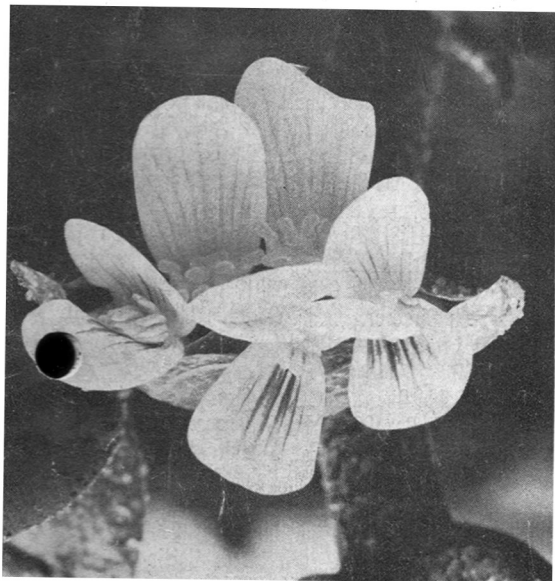


The BEGONIAN

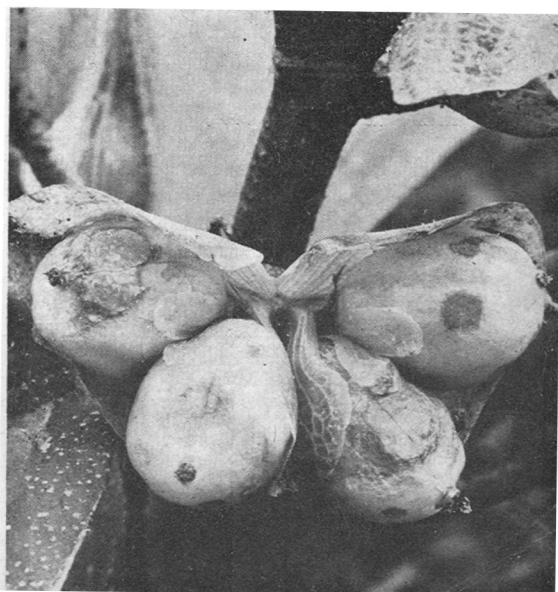
NOVEMBER, 1968

VOL. 35 • NO. 11



Flowers of
Begonia haullevilleana

Seed capsules of
Begonia haullevilleana



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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 EASTERN CONVENTION

By TEKLA TEDESCO, *Southington, Connecticut*

The Third Annual Eastern Begonia Convention sponsored by the Connecticut Branch was held September 6, 7, and 8, 1968 at The Inn at Cornfield Point, Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

There were 185 entries in the show. Exhibitors from New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island entered specimens. We had some very fine plants and the quality of the show as a whole was very good.

A table was set up for the plant sale in the foyer and they did a fine business.

This was our first show using the merit system for judging. A seminar was held on the deck Saturday afternoon. Mrs. Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania was the speaker. After dinner, Dr. Muhlquist from the University of Connecticut gave a most interesting talk illustrated by slides.

Guests were present from as far west as California and north from Canada.

Mr. Harold Fratus of Old Saybrook, Connecticut won the Sweepstakes Award for 25 first place ribbons.

The Best Semperflorens Award went to Mrs. Nellie Radke of Norwich, Connecticut for her *B. 'Calla Queen'*.

The Best Cane or Fibrous Award was won by Mrs. S. A. Hassel of Washington, Connecticut for her *B. 'Sophie Cecile'*.

The Best Rhizomatous Award went to Mrs. John Tedesco of Southington, Connecticut for her *B. kenworthyi*.

The Best Fern Award was won by Mrs. S. A. Hassel for her specimen of *Polypodium aureum* cv. 'Mandianum'.

The Unusual Award went to Mr. Harold Fratus for *B. mazaе* var. *Stitched Leaf* on a totem pole.

The New Introduction or Seedling Award was won by Mrs. Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

The Best in Show Award was won by Logee's Greenhouses of Danielson, Connecticut for their hanging basket tuberous *B. 'Lemon Sweety'*.

FROM A BRANCH PRESIDENT

At this time of the year our Begonias have slowed down a bit and it is a good time to sow Begonia seed and to read about Begonias. Most Branch Libraries have many fine books for you to read and learn about Begonias and other plants. Take advantage of them by using them.

Have you ever thought of where our Begonias get their names? Some are botanical descriptions of the foliage or the blooms, many are named after the original collector or the one to introduce the plant to the Begonia world, some are named after the location where they were found. The names are not difficult if you will read about the plants themselves. They will become known to you as a new friend with a strange name! Try it. You will find it most interesting.

Ruth Pease, President
Westchester Branch

BEGONIA 'NORTHERN LIGHTS'

By ELDA HARING, *Greenwich, Connecticut*

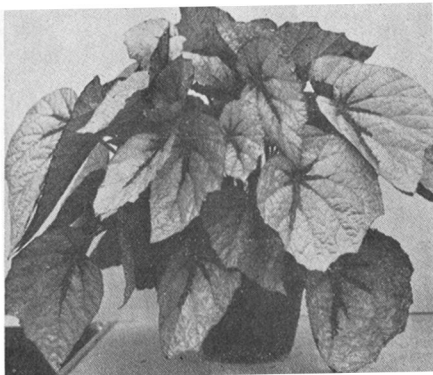
Whenever I am asked which of the *rex* Begonias is my favorite, I have a difficult time deciding for they are all so gorgeous and fascinating. However, if I am asked which I consider the most dependable in my collection, my answer without hesitation would be B. 'Northern Lights', an upright *rex* with silvery leaves with reddish green veinings, more pronounced in the center. The veins on the under side of the leaves and the stems are red and hairy. If B. 'Northern Lights' is grown in strong light, the entire leaf seems suffused with pink and where it receives morning sun, the leaves assume an old-rose overcast. As the leaves do not grow nearly so large as many of the *rexes* in my collection, I consider it a medium sized variety.

If conditions are not to their liking, many *rexes* will go completely dormant for several months in winter. For me, B. 'Northern Lights' never goes completely dormant. It often loses some of the larger leaves and when this happens, I remove these and others of the older ones and do not feed it for several weeks. As soon as new leaf buds are showing, I repot it if necessary and start it on a regular feeding program of quarter strength

water-soluble fertilizer once a week. Every fourth week I feed it Fish Emulsion.

The plant pictured was badly damaged last year when we lost the heat in the greenhouse and the thermometer out-of-doors stood at 20°. Many Begonias in my collection were frozen and did not recover and B. 'Northern Lights' lost all of its leaves. The rhizome seemed to be turgid so the pot was put aside in subdued light near the heater. When it showed signs of new growth, it was placed with the other *rexes*, given strong light and in a few months was as vigorous as it had been before disaster struck.

In winter I grow this plant on the west bench of the greenhouse for the sun at that time of year in southern Connecticut is rather weak. By March, however, I find it necessary to grow most of my Begonias under a muslin canopy to shade them from the heat of the spring sun. Indoors it grows very well in the east or west window both of which are shaded by trees in mid-summer. Under Gro-Lux fluorescent lights, the entire plant becomes quite rosy but the edges of the leaves tend to turn brown. Wherever I have tried it, B. 'Northern Lights' has never failed to produce an attractive bushy plant and grows to specimen size. Is it any wonder that I consider it the most dependable in my collection?



B. 'Northern Lights'

Photo by Walter J. Haring

COVER PICTURE

Begonia haullevilleana is a trailing species from the Congo. It is of great Botanical interest mainly because of its peculiar fruits (seed capsules). The flowers are large, white with crimson blotch. (See the Seed Fund, page 232.)

Photo by J. Doorenbos

The Begonian

KNOW YOUR PLANT DISEASES

By BEN MARCUS, *Brooklyn, New York*

Most of us when thinking of disease are most apt to connect that word with virus or bacteria. However, this is not necessarily true. The definition of disease is, "that which prevents a living organism from functioning normally." A disease may be caused by lack of necessary chemicals in the soil, a bug, insect or mite infection, mildew, mold or whatever will cause the plant to suffer.

Since we are most interested in Begonias at the point of reading our periodical, I will dwell on the diseases that attack most of the family *Begoniaceae*.

1. Crown, stem, root, cutting rot, and damping off: This is quite general. This is due to water soaking, and too wet medium. You will find that the stem is darkened near the soil line, and will rot and collapse. The disease will look very much like a nematode infection. It is best to throw away the plant, and pick off a healthy tip cutting and start over. In this disease, the leaves will get flabby, waterlogged and decayed. Seedlings, especially babies, will rot.

2. Grev-mold blight, botrytis blight blotch: This is quite common and very serious. The edges of the leaves will get mushy, take on a grey, brown or black hue, and will gradually infect the whole plant. This is caused by high humidity, wet weather, or by plants weakened by other diseases. Also throw away infected plants, and pick off a healthy part and start over. For plants only lightly infected, use captan, maneb, thiram, ferbam, ziram, dichloran, or zineb, to plants infected. This is true for the first disease listed also.

3. Crown Gall: Round or irregularly shaped galls will form on plant near the soil line. It will look somewhat like a tuber. The gall eventually rots killing the whole plant. The best thing to do is destroy the mother plant and make cuttings of tip ends. Begonias vary in resistance to this. Be sure to

pot your cuttings in different soil, and that it be sterile.

4. Aster Yellows: Plants stunted, abnormally bushy but yellow. Use lindane, and destroy all neighboring weeds.

5. Spotted wilt: Yellow or brown rings on leaves. Plants are stunted and bronzed with poor flowers if any. Remedy as above.

6. Powdery mildews: This is quite common and one of Begonias most serious diseases. It is most common on tuberous and fibrous rooted Begonias. It looks like a white dry powdery substance, and forms in blotches on leaves. For control, use karathane, folpet or sulphur.

7. Root knot: Swellings form on roots and crowns. Plants are stunted and lack vigor, and are unsightly. Destroy plants and try to make cuttings from uninfected parts.

8. Corky scab/oedema: This happens mostly to indoor plants, where they look water soaked where a corky substance forms on the underside of the leaves. Keep down humidity for control, in cloudy and damp weather.

9. Mosaic: This is not common to Begonias, but if seen, can be recognized by yellow or brown spots between the veins. This is caused by insects, so spray to control them.

10. Verticillium Wilt: Lower leaves will become pale green, turn yellow, and wilt. It will then spread to upper leaves, and plants will die. Do not use soil that has been used for many of the common vegetables.

11. Leaf nematode: Leaves will curl up and drop off. Plants will become unsightly. Plant will produce few or no flowers. You will see dark brown patches between the veins. Keep water off foliage, and propagate from disease-free plants. Do not use a healthy looking tip on diseased plant, as you will not know if there is a start of this disease within it.

(Continued on Page 240)

WHY BEGONIAS ARE NOT ALWAYS CORRECTLY NAMED

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE, *Nomenclature Director*

Begonia nomenclature has been a fascinating study to me for more than 30 years, during which time I have been a commercial Begonia grower, researched the genus *Begonia* as to proper names, geographical origins, cultural requirements and plant structure, and collected written material and artifacts featuring the Begonia. My collection includes a large library of books and photographs of books, a herbarium of Begonia specimens and photographs or type herbarium specimens, paintings, china, cloisonne, pottery, textiles, embroidery, and pictures which depict the Begonia.

I have been asked why nomenclature has become so confused. As a nurseryman, I can list many obvious reasons for the confusion from observations in my lathhouse and greenhouse.

Some customers are not interested in Begonia names, removing carefully written labels from a pot as soon as the sale is complete. Many visitors will remove a label from a plant to learn its name and not replace it in the same pot. There is the mischievous visitor who, I suspect, deliberately moves labels from one plant and places it in a pot many tables away. Visitors, in an effort to be helpful, will pick up a loose label lying on a bench and place it in a convenient pot. This can be understood of children who do not understand the significance of the label, but grownups with a penchant for neatness but an ignorance of nomenclature add to the confusion.

There are individuals who change Begonia names to suit their fancy. There are others who give names to any plants they acquire which are to their knowledge unnamed, without attempting to identify it. An eminent grower, now deceased, acquired a cutting in a public park, propagated it, and put it in his catalogue as B.

'Schnitzeri' without bothering to find its true name which is *B. sutherlandi*. A woman who obtained a cutting of a Begonia from a friend living on Washington Street labeled the plant B. 'Washington Street' although it was probably the species *B. serratifolia*.

Begonia nurseries and mail order firms have been known to take named Begonias and give them new names to identify them as their own exclusive introductions.

Growers have been known to identify plants incorrectly through photographs, not realizing that many characteristics of similar but different Begonias are not evident from photographs.

Seed distributed as a given variety or species by a private individual, firm, or botanical garden has often produced plants very different from the Begonia named. Also, a person may acquire a packet of seed of a known hybrid and although the seedlings could hardly be the same as the parent, they are sometimes distributed under the parent's name with no indication that it is a seedling.

The self-styled expert in nomenclature, who goes from garden to garden correcting Begonia names, is often adding to the confusion. One such person at my nursery told me very authoritatively and persistently that B. 'Freddie' was incorrectly labeled. I was forced, finally, to tell the person that B. 'Freddie' was correct because I had made the cross, harvested and planted the seed, grown the plants and named it, because it was distinctive, after my young son. The person was not impressed nor concerned, but it did end the discussion.

Having served two separate, long terms as nomenclature director of the A.B.S. and being a research student of the genus, I have been contacted many times regarding the correct iden-

tity of certain Begonias. If there is any question in the inquirer's mind, extensive source material has been referred to, the original publications and descriptions, the herbarium sheets or pictures of the type herbarium specimens, or other material on the particular Begonia. It is indeed frustrating later to read articles or books by the inquirer still using the incorrect identity of the Begonia!

Many times Begonia fanciers will refer to popular books as authority for a Begonia name. In most cases the author has researched sufficiently to have accurate nomenclature in his book but often we find that the author has compounded an error of an earlier author by repeating his mistakes as to Begonia names.

What of the person who reaches authentic and serious source material for Begonia identification? He often finds the botanists do not agree on the nomenclature of certain Begonias.

Sometimes a botanist will write a paper dealing with all the Begonias growing in a certain country and the paper appears in some publication. The mere fact that the author has published this material does not mean that the material is correct, especially not in the mind of another botanist, a specialist in the same group.

Botanists have many times created new names for plants already named. The plant is new to him and he researches insufficiently and does not learn that the plant has already been named by another taxonomist. Most botanists do not have all the botanical literature at hand for it is published in many lands and it takes time to gather all the material necessary to identify the plants.

A botanist may name a new species only to learn that another botanist has already named it as a variety of another species. Botanical indexes usually do not list plants of ranks lower than the species, i.e. varieties and hybrids.

INCORRECT NAMES

By DAVIDA ARNOLD, *Pana, Illinois*

As member of several robins, I find several reasons for incorrect Begonia names. Mostly it is a matter of carelessness rather than a lack of concern.

Many times, handwritten material comes to me which would be next to impossible for even the most experienced deciphering expert to figure out.

For those of you who have wondered why rule number ten, "All plants should be clearly labeled" exists in the show rules, this is the reason. We are trying to encourage our members to label their plants. If each of us takes special effort to see that all of our Begonias are labeled as correctly and legibly as possible, much confusion would be avoided. We also encourage our members to make them "Useful Labels" (see *The Begonian*, December 1967, page 232) by keeping the name of the source of the plant on the label. In this way, if there is any question about its identity, you have someone to turn to.

Another reason for incorrect names is simply that many people misname Begonias without realizing it. A good example is B. 'Mrs. Wallow'. This is INCORRECT! The name should be B. 'Mrs. W. A. Wallow'. The "Scripps Begonia", believe it or not, is actually B. 'Mrs. Fred D. Scripps'.

Many times writers do not bother to put in the single quotes or to underline species to indicate the names of Begonias and there was a time when I wondered whether "Fanny Giron" was "animal or vegetable", so to speak. Turned out she was B. 'Mme. Fanny Giron', a hybrid!

At any rate, if we take the trouble to know our Begonias' names and to use names completely and correctly, much confusion could be prevented. If we take an extra second to put in single quotes for hybrids and to underline species names, our readers will KNOW what we're talking about.

(Continued on Page 240)

Say "Merry Christmas"
with a *Begonian* subscription

PLANT LIFE SCIENCES

By H. H. WARRICK, *Seattle, Washington*

The majority of our members are hobbyists who grow Begonias because they love growing things. Many of our members, however, are professional people who are employed in one or more of the Plant Life Sciences. It is hoped that this summary will help our members to a better understanding of the wide variety of articles—technical and non-technical—appearing in The Begonian.

Editor

This list of plant life sciences shows only a few of the general categories that are being studied today. Each category of plant science can be divided into many sections. Each section covers so much knowledge about its respective portion of plant life that we often find the entire lives of many scientists being devoted exclusively to it.

Therefore, to the laymen and even to some advanced hobbyists, it may seem almost impossible to obtain more than a mere pittance of knowledge about these plant sciences. However, if this is true, it will be so only because we haven't tried at all to study any of them. If we do wish to try, all we have to do is work from the general areas of information toward the specific and soon we will find many useable cultural items along the way.

Accordingly, we should first begin by using this list to learn the definitions of the titles of the general sections of the plant life sciences. After this general information is reviewed, we should study more lists. These will then lead us further along the road to more specific information.

BOTANY is the study of plants. This is the basic overall study of all plant life. Zoology is the basic overall study of all animal life. When combined these two sciences make up biology, which covers all life on earth. History has recorded that very simple

but rather dubious plant studies began about 2000 years ago. More modern and more reliable studies began only about 200 years ago. From these more recent studies, it was found that the overall field of botany would necessarily have to be divided into many specialties. Any good botany textbook today reviews the general aspects of plant classification, of general plant anatomy, simple studies of plant tissues and cells, the mechanism and chemistry of general types of plants, etc.

We should learn about these subjects in a general way by looking through any modern botany book. Those written for high school use are ideal. College textbooks include much technical information that should be left for the specialty texts which will be listed below under the special sections of plant sciences.

TAXONOMY is the study of plant classifications and their relationships. For us it is sufficient to know that plant type classifications began with Carolus Linneaus, a botanist, about 1753. The later studies confirmed his contention that at least two names are needed to identify any plant. Botanists have studied all known plants in the plant kingdom and have classified them into phylla, classes, orders, families, genera, species and varieties or cultivars, in that sequence. There are now about 360,000 species of classified plants and the list continues to grow at a rate of 3000 to 4000 per year. This rate may not dwindle for many years.

PLANT MORPHOLOGY is the study of the external structure of plants such as roots, stems, leaves and flowers. There are many factors in the lives of plants which influence their structural form. Plant breeders need to know all plant structures for proper mating. industrial material technologists need to know structure to assist in applying fibers and foods, etc. Plant

morphology reveals many structural details without cutting into the plant body and plant anatomy usually dissects for academic purposes without studying the organic functions. The broad overall internal structure is included in morphology but the finer details of internal structures are in the realm of plant anatomy.

PLANT ANATOMY is the study concerned with detailed internal structures of plants. It studies all internal groupings and arrangements of cells. As a plant grows, its cells form all of the internal organs. Anatomy shows the relative position of every organ and it shows how every part is built but it does not study how the cells function or what controls them to function as a whole plant. These latter two features belong to plant physiology.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY is the science that studies the actual manner in which plants grow and function throughout their lives. It includes all of the mechanical and chemical processes that occur. In other words, this subject endeavors to explain the "how and why" of every plant process. These processes include growth, utilization of liquids and gasses, propagation, utilization of light and heat, storage of food, how the plant cells function individually and in groups, etc.

CYTOLOGY is the science that investigates the individual cell structure and behavior. This study depends principally on the high powered microscopes and advanced techniques of chemical analysis. Plant cells are nature's building blocks. While their general structures are similar, the internal instructions enable them to perform in a multitude of different ways.

PLANT GENETICS is the study of nature's control of all growth and other functions within the cells. From all of the above definitions, it can be seen that each subject deals with smaller plant parts. Genetics goes still further. All functional control is centered inside the cells. There is one or more groups of organic molecules

called genes that control each function within a complete plant. These controls also include all hereditary functions. All life continues because of the permanent records stored within these genes. This science includes them.

BACTERIOLOGY is the study of bacteria, the tiniest plants in the world. We normally do not consider bacteria as plants. However, many bacteria are actually just one-celled plants. Again, high powered microscopes and advanced chemical techniques assist in this study. This science is micro-biological in character. Viruses are another form of still smaller life-like organisms that seem to be neither plant nor animal. They are often studied with the subject of bacteriology.

PLANT PATHOLOGY is the study of plant diseases. This also makes use of the high powered microscopes and advanced chemical techniques. For the plant hobbyist, this science will necessarily have to include all corrective and remedial measures to control these diseases.

ECOLOGY is the science that deals with plants when living in their natural environments and includes the inter-dependence between them and also with all conditions around them. Mankind must be careful not to disturb the ecological balance of nature.

APPLIED PLANT SCIENCES are the sciences which apply the knowledge gained from the above listed sciences to his needs of living, many specialized and practical sub-sciences have developed. A few of these are AGRONOMY, field crop production; FLORICULTURE, growing ornamental plants; FORESTRY, tree production and use; HORTICULTURE, orchard, garden and greenhouse crops; OLERICULTURE, vegetable crop production; POMOLOGY, fruit crop production; etc. Mass production of every individual crop becomes a specialized science, whether or not it develops a separate name for itself.

BEGONIA ADDICT

By EDWARD BLAS, *New York, New York*

Some time ago a friend gave me a cutting of *B. 'Corallina de Lucerna'*. This cutting did so well that I rooted some canes in water, planted them and eventually grew enough for six pots. That was back in June of 1966. I found that I loved the plant leaves, flowers and their ease of propagation; and I was sufficiently interested to order other Begonias so as to try them.

I sent for ten or more varieties from Logee's Greenhouses of Danielson, Connecticut. Their plants were roughly four to six inches in height and nicely packed in two-inch pots. Placed on the kitchen window sill, the Begonias thrived. My apartment faces west directly parallel to the Hudson River and this obviously suited them.

I watched them grow, fascinated by the leaves and forms. Some did exceptionally well; others not so well. Later I discovered that they needed greater light during the winter months, as those plants placed away from the windows didn't do nearly as well as those directly on the window sill.

I was especially delighted with a few varieties which I started in the kitchen and in the spring eventually transferred to the living room window—namely *B. macrocarpa*. It has beautiful thick dark green leaves with red under-leaf, and if pinched (which I very strongly recommend) it branches out at each leaf axil, and in time arches gracefully to form a beautiful hanging basket plant. It was the most satisfying Begonia I had at that time, because of the luxuriant growth it attained in only one year.

Another Begonia with an extraordinarily beautiful leaf form, with which I had great success was the upright growing *B. sceptrum*. It is a tall cane stemmed species with large beautifully shaped palmate leaves. When one leaf dies another quickly replaces it at the leaf axil. I am most attracted to the dramatic shape and size of these

leaves. Other stems rise around the parent stem from a bulbous shaped base which develops around this main stem.

Another good grower is *B. ulmifolia*. It has yellow green elm-like shaped leaves with thick succulent stems. *B. 'Viaudi'* also grows rather well. It has thick hairy stems and fat half-heart shaped leaves of a nice heavy texture. *B. egregia* with long, lanceolate, puckered and brittle leaves also has a beautiful form.

I have been using Park Seed Company's Sure-fire mix of peat moss, vermiculite and nutrients. I have been using it for all these plants with the addition of Hyponex every two weeks as fertilizer. Recently I began experimenting with a soilless and it will be a while before I can completely determine the results.

Presently I am growing Begonias under fluorescent lights with even more dramatic results than in natural light. I keep them on a Flora Cart from the Tube Craft Company of Cleveland, Ohio using Optima fluorescent bulbs which are whiter than the Gro-Lux and come from the Duro Test Company. As a control, I have also been using the Gro-Lux lamps in a Sylvania table top set-up; but they give off a blue violet light which heightens the brilliance of the plant colors unnaturally. I prefer the Duro Test Optima bulbs, however, because their light is closest to natural light and the growth results are the same as the Gro-Lux if not better. I am presently experimenting with an even larger variety of Begonias under lights. I guess you could say I've become a Begonia addict.

The variety of leaves, coloration and forms of the genus *Begonia* are so satisfying, even when not in bloom that I hope more and more people get to know them and get the great pleasure I have received from growing them.

FRAGRANCE OF THE BEGONIA

By GRANT MCGREGOR,
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

A request for information on fragrant Begonias brought to mind an article I had seen recently. I believe this paper presents several points that would be of interest to other members.*

Maurer quotes from Mrs. F. Kingdon-Ward "My Hill so Strong" (1952) speaking of her explorations with her husband, "on the other bank beside the path, grew ferns and mosses and in the damper places especially, small pink-flowered Begonias with characteristically lopsided leaves. They were quite pretty, but not to be compared with another species, which had pure white sweetly scented blossoms (namely *B. odorotissimi*)."

He also refers to Lady Muriel Jex-Blake's description of *B. neigeri johannis* in "Wild Flowers of Kenya": "As a very lovely climbing Begonia which climbs trees and falls as a curtain over the said trees and over damp rocks along many river beds in high forest land. It is a typical small-flowered Begonia in every way with pink buds and waxy white flowers and is sweet-scented." She does not, however, give any indication of the types of fragrance but it would seem from "Flora of Peru" that a closely allied species, namely *B. cucullata* (hooded), bears pink blossoms with yellow centers which exhale a peculiar and "unique fragrance" according to Maurer.

Probably the most interesting reference was McDonald (1895) "Catalogue of Sweet-smelling Plants: "The few varieties that possess this attraction—so far as we know them—are the following:

<i>B. odorata</i>	white	B.W.I.
<i>B. suaveolens</i>	white	B.W.I.
<i>B. discolor</i>	pink	China
<i>B. veitchii</i>		Peru
<i>B. baumannii</i>	carmine	Bolivia

(Continued on Page 240)

NOTES ABOUT FRAGRANT BEGONIAS

FROM CARRIE KAREGEANNES,
Annandale, Virginia

Fragrance in Begonias appears quite variable and is usually noticeable only in the early morning.

See *Begonians*: February 1965, p. 29; April 1965, p. 75; June 1965, p. 116.

In addition: *B. dipetala*—Fragrance like fruit blossoms early in the day.

B. 'Maphil'—didn't notice any fragrance (though others have reported); Bob Dalgaard, Minneapolis, in Flight No. 8.

B. 'Mrs. Townsend'—perfumed car on a short haul; Mrs. Maude Shelter, Sarasota, Florida, Flight No. 5.

B. venosa—fragrant; Beryl Allen, Tampa, Florida, Flight No. 10 (R. R. News, January 1966 *Begonian*).

B. 'Bessie Buxton'—reminded faintly of limes in flower.

B. nitida—more like vanilla. Also cited by Fannie Cummings, Mississippi as "sweet."

B. mazae—fragrant; above three cited by Jane Neal, Worthing, Sussex, England in robins at different times.

B. 'Decorus'—*Begonian* article on *B. undulata*, August 1966.

B. 'Pink Parade'—in early mornings; Don Salmon, Millicent, South Australia, Flight No. 14 (R. R. News, September 1966).

B. picta—cited as very fragrant from *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*, in A.B.S. *Bulletin*, Vol. 2, No. 8, August 1935, p. 3 (the Indian tuberous species).

B. hydrocotylifolia—"Pennywort", most fragrant of all.

B. thwaitesi—fragrant.

B. pilifera—fragrant like yellow wild jasmine; Fannie Cummings, Mississippi. Above three reported by Elaine Wilkerson, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (R. R. News, *Begonian*, September

(Continued on Page 240)

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

No. 1—*B. thomsoni* A.DC—

Hooker, India. Shrubby plant that grows to about one foot, with green, very hairy leaves and dark pink flowers. Its most striking characteristic is the way the stems make a right angle at every inflorescence. See photograph. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. haullevilleana*—

De Wild, Africa. Trailing species from Congo of great Botanical interest, mainly because of its peculiar fruits. See cover picture. The flowers are large, white with crimson blotch. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

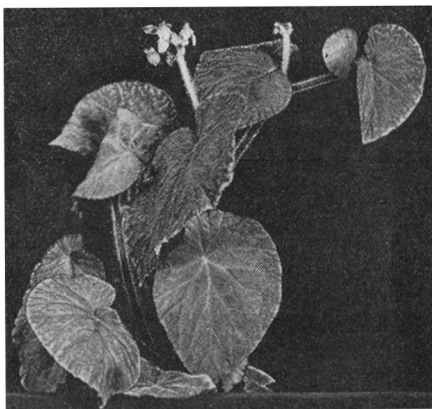
No. 3—*B. 'Mouilliereana'* seedlings—

Vigorous grower with dark green leaves without spots and white flowers. According to Fotsch (page 100) it is a hybrid of *B. 'Corallina'* although it appears in another place as a seedling of *B. 'Lucerna'*, which some *Begonia* authorities say is incorrect. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. crispula*—

Produces a short rhizome, and the short-stalked, round leaves, five to six inches in diameter, spread out more or less flat on the surface of the soil. New leaves spread out over the older ones, almost touching them or even resting on them. In consequence, moisture easily stays between them, and the rough surface of the leaves increases still further the danger of leaf rot to which this species is subject. *B. crispula*, therefore, must never be sprayed and water must be applied strictly to the soil, never splashed on the plant. However, this is the only difficulty with this *Begonia*, which is otherwise easy to grow if it is planted in soil containing humus and kept moderately moist.

The inflorescence is reddish, peduncle appressed, hairy, six inches high. The male flowers, white inside and pinkish outside, are slightly more than half an inch in diameter. The



B. thomsoni

Photo by J. Doorenbos

floral display, therefore, is insignificant, but the deeply crisped, shiny green foliage is very attractive and this species certainly represents an interesting addition to the great multitude of different shapes the genus *Begonia* is able to produce. Some form of warmth should be provided to germinate seeds readily. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5—*B. friburgensis*—

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

No. 6—*B. hispida cucullifera*—

Brazil. Lobed, downy-soft leaves with upstanding adventitious leaflets marching along the veins; white flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. schulziana*—

Haiti. Sometimes called *B. kraussi-ana*. Individualist that tends to its own propagation. After flowering in the late fall, the miniature white-fuzzed leaves fall off; plant goes dormant without disturbance all winter. By spring, the rhizome has broken up into

little rooted pieces, each for its own new pot and new growth. Likes warmth and a shallow pot. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 8—*B. tomentosa*—

Brazil. Thick, succulent leaves of rich green with downy hair beneath. Pink-rimmed white flowers with short red whiskers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. squamosa*—

Costa Rica. Creeping dwarf with glossy green, red-rimmed leaves on longish, scaly stems, Pink flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10—*B. semperflorens* type—

The description that came with seed states only that it is a "wild" type. Good for experimenting. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11—*B. laciniata*—

India. Rex-looking leaf cut into narrow lobes with angular points, sharply marked zones in three shades of green; large pink flowers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 12—*B. metallica*—

Brazil. Medium leaves, pointed, glistening silver hairs over dark green, indented purple veins. Pink flowers have showy red bristles. Makes a showy plant when grown in pots or grow directly outdoors in mild climates. Favorite cane type. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 13—*B. 'Corallina'* seedlings—

Vigorous, cane type, spotted leaves. Flowers vary, can be coral, red or pink. Price 25 cents per pkt.

No. 14—*B. dichroa*—

Brazil. One of the most beautiful cane type Begonias. Brilliant orange-flowered species with five-inch green leaves on drooping branches. Resents chills and likes heat. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Request—

A plant collector and Botanist living in another country has written me in regard to *B. dregei* DARK leaf variety.

If anyone knows of such a plant, please contact me. We all know the variety with all green leaves but the one our friend wants has dark leaves. Can this be a chance seedling that he has seen or a new *B. dregei*?

I also have this to report on the progress of *B. rajah* that a friend in Roseville is growing from seed. Plants now have leaves about two inches across, are still in the brandy snifter and growing in basement under lights and are beautiful beyond description.

Please make the other A.B.S. officers happy and send requests for seed to:

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

As we start a new Begonia year, we look forward to a fuller more rewarding year. There are many changes in the round robin flights but most of the change is just growing pains. We are not really losing, just changing jobs.

I am very glad Carrie has consented to stay on as one of my co-directors. She will have the hybridizing flights and this will be a great help to me.

The flights are a vital part of our Begonia growing, especially to those of us who have no branch membership. It is important to keep the flights moving so the interest and information passed through them does not get stale. Don't forget to send your cards to your flight chairman, be sure to mention the flight number when you write to your director, co-director or flight chairman, many members are on several flights.

I am pleased to have six co-directors helping me. They are: Mrs. Ruth Wille, Jackson, Mississippi; Mrs. Rosetta White, Newton, Kansas; Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes, Annandale, Virginia; Mrs. Dora Lee Dorsey, Tampa, Florida; Mrs. Helen Matsubu, Fruitland, Idaho; and Ben Marcus, Brooklyn, New York. We will all be looking forward to making many new friends and keeping the old ones in our round robin program.

For New Members:

The A.B.S. has a growing program of round robin letters with about 50 flights. Ideally, each flight should have no more than eight members including the co-director. Notes are taken from the flights by the co-directors and sent to the director who in turn makes up the notes for *The Begonian*. Each flight member contributes a letter to his robin, using light weight paper and holding the letter no longer than five days—even a shorter time if possible—so the flights won't take months to get around. When it returns, he removes his old letter and adds a new one.

Blooming rexes:

Ruth Wille, Jackson, Mississippi says, I let my *rexes* bloom. Some say more strength goes to the foliage if they are removed but some of them have charming bloom and there's always the temptation to cross with something else. Bessie Paul, Freeport, Illinois writes, I used to let and still do let my *rexes* bloom and I hand pollinize them and how quickly the seed comes up. I have 30 plants that make one so happy as they develop into beauties. Dora Lee Dorsey, Tampa, Florida writes, I let mine bloom for it seems to me that they go through those growth cycles regardless. The spring flowering rhizomatous types drop a lot of old leaves before putting out new growth. I just use this period for potting, dividing, pruning, etc. With *rexes* I usually find they have overgrown the pot or become leggy so I sometimes cut the whole tip of the rhizome off and root it for a new plant. If the back part of the rhizome is strong and healthy, it will sprout new and be a prettier plant. Pauline Kuntz, Winterset, Iowa wrote in July, I think B. 'Fire Flush' is my best grower. About a year ago when my first *rexes* were large enough to plant out, I just trowled up small holes underneath the



Anita Sickmon

bench edge and planted about seven plants. This soil is rich and black but needed sand added. However, I didn't have time for anything except to get them planted. *B. 'Fire Flush'* must be three or four feet across and literally hundreds of leaves and a gorgeous color. They get morning sun. I have kept bloom stems removed so they won't go dormant. *B. 'Thrush'* was among this group and it has been straggly for several weeks while still blossoming strongly and now it is full of heavy growth again. *B. 'Sir Percy'*, while not a *rex*, is with these and is simply huge and has dozens and dozens of blooms on it continually. I seldom allow a *rex* to bloom as it will cause dormancy and so far none of mine have gone dormant. They will perhaps stop growing quite so fast and I won't water so much for a while. I notice a lot of new growth at the soil line, I gradually start pulling off the older leaves and this will encourage new growth so they are always beautiful.

Propagation:

Elaine Wilkerson, Baton Rouge, Louisiana writes, I find the best medium for rooting hard-to-root Begonias is perlite. It's sterile and stays fairly dry. I use the eight ounce styrofoam cups, punch several holes in the bottom with sharpened pencil, fill to one-half inch of the top, wet thoroughly, punch holes one inch deep, put in the leaves or cuttings and wet again. Stick two wooden cocktail stirrers in the pot, slip a baggie down over the pot. The sticks hold the baggie off the leaf. I wrap the baggie under the pot so it's practically airtight. Put in a bright place and don't disturb until you see leaves or new growth—from two to four weeks. I find this is the quickest way to start plants. I use this method for both Begonias and Gesneriads except I use regular potting soil instead of perlite for the Gesneriads. Priscilla Beck, Mystic, Connecticut, I don't seem to have too much trouble transplanting thickly sown seedlings as long as I mist them a few days with a clothes sprayer.

Bloom Time:

B. dayi was holding small, all-male blooms high above its mahogany-veined light green leaves in Ruth Wille's slathouse in June in Jackson, Mississippi. *B. purpurea's* chartreuse flowers were distinctive against purplish foliage and *B. masoniana* also showed chartreuse flowers. Many *rexes* were blooming in the slathouse and also *B. 'Florence Carrell'* with dainty sprays of pink, five-petaled flowers since last winter. In the open ground, Ruth's *B. 'Freddie'* had mostly female flowers, clusters of many tiny pink flowers. *B. 'Elaine'* held large pink clusters and *B. 'Pebble Lane'* in a shady spot had very heavy clusters of flesh colored bloom. *B. echinosepala*—a small cane with wavy leaves and branching often, perpendicularly to the main stem—was very attractive and bushy. In her greenhouse, *B. 'Mrs. Townsend'* (curly variety) with pale pink flowers had set seed in June and *B. bartonea* had been blooming since last winter. Pauline Kuntz of Winterset, Iowa, finds *B. coccinea* (pink variety) a very good Begonia, a whiz of a bloomer. Grace Shatto of Idaho Springs, Colorado, could find no fragrance in flowers of her *B. 'Tea Rose'* although it had been reported fragrant by others.

Ideas:

Dave Allen of San Francisco, California has made a card index of all his plants, putting references to information in books and plant society magazines on the back. He also adds a notebook to his reference books, marking page numbers in it for additional information in other publications. "It's easy after the first step." Some members keep cards on their plants for dates of seed sown, cuttings taken or rooted, bloom, etc.

The Unusual:

Priscilla Beck of Mystic, Connecticut writes, I have a *B. sceptrum* cross that really intrigues me, its leaves are mostly white. Dora Lee Dorsey of

(Continued on Page 241)

BEGONIAS IN NEUTRAL SOIL UNDER LIGHTS

A BEGINNER'S EXPERIMENT

By EL McWHORTER, *Columbia, South Carolina*

On the third of June, the initial steps for forming the South Carolina Branch of the American Begonia Society were taken. Our next meeting was on August 18 and our Charter was accepted by the National Board at their meeting on September 23. We few are greatly interested in the Begonia Society and feel that with the forming of this Branch, our knowledge of these beautiful plants will increase. Our first project is the First South Carolina Begonia Show so you see we have great plans for Begonias in this area.

I enter Begonias in every worthwhile show. They have so far won firsts at every show. I have been raising Begonias about thirteen months; only a beginner. I have learned a lot about Begonias from reading and mostly from my experiments and the "Pros."

General Outlay—I used three eighteen foot 33 inches wide benches in the den of my home, 28 inches from the floor with tin trays. Polyethylene and two inches of perlite served as a liner for the tin trays. On this basic foundation, I had five 48 inch, twin Gro-Lux lamps mounted at various levels from ten to twenty inches above the bench. I also had a hydrometer mounted on one of the lights which gave me temperature and humidity.

Soil Mixture—I wanted a soil that was odorless and I read about experiments of raising Begonias in a neutral soil. I thought I would try it. The soil mixture I used was equal parts of peat moss, perlite, vermiculite and one-half part of odorless cow manure.

Type of Plants—The type of plants used were *rex*, cane and rhizomatous.

Humidity—The humidity in the den alone was fairly high most of the time

because of the concrete slab floor and because of the bedrooms above the den. The humidity level 85 per cent of the time was above 40 per cent. When it dropped below this level, I used a small humidifier which was unsatisfactory because the furniture and books would also become damp, but it would raise the humidity at least twenty per cent. The size of the den was 16 by 24 feet, panelled walls.

Watering—The way I would water the perlite which was in the tin trays, I would bring a water hose through the den door and water the perlite thoroughly after I had watered the plants individually. The need for watering the perlite was about every ten days or two weeks. Even in the winter, I would have to water often because the heat from the house furnace would dry the trays.

Temperature—The temperature was maintained at 65° to 80°.

Lighting—I changed the Gro-Lux bulbs annually as Barbara Walker of Bloomington, Indiana suggested. I never tried seed or propagation under lights; never had the spare room.

Insects—The only type of insect that ever attacked the plants was mealybugs. They were quite persistent on some plants such as B. 'Sue Zug', B. 'Green Gold', and B. 'Indian Sun Mask'.

Before I learned how to use the insecticide properly, I killed several of these plants by using too much fearing mealybugs would spread over every one of my plants. I've learned since that mealybugs only like certain plants and won't spread from plant to plant. I use alcohol now on each mealybug as suggested by Edna Stewart, our Cultural Adviser, and then I spray the plant with an insecticide and re-

peat in about three days and again in about ten days. I also set the infected plant aside from the other plants after I discover it has mealybugs.

Some of the plants that did very well under lights and under these conditions were: B. 'Credneri', B. *manicata aureo-maculata*, B. 'Sue Zug', B. *acetosa*, B. 'Ricky Minter', B. 'Grand Duchess', B. 'Shirt Sleeves', B. *masoniana* (Iron Cross), B. 'American Beauty', B. 'Duante', B. 'Black Monarch', B. 'Dewdrop', B. 'Black Knight', B. 'Green Gold', B. 'Indian Sun Mask', B. 'Countess Louise Erdoedy', B. 'Husband's Favorite', B. 'Curly Merry Christmas', B. 'Bro Paul', B. 'Edith M', B. 'Pink Spot Lucerne', B. 'Old Faithful', and B. 'Curly Carnot'.

Some of the plants that I never had any success with were: B. 'Honey Bear', B. 'Fire Opal', B. 'Fire Flush', B. 'Princess of Hanover', B. 'Silver Lake', B. 'Burgundy Glory', B. 'Wild Grapes', B. 'Lillian', B. 'Star Dust', B. 'Curly Stardust', and B. 'Speckles Spirals'.

Dormancy—I bought these plants in August 1967 and in March of 1968 some of them started going dormant. Some that have gone dormant are: B. 'Duante', B. 'American Beauty', B. 'Star Dust', B. 'Bro Paul', B. 'Husband's Favorite', B. 'Pink Spot Lucerne'. Some that have not gone dormant are B. *manicata aureo-maculata*, B. 'Edith M', B. 'Curly Merry Christmas', B. *acetosa*, B. *masoniana*, B. 'Grand Duchess', B. 'Shirt Sleeves', B. 'Sue Zug', B. 'Ricky Minter', and B. 'Credneri'.

Comments:

Soil Mixture—Had I used Magamp or super phosphate along with my neutral soil, I believe the plants would have done much better.

Humidity—Unable to maintain a high humidity was one of my major complaints. It caused dryness of leaves, turning brown and finally losing the leaf.

Watering—Had to water too often. It was very much of a chore to do especially having to work and other details. Unable to leave the plants for a long period of time like vacation.

Fertilizer—The plants did very well when young but when the plants matured, their food requirements increased so that watering with Rapid-Gro so often, the plants stayed wet.

Lighting—No comments.

Insects—No comments.

I have about 150 different plants of Begonias, increasing all the time. I never can refuse a new one.

I now have an 18 by 18 foot air conditioned greenhouse. The lights are mounted much as before but now I have a two-foot cement block foundation and glass windows which are almost airtight. I have my benches about two feet off the ground, fixed same as before except I'm using builders' sand instead of perlite. I've changed my soil mixture and am now using one recommended by Edna Stewart. In the greenhouse I use my humidifier when required; the air conditioner takes moisture out of the greenhouse. I have various types of "Wandering Jew" planted under some of the benches and sand under others. I have about 85 per cent shade in the summer. The greenhouse has been built under towering trees (50 feet or more) allowing filtered sunlight. The area under the trees is damp and ferns grow wild. I had placed my dormant plants under the cool, damp trees and in June about 60 per cent were coming out. I plan to use oil heat in the greenhouse this winter. So far, I have been able to maintain the humidity at about 60 per cent.

I hope that my comments about my experiment and my experiences have been helpful.

WELCOME

We extend our sincerest welcome to the South Carolina Branch of the American Begonia Society. Members wishing information about this new Branch are invited to write Charles W. Crawford, Secretary, 30½ Briarcliff Drive, Charleston, S.C. 29407. Visitors are welcome to attend November 16 at the home of Mrs. Alpine Springs, P. O. Box 449, Whiterock, S.C.

SEED FUND USEFULNESS

By EDNA STEWART, *Cultural Adviser*

Have you ever thought to look in the Seed Fund when you want to find the description of a Begonia? As a co-director of the robin program, I was quite frequently asked to describe a Begonia. Often the only place I can find it is in the Seed Fund. It will tell you if it is a species and the country where found. If a cultivar, it will give you the parents of it. When our Seed Fund was first started and for quite a good many years, each member sent in \$2.00 and told which kind of seed they wanted such as cane, *rex* or rhizomatous. When the seeds came in, each was sent his share. As I understand, no one knew what varieties he would get. In 1958 each kind was listed separately. Many other seeds are also available. A very inexpensive way to enlarge a collection of Begonias or other plants.

In our late *Begonians* since 1960, quite often some cultural advice is included in the description. I think that is excellent especially for new members.

The old *Begonians* were also very generous with pictures and you just might be able to identify that Begonia you have. I realize new members will not have these old *Begonians* but if you are a "dyed in the wool Begonian", you will buy every one you can. And you will read them over and over, using them for a reference. They all have Seed Funds which are still interesting though not available.

Many robin members wanted to know about B. 'Chocolate Soldier'. Using my index, I found many references to it but on looking them up, just listed as in a collection or some such. Finally I did find some description of it in the Seed Fund. A difficult Begonia to find a description or culture on. Hours of time can be spent hunting up a certain Begonia but often times it is compensated for by other information you also need to know.

So really read your Seed Fund, not

for only what is for sale but for all the other information it provides.

pH NOTE

Ruth Wille of Jackson, Mississippi, reported that a nursery in her area had a problem with high soil pH, close to 9 (alkaline), complicated by the water which was also alkaline with high pH. Plants looked as if scalded by salty sand, which is what was first suspected.

The nursery finally solved the problem by forcing the soil pH down to 3 pH or 4 pH and then depending on the water to stabilize it at about 5 pH, which was right for the plants it was growing.

Paul P. Lowe

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LEAF DISK TRIAL

By FLORENCE MEYER,
Quaama, Australia

I have some interesting news in reference to the leaf disk trials featured in the March *Begonian*.

Being keen to try almost anything pertaining to Begonias, I went right ahead with what I had—Leredex, a pink rooting powder. I tried two strengths and two lengths of time in the solution (one-half teaspoon in one-half cup of water) and found half an hour satisfactory. I did not wash the disks, just shook them then lay them on moist sphagnum moss and covered as suggested. In ten days some had sent roots exploring into the moss, and this morning I potted on the little plants, which I covered with small glass jars to serve as miniature glass-houses. They look so fresh and colorful that I thought someone else may like to try this method if they happen to have only a rooting powder on hand which contains acid mentioned in the original article; that is, indolebutyric acid.

I cut up one large leaf of *B. pus-tulata argentea* and so far (after fourteen days) none has rotted, although not one piece has rooted either. The right amount of moisture is important. I have kept the above pieces just damp because of the tender nature of that particular Begonia, whereas pieces of *rex* Begonias which sat on moister moss rooted quicker.

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WINTER CARE OF TUBERS

By WILLIAM J. WRIGHT, *Kimberley*
British Columbia, Canada

For winter care of my tuberous Begonias, I dig the tubers and cut the plants off about two inches above the tuber. I put the tubers in an open flat or box and let them dry out a little. A lot of soil sticks to the tubers, but I do not clean this off until it dries out a while, as I find that the skin on the tubers is very soft and can be damaged very easily when wet.

Another thing I have found is that one must be very careful to remove all the old flower or plant stalk when dry. Any left on will lead to dry rot very fast, and you can lose the whole tuber. After all the tubers have dried enough to clean safely, I clean all of them, being very careful not to damage them, and put them in shallow boxes of vermiculite. I store them where the temperature will not be colder than 40°.

I have good success with tubers grown from year to year. Maybe I have just been lucky, but I have one I know is eight years old and it is still going strong. It has been divided several times. If I find a large tuber has more than one eye, I cut it just as I would a potato and make two or more plants, as I think will grow well.

Yes, I would say that it is worth my work and time to save tubers from year to year.

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PLANT DISEASES

(Continued from Page 225)

12. Bacterial leaf spot/Bacteriosis: This is found mostly on tuberous and some hybrid Begonias. You will find small roundish water soaked, translucent spots. Spots may enlarge and merge. Leaves will wither and fall, while disease spreads to stems, killing plant.

13. Leaf spots/Anthracnose: Spots of various colors and sizes and shapes. They may merge to form irregular leaf blotches. The control is the same as for grey-mold blight.

You will notice that in many cases symptoms are the same for different blights. So, you may have to treat them for each one to hit on the right cure.

FRAGRANCE

(Continued from Page 231)

McDonald states further that "the last named variety is a grand subject for table use, baskets and cut-flowers and that they are superb for bedding out."

Maurer states that the most authoritative text on the subject of floral fragrance is John Hutchinson's, 2 volumes, (1959) "The Families of Flowering Plants."

*Maurer, E. S. "Fragrance in Natural Orders" 75; *Begoniaceae*." Soap Perfumery and Cosmetics 37; 1104. Dec. 1964.

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NOTES

(Continued from Page 231)

1966, p. 172.

B. 'Shasta'—white and fragrant.

B. 'Grace'—pink and shading to white. Quite fragrant.

B. 'Rubra Odorata'—deep rose pink, quite fragrant; above three angel wings mentioned in Bessie Buxton's *Begonias and How To Grow Them*, pp. 55-56.

*B. suaveolens**

B. 'Nancy'

B. *odorata*—Above three reported by Mrs. Fannie Cummings.

B. 'Densiflora' Deleuil — fragrant, dark carmine pink (p. 305).

B. 'Dr. Nachtigal' Haage & Schmidt —In winter, flowers soft pink, very fragrant (*B. suaveolens** x *B. lyncheana*) (p. 313).

**B. suaveolens* Lodd (not Kl.) has syn. *B. nitida odorata alba* Hort.

Reference for the above two and the footnote, *Les Begonias*, C. Chevalier, 1938 (English translation by Alva Graham for A.B.S.)

FROM HAZEL HARMON

Notes from Hazel Harmon list three fragrant Begonias: B. 'Brazilian Heart', B. 'Richmondensis', and B. 'Gloire de Sceaux'.

NAMES

(Continued from Page 227)

For those of you who wonder what you can do to help eliminate nomenclature confusion, these are only a few suggestions. Try them and see what happens.

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

(Continued from Page 235)

Tampa, Florida, I let *B. manicata aureo-maculata* var. *Crispa* get chilled so badly by accident that it went dormant. It reverted to plain green and won't show any variegation any more. My *B. templini* did the same thing. Flossie Smith of Schenevus, New York was watching two budding Calla-marked seedlings from x-rayed seed and planning to cross-pollinate them with a Calla Lilly Begonia or *B. 'Charm'* and also with some of the x-rayed seedlings that were not variegated to see second generation results. (Reportedly, changes caused by x-ray often do not show up until the second generation.)

From Seed:

Elizabeth Mercier of Curundu, Canal Zone reported her *B. cathayana* seedlings were coming along nicely. She felt extra water was necessary for their germination. After the first seedling appeared, she could see others under the magnifying glass. Some had the tiniest of hair roots but no leaves, so she gently misted the whole seedpan and inside the cover. Two days later she had a nice stand of seedlings.

Gesneriads:

Elizabeth uses *Episcias* as ground cover in the Canal Zone. The bright red flowered ones have been her best bloomers, but the blue and the yellow have done all right, despite neglect.

B. 'Gee-Gee' cross:

Grace Shatto of Idaho Springs, Colorado was excited about the coloring of one of her seedlings from the Seed Fund offering of a *B. 'Gee-Gee'* cross. A beautiful Calla-marked seedling had a very striking pink-orange flower, unusual. Elizabeth had thirteen seedlings of the same cross. Some might be called pink-orange or orange-red, with plain green leaves. One is deep rose with variegated leaves. Another, which started blooming when one and a half inches high, has pure white double-double blooms; male

flowers open to perfect little globes with a "crown" on each side, back to back. Reports from other members on this seed would be interesting for comparison.

B. auriculata:

Beryl Willan of Cambramatta, Australia writes that two forms of this African species are grown in Australia, wondered if the smaller might be a hybrid from the larger. The larger version is grown in big pots and is definitely a larger grower. Beryl's plant has bright pink flowers and plenty of them, is grown outside (Her climate permits outdoor growing the year around, though occasional frosts cause damage.) Her neighbor has a large pot on her veranda. The miniature version is prettier, leaves are small, very frilly, and the plant remains small. She has had hers only a short time and it had not yet flowered.

If you are interested in joining a robin, send me your name. We have specialty robins waiting for more members, we need chairmen for new flights, we have vacancies on old flights. I have a suggestion for a new flight, "Preparing Begonias for Show", are you interested? As each flight is formed, we speed it on its way.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

I'm sorry that I did not receive the minutes of the September Board Meeting in time for this issue. The most important business for the evening was the appointment of new officers for the coming year. You will find the 1968-1969 officers listed on page 222. Our officers are here to serve you. Let them know how they can help.

It has been the policy of the past editor to condense the minutes for publication in *The Begonian*. Many have wondered just how much condensing I do. The answer is "VERY LITTLE". A few times when needing a few extra lines, I have left out unimportant statements (mostly my own) and in order not to duplicate information, I have used references to pages where that information could be found elsewhere in the same issue. On the whole, the minutes you read in *The Begonian* are exactly the same as those read to the Board at their meetings.

The minutes of the September Board Meeting will appear in the December issue.

Mae Tagg

CALENDAR

November 7 — Westchester Branch: "Hybrid Cane Begonias" by Irene Nuss, 7:30 p.m.

November 8 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: "Hybridizing and Growing Begonias From Seed" by Mrs. Ruby Budd, 8 p.m.

November 13 — Inglewood Branch: "Begonia Species" by Muriel Perz, Past President of A.B.S. 7:30 p.m. at a new meeting place, Western Federal Savings Building, 355 East Manchester, Inglewood, Calif.

November 16—South Carolina Branch: Our new branch meets at the home of Mrs. Alpine Springs, Whiterock, S.C.

November 20 — Eastside Branch: "Growing Plants under Lights" by Elwood Avery, 7:30 p.m.

November 25—A.B.S. BOARD: South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

November 28—HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

December 1—DEADLINE for all material for the January *Begonian*.

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