

THE

DECEMBER, 1965
VOLUME 32 • NUMBER 12

BEGONIAN



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General offices,
dues, address changes, or magazines:

Daisy Austin, Membership Secretary,
1510 Kimberly Avenue,
Anaheim, Calif. 92802.

Subscription \$2.50 per year. Foreign, including
Canada, \$3.00. U.S. air mail rate \$4.50.

Entered as Second-class Matter at the Post
Office at Anaheim, California, under the act of
March 3, 1879.

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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 no-
menclature of begonias; to gather and publish in-
formation 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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Views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of the Editor, the Society, or
its officers.

THREE BEGONIAS REGISTERED

By ALVA GRAHAM

No. 221 — B. 'Needham.'

This is a star rhizomatous begonia developed by Percy I. Merry in 1953 by crossing *B. kenworthyi* with one of his earlier cultivars, B. 'Beatrice Haddrell'. It has leaves of dark green irregularly mottled with light green, and light green depressed veins. The underneath is dark red and the edges are serrate and hairy. The pink flowers follow the *B. kenworthyi* pattern and are in panicles that stand two to three feet above the foliage. This was first shown at the Harvest Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and has taken its place with B. 'Beatrice Haddrell' as a popular entrant in shows ever since.

No. 222 — B. 'Bantam Gem.'

A real miniature Rex begonia is this cultivar originated by C. Floyd Jensen of Richmond, California. It is a cross between a Rex and a hanging tuberous begonia, but it grows upright and branches at each leaf, making a full, bushy plant. It has been growing since 1962 but has not bloomed yet. However, it roots easily from any place along the stem. The leaves are small, 1" x 1½", of green covered with silver speckles and showing red veins, with the underside light red. It reaches six to eight inches in height. Mr. Jensen plans to distribute his new miniature in the East and South where it should succeed as a windowsill plant. At the 1964 A.B.S. convention it was shown by Chester Nave.

No. 223 — B. 'Thirkettle'.

From England comes this new semperflorens begonia which A. J. Chaney says is a sport of the popular B. 'Pink Comet'. It has white flowers that are an inch wide and grow in small clusters from the leaf axils. The petioles are short and the blooms all face outward to give the much-branched bushy plant the look of a white bouquet. It is a hardy grower



B. 'Needham' — Photo by P. I. Merry

and blooms the year around. Mr. Chaney will propagate and distribute his plant beginning in the spring of 1966.

PRESIDENT'S GREETING

As the holiday season approaches, my husband Al and I wish to extend a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to every member of the American Begonia Society.

And let us hope for peace on earth, good will toward men, among our members and all the peoples of the world. With the thought of peace and love in our hearts, we shall benefit, and our begonias will show this in the abundant color and vigor they give us each day.

MURIEL PERZ
Your President

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Earl-ee-bee' — exhibited at American Horticultural Congress, 1964. (See story page 240).

—Photo by HERTHA A. BENJAMIN

RECENT OUTSTANDING CULTIVARS

By DOROTHY S. BEHREND

In the past two or three years, too few persons on the West Coast have been hybridizing begonias. But those who have been hybridizing have produced outstanding types, recognizable anywhere.

You will all want some of these cultivars. *Do not go to the hybridizers for plants.* Plants will be distributed in the usual way when there are enough.

Ruby Budd of the Westchester district of Los Angeles has a cultivar that has proved to be worthwhile from the hardy and beautiful angle. She crossed *B. paulensis* with *B. 'Rola-Y'* and obtained an upright, hairy begonia that is distinctive in every way. *B. paulensis* is a species with waffle-like leaves; it has a peltate, light to dark green leaf, sparsely red-haired. *B. 'Rola-Y'* is a cultivar that was named after Roy and Laura Yewell. (The first two letters from each of their given names, coupled with the first letter of their last name, coined the begonia name.) *B. 'Rola-Y'* is similar to one of its parents, *B. hugeli*; it is so similar that the cultivar and the species are often confused.

With this parentage—*B. paulensis* and *B. 'Rola-Y'*—Ruby Budd created Begonia 'Rubud', Grex. She distributed all the seedlings from the cross, hence the Grex. She is propagating the best of the fibrous, hairy begonia and has distinguished this as *B. 'Rubud Giant'*. The leaves often attain the size of a large dinner plate and the plant (staked) grows to five feet.

Mrs. Budd also created Begonia 'Earl-ee-bee', a cross between *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans* with *B. purpurea*. *B. 'Earl-ee-bee'* is not hardy, but it is a beautiful rhizomatous begonia that earned rave notices at the American Horticultural Society Exhibit in New York City's Commodore Hotel in September of 1964. Grown by Carlton L'Hommedieu, it attained a height of four feet with leaves sixteen inches across.



B. 'Earl-ee-bee', showing 8-ft. tall flowerstalks. —Photo taken Feb. 1965, by Hertha A. Benjamin.

The leaves are smooth and have a dark coloring, no doubt from the begonia that Sylvia Leatherman introduced from Brazil under the name of *B. purpurea*. The lobed, star-shaped leaves of *B. 'Earl-ee-bee'* are held high above the rhizome and the flowers are produced ten to twelve inches above the foliage.

Another begonia personage who is quietly hybridizing begonias is Alice Roberts of Encinitas, California. Sev-

eral years ago she crossed *B. philodendroides* on to *B. nelumbifolia*. The resultant cross is a rhizomatous begonia with sharply-lobed, heavy-textured leaves, on heavy, brown tomentum-covered petioles on the immature growth, losing the tomentum on maturity. The plant rests during the winter months, but does not go completely naked as does *B. philodendroides*, which rests for approximately six months of the year.

This begonia branches well and becomes a full specimen, with light green coloring similar to both parents, and in addition it has a silver overlay, while the root system is a semi-buried rhizome.

Alice Roberts gave this unusual begonia the name *Begonia 'Nebob Grex'*. She has distributed all the plants from this cross, but, unlike many such "whole-seed-pod distributions", most of these plants hold true to the same pattern. A few will have peltate leaves (from *B. nelumbifolia*) rather than the lobed leaves.

B. 'Nebob' is susceptible to mildew, but this can be controlled easily with effective sprays.

Two other begonias that should be mentioned at this time are cultivars by Howard Miller of Cardiff, California, a commercial grower who raised and distributed approximately seven thousand begonias in San Diego County last year, mature plants of *B. 'Bow-Nigra'* and *B. 'Cleopatra'*. This year he is raising thousands of *B. masoniana*, and finding success with these plants from seed from his own pollinations.

In 1963 he decided to use *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross) as a seed-bearing parent for crossing pollen from *B. 'Bow-Nigra'* and *B. 'Cleopatra'*. He wanted to produce the crepe leaf surface on a small leaf. From the thousands of seedlings he raised from such crossing, he obtained only two begonias with the 'Iron Cross' leaf texture. One had *B. 'Cleopatra'* as the male parent; the other had *B. 'Bow-Nigra'* as the male parent. Their leaves are as large as the average *B.*

masoniana, so he is not interested in propagating them. He gave them both to me.

With his permission, they are now named *B. 'High Hopes'* and *B. Skipper'*.

B. 'High Hopes', with the 'Cleopatra' parentage, has a rust-colored flush on the leaves. *B. 'Skipper'*, with the 'Bow-Nigra' parentage, has completely green leaves. These begonias have been growing for two years side by side in Miller's greenhouses and have come up with these colorings, completely erasing the iron cross markings.

Both of these begonias branch well and have the same leaf texture and habit of growth as *Begonia masoniana*. Few hybridizers have been able to capture this texture in their crossings—but consider how many seedlings it took to get two such cultivars!

PROJECT--HELP!

Members of the Greater Baton Rouge Branch of the American Begonia Society, which was organized this summer, have begun a project which should interest all members of the Society, to bring begonias and gardening interests into the lives of patients with Hansen's disease, commonly known as leprosy.

Located on the eastern shore of the Mississippi River at Carville, Louisiana, is the United States Public Health Service hospital and rehabilitation center for these patients, the only leprosarium in the continental United States, with more than 450 patients.

We have visited with them twice and found them receptive to gardening and growing pot plants. After viewing the slides of begonias I showed them, they were eager to get started.

The women can't work outside much, but they showed me window boxes filled with African violets growing in plastic pots they had made.

The men grow vegetables in small gardens, but they also spend hours

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German Trio Tops For Bloom And Beauty

By ROBERT L. SHATZER
A.B.S. Research Director

Begonia growers have always been fond of the compact or miniature plants available to them and recent years have seen many wonderful new introductions to further stimulate this fascination. The featured begonias this month are not new, nor are they miniature, but they are small-leaved compact growers that hold a popular place in many begonia collections.

Begonias 'Sachsen', 'Preussen', and 'Bayern' are all the results of German seed and their parentage is not recorded. B. 'Sachsen' is a seedling of German seed number 192, while the other two are of an even more vague background. Charles Chevalier believes that B. 'Preussen' originated in England and yet *Horticulture* magazine, November, 1954, states that it was originated in Germany in 1848. Alice B. Clark, in her fine article, "Dwarf Cane Stemmed Begonias" in the November, 1947, *Begonian*, feels that all three are products of the work of Lorenz in Erfurt, Germany.

These plants are similar in their upright, well-branched and spreading habits of growth. All possess the same red pedicels and peduncles which support the flowers and seed-bearing pods. The female blossoms of the trio all possess five or six petals of an uneven size. A similar smooth appearance and small "angel-wing" foliage make for confusion and often mislabeling. There are, however, very definite differences in these begonias.

Foliage color appears to be argued in this group also. Florence Knock explains in her fine article, "Do You Notice Foliage?" in a 1945 *Begonian*, that the "bronze color of (these) three (is) affected by light and sunshine." Keeping this in mind one can see why the authorities do not agree concerning which foliage is the darker, B. 'Preussen' or B. 'Sachsen'. To understand the similarities and individualities of these lovely begonias one must

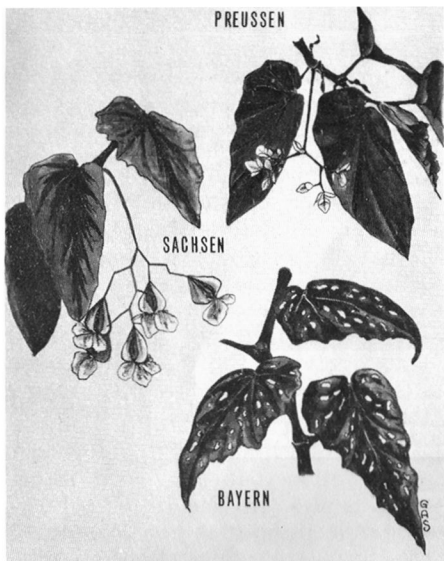
examine each one and then compare and contrast.

Begonia 'Sachsen', sometimes spelled Sachsen in error, means "Saxony" and is often offered in the trade by this translation. It is a low grower of two to three feet in height, with a slender, smooth appearance. The spreading, well-branched habit is somewhat looser than that of B. 'Preussen' but still remains compact and bushy. The typical "angel-wing" leaves measure 1¼ inches by 3 inches long with a shallow indentation that is distinctive. The dark olive-bronze leaves have a red or bronze-red underside which is unlike the other two plants. The leaf stems, or petioles, are a brighter red than either of the others and there seems to be a shorter space between the nodes. Brilmayer describes these leaves as "overlapping like feathers"

The chief attraction of B. 'Sachsen' is its bright red or rosy red flowers which do not persist but are a color unlike its confused companions. The female flowers are, as previously mentioned, alike in their five or six uneven petals, but are borne in smaller clusters on shorter stems than in the two begonias yet to be discussed.

Marian W. DeCoursey documented the blooming cycle of this begonia in her "Begonias Are Fascinating House Plants" in the *Garden Journal* of the New York Botanical Garden in 1957. She stated that B. 'Sachsen' bloomed for 71 months without stopping. One should remember that this begonia can be raised with best results when the roots are crowded, kept on the dry side, and watered carefully. Many growers report that cuttings root easily. Its successful growth under artificial light and its ability to make interesting hanging basket specimens are among the reasons for its popularity.

Begonia 'Preussen', the sturdiest and



—Drawing by G. A. Sausaman

most popular of the trio, will be found listed as Preussen with only one "s" in error or by its translation "Prussian". Possibly the French name, *B. 'Thimotei'*, can also be noted. Mrs. Jane Neal, of Worthing, Sussex, England, writes that Kew Gardens display a plant with this French label but that she feels that it is the same plant as her *B. 'Bavaria'* which she received from the Liverpool Botanic Garden.

This plant's general size is controversial. Buxton lists it as two feet or more. Other authorities record it as reaching three to four feet in height. Habit, however, is very sturdy and it is like the previously discussed plant in its compact, smooth, well-branched, and bushy character. Small ovate-pointed leaves measure $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long.

Normally the leaf color is a dark olive-green or dark bronzy-green. Often the new, young leaves emerge from the stipule covered with silver-white spots which disappear as the leaf matures. On rare occasions spots will reappear on old leaves near the base of the plant. A fascinating changeability from dark-green through

Irish green has been noted on the upper surfaces of the leaves, which are outstanding with their russet, toothed margins and pinkish tips.

The few flowered inflorescences display large pink flowers with the similar female blossom shape to *B. 'Sachsen'* but, of course, the color differs. The $\frac{1}{2}$ inch male flower is slightly larger and opens two warm-pink petals to reveal a pair of tiny, pointed petals and its pale yellow stamen. Mrs. De Coursey recorded that *B. 'Preussen'* has bloomed a record-breaking 76 months with a rest. She includes the records of Marjorie Wihtol, who observed 64 months of constant bloom.

B. 'Preussen' is grown by many in cool conditions (50 to 60 degrees F.) but then it has also proven itself as a highly heat resistant variety.

Begonia 'Bayern' or *'Bayerne'* has appeared in literature under the synonym *B. medio-picta* and by its translation, "Bavaria". Its glabrous (smooth) appearance is explained as both low and medium, as again, inconsistent information is available. The dark green, erect stems are not as sturdy or robust as in the two previously mentioned plants. The stems possess a few noticeable white dashes and thin rings at the nodes. This begonia has more distinguishing characteristics than the other two: the more easily observed being the long, narrow-ovate leaves, which are much thicker at the petiole or stem end with sharper lobes and tapered to a quick point. The dark green leaves are uniformly, though lightly, spotted with silver or dull white between the veins. These spots are possessed by neither of the others as a persistent character. New leaves are reddish-tan and develop into mature leaves with dentate margins (edge) and undersides of green with a red flush.

Floriferous drooping cymes of deep pink or rosy-tinted blossoms decorate this begonia, but regretfully, they are not long lasting and fall before or soon after opening. The female in-

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WHEN A ROSE IS NOT A ROSE

*A consideration of the flowers mentioned
in the "Song of Solomon" or "Canticles."*

By DOROTHY C. HASKIN

How often have you sung:

"Jesus, Rose of Sharon

Bloom in radiance and in love
within my heart"

and pictured in your mind a modern
rose?

Or read, "I am the rose of Sharon,
and the lily of the valleys" (Song of
Solomon 2:1) and thought of a lovely
rose, perhaps one blooming in your
own garden.

It seems natural to think that when
one mentions a rose he means a rose
as we know it. Though the men who
translated the King James or Author-
ized Version of the Bible in 1611
were learned men, who spent years
in their work of translation, they were
scholars in language and theology
and not necessarily authorities on the
horticulture of the Holy Land. No
doubt they discussed the translation
of the Hebrew word *chabazeleth* dili-
gently and decided that rose was the
proper word to use.

Since then our modern translators
have had divergent views about the
proper word to use. Some of the trans-
lations have been:

"I am only a blossom of the plain,
a mere lily of the dale" (*James
Moffatt*).

"I am a saffron of the plain,
a hyacinth of the valleys" (*Smith
and Goodspeed*).

Other reputable sources suggest
that the plant may have been narcis-
sus, or the crocus.

The best agreement of modern au-
thorities of the Hebrew word *chaba-
zeleth* indicates that the "rose" of
Sharon was a bulb-growing plant.
Botanists believe it was most likely
a tulip, *Tulipa sharonensis*, or Shar-
on tulip.

This plant is ten inches high, with
silver-grey-green leaves and glowing

red flowers. It is native to and grows
in profusion on the plain of Sharon,
which is situated between Carmel and
Joppa and is about sixty miles long.
After the annual spring rains the
view from the plain is of surpassing
richness and beauty as the unculti-
vated parts of the plain are covered
with a wealth of flowers, including
this "rose" of Sharon.

It is interesting also to note that the
lily mentioned in the "Song of Solo-
mon" is also different from the Ameri-
can conception of a lily. We think of
the lily as a white plant, be it an
Easter lily, or a lily of the valley.
However, the lily of the Holy Land,
called by the Hebrew word *shushan*,
is a flower of striking beauty. The
chalcedonicum lily, with its perfect
form, is the color of a glowing flame.
It has a high stalk of clear green, with
bright and shining leaves, and blos-
soms poised on the summit. The flow-
er bends its head to protect the an-
thers from rain and so guards the
pollen. Like almost all lilies, there is
an underground bulb that stores nour-
ishment and supplies the flower with
food even through the drought of the
desert.

It is easy to understand why King
Solomon, when writing a poem of love
and wishing to describe the beauty
that a man sees in the woman he
loves, described her as a flower of
flaming beauty.

Probably no book in the Bible con-
tains as many references to flowers
and plants as does the "Song of Solo-
mon." Throughout the entire poem
Solomon constantly compares the de-
lights of the loved one to beautiful
and, at times, pungent plants.

For instance, one of the passages
says:

"While the king sitteth at his
table

My spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof.

A bundle of myrrh is my well-beloved" (1:12-13).

It is conceded that the spikenard is spikenard as we know it. This is exclusively an Indian product, and was imported into Palestine at a very early period. Its Latin name *nardostachys*, meaning the "ear of wheat", refers to the shape of the flowerets, and the Indian name *jatamansi* relates to the shaggy hair or "ermine tails" covering the stems. It is from the lower hairy stems that the exquisite perfume is obtained by tying them together by the roots. So expensive was the perfume after its long journey from northern India to Palestine that one pound of it was equal to a laborer's daily wage.

As for the myrrh mentioned, it is believed that this was mixture of myrrh as we know it today and ladanum. The historian Pliny (A. D. 23-79) wrote that myrrh grew in Arabia. It is a small tree with odoriferous wood and bark, short, spiny branches, trifoliolate leaves, and plum-like fruit. The ladanum is a highly fragrant resin, containing a volatile oil. The two combined were especially fragrant and often worn as a sachet around the neck. What a delightful picture this makes of a beloved one, fragrant to the heart and close to one!

The loved one is also spoken of "as a cluster of camphire" (1:14). It is believed that there is no doubt of the identity of this plant. It is one of the earliest known spices, and is also called the henna flower. (Or *alhenna* by the Arabs.) It has creamy white, highly-scented blossoms, hanging in clusters like grapes, and grows in Palestine, Egypt, Arabia, and most of the northern parts of Africa. The henna, reaching a height of ten feet, is much valued, especially by the women of Egypt. It has been traded for centuries, a fact substantiated by evidence found on mummies entombed for three thousand years, that still retain the dye they used in life on their nails. Today, as in the time of Solomon, the camphire grows pro-

fusely by the Dead Sea, especially near the town of Engedi.

Interesting also is the fact that the apple (2:5) mentioned was probably the apricot. The apricot belongs to the plum family and was introduced early into Palestine from Armenia. The tree grew nearly thirty feet high and blossomed early. The flowers were pale rose with rich carmine shading in the center. The leaf was heart-shaped and borne on a long stalk of bright red, with an underside much paler than the top. The fruit had a strong, revitalizing perfume, and that probably is the reason King Solomon wrote, "Refresh me with apples" (*The Berkeley Version*) or "Comfort me with apples" (*King James Version*).

Undoubtedly the author of this long cherished love poem had his own special reason for selecting the flower or plant that he mentioned. A better understanding of the exact flower or plant makes the writing richer and more meaningful.

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

To the Members
From All Officers
of the
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

★ ★ ★



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

No. 1 — *B. valdensium* —

Seeds were collected along a creek tributary at 4,000 feet elevation near Sao Paulo, Brazil. One of the most beautiful begonias in cultivation. Sometimes called 'Philodendron-leaved begonia'. Leaves up to twelve inches, with ivory veins on top and a fringe collar at the top of the petiole, green, broad, flat, with slight undulating edge. Choice plants with large pinkish to white flowers grow in deep, moist soil. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — *B. 'Orange Rubra'* —

Brazil type. A cultivated begonia found in a private garden near Sao Paulo, Brazil. Has brilliant red cane stems about four tall in open ground, with masses of pendant flowers and colorful seed pods. Grows in full sun, in deep red soil. This description does not coincide with that of the 'Orange Rubra' we know in the United States, so it may be something different. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. Brazil* sp. —

Climbing type plant found at the base of a shady rock cliff at 2,800 feet elevation. Many flowers. Small, oblong, green leaf. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — *B. Brazil* sp. —

Cane type to about thirty inches, with large white flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. Angel wing type* —

Medium sized, unspotted leaves, good white flowers. Found in wooded area at 4,300 feet elevation. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. limmingheina* —

Brazil. New seed. Bright, orange-red flowers on climbing plants on trees in dense, wet forest. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. eminii* —

Africa. A very unusual species, which looks more like a philodendron than a begonia. Also the seeds look like philodendron seed; you can actually separate and count them. Leaves are oval, with a dark band around the edge, and rather ornamental. The flowers are small and borne in the

axils of the leaves. Seeds are from a direct import from Cameroun.

We would like to distribute these rare seeds as long as they last, but they are few in number. Four seeds for 50 cents.

No. 8 — *B. daedalea* —

A good plant with very ornamental foliage; green, finely mottled with brown. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — *B. 'Ingrami'* —

(*B. nitida* x *B. fuchsoides*) Ornamental plant with slim green leaves with toothed edges. Deep pink flowers. Blooms best and most continually when grown cool, with plenty of light. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — *B. kellermanni* —

Guatemala. Deeply cupped green leaves, thick and completely covered with sheer white felt. Angel-wing-like clusters of white flowers in winter and early spring. Easily grown from seed. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 11 — *B. pustulata* —

Mexico. Blisterly, green leaves similar to *B. imperialis*, but with heavier bumps on leaves. Rose-pink flowers. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 12 — *B. domingensis* —

Syn. *B. 'Peanut Brittle'*. Fruticose white. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 13 — *B. Brazil species* x *B. metallica* —

A cross made by a friend in South Australia. Tests show germination to be perfect. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 14 — *B. 'Crestabruchi'* x *B. macdougalli* —

Seeds were tested for germination and several crested types appeared from a packet of seed. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 15 — *B. Rhizomatous* —

Similar to *B. sunderbruchi* but with darker leaves. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 16 — *B. Rhizomatous* —

Philippine Islands. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 17 — *B. 'Philippine Islands'* —

Red leaves, pink flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 18 — *B. 'Chocolate Soldier'* —

A hybrid with chocolate-spotted leaves. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 19 — B. 'Fleecealba' —

A hybrid. Upright grower with white-felted thick green leaves. Many white flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 20 — B. 'Orange Rubra' x B. X-rayed semperflorens —

25 cents per pkt.

No. 21 — B. 'Diana' x B. semperflorens X-rayed —

25 cents per pkt.

No. 22 — B. Tuberhybrida

Double frimbriata mixed, from a friend in South Australia. 25 cents per pkt.

Three begonias listed below are multiflora type and are unsurpassed for profuse bloom and impressive masses of color. They are outstandingly effective in window boxes, for edging garden beds, or planted in front of taller tuberhybrida. They are the easiest summer-flowering tuberous begonia to grow. They will flourish with more sun and less water than the tuberhybrida, and seldom need staking or pinching. Soil should be light and humus-rich. Drainage should be good.

B. 'Helen Harms' — Multiflora double, canary yellow.

B. 'Tasso' — Multiflora double, pink.

B. 'Sweet Home' — Multiflora double, red.

Any one of these three at 35 cents per pkt; all three for \$1.00.

FREE SEED —

Many types but please do not ask to have seed identified. We have no idea what they will produce. Send postage if seed from the regular list is not ordered.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE
Seed Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
Roseville, California, 95678

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Continue Through the New Year*

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*May Peace and Joy be Yours
at Christmastime and
Throughout the New Year*

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

*May Christmas Joys and Blessings
Continue Through the New Year*

RIVERSIDE BRANCH



ROUND ROBIN NEWS

The robins have been flying fast this fall. Recent flights have been full of travels, seed sowing, bits of information. Some A.B.S. members drive sixty-five miles to Branch meetings, and visitors may even come from out of state, as Elizabeth White of Mars, Pennsylvania, noted in Flight 4.

Fun from seed: Freda Johanneson of Winnipeg, Manitoba, exclaimed on flight 12: "How thrilling to get up in the morning and gaze over the seedlings — *macdougalii*, for instance, up to now just ordinary leaves — and behold — a fingered typical leaf with five or six divisions! Or *kenworthyi*, with plain leaves up to now — and there is a dark typical leaf!"

Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, wrote in flight 20 that she had so many calla-lily begonia seedlings from the A.B.S. Seed Fund that she gave eight dozen to the local garden club and sent the same number to a friend.

Propagation tips: Writing in flight 7, Freda Johanneson said that so many of her friends wanted rexes she is even trying to save the first two or three leaves that come on rex seedlings. While they are still under an inch in size, she removes them and puts them in water in small orchid tubes. "The poor things root like crazy and throw plants at the stem and leaf juncture and also on the bottom of the stem. I am wondering how long it will be before I get leaves from these with the true variety foliage. These plants grow visibly in size while they are in water and after planting."

From flight 3, Mrs. Arline Peck of Pascoag, Rhode Island, has been told to propagate *B. venosa* (a touchy plant) only from December to March, the dormant time, when it will root better.

Hardy begonia? Inez Kennedy of A gate Beach, Oregon, flight 19, brought home an un-named begonia from the midwest. It has tiny leaves and slender stems, and resembles the semituberous maple leaf begonias. The interesting point: she says it "lives

over outside" on the east side of the house next to the foundation. It freezes down, but comes back. Does anyone know this one?

Heating cables and plastic houses: Flight 9 members have discussed the use of starters and heating cables. Some growers have had problems with too much heat and with damp-off and mold. Others find that the heat helps to root cuttings and germinate seed that won't start otherwise. The main points developed are that plastic greenhouses need ventilation, and cables need thermostat control to keep temperatures even.

Barbara Niles of Illinois says in flight 15 that she sprays with a mild chlorine solution for the mold problem that attends slow-germinating Indian and Brazilian species seeds, which need heat and high humidity.

Ideas for new robins: Would any men enjoy an all-male flight? Would flight chairmen like a flight of their own? Some past requests may have been lost — would you please try once again?

—MRS. CARRIE E. KAREGEANNES,
Round Robin Director,
3916 Lake Boulevard
Annandale, Virginia, 22003



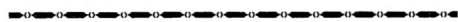
*Season's Greetings to All
Begonia Growers and Lovers*

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH



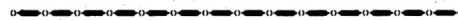
THE ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Wishes All of You
Peace and Happiness for Christmas
and the Year 1966



*May Peace and Joy be Yours
at Christmastime
and throughout the New Year*

MISSOURI BRANCH



BEGONIA SNAPSHOTS WIN TROPHIES

By BEE OLSON

Snapshots of begonias, submitted for competition in Division V of the American Begonia Society's show in September, represented entrants from Louisiana, Texas, New Jersey, Florida, Connecticut, Illinois, New York, Rhode Island, and England.



B. 'Argentea Guttata' — trophy winner.

The trophy in this division was awarded to Mrs. Don L. Wagner of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for her photo of B. 'Argentea Guttata'. Mrs. Wagner also received second place for her snapshot of B. 'Pinafore' and third place for three snapshots of 'Helen Lewis', 'Cleopatra', and *acida*.

Mrs. Jane Cullen of Hinsdale, Illinois, won a blue ribbon for her snapshot of *B. pilifera*.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Haring of Greenwich, Connecticut, won a blue ribbon for their snapshot of B. 'Pinafore' and a red ribbon for their snapshot of *B. sutherlandii*.

Mrs. Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, won a red ribbon for her snapshot of B. 'Black Star'.

Other lovelies that came to the show were Begonias 'Spaulding', 'Charlotta', 'Skeezar', 'Erythrophylla Helix', 'Brocade', 'Salt and Pepper', 'Edith M.', 'Silver Sweet', 'Merry Christmas', 'Sir Percy', 'Weltoniensis', 'Thurstoni', 'Pink Shasta', 'Preussen', *stitched leaf*, *manicata aureo-maculata*, *richardsiana*, *socotrana*, and *scharffi*, as well as many un-named *semperflorens* and several new crosses that appeared to be interesting.

Besides the winners named above,

thanks are due also to Mrs. J. H. Bonifaze of Bryan, Texas; Mrs. W. H. Gardener of Neptune, New Jersey; Mrs. Alice Musy of Valrico, Florida; Mrs. John Bottjer of Eastchester, New York; Mrs. Robert Northrup of Wakefield, Rhode Island; and Mr. M. L. MacIntyre of Liverpool, England.

PROSPECT-HELP . . .

(Continued from Page 241)

planting rose gardens and making new flower beds.

We took seedlings, cuttings, and seeds, also bulbs for outdoor planting, and gave them propagation procedure and instructions on how to plant the seeds. We set up a program to supply seeds, supplies, and information on begonias.

We need help in furnishing books, pictures, magazines, or anything that will help them to become acquainted with begonias. I am asking the help of all our members.

Send letters telling how you grow your plants, suggestions, or seeds and cuttings, to:

MRS. DON L. WAGNER
3074 Zeeland Street,
Baton Rouge, La. 70808.



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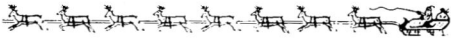
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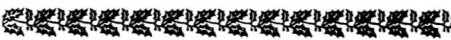
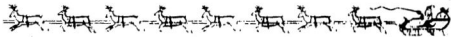
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BOOK REVIEW

FERNS WE GROW

By SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN AND
DOROTHY S. BEHRENS
ILLUSTRATED. PRICE: \$3.85

Seventeen subject areas on various phases of fern growing form the chapters of this business-like volume, which gets right down to the problem under discussion and is replete with practical information. Written for the layman, it is free of technicalities but, none-the-less, care has been taken with the latest nomenclature.

Culture is the main emphasis, with attention given to watering, fertilizing, pest control, and even noting some ferns tolerant of smog.

The writing reflects a distillation of knowledge gained from personal experience, and it is this that distinguishes the book.

The clear, simple, line illustrations are closely integrated with the text, only a few being purely artistic. The majority illustrate some aspect of the text.

For an enlightening introduction to these versatile plants, this book, written by two experienced fern growers, is highly recommended.

WILLIAM T. DRYSDALE

FERNS WE GROW

By SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN
AND DOROTHY S. BEHRENS

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RESEARCH REPORT

By ROBERT L. SHATZER
Research Director

Merry Christmas to begonia growers everywhere! While some of us are firing a heating system to keep our plants warm or dreading to see the next bill for keeping them warm, others are out in their gardens admiring their begonias.

On the subject of Christmas and begonias, Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman of South El Monte, California, tells us that she has learned from correspondence with the Teupels in Germany that the rex begonia they created which we know under the name of 'Merry Christmas' or often 'Ruhrtahl' and 'Ruhr Valley' should bear the correct name of 'Reiga'.

Remaining on this subject of name corrections, Mrs. J. Dale Shuler, of Lexington, Ohio, reported in Round Robin Flight #15, of which she is chairman, that she recently noticed in commercial literature that Mrs. Belva Kusler's hybrid B. 'Jean Herr' had been given B. 'Mallet' as an incorrect parent. She relates that the correct parentage of this begonia is *B. kenworthyi* and *B. deliciosa*.

Research Department Borrowings: O. M. Heide, in his article, "Interaction of Light, Temperature and Day-Length in Flowering of Begonia x Chemimantha Everett," which was published in *Physiologia Plantarum*, a bulletin of the Scandinavian Society for plant physiology in Copenhagen, Denmark, gives the results of a nine-hour day of light on this chemimanthas. A high night temperature accelerated bud formation in short days but delayed it in long days. The flower which resulted was most rapid at a night temperature of 21 degrees centigrade. These experiments at the Agricultural College of Norway further produced evidence that two weeks with a day-length of nine hours was sufficient to induce abundant flowering.

"Are They Extinct?"—our project to determine whether specific begonias

are extinct or are in present cultivation—requests information on both species and hybrids:

- B. 'Imaloa'
- B. 'tiges de fer odorants'
- B. balmisiana
- B. brevicaulis
- B. r. c. 'Linda Lewis'
- B. r. c. 'Donald Lewis'
- B. r. c. 'Rosy Morn'

These B. r. c. are derivatives of *B. dregei*.

If you have any information on these begonias, or any other ideas and suggestions for this department, write to:

—ROBERT L. SHATZER,
Research Director,
Box 126,
Albright, W. Va., 26519

JUDGING COURSE TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

The judging course, under the direction of Sylvia Leatherman, is scheduled to begin classes January, 1966. The course will consist of twelve lessons, with lesson sheets provided each month. Lesson #1 and #2 will be on the fundamentals of judging, and following lessons will be on types of begonias, classifications, etc.

Correspondence courses will be available for persons not able to attend classes.

Courses will be open to everyone—member of A.B.S. or not.

The 12 lessons will cost \$4.00 plus 12 business (legal) envelopes, stamped and self-addressed. Make your check payable to the American Begonia Society and mail it, with the 12 envelopes, to Mrs. Walter Pease, co-chairman, 8101 Vicksburg Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90045.

Classes will start in January. Send your enrollment immediately to obtain the first lesson well in advance.

The Editor welcomes articles contributed by members or non-members. Material for publication should be received by the Editor before the first of the month preceding month of publication.



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And a Joyful New Year*



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And a Most Happy New Year*



SAN MIGUEL BRANCH



*Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes
for a
Happy New Year*

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH



*Season's Greetings
and Good Wishes
for the New Year*



GLENDALE BRANCH



GERMAN TRIO . . .

(Continued from Page 243)

florescence is fuller and more graceful as it produces three even-winged seed pods tinted green in the middle section. Mrs. De Coursey records 43 months of constant flowering.

A collector wishing to grow these three together for comparison will appreciate the culture notes from this experienced grower. Mrs. Victoria Kartack, Baraboo, Wisconsin: "As far as culture goes on these three, I use the regular begonia potting soil and feed manure water after they have had a period of bloom to induce them to bloom again, which they do almost all year here. When the old plants become woody, I take cuttings from fresh green wood and discard the old woody plants. I do this every three or four years."

These nearly identical German seedlings are often mistaken for one another, as well as mistakenly confused with a number of other begonias. B. 'Jinny May' and B. 'Vedderi', a *B. compta* seedling, has similar foliage. *B. albo-picta* might have been involved in the parentage of B. 'Bayern', B. 'Medora', B. 'Green Medora', B. 'Lawrence H. Fewkes' and B. 'Pink Shasta' have all been involved in this musical chairs mix-up of labels.

The begonia nearest in appearance to any of the three seems to be B. 'Wettsteini' (*B. ascotiensis* x *B. coralina*) but unfortunately it is not in cultivation in the United States. It was pictured in a German magazine in 1885 and appears very similar to B. 'Sachsen'. This hybrid by Wettstein is described as a dwarf B. 'Lucerna'. It is a sturdy grower; has large red-drooping clusters of flowers; desires cool culture; and careful watering is advised.

It is hoped that these fine, old begonias will not be abandoned in favor of the newer and fascinating hybrids that are so much in demand of our interest today.

NOTICE TO BRANCHES

All Branches—Send names and address of your officers for 1966 to President Muriel Perz. When the list is complete, we will compile a roster which each officer will receive.

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REPORT OF A.B.S. BOARD MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the American Begonia Society was called to order by the president, Mrs. Mabel Corwin, at 2:30 p.m. on September 4, 1965, in the conference room of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

Twenty-seven officers, chairmen, and representatives were present.

The treasurer, Harold Burkett, reported a balance of \$340.59 on August 31, 1965. His annual report was read and filed.

The membership secretary, Mrs. Daisy Austin, reported 2,571 *Begonians* distributed. Total membership on September 1 was 2,184.

The public relations director, Mrs. Vera Naumann, reported on the activities of her chairmen who could not be present.

A new Branch, the Greater Baton Rouge Branch, sent a written request to Mrs. Naumann for a charter. A motion to grant the charter was passed.

The Northern California public relations chairman, Mrs. Hyacinth Smith of San Francisco, told of her visits to northern Branches and brought greetings from them.

The Western Pennsylvania Branch sent \$50.00 representing proceeds of a successful plant sale held for the benefit of the A.B.S. at the home of their president, Mrs. Mark Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania. A sincere vote of thanks goes from the National Board to this generous Branch.

Mrs. Margaret Taylor, awards chairman, announced the names of members on her committee: Mrs. C. E. Cooper, Mr. Herb Fitch, Mrs. Darrell Bath, Mrs. Bert Routh, Mrs. Bessie Lockett, and Mrs. Alva Graham.

She reported that no eligible plant was nominated for the Alfred D. Robinson medal.

Mary L. Gillingwaters was nominated to receive the Eva Kenworthy Gray award.

New officers were declared elected.

PEGGY McGRATH
Secretary

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Muriel Perz at 7:40 p.m., September 27, 1965, in the South Gate City Auditorium.

Twenty-seven officers, chairmen, and Branch representatives were present.

Vice-President R. E. Hale, of Sacramento, gave a report on the Northern California exhibit at the State Fair in Sacramento.

Past President Mabel Corwin announced that the Foothill Branch is donating \$25.00 to the A.B.S.

Treasurer Harold Burkett reported a balance of \$485.73.

Membership Secretary Daisy Austin reported 89 new members, 110 renewals, and 2479 *Begonians* sent out.

Advertising Manager Anne Rose reported \$38.50 received and \$91.00 receivable.

Librarian Terry Olmsted reported \$88.60 income from sale of books and old *Begonians*.

The president announced her appointive officers and these were approved by the Board.

Correspondence from the Denver Botanical Gardens was read, telling of their plans to include a begonia display in their new area. The A.B.S. will ascertain their needs and supply them with plants.

Membership Secretary Daisy Austin was authorized to make new membership rosters.

It was moved that the A.B.S. become a member of the Japanese Begonia Society.

Howard Small reported a net profit of \$767.55 on the convention and show. The Board approved his motion that \$150.00 be given to the Arboretum Foundation, designated for the Peacock Pavilion, in appreciation for the use of their facilities.

Branches in attendance were: Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach, North Long Beach, Orange County, Riverside, San Gabriel Valley, Whittier, Westchester, and Sacramento.

The president appointed two additional members to the awards committee: Mrs. Beryl Allen of Tampa, Florida, and Carleton L'Hommedieu of Long Island, New York.

EVELYN KEASTER
Secretary

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Muriel Perz at 7:40 p.m., October 25, 1965, in the South Gate City Auditorium.

Twenty-four officers, chairmen, and Branch representatives were present.

Treasurer Harold Burkett reported a balance of \$1,351.65.

Membership Secretary Daisy Austin reported 50 new members, 131 renewals, and 2626 *Begonians* distributed.

Advertising Manager Anne Rose reported \$91.00 received and \$76.00 receivable.

Research Director Robert Schatzer reported, by letter, that he is busy making contacts and asked all members to assist him in any way possible.

Judging Course Director Sylvia Leatherman read her recommendations for the judging classes, which were approved by the Board.

The president announced that Roy Joyce, former slide librarian, had returned \$15.00

of his operating fund. It was voted that a fund of \$25.00 be given to the new slide librarian.

Branches reporting were Glendale, Inglewood, North Long Beach, Orange County, Riverside, Alfred D. Robinson, San Gabriel Valley, Westchester, Whittier, and El Monte.

EVELYN KEASTER
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CALENDAR

- Dec. 2 — Westchester Branch: Whoopee party.
- Dec. 4-5 — Inglewood Branch: Christmas show and tea. Open 2 to 10 p.m. on Saturday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. "Christmas Around the World". \$1.00.
- Dec. 10 — Philobegonia Branch: Christmas party at the home of Esther Long, Pennsauken, New Jersey.
- Dec. 10 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: Christmas party. No speaker.
- Dec. 15 — Glendale Branch: Note new date. Will meet 3rd Wednesday every month through next year.
- Jan. 11 — Knickerbocker Branch: Will meet at Library. Horticultural Society of New York, Essex House, 157 West 58th St., New York, at 7:30 p.m. Albert H. Arndt, of Edelweiss Gardens, Robbinsville, N.J., will speak on "Propagation of Begonias and Related Plants".
- Jan. 12 — Inglewood Branch: Mrs. Mildred W. Gilkes will speak on "Begonias and Shade loving Plants".

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