

THE BEGONIAN 1947 INDEX

Compiled By Marjorie Clapp, Los Angeles, California

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. From Fort Worth, Texas: I am having trouble with my Begonia Feasti, (Beefsteak). The leaves turn brown and either drop off of their own accord or have to be removed. After cooler weather sets in I let the morning sun shine on it. Perhaps that could have started it. Some of the shoots that I removed and potted for small plants failed to live.

A. To answer your question specifically would be a little difficult, as many circumstances can be responsible for the condition about which you complain. Begonias in general are injured by the intense direct rays of the summer sunshine and yet they are benefited by all the sunshine possible during the cooler weather of the winter and early spring months. Then, if in-doors, a strong sunshine pouring through glass, particularly imperfect glass, can blister the leaves especially if they are wet at the time. As soon as a plant is deprived of good treatment, especially in regard to light, fresh air, and good soil, then red spider, pythium rot, and nematodes will soon attack them. Any of the above conditions can cause the trouble which seems to bother your plant and you must be the best judge as to which fits your particular case. They thrive best at a temperature of 55-60 degrees F. night and 65-70 degrees F. day temperatures.

If the plant is infested, it follows that any attempt to propagate from that plant would meet with failure or poor result. The best time to take these cuttings is in the Spring or early Summer.—T. J. Parker.

• From a letter to the Editor: "We are all enjoying THE BEGONIAN more and more and think it has improved much since we first subscribed."

Thank you. We shall try to maintain a constant improvement. To do this, we need all kinds of interesting material pertaining to shade plants from each one of our members. If they can be obtained, pictures of success or failure with story would be welcome.

Q. Would you give me some information about growing Begonias? I am trying for the first time, to grow tuberous Begonias. They grew well at first and I fed them once a month on liquid fertilizer, but the leaves began to dry on the ends and sides and the blossoms dropped off. Will you tell me why? They are in the sun only early in the morning.

A. The successful growing of tuberous Begonias hinges upon a few essential factors. The growing medium must be to their liking. The environment must answer the purpose and the proper temperature conditions must be present. The growing medium must be light and porous providing an excellent drainage and yet having a consistency capable of holding adequate moisture at all times without being at the saturation point. It should be at least on the acid side. A good mixture consists of equal parts coarse leaf mold, soil, well rotted manure, coarse sand and a good supply of bone meal. After the growth is well started the use of liquid fertilizer is good but a word of warning is in place. Never apply liquid fertilizer to plants when the soil is dry, it is policy to water plants first before applying liquid fertilizer otherwise trouble may ensue and cause burning of the foliage and also damage to the roots. A severe fluctuation of temperature can cause bud and blossom drop and then too, some varieties are more susceptible to this trouble than others. One thing is always good for tuberous Begonias and that is a light sprinkling on the foliage in dry hot weather particularly when the humidity is low.

SIMPLE CULTURE FOR EVANSIANA SEEDLINGS

By MRS. E. T. BOESHAR, Hollywood, Calif.

• This time I can bear witness that I have not had the slightest trouble in the raising of my seedlings. In fact, I found them along the path in my lathhouse.

Some years ago I bought some begonia bulbs, or should I say tubers? Among them were two Evansiana. They are planted in pots and without much effort on my part, they have flourished and bloomed each spring and summer.

Much to my amazement and joy this spring I discovered little seedlings here, there and around, even on a shelf where there was a tiny bit of soil.

I guess I just took my Evansiana for granted and here she presents me with a family of little Evans.

IT PAYS to advertise in THE BEGONIAN