

# *The* BEGONIAN

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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.

# THE TROUBLE WITH TUBEROUS BEGONIAS IN THE EAST

By CHARLES A. LEWIS  
*Director of Horticulture and Design*  
*Sterling Forest Gardens, Tuxedo, New York*

In the moist, fog laden climate of Santa Cruz, California, tuberous begonias can be grown to perfection. Luxuriant foliage and huge blossoms reward the gardener's least efforts. In the East, with its hot summers, production of quality tuberous begonias offers more challenge. The allure of magnificent blooms, pictured in catalogues of California producers, draws many thousands of eastern gardeners into combat with the elements to grow the plants. From Maine to Florida they may be found, trying to outwit an unfavorable climate.

The greatest problem is temperature, particularly at night. Below 60° F. at night the dream is possible; above that it becomes a nightmare. In the northeast, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts, the tuberous begonia is queen, reigning in beauty matching the western production. Down into New York State, tuberous begonias begin to offer greater challenge with superb production being limited to mountains and cool shore areas. South of this area quality suffers as does the valiant gardener who tries to produce it.

Mulches are excellent aids in keeping the soil and plants cool. Anything that will shade the soil and not induce rot in the plant is satisfactory. Dried grass clippings, chopped leaves, or even ground licorice root provide excellent mulches. A location that provides morning sun, or sun filtered through high trees is ideal, but who is to stop the gardener with an exposure receiving hot afternoon sun? He will rig up lath sun shades or other devices to protect his sunburned beauties.

An adequate supply of water can often spell the difference between success and failure. At Sterling Forest Gardens in Tuxedo, New York, where seven thousand tuberous begonias fill

outdoor beds under oak trees, the plants are watered overhead in the morning, increasing the mildew problem, but saving labor. A careful gardener may prefer to water the plants individually, not wetting the foliage or flowers.

Some hope is offered in new tuberous begonias being bred to withstand the difficulties of the eastern climate. For the past fifteen years, Professor H. Gilbert Harlow of Schenectady, New York, has been working to develop a strain of tuberous begonias, using parent plants from all over the world. As a result, the most recent generations of progeny look extremely promising and indicate increasing tolerance and ability to withstand the heat of eastern summers.

Another source of anguish here in the east, especially in larger population centers, is finding a supply of leaf mold, particularly oak leaf mold. All instructions on growing the plants specify this magic ingredient. No one sells it here in the east, so gardeners head out on safari to forests miles away from their homes, hoping to scrape up the thin layer of leaf mold on the forest floor. It is hard work but well worth the effort, because it works wonders for the plants.

No obstacle is too great once you are smitten. The plants have sweltered in the Carolinas and even in Florida. Perhaps winter flowering under lights might be more practical in the extreme south.

In Manhattan the New York City Housing Authority holds an annual  
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## COVER PICTURE

Tuberous begonia grown at Sterling Forest Gardens, Tuxedo, N. Y.

— Photo by HERTHA A. BENJAMIN,  
*Eastern Editor*

# BEGONIA BUG FLIES TO JAPAN

By RUBY MAE BUDD

To Mr. Uyemura, Yoshio Fukuda, Takeshi Hanada, Seiro Yosie, Mr. and Mrs. Oda, Mrs. Kazuko Endow, and other members of the Japan Begonia Society, I want to say "thank you" for the gracious kindness and courtesy shown to my sister and me during our recent visit to Tokyo, Japan, making Sunday, September 11, a day we will long remember. I am sorry that I do not know the name of the overseer of the greenhouses that we visited, but we appreciate his courtesy, also. Arigato Gozaimasu, Sayonara.

Just a week earlier, the American Begonia Society held its convention and begonia show, September 3, 4, and 5, and one of the outstanding displays consisted of the beautiful pictures that Mrs. Kazuko Endow and other ladies of her group had sent from the Japan Begonia Society. These pictures, real works of art, were made from rice paper of different colors, cut free-hand and pasted and formed by the fingers, giving the effect of hair on begonias and bearded flowers.

The Japan Begonia Society had requested that the pictures be returned to them after the show. Since I was leaving for Tokyo immediately, I offered to return them in person, and deliver the trophy that the American Begonia Society had awarded.

After arriving in Tokyo, I contacted Mr. Uyemura. He and Mr. Hanada came to our hotel that evening. Mr. Uyemura has given much of his time and effort to promote interest in begonias and the Japan Begonia Society. He gave me a new printing of a book called #19 *Garden Life*, which I presented to the American Begonia Society at the Board meeting September 26, together with other literature for the A.B.S. historian.

Another begonia enthusiast was Mr. Yoshio Fukuda, who has been in the United States, when he visited Mabel Corwin's garden in Rosemead, Cali-



Yoshio Fukuda and the author in an orchid nursery.



Standing, from left: Takeshi Hanada, who spoke English and acted as interpreter; Seiro Yosie, hybridizer; Seated: An interested begonia enthusiast, name unknown; Yoshio Fukuda; and the overseer of the greenhouses.

—Photos by Ruby Mae Budd.



ifornia, and who plans to visit this country again in February.

On the Sunday that we enjoyed so much, Mr. Fukuda picked us up in a taxi. You haven't lived until you ride a taxi in Tokyo, and you're lucky if you live, because they fight for every inch or the next taxi will be in. The traffic on the narrow streets was one of my most exciting experiences, although it has added a few more gray hairs.

Mr. Fukuda took us to two orchid nurseries and then to the High School Horticultural Gardens. The landscaping was beautiful, and there were greenhouses after greenhouses, with many different types of plants. One house was filled with gloxinias, another with chrysanthemums, another with begonias and other plants.

The humidity is so great that begonias love it, but the temperature gets down to zero in the winter time and heat must be provided. With cuttings of begonias that they have been able to get, they have propagated to increase the supply. There were many *B. masoniana*, B. 'Fire Flush', B. 'Orange Rubra', and others not named. I cannot tell as much as I would like because this article would be too long.

After the tour, we were happy to sit around a table with fourteen members to enjoy tea and cakes and to pass pictures back and forth. Mr. Hanada acted as interpreter. We explained our tube house, which they were interested in. While pictures were being taken, we presented the trophy from the American Begonia Society.

I was pleased that Mr. Seiro Yosie, who is doing a lot of hybridizing, had come down from North Japan for this meeting. He had some remarkable slides of some of his hybrids, but he kept some secrets — he plans to send them to the next A.B.S. convention.

While I remember the names of some because I have their cards, I do not know the names of all who helped to entertain us. But everyone was very kind. I want to repeat my thanks to all who treated us so graciously.

## BEGONIA MEMBERS VISIT GANNA WALSKA ESTATE

By WILMA BLOUGH

On Sunday, October 2, Madame Ganna Walska entertained some members and friends of the American Begonia Society at her Montecito, California, estate.

We left the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia at a little after nine in the morning, traveling by chartered bus. On the way we stopped for a coffee break.

Arriving at the woodland retreat of the former opera star, we were met by guides, who conducted groups of thirty to fifty persons through the gardens.

On either side of the driveway, giant aloes and the spectacular agave *ferox* made an interesting border. From here, past the lotus pond, we were led over paths that wound through groups of palms, tree ferns, black Japanese bamboo, and flowering trees such as cassia, jacaranda, *hymenosperrum*, and *erythrina falcata*.

Beautiful rare cacti, euphorbias, cereus, and succulents lined the walkways. Each one appeared as a specimen plant in its own right even though there were hundreds of them grouped in the planting.

After going through the rose garden and a display of one of the oldest species known to have grown on the earth, the cycads, we were directed to the south lawn, where canapes, punch, and coffee were served to more than three hundred persons who were greeted by the hostess.

In this area were the fascinating topiary animals and a huge live oak tree surrounded by a shelf that held dozens of charming 'Richmondensis' which were all in bloom. There were periwinkle under the bench and tuberous begonias in hanging baskets. There was one enormous tree with morganianum or donkey tail succulents hanging from its branches. Most interesting and colorful was the bougainvillea which billowed down from

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# TUBE HOUSES

By WILBUR W. OLSON

There are as many methods of building tube houses as there are tube houses. Everyone uses what he has available and his own ideas, and they all come out different.

If you want the tube house to last indefinitely you should have a concrete foundation. I just laid wood 2 x 4's right on the ground, although the area where I constructed the tube house had a covering of four inches of decomposed granite. If you lay a concrete foundation, you can put in foundation bolts and fasten the 2 x 4's to them.

The tubes should be mounted vertically for the walls. The roof can be either flat or pitched. However, a flat roof will leak and most of the rain that falls on it will come into the house. A pitched roof will shed a large percentage of the rain water and even become relatively tight after a year or so if you don't wash the tubes so that dirt and algae can seal the cracks between them.

There are three basic methods of mounting the tubes. The simplest method consists of making a form, usually in sections, for the tubes to be filled in, simply by placing them in one at a time until the section is filled. I usually look for the simplest way, so this is the method I employed.

I made the walls by standing 1 x 4's on edge on the 2 x 4 sills, with 1½ inch space between them. Of course, I made a framework to support the rafters. I used 4 x 4 pillars and joists and 3 x 4 rafters. The rafters are spaced 4 feet apart in our house so that determined the width of the wall sections. I placed 2 x 2's vertically under each rafter and resting between the bottom form. The final part of the forms for the wall tubes was composed of another pair of 1 x 4's placed under the rafters on either side of the 2 x 2 supports. Thus each section is 4 feet wide, bounded on each side by a 2 x 2 and held top and bottom by

the slots formed by the pairs of 1 x 4's. Since a tube is 1½ inches wide, if the section is exactly 4 feet, it will hold 32 tubes.

Another way to anchor the tubes, with or without the use of sections, is to drill holes for the tube tips to rest in, thus insuring that they can't move. This method also makes it possible to put a little space between the tubes if that is desired. Spacing the tubes does give more light but at the expense of humidity.

The third method is similar to the second one except that the holes are made 1½ inches so that the tube itself is anchored into its support. This offers the same advantages as the second method and is a little more stable and dependable. Both of the last two methods take considerably more work but usually produce a neater product.

The same methods can be applied to make the roof. However, it is not necessary to have sections in the roof even when using the first method. The roof of our tube house is 24 feet long and is all one section. A 2 inch stop on either end of the roof, a support at the top and bottom for the tubes to lay on, and a stop at the lower end for the tubes to stand on is all that is needed. Then a strip on top of the tubes near the top and bottom will hold the tubes firmly down.

Consideration should be given to the ease with which broken tubes can be replaced. It is very simple for me to replace tubes because I only have to loosen one strip — the lower one holding the roof tubes down — and I have them in 4-foot sections. The roof tubes can then be lifted right out, and if it is a wall tube, it can be lifted right out as soon as the roof tubes are out of the way. However, it is amazing how much abuse these tubes will take before breaking.

Recently I extended our tube structures to include our former lath house. The results have been so gratifying

that we now heartily recommend a spaced tube shelter instead of a lath house. Again, looking for the simplest method, I merely placed the tubes on 2 x 4 stringers and fastened them by driving a nail on either side of each tube. This arrangement holds the tubes securely in place but tubes can be taken out or replaced with ease.

We feel that this tube construction presents a neater and more pleasing appearance than one made with lath. Also, the partial shade which it provides is a softer and more uniform light without the characteristic black and white striped effect of a lath house. The tubes, of course, should run in a north-south direction in the same manner as the laths in a lath house. I spaced the tubes with 1½ inches between the nails holding them. This spacing has resulted in perfect "lath house" conditions for our climatic zone — only five miles from the ocean. In warmer areas the spacing would have to be considerably less.

We have also provided more light for the planted areas of our tube-covered patio by slightly spacing the tubes. In this case, eight-penny nails provide the spacing for the tubes, which run in an east-west direction. This has resulted in a great deal more bloom and foliage color, which with the slightly sunny appearance has given us a much more cheerful patio.

If you have not tried building shade for your plants with tubes, you have a pleasant experience awaiting you. In addition to being the most economical of materials, we believe they are the most versatile, offering almost endless possibilities in construction. Best of all, the final result is neat and pleasing in appearance and shade plants love the filtered sunlight tube structure provide.

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### **PUBLICATION NOTICE**

*All material for publication — articles, notices, photographs — should be sent to the Editor, preferably five weeks before date of publication. Deadline is the first of the month preceding month of publication.*

*Advertising copy and inquiries should be sent to the Advertising Manager.*

## **BEGONIAS IN NORTHEAST**

*By ELDA HARING*

When the short days of wintry December come to the northeast, it is best to keep begonias "on the dry side" and to apply no fertilizer, as specimen plants seldom show any new growth at this time. Water them thoroughly and then do not water them again until the soil in the top of the pots feels quite dry. When watering, take them to the sink or tub and wash off the leaves to keep them looking crisp and green.

Keep begonias groomed by taking off any dead or discolored leaves and rhizomes or branches which spoil the symmetry of the plants.

Begonias make fine Christmas gifts. Purchase a few white painted clay pots in the four-inch size for window-sill plants. Tie a red ribbon around each pot or decorate it with a red bow on a florist's pick. Be sure to include a little card giving the name of the gift plant, its parentage if known, and important cultural directions so that the recipient will know how to grow it.

Most begonias are damaged by cold drafts, especially if they have been grown under house conditions. Here in the northeast, where temperatures around Christmas time are likely to go below freezing, it is important to pack a gift plant so as to protect it from the elements.

With several thicknesses of newspaper, line a carton that is large enough to give at least two inches above the top of the plant. If the carton has a top, close this over the plant, or place newspaper over the top of the box, tucked in on the sides and ends. *Never* transport a begonia in the trunk of the car in cold weather. This can be disastrous. Before placing the carton on the floor of the interior of the car, start the engine and let the heater warm the interior for at least twenty minutes. En route, do not stop to shop or visit for longer than fifteen minutes if the car engine is turned

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## ROUND ROBIN NEWS

Questions and answers keep flying with the robins. And Ben Marcus, a new member, has suggested a specialty flight for growing begonias in terrariums. Wouldn't these be nice Christmas gifts? If terrarium begonias catch your imagination, let me know you would like to join this group.

**Lights:** Lily Fine of Brooklyn has switched to Wide-Spectrum tubes with very satisfactory results, finally achieving bloom on plants that had not flowered before. She keeps plants close to the lights, younger ones about four inches from the lights. Buds on her B. 'Anna Christine' opened for the first time in two years.

Norma Darragh of Covington, Louisiana, grows *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross) under the center of the tube, was using Gro-Lux, but now is growing it "better than ever" under cool white tubes. In winter, sun shines through the window also. In summer, there is no sun but lots of natural light plus the fluorescents, and very warm temperature. She waters it once for every three times she waters rexes — but never lets it wilt from dryness.

**Cuttings:** Ruth Wille of Jackson, Mississippi, has 'Iron Cross' plantlets from slits in a leaf, with the stem in vermiculite or sand and the leaf lying on the medium. Martha Larson of Jewel, Iowa, had no luck with propagation by cutting the underside of leaf ribs till recently, but has had four good plantlets from B. 'Jerrata' and also plantlets from B. 'Spaulding' this way. Frieda Polsfuss of Macon, Georgia, asks for suggestions on rooting *B. manicata aureo-maculata*, *B. dayi*, *B. incana*. Leaves rooted well, but gave her no plants. Robert Shatzer of Albright, West Virginia, finds these slow also, puts stems into sphagnum — and waits.

**Pollination:** Jane Neal of Worthing, England, who asked about the pollinating agent for begonias, now does believe begonias are air-pollinated. She has noted the extruded stamens and pistils. She also believes

humidity and heat play a large part. During a hot, humid period of ten days, she found seed pods set on many plants (even one she had not been able to set seed on before), although her greenhouse is screened against insects. Pollen could be seen falling like dust from some flowers.

**Hybridizing:** Jane Cullen of Hinsdale, Illinois, who grew the original *B. pilifera* seed for the Seed Fund, has the "most beautiful (so far)" *B. pilifera* x *B. dayi* seedlings. All three — parents and offspring — have a robustness she likes.

**Seed:** Margaret Winkler of Hudsonville, Michigan, said that B. 'It', B. 'Chocolate Soldier', *B. sceptrum*, and *B. purpurea* were the slowest of her seedlings this year. She transplants to a restaurant pickle jar, then to two-inch pots on a tray of moist sand.

**Rex Begonias:** Edna Stewart of Tarantum, Pennsylvania, finds that B. rex 'Green Gold' seems to resent being moved. Edna also says that many growers let rexes get too dry, so some of the fine feeder roots die; then over-watering may cause losses. With fewer roots, the plants cannot use as much water. Vernia Routh of Louisburg, Missouri, treats young rexes like young African violets. Cattleya orchids and small rex begonias make wonderful color companions in the same planter for George Barton of Deland, Florida.

**Canes and Mildew:** Geraldine Daly of Coventry, Rhode Island, asks what canes are free from fungus under all conditions. Her B. 'Lucerna' outside, northeast of the house, became gray, and she could not stop mildew summer or winter. But B. 'Orange Rubra' never seems to be bothered anytime, anywhere. Members in other areas report no trouble with angel wings. Vernia Routh in Missouri has 200 to 300 plants of nearly 30 varieties without one sick one — they grow beautifully nearly anywhere.

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

# COLLECTING AND PREPARING SEED

By JANE CULLEN

Growing begonia seed is one of the interesting aspects of the begonia field. To produce seed of good quality, a few rules will help a great deal. Even then, there will be failures and disappointments; but if you are stubbornly persistent, doggedly determined — call it what you will — the fascination will never leave you.

To collect seed, it is advisable to start off with only the most promising plants, as to good health and over-all form. Careful pollination — by brushing stamens of male flower against pistils of female — should follow, coupled with accurate marking and proper identification of both parents at the time of pollination. After these preliminaries, the following paragraphs, although of non-creative nature, are nevertheless important.

To be certain that the seed is ripe, one good rule is to allow the pod to remain on the plant until the stem attached to the seed capsule dries. In some begonias, such as the *semperflorens*, ripeness may be indicated by separation of the capsule at each compartment edge. Any seed capsule which drops before drying is of doubtful value; an exception might be a capsule which remains intact nearly to the end of the drying period. Examination of the seed might show signs of viability, but before sending any such seed to the Seed Fund, or anywhere else for that matter, it would be wise to sow a small amount as a test.

Seed can be removed easily from the capsule to a clean paper with tweezers and a small, pointed tool such as an orange stick or a toothpick. Any chaff will adhere to a dampened stick or toothpick. Usually there will be a certain amount of chaff in the seed, and removal is advised for good housekeeping, especially if the seed is to go to the Seed Fund.

Correct labeling has its important place, along with every other facet of

the seed collecting process. If the seed is from a plant which was not hand-pollinated, such as a random *semperflorens* begonia in the garden, be sure to mention this fact when labeling. If, to the best of your knowledge, the seed is the result of careful pollination of a certain species, by pollen from its own flowers — or a careful cross involving hybrids, or a combination of these — mention the names of all plant parents, as well as plant names. Proper labeling is most important to people who care to go to the trouble of raising plants from seed.

For mailing seed, a small envelope can be folded, with a double fold along the edges to keep seed from escaping. This small envelope should be wrapped in cotton or some such protective packing material and placed in a larger envelope for mailing. On the outside of this envelope, the words HAND CANCEL might save the seed from some damage during its journey.

Before long, this healthy, properly identified, clean, correctly labeled, safely packed seed will become a great source of pleasure for many of us.

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# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

## No. 1 — *B. Rex* hybrids —

Seed from a new source from plants originally from Teupel Brothers, in Germany. They have provided many colorful plants in the past and we are fortunate to be able to offer this seed to you. Also, seed from spirals and plain leaves, some from cv. *B. 'Lady Francis Jean'*. (Please note: we are not offering seed of cv. *B. 'Lady Francis Jean'*. However, the mixture will contain seed of this plant.)

Rex begonias are the most beautiful of all begonias and, if they are given a few simple requirements, they are the easiest to grow and the most colorful. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 2 — *B. bradei* —

Brazil sp. Fairly new, beautiful with dainty, slim, soft-hairy green leaves lined with red. Flowers are white or pinkish-white. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 3 — *B. megeptera* —

India. Erect plant; leaves unequal at the base. A large number of elongated peduncles rise from the upper axils bearing large pink flowers on each. The flowers cover the plant completely, producing a charming effect. A friend in Brazil has a large plant of *B. megeptera* — pollinated blooms and furnished seed. \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 4 — *B. xanthina* —

India. Ovate leaves which are unequally cordate. Flowers are of medium size and conspicuously yellow. Capsule has unequal wings, one very much elongated. Beautiful begonia. Germination perfect. \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 5 — *B. hydrocotylifolia* —

Mexico. Also called 'Pennywort' begonia. Terrarium-type creeper, small, glossy, and veined-shadowed. Mid-winter flowers are pink, on six-inch stems. Likes a shallow container or basket. 35 cents per pkt.

\* \* \*

Some of our seed-planting friends like to grow tuberous begonias from seed. We offer the very finest and freshest seed available from the originator of Pacific strains.

## No. 6 — *B. Tuberhybrida* —

Rose-form type. The ultimate in perfection of classical beauty. Crimson-rose. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 7 — *B. Tuberhybrida* —

Ruffled type. Deep many-petaled flowers, with frills and ruffles, held on stiff stems. Exotic and beautiful. Apricot color. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 8 — *B. Tuberhybrida* —

Double hanging type. Their hanging habit, with great masses of blooms, makes them favored for decoration of greenhouses, open verandas, or sun porches, where they can be protected against strong winds and light. Yellow. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 9 — *B. Tuberhybrida* —

Hanging type, rose color. 50 cents per pkt.

\* \* \*

Offered below are some of the best varieties of the multiflora type begonias. They are the easiest to grow of the summer-flowering tuberous begonias. They will flourish with more sun and less moisture than the tuberhybrida, and seldom need pinching or staking. Soil should be light and humus-rich. Drainage should be good.

## No. 10 — *B. Multiflora 'Helene Harms'* —

Delightful soft canary-yellow flowers, mostly double. Leaves clean blue-green. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 11 — *B. 'Tasso'* —

Double Fl hybrid. Bright pink flowers, all double. Medium-sized flowers produced on dwarf, bushy plants. Heat-resistant and rain-resistant. 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 12 — *B. 'Sweet Home'* —

Bright salmon-orange flowers. Very free-flowering. Excellent for bedding. 50 cents per pkt.

Seed of tuberous begonias should be sown from December to February for summer blooming.

## FERNS

We have had such wonderful reports from those who are growing ferns from spores, we have acquired

fruiting fronds from a grower of rare and exotic ferns in Southern California. Some of the varieties offered are not available in nurseries or greenhouses.

**No. 1 — *Thelypteris opposita* —**

(Syn. *Dryopteris opposita*). Sometimes called 'Wet fern'. See description by Sylvia Leatherman elsewhere in this issue of *The Begonian*. 50 cents per pkt.

**No. 2 — *Phyllitis scolopendrum* cv. 'Crispum-Multifidum'**

Spectacular 'Hart's Tongue Fern', slow-glowing but worth while. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 3 — *Adiantum raddianum* cv. 'Pacific Maid' —**

An attractive compact variety with 2-3 pinnate fronds, the pinnae stiffly set in stages above each other, satiny green leaflets, large, with veins running into the sinus. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 4 — *Blechnum Moorei* —**

Brazilian form #69. Low trunk, arching fronds, medium growth. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 5 — *Adiantum cuneatum* cv. 'Gracillum' —**

'Mist Maidenhair'. A beautiful fern, with tiny leaflets, rich green, borne in multiples on graceful ten to twelve inch fronds, which are produced in densely tufted crowns. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 6 — *Pellaea adiantoides* —**

Resembles *P. viridis*, with smaller leaflets; is more brittle. Hardy in cold climates. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 7 — *Polypodium subauriculatum* —**

Long, leathery, pendant, pinnate fronds to ten feet long. Creeping rhizomes. Requires greenhouse conditions. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 8 — *Aglaomorpha meyeniana* —**

'Bear's Paw Fern'. Distinctive epiphyte, with thick, paw-like rhizome covered thickly with brown hair, glossy green fronds, pearly margins. Requires protection in winter. 35 cents per pkt.

**No. 9 — *Asplenium belangeri* —**

Price 35 cents per pkt.

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# 1966 REGISTRATIONS

By ALVA GRAHAM

## No. 224 — B. Crispie.

This is the small cane that won the Glendale Branch award for the highest rating new cultivar at the American Begonia Society Show in September, 1965. All three judges thought it was "different", and it got an almost perfect score. The leaves are almost round and have a quilted texture on the dark green surface. Underneath the leaf is red, reflecting the red sinus and reddish veins above. The flowers are small, white and on short petioles. This is Mrs. Belva Kusler's cross of *dregei* and *crispula*, and is pictured on the cover of the October, 1965, *Begonian*. It may be obtained from the Tropical Paradise Greenhouse, one of our advertisers.

## No. 225 — B. Jose Gaspar.

Mrs. O. A. Dorsey, of Tampa, Florida, obtained this rhizomatous begonia from crossing *Manicata aureo-maculata* with *Ricinifolia*. The leaves are a modified star of an unusual golden chartreuse color, with cream-colored veins and a red mahogany stitched edge. The petioles are topped by the typical *Manicata* collar of hairs. Small pink flowers on short stems bloom in spring. Mrs. Dorsey has been growing this cultivar since 1958 and it has become popular in her part of Florida, where all begonias do not thrive. She is making it available to the trade.

## No. 226 — Silver Swastika.

This is an 'Iron Cross' but in an outstanding color variation. *Masoniana* crossed with *Pebble Lane* produced the change. Mrs. Dorsey, the originator, says it differs in "the overall silver zone between veins and bright green border around the dark swastika-like cross." The shape of the leaves, the growth of the plant, and the bloom habit are the same as *B. masoniana*. Mrs. Dorsey is propagating it. Her address is 8110 N. Edison Ave., Tampa, Florida 33604.

## No. 227 — White Poi.

The popularity of the *Semperflorens*

begonia has reached Australia, and one of our members there has provided that country with a fine selection of new plants for bedding or pot culture. Peter Rutherford has produced his "Poi Series" of medium sized and very strong-growing begonias. The White Poi has pale apple-green foliage, and the fully double white pom-pom blooms are one inch across.

## No. 228 — Pale Pink Poi.

This semp has the same fully double tight pom-pom bloom but is dainty pale pink. Its picture in color is in the November, 1965, number of the Australian magazine, *Your Garden*.

## No. 229 — Roe Poi.

A strong grower to 15 inches tall is this variation which has deep green leaves flushed with red bronze. The flowers are bright rose and very double, appearing just beyond the leaves and so thick that they give the plant the look of a bouquet. Its picture in color also appears in *Your Garden*.

## No. 230 — Red Poi.

This is the largest of the series, growing to 20 inches tall. The foliage is deep red over dark green and is edged with a bright red line. The flowers are deep dark red and very large. The whole group with its different colorings has been grown since 1963 and has proved hardy and successful under varied conditions.

## No. 231 — Super Orangeade.

Another of Mr. Rutherford's originations is this strong grower with the unusual color of bloom, a glowing orange red, which he says, "really lights up the garden". The flowers are mostly single but quite large. The foliage is deep green overlaid with red bronze.

## No. 232 — Strawberry Parfait.

This is a *Calla Lily* type — from Mr. Rutherford's favorite *Calla Queen* — with typical *calla lily* formation. Both green leaves and white leaves are often heavily flecked and striped with

strawberry pink. The flowers are single, bright red, with scarlet seedpods, which add greatly to the effect. This begonia, unlike the doubles, produces viable seed which it is hoped will reproduce itself.

## WET FERN

By SYLVIA LEATHERMAN

People often wonder how plants acquire common names.

A friend in Puerto Rico sent me three ferns, which were not identified. Included in the information he sent me about them, he noted that they should be kept very wet. Knowing how other people water and for my own reminder, I wrote the word "WET" in large letters on each label. Noticing this, people began to refer to this fern as the "wet fern".

When my friend stated "wet", he meant the fern needs an abundance of water. It must be kept exceptionally wet at all times. Deep penetration of water is very essential.

Correctly, the wet fern is *Thelypteris opposita* (syn. *Dryopteris opposita*). It has been winter-hardy for us here in South El Monte, California. During the summer months it must be watched closely to be sure it receives enough moisture. It has creeping rhizomes. The growing tips of the rhizomes should be kept free of any barriers. Butting against the side of a container, wall, or post or not having soil to creep on can cause the loss of this fern.

The stiff, upright, arching fronds are yellow green, about two feet in height. The fruiting fronds darken and become a rusty green coloring, which provides a pleasing contrast. The fruiting fronds will last for several days in flower arrangements. This fern is attractive the year around.

To my knowledge, it is in limited cultivation in the United States. Spores that I put in germinated in fifteen days. They have an even temperature of 65 to 70 degrees and are ten inches below a Gro-lux tube.

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Other \$1.00 specials in bromeliads. (List available on these.)

**FERNS . . . Polypodium polycarpon cv. grandiceps** — Sometimes called 'Fish tail fern'. A clustering fern, with odd-shaped wavy yellow-green fronds. Prominent midrib and tips forking to points and crests.

**Nephrolepis cordifolia 'Duffii'** — From New Zealand, Polynesia. Densely crowded, compact fern. The wiry stalks, closely set with tiny rounded leathery leaflets.

**PLANTS FOR HANGING BASKETS . . . Chlorophytum sp.** — From Africa. Small tropical herb with grass-like leaves with yellow-white stripes. They develop tufts of leaves and aerial roots, which make new plants.

**CACTI AND SUCCULENTS . . . Stapelia gigantea** — Ribbed, fat, velvety, pale green stems, with large flowers. Sometimes called 'Star-fish cactus'. Flowers are unusual in shape and color.

**Cycrocereus sp.** — Night-blooming climber of the rain forests, using aerial roots. Unusual deeply lobed stems. Flowers fragrant. Can also be used in a hanging basket.

**PALM SEEDLINGS . . . Veitchia (adonidia) merrillii** — Christmas Palm. Slender, ringed trunk. Attractive red fruit in clusters.

**FOLIAGE HOUSE PLANTS . . . Fittonia verschaffeltii** — From Peru. Low, creeping herb with sturdy, oval leaves, dark green netted with rose-pink or red veins.

**Cordyline terminalis minima** — From Hawaii. One of the tiniest 'Red dracaenas'. Miniature rosette with narrow, concave, recurved leaves, deep metallic green suffused with copper, and a red border.

**ORCHIDS . . . Epidendrum ibaguense (radicans)** — From Colombia. Reed-type terrestrial with slender leafy stems to 4 ft. high. Orange-yellow flowers. (This is different from the regular radicans, which is described below. Flower more golden yellow, with no red.)

**Epidendrum radicans** — Easy to grow, terrestrial orchid. Grows in sun, outside in mild climate. Will grow in a pot or planter box (this may need staking). Also makes an unusual hanging basket. Clusters of orange and red flowers at tip of stem.

**FLOWERING HOUSE PLANTS . . . Carissa grandiflora nana** — Small plant. (Miniature natal plum.) Compact grower. Makes good bonsai.

**Spathiphyllum candidum** — Glossy green foliage. Lovely white flowers in spring. Easy to grow indoors. Likes shade.

**TROPICAL FRUIT TREES . . .** (To grow as house plants.)

**Chrysophyllum cainito** — Star apple. Medium sized tree of tropical America. Striking dark green leaves, which are coppery yellow beneath. Purplish round fruit.

**Eugenia malaccensis** — Malay apple. Jambu. A handsome tree from Malaya. Flowers are crimson. The fruit is pear-shaped, white or red. Pulp is edible. Must be protected from cold.

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BEST WISHES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON



## NORTHEAST . . .

(Continued from Page 231)

off, because a car can become cold very quickly in below-freezing temperatures.

Small-leaved begonias look lovely in compotes or goblets and make beautiful gifts. To make such a gift, place a layer of bird gravel and charcoal in the bottom of the container and cover it with a piece of paper towel to keep the potting soil from drifting down into this area. If the container is too shallow for the rootball, rub a little of the soil off the bottom and sides of the ball to make a good fit. Remind the recipient of your gift to water it carefully, so that the soil in the closed container will not be too moist.

## MEMBERS VISIT . . .

(Continued from Page 229)

the roof. Many of the guests took pictures of the orchids, begonias, coleus, and caladiums which grew in the protected area of the patio.

Finally the time came for us to get back on our bus and leave for home. In Ventura we stopped for a satisfying dinner.

Our grateful thanks go to Jimmy Girdlian and Olive Westcott, who planned and executed the arrangements for this delightful adventure.

## BEGONIAS IN EAST . . .

(Continued from Page 227)

garden contest among the tenants of their low-income housing. The plants grown run the gamut of material that will tolerate the hot and polluted air of the city. Last year in several gardens there were tuberous begonias. They weren't huge, and they had suffered from the heat, but they did bloom and to those gardeners they gave probably as much joy as the flamboyant beauties do for those blessed with the right climate. These plants were being grown in an impossible location simply because no one had told the gardeners that it was impossible to grow them there.

So you in California, with your lavish climate of fog and cool nights, be aware that three thousand miles to the east in a far less fortunate climate, the queen of begonias, Tuberous Begonia, captures the imagination of gardeners and makes them strive against all odds to enjoy her beauty.

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Good Wishes for the New Year  
EAST BAY BRANCH

*May Peace and Joy Be Yours  
at Christmas Time  
and Throughout the New Year*  
MISSOURI BRANCH

May Christmas Joys and Blessings  
Continue Through the New Year  
NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

HOLIDAY GREETINGS  
from  
THE TEXAS STATE BRANCH

*We Wish You the Blessings  
of Christmas  
And a Joyful New Year*  
★  
REDONDO AREA BRANCH

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

Season's Greetings and Best Wishes  
for a Happy New Year  
EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

THE ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH  
*Wishes All of You  
Peace and Happiness for Christmas  
And the Year 1967*

May Peace and Joy Be Yours  
*at Christmas Time and  
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May Christmas Joys and Blessings  
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*For Christmas and the New Year*  
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*and Best Wishes*  
*For a Happy New Year*  
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THE KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

*May Your Christmas be Rich in*  
*Blessings and May the New Year*  
*Bring Joy and Happiness to You*  
★  
BESSIE RAYMOND BUXTON BRANCH

May All the Joys  
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Usher in  
*Your Happiest Begonia Year*  
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The members of  
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for the Christmas Season.  
*May you have the best*  
*"Begonia Year" ever.*

*Greetings and All Good Wishes*  
*at Christmas*  
*And a Most Happy New Year*  
★  
SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

## REPORT OF A.B.S. BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was held Monday, October 24, at the South Gate Auditorium. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by President Everett Wright. Fourteen officers and twelve Branch representatives were present.

The treasurer, Walter Barnett, reported a balance of \$777.58 on hand.

The advertising manager was asked to renew our ad in *Flower Grower* magazine, which expired at this time.

A letter from the San Francisco Branch invited the A.B.S. to hold the banquet and convention there in 1967. Mr. Barnett moved that we table this question until next month, because some of the Board members will visit San Francisco at their installation program in November and will bring back more information. Seconded by Pearl Benell, the motion carried.

The membership secretary, Pearl Benell, reported that 2,529 magazines were mailed last month.

Vera Naumann, public relations director, reported on a new Branch being formed, to be known as the Connecticut Branch. Muriel Perz moved that the Branch be accepted; seconded by Anne Rose, the motion carried.

M. Lee made a motion that we accept the appointment of Sylvia Leatherman as judging course director for the full year, seconded by C. Tagg. Motion carried.

Historian Evelyn Vollnogle said she would like to receive articles and pictures of anything of interest from the Branches for the historian records.

Sylvia Leatherman made a motion that the American Begonia Society furnish an award of merit to Rome, Georgia, for its garden show. Seconded by Walter Barnett, the motion carried.

To fill a vacancy on the awards committee, President Wright appointed Mrs. Thelma O'Rielly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, California.

The business manager, W. C. Cocke, reported on the finances of the flower show and convention. The amount of \$322.36 was cleared.

Past President Muriel Perz read the report of the budget committee, which was accepted.

The president appointed a committee to count ballots: Evelyn Vollnogle, Walter Pease, and Vera Naumann. The committee will report at the next meeting.

A motion was made to donate \$75.00 to the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, where the show and annual meeting was held. Carried.

The meeting adjourned.

LUCILLE WILLIAMS,  
*Secretary.*

## CALENDAR

DEC. 1 — WESTCHESTER BRANCH: Whoopee party. Bring your friends.

DEC. 8 — ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH: Christmas party 7:30 p.m. A special holiday program and lots of goodies.

DEC. 9 — SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH: Christmas social party at 8 p.m. Come and have fun.

DEC. 15 — FOOTHILL BRANCH: Pictures showing the work at Casa Colina, at 8 p.m.

DEC. 18 — GLENDALE BRANCH: Birthday and Installation meeting in the evening at the Glendale Federal Building. Speaker will be Mrs. Gladys Beirdneau of this Branch, who specializes in Christmas decoration programs. She makes artistic and beautiful home ornaments.

DEC. 30 — REDONDO AREA BRANCH: Note change of date for this month. Installation of officers preceded by a Christmas dinner. The club will furnish meat; other items pot-luck.

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