

The BEGONIAN

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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

Since my last message, I have had the pleasure of signing into effect another Charter, that of the newly formed Mesquite Branch in Texas. This is the second charter issued during the first three months of our fiscal year, and it is a very pleasant experience to watch the increasing interest in the A.B.S. grow into participation so rapidly.

In a recent letter to our editor the question was asked, "Why should we join the A.B.S.?" I suppose the reasons for joining any organization are many. Some join for social activity, some for a feeling of civic responsibility, and there are those who join because of the occupational opportunities. However, I believe the main reason for becoming a member of such an organization as the A.B.S. is to share in the search for knowledge and the pleasures of growing these wonderful plants. Nature has provided that man be inquisitive. He is not satisfied that things just happen; he must know why, and the plants of the family *Begoniaceae* probably provide more "whys" than any other plant family known to man. Obviously, much more knowledge and information can be gained through the efforts of many as opposed to one or even a few individuals. It is also much more enjoyable to share the many aspects of this fascinating hobby with others than to go it alone. The physical advantages of the Society, such as the Seed Fund, Round Robins, Books, Slide Library, etc., are secondary. The primary purpose of joining the A.B.S. is in being able to share the things you enjoy, benefit from the experiences and teachings of others, and the

possibility of being able to make contributions of your own to this swiftly increasing and fascinating hobby of growing Begonias.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both the South Carolina and the Mesquite Branches into the A.B.S. I am confident that you will all thoroughly enjoy the participation in your organization.

I would also like to thank the Branches who have responded to my October message regarding the starting of Branch projects, and to further encourage the rest of you to get started on projects of your own as soon as possible. The growing season will be here very soon so keep us informed of your progress. Remember, "To do is to learn."

Walter Pease

COVER PICTURE

Tuberous Begonia growing, which is a Belgian specialty, is concentrated chiefly in the countryside around the city of Ghent. In this area there are at present some 600 market gardeners — mainly family firms — making this the largest tuberous Begonia center in the world. The annual output represents 80 million bulbs, 80 per cent of which are exported to 34 countries throughout the five continents.

Tuberous Begonia season is here. If you have not ordered your bulbs for the coming year, make your plans and order them now. Perhaps yours will be as beautiful as these lovely white tuberous Begonias flowering in a greenhouse.

Photo provided by Institut Belge d'Information et de Documentation 3, rue Montoyer, Bruxelles 4, Belgique.

Begonias Galore—

BEGONIA 'BAYERN'

By ELDA HARING, *Greenwich, Connecticut*

Begonia 'Bayern' is a much-branched plant with green leaves lightly bronzed if grown in the sun in the greenhouse, turning almost dark rose-red if used in the outdoor garden in summer. It is such a lovely and satisfactory Begonia that I cannot understand why it is not better known to Begonians in the Northeast. The flowers are a clear pink produced in profusion for the life of the plant. The leaves overlap closely along the branching stems. B. 'Bayern' is listed in the *Check List of Begonias* as a German seedling.

For pot culture, as soon as a rooted cutting or purchased plant has reached the height you would like for your window sill, pinch off the pointed leaf sheaths on each stem so that it will branch closer to the pot. Then let it grow at will and soon the whole plant will be covered with lovely clusters of pink flowers which hang on for weeks.

In a hanging basket, B. 'Bayern' is simply breathtaking and blooms for months and months. It seems to be perfectly happy in any soil mix you give it. However, I do find that mine enjoys what is called "constant feeding"; that is, every time it is watered it is given a feeding of one-quarter strength liquid fertilizer. Usually for my flowering plants receiving this treatment I use Rapid-Gro for one

feeding; Ortho-Gro for another and Hyponex for the third feeding. The plant in the photo is in a five-inch pot placed in a large footed compote.

B. 'Bayern' along with B. 'Preusen' and B. 'Sachsen' which have similar growth are excellent to use out-of-doors in the north as a charming and colorful ground cover in those difficult semishaded areas. The arching branches spread out over a space of eighteen to twenty inches. They can also be used along a narrow border, but they should be grown in an area where afternoon sun does not burn their leaves. All they ask is a fairly good soil and moisture when the weather is dry.

Take cuttings for the winter in August, pinching out the top half-inch of the cutting so that it will send out branches when rooted and pot up for use indoors or as gifts to gardening friends.

SUCCESS

Did you read *The Begonian* thoroughly this month? Regardless of your plant specialty, you will get lots of useable cultural features from *The Begonian*. By the way, our member, Mildred Shirley, had considerable success with the growing of *B. itaguassuense* from the A.B.S. Seed Fund last spring. (*B. itaguassuense* is offered again this month. See page 32.) These plants, which look a lot like *B. acetosa* were an excellent cultural test for Mildred. Don't hesitate to tackle the job of growing plants from the A.B.S. Seed Fund.

From *Shady News*
September, 1968
Seattle, Washington



Photo by Walter J. Haring

TUBEROUS BEGONIA FOR LOVELY FLOWERS

In his poetic masterpiece "The Little Prince," Antoine de Saint-Exupery gave a loving description of the flower that had so captivated his young hero from the moment it "germinated from a seed blown from heaven knows where" until it bloomed in all its splendour: "The little prince, watching as the bud grew enormous, knew that it contained a miraculous apparition, but sheltered in its green chamber, the flower took endless time getting ready. It was carefully choosing its colours. It was dressing slowly, adjusting its petals one by one. It did not want to emerge creased like a poppy. It wanted to appear in the full flowering of its beauty. For it was very coquettish. Its mysterious preparations had taken days and days..." The Little Prince could not conceal his admiration and exclaimed: "How beautiful you are!"

The gradual blossoming of this flower, so aptly and movingly described by the French writer and war pilot, might well have been that of the Begonia.

According to history books, Francisco Hernandez, a Spanish doctor, was the first to speak of a plant native to Mexico, and which must have been the Begonia, in a work published in 1649. But the actual discovery of the flower is attributed to a French monk and botanist, Charles Plumier. In 1690 he undertook a voyage in the Indies, together with Michel Begon, the Governor of San Domingo. From these travels he returned with six varieties of plants that were then unknown and which he named "Begonias" in his friend's honour.

Various expeditions in Asia, America and Africa have since then returned with varieties of Begonias. By the year 1880, 21 different species were known.

The only variety that proved really interesting was that originating in

Latin America, owing to the warmth of its colouring, its free-flowering habit and the ease with which it can be cross-bred. During the Nineteenth Century, there was intensive experimental cross-breeding of tuberous Begonia bulbs in England, France, Germany and Switzerland. In Belgium it was Louis Van Houette (1810-1876), a native of Ghent and the founder of flower growing in the Ghent area, who first succeeded in crossing different Begonia strains. In 1870 he won a Prize of Honour at the Lille Show, for six hybrid plants. Previously all hybrids had been plants with single blooms, and it was not until 1872 that the first hybrid with double blooms was developed. These proved highly successful, and from then on, more and more large-flowered varieties were created. Whereas in 1875 only two colours were known—red and orange—by the turn of the century a wide range had been obtained, from white to deep red, including bright red, scarlet, pink, salmon pink, orange, yellow and copper.

Thanks to Louis Van Houette, tuberous Begonias came to be grown and developed intensively throughout the area surrounding the city of Ghent, renowned for its magnificent medieval buildings and impressive Castle.

All the Begonias grown in the Ghent area are directly descended from the "wild" Begonias discovered in the Andes range, in Bolivia and Peru, during the years 1865-75. Between the two world wars, a growing number of small horticultural holdings switched entirely to tuberous Begonias. There are no less than 600 family firms whose production of about 80 million tubers a year is devoted almost entirely to exports, and Ghent may therefore rightly be de-

(Continued on Page 46)

WILD BEGONIAS BLOOM IN PANAMA

By ELIZABETH L. MERCIER, *Curundu, Canal Zone*

Photographs for this article by the author and her husband, John R. Mercier.

Wild Begonias in bloom... a truly marvelous sight to someone who has spent many years trying to coax a few reluctant pot plants to flower! Although we have been in the Canal Zone just over a year, this was my first time to see them.

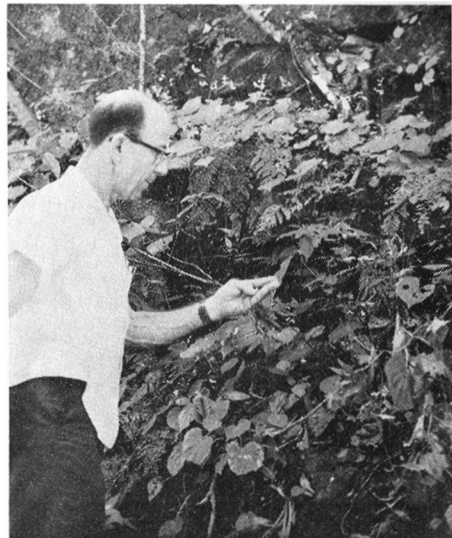
In mid-November we drove out to Madden Dam (about 25 miles) and found the Begonias just beginning to open. Three weeks later they were in full flower—nothing very spectacular, for they are only wild flowers, white or pale pink, mostly rather small, but in such numbers that they were beautiful. We took pictures, but no picture can do justice to the beauty of it all.

This is one of the nicest drives imaginable, a modern highway through stretches of untouched jungle along the Continental Divide (altitude here 328 feet). In places the road runs between vertical banks of soft rock or rock-like clay as much as fifteen feet high. These banks are always cool and damp, even during the dry season; and it is here that the rhizomatous Begonias grow, right on the surface as though glued on. Ferns, particularly *Adiantums*, grow beside them, also straight out from the bank; and Gesneriads, passiflora, a few small fibrous-rooted Begonias, and other assorted

and unidentified plants find footholds in cracks and crevices. The larger trees and bushes of the jungle grow right up to the edge of the bank and hang over a bit, like fringe over a picture.

One of my main interests since discovering these wild Begonias has been to determine how many and what species they represent, but so far I have made very little progress. The rhizomatous Begonias growing here are all very similar, but there are slight differences in leaf shape and texture. Since plants of different shaped leaves grow right beside each other and apparently bloom all at the same time, I wonder if they are perhaps all variations of one species or else natural (wild) hybrids.

Seeing the plants in bloom, I recognized as Begonias some I had not even noticed before. One of them is *B. filipes*, fibrous-rooted and seemingly a true miniature. Drs. Smith and Schubert, in "*Begoniaceae*" in the Missouri Botanical Garden's *Flora of Panama*, say it grows 7.9 to 11.8 inches high; but one of my little plants is only 4.7 and the other 6.7 inches tall and both blooming. I saw one wee plant not

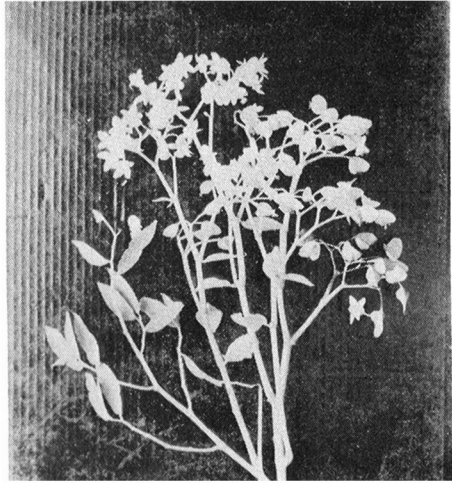




more than one and a half inches high with the tiniest of seed pods. In addition to finding them growing on hard clay, as mine are, I have also found them rooted and growing from the bark of a live tree, completely horizontal, several feet from the ground. Being fibrous-rooted, they must surely die off completely during the dry season, when no rain falls for a month or more at a time, and presumably come up from seed each year. The flowers are white and remarkably insignificant, about half the size of the ovaries, and very short-lived.

Crossing the Madden Dam spillway, the road follows the top of the dam for a short distance; and there, between the road and the water, growing out of the broken chunks of basalt of which the dam is built, was the most magnificent stand of Begonias I have ever seen. They covered an area the size of a city lot and were growing too thickly to walk among without breaking them off. They were cane-stems with flower stalks higher than my head and large, full flower trusses. The flowers were white with bright yellow stamens and bright orange pistils, males and females growing in separate clusters from the same bloom stalks. A picture made at home later shows something of the leaves seed pods, and flowers.

These plants being also fibrous-rooted, it is a great wonder how they survive in this unprotected location from one wet season to the next. The



stems are very succulent and break readily at the joints, which would help to scatter the seed into new areas; and it is possible that they also grow as annuals. If so, it is quite remarkable that they grow so large in one season.

Carrie Karegeannes is growing a cutting of this species and we are both trying to identify it, but without luck so far. There seems to be no one in Panama or the Canal Zone interested in Begonias or Gesneriads, and we would welcome help from any other interested persons in the States.

I am watching the ripening of the seed pods on the plants I brought home with me and plan to go out again to collect seed for our Seed Fund. Some very attractive plants should grow from it.

SPECIAL NOTE

The Long Beach Parent Chapter has a new meeting place. They meet the second Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the Glendale Federal Savings and Loan Building, 5535 Stearns St. at the corner of Bellflower, Long Beach, Calif. They look forward to a "growing" year. Visitors are always welcome.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Instructions—

"Begonias From Seed—Sowing and Growing," reprinted from the December, 1968 *Begonian*, gives step by step easy-to-follow instructions and encouragement for beginning seed growers. Price 25 cents.

No. 1—*B. taylori* Standley—

New species from northern Mexico. Tuberos type with pink flowers. We hope to have additional information later which will appear in *The Begonian*. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. herbacea* Vell.—

Brazil species. Epiphytic plant found growing from face of boulder in dense shade from north east of Caraguatutuba. One peculiarity of this Begonia is the epiphytic habit, there are many climbing Begonias and even creeping ones that go up the trees; but this species grows and lives attached to trees, without any contact with earth and can go on living on dead trunks. It can be grown admirably on giant tree fern fiber. Another interesting feature of this plant is the symmetrical and lance-form leaves and it is evident that we have an uncommon species of Begonia. A very interesting one of easy culture. If it has a support of fern wood or a pot containing segments of same material, maintained constantly damp, the results of this care will be the growth of many ramifications of the rhizome. Leaves can be all green or green silver-spotted. We suggest a coarse material for sowing seed. Seed should be kept fairly damp and warm. The sowing medium should be coarse enough for water to run through easily. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. egregia* N.E. Brown—

Syn. *B. quadrelocularis*. Brazil. Long, tapering pointed, pebbly green leaves drooping neatly from both sides of stem. Flowers tiny pink-tipped hearts. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. dichroa* Sprague—

Growth shrubby, might be called

low, twelve to twenty inches high and slightly squarrose. Leaves grow on short petioles, oblong-elliptic, tapered toward a point. Glossy dark green on top, with regular, distinctly delineated, silver-white spots, wavy and lobed on the margin. Inflorescence axillary, large, raceme-like, hanging down. Flowers brilliant salmon-orange; male flowers four petals, female flowers six petals. As soon as buds appear, the newly formed leaves become dark green, while the older ones retain their silver spots; thus the plants have leaves of two colors. One of the most beautiful Begonias in cultivation and requires rich, well drained soil that does not contain too much nitrogen. It tolerates dry air fairly well but should have sufficient light and sun to bring out the true color of its bloom. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. convolvulacea*—

Brazil. Fast growing robust species suitable for walls and trellises or in greenhouse. Requires cool conditions and can be grown outside where climate permits. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 6—*B. dregei*—

Very fine African species, although ancient. Is widely sought after and used by growers for hybridizing. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7—*B. 'Pseudophyllomaniaca'* seedlings—

(Pseudo—false, phyllo—leaf, mania—crazy) Upright grower with large stems, glossy-green pointed leaves. Leaves and stems produce dozens of baby leaves which are difficult to grow into plantlets but it can be done. Flowers pinkish white and many. Price 50 cents per pkt.

MID-WINTER SALE

In going through our files we find seed of many worth-while Begonias and while some of them have been offered before, there are many new members each month who have not had an opportunity to acquire seed

so we offer the following to add pleasure to your collection or start a new one. Most of these seeds are easily germinated and will grow with the minimum of care. They are as follows:

No. 1S—*B. paranaensis* Brade—

Medium growth, large leaves, huge white flower clusters. Fruits have one very large wing. Plant has a new stout stem each year, from the ground but flowers on top of last year's growth.

No. 2S—*B. itaguassuense*—

Brazil. Rhizomatous type with large, velvety, dark green leaves, pale green beneath, with a pink sheen. Flowers white to pinkish-white.

No. 3S—*B. parilis*—

Brazil. Stems and branches soft hairy, leaves velvet-like in texture, olive green, red at the margins, red flushed underneath. Flowers pink or white.

No. 4S—*B. acida*—

Brazil. Large, seersucker puckered leaves of apple-green are round but seem angled by a suggestion of points where veins run to edge. Flowers dainty white in spring. Likes moist atmosphere.

No. 5S—*B. ulmifolia*—

Also called "Elm-leaf" Begonia. Grown for its oddity—imitates the elm leaf in shape and color with added rough hairs. Flowers white.

No. 6S—*B. hispida cucullifera*—

Also called "Piggy-Back" Begonia. Downy-soft leaves with upstanding adventitious leaflets marching along the veins. White flowers.

No. 7S—*B. incarnata*—

Mexico. Frilly, fluffy plant with light green leaves charmingly fluted and scalloped on the edge; flesh-pink flowers in winter.

No. 8S—*B. 'Gee-Gee'*—

Semperflorens type originated by Chester Nave, California. Very large green leaves, large red flowers with yellow centers.

No. 9S—*B. maculata* Raddi—

Syn. *B. argyrostigma*. Erect, cane type, silver spotted leaves. Flowers pink.

No. 10S—*B. sanguinea*—

Thick, leathery, oval leaves, glazed brown over green on top; red underneath. White flowers.

No. 11S—*B. semperflorens* type—

X-rayed.

No. 12S—*Coleus*—

Master blend. Many colors and color combinations. Use for potting or outdoors in combination with *sempervlorens* Begonias or other shade loving plants.

The twelve (12) varieties listed above may be purchased for \$4.00 or any six (6) for \$2.00. If single packets are requested, they are 50 cents per pkt. A close-out sale involves a great deal of work but it will be my pleasure to send out as many or as few as you like. This will afford a rare opportunity for those who have just started to grow Begonias from seed. Please send requests for seed to:

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

BITS AND PIECES

Early in my career as editor of *The Begonian* I was advised to remember that my job is to edit, not write. Since I agree with this advice, I have avoided writing articles of any importance and have limited my writing to "Editor's Notes." There are, however, a collection of "Editor's Notes" which are not particularly applicable to any of the articles and yet are important enough that I feel a great desire to share them with you.

Did you know, for example, that the first Classification Committee was appointed in 1934 for the purpose of classifying Begonias for show? As more Begonias have been discovered and developed by our hybridizers, this committee has been re-established to study and re-classify Begonias in the light of the latest information available.

(Continued on Page 41)

FUN WITH NAMES

By RUTH P. MERRY, *Needham, Massachusetts*

Nomenclature is not only a very fascinating subject but a most important one in plant life. Every plant is entitled to a name of its own, which should not be duplicated by any other plant in the genus. Like other plant societies with names numbering from 10,000 to 15,000 in their check lists, the A.B.S. maintains a service for registering new names of hybrids and species. Attention is directed to the article on Registration by Rudolf Ziesenhenné in the December 1967 *The Begonian*. In the case of duplication, the first name is the legal one.

Great care should be taken in selecting names. In the A.B.S., names tend to be more meaningful and there are not as many silly names as there are in other plant categories. Names may be in any language—English, French, German, Latin, Greek, and others. They may be names for people, places and characteristics.

B. 'Dancing Girl' is an English name. The leaves of this plant appear to be dancing and no two leaves are the same.

B. 'Corbeille de Feu' is French meaning basket of fire.

B. *gigantea* is Latin meaning gigantic. All species must be names in Latin so proper names must be Latinized. Species names must appear in lower case italics while hybrids are capitalized and enclosed in single quotes (never double quotes).

B. 'Erythrophylla' is Greek; erythro meaning red, phylla meaning leaf, referring to the red reverse of the leaf.

Begonias may be named for the discoverer, the hybridizer, V.I.P.'s in the Begonia world, friends, or other noted persons. Permission is common courtesy and necessary.

B. 'Ernest K.' was named for Ernest K. Logee.

B. *scharffi* was named for Dr. Scharff. Confusion still exists with B. *haageana* named for H. Haage.

B. 'Bessie Buxton' was named for the author whose name is borne on the *Check List of Begonias*.

B. 'Thurstoni' was named for the hybridizer and 'Mrs. W. A. Wallow' for a hybridizer's wife.

B. 'Alleryi' was named for M. Allery, a French hybridizer.

B. 'Nelly Bly' was named for the song.

B. 'Axel Lange' was named for the director of Copenhagen Botanical Garden and B. *teuscheri* for the collector, Tiescher, an uncle of the former curator of Montreal Botanical Gardens.

B. 'Ingrami' was named for an English grower and B. *cathcartii* for an English botanist, Cathcart.

B. *vellozoana* was named for Mr. Vellozo and later renamed B. *olsoniae* for Mrs. Bee Olson of "Bumblin' Along With Bee," *The Begonian* column of a few years ago.

B. 'd'Artagnon' was named for one of the three musketeers and B. 'Ellen Dee' is a play on the initials of its parents (B. *limminghei* x B. *dichroa*).

Geography is well represented in Begonia nomenclature. B. 'Medora' was found in Medora, Illinois. B. *cubensis* comes from Cuba.

B. *olbia* gets its name from Olbia, Russia and B. *cathayana* from Cathay, the old name for China where it originated.

B. 'Braemar' originated on an estate by that name and B. *goegoensis* came from Goego, Sumatra.

B. 'Corallina de Lucerna', B. 'Constance', B. 'Interlaken', B. 'Lugano', and B. 'Alzasco' were all derived from Swiss lakes.

Naming by characteristics provide meaningful and interesting names because of the great diversification of the genus *Begonia*.

B. *convolvulacea* means twining as noted by the morning glory with the

(Continued on Page 47)

BEGONIA CANDOLLEI ZIES.

The plant which I have identified as *Begonia candollei* is one of several grown from seed which William Brooks brought in from Mexico in 1952. He found it in the rain forest in the northern part of the state of Chiapas in the Sierra Madre above the coastal plain of Tabasco, about six thousand feet above the Gulf of Mexico. In its first year from seed, the plant was carefully observed, its parts drawn, and a herbarium specimen made. I observed that the plant resembled *B. candollei* which Dr. Arthur D. Houghton had named in his unpublished thesis from a herbarium specimen in the Gray Herbarium at Harvard. I wrote to the director of Gray Herbarium for the herbarium specimen and was told it could not be found in that collection. Through new indexes, now available to plant taxonomists, I found that the Missouri Botanical Garden had received the same plant from the collector. I was able to borrow the herbarium specimen from the director of the Missouri Botanical Garden through the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Brooks did not bring in a plant alive or pressed of the wild species which he called *B. fuchsiaflora*. However, the unusual seed pod and the similarity of the leaves and flowers leave no doubt that Brooks' plant is *B. candollei*. The only differences are superficial: the tips of the petals of Brooks' plant appear to have been cut off; the leaves of the plants grown from Brooks' seed in my glasshouse in 1953 are slightly smaller than those in the Missouri Botanical Garden herbarium specimen.

In establishing Brooks' *B. fuchsiaflora* as *B. candollei*, it is also necessary to establish a new sub-genus, as Dr. Houghton has done in his thesis, because of the unusual form of the ovary where no partitions have been produced. To make the difference clearer to *The Begonian* readers, I have included in Figure A of the

drawing a seed pod of *B. kenworthyi* Zies. to show the arrangement of seed plates affixed to the center of the ovary, illustrating a type most likely to be found in our garden Begonias. A transitional type between *B. candollei* and *B. kenworthyi* is *B. cavum* Zies. shown in Figure B, in which the seed-bearing plates grow from the partitions in the cells. The usual partitions of the seed cell is completely lacking in all female flowers of *B. candollei*.

It should be understood that plants are classified by their flowers and for this reason it is necessary to study the flowers carefully on each plant. The plant under discussion is one of many with leaves of a similar type and it was necessary to view the type specimens of the named species or photos of the types in order to determine the similarity and differences between the various plants. A plant from the wilds or in cultivation may have flowers that are not strictly identical but a person describing a species tries to select flowers which are in the majority. In establishing a new section all the flowers on a plant and sister plants must contain the vital elements.

Brooks wrote me on April 28, 1952 regarding his *B. fuchsiaflora*: "#113. This is a tree type with pendant inflorescence borne at all terminals and grows to eight feet tall. It resembles a Fuchsia and appears to be one seen at a distance. This is the most interesting of all the new types of Begonias I have seen. It has seed pods which are elongated and differ from all other Begonia seed pods. They turn red and complete the coloration of the plant when in blossom. Its range in elevation is about six to seven thousand feet."

In the August 1952 *The Begonian* Vol. XIX, No. 8, pp. 176-177 appears an article by William Brooks entitled "More About Mexican Begonias." He states on page 177, "The prize of the

day was found among the lower forms of growth or trailing among the bushy growth, and at other times standing alone, where its numerous stems from a common center created a bushy effect resembling a heavy, flowering Fuchsia. This form of *Begonia* produces a strikingly different seed pod. Its keel wings are more or less of a succulent structure and not thinly formed as in most *Begonias*. The pod itself being long and pendant and of good substance takes on a ruby color when exposed to the sun... This gives the effect of an artificial plant decorated with rubies..."

I grew many plants from the seed Brooks sent but as far as I now know it is no longer in cultivation. The beautiful seed pods interested me and I examined a good many of them and found it unlike any other American *Begonia*, not having a central axis but instead having three seed-bearing plates arising from the walls.

In checking this seed pod against other *Begonias*, I found Dr. Houghton had located a herbarium specimen in the Gray Herbarium having the unusual seed pod of this plant. The specimen plant in the herbarium had been collected by a Dr. Ghiesbreght in Mexico, the herbarium specimen being marked "Plantae Austro-Mexicanae No. 683, Chiapas, etc coll. Dr. Ghiesbreght ann. 1864-70." Comparing the herbarium specimen from the Missouri Botanical Garden with the Brooks' plant, I find that although the basal leaves of both plants are said to be silver-spotted, it is not apparent in the herbarium specimens. The living Brooks' plant was definitely silver-spotted at the base of the hairs on the lower leaves but the spots are lost in drying.

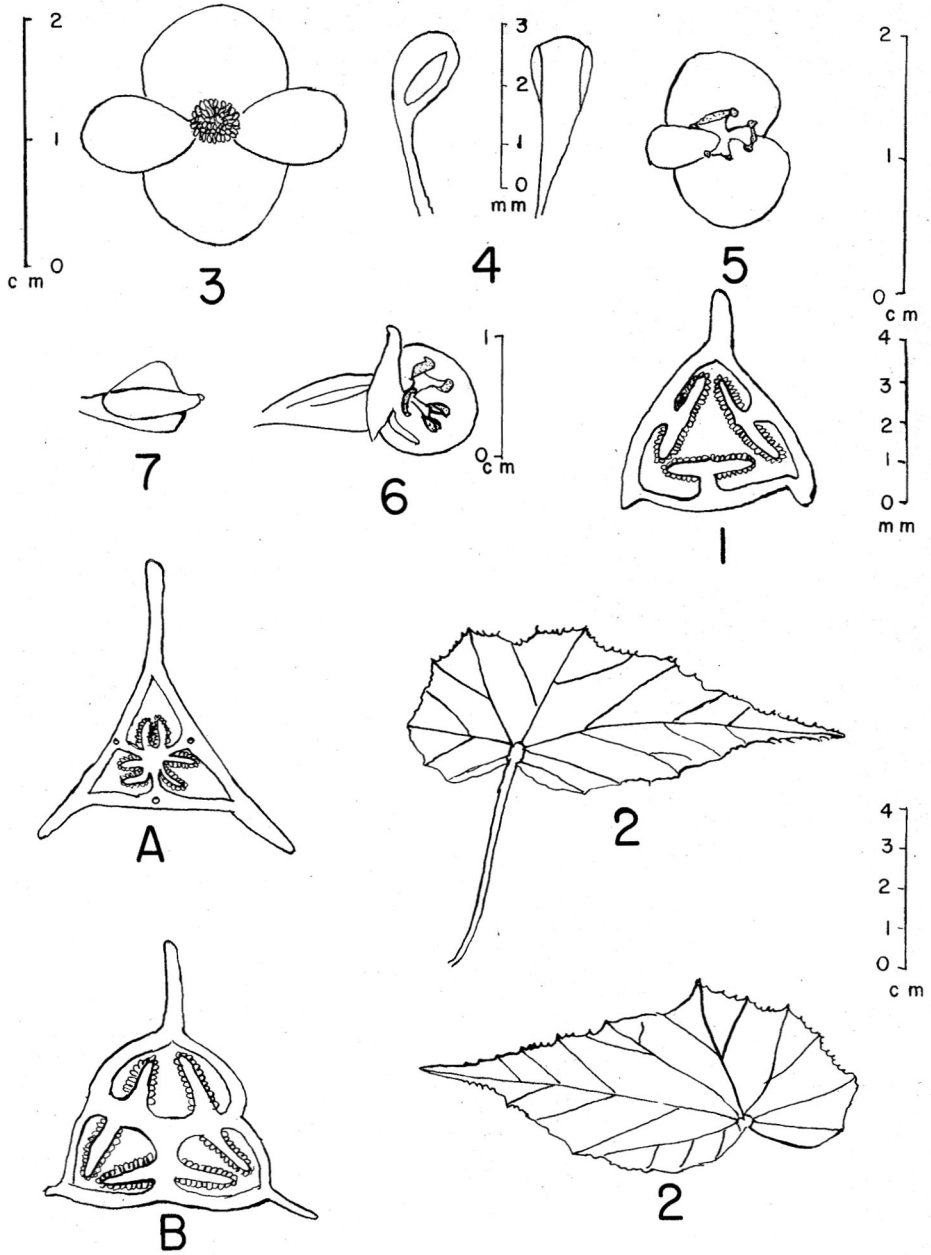
In 1965 Thomas MacDougall collected a plant numbered C.159 which appears to be similar to *B. candollei* but I am sure it is *B. oaxacana* A. DC. The leaves are identical to the type photo of *B. oaxacana* and Mac Dougall's find is important because his herbarium specimen has the female flowers which deCandolle never saw.

The female flower has a seed pod of three cells with the seed-bearing plates arranged similarly to those pictured in Figure B, although the wings are as in *B. candollei*. Under the designation of C. 157 MacDougall has brought in two different plants which are still similar but neither of these is one of the plants discussed to this point. The one from El Trunfo has an ovary similar to the C. 159 but the leaf is narrower and longer. The leaves of the plant from Custepec-Margaritas are not as wide nor as abruptly tapering to the point as *B. oaxacana* A. DC.

Because the flower of the new plant species *B. candollei* is distinct, I propose the following new *Begonia* section:

Begonia Section *Parietoplacentalia* Zies. new section: male flower tepals four; stamens numerous, filaments free, anthers inverted egg-shaped, tip blunt, as long as the filaments, connective overhanging the locules. Female tepals three, unequal, styles three, two-divided lyre-shaped, stigma papillae forms a band of one turn up each arm. Ovary one-celled, placentas three affixed to the side walls, T-shaped, seeds on all sides; capsule pyramid-shaped, necked; three-winged, one prominent, the other two just ribs on the pod. Herbaceous plants, erect, bushy, leaves palmately veined. One species below. This section differs from the Asiatic and African Section *Mezierea* chiefly by reason of its American distribution, by its three-winged capsule and in the number of its perigon segments.

Begonia (*Parietoplacentalia* Zies.) *candollei* Zies: new species, herbaceous perennial; stem erect, round, up to eight feet tall, bare, numerous and coming out of the ground and rooting at the joints: stipules bare, with a stiff hair at the tip, one-half inch long, remaining a while; leafstem round, about two inches long, thinly hairy toward the end nearest the leaf blade: leaf blade (Figure 2) uneven egg-shaped running out to a long point, two sides of the leaf on opposite sides



Begonia candollei Zies.

of main vein very unequal, margin uneven, alternately with deep cuts and bumps: toothed and saw-toothed, each tooth tipped with a hair four and one-fourth inches long, and one and one-half inches wide, seven veins running out like fingers from the point where the stem is attached, above a few scattered short hairs, below scattered hairs up to one-sixteenth inch long. Flower stem with a few hairs; peduncle one inch long, bare; leaflet on flower stem remaining, elliptical three-eighths inch long, one quarter inch wide, bare: Male flower stem three-eighths inch long, moderately covered with one-thirty-second inch long hairs: Male flower (Figure 4) tepals four, two sepals round-egg shaped three-eighths inch long, three-eighths inch wide, few hairs on the back one-thirty-second inch long, two petals spatula-shaped one-quarter inch long, one-quarter inch wide; stamens (Figure 5) in a ball, anthers numerous inverted egg-shaped, as long as filaments: female flower stem three-eighths inch long, thickly covered with reddish woolly hairs, one-sixteenth inch long: female flowers (Figure 6) tepals three, pink, two sepals broadly egg-shaped, three-eighths inch long, seven-sixteenths inch wide; one petal spatula-shaped, five-sixteenths inch long, three-sixteenths inch wide, styles (Figure 7) three, falling, two-divided, lyre-shaped, stigma papillae makes one twist; capsule (Figure 8) elliptical, necked, seven-sixteenths inch long, one-quarter inch wide, thickly covered with reddish-brown hairs including the wings, three wings, fleshy, largest ovate other two marginal; ovary (Figure 1) one-celled, placentas three, affixed to the outside walls, two-divided, seeds born on all surfaces.

Mexico: Type locality on decomposing tree trunks. Chiapas. *Dr. Ghiesbreght* 683. Type in the Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium #203685. Named in honor of Casimir deCandolle, Swiss botanist.

The single celled seed pod with the parietal placentation sets this plant

apart from all other known American Begonias.

Begonia (sect. *Parietoplacentalia* Zies.) sect. nov. Flores masculinus tepalis 4, staminibus numerosis, filamentis liberis, antheris subaequalibus, obovatis, obtusis, quamtiu liberis pars filamentis. Flores femineis tepalis 3, subaequalibus, stylis 3, bifidis, lyratis, stigmatibus extus continuis in spiris 1 utrumque ramo; capsula pyraformis, alis 3, linearis, 1 conspicuis, 2 inconspicuis; ovario uniloculato, placentis 3, parietalis T-formis, undique ovuliferis. Herba, erecta, fruticosa, foliis palminerviis. Species una.

Sectio est dissimilis a sectione Asiatica et Aethiopia *Mezierea* quod distributus Americanus, id, 3-alata capsula et in numeris segmentis perigoniis.

Typo: *Dr. Ghiesbreght* 683. Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium number 203685. MO.

Begonia (section *Parietoplacentalia* Zies.) *candollei* Zies., spec. nov. Herba perennis: caule persistente, erecto, elliptico, 2.19 m. alto, base hypogeo radice multa emittens; stipulis persistentibus, papyraceis, nudis, ovalis, marginibus integris, mucronatis 1.2 cm. longis: petiolis teretibus, 5 cm. longis, nudis, superne uni fimbriatis; foliis papyraceis, supra viridibus, raro argenteo-guttata; subris viridibus valvaris, opacis, nervis dense ferrugineo-villosis, 1.5 mm. longis, inaequali angusta-ovatis, 10.7 cm. longis, 3.7 cm. latis, apice acuminatis, basi rotundatis, margine sinuatis, dentatis, serratis; palminerviis, nervis 7: inflorescentia cymosa, pedunculis axillaribus, teretibus, 2.5 cm. longis, sparsim ferrugineo-villosis; bracteis persistentibus, ellipticis, 9 mm. longis, 7 mm. latis; tapalis masculinis 4, 2 extis late ovatis, 9 mm. longis 1.1 cm. latis, 2 intis spatulatis 7 mm. longis, 6 mm. latis, antheris obovatis: floribus femineis pedicellis 9 mm. longis, dense ferrugineo-villosis 1.5 mm. longis; floribus femineis tepalis 3, roseis, 2 extis latissime ovatis 7 mm. longis, 9 mm. latis, 1 intis anguste obovatis, 6 mm. longis, 3.5 mm. latis, stylis 3,

diciduosis, bipartatis, lyratis, stigmatibus extus continuis in spiris 1 convolutis; capsula dense ferrugineo-villosa, 8 mm. longa, 3.5 mm. lata, ellipsoeidea, collo, inaequaliter, trialata, carnosae, dense ferrugineo-villosae, ala maxima transversala angusta, elliptica, placentatio parietalis, placentis, bilamellatis, undique ovuliferis.

Typo: Dr. Ghiesbreght 683. Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium number 203685. MO.

NOTE

The type species of *Begonia* section *Quadriperigonia* Ziesenhennae, *Begonia* 35: 257, 1968 is *Begonia abaculoides* Ziesenhennae, *ibid* 258. The type of *Begonia adaculoides* is J. N. Rose, collector and Jos. H. Painter assistant number 6898. United States National Herbarium specimen number 450464. US.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

With my rhizomatous *Begonia*s showing a riot of color this winter-time, really makes me glad to be alive and have a greenhouse for growing *Begonia*s! Quite a contrast to the snow and cold of the outdoors.

As we are into the New Year, I urge each member to keep the flights moving along by adding a fat letter. Especially this time of year, the flights are a great source of knowledge and enjoyment to many, so much better if it is not stale.

Hybrids:

Grant McGregor of Ottawa, Canada had three plants from seed of Jane Neal's *B. richardsiana* x *B. masoniana* from England. They were all the same: deep reddish stems, light green leaves with roughened surface, the rough parts lighter green on top, with short light hairs.

Tuberous *Begonia*s:

Blain Berden of Toronto, Ontario, Canada has stored his tuberous *Begonia*s tubers in the crisper drawer of his refrigerator the last three years and has not lost a tuber in storage since he started doing this.

B. evansiana:

Ruth Zeman of Charlotte, North Carolina reports that no matter when the seeds of *B. evansiana* is planted, they will not germinate till spring.

Transplanting mediums:

Elizabeth Mercier of the Canal Zone made some observations during late September and through early November. She writes, "In August I started transplanting seedlings of *B. lubbersii*, *B. schmidtiana*, *B. acida*, and *B. leptotricha* from the seedpans to community pots and individual pots of dirt — a commercial, supposedly sterilized, potting soil. All four batches had been doing very well, and I had more than 50 plants of each species; so I consider it a fair test. For some reason which I do not now remember, a few of the little plants were put into plain sphagnum moss; and these continued to do very well. Those put into dirt suffered immediate damage and never did recover. Leaves wilted and fell off, plants just collapsed. Some of them died at once, looking burned and others lingered on for a while managing to appear sunburned and light starved, over-watered and dehydrated, all at the same time. I didn't want to move them again too soon, but after ten days or two weeks, I decided I would lose them all if I didn't do something. I took the ones that seemed in worst condition and put them back into moss, figuring that if the move killed them I hadn't lost anything. Those that seemed likely to live where they were, I left alone. I saved about one-third or one-fourth of the original number.

Now, after two months, I am able to see that plants grow much faster in sphagnum moss than they do in soil. Even the weakest and sickliest of those moved back to moss have outgrown the ones left in dirt. The leaves take on a richer, greener color immediately; in soil they tend toward a brownish or yellowish tone. Also, in sphagnum the leaves grow larger and the petioles longer and more upright,

(Continued on Page 45)

SEED GROWING REPORT

By CARRIE KAREGEANNES, Annandale, Virginia

September 19, 1968—

My latest report on my seedpans: I'm pretty sure now that the two seedlings I got from ILGSA Seed Fund marked *B. xanthina* must be *B. mollicaulis* (syn. *B. subvillosa*) instead—though I've not yet had bloom on these. My latest sowings from the same packet (half each time, some weeks apart)—so I've still to see a *B. xanthina*. Descriptions are of a rhizomatous plant with yellow flowers and dark green leaves and light or yellowish veins, smooth leaf with hairs on edge. The two I mentioned above were light to medium downy leaved, veins only a little lighter. Shape and habit of growth, etc., just like *B. mollicaulis*, to me, and not rhizomatous.

Two sowings of *B. rajah* have given nothing, and it has been months. Some members have had a few seedlings from this one, but are having difficulty raising them, according to report in robins.

I lost a few of the *B. acida* seedlings from Elizabeth Mercier but others are making progress, already showing a few crinkles in latest leaflet. I'm giving a little more air, by leaving crack under the plastic lid of the seedpan, and trying not to overwater this one especially. The *B. laciniata* seedlings are still very small and slow, though putting out dots of the third leaf. I transplanted two out of green algae that was swallowing them up, but stopped when I lost a third just because I couldn't see it even with glasses on—that's too tiny for me to handle! The two transplanted are doing better than the others, though.

The latest batch of seed I sowed was from the A.B.S. summer sale, six packets. Most of them, I just used part of the packet and sowed August 24. Of these, *B. valdensium* and *B. bradei* have not shown any sign of life, and it has been almost a month. Some seed seems to come in about

five days (like *semps* and *B. leptotricha*) if conditions are good. Some others seem to appear around ten days, some at eighteen or so, and some at 21. Funny that they should seem to group like that, but maybe the seasons and climate in countries they come from has something to do with it, don't know. On *B. herbacea*, I had one seedling pop up months after the first germination.

In this batch, *B. coccinea* and *B. venosa* both started germinating in ten days, with more coming in the next few days. Got good germination on them, and they are growing fast, much more rapidly than the remaining two—*B. goegoensis* and *B. convalliodora*, both of which germinated in seventeen or eighteen days, right beside the others, in the same mix and lights, etc. I divided pans in half and sowed one kind to each side (covering up one side with paper while sowing the other, to prevent any strays)—and it really is funny to see tiny *B. convalliodora*, lots of them and doing fine in their own way, in same seedpan with *B. coccinea*. *B. coccinea*'s third leaf (first true leaf) is already fat and round and has tiny silver specks—and *B. convalliodora* leaf is just about the same size as one of these specks! I suppose *B. coccinea*, if true, will lose spots when mature, as some other kinds do. But seedling I got on my plant by this name was even more spotted and hasn't lost them yet—so that I am now unsure that it was a seedling of that one (if it is, wasn't pure, it's so different)—I do try to keep from mixing labels or accidentally mixing seed, though! (Washing hands between sowings, not using same paper, etc.) On the other hand, seed from my grown plant (which I received as a cutting from a friend years ago) that I sent to Grace Shatto, in one of these robins here now, had a plain leaf. Will watch with in-

terest to see how they compare with my older plant.

B. goegoensis seedlings are just about as tiny as *B. convalliodora*, (see cover of July 1967 *Begonian*—different) too. *B. venosa* was growing well, but standing on tiptoe, stretching, so I raised the seedpan to about five and a half inches from Gro-Lux tubes. All pans have been about seven inches from the tubes to soil mix. I think *B. acida* likes less light, because it was getting pale, so I moved it away toward the end of the tube. Have you had any experience with this one? It could have been just needing food, so I gave it a little weak fish emulsion, and will again. All were sowed (these last six) on a mix of leafmold, sterilized in the oven; vermiculite and a little peaty mix I bought (which has a little charcoal and perlite—leafmold is largest amount of total) and needed finer screening, really, but everything looks happy in it now.

Still in straight sphagnum, but now feeding, of course, are two *B. herbacea* seedlings, grown from member's seed. As an epiphyte in Brazil, it must not get a lot of feeding, but it does improve in vigor and color with light feeding (weak doses often is what I try to follow for seedlings—a little stronger only on other things, too). I've been reading a translation Rudy Ziesenhenne sent me of a German article by the late Begonia authority Dr. Edgar Irmscher on *B. herbacea* and several very similar and closely related epiphytic (tree-growing) Brazilian species. Sounds as if we must be growing several different ones. (See "*Begonia herbacea et al*" January, 1968 page 4.)

The differences are so tiny that I don't suppose people will want to pay that much attention, but it intrigued me. Maybe you who have plants named *B. herbacea* might like to look and see what kind of leaf it has. Sounds as if the only one that would look different at first glance would be *B. fulvo-setulosa*, because of the hair—and I don't think this one is being grown. Would be fun to know if it is.

(Ciliate is defined as marginal hairs forming a fringe—but I guess this wouldn't be as thick as *B. boweri*'s eyelashes, probably or not necessarily.) My seedlings are too young to have bloomed, and the leaf shape seems to be developing still, but so far it seems to fit the description of *B. attenuata* rather than *B. herbacea*. Incidentally, two early writers, both Chevalier in Belgium and J. D. Hooker in England, thought these two were probably the same they were so much alike, but Dr. Irmscher feels the difference in the way the leaf tapers and the winged petiole (which causes some to describe *B. herbacea* as having no petiole) is enough to justify them two species.

BITS AND PIECES

(Continued from Page 33)

Have you noticed that I have been eliminating the comma between the name of species Begonias and the author? This comma was used in the *Buxton Check List of Begonias* because italics was not available and it served to distinguish between plant and author. Since it is our policy to follow the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature*, we print species names in italics followed by the author in Roman, eliminating the comma altogether.

I was recently asked about the "magazine" Gene Daniels works for. You will note on page 42 the picture credit, "Photo by Gene Daniels, Black Star." Black Star is not a magazine but an agency which specializes in selling the services of free-lance artists, photographers, writers, etc. They are the ones who keep Gene hopping around the world.

There are no minutes in this issue because the Board of Directors does not meet during December.

The Index of *The Begonian* for 1968 will appear next month. Our sincerest thanks for this tremendous task goes to May Taft Drew, Narberth, Pennsylvania.

Mae Tagg
Editor

OUR WINNER, LARRY BANNIER

Costa Mesa, California

Larry Bannier won the Dr. Edgar Imscher Memorial Challenge Award for Best Entry in Show; the President's Challenge Trophy for Best Begonia in Show; the Gonda Hartwell Challenge Cup for Best Rex in the Show; and the John R. Williams Challenge Cup for the Best Rhizomatous in the Show at 1968 A.B.S. Show. He also won two of the four A.B.S. Cultural Awards presented at this show.

Larry's horticultural background is quite impressive. At the age of thirteen, he was hired by his dad as the family gardener—this consisted of pulling weeds and mowing the lawn. His first experience with plant material was the rooting of succulent cuttings, which were obtained from a neighbor.

As Larry's interest grew, so did his cactus collection. After a couple of years, the family decided to move, so Larry began collecting tin cans of all sizes and shapes to serve as temporary pots. After becoming established at the new home, he became interested in shade plants.



Photo by Gene Daniels, Black Star

At fifteen, Larry constructed a small lath shelter which housed a few ferns, Fuchsias, philodendrons and a few seed flats. Its size was four-and-a-half feet tall, four feet wide and six feet long, and soon became overgrown. When Mr. Bannier became aware of this condition and Larry's true interest in plants, the tiny lath structure grew to a size of twenty feet by twelve feet by six feet high. They lived at this home for two years and in this time Larry built up quite a large plant collection which ranged from chrysanthemums to tree ferns.

Their last move was the largest. Instead of collecting tin cans, Larry needed boxes and tubs for many of the larger plants and trees. The last things to be moved were the plants, which took three loads in a two-and-a-half ton stake truck and were delivered on the front lawn. "The neighbors thought we were opening a nursery."

After graduating from high school, Larry enrolled at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa and was happy to see that they offered a major in what he considered his hobby. He spent one year at Orange Coast College and then transferred to California State Polytechnic College, a four year school in Pomona, where there was a curriculum in horticulture.

In college, Larry developed a deep interest in tropical plants including fruit trees, ferns, and Begonias. In 1966 Larry became a member of the Orange County Branch of the A.B.S. He was able to obtain from their plant tables, Begonias which became blue ribbon plants and was awarded their scholarship which helped with college expenses.

In the past four years, Mr. Bannier and Larry have built adequate lath-house and reassembled a small greenhouse which they were fortunate to

(Continued on Page 45)

The Begonian

LEAF DISK TRIALS

By M. CARLETON L'HOMMEDIEU, *Research Director*

It was interesting to see in the November *Begonian* that someone has been trying the leaf disk method of propagation as described by Professor Harry B. Lagerstedt in the March 1968 *Begonian*. Since I have always been interested in different methods of propagation, having taught this in a class for many years, this method was of great interest to me.

My first experience with this method was without using any plant growth regulators which hasten rooting; but I did go through the process of chlorine treatment, using a ten per cent Chlorox solution for five minutes. This treatment of Chlorox seemed to burn the edges of the leaves. Evidently, some varieties of Begonias do not respond favorably to this treatment. By eliminating the Chlorox solution I had better results but it took about two months to get root and plant growth.

Since I had some two per cent indolebutyric acid, I had a solution of 100 ppm (parts per million) prepared. This I used by floating the disks for a half hour which increased the time of rooting from two to four weeks depending upon the variety of Begonias. The disks were rooted on a moistened paper towel in a clear plastic box

which has a tight cover. Some varieties seem to be more susceptible to rot than others and also some take much longer to root. *B. masoniana* disks vary greatly in time of rooting. Some disks rooted within a month and others at the same time of propagation, took six months to show any evidence of rooting. I have no explanation for this unusual variation of rooting in *B. masoniana*. Most of the other varieties that I have used generally root from two to four weeks. The condition of the disks rotting presents another problem at times. I think that for the most part, this probably is more apt to occur with leaves of thin texture. The heavy texture of *B. masoniana* accounts for the disks being in good condition after six months in the propagation box.

I would like to mention another good use of the rooted disks in a small propagation box. When they are well rooted, the roots will cling to the paper and so could be shipped by mail to anyone without disturbing the plants. And they will keep a long time in the box without any fear of drying out. I was traveling for six weeks this summer and had a box of disks with me and they were in perfect condition at the end of the trip. Why not try this method of plant exchange?



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B. 'Florence Carrell'

Photography by John C. Fuller
Drawing by Karen Fuller

LETTERS

Dear Mrs. Tagg,

I thought someone in the A.B.S. might enjoy seeing how we used one of our Begonias as a subject for a Christmas card. I made a charcoal drawing of the trailing Begonia 'Florence Carrell', my husband photographed the drawing, and we printed the cards photographically.

I have enjoyed *The Begonian* very much in the year I have received it. I hope to see, in the coming year, more information on Begonias under artificial lights.

The article on growing Begonias from seed by Mr. Tagg was very welcome here, as I have been quite unsuccessful thus far with seed. Now I'm excited all over again about trying.

Sincerely,

Mrs. John C. Fuller
47 West Seneca Street
Oswego, New York 13126

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PROJECT IDEAS FOR BEGONIA BRANCHES

Last month we presented a list of Program Ideas. This list of Project Ideas was also submitted by Herb Warrick of Seattle, Washington. We hope that those of you in starting Branch projects will find some useful suggestions here.

1. Arrange Shade Plant Judging Classes to develop Judges.
2. Include Companion Plants with your studies on Begonias.
3. Make demonstrations a part of all meetings.
4. For interest use skits in meetings.
5. Demonstrate plant feeding.
6. Demonstrate potting.
7. Demonstrate phytoillumination.
8. Demonstrate labeling.
9. Demonstrate garden gadgets.
10. Demonstrate propagation setups.
11. Try to show growth rate in plants.
12. Try to show plant aging.
13. Try to get some waterfall and fountain demonstrations.
14. Show special hanging baskets with moss, etc.
15. Demonstrate plant watering and show methods.
16. Demonstrate foliar feeding.

(Continued on Page 47)

ROUND ROBIN NOTES . . .

(Continued from Page 39)

and the plants seem to bloom sooner. In dirt the plants seem dwarfed, the leaves thicker and tougher. It seems the plants would be more hardy but this is not always the case; they actually seem more subject to ills than those grown in moss.

In the middle of September, I transplanted a batch of mixed rhizomatous Begonias. The first 40 or so I put into sphagnum moss and the rest into pure sand. The sand was slightly damp and I used a plastic ice cream container (half gallon size) with drain holes in the bottom and kept the lid on at all times.

I believe the plants have done even better in sand than in moss. Leaves have good color and texture. Stems seem sturdy, roots well developed. I believe the secret of this is the plastic container and tight-fitting lid. I tried using a small clay flower pot with cover and the plants did not grow; apparently the sand dried out too quickly. In the plastic container, I have to add water only once a month or less and then very sparingly. I use a solution of one-quarter teaspoon Hyponex to one gallon of water for this. I have had absolutely no damping off with the sand, the midges and their larvae that have plagued me so in other growing mediums are not attracted by it.

I have not tried growing plants in sand as I have in sphagnum moss but am now mixing up my own potting soil using lots of sand in it. I shifted my big *rex* hybrids into this mix several weeks ago and they seem to be thriving, no more dropped leaves."

Suggestion:

When you write to join a robin, tell about how you grow Begonias—Under lights, window gardener, greenhouse grower, etc. It helps to find a good

spot for you in a flight. Want to join a robin? Write:

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

OUR WINNER . . .

(Continued from Page 42)

obtain. Presently they have 1,152 square feet of lath area and 108 square feet of greenhouse space which Larry uses for profitable, ornamental, and experimental purposes.

Larry plans to become a teacher in the plant sciences on the secondary level. A young man with his interests and initiative can be a winner at this too.



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 Brillmayer
- *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 per issue
1959-1950 40c per issue
1949-1939 50c per issue
- *Begonian Binders\$1.50
A.B.S. on the cover.
- *Calif. residents, add 5% tax on these items.

Send your orders to:

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4508 West 133rd Street,
Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

(Continued from Page 29)

scribed as the biggest world centre of tuberous Begonia cultivation. Starting in June, the colourful spectacle of hundreds of acres of tuberous Begonias in full bloom can be seen and admired all around Ghent. And those who have once attended the Begonia Festival at Lochristi never want to spend another summer without at least some tuberous Begonias in their garden or window box.

Thanks to the growth of exports, flower cultivation has turned into a flower "industry."

The bulbs are extremely carefully packed. They are either sold loose, in small ventilated bags or plastic nets, in pots filled with chemical fertiliser which can also be used for growing, in larger pots containing three to six bulbs which can be left to grow, or in crates separated into separate compartments for each type of bulb.

"But sheltered in its green chamber, the flower took endless time getting ready." Is it true that tuberous Begonias need a lot of care? Not at all. All you have to remember is that it needs three things: humus, water, light—and that it must be kept away from direct sunshine.

In temperate climates, the procedure is as follows:

1. In March or April, the bulbs should be placed in a shallow flower pot, the concave side upwards. They should be covered with a thin layer of soil that is rich in humus and should be kept humid at a temperature of 65° to 70° F.

2. When the bulbs have begun to develop roots, the box or pot should be brought into the light but away from sunshine, at an average temperature of 65° F.

3. Two months later, when there is no more danger of frost, the young shoots may be planted out in the open, in light damp soil rich in humus, about ten inches apart and preferably in a shady place. A flower pot or window box of about seven inches may

also be used, so as to decorate window ledges. In dry weather, the plants should be watered regularly.

4. It is advisable from time to time to add a little fertiliser to the water.

The slender, graceful tulip is a pleasure to behold. But unfortunately it withers after two to four weeks. In May, the scented, elegant hyacinth loses its flowers in a fortnight. But the frail yet sturdy Begonia, "carefully choosing its colours, adjusting its petals one by one," blooms without interruption from June to October. For a full five months, it "appears in the full flowering of its beauty: it is very coquettish with its mysterious preparations."

It fits into any site. Landscape architects use the multi-hued tuberous Begonia to decorate squares and open spaces. Contrasting plants with red and yellow or scarlet and white flowers are used to edge flower beds or to mark out colourful designs. Small groups of tuberous Begonias will decorate an inner courtyard with dazzling white, bright red, coppery yellow or orange blossoms, their bold or gentle colours creating an atmosphere all their own. Placed along a window ledge, they will transform your room for five months.

Saint-Exupery who was able to identify completely with his Little Prince, wrote that "If you tell a grown-up: I saw a lovely house in pink bricks, with geraniums at the windows and pigeons on the roof, they cannot visualize such a house. But if you say: I saw a house worth a thousand pounds, then they exclaim: How pretty!"

So buy a few shillings' worth of tuberous Begonias to put on your window sill, plant them in your garden, on your terrace, and for five months your house will be worth a million . . .

But those who see it with the Little Prince's eyes will savour the beauty of the tuberous Begonia, intoxicated with its colour and harmony, relishing the respite which it provides in a world torn by anxiety.

FUN WITH NAMES

(Continued from Page 34)

botanical name, *convolvulus*.

B. ulmifolia has leaves like an elm and *B. 'Ricinifolia'* has leaves like a ricinus, castor bean.

B. 'Argentea Guttata' is speckled with silver, *B. sanguinea* is red like blood and *B. tomentosa* is wooly.

B. nelumbifolia has leaves like a pond lily. The quality of the leaf of *B. 'Erythrophylla'* is like that of the pond lily which gives it its nickname "Pond Lily Begonia," but the sinus of the leaf of *B. nelumbifolia* is in the center of the leaf just like the pond lily.

B. alnifolia is like an alder and *B. conchaefolia* is like a shell.

B. fuchsoides has leaves like a Fuchsia while *B. foliosa* means full of leaves and bears the nickname "Fern Begonia" because of its very tiny leaves.

B. quadreocularis (syn. for *B. egregia*) means four-celled ovary, while *B. serratipetala* has serrated petals.

B. hispidavillosa means stiff hairy and *B. tenuifolia* means thin leaf.

B. manicata is cuffed behind the leaf while *B. manicata aureo-maculata* has the cuff behind and gold spots on the leaves and *B. manicata aureo-maculata* var. *crispa* comes equipped with the cuff, gold spots, and a crinkled edge.

B. phyllomaniaca is Latin for crazy leaf and *B. 'Pseudophyllomaniaca'* is Latin for false crazy leaf.

The old question "What's in a name?" can provide a lot of fun. This is only a taste. I've searched through books by Brilmayer, Krauss, Buxton, *The Begonian*, *Buxton Check List*, catalogues, Bailey's *Hortus*, Gray's

Botany, glossaries, and the dictionary. Read through your own books and HAVE FUN WITH NAMES!

CALENDAR

February 9—Long Beach Parent Chapter: "Begonias From Cuttings—The Why And Which How" by Chuck Tagg, 1:30 p.m. (See "Special Note," page 31.)

February 18—North Long Beach Branch: Birthday Potluck with meat furnished. 7:00 p.m. Speaker, Pat Antonelli from Santa Cruz, California will talk about tuberous Begonia bulbs. Begonia tubers will be available from the plant table. Visitors are always welcome.

February 14—San Gabriel Valley Branch: "Island of Madeira," a film by Mrs. Olive Westcott who will describe the different forms of plant life found there. 8:00 p.m.

February 24—A.B.S. BOARD: South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

March 1—DEADLINE for all material for the April *Begonian*.

What people don't know won't hurt them.

What people DO know will help them.

Get your meeting notices in on time. The first of the month is the deadline.

PROJECT IDEAS

(Continued from Page 44)

17. Build and demonstrate small pools for exhibits.
18. Encourage members to take photos of their best plants.
19. Make and show plant Christmas Cards at meetings.
20. Make some seed virility studies.

Pictures and explanations of any of these projects will be welcome by the Editor. Remember that we are not only interested in the results but in the process also.

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