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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  
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Views expressed in this magazine are not  
necessarily those of the Editor, the Society, or  
its officers.

# BEGONIA LIMMINGHEIANA CENTENNIAL

By HARRY BLOSSFELD  
*Tremembe, Sao Paulo, Brazil*

Before returning home from his long stay in Brazil, Mr. Ralph W. Spencer had the kindness of giving me his collection of begonia species, which he had gathered on his travels in this country. Most of them were without names, but their origins had been noted on the labels.

Among these plants, one of trailing habit soon attracted my special curiosity. On its label was stated: "Road to Fumaca — 2300 ft. alt." There are several localities in Brazil with this name, but the one indicated should be a district near the town of Rezende on the boundary of the Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo States. This is on the Mantiqueira Mountains, where the altitude mentioned is common.

Trailing begonias, when showing a somewhat pendulous habit of growth, are fine for hanging baskets and, if they have showy flowers, they make wonderful specimens for home decoration. Mr. Spencer had shown me a set of his color slides, of which one slide was of this particular begonia. It had beautiful coral-red blossoms in pendulous clusters. This stimulated my hopes.

Having but one plant that was growing fast enough, I decided to let it grow undisturbed without pinching it back, hoping to get it to bloom sooner. It grew ten feet long and, instead of blooming from the old stem, as I expected, it decided to flower near the tip. In future cultivation it will be a good practice to pinch back the growth on small plants, to obtain numerous branches, each of which will bloom.

From a short, drooping bunch of buds, first emerge the male flowers. Each of these has two large, coral-red,

wide-spreading petals and two more quite narrow petals that soon bend backward and shrivel. Most flowers show a paler color along petal margins than in the centers. Anthers are narrow, linear, and open by two pores near the tip. This feature is typical for the *Solananthera* section. By comparison of the species described from Brazil in this section, it was not difficult to identify this plant as *Begonia limmingheiana* Morren.

After the male flowers, open the fertile blossoms. These are much larger and intensely red, with wing borders darker than the seed vessel in the center. They last for several months and are very showy, even when the seeds approach maturity. The blooming season is from early spring to mid-summer.

*Begonia limmingheiana* has had a turbulent botanical history. It was discovered originally by the unfortunate French collector, Joseph Libon, who perished on a plant collecting trip to Minas Gerais. The seed was received by his patrons, Messrs. De Jonghe, of Brussels, about 1860.

They sold a specimen to Count de Limminghe, a prominent plant collector in his time. In his glass-house it was displayed in perfection for several years, and was observed by Edouard Morren, famous botanist and editor of the foremost horticultural periodical of Belgium. Morren described this plant as a new species in 1866 — a hundred years ago.

At about that same time, another begonia was offered in Europe under the name *Begonia coccinea* var. *Comte Alfred de Limminghe*. This was a cane-stemmed begonia, although with rather weak stems, and it seems that this did not belong at all to *B. coccinea*, but was a form of *Begonia Corallina*.

(Continued on Page 74)

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## COVER PICTURE

*Begonia cubensis* — Cuban species.

Photo by MERRY GARDENS.

# HANGING BASKET — A DISPLAY OF BEAUTY

By DAVID MARKS

It is not the intent of this article to cover all the facets of growing a hanging-basket begonia. Soil mix, fertilizer, water, humidity, and light must all be provided in the proper proportions.

The main point of this article is to cover the shaping of the plant. Instead of being tied to stakes, upright, the plant should be encouraged to bush out over the edge of the basket and hang down where all the flowers will make a glorious display — and the fine points of the leaf coloration and shape will be shown at eye-level.

In the spring, new shoots start coming up at the base of the plant. These are of two types, upright suckers and naturally pendant growth. If the upright suckers are cut off within two or three inches of the soil level, just above a node, they will put out naturally pendant side growth which will hang gracefully over the side of the basket by the weight of the foliage and blooms.

When the basket is starting to fill with pendant growth, some of the shoots will start to bloom (if all growing conditions are right). If these blooming tips are pinched back to a



*Begonia serratifolia*

node which has a side branch, the plant will fill out to a more solid, lush basket. This is the pinching that many growers cannot bring themselves to do. The immediate bloom has much more appeal than the promise of more bloom and plant at some later date. However, this pinching seems to be the major secret of success with basket-type plants, and makes the difference between an average plant and a specimen of real beauty. Pinching this growth also gives the grower a chance to help control the growth for an even plant with a rounded appearance.

Try sacrificing these early blooms — just once — to experimental science, and I'm sure you will be as convinced as I am that it is the right thing to continue to do next year.

Speaking of next year, some of this year's canes will be bare of leaves at the base, giving the basket a poor ap-

*(Continued on Page 74)*



*Begonia scharffiana*

Drawings by Millicent Rader Harris



# A PROFESSOR AND HIS BEGONIAS

By H. GILBERT HARLOW

Twenty-five years ago I planted my first bed of fifty tuberous begonias. Until then I had never seen a tuberous begonia. While the flower form of my begonias left much to be desired, the novelty was such that visitors to my garden were extravagant in their praise. The next year I doubled the planting and the next few years I doubled it each year. Those of you familiar with geometric progressions will realize this soon leads to large numbers and indeed it did, for I was up in the thousands in a short time.

In 1950 Charles Lewis, now Horticultural Director of Sterling Forest Gardens but at that time a graduate student at Cornell, discovered that tuberous begonias would bloom all winter with fourteen hours of day length. I immediately wired my greenhouse for lights to provide the extra day length and from that time until the present I have never been without blooming plants.

Growing under glass in the winter is most rewarding in climates where the summer temperatures tend to be somewhat higher than ideal, because under the controlled greenhouse conditions you can have whatever temperature you want. Those of you who have seen cool-grown plants in Canada or northern regions of the United States know how important the lower temperatures, particularly at night, are for tuberous begonias.

Year-around begonia growing also had much to offer the begonia breeding program which I have been carrying on for twenty years. Even though

I select from a good many thousands of plants, fewer than a hundred are actually used in the crosses I make in a given year. By selecting from the summer's crop and growing the choice specimens on through the following winter to serve as parent plants, it is possible to gain a full year over seasonal growing and this is important in anything that is improving as rapidly as the tuberous begonia. There is also an obvious advantage in having the hybridizing operation going on during the time that my garden, under a foot of snow, requires no attention.

Nearly all the begonia production in the United States is concentrated in the Monterey Bay area of California and for very good reasons. Tuber growth occurs only in the seasons with short day-length, and most other sections of the country that are not too warm for growing begonias during the summer have frosts in the fall so early that adequate tuber formation for commercial purposes is next to impossible. In the California fog belt a full year in the ground is often possible, resulting in plump tubers.

Because the tubers may be harvested in December or January it is best not to hurry them into active growth in the spring since they need several months of dormancy. Some evidence of sprouting while they are still being kept dry and cool should be observed before flattting them up and giving them warmth and moisture.

Here in the East most growers have noticed that their older tubers saved from the previous year start to sprout before those they have just purchased and this is, of course, caused by the fact that they have harvested their old tubers two or three months early to avoid the fall frosts. Early sprouting, however, will usually be the only characteristic favoring the older tubers because the vigor of the tuber drops off rapidly with age, the first year normally providing the finest plant.

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About the Author: H. Gilbert Harlow is Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department at Union College in Schenectady, New York. His strain of tuberous begonias, hybridized for eastern United States growing conditions, has won many honors, including the highest award of the International Flower Show in New York. He is director of the Men's Garden Clubs of America test program for tuberous begonias.

Many growers are not aware that the best tuberous begonia plants are often produced the very first year, that is, before there is any tuber. The tuber serves as a way of perpetuating the plant and provides a reservoir of food to get it started into growth, but the remarkable vigor of plants grown directly from seed is probably in large measure attributable to the fact that the plant food and moisture picked up by the roots does not have to travel through the gnarled passages of the tuber to reach the above-ground portion of the plant.

Seedling plants have another advantage. In the normal commercial tuber production operation it is customary to select all the best plants while they are in bloom and to stake them so that at harvest time they can be segregated. The truly superior specimens are saved to test as parent plants for future crosses while the next best are sold as select tubers at premium prices. The remaining tubers constitute the great bulk of the stock available for sale by the begonia specialists and the seed houses. When you grow a seedling you know that you are the first to see it in bloom and that there is always a chance that something really outstanding may appear in your planting.

The big West Coast growers such as Vetterle and Reinelt at Capitola and Antonelli Brothers at Santa Cruz list seedlings in their catalogs and here in the East they are available from Koral Gardens in Pattersonville, New York. All these growers ship plants by mail or air express. An increasing number of nurseries and bedding plant sales outlets is also retailing begonia seedlings usually grown by a specialist and wholesaled to the market.

If you have grown only from tubers you have a treat in store. The seedling plants from the specialists will have been grown under lights for at least four months before you purchase them so that bud initiation may already have started. Their normal blooming period is from June until

frost or until the days become short enough to form tubers in the late fall. As bedding plants, they are unexcelled because their growth is sturdy and uniform while their vigor and ability to withstand trying conditions is superior. Seedling plants are often available in full bloom but no method for shipping them safely while in bloom has been devised.

What about growing them from seed for your own garden? This is entirely possible if you have adequate greenhouse facilities to carry them through the winter at 60 to 65 degrees F. and can provide at least fourteen hours of day-length. If you have grown African violets, gloxinias, or fibrous begonias from seed successfully, the same system should work with tuberous begonias. Use a porous soil mix that has been sterilized, sow the seed thinly on the surface, and don't cover it except with glass or plastic to hold the moisture. Provide bottom heat.

Seed is available from the specialists on the West Coast but it should be remembered that production of superior begonia seed is a very expensive operation, the real bottleneck being the production of pollen by plants that are suitable male parents. No hybridist is going to sell the best seed he has because he needs it for his own production. The cost of the seed that is available is such that you would do well to sow only a portion of it until you have achieved initial success.

Among the plant test programs of the Men's Garden Clubs of America there is one devoted to tuberous begonias. One of the findings of this group, after years of testing seedlings against tuber grown plants, is that in those sections of the country where tuberous begonias are a real challenge there is much merit in treating them as annuals grown from seed for a season of bloom without attempting to harvest tubers, except where a plant or two may be so outstanding that it deserves to be perpetuated and eventually propagated from cuttings. It should be pointed out that no two tu-

berous begonias from seed will be identical and that vegetative propagation is necessary if you want to increase your stock of a particular cultivar.

Most of my students have heard me say that, although horticulture will never replace pursuing the opposite sex as a young man's hobby, for the rest of us it is difficult to beat. As I walk into my own garden or the 130-year-old 17-acre garden at Union College in Schenectady, New York, where my begonia crosses are first tested, I never fail to experience that same feeling of exhilaration that I had when about twenty years ago I saw blooming for the first time a tuberous begonia in which I could claim at least a small part in producing. Actually, the joy increases with the years as I can recall the parents, grandparents, and ancestors of many generations back for each of the bright new specimens. The many genetic characteristics of the begonia strain I have developed gives each plant something very close to a personality. I suppose the time will come when I start talking to them but I'll try to do it within the confines of my greenhouse when no one is around to carry tales. It is bad enough for college professors to have a reputation for absent-mindedness.

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## BEGONIAS IN APRIL

By ELDA HARING

April in the northeast finds us with longer, brighter days, but we may still have some very cold, blustery days, and in the extreme northern areas some snow still will fall. Now is the time to keep a vigilant eye on window-sill conditions. The sun has unbelievable warmth at this time of year.

If begonias begin to show thin, brown spots on the leaves, if the leaves look papery and scorched, if the leaves are shriveled and become tan and then drop from the plants, or if the leaves on some varieties begin to curl or become "bumpy" — you may be sure that plants are getting too much heat

from the sun. They should be moved away from the window but should still receive bright light and some early morning sun, particularly those plants which will be blooming soon.

For begonias showing blossom buds at this time of year I start a regular fertilizing schedule, giving them full-strength water-soluble fertilizer every two weeks. The winter bloomers which probably will be dropping their blooms are given less light and no fertilizer, and are watered only enough to keep them from wilting. Those which wait until mid-summer to bloom are kept in good growing condition by being watered regularly and fed half-strength fertilizer every two weeks.

All my begonias get a good grooming early in April. Woody shoots are cut out of old plants to encourage strong, new shoots to grow. To produce good bushy plants, tips of branches are pinched off. Dead leaves and old flower stems are removed, and the plants receive a shower bath in a sink or tub, using lukewarm water. Plants are allowed to drain and leaves to dry before being put back into their permanent places. The shower removes the dust accumulated over the winter, allowing the leaves to breathe, and makes begonias look healthy and happy.

At this time I stake the tall growers to make sure that stems will be straight and to give support to the heavy clusters of bloom that well-grown begonias produce. Cutting away long, ungainly branches to keep plants symmetrical is important. All branches and stems thus removed will root readily at this time.

For my cuttings, I use a mixture of one-third vermiculite, one-third milled sphagnum, and one-third perlite. For soft-leaved varieties, I use a mixture of one-half peat moss and one-half sand.

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## TROUBLE-FREE SOIL FOR BEGONIAS

By MRS. DON L. WAGNER  
*Southern Editor*

A new product that solves many problems for begonia growers has been released recently in the southern area — a soil-less mix made from sugar cane bagasse.

Upon receiving the mix, I first planted a flat with seeds of Begonia 'Calla', *B. deliciosa*, *B. evansiana*, and mixed semps. Germination was excellent. 'Calla' and the mixed semps were up in eight days, with no damp-off at all.

Next was a test to see how tiny seedlings from other mediums would fare. Twenty-four seedling plants were placed in the mix. To my surprise, all lived and you could almost watch them grow. This is the most critical time in a young plant's life and usually half of the plants succumb in the first transplanting.

As a standard mix it is "terrific" because it drains readily, does not pack, and is light and airy. The root action is tremendous. I repotted all my rex begonias in it and the results were amazing in such a short time.

What makes this new mix so wonderful? The basic food elements needed to make plant growth have been added — nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. It is a balanced growing medium having a fertilizer content of approximately 1-0.5-0.5, with a pH of 6.0. It also contains chlordan as well as a wetting agent to aid in water absorption.

The Arburn Horticultural Field Station at Mobile, Alabama, has made various experiments with Dr. Raymond Self, plant pathologist, in charge. The product has been used with good results by a number of large nurseries in the Mobile area and also in Florida.

This soil-less mix is available in three sizes: fine for seeds and seedlings, regular for general potting, and course for mulching and outdoor use. It is uniform in grading at all times.

It is easy to use, requires no sterilizing, and can be used as needed.

The mix can be used half-and-half with sand, soil, or peat. Five begonia growers in this area are using it with excellent results as follows:

For seed planting and seedlings: one part this mix, one part ground sphagnum, one part fine perlite or sand.

For general use: two parts this mix, one part sphagnum or leaf mold, one part perlite or sand. For a heavier mix for cane begonias and semps, add two parts soil instead of the sphagnum.

This new product is made from sugar cane pulp by a process of aging, curing, purifying, dehydrating, sterilizing, sizing, vacuum-cleaning, and nutrient-impregnating.

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## HARDY BEGONIAS

This is in answer to the inquiry by Don Stephenson of Paekarika, New Zealand, which appeared in the February issue:

Begonias 'Fuscomaculata', 'Erythrophylla Helix', 'Richmondensis', *boweri nigra-marga*, *stitched leaf*, and others have grown all this winter in my greenhouses with all south vents open in 22-degree weather. They received very little water and no heat in the daytime, but when the temperature stayed on 28 degrees, I did have heat at night, with the windows open on the south side of the greenhouses.

I have about three thousand plants of different types of begonias in two greenhouses. None of them went dormant and none of them suffered damage. All are in blossom at this time (February 17, 1967).

I am happy to say that I am proud of every begonia I have.

MRS. P. C. THURMON,  
*Homer, Louisiana.*

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# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

## No. 1 — *B. goeensis* —

Growth bushy, compact, with high creeping rhizomes. Petioles very fleshy, sharply tri-cornered, bare. Leaves almost round to egg-shaped, closed, saucer-like, wavy over the entire surface or rugose; upper side of the leaf olive-green with lighter shading, silky gloss, a little lighter at the margins; beneath reddish, both sides bare. Inflorescence sessile, surpassing the leaves very little in height. Flowers medium large, pink. This plant is a treasure for collectors and fanciers of beautiful foliage plants and should be grown in a well regulated greenhouse or similar conditions. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 2 — *B. listada* —

Brazil. Seed was offered by the Seed Fund a few years ago. Leaves are narrow, double pointed, hairy, with light green bands down the center. Upright branching habit of easy culture. Flowers are white with red hairs on back, almost two inches across. Constant bloomer. Slow germination. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 3 — *B. Philippine species* —

Begonia of easy culture, rapid grower. Leaves short-hairy, narrow, serrated deep green. Flowers are medium size, clear pink, abundantly produced, steady bloomer. Plant has a refined look. Price 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 4 — *B. acuminata* —

Jamaica. Crisply dainty plant covered with prim white flowers from arching stems; glossy, soft green leaves crinkled on the edges. Price 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 5 — *B. friburgensis* —

Brazil. Beautiful new species. Rhizomatous, red, thick, leathery leaves, shiny and dark green on top, red underneath. New leaves show only red and are folded like cocks-combs. Tall flower stems bear heads of white and pink flowers. Choice begonia. Greenhouse culture. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 6 — *B. laciniata var lutea* —

Recently received from a friend in



*Begonia listada*

Photo by Michael J. Kartuz

India. Described as having smallish leaves, rhizomatous with yellow flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 7 — *B. limmingheiana* Morr. —

A natural species received recently from Brazil. For history and description of plant, see the interesting story in this issue. A beautiful hanging type plant. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 8 — *B. Matador* —

Intermediate semperflorens. Green foliage. Light scarlet flowers with white centers. Very compact and free-flowering in pots or outdoors in beds. Good semperflorens. Price 35 cents per pkt.

## No. 9 — *B. 'Pink Pearl'* —

Dwarf semperflorens, 3 to 5 inches high. Rich pink flowers, green foliage. Ideal for edges or borders. Price 35 cents per pkt.

## Greenhouse plants —

### *Platycerium veitchii* —

Australia. A very vigorous and prolific tree-dweller with rounded, cupping basal fronds and stiffly upright,



leathery dark green fertile fronds, narrow at the base, and forking into 6-8 lobes, white-hairy beneath; sporangia placed at tips. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**Platyserium lemoinei (veitchii X willinckii) —**

Prolific plant with basal fronds distinctly reniform, developing occasional erect lobes; gray fertile fronds very slender, erect spreading, later pendant, twice forked, very narrow in all parts, both sides densely white tomentose; sori V-shaped at tip. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**Platyserium willinckii —**

A distinct epiphyte with uneven, forked basal leaves and densely silvery-pubescent fertile fronds, erect at first, later completely pendant, very narrow and several times forked into long slender lobes. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**Epidendrum nocturanum —**

Orchidaceae. Reed type orchid of easy culture, bearing rather large flowers in a bunch on top. The blossom is about four inches across and a clear green color with a white lip and narrow segments. It is highly perfumed at night, hence the name nocturnum. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**Streptocarpus —**

Purple throat. Price 25 cents per pkt.

**Close out sale continued from February —**

*B. convolvulacea*. Brazil. A climber. Makes a good basket, light green oval leaves, white flowers in spring. Keep moist.

*B. heracleifolia nigracins*. Pretty foliage, rhizomatous type plant with large panicles of pink to white flowers.

*B. picta*. India. Foliage plant with pink flowers.

*B. epipsila* type. Brazil. Basket plant.

*B. Orange rubra*. Cane type sometimes silver-spotted leaves, coral or orange flowers in large clusters.

*B. Brazil* sp. Small, angel-wing plant.

*B. hispida cuculifera*. Brazil. Downy-soft leaves bearing adventitious leaflets along veins. White flowers.

*B. fernando-costata*. Fleshy. Green, cupped roundish leaves, white flowers.

*B. Cleopatra* or *Maphil* (boweri seedling). Star-shaped leaves with markings of gold, chartreuse and chocolate. Pink flowers.

*Rechsteineria macropoda*. Small, velvety-green leaves, red flowers.

End of close out sale —

Above ten pkts. for \$1.44 — NO single packets, please. Sold only in collection of ten packets.

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## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Both general and specialty robins are full of new notes, on propagating by cuttings and seed, on pollinizing, and on needs of ferns and special begonias.

**Ferns:** In the first fern robin (second now forming), Frieda Polsfuss of Macon, Georgia, noted that drainage is important for *Platyseriums*. Some of hers did well, potted in chopped osmunda root, plus a little manure, and hung from trees all summer. During winter, inside, she watered them sparingly, sprinkling foliage also.

Lynnie Milam of Tampa has used several mediums for starting spores — old porous brick, blocks of tree fern, and peat in jars. She has had the best luck with the first two. A moist medium is important.

Geraldine Daly of Coventry, Rhode Island, described how she made a tiny bog — dug out the soil, lined part of the hole with sheets of sturdy plastic to hold some water, then filled it with muck from a real bog. Pitcher plants gathered from nearby had cranberry roots with them, adding interest. Ferns native to bogs were planted, and a wild *Adiantum (pedatum)* was added where it would not have wet feet, as she found it in rocky, well-drained soil.

For indoor planters, Geraldine suggests trying *Davillias*, as they seem to grow under adverse conditions. Two in hot, dry situations in her house are growing fast without dry fronds. She does water them well.

**Cuttings:** Barbara Walker of Bloomington, Indiana, propagates *B. paulensis* by taking leaf-stem cuttings with a tiny wedge of the rhizome on each. She started five medium leaves in an aquarium in six weeks, all five showing big new leaflets. The denuded rhizome, dusted with sulphur, sent out new growth almost immediately. Friends asked for rhizome cuttings because they cannot root *paulensis* leaves, so Barbara tried to find a sure way.

*B. listida* leaf cuttings root easily

for Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania. She took seven plantlets off one leaf and put it back for more. Edna also had a bit of root on a calla leaf cutting, taken with the bit of tissue that tore off. Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas, buried the stem of a huge leaf of 'Roberta' in her prop box. In two months, she had plantlets all around the sinus, with so many behind the leaf she had to raise it to give them light. Flight 27 members have found 'Dorothy Barton' cuttings difficult to root.

Marie Moriarty of Houston, Texas, tried soaking cuttings twenty hours in the solution of brown sugar and 20-20-20 fertilizer reported some time ago, but warns that they rotted fast. Elizabeth Decroo of Tarentum tried soaking pots in this solution, but saw no unusual results.

Rosetta White of Newton, Kansas, has a propagating table made of boards across metal shelves set four feet apart. A heating cable is fastened to the boards and covered with aluminum foil, and on this about 200 two-inch pots of vermiculite hold separate cuttings. Three forty-watt fluorescent lights are above the cuttings, and the entire setup is covered by a sheet of plastic, taped down.

Flossie Herzog, friend of Robinite Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has a husband-fabricated Gro-Lux light stands to match styles of furniture in each room — in bedrooms, den, even bathroom.

**Seed:** Chuck Tagg of Fullerton, California, finds best success from sowing sparingly on a layer of fine potting mix over Sponge Rok or vermiculite, presoaked to moisten from the bottom. He labels containers and sets them inside a plastic shoe box. They seem to do better under lights, sooner. Bottom heat he finds is not necessary, but temperature should be 70 to 75 degrees. Above 80, fungus appears. When seedlings are growing well, he gradually opens the cover to harden them and does not transplant them until they are somewhat crowded.

Marie Moriarty reports fabulous results by Mrs. Puckett, president of the Texastar Branch, with bagasse (ground sugar cane pulp) for seed germination. Some others have mentioned this new medium, also. Mrs. Puckett had seed flats "like forests" and excellent germination from *eminii* in this medium, under lights.

*B. sudjanae* seedlings are slow for Anita Sickmon, but two she gave to a friend are speeding up under fluorescent lights. Edna Stewart says growers often may think begonia seed does not come true merely because they do not give seedlings enough time to reach true mature state.

Barbara Walker, citing advice from Herb Warrick of Seattle, warned against being disappointed too soon with tuberous or semi-tuberous seedlings, or plantlets from a gloxinia leaf. They may make tiny tubers and then rest. Some glox plantlets will grow tubers and go dormant in eight to ten weeks, while others grow on and bloom, but have small tubers. She thinks the seedling that rests is the best plant ultimately.

*Hybridizing*: Elaine Wilkerson points out that, to have positive identification of the pollen parent in a cross, one must cover female blooms long before they are ready for pollination and again after pollen is applied, for a week or two. Edna Stewart had 'Kumwha', *templini*, and *kenworthyi* in bloom, but no pollen. Male 'Kumwha' flowers fell before opening. Flowers of the other two opened, but showed no pollen even when laid aside to ripen. Her 'San Miguel', however, had pollen even when it was not open. It had so large a flower, Edna opened it and tried pollinating four 'Kumwha' female blossoms, but these fell.

'*Sophie Cecile*': Belva Kusler's Richard Robinson Award cultivar takes almost full sun to bloom along the Southern California coast, and leaves are still attractive, as noted by Chuck Tagg. He suggests judging the amount of sun a plant can take by leaf color,

not by the books. Watch for fading as an indication of too much sun.

*Lubbersi*: This species grows best when kept cool, Bob Shatzer of Albright, West Virginia, believes. His was growing well at 55 degrees with limited sun, after sulking all summer and the winter before in a warm room.

*Winter-Bloomer*: Evelyn Hurley of Lexington, Massachusetts, had a glorious *cheimantha* dripping over a top shelf in her greenhouse. She was sure it liked the cool spot. It had no mildew. Evelyn watered it about once a week, from the bottom.

Although callas are believed to resent being moved, Barbara moves hers whenever they are in the way, puts them on the window sill for a while, then back under lights when there is room again. This moving does not seem to bother them much.

One thing she is sure of: they must be cut back like other semps after blooming. She cuts callas to stubs when they stop blooming and get leggy. They come back as strong as ever.

*Maturity of Bloom*: Lily Fine of Brooklyn asks if anyone has studied the relation of maturity to bloom in different begonias. Do different kinds bloom at different ages? Her rex 'American Beauty' blooms off and on throughout the year. Her 'Thrush' put on a good show in August. But her *dregei* seedlings of almost eight months did not bloom in their season.

*Cuttings*: Bea Blake of Barneveld, New York, obtained two plantlets from two semp leaf-stem cuttings, taken with cortex heels. She placed them in a prop box in the spring and they did well, after several previous failures.

The fastest growing begonia Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas, has had is 'Oadi'. She put a cutting into medium in summer, and it rooted and grow three inches in one month. She notes that leaf cuttings of 'Freddie' do not send up many plantlets, and its offspring are slow until after they have filled a three-inch pot.

Both Geraldine Daly of Coventry, Rhode Island, and Bob Shatzer of Albright, West Virginia, find new starts of 'Persian Brocade' are slow growing. Others agreed, but leaf cuttings do root easily — and it is a beautiful begonia.

*Hybridizing:* Jay Neal of Worthing, England, believes *richardsiana* tends to pass on cut leaves and silver specks to seedlings of crosses, and the specks are kept until seedlings are almost mature. She also believes that high heat and humidity help begonias "to set seed like mad". Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, was watching several rex seed pods she had set with pollen of tuberous begonias.

*B. caragatatubensis:* Don Salmon of Millicent, South Australia, has several *caragatatubensis* plants from A.B.S. seed growing nicely in a bottle. He also has one which has always been kept on bottom heat of 60°. A friend has a seventeen-inch high plant with leaves nine by five inches.

*B. luxurians:* This species hates being in a pot any bigger than its leaf spread, Don notes. He lost many before he found that it likes to be root-bound.

*Greenhouses:* A friend of Evelyn Hurley of Lexington, Massachusetts, uses buckwheat hulls on her benches, finds these eliminate the slugs that troubled her when she used sand. Others wondered if the hulls gave trouble with mold if they are kept moist. Peg Scott of Ashland, Nebraska, covers her greenhouse with window screen to protect against hail. In hot weather, she places newspaper between screen and glass — easier than whitewashing, easily removed in the fall.

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## In Memoriam

Mrs. Martha Scoble, of Inglewood, California, passed away March 6. She had been a member of the American Begonia Society for many years, and belonged to the Inglewood, Westchester, and Redondo Area Branches. She was active also in other shade garden societies.

### "SO SAY THE EXPERTS"

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## LIMMINGHEIANA . . .

(Continued from Page 63)

The latter is botanically quite distinct from *B. coccinea* and has much weaker stems that bend in arches, weighted by the flowers. *Begonia coccinea* and its varieties have very stout and rigid stems that will not bend. This supposed *Begonia coccinea* var. Comte Alfred de Limminghe, because of its coral-red flowers and arching growth, was much confused with Morren's *Begonia limmingheiana*.

In 1892, the English botanist, J. D. Hooker, published a description of a supposedly new species of begonia, naming it *Begonia glaucophylla* Hook. Much later this was recognized as being identical to *Begonia limmingheiana*. Now a third name was mixed up with the two previous plants.

When confusion became evident, matters were investigated. It was discovered that the name *Begonia* Count Alfred de Limminghe had been given to a *Begonia coccinea* hybrid and a rash conclusion had been drawn, that *Begonia limmingheiana* might be a hybrid of *B. coccinea*.

Still, in 1939, the German author, Karl Fotsch, thought it safer to maintain the name *B. glaucophylla* Hook. because it was based on imported material, while the name *B. limmingheiana* was of suspected hybrid origin.

Also, in 1954, Boehmig illustrated a plant clearly being *B. limmingheiana*, naming it *B. glaucophylla*.

In American literature, Mrs. Krauss still believed that the plant was a hybrid, but she restored its name, though with an incorrect spelling, as *B. Limminghei*, following Pynaert.

It seems that Ironscher obtained old herbarium specimens from Brazil in 1960 and thus obtained proof that the plant was a true species. His investigations disclosed the whole story.

The specimen gathered by Mr. Spencer and now in my possession is further proof that:

1—*Begonia limmingheiana* Morr. is a natural species and not a hybrid.

2—*Begonia glaucophylla* Hook. is a synonym of the same species.

3—*Begonia Limminghei* is an incorrect spelling of *Begonia limmingheiana*.

4—*Begonia* Comte Alfred de Limminghe is a hybrid, possibly derived from *B. coccinea*, but more probably from *B. Corallina*.

## HANGING BASKET . . .

(Continued from Page 64)

pearance. If a few of the canes are removed, a little at a time, this will encourage more new growth from the base, and the plant will never become old.

A word of warning: remember that these blooming cuttings must not be used to grow more plants, as they will refuse to grow into bushy plants. Nodes which have bloomed will refuse to produce any branches, and it's not a kindness to give a spindly plant to a friend. Save there for your enemies.

It will be easier to turn the basket for a rounded appearance if it is hung from a strong swivel (so maybe you'll get it done this year). Turning the plant a quarter turn two or three times a week when watering is a good habit.

We all need to be encouraged to take time to enjoy our plants. Whether or not there is a show where you can display them locally, enjoy them with your friends and neighbors.

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was held in the South Gate Auditorium, Monday, February 27. The meeting was called to order by President Everett Wright at 7:45 p.m.

Roll was called with fifteen officers and ten Branches reporting.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,312.09 on hand.

The Membership Secretary reported 183 new members and renewals for the month. She sent out 2,657 *Begonians*.

Public Relations Director Vera Naumann reported that a new group has been organized in Seattle, Washington, and that she found their constitution and by-laws to be in order. The group will be known as the "South Seattle Branch". Muriel Perz moved that we accept the Branch as a member of the American Begonia Society. Seconded by Anne Rose, the motion carried.

Mrs. Naumann asked that the Society obtain a two-drawer filing cabinet for her use as Public Relations Director. President Wright asked Walter Barnett to check prices.

Sylvia Leatherman, Judging Course Director, reported a balance of \$267.43 and \$20.56 cash on hand.

Anne Rose, Advertising Manager, reported \$174.25 received and \$95.00 receivable.

Bert Slatter, Show Chairman, reported on the progress for the show and convention. The only time available at the Hawthorne Memorial Building will be Labor Day week-end, and arrangements have been made to hold the convention at that time. The motion last month was to go ahead with plans for the convention at Hawthorne on August 26 and 27. Therefore, Walter Barnett made a new motion to have the convention at Hawthorne on Labor Day week-end. Seconded by Alice Martin, the motion carried.

Alice Martin, Ways and Means Chairman, asked for permission to have a hamburger dinner in her yard as a money-making project for the American Begonia Society. Anne Rose made a motion that this be approved and the date set for Saturday, May 6. Seconded by Muriel Perz, the motion carried.

Mrs. Martin then presented menus and prices from various caterers for the convention banquet. Charles Tagg made a motion that we charge \$3.25 and leave the menu up to the committee. Seconded by Vera Naumann, the motion carried. Alice Martin will appoint her own committee.

Muriel Perz reported on buses and fares for the trip to Ventura for the Board meeting on Sunday, April 30. After some discussion, Margaret Lee made a motion that anyone going to this meeting should use his own transportation. Seconded by Charles Tagg, the motion carried.

Roy Joyce reported on the money-making deal which the Union Oil Company offered us some time ago. Our profit will be \$12.00.

Alice Martin asked for permission to write letters to the Branches, asking for donations for the snack bar — pies, cakes, sugar, cream, or money for these things. Permission was granted.

President Wright appointed the nominating committee as follows: Mrs. Roy Joyce, Malcolm Rich, and Floyd Neff.

President Wright reported that he had the *Begonian* binders which he had ordered. They will sell for \$1.50 and will hold two years' magazines. They are available from Mr. Wright or Terry Olmsted.

President Wright appointed Dr. Grant McGregor and Charles Tagg on the committee to keep the duplicate files on hybridizing.

—LUCILLE WILLIAMS  
Secretary


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## CALENDAR

April 6 — Whittier Branch: Floyd Neff, president of Long Beach Parent Chapter, will be guest speaker. His subject will be "Begonias and Other Shade Plants."

April 11 — Glendale Branch: Loren Paulsohn, a past president of the California National Fuchsia Society, will speak on "Fuchsias". This meeting will be at Glendale Savings and Loan Association, 401 North Brand Blvd., Glendale.

April 12 — Inglewood Branch: Annual presidents' "Bit of Sweden Smorgasbord" at 6:30 p.m. Television and radio performer John Milton Kennedy will be guest speaker. Titling his talk "Public Relations — The Invisible Sell", Mr. Kennedy will trace the growth of the public relations profession with humorous anecdotes from the experiences of public relations men.

April 14—San Gabriel Valley Branch: Kelsey William of the Plaza Nursery will talk on "Hybridizing Bromeliads, Taking and Planting Seeds".

April 18 — Seattle Branch: Nola Emerick, well known in Seattle for her flower arrangements, will discuss and demonstrate begonia arrangements in preparation for the Seattle Begonia Show in July. A drive is on for more entries in the decorative section of the show.

April 20 — Foothill Branch: The subject will be "Propagation of Begonias by Cuttings".

April 28 — Redondo Area Branch: Guest speaker will be Sylvia Leatherman, fern and begonia authority.

April 29-30—Fallbrook Garden Club's 36th Annual Standard Flower Show "Swinging Through the Garden Gate". Plant sale and art show. Saturday 1 to 8 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Masonic Temple, 427 N. Hill Street, Fallbrook, California. No admission charge. Mrs. Perry Olmsted, chairman.

May 4 — Whittier Branch: W. C. Cocke, A.B.S. business manager, will be guest speaker on the subject "Epiphyllums".

May 20-21 — Los Angeles International Fern Society's Fern and Tropical Plant Show, International Pavilion, Los Angeles County Fairgrounds. Saturday 1 to 10 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

### HAMBURGER DINNER FOR A.B.S.

A hamburger dinner will be held Saturday, May 6, in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, 4692 West 141st Street, Hawthorne, California, to raise money to help finance the Society's convention next September.

The dinner will start at 12 o'clock noon and continue until 7 p.m. The price will be \$1.00 per person. Tickets will be available at the door or from Branch representatives.

Further information is available from Mrs. Alice Martin, Ways and Means Chairman, phone OS 6-1610 or OS 6-3565.

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# Branch Directory

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

## BRITISH BRANCH

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

## BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mrs. Nancy Alvord, Secy.  
48 Norton Rd., Quincy, Mass. 02169

## CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Sunday of each month  
Mrs. Peggy E. Fratus, Secy.  
1363 Boston Post Road, Old Saybrook, Conn.

## DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

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

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School  
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California  
Mrs. Edmund H. Ellerbusch, Secy.  
1051 Ordway, Albany, Calif. 94706

## EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Natural Gas Co. Building  
Crossroads Shopping Center, Bellevue, Wash.  
Catherine Mead, Secy.  
9030 Points Dr., Bellevue, Wash. 98004

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Sylvia B. Leatherman, Secy.  
2637 N. Lee Ave., So. El Monte, Calif. 91733

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Community Bldg.  
2039 Third St., La Verne  
Mrs. Christine Kapranos, Secy.  
433 W. Philadelphia St., Ontario, Calif. 91762

## FORT, ELSA BRANCH

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

## GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mrs. Edna L. Korts, Corr. Secy.  
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90039

## GREATER BATON ROUGE BRANCH

Mrs. J. R. Coxie, Secy.  
5757 N. Afton Park Way, Baton Rouge, La. 70806

## HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drice  
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.  
12601 Broken Bough, Memorial Station  
Houston 24, Texas

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

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

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Business and Professionals Women's Club  
820 Java St., Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Lydia Austin, Secy.  
15329 Eastwood Ave., Lawndale, Calif. 90260

## KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.  
157 West 58th St., New York  
Luis Lopez, Corr. Secy.  
421 East 64th St.  
New York, N.Y. 10021

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
Social Hall of Community Savings and Loan,  
3901 Atlantic  
Mrs. Mabel Gage, Secy.  
3214 Delmar Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Sear's Garden Center  
6201 Florida St., Baton Rouge  
Mrs. Louis Sicard, Sec'y.  
4520 Clark St., Baton Rouge, La. 70811

## MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday 8:00 P.M.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Miss Rosemond Meriweather, Secy.  
1552 Placentia Ave., Coral Gables, Florida

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 11 a.m.  
Member's Homes  
Kansas City, Mo.  
Miss Nina Austin, Secy.  
1104 Askew St., Kansas City 27, Mo.

## NEW LONDON COUNTY-NUTMEG BRANCH

2nd Saturday, Members' homes  
Mrs. Donald Beck, Secy.  
R.F.D. 1, Mystic, Conn.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.  
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach  
Kathleen Powers, Secy.  
12418 E. 221st St., Artesia, Calif. 90701

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.  
Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. William M. Hastings, Secy.  
637 Virginia Park Dr.,  
Laguna Beach, Calif. 92651

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Anne W. Stiles, Secy.  
R.D. No. 2, Box 43B, E. Delaware Trail,  
Medford, N. J.

## REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month  
Lincoln School Recreation Center  
Ernest and Vail Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.  
1304 N. Poinsettia Ave., Manhattan Beach, Calif.

## RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members  
Mary E. Tourgee, Sec'y.  
92 Rodman St., Peace Dale, R.I. 02833

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park  
3650 Arlington Riverside, Calif.  
Mrs. Jim Smith, Secy.  
8631 Clearview Pl., Riverside, Calif.

## ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 12 noon, Homes of Members  
Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy.  
1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego 3, Calif.

## SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center  
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.  
Mrs. Carrie Hughes, Secy.  
2709 Florence Place, Sacramento, Calif. 95818

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall  
2717 University Ave., San Diego  
Mrs. Nellie Castillo, Secy.  
5443 Bonita Dr., San Diego, Calif. 92114

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, Golden Gate Park  
9th Ave. and Lincoln Way  
Linda Priest, Secy.  
6 Locksley Ave., Apt. No. 1-D  
San Francisco, California

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum  
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.  
Mrs. Ruth Eppley  
9133 E. Longden Ave., Temple City, Calif.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH**

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Irene Cretin, Secy.  
3060 Crane St., Lemon Grove, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta Del Sol  
Mrs. S. E. Wilband, Secy.  
1542 Marquard Terrace, Santa Barbara, Cal. 93101

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
Loyal Heights Field House,  
21st Ave., N. W. and N. W. 77th St.  
Miss Sally Harding, Secy.  
11632-1st Ave. S., Seattle, Wash. 98168

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH.**

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Avril Butler, Secy.  
2619 Ocean Avenue, Ventura, Calif. 93003

**SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH**

2nd Monday of each month  
Mrs. Lyle L. Melvin, Secy.  
833 E. Jewell, Salina, Kansas 67401

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
Lorenzo Manor School  
18250 Bengal Ave., Hayward, Calif.  
Jack Dunaway, Corresponding Secy.  
1650 Plaza Drive, San Leandro, Calif.

**TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH**

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. F. E. Mahler, Secy.  
1815 Sixth Ave., Fort Worth, Texas

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

4th Thursday, Sabine National Bank Bldg.  
Port Arthur, Texas  
Mrs. R. J. Wilson, Secy.  
4620 Evergreen St., Port Arthur, Texas

**TEXASTAR BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center  
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas  
Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy.  
306 Cody, Houston, Texas 77009

**WESTCHESTER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club  
8020 Alverston St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.  
1304 N. Poinsettia Ave.,  
Manhattan Beach, Calif. 90266

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members  
Mrs. Irene Fediaczko, Secy.  
125 Arlington Ave., Butler, Pa. 16001

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive  
Palm Park Community Center,  
5703 S. Palm Ave., Whittier

**WILLIAM PENN BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, Noon, Homes of members  
Mrs. Robert E. Waite, Secy.  
209 N. Locust Lane, Exton, Pa. 19341

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