

# The BEGONIAN

DECEMBER, 1968

VOL. 35 • NO. 12

## Merry Christmas



## General offices,

dues, address changes, or magazines:

Pearl Benell, Membership Secretary

10331 S. Colima Road, Whittier, Calif. 90604

Subscription \$4.00 per year. Foreign (Mexico and Canada) \$4.50. U.S. (Mexico and Canada) 1st Class \$5.50. Foreign 1st Class \$6.50. U.S. Air Mail \$6.50. Pay in U.S. currency only.

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

Editor.....Mrs. Mae Tagg

2123 W. West Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92633

Eastern Editor.....Mrs. Hertha Benjamin

1927 University Ave., New York, N.Y. 10453

Southern Editor.....Mrs. Don Wagner

4338 Washington St., Baton Rouge, La. 70802

Northwestern Editor.....Mrs. Phyllis Wright

536 N. E. 98th St., Seattle, Wash. 98115

Contributing Editor.....Mrs. Elda Haring

120 Cutler Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06830

Advertising Manager.....Anne L. Rose

14036 E. Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif. 90605

## ELECTED OFFICERS

President .....Walter Pease

8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

President-Elect.....Mrs. Vera Naumann

346 N. Leland Ave., West Covina, Calif. 91790

Past President.....Charles E. Tagg

2123 W. West Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92633

Secretary.....Mrs. Virginia Barnett

1213 S. Mullender Ave., W. Covina, Calif. 91790

Treasurer.....Walter J. Barnett

1213 S. Mullender Ave., W. Covina, Calif. 91790

Vice-Pres. 1 year.....Herbert H. Warrick

6543 - 26th Ave. N.E., Seattle, Wash. 98115

Vice-Pres. 2 years.....Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury

225 Lee St., Brookline, Mass. 02146

Vie-Pres. 3 years.....James Somes

4849 W. 130th St., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

## ★ ★ ★ APPOINTED OFFICERS

Awards Chairman.....Mrs. Margaret Lee

1852 31st St., San Diego, Calif. 92102

Business Manager.....Mrs. Muriel Perz

2141 West 29th St., Long Beach, Calif. 90810

Classification Chairman.....Mrs. Ruth Pease

8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

## APPOINTED OFFICERS (Continued)

Cultural Adviser.....Mrs. Edna Stewart

Rt. 2, Box 491, Tarentum, Pa. 15084

Historian.....Mrs. Edna Burkett

3341 Hedwig Rd., Los Alamitos, Calif. 90720

Hybrid Registration.....Dr. W. Grant McGregor

630 Westview Ave., Ottawa 3, Ontario, Canada

Judging Course Dir.....Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman

2637 N. Lee Ave., South El Monte, Calif. 91733

Librarian.....Mrs. Lucile Wright

4508 W. 133 St., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

Membership Secretary.....Mrs. Pearl Benell

10331 S. Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif. 90604

Nomenclature Dir.....Rudolf Ziesenhene

1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103

Parliamentarian.....Mrs. Eleanor Hastings

621 Orchid St., Corona del Mar, Calif. 92625

Photographer.....Gene Daniels

Box 83, Camarillo, Calif. 93010

Research Director.....M. Carleton L'Hommedieu

370 Locust Ave., Oakdale, Long Island, N.Y.

11769

Round Robin Dir.....Mrs. Anita Sickmon

Route 2, Box 99, Cheney, Kansas 67025

Seed Fund Admin.....Mrs. Florence Gee

234 Birch St., Roseville, Calif. 95678

Show Chairman.....James Somes

4849 W. 130th St., Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

Slide Librarian.....Mrs. Nettie Daniels

Box 83, Camarillo, Calif. 93010

Public Relations Dir.....★ ★ ★ Charles E. Tagg

2123 W. West Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92633

Northwestern P.R. Chairman.....Mrs. Eleanor Fariss

17721 Bothell Way N. E., Seattle, Wash. 98155

Southern P.R. Chairman.....Mrs. Margie Sikkelee

3603 La Joya Dr., Dallas, Texas 75220

Northern Calif. P.R. Chairman.....Mrs. J. H. Smith

2479 29th Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94116

Northeastern P.R. Chairman.....Mrs. F. Kingsbury

225 Lee Street, Brookline, Mass. 02146

Northeastern Co-Chairman.....Mrs. Virginia Withee

Hill Farm Rd., Coventry Centre, R.I. 02817

Eastern P. R. Chairman.....Miss Lily C. Fine

1240 Carrol St., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225

New Zealand P. R. Chairman.....Don Stephenson

56 Mortimer Ter., Wellington, C2, New Zealand

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

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

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

---

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of my first duties as President of the A.B.S. was to sign into effect the Charter of the newly formed South Carolina Branch. This was a very gratifying way to start a new term of office, and it indicated to me that there still exists a growing interest in the Society. I would enjoy the privilege of signing many more Charters before my term expires next September. The advantages of belonging to a branch are many, and I strongly encourage the many members at large to try to form branches in your areas if at all possible. Only seven members are required, and your Public Relations Director would be very happy to supply you with the necessary information.

In order that I may become acquainted with the many branches already in existence, I would enjoy receiving your newsletters or any other correspondence you would care to offer. I also have a request to make of all of you which might prove very interesting as well as create a possible source of valuable information. This request is in the form of a suggestion made by one of the members of our local Westchester Branch. It was suggested that each Branch of the Society start a research project of its own choosing and report the results to the Research Director. As President, I would sincerely appreciate copies of your findings. There is still much to be learned about the Begonia and good, conscientious and diligent research by doing can be very important.

There is no limit to the number of possible projects that could be started.

Perhaps your geographic location presents a problem that could be solved through research; perhaps you are interested in researching the problems of disease and insects associated with Begonias; or perhaps you are interested in the growth habits of a certain species or group of Begonias. If this idea interests you at all, start your branch project immediately and keep us informed of your progress. Help us to make a wiser and better informed Society.

We wish you a very joyous Holiday Season and a very successful New Year.

Walter Pease

---

### COVER PICTURE

A *Tuberhybrida multiflora* grown by Jean and Paul Warren. This plant won the Palos Verdes Begonia Farm Challenge Trophy for Best Tuberous and the A.B.S. Cultural Award for the Best Tuberous in the National Show.

The next two or three months is the ideal time to sow seed of tuberous Begonias. Our Seed Fund offers a nice selection of *tuberhybrida* seed this month. See page 252.

*Photo by*

Gene Daniels, Black Star

#### "THE BEGONIAN"

##### Advertising rates

	<i>Once</i>	<i>Monthly</i>
Full Page.....	\$30.00	\$25.00
Half Page.....	18.50	15.00
Quarter Page.....	10.00	8.50
Per Inch.....	3.00	2.50

# BEGONIAS FROM SEED— SOWING AND GROWING

By CHUCK TAGG, *Fullerton, California*

*Photographs for this article by Gene Daniels, Black Star.*

Which came first—the chicken or the egg—the plant or the seed? It's hard to decide where to start the subject of growing from seed. I could start with seed production but everything won't fit in one article. I hope the Begonias know which really came first but for my purposes it all starts with seed.

Some of you have found seed on your own plants. Some have been fortunate enough to get seed as a gift. The rest of us buy most of ours, unless we hybridize (there's that subject again). Florence Gee provides a magnificent and ever-changing collection of seed. Every month she entices me (and many other members) with those rare species.

I'm most interested in the species because they "come true" from seed. Some of the hybrids tempt me too but I particularly like having names on my plants so don't grow seed of as many hybrids, unless I made the cross.

Requests for seed growing information come in regularly. Our editor is besieged. There are many benefits to living with the editor, she's a pretty nice gal, but it's dangerous to give a talk to a branch on a subject when she's looking for an author.

Begonia seeds are fine. Hundreds of them look like a tiny bit of dust. Don't exhale or they're gone. Don't inhale, either. They're a bit of a challenge to grow; the seedlings are tiny and look deceptively delicate. Few things in life are worthwhile unless they're a bit of a challenge, though, so we keep on trying until we succeed.

These tiny things look much more delicate than they really are. They've grown from seed for centuries without our help. Remember, these species are weeds somewhere. There has to be a

way; with a little understanding and experience it's more fun than work.

If you're a bit short on cash you'll find that this extension of your hobby won't cost so much. A couple of dollars will get you started, then you'll have to decide for yourselves where to stop. It's interesting that these same methods work well with fern spore, too—an added benefit.

You'll find a few materials a great help. For less than a dollar (39 cents sometimes) you can get a plastic box. They are sold as shoe boxes, sweater boxes, etc. It MUST have a clear lid. It should be about three inches deep but more is even better. Any size will work but about six by twelve inches is convenient. If you find them on sale, get several. This hobby is habit-forming. Buy a straight pen, too (the old scratchy Post Office kind). When bent it's a wonderful tool for transplanting. You probably already have perlite (Sponge Rok) or vermiculite; you must have potting mix. Your dime or department store has aluminum foil baking pans which will fit the shoe boxes well; they're about a nickel each. Liners are square plastic flower pots two inches across and two inches high. The dime store might have them, too. A gallon of distilled or steam iron water is less than 50 cents. You're equipped!

Everything must be clean. It doesn't have to be like a hospital—no major surgery is involved—but it should be as clean as your kitchen. That's an excellent place to work, if the "War Department" allows it. She'll let you do it again if you use newspapers to help when it's time to clean up the mess. The newspapers are free.

Unless you purchase a pasteurized soil mix, it is best to sterilize your own. Use a mix with NO fertilizer as heat decomposes it. You might be able

to get by without sterilizing the mix but it's not that hard. Put the mix in a tin can. Set the can in a pressure cooker. Add a little extra water outside the can so it won't go dry, then use fifteen pounds pressure for 45 minutes. Let it cool without opening it; leave it closed until you're ready to use the mix. There's not even a smell like when you use the oven, and the mix doesn't get so dry.

Put some perlite in a pan and wet it thoroughly with distilled water. It floats until it's saturated with water, then sinks. For each variety of seed you want to plant, fill one liner with Sponge Rok to a half inch from the top. Put soil mix on top to fill it level to the top edge. Stand the pots in distilled water to the brim and wait for the mix to get thoroughly wet. This is an important step. They must be wet. Then let them drain on the shoe box lid.

Make a label for each seed packet. Spell the name correctly; include the date and seed source. Stand a label in the edge of a liner, find the right seed packet (that avoids a lot of confusion) and open it carefully. Remember about those deep breathing exercises, it avoids green lungs. Shake half the seed onto a sheet of paper creased lightly lengthwise. (Save the second half of the seed for another try later on.) Tap the paper gently while moving it above the pot. You hope to hit the pot with the seed, and not all in one place. Set that pot in the shoe box and do another the same way. Keep a safe distance between the pots already planted, the pots to be planted and the pot being planted so the seed does not stray to the wrong pot. Better yet, keep all pots covered except the one being planted. Now that you've planted seed, you've joined the ranks of the beginning experts. Easy, isn't it?

When you've planted all the seed, empty the box lid, then cover it. Set it in good light; a north window is good. If you have fluorescent lights, it's even better but not necessary un-

til you're a confirmed seed-grower. Be sure NO sunlight (even filtered) hits the box or it's an oven in less than five minutes. Room temperature (70° to 75°) is best. Too much bottom heat can be worse than none—I even have trouble with warm summer weather. Some heating cable thermostats aren't accurate, either.

Some growers say it's necessary to keep the seed dark until germination, but it works the other way for me. My experiments indicate faster and healthier germination in the light. Try both ways if you're curious, only YOU can really convince you.

If you're afraid the liners will dry out, leave a quarter inch of distilled water in the box. The perlite works like a wick to keep the mix damp. They won't need watering again until after transplanting. Better control of water is the main reason for using the liners instead of planting directly in the shoe box. It also helps to keep from scattering the seed across partitions in the box.

You need patience now. When you examine the boxes the next morning, you won't find a thing! Some Begonias, especially *semps* and tuberous hybrids, will germinate in a week or so. Most take two to three weeks, some take two or three months. They're worth it. That's another reason for planting them in separate liners; it's easier to transplant one variety without disturbing the others.



Photo 1

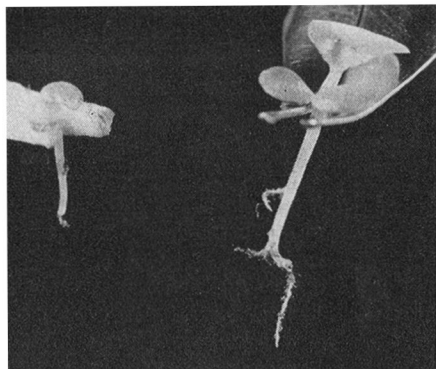


Photo 2

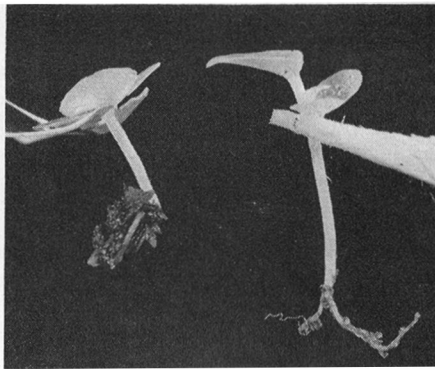


Photo 3

The first sign of life is little round cotyledons. They're also called seed leaves, and there are two on each seedling. They're always round on Begonias.

The first photograph shows how to bend the pen and use it to transplant the seedlings. You might have to heat the pen point (watch plastic handles) if it's too springy. Prepare the foil baking pans like the liners. Put about three quarters of an inch of mix on these. The soil should be sterilized for these pans, too.

The next two pictures (Nos. 2 and 3) show four seedlings lifted from the mix. The larger two have well-developed root systems that they have learned to love. Break those roots and they're goners! You'll actually feel the roots snap as you lift them. Notice how large the first true leaf is, above the pair of cotyledons. The smallest seedling is too small. There's no sign of a true leaf yet. Notice the short stem. The in-between stage is just right. The first true leaf is just a bud; the roots have just started to grow, but are short and husky. (Is that the right word on a plant this size?)

The fourth photograph tells the real secret of transplanting. Set the seedlings down to the cotyledons. The plant on the left will develop a weak root system. All that stem on the other plant will develop a set of roots to envy. It will branch into a bushy plant instead of a spindly thing. No-

tice that the mix is level, too. If you plant on a hill and the hill washes away, you might as well have planted them "high." If you plant in a hole, they rot more often. If the seedlings are too young when you transplant, the short stems stretch as they grow and there they are sticking up again.

Make a new label and include the transplanting date too. Save the liner. If your first try fails, you can try again in a few days. Put the foil pan into another plastic box (I said to buy several) and cover them again. You should have about three quarters of an inch between seedlings, which is quite a few in each box. If you've started several varieties, save only a dozen or so of each or you'll need lots of space soon.

Let the seedlings grow undisturbed until they touch each other. Start to uncover them, a half inch crack at first, gradually wider, until you've taken the top off in two or three weeks.

If the seedlings start to look sickly yellow, it's time to start feeding. Use one-eighth strength soluble fertilizer to soak the pan once. They won't need food again for weeks. They don't eat much at that tender age. Did you at that size? It's best to avoid fertilizer as long as you can. As soon as you feed the Begonias, algae starts to grow. The distilled water helps this problem. Algae is no problem after the box is open, though, so you can feed them to speed growth.

When the box is completely uncovered, it is time to transplant again. The seedlings are still small but much more like plants than specks. You can either space them two inches apart in a shallow (one to two inches deep) flat or pot directly into liners. I prefer two inch clay pots. When they're well rooted, they may be treated like your other plants going on to bigger pots as they grow.

I made no suggestions about screening the mix. My mix (mostly compost) will pass through a quarter inch mesh. I've never found it too coarse. Some growers even rub the mix through window screen but that was too fine for me and stayed too wet. Some use milled sphagnum moss successfully, but your own sterilized mix will probably work well.

Some growers have fungus problems when they control with Semesan or any brand with mercuric chloride as the active ingredient. Begonias are not sensitive to it and it's completely effective.

The last big point is to try your own methods. If you're successfully growing Begonias from seed now, wonder-

ful. Keep it up. (Who can quit?) If you're having problems or just starting, try some of the ideas that appeal to you. With experience, you'll develop your own personal method that will work better for you than any other.

Suggestions for success: know what you are going to do before you start, take your time, do one thing at a time, move slowly, be neat, be accurate, be careful, be patient, have faith, and remember they're weeds somewhere.

I'd like to close with acknowledgement of the vital assistance provided by our A.B.S. photographer, Gene Daniels. Photography is his business, but not of seedlings less than a quarter inch high held by the quavering Tagg hands. Many hours of hard work and two hundred miles of driving were necessary, in addition to his photographic skills, to make this article meaningful.

---

*Have fun!*  
*Raise seed from the*  
**SEED FUND!**

---



Photo 4

# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

## No. 1—*B. venosa*—

Brazil, new crop. Growth shrubby, erect, medium height. Stems succulent, green with small white lines, surrounded entirely with large, almost transparent, fine, venous, light brown vesicular bracts, in such a way that the stems, themselves, are hardly visible. Petioles are long or slightly longer than the leaves. fleshy, covered with a brownish pubescence. Leaves auricular, succulent, margins entire, and green background is covered with soft hairs. Inflorescence axillary, very long, succulent, covered with soft hairs. Flowers abundant, medium large, white, spicy-fragrant. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

*B. venosa* is an important plant but we do not find it frequently. The white tomentose cover, which comes off easily when touched, constitutes the ornamental value of the plant. It thrives best in a warm or moderately warm location, where it gets a few hours of morning and afternoon sun. This condition turns the leaves to a beautiful white. If the plant is placed permanently in the shade, the leaves will remain greenish. Requires less water in winter. Blooms in spring and summer.

## No. 2—*B. lubbersii*—

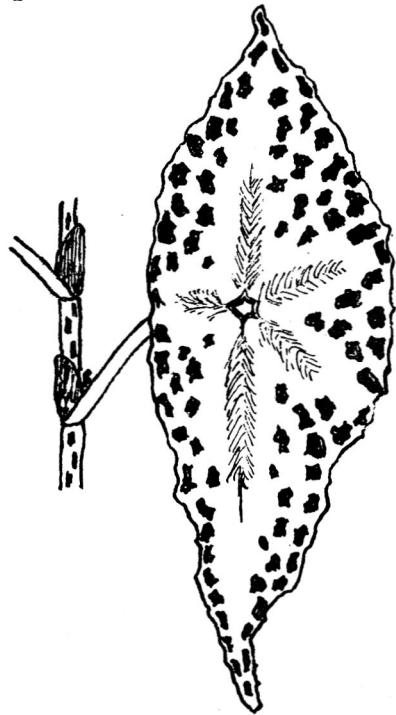
Brazil. Exotic Begonia with silver-splashed, dark leaves and is unlike any other Begonia; has a peltate leaf, pointed at the top and bottom, with the surfaces patterned in silver blotches. Has the rare look of *Caladium Humboldtii*, with its boat-shaped leaves that will not show silver spots at first. Flowers and seed pods are very large—flowers white and seed pods lightish green. A good and worthwhile, easy to grow Begonia that always causes much comment. Can be grown in a basket but is more attractive when grown as an upright. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

## No. 3—*B. fagifolia*—

Fibrous rooted, fourteen to sixteen inches high; stem sub-shrubby, reddish. Leaf oblique-ovate, two to three inches long, toothed, glabrous, shining green above, reddish beneath. Flowers rose-red without, in forked axillary, drooping cymes; male petals two large, two small, about one-half inch long; female petals five nearly equal. Capsule broadly three winged. Peduncles and pedicels reddish, one to two inches long. Summer. Brazil. From The Journal of The Royal Horticultural Society. Courtesy Aleks Bird, New York. Price 50 cents per pkt.

## No. 4—*B. imperialis* var. *maculata* seedlings—

Low, rhizomatous, hairy; leaves heart-shaped, brownish with green veins, velvety, margins toothed; inflorescences erect, six to eight inches; flowers small, white. Price 50 cents per pkt.



*Begonia lubbersii*  
Drawing by Dorothy S. Behrends



Please note: We do not have information as to what was used to cross on *B. imperialis* var. *maculata*, therefore, we can only say that variety will occur from this seed.

**No. 5—*B. evansiana*—**

China. To one foot or more tall; stems are erect, bulbils form in the leaf axils. Hardy type *Begonia* and if grown in the open ground, the bulbils will drop to the ground and new plants will appear from them in the spring. Leaves are medium size, to six inches long, and slightly more than half as wide at the base, narrowing toward the pointed tip, and are green with purple veining. The flowers are large, bright pink in forked, axillary and terminal clusters. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**No. 6—*B. semperflorens cultorum*,  
*Calla* type—**

We have no information as to which type this is. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**No. 7—*B. semperflorens cult.*  
*Calla* type x *B. semperflorens cult.*  
double pink—**

A cross made by Peter Rutherford, Australia. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**No. 8—*B. 'Orangeade'*  
seedlings—**

*Semperflorens* cult. By Peter Rutherford and an all new color, bright orange-scarlet. Some will be double. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**No. 9—*B. semperflorens cult.*  
mixed—**

Contains double pinks, reds, whites, Butterfly, Charm and some with bronze leaves. Interesting assortment. Price 50 cents per pkt.

The next two or three months is the ideal time to sow seed of tuberous *Begonias* and we offer only the choicest from a West Coast grower of beautiful and exotic plants. The preferred seeding medium is partially rotted hardwood leaf mold. This should be sterilized to insure destruction of all harmful organisms. Screen the leaf mold through a one-half inch mesh screen, placing a thin layer of the

coarse material on the bottom and fill to the depth of one inch with the screened leaf mold. Firm lightly, and with a fine spray moisten thoroughly. Broadcast seed thinly on the moist leaf mold. Do not cover seed, or firm leaf mold. Cover container with seran wrap, and preclude all light with a sheet of paper. A constant minimum top and bottom temperature of 74° will insure an even germination in about eight days. When seed starts to germinate, remove paper and provide air by gradually removing seran wrap. Stagnant air and over-watering will cause damp-off.

**T-1—*B. Tuberhybrida*—**

Copper shades. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**T-2—*B. Tuberhybrida*—**

Red. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**T-3—*B. Tuberhybrida*—**

Salmon. Large double flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**T-4—*B. Tuberhybrida*—**

Pendula or hanging type. Blush-pink. Price 50 cents per pkt.

***B. multifloras*—**

**T-5—*B. 'William Eysser'*—**

Bright red double, green leaves. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**T-6—*B. 'Leuchfeuer'*—**

Orange-salmon. Price 50 cents per pkt.

**T-7—*B. 'Spielarten'*—**

Red. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Plants are compact, twelve to eighteen inches tall and are unsurpassed for profuse bloom and impressive masses of brilliant color. Effective in window boxes, for edging borders and planted in the foreground of the shrub border or can be grown in pots for patio. Leaves are slender-pointed, flowers stand upright on the stems. Nice plants.

Please send requests for seed to:

Mrs. Florence Gee  
Seed Fund Administrator  
234 Birch Street  
Roseville, California 95678

## THE STORY OF BEGONIA 'RAMIREZ'

By RUDOLPH ZIESENHENNE, *Nomenclature Director*

On September 19, 1938, I received a packet of Begonia seed from a German seed firm. I was told this seed was obtained from Africa and I planted it immediately, numbering the packet 217. I grew four plants from the seed. Three were covered with a velvety pubescens, the other was identical but bare. The plants were sold as *B. African species* and *B. bare African species*.

In 1939, I visited Leslie Woodriff in Inglewood, California and found he was growing a plant similar to my *B. African species* which he called *B. alto de serra*, and which is pictured on page 327 of *Exotica 3*.

A few years later when I visited the herbarium at the University of California at Berkeley, I found a herbarium sheet with a leaf identical to the leaf of my *B. African species* labeled No. 91 *Begonia laetivirides* Gilg. In correspondence with Professor Dr. Edgar Irmscher in 1960, he said that it was true that my Begonia had the same leaf as *B. laetivirides* Gilg. but the flowers were different; I had not been able to obtain the description of the flowers of *B. laetivirides*. He assured me that my *B. African species* and *B. laetivirides* were his newly-named Brazilian species *B. bradei* Irmsch. pictured on page 413 of *Exotica 3*. He said the bare plant was a Brazilian wild species named *B. secreta* Irmsch.

Leslie Woodriff had listed *B. alto de serra* in his catalogues from Oregon in the fall list of 1941 and 1944. Some time later, Woodriff crossed *B. alto de serra* with *B. scharffiana* and called the cross *B. 'Alto Scharff'*. I do not know which plant carried the seed but when I saw the plant I liked it so much that I decided to make my own cross by pollinating *B. scharffiana* with pollen from *B. African species*. I wanted to see what kind of a plant would result

because my plant was a little different from *B. alto de serra*. This seed was planted on April 27, 1947 as seed planting No. 1335.

As these plants matured they were sufficiently different from *B. 'Alto Scharff'* and I put them on the market. Since they were obtained from the same species parents, I called them *B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's)*. The plants made nice specimens and were husky, some having red hairs all over the plant instead of just white ones on the top of the leaves. *B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's)* had thicker stems which have closer nodes and the leaves are thicker and wider than the Woodriff cross, *B. 'Alto Scharff'*.

Several years later, my customers began asking for the beautiful large Begonia which always won as the best Begonia in the Nineteenth Agricultural District Flower Show in Santa Barbara. Investigating, I learned that the exhibitor was Ben Ramirez, a member of the Santa Barbara Branch of the A.B.S. He had obtained a plant of *B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's)* as a door prize on the occasion of his first visit to a branch meeting and had grown it to such perfection that it invariably won the prize for the best Begonia in the show. It being so much stronger than the other which I still had of the cross, I purchased a plant from Mr. Ramirez and with his permission named it after him, i.e. *B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's) var. 'Ramirez'*. Soon Ben was competing with his brother for the prize as the latter had received a cutting from Ben and finally exhibited a plant which surpassed Ben's.

So to set things straight, we have the following conclusions:

1. We have *B. bradei* Irmscher.
2. We have a slightly different seed form which we can no longer call *B. laetivirides* Gilg.
3. We have Leslie Woodriff's *B. 'Alto Scharff'*.

4. We have B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's).
5. We have B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's) variety 'Ramirez' (Ra-MEE-raz).
6. There is a different cross—B. 'Lady Vi' (*B. laetivirides* [*B. bradei*] X B. 'Vi-aude') of mine. This is different and distinguishable from the others.
7. Helen Krauss was wrong in connecting these plants with *B. macrocarpa* and calling *B. bradei* a variety "pubescens" and then not legally describing it.
8. There is *B. secreta* Irmscher which I used to call *B. bare African species* and which Helen Krauss called *B. macrocarpa*.

Since all descriptions are relative, I will try to describe the differences between all the Begonias which are still in cultivation.

The following plants are entirely hairy even on the seed pods and backs of the sepals. The tops of the leaves are dark green, the backs, stems, petioles, peduncles are all dark red. The petioles join the leaves about a fifth of the way down from the top of the leaf.

*B. bradei* Irmscher is the plant Leslie Woodriff called *B. alto de serra*. At first glance you will notice the small plant with thin erect stems and tips clothed with pendulous leaves. A closer look discloses that the entire plant is clothed with soft velvet-like hairs. The leaves are about three and one-half inches long and about one inch wide. The petioles are only about a half-inch long and are affixed to the upper part of the leaf. The leaf is narrowest near the base, or top, and widens at the lower third; then the leaf suddenly tapers to a point. The lobes at the point where the leaf joins the stem are small.

The Ziesenhenné *B. African species* differs from the above plant in having a more definitely toothed margin, the tip runs out to a longer and finer point. To me it is more elegant.

B. 'Alto Scharff' at first appearance is dull and lacks the luster and delicate appearance of *B. bradei*. One gets

the feeling of legginess for the internodes are widely spaced and the plant is open. The leaves are widest in the middle area and they are uneven heart-shaped. A leaf from my plant measures three and one-half inches long and one and one-half inch wide. The lobes are more developed than *B. bradei* but they barely overlap. The tip comes to a point rather quickly. The margin is even. This plant has been a shy bloomer for me.

B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's) gives one the first impression of denseness of foliage and huskiness of growth. The leaf is five and one-half inches long and two and three-eighths inches wide. The lobes where the stem is attached to the leaf are slightly produced and barely overlap. Unlike B. 'Alto Scharff', the margin is slightly double-toothed and the tip of the leaf runs out to a very long and thin point as *B. African species* does.

B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's) var. 'Ramirez' is a sister seedling of B. 'Alto Scharff' (Rudy's). This plant is immediately identified by its robust leaves with greatly developed leaf lobes which overlap each other and the very marked undulating and prominent double-toothed margin. The larger teeth are placed at the tips of the veins with the smaller ones in between. The leaf is greatly heart-shaped. A typical leaf is six and one-quarter inches long, three and one-eighth inches wide, and the widest point is within a half inch of the point of attachment to the petiole. From this point, the leaf gradually tapers to a long point.

Since there are more plants in this *B. bradei* group, I may as well tell about those produced in California. On November 13, 1946, I planted seed packet No. 1199 which was B. 'Vi-aude' seed produced with pollen from *B. bradei*. This plant I named B. 'Lady Vi'. This plant is less hairy and the plant parts are pale red. The top of the leaf is dull green. The leaf base is

(Continued on Page 259)

# BEGONIA ABACULOIDES ZIES.

Members of the A.B.S. are interested in keeping abreast of new developments in Begonias whether it be in connection with soils, fertilizers, hybrids, or new Begonia discoveries.

The logical place for descriptions of new Begonia species is The Begonian. Some readers may not be interested in botanical descriptions but others are. In the past years a dozen or more new Begonia species have been published in the monthly magazine and it is because of these articles that we find the name The Begonian appearing in international publications.

Begonia fanciers sometimes say they would read the articles but they are too technical. As the first part of the article is written in common, everyday English, these readers should have no difficulty understanding the descriptions as only common botanical terms are used where necessary.

In order for a new Begonia description to be acceptable to the botanists, it must be written in Latin. Latin is the international botanical language and by means of it a botanist can read and understand the description written by a botanist whose native language is Japanese or Greek or any other unfamiliar language. This description written in Latin appears at the end of the article.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné,  
Nomenclature Director

*Begonia abaculoides* Zies. is another of Dr. Arthur D. Houghton's unpublished Begonias. This plant Dr. Houghton named by using the name abaculus which is a tile color used by makers of stained glass reminiscent of the color of the Begonia leaves.

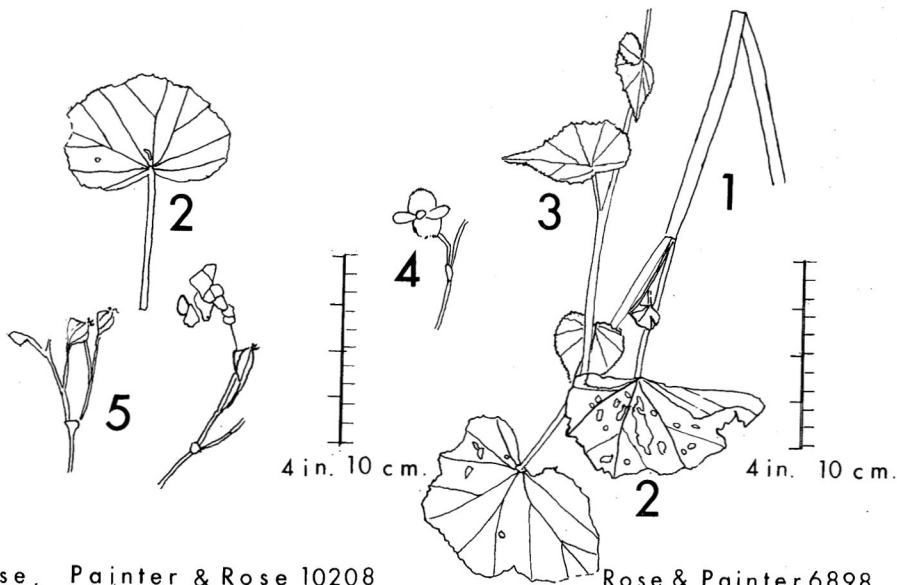
This Begonia is not in cultivation and the name is applied to two herbarium specimens in the United States National Museum, namely the United States National Herbarium specimen

Number 450464 entitled "Plants of Mexico collected near Cuernavaca, State of Morelos." The collection number is 6898 of J. N. Rose, collector, and Jos. H. Painter, assistant, September 9, 1903. The other specimen is United States National Herbarium Number 453705 entitled "Plants of Mexico collected near Cuernavaca, State of Morelos." The collection number is 10208 of J. N. Rose, collector; Jos. H. Painter, assistant; J. S. Rose, assistant, September 12 and 13, 1905.

*Begonia abaculoides* Zies. is an unusual plant being unlike any other American Begonia as both the male and female flowers have four tepals each and the female flower has a three-winged seed pod. (Botanists refer to the combined number of sepals and petals as "tepals" because both of them are colored like petals.) Because of this distinctive characteristic, I wish to publish Dr. Houghton's proposed *Begonia* Subgenera or Section to contain these characteristics. In time, no doubt, other Begonias will be found with these characteristics. This Section will aid botanists in identifying this plant when it is found again for one will only have to look to the Section having Begonias with four tepals in each flower to learn its name instead of looking through all the named Begonias.

*Begonia* Section Quadriperigonía Ziesenhenné new section. Annual herb. Stem erect. Leaves palmi-nervate. Inflorescence cymose. Male flower tepals four; stamens numerous, in a ball; filaments in a column, anthers ball-like. Female flower tepals four; styles persistent, united at the base, tip two-divided; ovary three-celled, placenta two-divided with seeds on all surfaces; capsule three unequal winged.

This Section is named from the fact that there are four perigon segments in both the male and female flowers. This Section is close to Section *Begoniastrum* and *Ruizopavonia*.



Rose, Painter & Rose 10208

Rose & Painter 6898

## *Begonia abaculooides* Zies.

*Begonia abaculooides* Ziesenhenne new species, herbaceous annual: Stem erect, (see Figure 1 in illustration) 32 inches tall, fleshy, bare, rooting at lower nodes; petioles seven inches long, bare, fleshy: leaves (see Figure 2) all petiolate basal leaves deeply kidney-shaped, very uneven margin, heart-shaped, round-toothed, eyelash-like hairs on margin; stem leaves (see Figure 3) on progressively shorter stems, running out to long tapering points, uneven egg-shaped, fine-toothed with little stiff hairs on the points; leaves up to two inches wide and four and one-half inches long, palmately-seven-nerved, above bare except for a few fine, sharp-pointed hairs, beset with small scurfy scale-dots, dark green with hues of red and purple; below thinly set with fine sharp-pointed hairs and minute depressions, color lighter; inflorescence few-flowered, three to four evenly divided, flower-stem bare, two inches long, bracts remaining a while, sheath-like bare; tepals in male flowers four (see Figure 4), one-half inch long and five-

eighths inch wide, the outer minutely toothed, the inner entire; stamens numerous in a ball; filaments in a column; anthers ball-like: Female flower tepals four (see Figure 5) bare, net-veined, one-half inch long and one-half inch wide, styles three, two-divided: ovary three-celled; placenta two-divided, all sides carry seed; capsule sharp-pointed at the base, tip angular; three-winged, two marginal, one larger blunt-triangular.

(The nearest affinity to this species is *B. palmaris*, but the lateral nerves are not denuded of parenchym as in that species and *B. biserrata*. The female flower during its development is entirely enfolded in an elongated conduplicate involucre formed of two glabrous bracteoles.)

### LATIN DESCRIPTION:

*Begonia* Section *Quadriperigonis* Zies. sect. nov., foliis palmiservis: inflorescentia cyma. Tepalis masculinis 4, staminibus numerosis, filamentis in columna cylindrica connatis, antheris blobosis. Tepalis femineis 4, stylis 3, bifidis. Ovario 3-loculato,

placentis bipartitus, undique ovuliferis; capsulis alis 3. Species unica.

*Begonia* (Quadriperigonia) *abaculoides* Zies. spec. nov. Herba annua: caule erecto, raro ramoso, elliptico, carnoso 95 cm. altis, nudo, nodi infernis radicatis: petiolis 17.5 cm. longis, nudis, carnosis: foliis omnis prope basin profunde reniformibus, acutatis repandis, cordatis, crenulatis, ciliatis; caulinis foliis longis acuminatis, ovatis-obliquis, denticulatis-setiferis, 5 cm. latis, 11 cm. longis; palmatis-7-nervis; supra paucis subulatis, lepidotis-punctulatis, aerugenosis cum suffusis rubidis et purpureis; subtis pauci subulatis et scrobiculatis: inflorescentia pauciflora, 3-5 dichotoma; pedunculis nudis 5 cm. longis, bracteis subdeciduis, vaginibus, nudis: tepalis masculinis 4, glabris, 13 mm. longis, 15 mm. latis, exterioribus denticulatis, interioribus integris: staminibus numerosis, globosis, filamentis in columna cylindrica connatis; antheris globosis: floribus femineis tepalis 4, glabris, reticulatis, 12 mm. longis, 13 mm. latis; stylis 3, bi-partatis; capsula glabra elipsoides, basi acuta, apice obtusa, inaequaliter trialata; ala maxima triangulari obtusa, reliquis marginalibus; ovario 3-loculari; placentis bilamellatis, undique ovulifera.

### ATTENTION SECRETARIES

The Branch Directory will appear in the January issue of *The Begonian*. Please check the entry concerning your branch as it appeared in the October issue and send any changes to me immediately. Don't wait for the deadline. You may forget.

Mae Tagg, *Editor*

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

**"Schultz-Instant"**  
LIQUID PLANT FOOD 10-15-10  
7 DROPS to a quart of water  
"starts and feeds" all plants  
Available at your store  
or send \$1.25 for 2 bottles, prepaid to  
SCHULTZ COMPANY  
11730 NORTHLINE, ST. LOUIS, MO. 63042

258

## CYMBIDIUM CULTURE

Cymbidiums need cold night treatments. Set them out at night to chill, until freezing weather appears. You can even pour ice water over them or let some ice cubes melt among the bulbs. If you want more rapid growth, bring them inside in the daytime. When the nights get down to freezing keep them inside and watch them grow spikes of beautiful flowers. The cold treatment encourages the plants to throw flower spikes. Stop feeding nitrogen but do spray with malathion at least once to prevent bringing in insect pests.

From *Shady News*  
September, 1968

Say "Merry Christmas"  
with a *Begonian* subscription

SPOONIT  
FLOWER FOOD

Send Post Card for Information and Sample

**PLANTSMITH**  
Box 818 Palo Alto, Calif. 94302

LOWE'S NURSERY  
BEGONIAS  
ORCHIDS - BROMELIADS  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL  
Price List 10c  
23045 S. W. 123 Road  
Goulds, Florida 33170

EXOTIC FERNS—BEGONIAS  
CHRISTMAS & EASTER CACTUS

We ship anywhere in the U.S.  
1967-68 color catalog 25c  
**TALNADGE'S FERN GARDENS**  
354 "G" Street, Section B  
Chula Vista, Calif. 92010

REX HYBRID BEGONIA SEED

\$1.00 per packet

**RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE**  
1130 North Milpas Street  
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93103

The Begonian

## B. 'RAMIREZ'

(Continued from Page 255)

Nightly lobed and the lobes slightly over-lap. The basal lobe makes up the entire leaf above the point where the petiole is attached. The cross produces long stems between the leaves and this makes a rangy plant. The leaf is six inches long and two and three-quarter inches wide. The leaf tapers from the widest point near the petiole to the tip of the leaf. The margin is uniformly saw-toothed along the margin.

In 1950, Mrs. Elsie M. Frey of Santa Barbara did some hybridizing with *B. bradei* by using pollen from it onto *B. 'Houghtoni'*. She grew many plants from this cross and named three.

1. *B. 'Erika Weber'*—The stems of this plant although partially erect, droop, making it a good basket plant. To touch, the leaves are the softest velvet, the feeling being increased by the thin leaves which have the flexibility of cloth. The leaf is five inches long and two and three-eighths inches wide, the widest part of the leaf being one-quarter of the way toward the tip from the petiole junction or an inch from the petiole. The striking margin has the largest teeth at the tips of the veins and the area between these teeth is curved inward and is lined with fine teeth. Toward the tip, the leaf gets narrower with distinct cut-in steps, finally running out to a very long fine point. The stigmas of the female flower are colored orange.

2. *B. 'Glorietta'*—Similar in growth and color to *B. 'Erika Weber'*, according to Mrs. Frey, except the leaves and flowers are much larger but not so abundantly produced.

3. *B. 'Lois Applegate'*—Has the same type of growth as *B. 'Erika Weber'* but the light green leaves are light green beneath. The flowers are large white with pink hairs on the back of the petals, giving an apple blossom appearance.

It must be remembered that *B. 'Alto Scharff'* (Rudy's) consisted of a seedling flat of many plants and they were all sold. Because of this, it is possible there may be some plants around which differ in minor ways from those described. Added to this, one must remember that no two buds are exactly alike and variations do spring from different cuttings from the same stem. I noticed that *B. 'Alto Scharff'* var. '*Ramirez*' leaves sometimes have the upper lobe over-lap the lower lobe and at other times the lower lobe over-laps the upper lobe.

If there are any questions about these plants, now is the time to ask them.



## A.B.S. LIBRARY BOOKSTORE

### The following selection of books are FOR SALE

- \*Gesneriads And How To Grow Them..\$7.95  
by Peggy Shultz
- \*Rex Begonias As House Plants.....\$1.00  
by Virginia Withee
- \*All About Begonias .....\$5.95  
by Bernice Brilmayer
- \*Begonias Slanted Toward The .....\$3.00  
Beginner by Dorothy Behrends
- \*So Say The Experts by Ruth Pease .....\$2.00
- Classification Guide—Compiled by ....\$1.25  
the Westchester Branch, A.B.S.
- \*Ferns We Grow by Sylvia Leatherman \$3.85  
and Dorothy Behrends
- The Begonian—Complete reprints ....\$6.00  
of the four years 1934 to 1937
- The Begonian—1967-1960 25c each  
1959-1950 40c each  
1949-1939 50c each
- \*Begonian Binders .....\$1.50  
A.B.S. on the cover.
- \*Calif. residents, add 5% tax on these items.

Send your orders to:

**MRS. LUCILE WRIGHT, LIBRARIAN**  
4508 West 133rd Street,  
Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Many of the flights at this writing are just restarted with new Co-directors and new members and others will be redone when they come in. Dora Lee Dorsey's and Helen Matsubu's flights have had little change. Carrie is keeping the present hybridizing flights, but the rest of the flights are being changed. This means all but fifteen flights will be changed in some way. Your patience will be needed in this time of rearranging.

### Question Asked:

"I received Begonia and Episcia cuttings through the mail and they were crisp and nice when they came but wilted shortly after. Put back in a baggie, they perked up again. Why?"  
Answer: Did you trim stem to make sure they would take up water? Probably became used to high humidity in the baggie. I always keep mine covered for a few days.

### Rex:

Ruth Stanley of Bellefontaine, Ohio wrote in August, "I have found in growing *rexes* in the home, if they are kept under cover of glass or plastic until four or five mature leaves have developed, they will grow with the covering removed."

### Terrariums:

Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana wrote in September, "I find that silver spotted *B. herbacea* grows well in a terrarium. Have never tried it outside of one, however, green *B. herbacea* does nothing for me in a terrarium. *B. listida* does well on the bench with other Begonias. *B. lubbersii* I've always had in a terrarium. Have you seen it bloom? Has such huge flowers!" Elaine has eleven terrariums and has four more to fill. "*B. brooksii* is in a large brandy snifter, has just about filled it. Leaves are very dark green. It's just beautiful. *B. humboltii* is in a fourteen inch bubble bowl with miniature caladium but has grown so much must put them in something bigger."

### Potting Mix:

Rosetta White of Newton, Kansas gives us this potting mix, her scoop in this mix is a gallon clorox bottle cut for a measure. It makes about a bushel of mix.

- 7 scoops Michigan Peat moss
- 1 scoop perlite
- 2 scoops vermiculite
- 1 scoop dehydrated cow manure
- 1 scoop surface
- 4 cups oak wood ashes
- 1 small handful lime
- 1 small handful amonia sulfate
- 1 cup superphosphate
- 1 cup bone meal

Rosetta keeps her plants in basement under lights in winter and in the lathhouse in summer. Rosetta found that *B. 'Richmondensis'* and *B. 'Catalina'* would not bloom in the lathhouse but when put out on the east side of the lathhouse where they get sun until noon they bloomed in just a few days.

### Awards:

Our congratulations to the robin members who won awards in the Photo Divisions of the National Show.

Sue McCarthy of Alsip, Illinois won 38 ribbons on a variety of house plants at her garden club's annual show in September—among them the award of merit for Episcia 'Silver Crest' with two-toned leaves and tiny orange blossoms. She also took the horticulture sweepstakes. Her *E. 'Silver Crest'* had been almost dead after a March show, but revived nicely over the summer.

### Gesneriads:

David Allen of San Francisco, California grows some 70 varieties of Episcias under Wide-Spectrum Gro-Lux tubes; it brings out the foliage colors and also puts more bloom on Gesneriads, he thinks. He uses vermiculite under pots and feeds Gesneriads more than he does Begonias. An *E. 'Green Haga'* has put up two plants with a whorl of three leaves other than the ones opposite each other. He is anxious to see if it will put out stolon like this; he hasn't seen another like it.



David says *Episcias* really grow in seven-inch pots watered with two teaspoons of fish emulsion to a gallon of water. He has one nineteen inches across. He thinks his San Francisco humidity helps to grow beautiful leaves; he has been unable, however, to bring the blue-flowered *Episcia* into bloom, despite good growth.

Carl L'Hommedieu of Oakdale, New York suggests not waiting too long for new leaves to appear after a *Hypocyrta* loses them. He has found it better to cut stems back. Both *Hypocyrta*s and *Columneas* will grow new stems after old ones are cut than old stems will grow new leaves. Carl's three *Chirita sinensis* plants were all in bud and starting to open early in October. Last year the buds dried before opening. Probably they received more humidity this year when the house was closed six weeks while the L'Hommedieus drove west to the National Convention.

#### ***B. listida* in August:**

Pat Burdick of Burnsville, Minnesota, has two plants of *B. listida*; one growing in the greenhouse stays tiny with tiny leaves, while one in a glass-covered bowl in the house grows very well. Helen Matsubu of Fruitland, Idaho found her *B. listida* did not like to be too close to the light tubes and did not like to be too wet. Some leaves turned yellow and dropped. Grown drier, it was doing better.

#### **Lights:**

Helen Matsubu thinks a lot of cane Begonias like a bit of real sunlight to bloom. The small-leafed canes seem to come into bloom under artificial lights, but the large ones don't. She was thinking of building a shelf for this winter, to give her canes and larger rhizomatous Begonias more sunlight, but supplementing the light after the sun set in winter evenings, with a simple light fixture.

#### **Seed Germination:**

Elizabeth Mercier of Curundu, Canal Zone reported results on a number of sowings, including four seedlings

from *B. rajah* in five to six weeks, sowed in January. Others were *B. masoniana*, sowed in January, no germination; *rex* hybrids from two sources, sowed in January and June, good germination (in twelve days in June); *B. listida*, January sowing gave nice germination in two weeks, August sowing gave first sprouts in twelve days; *B. 'Orange Rubra'* seedlings from two sources, sowings in January, February, and April, one seedling appearing in March; *B. 'Gee-Gee'* x *B. Philippine* species, sowed in January; heavy germination in seven days, vigorous; *B. lubbersii*, sowed in February, thick stand in less than three weeks; *B. olbia*, sowed in February, one seedling after four weeks, if true; *B. caragatatubensis*, sowings in January, February, May, with sparse germination in three and six weeks; *B. 'Waltanna'* x *B. 'Jill Adair'*, sowings in January and February, only four seedlings from two packets of seed. *B. dichroa*, sowed in January, fair germination in two weeks; *B. 'Verde Grande'* seedlings, sowed in January, good germination in seven days; *B. dregei*, March, very sparse germination; *B. limmingheiana*, February, only two seedlings; *B. schmidtiana*, April, good germination in two weeks, followed by more; *B. acida*, April, thick germination; *B. friburgensis*, April, some up in three weeks; *B. leptotricha*, June, thick; *B. laciniata* var. *lutea*, July, sprinkling of very tiny, very slow growing seedlings in two weeks; *B. xanthina*, twice in July, no germination by mid-August; *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*, August 7, nothing by August 18; *B. cathayana*, August, first sprout in eleven days; *B. foliosa*, August, first one in eleven days.

Want to join a robin? Write me!

Mrs. Anita Sickmon  
Round Robin Director  
Route 2, Box 99  
Cheney, Kansas 67025

---

Fly Right, Robins!

---



**Season's Greetings**

*To wish you all the glad-  
ness . . . that a Christmas  
Day can hold . . .*

*And through your Happy  
New Year . . . May it grow a hundred-  
fold . . .*



**WHITTIER  
BRANCH**

**ABS**



May Peace and Joy Be Yours

At

*Christmastime*

and

*Throughout the New Year*

\* \* \*

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

**ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH**

*extends heartiest*

Season's Greetings and a cordial  
invitation to visit

**SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

during its year-long

**200TH BIRTHDAY**

**CELEBRATION**

May the Joys and Blessings of

**CHRISTMAS**

Abide With You

*Throughout the Year*

\* \* \*

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

**THE THEODOSIA  
BURR SHEPHARD  
BEGONIA BRANCH**

Wishes One and All

*A Happy Holiday Season*

from

Ventura, California

*Our Sincere Wishes*

For A

*Blessed Holiday Season*

*and for*

Bigger Better Begonias

in 1969

\* \* \*

**EASTSIDE BRANCH**

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

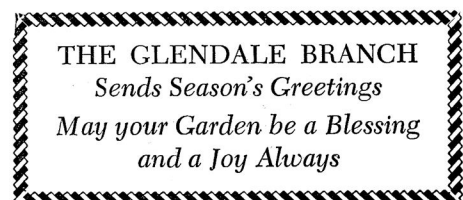
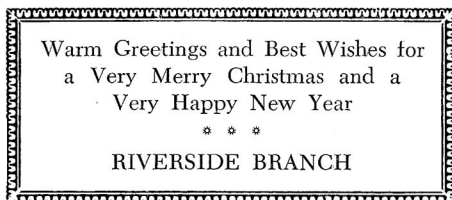
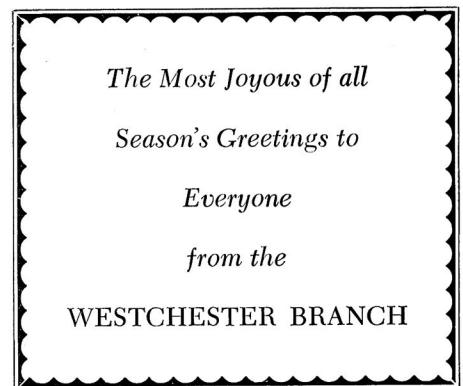
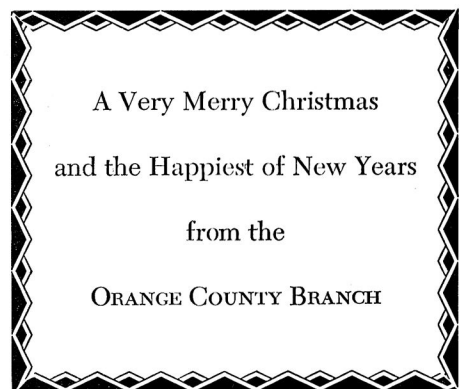
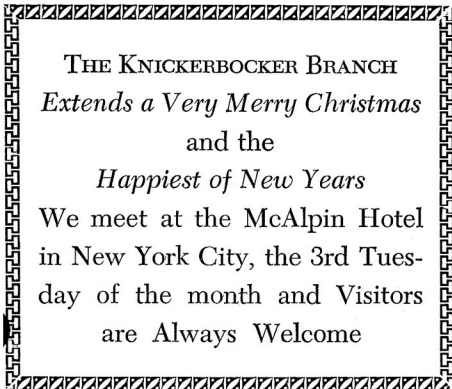
\* \* \*

**FOOTHILL BRANCH**

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

\* \* \*

**ELSA FORT BRANCH**



## REPORT FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

By PHYLLIS WRIGHT

The Seattle Begonia Society is getting ready to step into the fall season with many objects in view. The club has had a real busy summer, participating in two local shows, then their own Fourteenth Annual Show which was held in the Loyal Heights Field House during Seafair week and was co-sponsored by the Seattle Park Department.

In previous years, the show has always featured small formal gardens put in by the club members and using only shade-loving plants. This year they decided to try something a little different in order to get more club participation, so it was decided that they would put in a "Community Garden" with the members bringing in their individual plants. At first it didn't look as if there would ever be enough plants to fill such a large space.

One good member erected a large lathhouse. Beneath this on a moss-covered floor, a large informal garden was built, using our native shrubs with a waterfall and shrine in the background. A border of *semperflorens* completely circled the large plot, while on the inside, every kind of Begonia and compatible plant was used. Large baskets of Begonias, Fuchsias and ferns hung from the top and sides of the lathhouse, giving those who entered the building the feeling of walking into a large, beautifully shaded garden.

There were many individual plots put in by other clubs, these also were beautifully done and represented a lot of work and T.L.C. The real payoff came when we were all finished, and even though everyone on the show committee had felt the members would never furnish plants enough to fill such a large space, after completion there were enough lovely plants left

(Continued on Page 265)

## LETTERS

Dear Mr. Pease,

First, let me express our gratitude to the Begonia Society for continuing us on the mailing list of *The Begonian* magazine. The more than 60 inmate students in our ornamental horticulture class eagerly look for the arrival of this fine publication to study and compare plant descriptions, etc.

We now have a collection of 61 varieties growing in our greenhouses. Each year we stage a flower show for the general public outside the prison compound, and for the past several years over 1500 people have registered in attendance. As you can see from our last year's announcement one of the divisions in the show was 25 specimen Begonias. These were the main attraction.

This year our main feature will be Begonias and our show stage, in the center of the building, will feature all Begonias. Our show announcement will have a cover feature of Begonias in color. As soon as it is completed, I will mail you a copy (should be early spring).

Seemingly, we fail to find available colorful *rexes*. Do you know of a good source? Many of our plants come from Merry Gardens, Camden, Maine.

Again may we say thank you.

Sincerely,

M. B. Jordan, Teacher  
Vocational Agriculture  
Florida State Prison  
P. O. Box 221  
Raiford, Florida 32083

Dear Mae,

Today has been a wonderful day for me, finally got my members together. Today we formed the South Carolina Branch of the A.B.S.

Mae, the question came up; why should we join the A.B.S.? Can you answer that question other than the use of the slides, books, Seed Fund,

etc.? I would like a REAL good answer to this question.

Best Regards,  
El McWhorter, Pres.  
South Carolina Branch  
1011 Statler Road  
Columbia, So. C. 29210

**REPORT**

*(Continued from Page 264)*

to completely landscape the west side of the Field House. So it was proven again, never sell your members short and do not hesitate too long to try something new, a change once in a while is good for everyone.

We want to again say, welcome to our new club in Portland, Oregon. They had their first meeting on September 27, with much enthusiasm. The Eastside club in Bellevue sent them cuttings of 45 varieties of Begonias to start off their meetings. Again, Portland, welcome to our A.B.S. family, we all wish you much success and we know that your enthusiasm will continue to grow.

**FOR SALE**

Thirty (30) Years of BEGONIANS  
In Folders—\$100  
*Only two issues are missing.*  
T. C. OLMSTED  
8717 S. La Cienega Blvd.  
Inglewood, Calif. 90301

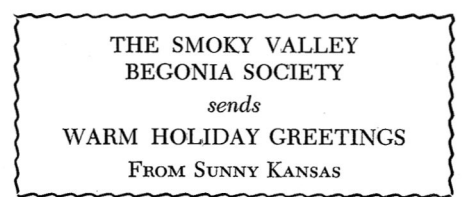
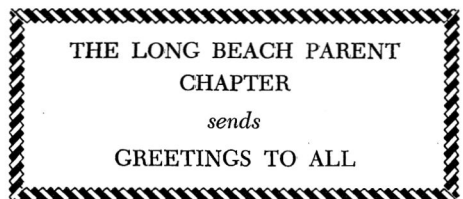
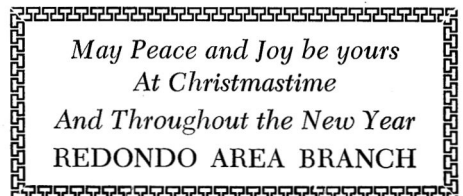


**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY**

INSIGNIA PINS .....\$4.00  
EMBLEM STICKERS .....\$ .50  
GARDEN SIGNS .....\$1.00

Price includes postage  
(Calif. residents, add 5% tax.)

**Order from**  
**CHARLES E. TAGG**  
**2123 West West Ave.**  
**Fullerton, Calif. 92633**



# MINUTES OF THE A.B.S. BOARD

September 23, 1968: (corrected)

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. Jim Somes led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Vera Naumann read the Aims and Purposes. Ten officers and ten National Directors answered the roll call. The minutes of the July meeting and the Annual Meeting were read and approved.

Our new President, Walter Pease, advised us that Bert Slatter is in the hospital.

The treasurer, Walter Barnett, reported a balance of \$376.02, receipts of \$1066.78, disbursements of \$765.37, leaving a balance of \$677.43.

President Pease made the appointments for the year (see page 246). A motion was made by Gertrude Winsor, seconded by Floyd Neff, that the new appointments be approved. Carried.

Margaret Lee announced that the San Miguel Award will not be awarded to the plant known as B. 'General Jacques' until the plant known as B. 'San Miguel' is 25 years old. This is because of the controversy between these two Begonias.

Ruth Pease reported there were two new registrants for the judges course.

Lucile Wright asked for old issues of *The Begonian*. She will pay the postage for the old copies sent to her.

Membership Secretary, Pearl Benell, reported 70 new members, and a total of 2,829 *Begonians* disbursed during the month.

Anita Sickmon asked for advance postage and reference books for use as the new Round Robin Director.

Jim Somes reported 420 registered at the show, and a profit of \$192.00 from the snack bar. He also thanked El Monte Branch for being host to the judges luncheon.

Vera Naumann requested approval of a Charter for a new branch, South Carolina Branch of the A.B.S. Margaret Lee moved, seconded by Walter Barnett that the Charter be granted. Carried. Mr. Charles W. Crawford of Charleston, South Carolina is the secretary.

Mrs. Gee requested an instruction sheet to send with the seeds.

Anne Rose reported receiving \$59.31 in paid ads this month.

Ruth Pease said there would be some changes made in the show schedule as it is used during the year.

Everett Wright made a motion, seconded by Margaret Lee, that the Treasurer pay for the ad in *Home Garden* magazine. Carried.

The branches represented made their reports. San Miguel extended their thanks for the help at their show.

President Pease announced the finance committee will meet this month.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Virginia Barnett,  
Secretary

October 28, 1968:

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Chuck Tagg led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Vera Naumann read the Aims and Purposes. Thirteen officers and nine National Directors answered the roll call.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and after corrections approved.

Vera Naumann read an invitation to the installation banquet of the San Francisco Branch.

The Treasurer reported the balance of \$677.43 on hand, receipts of \$852.45, disbursements of \$924.17, leaving a balance of \$605.71.

The librarian reported receiving \$20.00 in donations for the additional reprints she has mailed. The Board expressed appreciation to the members.

Pearl Benell reported 62 new members and 2,773 *Begonians* disbursed.

Gene Daniels requested help in securing information for press releases for the Annual Show. He would like to have the names and addresses of people with unusual yards, hybridizers, extra large Begonias, unusual plantings and waterfalls, and the names of local papers and editors.

Attention was called to the article in the November issue of the *Home Garden* magazine about Begonias. Walter Barnett was asked to obtain the cost of obtaining copies of the article which is insert type.

The President read the Research Director's report.

Ruth Pease has sent letters to the Judges of the last show asking for comments regarding the new classification schedule. Ten have responded so far.

The Public Relations Director reported he is getting acquainted with the files and work on his new position.

Mae Tagg called the Board's attention to the November Christmas ad, and will have articles during the coming year to help our members become better acquainted with our Award Winners.

After the report by the Finance Committee it was requested that the budget be published in *The Begonian*. The Finance Committee will meet at 7:15 p.m. preceding the Board meeting. Gene Daniels moved, seconded by Vera Naumann that the budget be accepted. Carried.

Anne Rose reported \$131.00 in paid ads. Chuck Tagg moved, seconded by Floyd Neff that the reciprocal ads be discontinued. Carried.

The South Coast Botanical Garden Foundation dues are to be paid at this time.

After the Secretary read the correspondence, the Branch reports were given.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Virginia Barnett,  
Secretary

## REPORT TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Proposed Budget: Sept. 1968 to August, 1969.

### Expected Income:

Membership Dues .....	\$ 8,800.00
Advertising .....	900.00
Seed Fund .....	800.00
Library .....	300.00
	\$10,800.00

### Proposed Disbursements:

<i>Begonian</i> Printing .....	\$ 7,000.00
Register of Copyrights.....	72.00
President's Allowance .....	180.00
Editor's Allowance .....	720.00
Membership Secy. Allowance..	600.00
Seed Fund .....	267.00
Membership Secy. Expense.....	700.00
Treasurer Expense .....	15.00
Secretary Expense .....	60.00
Monthly Board Reports.....	50.00
Ballot Expense .....	75.00
Advertising Manager Expense	30.00
Stationery Printing .....	131.00
Round Robin Dept.	
Expense .....	60.00
Advertising	
(Other magazines) .....	450.00
Sales Tax .....	60.00
Insurance .....	35.00
Rent, City of South Gate.....	60.00
Dues, L.A.S. & C. Arboretum..	10.00
Dues, So. Coast Botanic	
Garden .....	10.00
Show Fund .....	200.00
	\$10,785.00

Estimated Income available  
for other projects..... \$ 15.00

Convention Fund Balance  
9-30-68 .....

229.62  
Note that \$700 was withdrawn  
to finance this year's (1968)  
show.

Life Member Fund Balance  
9-30-68 .....

2,777.39  
Annual interest on this fund is  
\$138. We presently have 37 life  
members. At \$50 per life mem-  
ber, the fund requires \$1,850.  
At \$4 per year per member, 37  
members would pay \$148 in  
dues.

Chuck Tagg, *Chairman*  
Muriel Perz, *Business Manager*  
Walter Barnett, *Treasurer*

## SPECIAL NOTICE

The Redondo Area Branch will hold their meeting at a new location, the Richard Henry Dana School Cafeterium, 135th Street and Aviation, Hawthorne, Calif. Their meetings are held on the fourth Friday of each month and visitors are always welcome.

## CALENDAR

December 5 — Westchester Branch: Whoopee Party, 7:30 p.m. Slides by Gene Daniels, A.B.S. Photographer.

December 5 — Whittier Branch: Begonia-Fuchsia Christmas Party. Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Bring your table service and vegetable, salad, or dessert. Meat will be furnished by the two branches. Christmas Decorations Contest with two classifications, fresh material or artificial, and judged by popular vote. Gift exchange of approximately \$1.00 (optional).

December 10 — Glendale Branch: Birthday - Christmas dinner (catered). Reservations \$4.00 (deadline Dec. 1). Speaker, Clarence Hall of Sacramento, Calif. 6:30 p.m.

December 11 — Inglewood Branch: Christmas meeting 7:30 p.m., Western Federal Savings Building, 355 East Manchester, Inglewood, Calif. Everett Wright, retiring President, will install the new officers. "His or Her" gift exchange. Come for a fun evening.

December 17 — North Long Beach Branch: Mrs. Mabel Ragel of Fullerton, Calif. will present her Christmas Card Symphony. Harvest Table will replace Plant Table. Please donate toward this. Walter Pease, National President, will install the 1969 officers. 7:30 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

December 19—Foothill Branch: Bingo Party at Vera and Carl Naumann's, 346 N. Leland Ave., West Covina, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

December 25—MERRY CHRISTMAS!

January 1 — HAPPY NEW YEAR!  
DEADLINE for all material for the February *Begonian*. Start the New Year right.

### CALIFORNIA GARDEN

For expert, helpful, garden  
information

Bi-monthly subscription, \$2.50 a yr.  
Balboa Park, San Diego, Cal. 92101

Return Requested  
10331 South Colima Road  
Whittier, California 90604  
Second Class Mail

### GREEN HILLS NURSERY

Exotic & Hardy Ferns  
Open Saturdays and Sundays  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. or by appointment  
2131 Vallejo Street St. Helena, Calif. 94574  
Mrs. E. Bolduc

### ANTONELLI BROTHERS

2545 Capitola Road  
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060  
36-page color catalog 25 cents

**SHADE PLANTS**  
(No list or shipping)

#### PATIO PLANTS

4036 Moore Street  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90066  
Located half way between Centinela & Lincoln  
Blvds. Half block south of Washington Blvd.

### BEGONIAS

#### HOUSE and GARDEN PLANTS

Send for List—10c  
MRS. BERT ROUTH  
Louisburg, Missouri 65685

**Gloxinias—African Violets—Begonias**  
Varieties which thrive under  
fluorescent light  
New Catalog—25c

### KARTUZ GREENHOUSES

Dept. B—92 Chestnut Street  
Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887

BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS  
FERNS, OXALIS, CACTI, HERBS

New 75th anniversary catalog, with more color—50c

### LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES

(Est. 1892)  
55 North Street, Danielson, Connecticut 06239

Best Wishes for the Holidays  
and throughout the coming year  
Is the Wish of

### HEINLEIN NURSERY

To all Begonia Members  
Everywhere  
\* \* \*

Mary Heinlein  
19395 S. W. 248th St. (Dept. B)  
Homestead, Florida 33030

*Palos  
Verdes*

Begonia  
Farm

4111 - 242nd St., Waleria, Calif. 90505

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS

AND SHADE PLANTS

FUCHSIAS—CAMELLIAS—FERNS

OPEN DAILY

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop  
1½ Miles E. of Redondo Beach  
Hi-Way 101