcadia, Calif.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Editor N. Trumond Peterson
1641 W. 125th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.
Eastern Editor . . Mrs. Percy I. Merry
109 Brookside Rd., Needham 92, Mass.
Membership Secty . . . Daisy Austin
1510 Kimberly Ave., Anaheim, Calif.
Advertising Manager . . Ruby M. Budd
6440 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.
Awards Committee . . . Jean Kerlin
3262 Olive St., Altadena, Calif.

Flower Show Chairman
Albert J. (Bert) Slatter
4600 Sixth Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.
Historian Ruth Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.
Identification Garden . . . John Thieben
6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.
Librarian Mrs. Lola Fahey
4943 Fiesta Ave., Temple City, Calif.
Nomenclature Director . . Mrs. Alva Graham
258 Pearl St., Pasadena, Calif.
Parliamentarian . . . Mrs. Minn Slatter
4600 Sixth Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.
Research Mrs. Bea Olson
13715 Cordary St., Hawthorne, Calif.
Round Robin Chairman . Mrs. H. E. Hurley
11 Woodland Road, Lexington, Mass.
School of Judging . . . Mrs. Edna L. Korts
3028 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.
Seed Fund Mrs. Florence Gee
234 Birch Street, Roseville, Calif.
Slide Librarian and Speakers' Bureau . .
Roy Joyce
1435 Coronado Ter., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Public Relations Director
Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.
Northwestern Chairman . Mrs. David Talbot
6209 Riverside Drive, Vancouver, Wash.
Eastern Chairman . . . F. L. Mathewson
Montchanin, Delaware
Southern Chairman . . . Mrs. C. E. Cooper
716 Chelsea Blvd., Houston, Texas
Northern California Chairman
Mrs. John H. Smith (Hyacinth)
2479 29th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Northeastern Chairman
Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury
225 Lee Street, Brookline, Mass.

National Board meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., South Gate City Auditorium, 4800 Southern Avenue

WELCOME
to the
THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION
of
THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

California National Guard Armory
111 Grosvenor Street, Inglewood, California
Saturday, September 7 — Sunday, September 8

BEGONIA AND SHADE PLANT SHOW

Open to the public Saturday from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit the Snack Bar and the Plant Sales Table.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE NATIONAL BOARD

Saturday at 2 p.m. To be held in the small room adjacent to the Main Show. Open to all Members as well as Members of the National Board of the A.B.S.

ANNUAL DINNER

Saturday: 6 p.m. — Social Hour. 7 p.m. — Dinner

Elks Club Dining Room, Inglewood

Master of Ceremonies — Clarence Hall

Presentation of Awards — Mrs. Jean Kerlin

Installation of Officers — Carl Meyer

Guest Speaker — Howard A. Anderson, showing a narrated picture with elapsed-time photography to show the development of flowers.

**A MESSAGE
FROM THE PRESIDENT**

People who grow plants are generally fine people, the kind I want to know.

The last two years, with a few exceptions, have been a rewarding experience. True, the position of president is not all roses but, in its entirety, it has been a gratifying two years. I have had the opportunity of doing my small part to help the organization and of getting acquainted and knowing a great many people worth knowing.

The membership, as a whole, has been most co-operative. I wish that time and money had permitted me

to travel and know personally all those people who have been in correspondence with me. The officers on the Board, both appointed and elected, have done more than their share to make the past year go smoothly.

I particularly want to thank Terry Olmsted for her co-operation and help the past year. I wish her all the best in the coming year as your President. I know that she will have the full support of the membership.

As our Past President stated as his motto — let us know, grow, and show begonias. I wish to add to that. Let us know and appreciate our fellow man and overlook his faults, as we would like him to overlook ours.

Carl E. Naumann
President

ANGEL WINGS AND IRON CROSSES

By M. ELIZABETH TOURGEE

Peace Dale, Rhode Island

Like most people, I have grown wax and semperflorens begonias, as well as tuberous begonias, for many years, and had no idea that there were other varieties, or that the begonia family was so large.

About six years ago, a neighbor gave me a slip of an angel wing begonia which I admired, and I became interested in all the books on begonias I could find.

Begonias come in so many different varieties that it is difficult to believe they all belong to the same family. I began to find ads in the flower magazines, and sent for different species. Many of these I was unable to grow and was rather discouraged for a while. Rex begonias, especially, are not the easiest plants to grow.

Then, about three years ago, I saw a begonia show listed in Coventry, and attended it. As a result, within a few months I joined the Rhode Island Begonia Society and through group discussions became able to sort out in my own mind some of the varieties of begonias. The society has about eighteen members, and I look forward to the monthly meetings, because I always come away with some help for a particular problem. I also have an excellent book on begonias, which has become my bible.

For a year at least, I had thought about a small greenhouse—then I became interested in fluorescent lights. In September of 1961, I installed one white 48-inch tube in the cellar and had fairly good results with it.

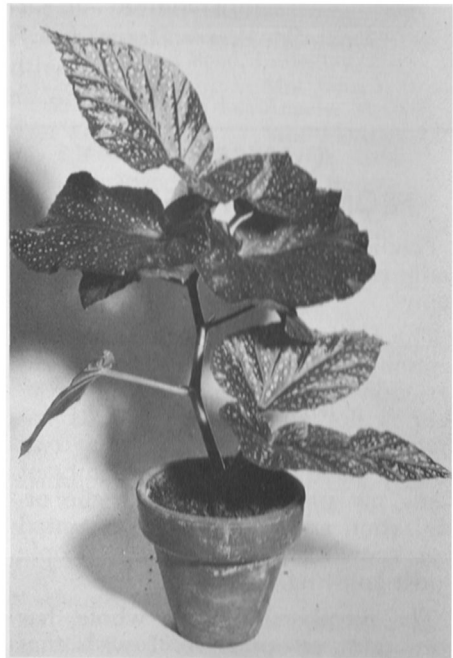
I had noted with interest some ads in the flower magazines for fluorescent lamps which were designed especially for plants, and concentrated on the reds and blues in the tubes. They claimed to be very successful in ex-

periments. Since the advertising ran way ahead of the production, I was unable to buy them until last September. At that time I abandoned the idea of a greenhouse—at least temporarily—in favor of the new fluorescent lights in the cellar.

They have exceeded even my wildest hopes.

Like most fanciers of begonias, gloxinias, ferns, and allied shade-loving plants, I had found that growing them in the house left much to be desired in terms of humidity, which all of these plants must have. I had so many rex and rhizomatous begonias either go dormant or die on me, that I was reluctant to buy any more.

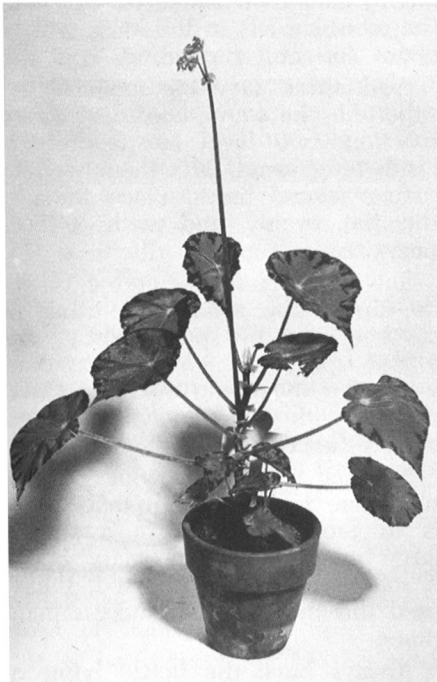
The fluorescent tubes have changed all this. In the short space of a few



'Angel Wing' is an upright, branching begonia.



'Beatrice Haddrell' has small, pointed, star-shaped leaves, dark colored; with pink flowers in spring.



'Stitched Leaf' has dark markings along edges of leaves.

months, I have gone from being unable to keep these plants alive, to bringing six at the present time into bloom. One advantage of having them in the cellar, of course, is that you can spray the air for humidity without the danger of risking damage to furniture. It is also a much less expensive proposition than a greenhouse. Furthermore, it is much easier to go down the cellar stairs than to bundle up to go out to a greenhouse in all kinds of weather, because my home would not lend itself to an attached greenhouse.

By now, the larger plants have spilled over into the house, since I have run out of space in the cellar. One of my mother's favorite expressions was "From one comes many," and this is why I have run out of space.

Cuttings and even leaves of the various plants seem to root with amazing speed. A few months ago it would never have occurred to me

(Continued on Page 193)

BEGONIA SEED GROWING

By DR. W. C. DRUMMOND
Hollywood, California

To those of you who never have grown begonias from seed, the following are presented as dependable methods.

Here, then, is the first growing medium or soil mixture. By bulk measure, use two parts of loam which is not too heavy or too sandy. When moistened or molded, it should retain its shape but be broken easily, only slightly sticky when moist, and rolled readily into long, slender rods. Soil a little heavier than silt is about right. Heavy black soil is not loam; it is clay. Loam used for this purpose should contain originally about twenty per cent clay and, on the other hand, the loam should not contain too much sand. It need not be too rich in organic matter. Compost soil would be good.

The other parts are one part acid peat moss and one part clean washed sand.

Mix the sand and loam together and sterilize the mixture by pouring over it 3½ gallons of boiling water to each standard flat, which is 18 inches x 18 inches x 3 inches deep.

Plant seed evenly by first mixing it with a small amount of sterile sand. Do not cover the seed; just spray lightly. Cover the flat with a sheet of paper to exclude the light and catch the drip, and then cover the paper with a pane of glass. Or ground glass will serve for both the paper and clear glass. Keep the seeded flat at sixty-five to seventy-five degrees. When the seeds emerge, remove the paper and give more light and air, but no direct sunlight at any time. Keep the seed flat in a warm place.

In growing begonia seed, always keep the soil just moist, but never too wet, as excessive moisture encourages damping off and drives the air out of the soil. Oxygen as air in

the soil is necessary for root growth. Begonia seedlings require a high relative humidity; a few hours of dry air and they are gone.

Remove the grass gradually. If the seedlings grow tall and spindly, they are not receiving enough light.

Where sand or vermiculite is used alone, the seedlings should be fed.

Here is another seed-growing medium which I have used for some time with good results. Screen dry sphagnum moss through hardware cloth, four mesh to the inch, or use screened leaf mold, and use this in the bottom of a flat. For the top quarter-inch of flat, use sphagnum moss only, screened through a fly screen. Wet the moss well, using rain or distilled water if possible. After the moss has been wetted thoroughly and then squeezed by hand, the moisture left in the moss will be about correct for planting.

Add three level teaspoonfuls of superphosphate and, according to soil reaction, two level teaspoonfuls of chalk or gypsum. Mix them well by sifting several times. Place them in the flat evenly and with a little pressure.

Sow begonia seed—not too thick—on top of the sphagnum, using no covering. Simply spray lightly with a rose spray. Be sure not to overwater the sphagnum medium. Cover the flat with paper and glass as previously described.

Another way of growing begonia seed, one I call the automatic way, is to grow the seed in a square, large mouthed, gallon glass bottle. A round bottle may be used. I have used this method with success many times.

Always have the bottle lying on its side. Place your preferred growing medium in the bottle, level and

(Continued on Page 195)

CARE OF BEGONIA SEEDLINGS

By LOUISE SCHWERDTFEGER
Santa Barbara, California

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

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

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

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

It is usually during the first transplanting or "pricking-out" that the greatest loss occurs. Begonia plants are very succulent in the early stages of growth and are tender and brittle. The young plants are composed of a series of cells arranged like tubes and are kept upright by the force of the plant liquid within these cells. To break into even one of the cells will allow loss of moisture and the stem or root can become contaminated easily. Handle each seedling as if it were a precious piece of fine china or delicate glass.

It is not wise to leave the seedlings in the seed pan until they are a mass of tangled roots, and intertwined stems. The usual time for

pricking out is when the third leaf on a seedling has developed and the fourth leaf is unfolding.

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

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

The pen will make an excellent tool to make the small holes to receive the seedlings. Make a row of small holes about an inch apart across the flat.

Holding the pen lightly, place the open point beneath the leaves of a

(Continued on Page 194)

COVER PICTURE

Begonia masoniana, grown by Ruby Budd of Los Angeles, California, makes a striking all-over pattern.

—Photo by Hertha A. Benjamin,
Bronx, New York.

HARDY BROMELIADS

By ALEX D. HAWKES

Editor, *Bromeliad Papers*

Adapted from the author's new book, *Bromeliads and How to Grow Them*, now being published by Hearthsides Press, New York.

Today the bromeliads (pronounced broe-mel-ee-adz) are among the most popular of all ornamental plants, and interest in them by hobbyists throughout the world increases steadily. Though most all of them are natives of the tropics (or at least the subtropics) of the Americas, a number are so adaptable that they can be grown without appreciable protection in much more northerly regions. For example, collectors in Italy, the south of France, and even in England have long appreciated some bromeliads as unusual components of their gardens, and in this country selected species and hybrids are suitable for outdoor cultivation north of the normal haunts in the extreme southeastern and southwestern states where they occur in the wild.

By and large, most commonly grown bromeliads should not be subjected to temperatures approaching 40° F., and only a few of them will withstand ten degrees higher for very long without serious injury, if they come from tropical areas. There are, however, some notable exceptions, namely several kinds of *Puya*, the *Fascicularias*, some of the tough *Dyckias* and *Hechtias*, and even some of the *Tillandsias*. On occasion even such strictly tropical species as *Aechmea bracteata* and *A. mexicana*, *Neoregelia marmorata*, and *N. spectabilis* (and their hybrids, and a few other representatives of this genus) will withstand freezing temperatures if they are well-established. If they are not, however, the plants quickly perish.

Several of the *Billbergias*—*B. pyramidalis*, *B. nutans*, *B. Saundersii* and hybrids thereof, are also relatively

hardy, provided that some overhead protection is afforded them, and that the water is drained from their leaf-cups prior to excessively low temperatures. If these same specimens have been grown under glass for some time though, and then are placed outside during a cold spell, they are seriously injured or even killed by temperatures falling much below 35-40° F. Gradual adaptation to out-of-door conditions is obligatory when dealing with all bromeliads.

Though some of our native bromeliads of the United States (a grand total of 21 species and varieties of the Bromeliaceae are now known here, mostly in South Florida) are found in areas where temperatures far below freezing occur at rare in-



Hechtia texensis, a hardy native U.S. bromeliad, flowering at the Jardin Botanique Les Cedres, on the French Riviera.

—Photo by J. Marnier-Lapostolle



Handsome bromeliads growing outside in a South Florida garden, where they are hardy. This is the rather rare Brazilian *Neoregelia carthagenensis*.

—Photo by Alex D. Hawkes

tervals, they should not be subjected to these in the collection. For instance, plants of indigenous South Florida *Tillandsias* and others of the same genus native to moderately high elevations in Mexico have been killed outright in our own gardens by temperatures approaching the freezing point. And, upon inspection, it was found that many of the wild plants of these *Tillandsias* still in the Everglades were either seriously burned by low temperatures, or even killed outright! Observations in Mexico, during the rare serious freezes which occur in the vicinity of Mexico City prove that this situation is not unique to South Florida. It is peculiar to note that the tiny seedlings of these same plants, both in Florida and in Mexico, are affected to a lesser degree than are the mature specimens of the same species involved! Doubtless it is only in this fashion that the species are perpetuated.

In Southern California, especially at the prestigious Huntington Botanical Gardens at San Marino, a number of terrestrial bromeliads have long been cultivated out-of-doors, without

any special protection at any time. These include a variety of species of *Puya*, about a dozen kinds of *Pitcairnia*, and the "most satisfactory" *Dyckias*, the quote being from William Hertrich, the Curator Emeritus of that noted institution. Though snow does not fall in this area, which lies not far from the base of the mountains surrounding metropolitan Los Angeles, it does become very chilly on occasion, hence these plants would seem to be particularly hardy.

Puya is a genus which the bromeliad enthusiast who wishes to try plants outside in cool areas, with or without protection, would do well to investigate, since many of its component species occur naturally in regions where low temperatures are common. Most of the species cultivated in California are from Chile, and when in bloom they are ranked among the showiest of all bromeliaceous plants.

The genus *Fascicularia* is very popular in England, especially near the warmer south coast, where the

(Continued on Page 193)

ALL-BEGONIA NURSERY IN TEXAS

By MARY C. PUCKETT
President, TexaStar Branch, A.B.S.



U. U. Stanford in his greenhouse.

In appreciation for his efforts in establishing the only all-begonia nursery in this metropolis of over a million people, the TexaStar Branch feels that national recognition is due Mr. U. U. Stanford of Alameda, Texas, a suburb of Houston.

After his retirement as a carpenter and woodworker at Beaumont, Texas, Mr. Stanford started to grow and propagate begonias in a small addition to his house, and to build redwood containers for them commercially.

In four years his "addition" has grown to include a lath-house and a fiberglass-covered greenhouse, which encloses one side and the front of his small home.

In the past two years, his interest has turned to hybridizing, and he has produced several interesting and beautiful plants. One of these he has named "Burgundy Queen." This begonia has been registered with the American Begonia Society, card No. 190.

Mr. Stanford builds his own cases for seed-propagation and leaf-propa-

gation, and manufactures redwood containers to each individual's specifications, as the usual wooden tubs are too deep for satisfactory use for begonias.

It is a real comfort to know that if a begonia is lost through neglect or over-watering or any of the myriad excuses begonia owners use, a trip to Mr. Stanford's is all it takes to replace the dead plant, as one never leaves his Begonia Nursery with just one plant.

None of the members of the TexaStar Branch grows begonias of the size and quality of his plants. We would be lost at show times without these enormous specimens. We are grateful to him, not only for his generosity at these times, but for the fact that he remains a constant and faithful source for good healthy plants and for the containers that we need.

THREE THOUSAND GINGERS

In the article "Some Interesting Gingers" by Alex D. Hawkes, which appeared in the June issue of *The Begonian*, the opening sentence should read: "The Ginger Family is a rather large assemblage of more than *three thousand* known species . . ." Three hundred, as indicated in the article, was an error.

NOMENCLATURE CORRECTION

Registered begonia No. 189 is "Kingsbury." The name was incorrectly spelled in the list published in the June issue (page 118) of *The Begonian*.

PATRONIZE BEGONIAN
ADVERTISERS

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1—*B. boweri nigramarga*

New species from Mexico. Small, dainty, rhizomatous, with white hairs bordering edges of leaves. Leaves have black markings similar to *B. boweri*. Seed tested and seedlings all like true plant. Creeps on top of soil in a shallow pot; good basket or terrarium plant. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. kenworthyi*

Mexico. Leaves textured, shaped, and veined like ivy, but more gray or powder-blue than green. Flowers are pink. Plant requires less water than most begonias and usually rests in winter. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3—*B. rotundifolia*

Haiti. Also called 'Pennywort begonia'. Small, round leaves, yellowish-green. Flowers pink. Good plant for the window sill gardener, or it may be grown in a terrarium or used outdoors in rock work where climate permits. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. 'Fleecealba'*

A hybrid (*B. sunderbruchi* x *B. leptotricha*). An upright grower with white-felted thick green leaves, many white flowers. Seeds are from the true plant and not from *B. 'Fleecealba'* seedlings. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. 'Chocolate Soldier'*

Many fresh seeds and a description as follows. Plant medium growth, dark, plush-green leaves; flowers apple blossoms with crepy textures. Beautiful. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6—*B. epipsila*

Brazil. Thick, shining, leathery-green leaves, coated with red-brown wool underneath. Grows low; makes a good basket begonia. Snowy white flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. masoniana*

We have received seeds of *B. masoniana* from a commercial greenhouse in Israel. This statement, in itself, is not exciting; however, the grower states that she has produced a plant of *B. masoniana* with variegated leaves. This seems a little like

gilding the lily, but some strange things can happen with plants from seed. We thought perhaps someone else would like to try seed and — who knows — just maybe come up with a variegated plant. Many seeds available at \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 8—*B. 'Charm'*

Chance seedling of *B. 'Calla lily'* x *B. 'Calla lily'*. A cross from Florence Huss, of Iowa. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. 'Rossi'*

'Lucerna' seedling. Tall, well branched. Broad, light green leaves tinged gold on the edges, dotted with silver. Dainty pink flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10—*B. boliviensis*

Distinguished tuberhybrida ancestor with clusters of five-petaled orange-scarlet flowers with golden stamens. Can be grown in a border outdoors in summer. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11—*B. schmidtiana*

Brazil. Small, hairy, green leaves, redlined at the indented veins, red below. Blooms continuously. Flowers pale pink. Good basket plant. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 12—*B. 'Flamingo'*

Semperflorens. Bi-colored white with pink edges. Good in pots and beds. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 13—*B. 'Organdy'*

F1 hybrids. Excellent mixture in shades of red, pink, and white. Well adapted for outdoor bedding, even in full sun. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 14—*B. 'Di-Anna'*

(*B. dichroa* x *B. 'Annie Laurie'*) Long, narrow leaves, thickly pleated and ruffled, silver-spotted. Salmon-pink flowers. Cane type. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 15—*B. fruticosa*

Thick, dark green leaves. Small white flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 16—*B. Mixed*

All colors, sizes, and types. 25 cents per pkt.

FERNS

Pteris argyraea

'Silver fern'. Beautiful, large, herbaceous fronds to three feet high. The pinnae deeply lobed, in pairs along the stalks, the lower ones forked, and large terminal leaflet, all attractively light to bluish-green and a center band of silvery-white. 25 cents per pkt.

Pteris crotica mayll

An elegant variety with the same variegated character as *albo-lineata*, the white band in each leaflet forming a pleasing contrast with the bright green edge. Dwarf plant. 35 cents per pkt.

Cyrtomium falcatum

Also called 'Holly fern'. Handsome variety with crested fronds. 35 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Alocasia macrorhiza

Broadly arrow-shaped, fleshy leaves, waxy-green, with prominent ribs and wavy margins. Blooms lemon-scented. 25 cents per pkt.

Ficus macrophylla

Broadly oblong leaves, nearly ten inches long. Brownish underneath, bark gray, fruit stalked, purplish but white-spotted. Nice greenhouse plant when small. 25 cents per pkt.

Brassia actinophylla

Evergreen plant with palmately compound leaves, short-stalked, bold segments are broad elliptic and leathery. Durable house or greenhouse plant. 25 cents per pkt.

Mrs. Florence Gee

Seed Fund Administrator

234 Birch Street

Roseville, California, 95678

COMING NEXT MONTH

In *The Begonian* for October we will bring you a report of this year's big event — the Begonia and Shade Plant Show held during the thirty-first annual convention.

Winners of trophies and other awards will be announced, and photographs of some of the outstanding displays will be included.

Because show time will be after the usual deadline for magazine material, it will be necessary to postpone publication a few days to permit information to be gathered and reported to the editor. We believe you would rather wait a few days for this issue instead of waiting a month for show news.

If your *Begonian* is late — don't assume you have been forgotten. It will be worth waiting for.

Tru Peterson, *Editor*

NOTE PAPER AND ENVELOPES

Six different, original, hand-painted
Begonia designs

12 for \$1.50 plus 10 cents postage
(add 4% sales tax in California)

DOROTHY S. BEHRENS

442 Orpheus Ave., Encinitas, Calif.

Gloxinias—African Violets—Begonias
Varieties which thrive under
fluorescent light

1963 Plant List free on request

Michael J. Kartuz

92 Chestnut Street
Wilmington, Massachusetts

Buxton Check List of Begonias

The Buxton Check List of Begonias is a "must" for hybridizers to check on previously registered names, and is a valuable reference book for identification and origin.

Send check or money order for \$6.00 (in California add 24 cents sales tax) to:

MRS. LOLA FAHEY, *Librarian*

4943 FIESTA AVE., TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA

Quibbling Along With

Mr. D. Salmon, Box 266 P.O. Millicent, South Australia, writes as follows: Do you know of any persons using sphagnum moss as a medium for begonias? If so, could you give them my address, as I would like to correspond with any persons using it.

I have a large number of my plants growing extra well in it and all are ahead of the ones in soil. Here are a few of them: paulensis, cathayana, macdougalli, carolineaeifolia, luxurians, Silver Star, Arthur Mallet, Gloire de Lorraine, goegoensis, Abel Carriere, and a lot of Rexes.

We do not have such a large number of begonias available to us here in Australia, as the plants are usually imported by nurseries and they bring in only what will resell quickly. I have been getting some seed from Mrs. Gee and I am building up my collection this way. Though slow, it is very satisfying to be able to raise plants from seed. Paulensis was done this way, and now these plants are eighteen months old and have leaves 17 inches by 14 inches.

Dear Mr. Salmon: Thank you very much for your letter. It is wonderful to learn of such wonderful results so far away. I have given your address so that anyone reading this who is using sphagnum moss may feel free to address you directly. I hope you are deluged with mail. May we ask that you tell us about your results and write an article giving complete details on your methods for a future *Begonian*?

From G. F. of Miami, Florida: I have a question for the second time (I am ashamed to admit). How do I propagate begonias from leaf and stem cuttings?

Dear G. F.: Here is the best I can do on so complex a question:

There are many mediums in which to put down leaf and stem cuttings, and many methods. I will list the points as I am able to assemble them and leave the choice to you.

1. *Container*—Fruit crate, planting flat, large pot, plastic shoe box, aquarium, or a specially made container to fit your particular needs. It should be 3 inches to 3½ inches deep.

2. *Propagating Medium*—This can be vermiculite, sponge rock, leaf mold, peat moss, clean sand, fine and medium redwood bark, sphagnum moss, or a mixture of any two or several. Remember to keep it light and yet coarse enough to allow air to reach the rooting leaf or stem.

3. *Cover*—Panels of glass or pieces of plastic sheet can be used to cover flat containers. Some folks have used light weight muslin to advantage. Covers can be removed gradually by sliding them to one side, one-half to one inch per day, to harden off new growth preparatory to potting. If too much moisture collects, the glass should be wiped off once daily or raised slightly. This is something that must be determined by the individual person, depending on what is being used—a wooden flat with space between boards will drain well, but a plastic container has no way to drain and may collect too much moisture.

4. *Heat*—Bottom heat helps to speed the rooting process and to maintain an even temperature. However, it is not necessary. Heating coils are used by those preparing permanent propagating beds, and of course, this is the best and easiest method, but expenses do mount. Light

bulbs directly under the box will do the trick; 15 watt or even 10 watt is ample. If propagating is being done in a small way, the box can be on top of a water heater or near a furnace.

5. *Leaf and Stem Cuttings*—These should be healthy, vigorous, and true to the plant. Stem cuttings should be made with a sharp knife directly under a node. From two to four nodes should be used for each cutting. They should be planted $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches under the surface, having at least one or perhaps two nodes under the surface, depending on the distance between nodes. Cuttings should be spaced about three inches apart to allow room for a good root development.

The best time to take cuttings is when the plant is throwing new growth. Fibrous cuttings should be made from the tip. However, *semperflorens* cuttings should be shoot cuttings, as tip cuttings will not branch from the base.

For a leaf cutting, the whole leaf with one to two inches of stem may be used. One-half of the stem should be under the surface and half above. It should be inserted on a slant rather than upright—this is so that water will drain off.

Rhizomatus begonias, especially *Rexes*, may be cut into triangular wedges or pie-shaped pieces, just so long as a portion of the main vein is in each wedge. Each segment should be two to three inches long.

Many growers dust the ends of their cuttings lightly with root hormones or fine charcoal to seal the cut edges. This is to keep the cuttings from "bleeding" and to discourage rotting.

The wedges should be inserted into the planting medium with the pointed end down, at an angle, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to 1 inch under the surface, and 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart. Where a leaf is quite large, the outer edge should be cut away before wedges are

made, so energy needed for making roots will not be drained away. Another method is to cut through the main veins (just slits) on the back of the leaf and then lay it back side down on the planting medium, anchoring it with hairpins, bits of wire, a little sand, or small pebbles. A small plantlet will grow at each slit. Still another method for *Rexes* is to cut out the center of the leaf (this may be planted as a stem planting) and then to shape the remainder loosely into a cone with cut edges even and to insert the leaf into the medium about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch under the surface. Fill in the center slightly to support edges. In the case of stem cuttings, all flowers, buds, and lower leaves should be removed so that energy may be directed to new roots. Sometimes, even when leaves or stems have rotted away, you may still have a plant, for roots may have formed under the surface.

6. *Moisture*—The propagating medium should be thoroughly moistened before stems or leaves are positioned. It should be moist but not soggy, and should be kept moist and never allowed to dry out. As long as the container is covered or mostly covered, water usually does not need to be added—except where there is little humidity.

When signs of growth appear above the surface, the cover should be removed gradually. If water is needed at any time after positioning, it is best to water gently around the edges of the flat and let the water seep through. After plantlets have started to leaf out, they may be sprayed gently and lightly. If possible, watering should be done in the morning hours.

7. *Fertilizing*—No fertilizer is necessary until new growth is well along and then a light feeding is advisable.

8. *Time*—With bottom heat you may expect stem cuttings to root within ten days; without bottom heat it will take longer. Leaf cuttings

usually take longer, about five to six weeks. Some plants take longer than others, so patience is a requirement.

9. *Light*—Cuttings should never be in direct sunlight. Under a bench or in a shady corner is excellent for starting. As soon as growth appears, cuttings should be given more light to avoid leggy plants. Many growers use fluorescent lights and recently excellent results have been obtained under Gro-Lux lights.

10. *Additional Methods* — Some folks have good luck placing stem cuttings in water, being certain that the upper stems and remaining leaves do not come into contact with the water. In a glass the newly developing roots can be seen and watched, and when the cuttings are nicely rooted, they can be potted. The danger here lies in damaging the tender roots.

Another method for stem cuttings is to take a piece of plastic sheet about two to three feet long and six to eight inches wide. Lay it out flat and cover the lower three inches with moistened sphagnum moss. Lay cuttings upright in a line along the plastic sheet, about one inch apart and with 1½ inches of the stem on top of the moss. Start three inches from the side of the plastic sheet and finish about three inches from the other end. Turn up the bottom 1½ inches of plastic and sphagnum to cover the 1½ inches of stem cuttings and then roll carefully from left to right. Tie the roll lightly with string.

Place all in a plastic bag. Close the plastic bag at the top so that all humidity will remain inside the bag. Hang the bag in your greenhouse or enclosed back porch, away from too much light. Wait about ten days. Then you may “peek.” You will want stems well rooted before potting. The stems that are well rooted may be removed for potting and the others rerolled for a few days.

One grower, quite by accident, found a real simple way to grow

Rexes. She had a good many Rex leaves ready to prepare when she was called away. She had her “prop” box ready with the moistened medium but no time to finish the job; therefore, she laid each leaf down carefully on the medium and covered them all with a sheet of plastic, leaving the edges just inside the edges of the flat, so the moisture collected during the night would run around the inside edges of the flat. Then she placed the flat back in a corner under the bench, and promptly forgot it.

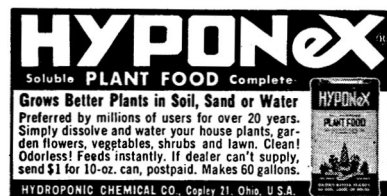
A few weeks later she suddenly remembered the leaves. Thinking that they had rotted or dried up, she went to the corner to see—and what she saw was a box full of young Rex plantlets almost ready for potting. She still employs this method.

Suggestions—Use the materials you have on hand. Keep everything clean and sanitary. If your first choice doesn't bring the results you feel you should have, keep experimenting with different containers and materials, and before long you'll find the one best suited to you and your conditions. You may even discover a better and simpler way—if you do, pass the word along—it will be received gratefully.

Your questions about begonias will be answered if you will write to:

BEE OLSON,
13715 Cordary Avenue,
Hawthorne, California

**WELCOME TO THE
BEGONIA AND
SHADE PLANT SHOW**



BOOK REVIEW

Southern California Gardens, An Illustrated History, by Victoria Padilla; 168 illustrations, 16 in full color; 2 maps; The University of California Press, in co-operation with the Southern California Horticultural Institute; 1961; Price, cloth—\$10.00.

This magnificently illustrated book covers every phase of ornamental horticulture in Southern California. The work gives an authentic, engaging account of the land and its flora, both native and naturalized, and of the men and women who devoted themselves to its cultivation. Beginning with the Spanish-Mexican period, *Southern California Gardens* tells the story of growth and growing in the region for more than six generations. The period covered extends from 1769, when the Franciscan fathers began planting their first mission garden at San Diego de Alcalá, until the present day.

Lives of the pioneer horticulturists form several of the most absorbing chapters in the book. These personalities include growers, nurserymen, landscapists, seedsmen, and florists—both professional and amateur—and include such outstanding figures as Ozro W. Childs, Joseph Sexton, Hugh Evans, Manfred Mayberg (to whom the book is dedicated), and a number of women of importance in gardening, hybridization, and special fields.

Numerous other topics are dealt with, among them: trees and palms, the culture of roses, the growing of cacti and other succulents, and the establishment of the great private estates, public gardens, and parks. The development of the flower seed industry and the cut-flower business will lend additional interest for those concerned with the commercial side of floriculture. A final section deals with major changes in garden design.

Reading notes and appendixes give valuable information on the econom-

ics of horticulture of Southern California and on the temperature and rainfall of the region. An abundance of pictures in color and black and white makes this not only an exceptionally informative and entertaining history, but also a volume of singular beauty.

The author, Victoria Padilla, is a native Californian and a member of the English faculty of Los Angeles City College. By avocation she is a gardener and a lecturer on botany. She is co-founder and secretary of the International Bromeliad Society and edits the Society's bi-monthly *Bulletin*; she is also active in the Southern California Horticultural Institute, the Hollywood Garden Club, and other related societies.

—From *Lasca Leaves*, Vol. XI, No. 1.

Tropical Plants and Their Cultivation, by L. Bruggeman; 292 color paintings by Ojong Soerjadi; introduction and additional notes by W. M. Campbell; 228 pages; 1962; The Viking Press, New York. — \$12.00.

This splendid book was originally published in Dutch, as *Tuinboek voor de tropen*, by De Spieghel in Amsterdam. Then the excellent quality of the numerous paintings by the Indonesian Soerjadi attracted widespread and appreciative comment wherever tropical plants were grown.

Now we have it in English, with an introduction and accessory notes by the ex-Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, Mr. Campbell. And it is a most valuable addition to every plantsman's library! The descriptions are, almost of necessity, rather brief, and the cultural notes apply primarily to greenhouses. But the wide array of plants of the tropics which are illustrated, usually in very beautifully-delineated (and accurate) paintings, reproduced in perfect colors, make the volume a fascinating item for casual perusal and study. Many of the plants shown

ere are little known outside of South Florida in this country, hence it is satisfying to find old friends exhibited in their full glory!

The Begonias are, as group, not taken up in great detail, but the two paintings—of *B. semperflorens* and *B. glabra*—are most attractive. Naturally, many other plants favored by readers of *The Begonian* are also taken up in detail.

—ALEX D. HAWKES
The Tropical Gardener

ANGEL WINGS . . .

(Continued from Page 181)

that I could root a leaf of a rex begonia in water, but, at this point, I have rooted three, two already have formed healthy small plants, and the third is just beginning to form a plantlet.

My success with the fluorescent lights and the fact that I have had to move some of the plants to locations in the house has spurred me on to experiment with methods of providing humidity for the larger plants. The recommended procedure is to set the plants on pebble trays. I have also taken them to the kitchen sink at least once a week and sprinkled the leaves. The important thing for me seems to be to get these plants well established under the lights in the cellar, then transfer them to the house because, after all, they are house plants, even though they are not the easiest to raise, and the rexes, especially, are beautifully decorative and should be seen and admired.

I have come a long way in six years from my first angel wing, which, incidentally, I still have. I have given away innumerable cuttings from it, periodically cutting it back, and in a few months it is covered with blooms again.

Growing these begonias is a rewarding and enjoyable hobby, even with not enough time to do all I

want to do, and it is not an expensive one. Altogether, the total cost for installation and the lights has been around \$60. Since the tubes are only 40 watts, the cost is nominal, even when you consider they are on about sixteen hours a day.

The scientific aspects of growing I don't know much about—I am strictly an amateur in this field. But for the amateur, the fluorescent lights seem to be an inexpensive way to pursue a fascinating hobby, and for me it has been like being on the sidelines watching a miracle happen.

—Republished by courtesy of
The Providence Journal

BROMELIADS . . .

(Continued From Page 185)

spectacular *F. pitcairniifolia* is often grown as a bedding plant. It is a rarity in this country, though it would certainly prove a marvelous addition to many gardens in such areas as the seaside parts of Southern California, etc.

I would suspect that some of the species of *Bromelia*, *Hechtia*, and *Ananas* could be more widely utilized in cold regions, as well, but as yet little experimentation in this respect seems to have been done.

S P O O N I T
FLOWER FOOD
Send Post Card for Information and Sample

PLANTSMITH
BOX 818 PALO ALTO 2, CALIF.

ROOT-WETTER 

Irrigate your trees and shrubs. Use Root-Wetter for needed sub-surface deep-root watering instead of ineffective and wasteful surface wetting. Simple, strong, easy to use. Fully guaranteed. By mail prepaid \$3.95 E. of Miss., \$4.28 W. of Miss.

ROOT-WETTER CO., DEPT. B
P.O. Box 61, Maumee, Ohio

SEEDLINGS . . .

(Continued from Page 183)

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

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

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

It is time to plant into new medium when the seedlings have established a good root system, usually as their leaves touch and they fill the flat. At this stage there is little danger of losing any plants.

Prepare leafmold to which a little fertilizer has been added. It can be coarser this time. Place the well-mixed and moistened medium in a standard flat about two inches deep and level it off. Prepare to place twenty-five plants to the flat, making the planting holes large enough to receive the seedlings without crowding the roots. You will need to prepare more than one flat. Some of the seedlings will be larger than others and you can plant them according to size.

With a dull paring knife or similar tool, start lifting plants from the corner; dig beneath the roots and lift

the seedlings gently, keeping as much earth as possible around the roots. Set the seedlings into the medium and press the soil around the roots. Soak each planted flat until moisture appears on the surface. The plants will not need further watering until they show new growth.

Use your own judgment whether or not to keep them covered, but the smaller seedlings should be protected until their roots start growing in the new medium. During this stage, top watering can be used.

In the case of Rex begonias, transplant the young seedlings closer together, about forty-two to the flat, and keep them protected until they have filled the flat completely before attempting to pot them.

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

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

—From *The Begonian*, January, 1955.

WELCOME TO THE CONVENTION

Fresh New Crop
REX HYBRID BEGONIA SEED
\$1.00 per packet

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

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

SEED GROWING . . .

(Continued from Page 182)

about 3/4-inch thick. Well screened sphagnum is a good medium in which to grow seeds in bottles. Moisten the soil mixture before placing it in the bottle, squeezing the excess water from the sphagnum.

To sow the seed, mix it with a little sterile sand and use a long knife. Do not sow too thickly. Do not cover the seed but spray lightly to settle them. After sowing, replace the lid of the bottle.

Remove the bottle to a dark, warm place, sixty-five to seventy degrees. There will be no need to water at any time.

Where sphagnum moss is used, in transplanting so as not to damage seedlings, remove the seedlings from the seed bed by lifting a fair-sized piece with a knife. Then break this piece apart carefully.

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

In the moist-brick method, use one or two porous building bricks. Enclose them with a box-like affair to hold soil. Have the sides about 1 1/2 inches high, with no bottom or top. The bricks act to keep the soil moist. Have the bricks and soil moist to start with. Cover the box-like structure with a sheet of glass. Other cultural care is the same as for the other methods.

—From *The Begonian*, January, 1955.

WANTED

Begonia versicolor
Begonia Rajah
Will pay well

BILL BLADES

382 Central Park West
New York 25, N. Y.

CALENDAR

September 5 — Westchester Branch: Fourth birthday dinner. Meat and dessert will be furnished. Members and guests are asked to bring a hot dish or salad and their own table service. Rudy Zieshenne will be guest speaker.

September 7-8 — American Begonia Society convention and flower show. Inglewood Armory.

September 13 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: "How to Grow Beautiful Begonias and Fuchsias," a film in gorgeous color, will be shown by a representative of the California Spray-Chemical Corporation.

September 14-15 — Rhode Island Branch; Annual Begonia and other Tropical Plants Show, at the University of Rhode Island.

September 21 — Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch: Meet 5 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Scrymgeour, 56 Springs Road, Bedford, Massachusetts. Contest for cups. Speaker will be Dr. Harriet Creighton. Buffet supper.

September 21 — Elsa Fort Branch: Begonia party at Lawnside, New Jersey.

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.

Palos Verdes

Begonia
Farm

4111 - 242nd St., Waleria, Calif.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS
AND SHADE PLANTS

FUCHSIAS — CAMELLIAS — FERNS

OPEN DAILY

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop

1 1/2 Miles E. of Redondo Beach
Hi-Way 101

Report of National Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was held Sunday, July 28, at San Diego, California. The San Diego, Alfred D. Robinson, San Miguel, and Eva Kenworthy Gray Branches were hosts.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by President Carl E. Naumann. He expressed the Board's appreciation for the lunch provided by the host Branches and the very fine plant table.

Mrs. Clayton Lee, of San Diego, was introduced as chairman of the day's arrangements and she welcomed the members of the National Board and the many visitors.

Nineteen officers, chairmen, and representatives responded to roll call.

The Treasurer, Earle E. Budd, made the following report: balance \$834.44, receipts \$1221.88, disbursements \$1463.47, balance \$592.85.

The following report was given by Daisy Austin, Membership Secretary: new members 40, renewals 113, monies received \$399.24, expenses \$31.80, *Begonians* mailed 2353. Mrs. Austin requested that "ZIP" numbers be sent to her in order that they may be added to the present addresses.

Mrs. Bee Olson, Research Director, requested that Branches give her list of species and other plants to be entered in the research display at the show, so that she can have proper cards ready. She also read excerpts from a letter from Australia asking for a report from anyone having had experience growing begonians in sphagnum moss.

The Advertising Manager, Ruby Budd, reported as follows: \$85.35, accounts receivable \$76.00.

Bert Slatter, Flower Show Chairman, displayed the two-page article on begonias in the Home Magazine section of the *Los Angeles Times*, the first of two such spreads in this paper.

A letter of thanks from Mr. Warwick of the Seattle Branch was read. He expressed approval of a proposed roster of members.

Mrs. Alice Clark was presented to the group by Mrs. Edna Korts. Mrs. Peter Lee presented Miss Constance Bower. It was a pleasure to meet these well-known personalities of the begonia world.

It was moved by Mrs. Korts, seconded by Mrs. Lee, that the matter of a dues increase be placed on a ballot for membership vote. The motion carried.

The American Begonia Society has been asked to make a display and conduct a round table discussion on November 10

for the Southern California Horticultural Society.

Mrs. Vera Naumann expressed her appreciation for the many kindnesses shown to her during Mr. Naumann's term of office as President.

The following Branches reported: Foot-hill, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Chapter, North Long Beach, Orange County, Riverside, San Gabriel Valley, Alfred D. Robinson, San Diego, San Miguel, and Eva Kenworthy Gray.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be the annual convention, September 7. President Naumann asked all members of the Board who will make annual reports to have written copies ready.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m. and the host Branches served cookies, coffee, and punch.

MARGARET B. TAYLOR,
Secretary.

IN MEMORIAM

Cora Leone Lemmon, of Ventura,, Calif., passed away July 15, 1963.

Cora was an active member of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the A.B.S. in Ventura, serving as secretary for the past four years. She was always lending a helpful hand where necessary, and at the fairs helped in the begonia booths as well as in her own individual booths. Her plants were outstanding.

Her husband, Ted Lemmon, was a national director and Cora always attended national meetings with him. Cora will be missed by all her friends.

* * *

Mrs. M. R. Waddell, of Kansas City, Missouri, and member of the Missouri Branch of the A.B.S., passed away the latter part of May, 1963.

* * *

A. Clarke Taylor, of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away in June, 1963. He was a member of the Missouri ranch of the A.B.S. and the husband of the present Branch president.

"THE BEGONIAN"

Advertising rates

	Once	Monthly
Full Page	\$30.00	\$25.00
Half Page	18.50	15.00
Quarter Page	10.00	8.50
Per Inch	3.00	2.50

Shall We Raise the Dues?

The National Board meeting of July was held in San Diego. At this meeting the question of dues was discussed. The motion was passed, almost unanimously, to raise the dues to four dollars a year.

The necessity for this is quite apparent when one stops to analyze the situation. Two months ago the cost of printing *The Begonian* was \$2.85 a membership. Since then, it has been increased about 15 per cent. This covers only the printing; now add the cost of an editor, cost of plates for pictures, membership secretary's salary, and mailing cost, which has gone up also.

In addition to the above, the other functions of the society cost money — treasurer's salary, president's allowance, cost of the library, and the many incidentals required to run an organization.

If it wasn't for the fine work of our flower show chairman, seed fund administrator, advertising manager, and the many other functions making a little profit, the society would be deeply in the red.

UNUSUAL HOUSE AND CONSERVATORY PLANTS

*Extensive Begonia
Collection*

Illustrated catalog 25¢.

MERRY GARDENS CAMDEN, MAINE

BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS

NEW catalogue with color, 25¢

LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES

(Est. 1892)

Danielson, Connecticut

For this increase in dues, we intend to give you more for your money — a better magazine, more pictures, possibly color, and more articles on the things you want to know.

In conclusion, I want to state that I, for one, feel that the benefits I receive from the American Begonia Society are well worth the increase in dues from \$2.50 to \$4.00 a year.

Carl E. Naumann
President

BALLOT

FOR PROPOSED INCREASE IN DUES

Question: Shall the annual dues for membership in the American Begonia Society be increased to \$4.00?

Yes.

No.

Voting instructions — For members:

Make a cross in the space provided to indicate your vote.

Cut ballot out of the magazine and mail to:

Mrs. Margaret B. Taylor,
111 Evelyn Drive,
Anaheim, California.

To be counted, ballots must be received by the Secretary not later than October 15, 1963.

Branch Directory

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

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

BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Miss Cynthia Webber, Secy.
5 Hillside Ave., Bedford, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Monday, 10 a.m., Member's Homes
Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy.
3625 N. Fitzhugh St., Dallas, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California
Miss Dorothy F. Osburn, Secy.
5015 Cochrane Ave., Oakland 18, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

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

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Community Bldg.
2039 Third St., La Verne
Miss Christine E. Kindell, Secy.
338 W. 11th St., Claremont, 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. Ethel Arbuckle, Secy.
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:30 p.m. (except Dec. & Jan.)
Seacoast Hall, 3rd and E St., Encinitas, Calif.
Mrs. Alice E. Roberts, Secy.
523 Hermes Ave., Encinitas, 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, Corr. Secy.
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Meetings temporarily suspended.
Mrs. Georgina Barton, Secy.
2821 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12601 Broken Bough, Memorial Station
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

1st Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., American Legion Hall
3208 West 85th St., Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Elsy M. Willick, Secy.
13214 Merkel Ave., Paramount, Calif.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York
Mrs. Phyllis Cherot, Secy.
115-44 194th St.,
St. Albans 12, N. Y.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Linden Hall
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Vera Ohlson, Secy.
1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Capitol Room
1701 Main St., Baton Rouge
Mrs. Elaine Wilkerson, Secy.
5764 Robertson Ave., Baton Rouge 5, 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.
Miss Nina Austin, Secy.
1104 Askew St., Kansas City 27, Mo.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach
Mrs. Rebecca Anthony, Secy.
153 Ellis St., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.
604 S. 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. Anne W. Stiles, Secy.
R.D. No. 2, Box 43B, E. Delaware Trail,
Medford, N. J.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month
Lincoln School Recreation Center
Ernest and Vail Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Margaret Buell, Secy.
1441 - 21st St., 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. Lillian Maddox, Secy.
 7172 Mt. Vernon St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
 Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy.
 1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego 3, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
 Elmer A. Thomas, Secy.
 913 Sonoma Way, Sacramento 22, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall
 2717 University Ave., San Diego
 Leah Jones, Secy.
 3734 - 40th St., San Diego 5, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
 Garden Center, Golden Gate Park
 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way
 Lillian A. Beach, Secy.
 3006 Castro St., San Francisco 12, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.
 Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
 Mrs. Lillian Hale, Secy.
 113 N. Ardmore Drive, San Gabriel, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
 Mrs. Lucille Williams, Secy.
 1261 Concord St., El Cajon, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
 2559 Puesta Del Sol
 Elnora Schmidt, Secy.
 3346 Calle Cita, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
 Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at
 SUNset 2-2234
 Miss Bernice Moore, Secy.
 2842 West 59th St., Seattle 7, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
 Mrs. Clermont Morris, Secy.
 539 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

SMOKY VALLEY RANCH

3rd Thursday of each Month
 Mrs. Lyle L. Melvin, Secy.
 833 E. Jewell Avenue, Salina, Kansas

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
 Burbank School
 319 B. St., Hayward, Calif.
 Mrs. Evangeline Muller, Corr. Secy.
 36937 Cherry 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.
 Members' Homes
 Mrs. F. E. Mahler, Secy.
 1815 Sixth Ave., Fort Worth, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

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

TEXASTAR BRANCH

1st Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
 1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
 Mrs. J. L. Linkenhogger, Secy.
 45 Caroline Trail, Houston 24, Texas

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club
 8020 Alverston St., Los Angeles, Calif.
 Mrs. Walter W. Pease, Jr., Secy.
 8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members
 Mrs. A. S. Lash, Secy.
 1228 Oklahoma Drive, Pittsburgh 16, 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. Griscom Bettie, Jr., Secy.
 331 Station Road, Wynnwood, Pa.



**American Begonia Society
 INSIGNIA PIN**

for Begonia Society Members

PRICE \$3.00

SEND YOUR ORDER TO:

CARL E. NAUMANN

652 W. Bennett Avenue
 Glendora, Calif.

BEGONIANS

Nicely Bound Volumes of
 1945 to 1959

\$3.50 for each year's volume

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

MAIL ORDER TO

MRS. EDNA L. KORTS

3626 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

1510 Kimberly Ave.,
Anaheim, Calif.
Return Requested

BEGONIAS — FUCHSIAS — FERNS
and other varieties of shade plants
(NO SHIPPING)

PATIO PLANTS

4036 Moore Street
(South of Washington Blvd.)
Venice, Los Angeles 66, Calif.

YOU NEED . . .

Belgium Bulbs of first quality
Write today to

VGN VAN HULLE-COPPENS & CO.
Nursery SYLVA
WAARSCHOOT, BELGIUM

REX BEGONIAS & OTHERS

Bronze King, Calico, Cardoza Gardens,
Carmelita, Curly Star Dust, Dainty
weed, Fairy, Gorgeous George, H. Teu-
pel, Merry Xmas, Mt. Haze, Ralnee,
Red Berry, Rosea Perfection, Cleopatra,
Joe Hayden, Iron Cross, Tingley Mullett.

Strong 3-inch plants, any 4 for \$4.00

J. W. SHANNON

1611 W. Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta 27, Ga.

FROM THE SEA — for the soil

Terra Tonic ^(TM)

Liquified Fish and Seaweed
No Inorganic Salts Added.
Will Not Burn Foliage

Trial Size, 8-oz.—\$1.00 ppd. U.S.A.

THE GARDEN MART

5108 Old Richmond Road Bellaire, Texas

GRO-LUX LAMPS — all sizes

BLACK-LIGHT

DISCARDED TUBES FOR PATIOS AND TUBE-HOUSES

Fixtures and Lamps — All Sizes
For Residence or Business

Fluorescent Tube Service

10824 S. Broadway

Los Angeles 61, Calif.

Phone PLYmouth 6-1100