

PREFACE

TO THE

MIMEOGRAPHED REPRODUCTIONS

OF THE

MONTHLY BULLETINS

OF THE

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

FOR

January through December

of

1935

July 15, 1967

The year of 1935, for the American Begonia Society, was one of steady progress. The bulletins became larger and contained more information on plant culture. The Society conducted more garden tours, participated in more flower shows and built up more active committees. They extended their search for seed of new begonias and thereby laid additional ground work for the Seed Fund of the future. The membership continued to grow and the names and addresses of all new members were published in the bulletin. The contacts of the Society were increasing considerably and the later history of the ABS seems to bear out the fact that the Society was really becoming national in scope.

The value of the bulletins as an advertizing medium continued to grow and the commercial folks began to use it with their very simple ads.

From the types of articles which were obtained for the bulletins it can be seen that the officers were trying to departmentize the bulletins and make them of more value to distant members who could not attend the meetings. Their current cultural hints, research in the history of begonias, reports on begonias in other lands, development of improved hybrids by skilled growers, inclusion of articles on the physiology of begonias and some companion plants, all gave experience that was becoming a background for the printed magazine (The Begonian) that was to be started by the Society in 1938.

It is very pleasant to look back on all of the early work of those members who enjoyed begonias before us. We certainly appreciate their history, as we hope the folks who follow us will also be happy to read of our current activities.

Herbert H. Warrick and  
Elizabeth Warrick

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

VOL. 2

January  
1935

Number 1  
Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Smith, 3601 E. Broadway, Long Beach, Thursday, January 17th, 1935 at 7:30 P.M. Mr. B. Norwood will be the speaker and his subject will be "The Recent Flower Show."

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Dr. and Mrs. B. Warren Davis were hosts to about 50 members and friends of the society at its December meeting.

Election of officers placed the leadership for 1935 in the hands of J. Paul Walker, President; H. C. Roque, Vice-President; Mrs. H. D. Hinley, Secretary & Treasurer, and Mrs. J. S. Williams, Corresponding Secretary.

Mr. Von Hofgaarden gave a very interesting talk on the German situation, and spoke of his visit to France, England, and Italy and Spain.

Plants brought by the members were exchanged by lot, and exceptionally good refreshments were furnished by the lady members of the Society.

We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Dr. & Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Palstine, Mr. Von Hofgaarden and all the members who helped make the Christmas party a success.

DUES

With the exception of those members joining after Sept. 1st, all membership dues are due and payable January 1st, to the Treasurer, Mrs. H. D. Hinley, 5722 Lewis Avenue, Long Beach.

MESSAGE FROM NEW PRESIDENT

J. Paul Walker

I wish to thank the members for the honor they have conferred upon me. I will endeavor to lead the society ahead to the best of my ability. The fine record of our first President, H. P. Dyckman, in organizing and laying the ground work for our society, and the excellent leadership of our Past President, Fred M. Riedman, and the many records set by them will be hard to attain. However, with your cooperation and help, and with the aid of my fine staff of officers, we can not help but go forward.

At the next meeting, I will expect a report from all committees, at which time all committee members will be released if possible. I expect to appoint members to all standing committees at that time. It is my desire to give each member something to do during the year that will be a pleasure to the member and a benefit to the society.

Remember that you have elected me as your president. It is now your duty to tell me what you want done, and to help me in doing it.

MESSAGE FROM RETIRING PRESIDENT

Fred M. Riedman

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the officers and members of the American Begonia Society for their wholehearted cooperation in making this past year successful.

Due to an increase in my legal practice I have been unable to devote the time which I should have. It was only because of the untiring efforts of the officers

MESSAGE FROM RETIRING PRESIDENT (cont'd)

and members of various committees that we were able to set and maintain a splendid record as we did.

I wish to congratulate the society on their choice of officers for the ensuing year. I believe that with our cooperation they will be enabled to do even greater things for 1935 than we did in 1934.

REPORT--ON GROWTH OF SOCIETY

Number of active members January 1, 1934- - -	31
New members joining during 1934 - - - - -	<u>64</u>
Total membership	95
Percent gain in Membership during 1934	206%

CONGRATULATIONS

To Mrs. M. O. Kelly (She is the mother of Miss Flossie and Mr. C. M. Kelly) who celebrated her 92nd birthday on December 31, New Year's Eve.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions you want answered, bring them to the next meeting with you.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Vol. 2

February 1935

No. 2

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Sec'y  
2034 Florida Street  
Long Beach, Calif.

MEETING TIME AND PLACE

The second Thursday has been decided upon for Society meetings during the in-door months. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Logan, 146 Park Avenue, Long Beach, Thursday, February 14th at 7:30 P.M.

SPEAKER

Mr. Stanley Keane comes to us from the Howard & Smith Nurseries at Montebello. He is a nephew of Mr. Fred Howard, has traveled widely in Europe and made a study of Tuberous Begonias which will be his topic.

MINUTES

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith were hosts to about fifty members and friends of the Society at the January meeting.

New officers were inducted into service.

The new President, J. Paul Walker, was all wound up in a Hart, Schaffner and Marx Label and made several motions and suggestions for the benefit of the Society.

Mr. H. S. Norwood gave a very interesting and encouraging talk on "Entering Plants in the Flower Show".

Mr. Smith and Mr. Iantorno furnished several numbers of very enjoyable music. After which the delicious birthday cake and coffee were enjoyed by all.

We wish to extend our thanks and appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith, Mr. H. S. Norwood, Mr. Iantorno, Mrs. J. Paul Walker, and others who helped make the Birthday Party such a big success.

COMMITTEES FOR 1935

Program---Mrs. O. P. Palstine, Mrs. Tom Smith, Miss Eleanor Plaw.

Reception---H. C. Roque, Mrs. W. B. Davis.

Inquiry---M. B. Dunckle, Mrs. Congdon, Mrs. Ruth Cole.

Publicity---Mrs. H. F. Logan, Mrs. E. F. Dunn.

Membership---Mrs. Chas. Patterson, Long Beach; Mrs. T. S. Wessells, Bellflower;  
Mrs. S. G. Lippincott, Santa Ana; Mrs. C. A. Rodenburg, Santa Monica;  
Mr. H. B. Ford, Los Angeles.

Scrapbook---Mrs. Miller, Miller Begonia Gardens, Garden Grove; Mr. J. S. Williams, Long Beach; Mrs. C. A. Robinson, Los Angeles; Mrs. David Troth, Pacific Beach; Mr. Otto Blum, Santa Monica.

Municipal

Lath House---C. M. Kelly, Miss Laura Dodge, Mr. G. H. Muedell.

Committee to Audit

Treasurer's books---Mrs. H. D. Heinley, Mrs. H. P. Dyckman, Mr. F. H. Freeman.

Nominations for Board

of Managers---Mr. Roy Berry, Mr. C. M. Kelly.

FEBRUARY HINTS

Instead of repeating the excellent cultural notes and suggestions on Tuberous Begonias written by Mr. Norwood and Mr. Robinson in the February and March bulletins of last year, we are referring you to them at this time. Extra copies are available at five cents each.

Tuberous Begonias - Buy such tuberous bulbs as you desire before the nurseryman's stock is picked over. Inspect your own tubers to see if they are still sound. If tubers have started to sprout, place each one half down in leaf mold, with

## FEBRUARY HINTS - Tuberos Begonias (cont'd)

concave side up. They may be started directly in pots or first placed in flats and later transplanted to pots as the root system develops. Water sparingly until rooted, and keep in dense shade preferable. (Study bulletins 2 and 3 Volume 1.)

Fibrous Begonias - Prune off dead or objectionable wood in order to develop good looking plants. These plants will begin showing new growth soon.

Bedding Type - Cut these plants back now to within two or three inches of the ground before the new growth gets a start. The waste may be used for starting new plants.

Rex Begonias - Most are dormant at this time and little care is required outside of watering occasionally. The bad looking leaves may be used for cuttings if you have heat or a glass cover for your propagation bed. Otherwise it is best to forget propagation for awhile.

## AN APOLOGY AND CORRECTION

Miller's Begonia Gardens, address is West 17th St., Garden Grove.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Charles H. Riggs, 415 E. 23rd Street, Long Beach

Miss Phyllis Cole, 271 Kennebec Avenue, Long Beach

Mrs. M. G. McDonald, 1035 Somerset Avenue, Box #177, Bellflower

Mrs. W. M. Caseley, 702 F. & M. Bank Bldg., Long Beach

Mr. Joseph A. Hayden, R. F. D. #1, Box 216, Vista, Calif.

Vetterle & Reinelt, Capitola, Calif.

Mr. Hans Von Hofgaarden, 4015 E. 10th St., Long Beach.

## TIMELY PEST CONTROL SUGGESTIONS:

It is not too early to begin the fight against the horde of pests that may attack our begonias and companion plants the coming season. Begin now and catch 'em young. There are many effective insecticides on the market, developed by the manufacturers through much expensive experimentation.

Many pests winter in the soil in larva stage or in the eggs, and to destroy them as such; or as they come forth hungry it is recommended to dig into the soil of beds where plants are now growing; or are to be planted, or where pots containing plants are later to be sunk; one or both of the following insecticides:

(1) Naphthalene flakes, or a similar preparation called Vaporite. 1 pound to 50 sq. ft. of space dug in evenly 3 to 5 inches deep. Being volatile these substances act as fumigants and kill or repel slugs, snails, cut worms, mealy bugs, sow bugs. Works best when soil is warm. Must be repeated to be continuously effective.

(2) Metco Iron oxide. Spread handful to sq. ft. of surface. Kill by contact. When dug into the soil effective against pests in the soil, larva and eggs. When on the surface of soil and dry kills slugs and snails.

Plots so prepared and planted to ground covers such as Helxine, will be less likely to harbor slugs and sow bugs. Both of these materials so used, tend to lessen attack of nematodes. Either or both should be mixed with potting soil,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb. to wheelbarrow of soil.

SLUGS & SNAILS - When these pests become active use one of the several garden baits that are on the market. The government formula for making bait is: 16 lbs. bran, 1 lb. calcium arsenate and 2 cans of Karo syrup. Mix thoroughly. Scatter on ground around plants after a heavy sprinkling, just before dark. Repeat in week or 10 days. Bulletin #8, Vol. 1, gives a good formula also.

Lettuce leaves placed among plants will trap slugs and snails, which can thus be collected after dark, and destroyed.

SOW BUGS - A special poisoned bait is for sale. This is compound of paris green and sugar and is effective only if kept dry.

This formula can be used, 1 lb. wheat bran, 1 oz. paris green, mixed dry,

## TIMELY PEST CONTROL SUGGESTIONS

### SOW BUGS (cont'd)

moistened by using 2 tablespoonsful of molasses diluted in 1 pt. water. Sow bugs or pill bugs like snails and slugs are largely nocturnal by habit so place bait out at dark. These pests are often quite destructive to plants.

For CHEWING INSECTS as worms, caterpillars, and beetles, that eat holes in leaves, poison sprays are recommended. Some of these contain arsenates which leave a residue on the plants sprayed, somewhat disfiguring them, others containing as the toxic agent Derris or Pyrethrum do not, and will not burn even tender foliage. Being non-poisonous to humans they are recommended.

Hand picking of this class of insects is often the most effective means of control.

SUCKING INSECTS - For these, aphis, scale, mealy bug, thrip, use contact sprays. These contain oils, soaps, nicotine, pyrethrum.

Mr. Robinson recommends Volck with Black Leaf 40 added for mealy bug and red spider. Care should be taken not to use too strong for Rex Begonias.

Thrip may attack fuchsias during late summer or during dry weather, and are hard to eradicate. They dislike a moist atmosphere and may not bother within a lath house. Frequent spraying of the underside of leaves with a fine stream under considerable pressure from the garden hose with water will wash them off and is probably an effective method.

The hard shelled scales can be killed by such contact sprays only when young, before the protective shell develops.

ANTS - Protect and distribute these sucking insects for the "Honey-dew" they secrete. So ant control is the first step in the control of mealy bug, scale and aphis. Kill ants with poisoned syrup. Formula 1 teacup sugar, 1 pt. water, pinch of tartaric acid, boil 1/2 hour, cool. Dissolve in 1/2 pt. of syrup, 1/8 oz. arsenate of soda. Saturate bits of sponge and place in runways. Other kinds of ants are grease eaters and will not touch the sweetened poison. For them add the same poison to bacon fat.

### DUES AGAIN

March 31st has been set as the deadline for membership dues. Bulletins will not be sent after that date to those in arrears.

### ARTICLE

The following article was written for us by Mr. Frank Reinelt of the firm of Vetterle & Reinelt, with large hybridizing gardens at Capitola. After years of experimenting it has established an American strain of Begonias and now specializes in American grown seed. This firm has joined our Society and we appreciate the prompt response of Mr. Reinelt in sending us a membership ad and this very delightful article.

### BREEDING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

It is hardly two decades ago since tuberous begonias began to be grown commercially in the United States on a large scale. Following the embargo here and there, various growers began experimenting with bulb production until now the industry has reached a considerable scale especially on the Pacific Coast in a district between Santa Cruz and Watsonville with the center in Capitola.

Seed was imported from Europe, Belgium, Germany and later from England. Although Belgium and Germany produces a larger proportion of seed offered on the market in the U. S. it is England who sends us the quality. The English strain developed by Blackmore & Langdon is superior to any other European production and the higher price is fully justified for its quality.

Commercial breeding of Tuberous Begonias in the U. S. is still rather in its infancy, however progress is made very rapidly. With our enthusiasm and better

## BREEDING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (cont'd)

climatic conditions we are sure to catch up with Europe where breeding was done for generations or even supercede them as it has been done in Dahlias, Irises, Roses and many other lines in which America began taking interest.

At their high stage of improvement begonias today still have a great many faults in the eyes of a breeder or connoisseur who strives for perfection and can be corrected only by careful selection and breeding, form of flowers, vigor with strong stem and larger variety of color are the chief characters to be improved upon.

Form is very important in the types of Tuberous Begonias where not the multitude but the individual flower is admired. The so-called Camellia type often resembling more rose than camellia is my choice, and especially the few ones which are very deep with long center rather than the flat ones. This is the hardest to reproduce from seed and appears only occasionally in large plantings. A few breeds also came with beautifully waved edges which adds greatly to their beauty and is worth following. It will take a long time until we can reproduce them true from seed.

The Peony type is less attractive, as when fully open it loses its dignity and looks quite ragged. This is what we are trying to eliminate entirely. A few years ago a novelty came from Belgium called Rosebud. When in bud it justifies its name perfectly and is a sheer delight to look upon. When fully open it is less attractive losing its center almost entirely. Color range is yet limited to salmon, red and pink shades. It is a very tall grower making beautiful pot plants.

Fimbriata plena or double frilled often called carnation type is another beautiful form. The flowers are heavily doubled consisting of a large number of small petals fringed or frilled at the edges. Slight variation makes them resemble carnations, marigolds, scabiosas or even hollyhocks. The last form is less attractive and we eliminated it entirely. I don't think it desirable to name each little variation separately as a type, as one grower did in a recent show. It only confuses the public and is not worth segregating and breeding true separately. Variations of form are appearing constantly every year, can you imagine breeding each separately to the full range of color and offering perhaps 20 types 10 colors of each most of them resembling each other.

To my mind, refinement of the standard types is more important than developing new ones. In single begonias are only 3 distinct types. The plain single which leads everything else in size, the more popular frilled and the crested, sometimes a bit clumsy looking, but approaching the frilled in refinement.

The last group is Lloydii or Hanging type. Here form of flowers is overshadowed in importance by the hanging habit. Profusion of smaller flowers is preferable to a few larger ones. A few seedlings with tiny camellia flowers have appeared already, but the majority are still of all kinds of forms. More important is to develop perfectly weeping plants to justify the name hanging. To get color range into them it was necessary to breed in the large flowered varieties, but their strength should be now eliminated.

A recent introduction from Germany is a Narcissiflora or Daffodil flowered type. At its best it resembles somewhat a trumpet daffodil, very small percentage falls true from seed and the color range is limited to shades from yellow, through salmon, orange to scarlet. It is quite floriferous and makes a nice pot plant, but it will stand a lot of improvement.

Strong stem is of high importance in the large flowered types. How often you find a beautiful flower in every way, hanging down close to the ground where its beauty is quickly marred by watering. Almost every flower will actually bend down when fully open or when the plant is exhausted toward the end of the season, but in its young stage it should be carried erect. Alas not many of them do. 90% of otherwise perfect blooms will have to be eliminated just for that weakness.

Actually they will come with time, approach has been made already in some colors. Rose, Pink, Crimson rose have already good stems. One very strong stemmed crimson rose bred on white brought variation of huge flowers with very stiff stems crossed on crimson it produced still larger flowers with stems like walking sticks.

BREEDING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (cont'd)

Other crosses where one parent was weak-stemmed did not show so much improvement, however it is only a question of time when a sufficient number of strong-stemmed individuals in each color will be available for breeding. They are sure to come, perhaps next year, perhaps later.

In fimbriata type where the flowers are very heavy the stems were originally very weak. Interbreeding the strong-stemmed larger varieties eliminated it almost already, besides greatly enlarging their size.

ADVERTISING

We have had two responses this month from an advertising appeal sent to our commercial grower members. Let's show them that it "Pays to advertise".

ROSECROFT BEGONIA GARDENS, POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA

We have a very complete list of Tuberous Begonias in exceptionally fine quality. Doubles, Frilled and Lloydii in many colors.

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VETTERLE & REINELT, HYBRIDIZING GARDENS, CAPITOLA, CALIF.

We supply the largest assortment of Tuberous Begonias in a distinctive quality. Ask for a catalogue.

## AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Vol. 2

March 1935

Number 3

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida, Long Beach

### NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held at the home of Mr. W. Sherwood Bell, 3014 E. 2nd St., Long Beach, Thursday March 14, at 7:30 P.M.

### SECRETARIAL NOTES

February 14, Mr. & Mrs. H. F. Logan were hosts to about sixty members and friends of the American Begonia Society at the February meeting.

Mr. Stanley Keane of the Howard & Smith Nurseries, Montebello gave a most interesting and instructive talk on "Tuberous Begonias". I am sure the Society will look forward to hearing him again.

Mrs. C. A. Rodenburg was appointed editor of "Timely Hints".

Mr. H. P. Dyckeman was appointed chairman of "Cultural-Directions Committee".

The Society wishes to thank Mr. & Mrs. Logan and assistants for a most pleasant evening.

### NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. E. E. Hale                      444 Chantanqua Blvd., Pacific Palisades  
Dr. Stirling Pillsbury      924 Security Bldg., Long Beach, Calif.

### INVITATION CARDS

We are again enclosing an invitation. Please send it to someone who might become interested in our Society.

### MARCH HINTS -- By Charlotte A. Rodenburg

Many people have picked up the belief that to grow plants successfully, they must have the so-called "green fingers" or be born "Lucky" with plants. This idea is not correct. It is not a matter of "Luck", but one of love. Love enough for growing things that we never neglect giving them the small amount of care they need. Some few things that are absolutely essential for their happiness are good soil, water, shade and sunshine.

If you have not already gone over all plants to see if they need repotting, do so at once for with the warmer days and nights approaching, they will be getting ready with the new growth, but will not be able to make it very satisfactorily if crowded in too small a pot; and have used up all the food elements the soil contained. Remove the plants carefully from the pots. Support the growth by placing the growth between the index and second finger of the left hand. Strike the bottom of the pot. Then invert the pot knocking the rim against the bench. The ball of dirt and plant will come out in good condition. If it requires repotting it will show a close network of roots around the ball of dirt just inside of the pot. In most cases use a pot just one size larger. The hole in the bottom of the pot is for proper drainage. It should never be entirely closed. A piece of broken flower pot, not too flat may be used to place over the opening. It permits air to get into the roots, and also prevents the soil from washing out. Should the plant not need a larger pot often the pressing down of the top soil and the addition of a small amount of new soil to the top surface will improve the growth of the plant. Begonias grow their new roots above the old root system. The roots are many, small and fine and the addition of the soil to the top of the pot will take care of this new growth, and your plant will show market improvement.

A good potting soil is six parts leaf-mold, three of compost (or well rotted manure) one part sand, and a sprinkling of bone meal. When moved from the first pot

### MARCH HINTS (cont'd)

into the next size pot use a small amount of nitrophoska. This combination has been successfully used with Fibrous, Rex and Tuberous Begonias. No additional food being needed until the plants are ready for larger pots. Then they are given more of the same mixture.

The empty pots may be put to soak for sometime in water, and to make rather a tedious job much easier take a piece of gunny sack and a pan of rather coarse sand and proceed to scrub the pots. You will be surprised to see how easily all the green substance and dirt are removed from the pots. It is a good idea to soak new pots for some time in water before using.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS - We have much information of late on this variety. Some of it conflicting more or less. If you are getting good results from the method you are using continue following it for it is results we are working for.

FIBROUS BEGONIAS - This type is now making the new growth and as stated in the beginning of this article should have larger pots or some additional surface soil. Should the soil be lacking in food material, you may commence feeding in March and continue until October. Use the food material you have been in the habit of using if it has proved satisfactory. Cuttings and seeds of Fibrous may now be put in.

BEDDING TYPE - If they were cut back late in the fall they are now showing much new growth. Take off some of the tender new shoots to start new plants at this time. These new shoots make the best bushy plants. Often if you are in need of more plants sooner than you can root them, you may divide the original plant in many parts as most of the divisions already have good root systems. This type comes very easily from seed, so plant a seed pan this month and you will likely raise many good plants. All plants in the garden should be well mulched at this time.

REX BEGONIAS - The old leaves and cuttings of this type of Begonia may be put in from now on. As the warm weather approaches they will strike more readily. The earlier you get them in the larger and better plants you may be able to grow for the summer months when we like to have our lath houses looking their best.

### BEGONIAS IN HAWAII — by Mrs. Fannie Cheatham

Mrs. Fannie E. Cheatham who wrote us last year from her home in Hawaii is visiting in Southern California at this time and we hope she will be our Speaker at this coming meeting. We are sure Club members will enjoy what she has written us.

"I have been asked to write what I know about Begonias in Hawaii. There are a few well-known varieties that must have been introduced many, many years ago. In my thirty-six years of residing on the islands of Oahu and Kauai, the old gardens have always been full of huge bushes, in bloom all the year round, till we take them for granted and never pay much attention to their rank growth and beauty.

It was not until a trip to California several years ago, and after visiting real Begonia gardens that I became an enthusiast. Upon returning home I went out and really looked at the Begonias growing in my own yard.

There I found the *Ordorata Rosea* and *Odorata Alba*, enormous bushes as high as my head, covered with huge clusters of their pink and white flowers. I realized then, that in all my visits to gardens around Southern California I had never seen this variety with such large, clear green leaves, nor such large clusters of perfect flowers.

On the other hand, although my *Coralline Lucernes* were tall and healthy, I didn't think they were quite so full of bloom as some I had seen growing out-of-doors in San Diego.

My *DeLesseps* were very wonderful, huge perfect bushes, five and six feet high, with a spread of ten feet. These were covered with their deep green, silver-spotted, copper-backed leaves and pendant clusters of pale flowers.

To my thinking, one very common and hardy begonia, that we call *Rubra Coral*, is our most gorgeous variety. It sends up stalks to a height of ten feet, covered with long, pointed, light green leaves and masses of lovely hanging coral-colored flowers. These flowers hang on all the year round.

## BEGONIAS IN HAWAII (cont'd)

These varieties grow so readily from cuttings just stuck in the ground, in any kind of garden soil, that we consider no garden complete without them.

Then there is *Feastii*, *Bunchii* and *Mrs. Townsend*, which make a very rank growth, beautiful with their large, dark green leaves and red underneath. They start blooming at Christmas, sending up tall spikes of pink blossoms and continuing for a good four or five months. Of the thick-stemmed and procumbent type, we have quite a large number. In one beautiful garden just a few yards back from the beach, I have seen *Verschafeltii* and *Ricinifolia* growing in the sandy soil in clumps eight or more feet across, with literally hundreds of stalks of pink flowers, standing three feet tall. Here also were the *Semperflorens* growing to perfection, but we have only a few varieties compared with the great number I have seen here. We use them for garden borders and for tucking around the feet of tall-growing shrubs.

One of our easily grown and free-blooming varieties, is the *Diadema*, with its pointed silver-spotted leaves and large clusters of pale pink flowers. This is one type that will not drop its seed pods. In fact, very few of our begonias do drop their seed pods, they must be cut off to keep the plants from looking shaggy. I have been growing begonias at sea level and at one thousand feet elevation and while there seems to be no difference in their growth, the ones at the higher elevation take on more brilliant color.

In one old garden at about a thousand foot elevation, I found a row of *Odorata Alba* planted near some trees. The begonias had grown up in the trees to a height of twelve feet and from there hung in huge clusters like a vine. They were covered with lovely, white flowers filling the air with their dainty perfume.

I have only a few *Rex*, but they seem to be very easy to grow. I never give them any special care, they do equally well in a lath house or out in the open. I think the largest *Rex* I ever saw is growing at the Volcano Hotel on Hawaii, at four thousand foot elevation, and no doubt it is planted in lava soil.

Of the wild varieties, I only know of three. On Kauai, the most northern island of the group, we have a very lovely variety growing at thirty-five hundred foot elevation. During the months of February and March and April, the north side of the hills are covered with them. They grow in the leaf-mold under the trees and their tubers are mostly on top of the ground. The tubers are roundish and vary in size from a large walnut to a hen's egg. The pale green, very succulent stem grows up-right two feet or more in height. The leaves are large and quite hairy, somewhat resembling a pumpkin leaf. The flowers bloom on the very tip of the plant and although they resemble the *Scharffiana's*, they are much more delicate. There are three colors, bright pink, a very pale pink and pure white, all having very yellow stamens. I have never been able to find any seeds, and the tubers will not grow in our gardens at sea level.

On the island of Oahu, my brother, Mr. E. Earl Shelhamer of Pasadena, tells me it was his privilege once when up in the mountains, to see a forest of *Palmifolios* growing so thick and tall, he had to cut his way through them. The *Palmifolio* is one of our most common kinds and is called *Bride's Boquet*.

It is a rampant grower, reaching a height of eight to ten feet and blooms the year round. It is used a great deal as a background for our gardens. On the island of Hawaii it was my great pleasure to see the sweet little *Franconis* growing wild. Down at sea-level it was clinging to the roots of the old palm trees or growing up the date trees at the base of the leaves, and on the north side of mossy stone walls. Then again I found them growing just as well at a higher elevation, in disintegrated lava, along the edge of sugar cane fields.

In the city of Hilo, where it is colder in winter as snow covers the tops of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, I found one of the *Nelumbifolio* family growing to perfection. Huge clear green leaves with very tall stout stems of small, thick-petaled, waxy white flowers with clear yellow stamens, making the whole plant look so clean and healthy. It is used there for borders along the north side of buildings. It will not grow so well on Kauai.

No doubt there are many more varieties that one would find in the lovely

## BEGONIAS IN HAWAII (cont'd)

gardens of Honolulu. I have tried to tell of the growth and habits of our common kinds. I feel sure that most of the beautiful varieties I find in your hot or lath houses would do equally well with us in Hawaii."

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA

Blackmore & Langdon of Bath, England are the outstanding European growers of Tuberous Begonias. We think our Society is extremely fortunate in getting this personal experience over many years from Mr. C.F. Langdon, a member of this English firm.

"As this has been my main life's work, it should be easy for me to write an account of it; as a matter of fact it is bound to be short and "scrappy", to comply with the Secretary's limitation of 500 to 1000 words.

I congratulate you upon the formation of an American Begonia Society, and shall be much interested in it's welfare, and I wish it every possible success.

I notice that your Society deals with the Begonia in a comprehensive sense, in that you include all the different species. I shall, however, deal only with the Tuberous species, as it is this splendid type on which my chief energies have been spent.

I shall have to go back to the year 1886 to describe the material with which I began work. The Horticultural World was then just awakening to the great possibilities of the Tuberous Begonia as a greenhouse plant; wonderfully free-flowering, with a very varied habit of growth and bright clear colors - They were a great acquisition. Having been brought to Europe some twenty years previously, the six species, viz: - Davisii, Clarkii, Pearcii, Boliviensis, Veichii, and Rosaeflora, all from Bolivia and the Andes of Peru, were found to hybridize freely, and were taken up by various firms in England and on the Continent, the first being Messrs. Veitch, whose plant collectors brought home several of the species, and Mons. Lemoine of France. These were soon followed by others in England, France and Germany - Mons. Lemoine had the honor of raising the first double variety.

The varieties with which I commenced were not of course, very far removed in character from the species, even the Singles being more or less pendulous, and bearing flowers with long pointed petals, very decorative indeed, but the hybridizer of that day, having the florists' ideal always before them were not content until they had produced rounded petals, making up a completely spherical flower. To this was added the upright flower stems; so great a desideratum for decorative work. This was soon attained, so far as the Single varieties were concerned, but the Doubles, however, continued to be very pendulous, and their beauty could only be appreciated then on high shelves with the flowers hanging around the pots. In 1887 Messrs. Laing & Sons sent out their Jubilee Set of Novelties (this being the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee). They were 12 Double varieties comprising a full range of colors, and were a remarkable lot, and in subsequent years, proved very useful as parents.

I was in charge of a collection which included all the best from the various raisers. At this time, Messrs. Cannell of Swanley had taken up the work, and were sending out new varieties annually.

The Double varieties soon took first place in public favor, as the new ones possessed a very free-blooming habit, with beautifully rich and delicate coloring. The fact remained, however, that the flower stems being thin and weak, were a great defect, and I set to work to obtain plants with stout upright stems that would carry the flowers erect. This was a difficult task, and was bound to take a long time, as the best Double flowers were very heavy, much heavier in fact, than those of today, and the flower stems were very much too long. However, having the best varieties from the various raisers, French as well as English, progress was fairly rapid, and it was not many years before a Double Begonia with a stiff rigid stem was obtained. It was an achievement of which I was very proud at the time.

As habit of plant is such an important characteristic, I have always put this in the forefront as one of the first considerations in selecting new varieties.

## THE EVOLUTION OF THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA (cont'd)

In the year 1901 the firm of Blackmore & Langdon was founded, and made Begonias their chief specialty, and thus provided much more scope for my work, which was at the same time my hobby. Many thousand of seedlings were raised annually in all the different sections - large flowered Doubles, however, claimed my chief attention, as whilst being the most difficult to improve, they were found to be the most popular, and they continue to be so today. The highest ideals of quality of flower, shape, substance and habit of plant, I always kept before me in selecting plants from the great number grown, and also when making the hundreds of crosses every year. The object being, not to raise just masses of plants of good type for marketing, but to get one or two plants in each color better than existing varieties, these being afterwards propagated by cuttings and sold as named varieties. So progress kept up, varying in degree each year, sometimes a great move-on was made, and in other years not much improvement was apparent. In the aggregate, however, each decade saw an immense improvement in form, size, color, and habit of the general collection.

The Double Begonia, commencing first as a Double flower consisting of a mass of petals without any particular form, was made gradually to conform first to that of the Double Pelargonium, then the Gardenia, the Camellia, and finally the Rose, of course, with many modifications of each. The flowers of today are more like enormous roses than any other flower, though much larger, fuller and deeper, and more highly colored than any Rose, the later novelties attaining the diameter of 8 to 9 inches, and 5 to 6 inches in depth. These glorious flowers, carried on erect stems with varied but always beautiful foliage, are creations of indescribable beauty. It seems like a fairy story that such marvellous flowers should have evolved from the little single flowers, such as were the species introduced such a short period before. I do not suppose that anything comparable with it can be found in the history of Horticulture.

The Blackmore & Langdon collection now consists of 200 named Double varieties, also Singles of wonderful quality of flower, and often 8 inches in diameter. The beautiful Frilled Singles, very fascinating in their choice coloring, and the quaint Crested Singles, each flower depicting a true Maltese cross, with the raised crest on each petal. The Pendula varieties that are so decorative in effect, and are so different from all other varieties make visitors wonder if they are Begonias, and often call them Fuchsias. The number grown annually is now 250,000, in all types, and these are shipped as dry tubers to nearly all parts of the world. I can without boasting, claim that the B & L Begonias are now pre-eminent in all the qualities that go to make the Begonia one of the most glorious flowering plants of the age. They have been awarded Gold Medals by all the principal Horticultural Societies in Great Britain, including that most coveted honor, the Gold Medal of the Royal Horticultural Society - this they have gained on many occasions. The varieties raised by the firm have received many awards of Merit by the R.H.S. and as this is the Hall-Mark of quality on this side, stamps them as being of the highest standard.

It is a matter for regret that owing to the United States embargo on plants and roots, it is not possible to exchange freely the results obtained by hybridizers on either side of the Atlantic. The folly of this, however, will I believe, be soon recognized to the mutual benefit of all.

C. F. Langdon.

P.S. As I have overstepped your limit of space, I will, on a future occasion, send a few words on our method of propagation."

Have you a copy of our Green Begonia list and blue Supplement for 1935?  
They are yours for the asking if you can really use them.

ROSECROFT BEGONIA GARDENS

Alfred D. Robinson

\* \* \* \* \*

VETTERLE AND REINELT

Hybridizing Gardens

Capitola, Calif.

Because of the heavy bulletin for this month, we are unable to enclose the  
invitations. We will send them to you next month.

# AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Vol. 2

April 1935

Number 4

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida, Long Beach

## OUR APRIL MEETING

Mrs. Stella Ross, 1028 Ocean Front, Newport Beach, is opening her beautiful conservatory and lath house to the Begonia Society on Sunday, April 14, at 2:30 P.M. Members who have had the privilege of visiting this lovely place before know of its beauty and charm, and the many rare plants to be found there.

Those who have not seen them will be amply repaid for attending, we feel sure.

## MINUTES

Mr. W. Sherwood Bell, 3014 E. 2nd St., Long Beach, Calif., was host to the American Begonia Society on March 14, 1935.

Mrs. H. S. Upjohn gave a most interesting and inspiring talk on "Gardens She Had Seen in England". Her talk was illustrated with some very fine pictures which she had taken while abroad.

Mr. Bell undoubtedly has proven himself a very genial host, as there was an unusually large attendance, and the Society wishes to thank Mr. Bell for a most enjoyable evening.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. J. C. Jensen  
652 W. Duarte Rd.,  
Arcadia, Calif.

Mrs. F. V. Becker  
623 Sadler St.,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Miss Edna Ziesenhenn  
3100 Theresa Ave.,  
Long Beach, Calif.

Mr. F. M. Harrison  
4024 Hardy St.,  
Inglewood, Calif.

Mr. Hans Mechtold  
300 S. Roxbury,  
Beverly Hills, Calif.

Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenn  
1130 N. Milpas St.,  
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Lucile R. King  
844 So. Vincent,  
Covina, Calif.

Mr. J. N. Nutter  
1050 E. 19th St.,  
Long Beach, Calif.

Mrs. A. W. Tully  
2628 W. Ave. 35th,  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Mrs. E. Hartley  
4012 Hardy St.,  
Inglewood, Calif.

Mrs. Norman Lucas  
3856 Redondo Ave.,  
Hawthorne, Calif.

Mrs. B. B. Stakemiller  
543 Cedar Avenue,  
Long Beach, Calif.

Dr. George Harvey Walker  
905-906 Brockman Bldg.,  
Los Angeles, California

## A NOTE OF SYMPATHY

In the January issue we were happy to announce the ninety-second birthday anniversary of Mrs. Miriam O. Kelly.

It is with heavy hearts that in this bulletin we extend deepest sympathy to Miss Flossie and Mr. Clayton Kelly in the loss of their dear mother.

## BREEDING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (concluded) By Frank Reinelt

Color, finally, is the third character pending improvement and surely the most exciting one. The possibilities for variation in Tuberous Begonias are enormous. To comprehend this, one has only to look back on the few original species from which the color riot of today was derived. In camellia type, this being the most popular, the range of shades is the widest. White, all shades of pink and rose and some of the light reds are of very high standard already. On the other hand yellow, orange

## BREEDING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (cont'd)

and apricot, due to later development are much lower on the social ladder. Yellow, as in many other plants, seems to be the last to arrive and the clear, golden yellow Begonias with strong habits and a good form are still around the corner. To correct this a number of crosses were made, two of which particularly brought encouraging results.

The first, yellow crossed salmon gave some fine large yellow with strong constitution and good stem. They inherited the beautiful form from salmon along with texture, which gave them a very refined appearance. As a by-product from this cross a number of pastel shades came about bordering between chrome yellow and salmon, some almost reddish brown.

The second cross, a very large and strong American Beauty crossed yellow gave much undesirable variation due to the complicated parentage of American Beauty. Only one yellow seedling appeared, but it was a replica of American Beauty in size and strength. This was intercrossed the same season with the best seedling from yellow crossed salmon and if my guess is right will bring some extra good yellows for further breeding.

The apricots have not made much progress yet, as both parents orange and yellow being rather weak it is to be expected. The orange color of today contains too many shades of orange salmon and does not give a clear color when interbred. For example, in a batch of some fifty thousand seedlings grown from the best English seed, I have not been able to find more than fifty really true orange, all the rest were salmon-orange in a various degree.

Salmon will have to be eliminated out of it entirely before it can be used in producing the rich apricot shade. Perhaps now having a good yellow with red parentage will speed up the process.

Salmon shades are in a class by themselves. Intercrossed with other colors they give a bewildering range of beautiful soft shades very refined in appearance and although not true salmon anymore, they also cannot be classed in the principal colors. I started dividing them into light and dark shades but this did not prove satisfactory enough and I have now divided them into ten distinct shades adding to each group the name of the color they nearest resemble. For example, pink salmon, yellow salmon, red salmon, etc. As they have combined parentage (that means that one parent was not salmon) they will have to be further interbred within each shade for several generations to reach a standard of purity to some reasonable degree so they later can be introduced on the market.

Another promising group is the variegated class. So far only represented by the red and white marmorata which, at its best, is quite striking although small in flower and of not very good form. The variegated novelty called "Camellia" introduced from Belgium a few years ago had to be discontinued as the color was muddy and the marking mostly odd, rather than beautiful.

I am sure that there is a good possibility of getting warm, clear colors with sharp distinct markings around the edge along with form and size by combining the best of the marmorata class with the large camellia type. I made a few trial crosses last year to feel my way before embarking on the experiment in larger quantities and here is the result. As a pollen parent marmorata does not transfer its character to the progeny in the first generation, however, as a seed parent when crossed with large camellias it will occasionally bring a beautiful variegated flower. The picotee edge is not as sharply pronounced as in the original marmorata, but this can be further corrected by recrossing them back to the original parent. Even if this statement should not prove itself it will be worthwhile to make a larger quantity of such first generation crosses as the resulting seedlings are striking enough. The few selected last year were favored by almost every visitor.

I have often been asked by visitors whether there is a possibility of getting a blue Begonia, or still more often heard that somebody has one already. Even if there might be such a possibility I do not think it could be more beautiful than for example, the salmon group, which is my choice.

In a large planting there are bound to appear color mutations once in awhile

### BREEDING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (cont'd)

which cannot be produced artificially by breeding and are a matter of chance only.

I have been told that a real mutation comes approximately only once in 900,000. Whether this can be applied to Begonias I do not know, but if it does and as we grow over a million of them every year, I have a fair chance of getting one annually, provided that it will not be overlooked or proves to be a desirable one.

Recently new colors were produced artificially in many plants with X-ray, but this method is still in its infancy. Experiments show good progress only when dealt with species which are fixed, have no complicated parentage and where breaking up or rearranging of chromosomes through X-ray will often produce new species of different color or entirely different habit. With as highly hybridized stock as Tuberous Begonias where there are so many generations of complicated parentage the chance is almost nil. Selective breeding is more preferable and even with the ordinary breaks that we get, the game is never ending, but a very interesting one nevertheless.

### ITEM from Mr. Alfred Robinson

The origin of Coralline Lucerne has come to light. It is a cross between Teuschleri and Rubra and Rubra is another name for Corallina or Coccinea. So the right name of the old standby is Corallina de Lucerna, having originated at Lucerne in Switzerland.

President is a cross between Olbia (Luxuriant) and Rubra.

The above information comes out of a Catalog dated 1892, when both were put out as novelties.

### APRIL HINTS

The question was recently asked at one of our meetings: "What is the difference between a sour soil and an acid soil?" Begonias, like a number of other varieties of plants like an acid soil and this may be obtained by the addition of plenty of oak leaf-mold to the potting soil. This oak leaf-mold contains the tannic acid which the Begonia needs for its best welfare. Nothing injures a plant more quickly than standing continually in a saucer of water. This overdose of water sours the soil as it keeps the plant continually soggy and wet; allowing no air to get to the roots. A plant soil should be porous enough that the water drains from the pot in a comparatively short space of time, leaving the soil around the roots moist but not soggy.

Many failures with plants are caused by improper watering. One must learn the happy medium: not too much water and certainly not such a small amount that the top of the pot is barely sprinkled and the roots left dry. Not given an abundance today and left for a week with none at all. Saturate the soil thoroughly so that the soil is moist to the bottom of the pot and give it another watering before the soil is really dried out. Little water has a tendency to bring the root growth close to the surface, and being held so close to the surface they do not have access to the plant food contained in the soil in the bottom of the pot, and the plant is limited in its ability to grow.

Don't always judge that because we have had a good rain the night before, that all plants have had sufficient moisture. Oftentimes the leaves of the plants cover the pot in such a way, that not a drop of moisture reaches the pot, and the poor plant is left to suffer for those good drops of soft water that would have been a real treat for it. So even after a rain be sure to inspect your plants to see that they had their share of the moisture and also to see that the pots are draining well, that the soil may not become sour.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

A few warmer days and nights would help our Tuberous Begonias. Do not be in too big a hurry to get the tubers into the pots and be sure the pot is not too large. Bring them along slowly and as the root system develops and crowds the pot move to the next sized pot.

APRIL HINTS (cont'd)

FIBROUS BEGONIAS

April is a good month for starting cuttings. It seems that cuttings started in the natural growing season root better than any other, and make much finer plants in a shorter period of time.

BEDDING TYPE

If seeds were planted early in January the plants may now be ready to be picked out and re-flatted. A short finger nail file is good for pricking out the tiny plants.

REX BEGONIAS

The cuttings or leaves of the Rex Begonia may be started in either sand or leaf-mold. River sand rather sharp and gritty is the best. Leaf-mold is especially good because you need not hurry the new plants out of the propagating bed. They will grow on in the bed for months without being injured; whereas with the use of sand the cuttings must be potted as soon as well rooted, because the sand does not contain the food elements necessary for their continued growth. If the leaf-mold is used be sure it has been thoroughly mixed and moistened because leaf-mold does not absorb moisture readily when in a dry state. Some varieties of the Rex type make good strikes from old leaves, (not so old that they are yellow and lifeless) while other varieties come more readily from a new leaf.

MIRA MAR NURSERY, 5th & AMERICAN AVE.

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"Sincere Service Since 1906"

Everything to Beautify your Garden  
Complete assortment of Insecticides  
Potted Tuberous Begonias

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ROSECROFT BEGONIA GARDENS

POINT LOMA,

CALIFORNIA

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Vol. 2

May 1935

Number 5

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida, Long Beach

NEXT MEETING

The May meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. J. Paul Walker, 515 West 20th Street, Long Beach, Thursday, May 9th, at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Walker will give a demonstration on the propagation of different types of Begonias.

SPECIAL GUEST

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, our member from Massachusetts who is author of the book "Begonias and How to Grow Them", is in Los Angeles at this time. We are happy to announce that she will be present and will be the speaker of the evening.

MINUTES

More than one hundred members and friends of the Society journeyed to the home of Mrs. Stella Ross at Newport Beach on April 14th and again enjoyed her beautiful conservatory and lath house. Mrs. Ross told of the development of her garden and answered questions. It is truly inspiring to see so many rare and gorgeous plants. The Society wishes to thank Mrs. Ross for a most delightful afternoon.

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Alice Murphy	1224 E. Montecito St.,	Santa Barbara, California
Mrs. F. G. Schulze	Mission Park Drive,	Santa Barbara, California
Mr. Carl Fisher	1851 East 19th Street,	Long Beach, California
Mr. Stanley Keane	1200 Beverly Blvd.,	Montebello, California
Dr. C. A. Rice	604½ Main Street	Corona, California
Mrs. Anna Thody	2238 East 4th Street	Long Beach, California

SPECIAL BULLETIN

Tuberous Begonia Culture is the title of a separate bulletin just published by the Society and may be bought for ten cents a copy. This is the first of a series on Begonia culture. Fibrous and Rex will follow.

A REQUEST

Mrs. C. A. Rodenburg, who has given the Society so generously of her time and knowledge in her "Monthly Hints", is asking for questions or any constructive criticism in regard to her articles, that she may learn whether or not members are getting what they want to know.

Any suggestions sent to her or the Secretary will be appreciated.

MAY HINTS - by Charlotte A. Rodenburg

Plants, like people and animals, must breathe and their successful growth depends much upon the air they have to breathe. They need good fresh air as much as they need soil and water. One reason the lath house has proven so desirable for the growing of Begonias, is because in the lath house the plants get plenty of fresh air, and the lath permits only a filtered sun light to reach the plants. Should you be building a new lath house be sure to have your lath running north and south as nearly as possible, as this allows the light and shadow to strike all plants in the same manner during the day.

You have noticed perhaps how quickly at times, in a glass or cloth house the pots and soil become covered with a green substance. This green substance is caused from the lack of proper ventilation and not so much by the water. It is a good idea, if you have a glass or cloth house to give much consideration to the ventilation.

## MAY HINTS (cont'd)

In commercial greenhouses, proper ventilation is considered just as important as the soil and water. The purpose of ventilation, is merely to change the air in the house. This should be done with as little change in temperature as possible. Plants do not like a draft, so try not to let the cold air blow directly on the plants. Many people think the hotter the room in which plants are kept, the better growth they may expect from the plants. Many heating systems burn the moisture out of the air. Here in many parts of Southern California, we have the good fortune not to require a great deal of heat. The Begonias take their rest at the time when the temperatures are low, and are ready to make the new growth when the warmer days and nights come.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS - The past month, many anxious questions have been asked about the Tuberous Begonias. Should your tubers be slow in starting, there is no need for alarm. Most plants do best at a temperature at night between 50 and 60 degrees, and we have had most of our nights in the past month much lower in temperature than that. Be patient for a little time longer. They grow, once well started, much more quickly than other types of Begonias, so you may still expect good results.

FIBROUS BEGONIAS - The first rooted slips grown in cloth and glass covered frames are now in their first pots. The month of May should prove a good month for putting in many additional cuttings. Begonias are grown readily from seed, but growing plants from cuttings has two great advantages. It is quicker to grow them from cuttings, and they always come true, while from the seed you are likely to get some variation. Make your cuttings short, three or four inches long, cutting just below a joint with a sharp knife. Trim the cuttings by taking off the lower leaves entirely and cut back about half way the leaves at the top. Thus the little cuttings need not strive to take care of so much stem and leaf growth, but can get busy at once producing the new root system. Place the cuttings in clean rather coarse sand. A mixture of sand and peat moss is preferred by some. Leafmold is also very good and the plants can be left in it for a longer time. Once well rooted in the leafmold they will be more easily moved with much leafmold attached to the root system and thus are not disturbed in the least. Do not over water cuttings and use care in watering when placed in the pots.

BEDDING TYPE - The seedlings planted early in the season have been re-flatted and are making good growth. They will be ready soon to go out in the garden or into pots. Additional cuttings and seed may be planted now.

REX BEGONIAS - This type is showing improvement every day. The rest period is over and they should be showing much new growth. Keep on putting in your leaf cuttings, better results may now be expected.

"DIE BEGONIEN" - The Begonia Society recently purchased a copy of a new German book "Die Begonien", by Karl Albert Fotsch. Published by Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart, Germany.

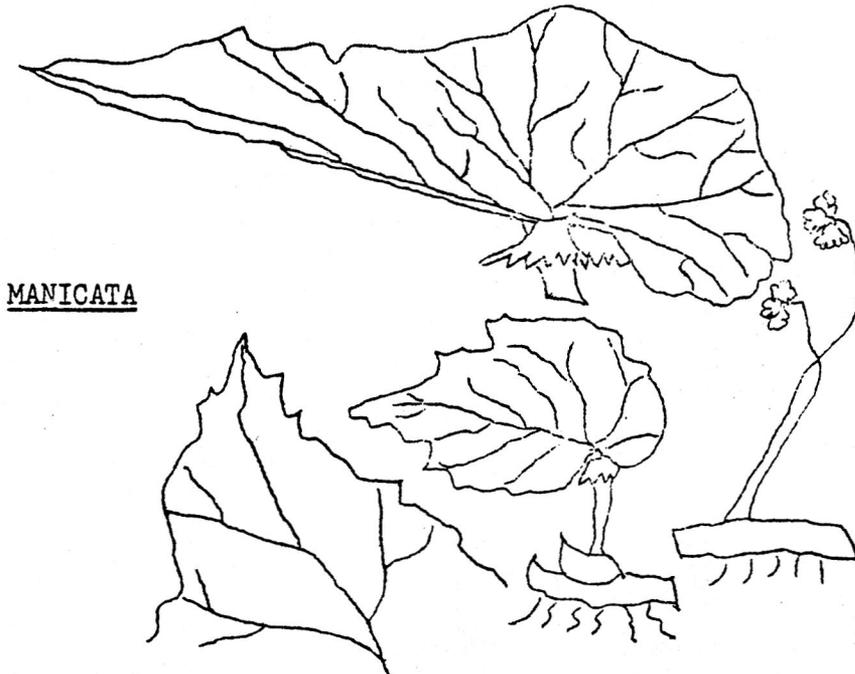
The author is Head Teacher in the Horticultural School and Women's Gardening Academy at Brienz. The book is a complete treatise on Begonias with chapters on the botany of the Begonia family, their classification, history, geographical distribution and introduction. There are descriptions of over one hundred varieties with discussions of their pests and diseases. We advise the purchase of this book by our German reading members.

That it may be available to most of us it must be translated. This, our fellow member, Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara, has very generously offered to do. Thus will he make it possible for us to derive much new and interesting information concerning Begonias. His interest and cooperation are greatly appreciated.

Herewith is appended the translated descriptions of two well known varieties. We solicit your comments so that it may be decided to what extent additional

extracts from this book shall be included in future bulletins. We hope in time to have the entire work translated into English and have it on file for the use of our members.

Page 48.



B. manicata, Brongn,  
(not Cels)

Grows bushy, erect, 30-60 cm. high. Plants have creeping, round, very fleshy rhizomes. The light-green leaf-stems rise 15-20 cm. high. The undersides of the leaves are covered with scale-like hairs which are denser on the edges so that the leaf has a cuff-like appearance. The scale-like hairs are reddish at the base of the leaves, changing to white at the end. The slanting heart-shaped leaves are bowed and toothed and slightly wavy, with a hairy rim; the top is bare, fresh-green, while the

underside is pale green with a reddish tinge, the higher ridged veins being covered with fringed hair. On the base of each leaf-stem is a small, elongated, transparent, light-green stipule, having very much fringed hair on the rim and being much broader at the base. Flower axis, 60 to 70 cm. long, with top-spreading fine limbed panicles and many small pink flowers. Male flowers are two-leaved, stamens having flat antlers. Female flowers have two small leaves, stigma small and short, once turned; ovary bare, three-winged, one wing being larger. All three blossoms are pink. Flowers from October to March.

Description is taken from plants in cultivation in the horticulture school at Brienz.

var. aureo maculata, hort. - A rare plant with yellow checkered leaves, very beautiful and peculiarly shaped, is good for growing in the hothouse. It was introduced from Lemoine, France in 1884.

B. manicata, Brongn, was introduced from Vera Cruz, Mexico, in 1837 or 38 by Linden and was distributed between various gardens and also to the firm of Cels Freres in Paris, as well as the "Jardin des Plantes" in Paris. Ad. Brongniart, who was the director of "Jardin des Plantes" at that time, soon learned the worth of the plant. Finally in 1839 (Page 49) he drew and described it under the name manicata. Somewhat later the firm Cels Freres sent a plant of this kind to Professor Visiani in Padua, which he in the summer of 1843 published under the name of manicata, hort. Cels.

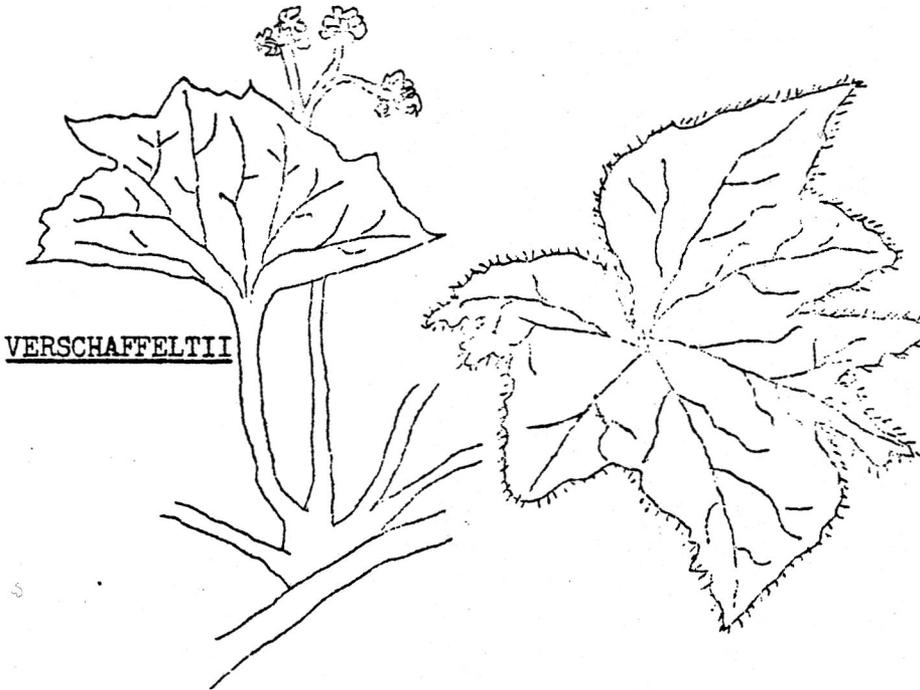
In cultivation it is best to handle this plant in a low vessel, so as to allow the creeping roots the necessary room.

Plants divided in January and March, if given good care, will produce specimens often having over 50 flowering panicles. By cutting the old plants back after blooming and transplanting it after its required rest period, *B. manicata* will last and can be cultivated and increased year after year. In general, however, one and

"DIE BEGONIEN" (cont'd)

two year old plants (Page 50) give a more luxurious appearance. Their increase is brought about through stem cuttings and leaf cuttings without particular trouble. When most of the male flowers have already fallen off, it is very hard to obtain seeds. Cultivated in small quantities commercially, this plant has a ready market. Not only is it suitable for house culture, but in a mature condition it makes a durable and rare cut flower.

Page 54.



B. Verschaffeltii, Regel

Grows erect and shrub-like up to one meter high. Stalk rhizome-like with very short internodes, dense with spreading, small green leaves which taper to a point. Leaf-stem 25 to 30 cm. long, somewhat thick, succulent, bare and green with reddish spots. Leaves are slanting, heart-shaped in form with five to six deep lobes. They are 14x16 cm., fleshy, thick, the whole upper side being covered with glossy bluish-green blotches.

On the veins on the under side and on the leaf edges appear reddish hairs which are also present on the most extreme end of the leaf-stem. Inflorescence, long, succulent, repeatedly forked and slightly drooping; numerous medium-sized white flowers in the spring.

Description taken from plants in cultivation at Mr. Beerhalder's in Bern.

Regel, the head gardener of the Botanical Gardens in Zurich in 1855, obtained this hybrid by crossing B. manicata, Brongn and carolinaefolia, Regel. It is still very much cultivated.

B. Verschaffeltii, Regel, has a very long life and lasts for years in the house. The plants lose their lower leaves in time, but this gives them their distinctive form. Young plants remain bushy the first two years. It is in no way hard to please and will always bring much pleasure.

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Don't forget that our advertising members should receive your patronage.

# AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Vol. 2

JUNE 1935

Number 6

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida, Long Beach

## JUNE MEETING

The next meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held Sunday afternoon June 9th at 2 o'clock at Miller's Begonia Gardens, West 17th Street, Garden Grove, where President J. Paul Walker will preside and Mr. T. S. Wessels garden, 838 Center Street, Bellflower, where Vice-President H. C. Rocque will preside. The plan is to divide the group by asking members and their friends to go first to the garden nearest their homes. After staying there as long as they wish, to go on to the other garden. The host at each place will be the only speaker.

## SECOND MEETING IN JUNE

Sunday afternoon, June 23rd, the Society will meet in the garden of Mrs. S. G. Lippencott, 630 North Parton Avenue, Santa Ana, at 2 o'clock.

From there the group will go to the Rinehart Begonia Gardens at 1415 East 1st Street, Santa Ana.

Both places are well worth seeing.

## MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

More than one hundred members and friends of the Society again enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. & Mrs. J. Paul Walker on May 9th. Mr. Walker's talk on propagation of different types of Begonias was interesting and instructive.

It was a real pleasure to have with us Mrs. H. H. Buxton of Peabody, Mass., and after hearing her tell how they raise Begonias in the East under difficult climatic conditions, we should be inspired to achieve greater success here where conditions are so favorable. The Society is very grateful for the many good thoughts brought out in her talk, and hope that she may be able to be with us again.

After refreshments were served by the committee there was a drawing of plants. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Walker for a very delightful evening.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Robert E. Ross	1028 Ocean Front	Newport Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Stella Ross	1028 Ocean Front	Newport Beach, Calif.
Mr. Geo. Shuburgh	1554 Pine Avenue	Long Beach, California
Mrs. H. L. Amsbury	1529 West Beverly Blvd.	Montebello, California
Howard & Smith Nurseries	1200 Beverly Blvd.	Montebello, California

## A SUGGESTION

Now that vacation time is approaching many of you will be planning motor trips about the state. We think it would be fine if you would jot down addresses of distant members and visit their gardens when in their vicinity. They will be found from Capitola to San Diego.

## CONGRATULATIONS

We are proud of our members Mr. & Mrs. E. P. McMillen of Catalina Island who won second prize in the recent Los Angeles Times Garden Contest. It must surely be a great satisfaction to have ones garden abilities so recognized.

## FLOWER SHOW

A number of our members arranged a very creditable exhibit of begonias and various other plants at the north Long Beach Women's Club Flower Show which was held at the Houghton Park Club House, May 18th and 19th.

## CONTRIBUTED

We are indebted to Miss Constance Bower, one of our commercial grower members from San Diego, for the following article.

### BEGONIA THRILLS OF 1916 by Constance D. Bower.

Some years ago, we had in our begonia family, at least two members I do not see nowadays. I write this with the hope that somewhere a stray plant still may be found to come forth and join hands with the many beautiful new and old varieties in begonia collections. Our introduction to Begonia Rajah (not Rex Rajah) and Begonia Glorie de Sceaux, was thus:

The firm of J. R---- advertised such plants for sale along with others, in their attractive general catalog. Prices were high, and shipping distance great, but we must have those begonias! So, several of us pooled funds and I sent forth the precious order. The plants duly arrived and much excitement prevailed, as they seemed to be entirely new to San Diego begoniasts, although some doubt was felt as to correctness of names, but, it is safe to say, that within a year, most of our new treasures had died from one cause or another. And the sad part was that we never again saw them offered for sale by that firm or any other. J. R---- was undoubtedly bothered much by our several inquiries and hardheartedly informed us that policies were changed and begonias did not enter into the plan. And that was that!

"Bailey's Cyclopedica" lists these begonias and illustrates them. To me, the leaf coloring in B. Rajah, was very beautiful, being mottled brown-red on yellow-green, with green ribs. The plant was not large, somewhat like B. Smaragdina but differing in texture of leaf, being thicker. The veins served as "shirring cords" and blocked off the leaves into small irregular color patches. B. Rajah did not bloom for us, but is listed as having small, pink flowers.

Begonia Glorie de Sceaux, as this firm listed their plant, was taller in growth perhaps equalling our "Leather Leaf" or Sanguinea. Leaves were thick and such a shining rich, dark red-brown color. Their size was about that of a teacup, although not really round. Flowers were rich rose-pink. This variety appeared to be a so-called winter bloomer.

We have often lamented the fact that these two begonias disappeared so suddenly and never again, to our knowledge, came to light in San Diego lath houses or green-houses.

Other begonias that interesting order contained, were about a dozen varieties of Rexes, among which was the dark hued one sometimes called "Midnight", in these parts, and the quite similar sort tamely called "Bower I", for lack of a true name. I believe both of these Rexes are now correctly named but what, I fail to recall.

Another rare traveler was Begonia "Manicata Aurea Cristata". And this one we did manage to save. The late Chauncey Vedder had great success with his plants of it, although legginess somewhat spoiled their appearance at times. My present plant came from his collection in the form of a cutting, given to me a few days before our dear old friend passed on. This cutting grew into a fine, large plant, but several times barely escaped loss by rot. At present time it is no beauty, but the hope prevails that the strength remains in it to again cheer our heart with its gaily blotched and crested leaves. A yearly lifting of the plant and pruning of roots has saved our Manicata Aurea Cristata. Leaves will root, of this begonia, but the living average of such is almost nil. I believe some aspersions have been cast at our old-time begonia's weak constitution, but, at least, it so far lives to crow over those other two "rare" begonias formerly treasured in San Diego collections!

### JUNE HINTS by Charlotte A. Rodenburg

The soil in which your potted plants grow must contain all the necessary food elements if you wish them to grow successfully. These elements must be ready for immediate use. If you have added some form of manure to your potting soil it will prove a great help. The amount you have used may not be enough. The addition of bone meal to the soil will help as it adds Phosphoric Acid and Potash to the Nitrogen which the manure contained. Bone meal is not immediately available as a food

### JUNE HINTS (cont'd)

but in the course of time it becomes so. The plants need all the three elements and the moment they become exhausted the plants' growth becomes retarded and after a time comes to a stop. Even though two of the elements may be present in the soil and one is lacking the plant cannot grow vigorously. Many firms put out plant foods which are good, and if you have used one that has brought results continue with its use. Some growers use Floranid which contains  $46\frac{1}{2}$  percent Nitrogen. It should never be put on a dry plant and only one level teaspoon to a gallon of water should be used. Fill the pots once and use every two weeks from about March to October. Nitrophoska contains 15 percent Nitrogen, 30 percent Phosphoric Acid and 15 percent Potash and is preferred by many.

The most active growing time for plants is in the spring. Then the new leaves, stem growth and new shoots are sent forth. This is the time when water and plant food are most needed. Then when the flowering time comes not so much water is needed but a greater amount of plant food. After the flowering and seeding is slowing up, water and feed less until the rest period, when no food is required and only sufficient moisture to keep the plant from drying out. Never get the idea that one big over-dose of food will be all that is necessary for a season. Make the feedings more often and less in amount.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Many of the Tuberous Begonias have made sufficient growth to be ready for a larger pot or they may be set out in the garden. Do not expect to plant them in the average garden soil and have them prove a success. The soil in the Begonia bed must be thoroughly loosened up. Should it be impossible for you to do this with your entire bed, dig your hole, considerable larger than the plant and fill in around it with the above mixture. Do not set the plants too deep. Plant in partially shaded locations. Most tuberous must be staked so it is best to do it in time to prevent any breakage. Do not feed the Tuberous until the buds commence to show.

### FIBROUS BEGONIAS

Some of the Fibrous Begonias may need to be again repotted at this time. Many types make a much more rapid growth than others and thus must be repotted much oftener. You can tell if this is needed by the vigorous top growth and the development of the root system but do not hurry them into larger pots until really necessary. Continue putting in cuttings of this group.

### BEDDING TYPE

More cuttings and seeds of this type may still be planted. They are so satisfactory as they grow so rapidly and give such a wealth of bloom. For borders they are unequalled.

### REX BEGONIAS

This type has shown a marked improvement the past month. Right now I would like to ask our Rex growers what has proven most satisfactory with them in combating the worms which spoil the looks of our leaves at this season? If any of them have a remedy to eliminate the earth worms which get into our pots and spoil the drainage we would like to have that also. It is said that they can be eliminated by the use of lime water but the lime would not be good for the Begonias. Have sprinkled the soil beneath the pots heavily with lime and washed it into the ground and believe it helps some.

### "Die Begonien"

We are printing another variety from Die Begonien by Karl Albert Fotsch. Published by Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart, Germany and Translated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara, California.

"Die Begonien" (cont'd)

Die Begonien - p 113.

B. Weltoniensis, Clarke.

Grows erect, half shrub-like, bushy and dense, 30 to 60 cm. high, with peculiar not true, tuber, but very similar to such, having a considerable swollen root, which is covered with small reddish eyes, from which are sent out many fine roots. The stalks are succulent, round, quite bare, not thick, somewhat glossy and purple-colored. The leaf stems are thin and juicy, 2 to 7 cm long (the lower longer, the upper shorter) with a distinct furrow, bare and of a lighter color than the stalks. Leaf, slanting, heart-shaped with (Page 114) distinctly pointed lobes, unevenly cut and toothed, very handsome, both sides bare, the top dark green with a metallic gloss, cut by fine red nerves, underside lighter green. Flower stems short; 8--15 flowers borne on the top of the stalk. Flowers are large, of a beautiful delicate pink. The male flowers have two large spreading external and two smaller inner leaves. Stamens very numerous, in a little head. The female flowers are five-leaved with three broad and two somewhat smaller leaves. Stigma, well developed, large, distinct and twice turned. Ovary large, oblong, bare, with two larger and one somewhat smaller wings which at the time of blooming are pink. The flowering time is from June to December.

Description of plants in cultivation in the Horticultural School in Brienz.

B. Weltoniensis, Clarke, was raised about 1864 by Major Clarke in Cambridge by crossing B. Dregei, Otto et Dietr. and B. Sutherlandii, Hook.

It is a good pot plant that one occasionally finds in a nursery and is a worthwhile plant that should be grown more. In the summer months until fall, when the quantity of blooming pot plants is limited, this plant is a welcome change. Important in the culture is that when the time arrives, one must not delay transplanting and should not get the soil too wet or too dry or it will rot.

B. Nitida, Druand. (nitidus - shiny) (Page 95)

Grows shrub or bush-like up to 1 m. high, richly branched out. Stem succulent, green to reddish-green, bare, leaf stem as long as the leaf. Leaves very unlike, slanting, heartshaped, pointed, about 6-10cm. edge crenate and wavy, upper side dark green, bare glossy, underside lighter green, spotted. Inflorescence, endstanding, few flowers; flowers large, pink, weakly fragrant. Male flowers four petaled. Female flowers less abundant, five petals; stigma twice turned, ovary about 2 cm. long. Blooms from Summer to Autumn. (Page 96) Described from plants in cultivation at Schlossgut, "Chartreuse" on the Thurner Lake.

It was sent to the Kew Gardens in 1777 from Jamaica. It is undoubtedly the oldest species in cultivation in Europe.

In the course of time in cultivation, more varieties were originated, most of which were lost again. The last recent really splendid variety was originated in 1928 by a nurseryman, Hugo Karlsons in Gamla, Upsald (Sweden) and is handled today under the name "Prince Eugen". It is covered with magnificent deep, salmon pink flowers, with an enormous blooming capacity, and juicy dark-green foliage. Besides, it blooms almost continuously throughout the year. It is an excellent commercial plant.

Cultivate in a warm house. By propagating by means of cuttings in March and April, one can have plants in full bloom by Christmas.

B. Sutherlandii, Hook Fil. Curt. Bot. Mag. Tab. 5689. (Page 118)

Plants with tubers. Grows erect, 30-40 cm. high, shrub-like; stem, bare, round, red and smooth. Leaf stem the same, about 4-6 cm. long. Leaf lanceolate, slanting, convex, curved toward the outside, cut into short lobes, saw-toothed; upper side fresh green, slightly glossy, with red veins; underside, pale green, both sides bare. Flower stems short, red, bare, smooth, five to 10 flowers. Flowers large, orange-red. Male flowers, four petaled; stamens formed in a little head. Female flowers, five-petaled, of which two are smaller and three broader; stigma wide,

"Die Begonien" (cont'd)

B. Sutherlandii (cont'd)

short, once turned; ovary large, bare, at blooming time green, with three, almost equal size large, bare wings. Blooming time, Summer, June to November. Described from plants in cultivation in the Horticultural School at Brienz.

It was found by Dr. Sutherland in Natal in 1865 and was sent to England. It bloomed the first time in the summer of 1867 at Messrs. Backhouse in York.

Culture the same as for all other tuberous begonias. This species is suitable for planting out in the open, in a half shady place, during the warmest months. Rarely now in culture.

Alfred D. Robinson      Rosecroft Begonia Gardens      Point Loma, California

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Vol. 2

July 1935

Number 7

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida, Long Beach

July Meeting

The next meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held at the beautiful Rosecroft Begonia Gardens, 530 Silvergate Avenue, Point Loma, San Diego, Sunday, July 14th. Take picnic lunch and plan to meet at the Robinson's at 11:30 A.M. We hope for a large attendance.

The Program Chairman, Mrs. Palstine, suggests that members making this a week-end trip plan to visit some of the gardens of our other members in the vicinity of San Diego or passed en route. She submits the following list:

Miss Bower, 2412 "L" Street, San Diego; Mrs. Decker, 4479 Mentone Avenue, Ocean Beach; Mrs. Fewkes, 4453 Montalvo Avenue, San Diego; J. A. Hayden, Vista, California, 2 miles north; Mrs. Sloan, Narcissus Avenue, Corona Del Mar; A. M. Thomas, Highland Drive, Carlsbad; David Troth, 5574 La Jolla Blvd., Pacific Beach.

SECOND MEETING IN JULY

A second meeting - Sunday the 28th - will be an afternoon spent visiting the smaller gardens of our Long Beach members. Starting from Tom Smith, 2601 E. Broadway, at 2 P.M. small groups will be directed to the gardens open for inspection.

Those Long Beach members who desire to open their gardens to visitors please communicate with Mrs. Palstine - Phone 419-47. DO NOT FAIL to do this. We need your cooperation to make this meeting a success.

NOTES ON JUNE MEETINGS

Five very charming gardens of the society members were visited in June by a large number of members and friends. We were received very graciously by the various hosts and we thank them all for their cordial hospitality.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Smith	4016 Hardy Street	Inglewood, Calif.
Mr. & Mrs. Cleveland Hayter	2914 East 6th St.,	Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Gruettner	905 Oak Street	Santa Ana, Calif.
Mrs. J. W. Smoot	1019 Lewis Avenue	Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. A. C. Larry	812 West 8th St.,	Corona, Calif.
Mrs. Alice Love	6665 Gardenia Ave.	Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. A. Whiteley	2554 Sale Place	Walnut Park, Calif.
Mrs. Alice Firth	6803 Plaska Ave.	Huntington Park, Calif.
Mrs. Helen Lewis	Box 95	Rivera, Calif.
Mr. F. W. McCrackin	397 - 18th St.,	San Bernardino, Calif.
Mr. & Mrs. C. L. Morris	Route 1, Box 52	Santa Ana, Calif.
Mr. Fred A. Stewart	2356 Eucalyptus Ave.	Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. Thomas E. Hough	236 N. Pickering Ave.	Whittier, Calif.
Mr. F. Nickel	2001 Golden Ave.	Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. J. M. Marlowe	801 Camino Real	Hermosa Beach, Calif.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE:

We are pleased to present the following article by Mr. Roy Berry, who has probably the largest collection of Rex Begonias in the world. In it he recounts the manner in which he developed his original strain of small leaved Rex. He very modestly passes over the necessity for exacting and painstaking work necessary to succeed in such hybridizing. What he has produced has been declared by authorities to be the greatest advance in Begonia culture in recent years. He is to be congratulated and commended for his efforts and his success. We hope others will be en-

## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (cont'd)

couraged, thereby, to do additional experimenting in this interesting field of work.

### HYBRIDIZING BEGONIAS by Roy Berry

I have been asked to write a short article on Rex Begonias, but being of a contrary nature I will instead try to tell you a little about the thing that puts the "Go" in Begonia, in other words cross pollenization.

There have at various times been articles telling how to plant seeds and how to raise the plants, but nothing on how to get the seeds.

There is a real interest and kick in watching your own seed grow into large plants and find that you have something worthwhile.

Most begonias must be hand pollenized to set seed. To pollenize most plants the pollen is transferred from the male or pollen bearing bloom with a camel hair brush, but with begonias it is much more simple.

First be sure that you use bloom that has pollen. Tap lightly on your nail and if pollen is in the bloom pinch off the bloom and use as a brush to dust the pollen into the female bloom which will be known by the three winged seed pod at the base of the petals. Let this pod dry on the plant and do not waste time planting seed from a pod which has fallen off because they will not be fertile.

About four years ago I got the idea that it would be well worthwhile to put a small colored leaf on a branching plant of tall growth.

Dregii (semi tuberous) was the answer as to small leaf and branching type, Rex naturally was to supply color.

I made the cross with Dregii as the seed parent. My hope of getting something different was realized, but instead of a tall branching type I got the exact opposite, a low growing, non branching plant and so far as I can discover it is the smallest, most compact begonia of the Rex type grown. A picture of the compact growth can be visualized when I tell you that a plant with 132 leaves in a 6 inch pot has a spread of only 10 inches and stands but 8 inches above the pot.

Another plant with 218 leaves in an 8 inch pot has a spread of 12 inches and stands but 8 inches above the pot.

It seems to be the rule that out of most plantings all plants will be close to the parent plants in shape of growing habit, but once in a blue moon one plant will show up that has something that sets it apart from the rest. That one plant is what we all strive for, "Something different."

The surprising thing about the Rex-Dregii cross is that I got about 15 plants with different colors and markings, from silver up through the pink to the deep plum of Lucy Closson and the brown-green of O'Diggins to the rich green of Emerald. The leaf is from Dregii as to size and shape, the color from the Rex, the root stock is rather semi tuberous as is Dregii and the leaf grows like Rex with the leaf stem direct from the root.

This may be the start of a direct connection between Rex and Tuberous whereby a worthy bloom may be put on the Rex.

Reversing the cross with Dregii as the pollen parent, may give us color on the tall branching type.

So far I have been unable to set seed on this cross.

### JULY HINTS by Charlotte A. Rodenburg

Throughout the year we can always find work to do in the garden, but during the Spring and Summer months, when our plants are putting forth their best efforts there is plenty of work for the ardent gardener. One of the first results to strive for in our gardens is neatness and order. No matter how beautiful our plants if things in general are in disorder the garden loses much of its beauty. In so far as possible see that all faded flowers and old foliage are removed from the plants. Never let your plants go to seed if you wish them to continue blooming over a long period. All the strength goes into the production of the seed pods so the plant cannot continue making new growth and producing blooms. If you desire the seed for further plantings, then do not remove all the seed pods but leave a sufficient

## JULY HINTS (cont'd)

number to ripen to perpetuate the types you wish. To save the seed always choose the seeds from strong plants and choose those from the best blooms. Heredity counts in plant life just as much as in the human family.

More frequent waterings may be necessary as the days grow warmer. Morning waterings are best at most times, but when we have a very hot day the plants will appreciate some water in the late afternoon. Don't be afraid of getting the moisture on the foliage. It removes the dust from the leaves and opens the pores. The plants breathe through the pores in their leaves, so when the leaves are washed clean these pores are opened so the plant receives more fresh air. The leaves have other duties to perform besides adding to the beauty of the plants, for the plants do not get all their food from the soil but much of the food comes to it from the air. From this air food starch is made by the action of the sunlight, so both roots and leaves are constantly busy making starch food for the plants.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

The Tuberous Begonias have been growing rapidly and making strong sturdy plants. The Lloydii type have already started blooming well, but this type always comes into bloom in advance of the other types. A good time to commence feeding is at this time when the blooms are showing, but do not over feed as excessive forcing shortens the life and strength of the tubers. Remove all the female blooms unless some are wanted for seed. They are the small single insignificant flowers and it is better to remove them and throw all the strength to the male flowers and the growth of your plants.

## FIBROUS BEGONIAS

This type also has made good growth and will soon be in full bloom. It is a good idea when you have bought a new plant to take the plant from the pot and examine the development of the root system. Many times they have already become root bound. During the growing season most of the nurserymen are so busy that they do not find the time to shift the plants as often as they might wish. You who have a smaller number of plants to look after upon the purchase of new plants make yourself acquainted with their condition. Start a few slips from these new kinds you have obtained. Many times these slips which you start under conditions in your locality will give you much better plants than the one bought from some other district where the growing conditions may be different.

## BEDDING TYPE

They are looking so well at this time with their clean shining leaves and their wealth of bloom. The small plants from the second planting of seed are now ready to come out of the seed pans.

## REX BEGONIAS

All plants have been gone over and the badly eaten leaves have been removed and are now in the propagating beds. From them we shall likely raise many fine plants to feed the worms another spring. We shall really be proud of our Rex Begonias now for some months to come. How rapidly the fine new growth comes on and what beautiful plants they make in a short time when the conditions are right.

# AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Vol. 2

August 1935

Number 8

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida, Long Beach

## AUGUST MEETING

The next meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held Sunday, August 11th, in the Santa Monica region. The first visit will be in the garden of Mrs. E. J. Cade, 247 Westgate Avenue, Brentwood Heights at 2 P.M. Route is out Wilshire Boulevard through Soldiers Home to car track - turn right onto San Vicente Boulevard to Westgate - then north. From the Cade home we will go about two miles south to Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Rodenburgs at 1111 Yale Avenue, which is north of Wilshire Boulevard and about twenty-nine blocks from the ocean. A cordial welcome awaits us in both gardens.

## SECOND MEETING

Sunday afternoon August 25th, the second meeting will take place with Montebello members. Mr. & Mrs. F. V. Becker of 623 Sadler Street will be hosts at 2 o'clock. Route - Atlantic Boulevard to Whittier Boulevard - East about seven blocks to Sadler - then north. From there we will go north to Beverly Boulevard and east to 1529, where we will find the H. L. Amsbury Begonia Gardens. The Howard and Smith Nurseries at 1200 Beverly Boulevard well known to us all, will be the last stop. We look forward to an afternoon full of interest.

## NOTES ON JULY MEETINGS

On July 14th about sixty members and friends of the society motored to San Diego and again were charmed by the beauty of the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens. Thanks to Mr. & Mrs. Robinson.

On July 28th about sixty members and friends enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Smith, Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Williams, Mr. & Mrs. Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ludwick, Mr. & Mrs. L. F. Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. H. P. Dyckman and Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Heinley. Those who did not make the tour of these gardens missed a real treat, as this was a most enjoyable afternoon. Thanks to the various hosts.

## NEW MEMBERS FOR AUGUST

Mr. Geo. C. Johnson	1012 Passons Boulevard	Rivera, California
Mrs. Alta Weatherby	474 Hullett Street	Long Beach, California
Mrs. I. S. Clark	3604 Lewis Avenue	Long Beach, California
Mrs. E. P. Saunders	R. F. D. No. 2, Box 280	Norwalk, California
Mrs. Glenn E. Collins	4116 East 6th Street	Long Beach, California

## CATALOGUES AVAILABLE

The Societies Library has been increased by the addition of several seed and plant catalogues, donated by Mr. Fred Riedman. They are from firms in India, Australia and Java dealing in orchids, ferns, lilies, etc. In one is offered the seed of a long list of hardy Himalayan Plants including two Begonias, B. Picta and B. Gemmipara. These catalogues will be of particular interest to those of our members who may be interested in orchids. They are on file with the Corresponding Secretary.

## A REMINDER

Now that your gardens are looking their best why not take some snap shots for the Society Album? We still lack garden pictures of many of our members.

## FALL FLOWER SHOW

Members we hope you are grooming your favorite plants to enter in the Begonia Society exhibit of the Long Beach Dahlia and Floral Society Show, September 6th and 7th.

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

One of our members, C. M. Kelly, has undertaken to contact begonia growers in some of the earth's far corners, hoping, thereby, to secure for our Society interesting information concerning varieties of Begonias we do not grow or of which we have no knowledge.

In other and warmer countries the species indigenous to that section, are no doubt used, these for garden beautification, together, possibly, with hybrids grown and known only locally. To learn of these and of the cultural methods used is the purpose of these letters of inquiry. We anticipate this will prove a pleasant and profitable undertaking.

The first reply to these appeals, follows in a letter from Miss Roxanna H. Oldroyd, a science teacher in a college at Lucknow, India.

"I am afraid that I do not know very much about the Begonias of India; there are not many growing in the hills of North India, where I have spent my summer vacations but I appealed to Miss Prem Singh, our Botany teacher, who spent two years in South India and she gave me the following on the Begonias in South India."

"The genus Begonia is very well represented in South India, where many species and varieties are cultivated for ornamental purposes. The plants are herbaceous with slender, succulent stems. They often reach a height of 3-4 feet. Leaves are of all sizes the largest being 5-7 inches across of *B. brandisiana*. The flowers are of different sizes and colors--white, various shades of pink. Some of the fruits have wings, but in *B. tuberosa* the capsule is without any angles on the wings. In some the wings are unequal, such as *B. hydrophila* or *B. floccifera*. The flowers are usually produced in abundance and a collection of these in a garden gives a beautiful effect. Sometimes as many as 300 or more flowers are found on the same plant.

They are mostly cultivated from bulbs or tubers. On the hills the plants are raised from seeds which are sprinkled on the surface of the soil and covered with paper. Begonias in South India do best in a compost composed of fibrous loam, coarse sand, very old and well rotted cow manure with a small proportion of coconut fibre and charcoal dust.

They are found growing in damp and moist places especially in the forests covering the slopes of the Western Ghats and Nilgiris."

"In Hooker's Flora of British India 65 species belonging to India are listed and described. In the hills in North India I have only found the two species *B. picta* and *B. amoena*--the latter is found also on the plains at the foot of the mountains.

Dr. T. B. Butcher of Mussoorie is a grower of Begonias as a hobby and in his collection are found a great variety of colors - most gorgeous ones and shapes and sizes. Perhaps he would tell you something about the growing of his plants. Mussoorie, India, will reach him. He is the only one I know who makes a hobby of this flower; I think your Society would find a congenial soul in him. He is a busy physician, but flower lovers feel such a kinship for each other that they are willing to take time to talk of their hobby.

## FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE (cont'd)

I am sorry that I cannot tell you more."

The varieties named in Miss Oldroyd's letter are not only unknown to us but with one or two exceptions are not described in any botanical work available. The two sorts mentioned as being native to Northern India - that is, in or near the Himalaya Mountains, are listed as tuberous and as coming from a section having a temperate climate - indicating a habitat at a considerable altitude.

Curtis' Botanical Magazine pictures and describes B.PICTA in detail. The name Picta means painted. This variety was introduced into Europe in 1818 from Nepal and was grown there for a time as a greenhouse plant. It seems to be quite unlike anything we have. The stem growing from a tuber is thick and carries dark, spotted leaves. The flowers are large and handsome, single and rather drooping, they are rose colored and very fragrant. The bloom appears in August.

A letter in the name of the American Begonia Society, together with a catalogue of Rosecroft Begonia Gardens, has been sent to Dr. Butcher in India asking him to tell us something of his experiences in begonia culture and suggesting an exchange of seeds.

We hope to report a favorable reply in due time.

### AUGUST HINTS by Charlotte A. Rodenburg

More frequent irrigations in our gardens and lath houses have been necessary the past few weeks because of the warmer days and nights. It will be better now to soak the ground more thoroughly, so that the roots of the plants may have plenty of moisture to take care of all the new stem and leaf growth they have been making. At this season to aid in conserving the moisture and to cut down on the water bills, nothing helps so much as a good mulch. Since the Begonia makes its new root system above the old it is necessary to constantly build up the soil around the plants. The mulch helps in building up the soil and as it decays adds a certain amount of food to the soil. It also conserves the moisture and keeps the roots cool. Peat moss, coarse leaf-mold or dried lawn clippings may be used for the mulch. Peat moss will likely hold more moisture than the other two, but lawn clippings have proved very satisfactory and are not an added expense. People frequently ask, "But what about the devil grass in the lawn clippings"? Once dried we have never had devil grass take hold again. Put the mulch on quite heavy and add another good layer before it has entirely decayed. The mulch eliminates the necessity for cultivation and keeps the weeds down. Around larger plants a basin may be left which draws the water away from the crown of the plant, and this basin may be filled with coarser material such as straw or rougher well rotted barnyard fertilizer. This coarser material will not decay as rapidly but will have to be added less often.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Watch your Tuberous Begonias to see that they have large pots. Even the small tubers will need to be shifted a number of times as the top and root system develops. The tops are easily broken off at the tuber so it is best to stake all plants in time to prevent this loss from breakage. It will help some to strengthen the plants if the tuber is set a little deeper each time it is re-potted and at the same time the addition of soil to the top surface will take care of the small roots working to the surface.

### FIBROUS BEGONIAS

Now is a good time to go over your Fibrous Begonias and prune slightly to shape your plants. If they want to grow too tall and straggly pinch out the tops so they will grow more bushy.

### BEDDING TYPE

It is well to remove the seed pods from this variety as well as from the other

AUGUST HINTS - Bedding Type (cont'd)

types. They are such heavy bloomers that they set an abundance of seed. Sometimes when you have many plants of this variety it is quite a task to keep them free of seed pods, but later we will cut this variety back rather severely in order to remove all seed pods and old growth and thus give them a fresh start.

REX BEGONIAS

If you are not successful in growing plants from your leaf cuttings and would like additional plants you may obtain them by dividing the plant you have if it has two or more crowns. This division can be made without injury to the plant.

A NEW DISEASE

We are in receipt of a letter from C. M. Tompkins, Plant Pathologist of Agricultural College, Berkeley, forwarded to us by Mr. Robinson, concerning a new begonia disease called "Spotted Wilt". This trouble seems to be largely confined to the tuberous sorts and to occur during cool weather. It is suggested that members be on the look out for symptoms of this disease. An offer is made to test such diseased plants in the greenhouses at Berkeley if forwarded there.

Photographs showing diseased leaves and flower petals are in the hands of the Corresponding Secretary. If interested ask to see them.

ADS

Mr. T. S. Wessels is offering Rex Begonia plants at special low prices on sale Sunday, August 4th, at 838 Center Boulevard, Bellflower, California.

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Rosecroft Begonia Gardens  
Point Loma  
Begonias and kindred plants  
at reasonable prices.  
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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Vol. 2

September 1935

Number 9

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida, Long Beach

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

The Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society have decided to dis-  
pense with the first meeting in September as the Annual Flower Show of the Long  
Beach Dahlia and Floral Society is to be held in the Municipal Auditorium, September  
6th & 7th.

They hope all members will be interested in visiting this show.

SECOND MEETING

Our postponed visit to the Howard & Smith Nurseries, at 1200 Beverly Blvd.,  
Montebello, will be made Sunday afternoon, September 29th, when their tuberous be-  
gonias will be at their best. That same afternoon we have been invited to see the  
garden of another member, Mrs. E. P. Saunders, whose home is near Norwalk. Direct-  
ions for reaching her place will be given at Howard & Smiths.

REPORT ON LAST MEETINGS

On August 11th a large group of members and friends, from San Bernardino to  
Ventura, spent a delightful afternoon visiting in the charming terraced garden of  
Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Cade, next in the beautiful lath garden of the W. H. Rodenburgs  
and last to the nursery of another commercial grower member, Mr. Fran Marrin, where  
we also saw exceptionally well grown plants. Mrs. Rodenburg added an extra interest  
at her place by giving four fine plants as door prizes.

August 25th three other members, Mr. & Mrs. F. V. Becker, Mr. & Mrs. H. L.  
Amsbury and Mr. & Mrs. Lewis, were hosts to the Society. Those who braved the heat  
of that day were well repaid by the cordial reception received in their lovely  
places.

THE COMING SHOW

We are very anxious to have a begonia exhibit at the Flower Show that will be a  
credit to our Society. We sincerely hope that all members who possibly can will  
help by entering one or more plants. We depend upon your cooperation to make it a  
success. Prizes are offered for individual exhibits as well as specimen plants.

Please phone our President, Mr. Walker, 646-143, after September 1st, and tell  
him what you can furnish.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Gerry Powers	535 West 88th Place	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Birdsall	685 East 42nd Street	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. & Mrs. B. I. Woodward	4419 So. Gramercy Pl.	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. & Mrs. H. L. Weitz	955 East Front Street	Ventura, California
Mr. & Mrs. Ed. Birdsall	2045 Florida Street	Long Beach, Calif.
Margaret Wharton	321 Atlantic Avenue	Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. B. C. Bulgrin	1732 Temple Avenue	Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. E. K. Burdick	6439 Orange Avenue	Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. Charles Baker	1711 Duarte Road	East San Gabriel, Calif.
Mrs. V. L. Schath	1105 Madison Avenue	Redwood City, Calif.

## CACTUS AND HOBBY SHOW EXHIBITORS

Several of our members gave considerable time and effort in exhibiting at two recent shows. Our good members Mr. & Mrs. O. P. Palstine placed many of their fine begonias and rare plants in the Cactus Society Show. Mr. Rinehart brought a good collection from Santa Ana and Mr. Dunkle entered a group of fuchsias.

Mr. Dyckman, called "Old Faithful" by one of our members, arranged a table of begonias in the name of the Society at the Hobby Show just closed. Mr. George Mendell has put large rex begonia plants in the office of the Mayor of the City of Long Beach and several other public offices to stimulate interest in the coming Flower Show. Their exhibits have all received very favorable comment from the public and we extend a vote of thanks to these members for their efforts.

## SEPTEMBER HINTS by Charlotte A. Rodenburg

Much of the soil in many localities is of such quality that it is almost impossible to grow plants successfully in it and it should not be used at all for potted plants. To improve such soil it is necessary to add quantities of humus matter to it. If one has plenty of money it is a very simple matter to supply many of the things necessary for the betterment of the soil; but when money is not so plentiful there is another way, namely the addition of composted material. Now that fall is at hand, when much trimming will soon be necessary, save every bit of garden refuse such as grass clippings, old leaves, faded flowers and the like and compost it in a pit or heap. Much vegetable waste from the kitchen may also be used and if manure of any kind is available it may also be added. Some of the material used may contain sufficient moisture to aid in the decaying process and little water will need to be added which might carry away some of the elements we wish to retain.

The ideal soil is made up of a combination of both mineral and organic matter. Humus is composed of organic matter and will make heavy soils loose and more easily worked. It will assist sandy soils by giving them more body and assists also to hold the moisture. When soil is worn out it is because it either requires plant food or organic matter. Plant food is more easily supplied than the organic matter. Somethings which we may buy to supply organic matter are manures of various kinds, peat and leaf-mold. Many seed concerns carry a prepared substance which may be added to the pit or heap. This substance will shorten the time needed for the process of decay and will also add other needed elements. The composted material will be ready to use in a few months. Even with the use of this substance the cost is negligible and the physical labor is not great and you are well repaid for your efforts because the results you obtain are so satisfactory. You will never be without a compost pit once you realize the value of it.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

The recent hot spell coming so suddenly after our cool days and nights caused some falling of the buds and flowers on plants of this variety. All fallen leaves, flowers and pieces of stems should be removed often from around the Tuberous plants in pots, for it is said that as they start to decay or mold this condition may attack the good stems and cause the loss of the entire plant.

## FIBROUS BEGONIAS

The Fibrous Begonias are making wonderful growth and many varieties are at the height of their blooming season. The hot weather seemed to act as a food tonic for them and much added growth is the result. Now would be the time to sit back and enjoy the plants in our gardens, but that cannot be for the watering process occupies all the spare moments. We do, in passing stop long enough to tell them how wonderful they are.

## SEPTEMBER HINTS (cont'd)

### BEDDING TYPE

Seeds of this type may be planted at this time. This is also a good time to plant seeds of many perennials and annuals. Some annuals such as cinerarias, primroses and pansies should be planted now. These varieties of plants work in so well with our Begonias, adding much color and beauty at a time when our Begonias are resting.

### REX BEGONIAS

Cuttings of the Rex Begonias may still be put in. This has been a good season for the rooting of all slips of this type. Larger plants have never seemed to grow better. Perhaps they too, have enjoyed the hot weather.

### "DIE BEGONIEN"

Mr. Ziesenhenne has translated the following excerpt from our German book, which deals with the history of the begonia.

KARL ALBERT FOTSCH, Die Begonien, 1933, Eugen Ulmer, Stuttgart, Germany.  
Price \$4.00 Translated by Rudolf Ziesenhenne.

(Page 187)

IX. The History of the Begonia. By Axel Lange, Copenhagen.

#### 1. The Discovery.

The study of any plant group shows little change down through the ages as compared to the existence of man. However, a study in systematic botanical and geographical surveys and from a cultural standpoint should prove interesting.

There has never been a comprehensive study of the history of the begonias. To prepare such a history has required a great deal of research in botanical and garden literature. Special acknowledgment is made to Zur Geschichte der Begonien (History of the Begonia) by L. Wittmack, 1884, which proved a rich source of material.

The book covers the history of the begonias from their discovery, introduction of species into Europe, their hybridization, and their use in gardens since olden times and in specific locations during the last 150 years, arranged in authentic chronological succession.

Although it is impossible in a few pages to give an exhaustive description, a good general outline of the development of the group has been arranged.--

In the year 1690 the botanist Franciscan friar, Charles Plumier, (1646-1704) made a scientific journey into the Antilles with the intention of collecting seeds of rare plants. Accompanying him was the Governor of Santo Domingo, patron of botany, Michel Begon. On this journey were found a few species of begonias, a group at that time still unknown to the botanist. Although the begonia genus with which we are acquainted today was spread in the old and new world, it remained for the European botanist to name a new-world species and lay the groundwork of this rich and worthy group.

In honor of his traveling companion, Governor Michel Begon, Plumier gave the newly discovered plant group the name, Begonia. It was not until 1700, however, that this name was finally settled through the publication by Pitton de Tournefort in Institutiones Rei Herbariae. (Page 188) The species found by Plumier appeared later in the work by Johannes Burmann, Plant. American., 1775, in which the plant was described and pictured on Tab. XLV.

Hans Sloane (1660-1753), a contemporary of Plumier, but without knowledge of his discovery, found in Jamaica a begonia which he named Aceris fructu herba anomala. This species was later named Begonia acutifolia and is now in commerce under the

"DIE BEGONIEN" (cont'd)

name B. acuminata, Druand.

An old document on begonias from America was discovered in the (p. 189) author's research, and on page 195 of this ancient work of Fr. Hernandez, Rerum Medicarum Novae Hispaniae Thesaurus, printed in 1649, a reproduction of a begonia with the Mexican name, Totoncaxoxo coyollin, was shown. Although we cannot say which species this reproduction represents, without a doubt the first discoverer of the genus Begonia in America was Fr. Hernandez.

SPEAKING OF RICINAFOLIAS

Mr. J. A. Hayden, our member at Vista, California submits this interesting item: "In a Chicago Park Conservatory the Begonia Ricinafolia, as we call it, is labeled 'Hybrid' - B. Jatrophaefolia X B. Heracleifolia." Checking with other lists we find several differences and so much confusion of names, that we report our findings here, to show the need of a nomenclature committee. Some attempt should be made to bring order out of the existing chaos. Ricinafolia (Ricinus or Castor-bean leaved) was introduced as a hybrid in 1822. Baily reports the parentage as Heracleifolia X Peponifolia which differs, as to one parent, from the report of Mr. Hayden. The German book, "Die Begonien", says the same as Bailey, adding that Peponifolia is the same as Macrophylla. Mr. Robinson's Catalogue lists Macrophylla as the same as Nelumbifolia.

To add to this duplication of names, Johnson's Dictionary says Nelumbifolia is a synonym for Hernandifolia, which is a synonym for Peltata, a syn. for Coriacea - Ho Hum!

So, while it is agreed that Heracleifolia is one parent of Ricinafolia, there is much confusion as to the other. One list seems to refer to Jatrophaefolia and Heracleifolia as names applied to the same variety, which would seem improbable if the two were crossed to create a new sort.

Then too, there are several Ricinafolias, crosses, sports or seedlings of the original. Fischer's Ricinafolia, Immense, Mrs. Mary Peace, Rubella and Sunderbruckii being some in local gardens. Ricinafolia gigantea odorata is another.

# AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

VOL. 2

OCTOBER 1935

Number 10

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida Street  
Long Beach, California

## OCTOBER MEETING

The first meeting of the fall and winter months of the American Begonia Society will be held Thursday evening October 10th, 1935. Mr. & Mrs. Tom Smith, 3601 East Broadway have again very generously opened their spacious home for this event. Mr. Smith will have charge of the musical program. Mr. Hans Von Hofgaarden will give us some high lights on an enjoyable summer vacation and we hope other members who have had similar outings will be prepared to do the same.

## LAST MEETING

The last of the delightful summer garden visitations was held September 29th. Some forty members and friends gathered at Howard and Smith's Nurseries in Montebello. From there they went to see the gardens of Mr. & Mrs. E. P. Saunders, near Norwalk, then to Mr. & Mrs. H. B. Fords and Mr. & Mrs. C. A. Robinsons in Los Angeles, all different and interesting places.

We believe that all members who went the garden rounds this summer will agree that the Society is greatly indebted to Mrs. Palstine and her Program Committee for this happy thought and to the members who opened their places for our inspection.

We regret that it has not been possible for our more distant members to be visited by the entire group. There are many gardens yet to see another summer.

## FLOWER SHOW REPORT

Since our last meeting the Annual Flower Show of the Long Beach Dahlia and Floral Society has been held. Our Society put in an excellent exhibit. Mr. & Mrs. O. P. Palstine took part of our space and made a very attractive and artistic display of Rex and rare Fibrous Begonias. Mr. C. M. Kelly exhibited some exceptionally well grown Tuberous Begonias, as well as many beautiful plants of Fibrous Begonias and Ferns. Mr. Roy Berry put in a large number of choice specimens of unusual Begonias. He also donated Rex Begonia plants as prizes for the Society exhibitors. The Dahlia Society furnished prizes too.

Other members who contributed their best plants were Mr. & Mrs. Heinley, Miss Dodge, Virginia Schuburgh, Mmes. Congdon, Cole, Collins, Logan & Jøssen, Dr. Schenck, Dr. Pillsbury, Messers. Nutter, Meudell & Williams.

The firm of Vetterle and Reinelt, a Society member from Capitola, was most generous in sending us ten dozen magnificent Tuberous Begonia blooms.

Mr. Fritz Nickel furnished the containers and Mr. Hans Von Hofgaarden the masses of Maiden Hair Ferns used for a background, thus adding greatly to their beauty. This made one of the outstanding exhibits of the show.

In the Commercial Class Mr. & Mrs. Rinehart of Santa Ana displayed very artistically a beautiful collection of Rex and rare Fibrous Begonias and Ferns and Mr. Dyckman showed some of his own Rex Begonia Seedlings.

Mr. Dunkle had a special exhibit of Fuchsias and Begonias and Dr. Pillsbury one of cut flowers.

Those who were in charge appreciate the cooperation of these members who made the Society exhibit possible and helped make the Show a success.

They take this opportunity of thanking each one.

### NEW MEMBERS

Mr. John M. Peddie	4725 Victoria Avenue	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. J. C. Warren	303 Carrol Park West	Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Meta Valby	109 Loreta Walk	Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. Howard Gray	Poly High School	Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. L. B. Clifton	1245 Poinsettia Ave.	Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. A. Garcia	914 Alamitos Avenue	Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Ida Westlund	947 Park Circle	Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. C. A. Tuttle	264 May Avenue	Monrovia, California
Mrs. Mary M. Hornung	141 May Avenue	Monrovia, California
Mrs. Inez Schrodtt	2436 Penmar Avenue	Venice, California
Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Hamilton	1684 Poli Street	Ventura, California
Mrs. Ella Wilcox Peabody	419 East 5th Street	Long Beach, Calif.

### ARTICLE

Those of you who attended the recent Flower Show and saw the gorgeous display of Tuberous Begonia Blooms sent to us from the Vetterle and Reinelt gardens at Capitola, will be especially interested in the following article.

#### A NEW METHOD OF GROWING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS by Frank Reinelt.

Some years ago I read an interesting article in "Readers Digest" on a new system of growing plants in the water artificially fed by chemicals. At the time it seemed rather unbelievable to me and I did not inquire about it until reminded by chance at a dinner table once when visiting Prof. S. B. Mitchell in Berkeley. We had some perfectly delicious carrots and celery produced under the new water system which were given to Mrs. Mitchell by Prof. W. F. Gericke who originated and is conducting the experiments at the University of California. Naturally I became again interested and was anxious to see the experiments, so we drove immediately after dinner to Prof. Gericke's garden.

Here on a fairly steep hillside were a series of water tanks about 3 feet wide, 12 feet long and 6 inches deep constructed like terraces.

Over the top of the tanks was stretched ordinary chicken wire covered with wood shavings to give the plants some hold and keep both roots of the plants and the water solution in the dark.

Almost every kind of vegetable and a great variety of flowers were represented, all more or less showing healthy, vigorous growth and abundance of flowers. Prof. Gericke was very kind to explain everything in detail and the experiment appealed to me so that I persuaded him to let me try it out on a larger scale with Tuberous Begonias.

For three years now we have been growing about one thousand plants annually under this system with excellent success. One hundred tanks were constructed each 10 feet long, 12 inches wide and 6 inches deep from redwood boards painted inside with Asphalt Emulsion to prevent them from leaking.

Over the top is stretched ordinary chicken wire covered with excelsior. Tubers started in ordinary peat in flats, when grown about 3-4 inches are transferred to the tanks, placed on excelsior and covered with peat to make the appearance of a solid bed and to keep the roots in the dark. Starting tubers separately in flats is preferable to planting immediately in the tanks, as when foliage is developed we can make more uniform planting by facing all plants one way.

After planting, tanks are filled with water until its level reaches the wire upon which the plants were placed. The peat will take up almost an inch of the water to become thoroughly saturated and the falling off of the water level will leave enough space between its surface and the wire to permit free circulation of air under the plants. This explains why the tubers will not rot although the peat is so wet that water can easily be squeezed out of it. If soil in pots should become so wet for only a few days the result would be fatal.

## A NEW METHOD OF GROWING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS (cont'd)

For three weeks after the planting no attention is required. Within that short time roots will spread through the peat and gradually reach the water seeking for food. This is now supplied to the water. It consists of a mixture of all necessary elements in the form of salt. It becomes quickly soluble and when water level again is raised to touch the peat it becomes saturated with the solution. It gives a startling effect, the plants develop quickly very vigorous growth with dark green foliage and grow rapidly on.

Soon wires have to be stretched for support as the growth is too rampant and they would break down with their own weight and the profusion of flowers they will produce.

Once in two or three weeks the solution has to be tested and water added if necessary, otherwise no attention is required. You can safely leave for your summer vacation without fear that your plants will dry up, even if you came home after a month they still would be perfectly safe. It should appeal to those gardeners who do not believe in hard work as it is primarily a labor saving device.

Plants grown in soil side by side for control, when properly grown and well fed will show almost as much vigor as the ones grown in the water, but later in the season will decline more rapidly.

The water grown ones continue bringing large blooms almost to the very end of the season, due to continuous, uniform food supply.

Last year, for example, one plant grown in the water from a two inch one year old tuber, produced a single stalk with heavy branching to the height of five feet and over seventy perfect flowers averaging seven inches in diameter.

Basket types from one year old tubers produce shoots almost six feet long blooming continuously until November when water supply was stopped and they were gradually dried up.

Increase in size of tubers was enormous, from two inch planted in the spring they grew from six to nine inches in diameter.

Out of a thousand tubers only two rotted out, all others were perfectly healthy and when grown this year in soil, gave very fine large specimens. No deficiency of any kind was marked, on the contrary in comparison with the controls grown in soil last year, they produced better and earlier growth.

Practical application of this method will be of great value to the growers of cut flowers and vegetables under glass and no doubt will supplant the using of soil, with its enormous waste of fertilizers and water, entirely.

For growing in the open the use of this method will be limited only to summer months and climates with very little rain fall. It will be a blessing to amateurs, gardening on those handkerchief areas, as they will be able to utilize any little space and chiefly it will solve their problems of what soil or fertilizer to use, or how much and when to water.

The method is still more or less in the experimental stage and will not be released to the public until further experiments on a larger scale and with a larger variety of plants has been completed.

### OCTOBER HINTS by Charlotte A. Rodenberg

#### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

The foliage of the Tuberous Begonias will likely commence to turn yellow during October. Water less often and in a short time cease the watering entirely. Turn the pots on the side and the tops will dry and fall off. Do not pull them off as you may injure the eyes for next years growth. They may be left in the pots and stored away in a dry place or after the soil has dried around the tuber in the pot it may be shaken off and stored in flats.

#### FIBROUS BEGONIAS

Nothing special needs to be done to this type during October, unless as the

OCTOBER HINTS (cont'd)

FIBROUS BEGONIAS (cont'd)

nights and days grow cooler less water will be needed.

BEDDING TYPE

Near the end of the month or first part of next month plants of this type grown in the garden may need to be cut back within a few inches of the ground. This removes all old shabby growth and numerous seed pods and the plants will start a new more bushy growth.

REX BEGONIAS

Many plants of this type will likely need re-potting. The cuttings put in two month ago are now ready for the first pots. They will have time to make some leaf growth before the winter months and should be strong enough by then to carry through the cooler months without going back.

BEGONIA SEED FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

A new undertaking of the Society is an effort to secure seed of native species of Begonias from the country of their habitat. Any member interested in this experiment is invited to participate and contribute one dollar (\$1.00) or more to a fund for the purpose.

The first lot of such seed has been received, three kinds from India. They are B. Josephii (tuberous), B. Jalapaher (Fibrous) and B. Rubro-venia (rhizomatous) all unknown to our gardens. They grow at altitudes of from 3000 to 6500 feet in the temperate zone of the Himalayan Mts. so they should thrive in our climate.

An order for seed of other kinds from a list of twenty varieties listed by a seed firm of Darjeeling has already been forwarded. A small quantity of the first consignment of seed is still on hand and will be distributed gratis, as long as it lasts to anyone interested. Whether or not these or other kinds to be received later will prove to have any horticultural value we do not know, but if you feel the urge to gamble, communicate with C. M. Kelly, 285 Park Avenue, Long Beach, Calif.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

VOL. 2

NOVEMBER 1935

Number 11

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida Street,  
Long Beach, California

NOVEMBER MEETING

Mrs. O. P. Palstine, the Program Chairman, submits the following announcement. The next meeting of the American Begonia Society will be held in the Social Hall of the Banning Park Clubhouse in Wilmington, (the Historic Banning Home).

Time: Saturday, November 16th, at 7:30 P.M.

Speaker: Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman, former President.

Topic: New Varieties and Hybrids.

A garden meeting not only in discussion and interest but also in clothes. Each member is requested and expected to come either in old-time costume or garden work clothes. The meeting place is particularly suited to a social evening. Not a dull moment between 7:30 and 11 P.M.

Forget your cares - - Come join in the fun.

Route North from Anaheim Street on Banning Boulevard to "M" Street. Will those who need transportation please communicate with Mrs. Palstine 419-47 or Mr. Walker 646-143.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

The first of the evening meetings was held October 10th. Sixty-four members and friends gathered at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Tom Smith, 3601 E. Broadway. The host led community singing just before business meeting began. Business meeting was opened and closed by the President J. Paul Walker, after which that interesting personality, Mr. Von Hofgaarden entertained us by telling about the wonderful trip he had taken this summer. There's just one thing sad about hearing Mr. Von Hofgaarden talk, and that's because you want to fill up the "Old gas buggy", and start right out, and you can't. A few other members spoke briefly of their trips. The hostess, assisted by the eats committee served cake and coffee. Thanks again to Mr. & Mrs. Smith.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. L. A. Lewis	735 Avalon Road	Whittier, California
Mrs. W. J. Lynch	1942 Oregon Avenue	Long Beach, California
Mrs. Esther Thompson	3826 Kenwood Avenue	Hawthorne, California
Mrs. E. J. Moses	115 N. Oak Street	Inglewood, California
Mr. Alfred Jaeger	Box 261	Coronado, California
Mr. Bob Usher	8119 Kirkwood Dr., Laurel Canyon,	Hollywood, California
Mr. Theodore Greenbaum	316 West Chew Street	Philadelphia, Olney, Pa.

AN APPRECIATION

The Society is greatly indebted to the firm of Vetterle and Reinelt for the excellent American Begonia Society Ad found in their 1936 Catalog. Inquiries have already been received from that publicity.

NOTICE

There are some members who joined the Society between January and September of this year who did not receive the back bulletins. The Secretary, if notified, will be glad to supply them. Write or phone 688-263

ATTENTION

NEXT MEETING SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 16th.

ARTICLE

We thank our San Bernardino member for this fern article.

## ALTERNATION OF GENERATION IN FERNS - by F. A. McCrackin.

For those interested in ferns the following information may be interesting and helpful.

Alternation of generation means that there are two types of generations in the fern life cycle. One generation, the one we are most accustomed to, is the sporophyte generation. This generation is asexual (without sex) and produces spores - brown dust-like powder - commonly spoken of as fern seed but is not a seed. The other generation, the gametophyte generation, while not producing the structure we generally speak of as the flower, does produce male and female sex organs.

Before going into detail in the discussion of these two generations it may be advisable to explain that the fern belongs to the plant order PTERIDOPHYTE. This order, with the order BRYOPHYTES or Mosses, is just above the lowest form of plants which do not produce flowers or seeds but reproduce entirely by simple cell division or by production of spores. Ferns might be called the connecting link between the lower plants which produce spores and the higher plants which produce seeds.

### THE SPOROPHYTE GENERATION

The sporophyte generation of the fern produces stems, or rhizomes, which grow underground horizontally. These stems continue to grow and branch until they cover considerable area. True roots grow from these stems. Just back of the terminal buds of these stems are the leaves or Fronds. They are the only part of the plant that appears above ground. In practically all ferns these leaves are compound, that is divided and, in many cases, redivided into leaflets. On the underside of the older leaves of most of the common ferns, there are brownish scale-like patches which develop as the season advances. These are known as fruit-dots or SORI. Each fruit-dot, if examined under the microscope, is found to consist of several smaller objects known as spore-cases or SPORANGIA. When these tiny spore-cases are ripe they snap open throwing out a brownish powder, each particle of which is called a spore. Each spore consists of a single cell, which has a thick wall to protect it from drying out, freezing, and other injuries.

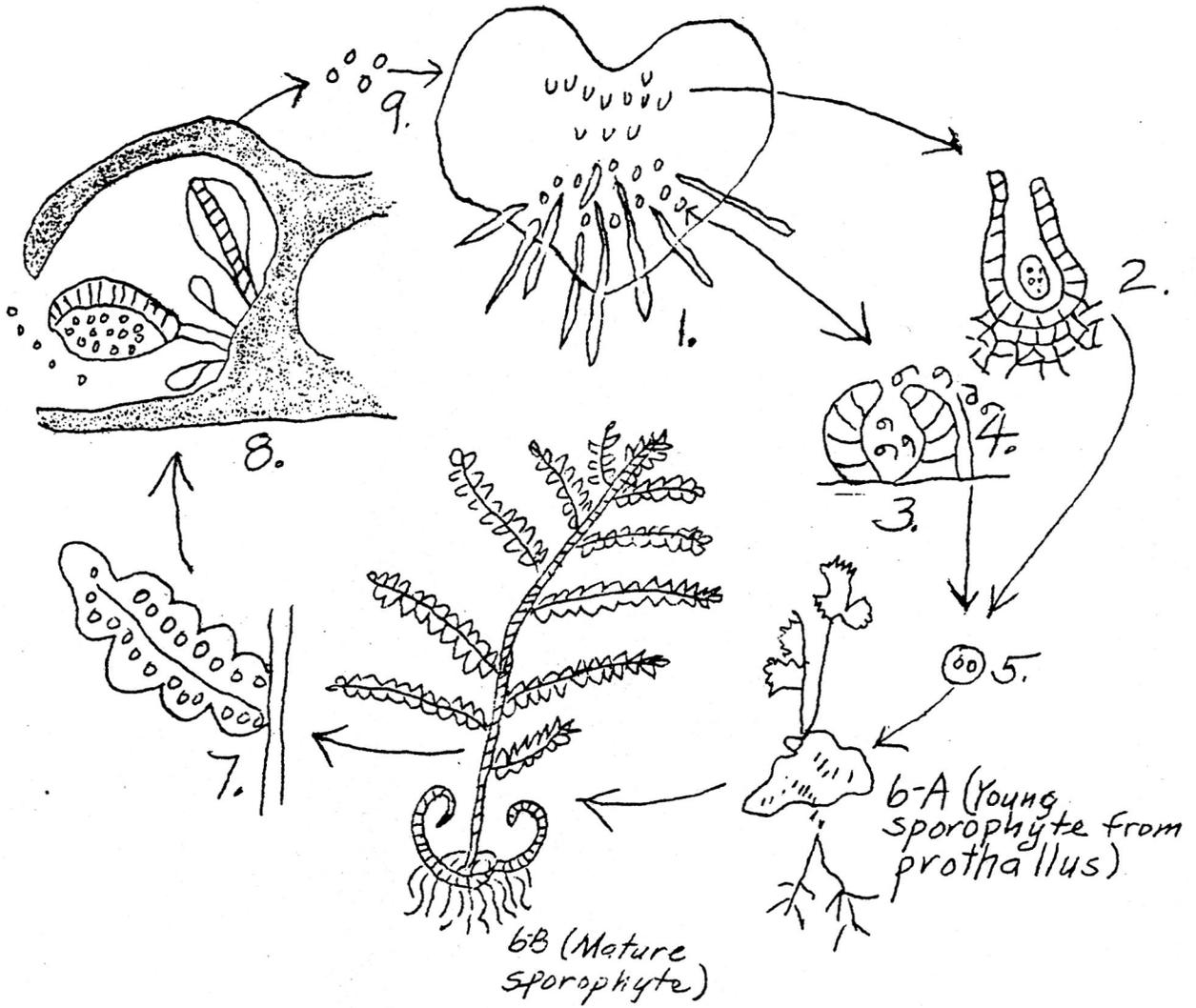
### THE GAMETOPHYTE GENERATION

When the spore falls or is put on damp soil the single cell divides to form two cells. By repeating this process of cell division and cell differentiation there is formed a tiny heart-shaped plant known as the PROTHALLUS which has no resemblance to the parent fern that produced the spore. This tiny prothallus is held tightly to the surface on which it grows and is supplied with water and mineral matter by means of tiny hair-like out-growths, called RHIZOIDS, growing from the central part underneath. These tiny plants are commonly seen growing on the ground or on the surface of pots in greenhouses.

On the under surface of each prothallus, in the region of the rhizoids, are small organs, known as antheridia, which produce large numbers of male, or sperm, cells (male gametes - hence the name, gametophyte, for this generation). These sperm cells when mature are set free in the moisture under the prothallus, and are capable of moving about in it. Also on the underside of the prothallus, toward the notch, are found tiny organs called archegonia, which produce female or egg cells (female gametes). When the sperm cell is liberated it swims about and may enter the archegonia and come in contact with and enter the egg cell. When this occurs fertilization takes place and the nucleus of the sperm unites with the nucleus of the egg cell. The fertilized egg cell now divides. This cell division continues until we have again produced a plant similar to the first plant that produced the spore, or the sporophyte generation.

New types of ferns develop during the gametophyte stage when the spores of two or more varieties of fern are mixed and sown very close together. The male gamete from one variety may then fertilize the female gamete from another variety. The resulting plants may vary considerably in appearance from either parent or may resemble either one of the parents or may have some characteristics of both parents.

LIFE CYCLE OF FERN



LIFE CYCLE OF FERN - These numbers apply to above sketch.

(1) Prothallus (Gametophyte) producing (2) ARCHEGONIA, egg producing organ, and (3) ANTHERIDIA, which produce the (4) sperm cells. The sperm cell swims about and unites with the egg cell to produce a fertilized egg, (5). From this fertilized egg the (6) SPOROPHYTE develops. On the leaflet (7) develop SORI (8). These sori produce spores (9) which, in turn produce the Prothallus (1).

(All drawings are greatly enlarged except (6) and (7).)

NOVEMBER HINTS by Charlotte A. Rodenburg

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

October and November ends the season for this type. They need at least three months rest before the starting time comes in February. If you have not already withheld the water and dried back all top growth, do so at once. In some localities the frost cuts back all top growth in the fall; but here in Southern California we have to force the tops to die back by withholding the water. Store the tubers in a cool dry place.

## NOVEMBER HINTS (cont'd)

### FIBROUS BEGONIAS

This is the time of the year when many varieties of this type want to rest. Water less often as the nights become cooler. Go over all plants and take off the old leaves being careful not to disturb the new growth, starting where the old leaf joins the stem growth. All feeding of such varieties as have had their blooming period should cease at this time. Many kinds such as Feastii, Bunchii, Spiral Feastii, Fisher's Ricinafolio, Verschaffelti, Templini, Manicata, and some few others are classed as winter or very early spring bloomers may continue to be fed until after their blooming period and then they should have a rest.

### BEDDING TYPE

Continue cutting back plants of the bedding types whether in pots or in the outside garden. If this is not done often when your plants are heavy with seed pods they will start to go back and finally die. Relieved of their burden of seed pods they at once start a new growth and your plants become strong and bushy.

### REX BEGONIAS

Go over all plants and if they are really in need of repotting give them a larger pot, but sometimes with the rainy season coming on and only lath for protection they may get too much moisture so it is just as well not to have the pot too large. If repotting is not necessary, press the soil down well on the surface and add some more soil to the tops to take care of the tiny new roots which have worked towards the surface. This will leave less room to hold moisture during heavy rains.

### WANTED

Mrs. Ludwick of 1342 Roycroft Avenue, Long Beach, California, has a small plant of an unusual Ricinafolia type which may be Fischers.

One of our members, whose name we do not recall, when calling at Mrs. Ludwick's garden on our Long Beach visiting day said she had a large plant of the same kind.

If this person will volunteer to donate a few cuttings to members of the Society or to some of our Commercial growers so that this unusual plant can become better distributed it will be appreciated.

DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING IS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16.

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

VOL. 2

DECEMBER 1935

Number 12

Mrs. J. S. Williams  
Corresponding Secretary  
2034 Florida Avenue  
Long Beach, California

DECEMBER MEETING

The next meeting of the Society will be held Thursday evening, December 12, 1935 in Community Hall, Southeast corner of Lime Avenue and 9th Street, Long Beach, California at 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Howard Norwood will talk on "Begonias and How to Grow Them".

The election of officers for the coming year will be held, also an exchange of plants is planned. Come and bring a plant. If you can't bring a plant come anyway. Refreshments will be served and a jolly evening assured.

SECRETARIAL NOTES

The November meeting was held in the Banning Park Clubhouse at Wilmington, November 16th with about eighty members and friends present. The Program Chairman planned a good social time as well as furthering the study of Begonias. Mr. Dyckman, the speaker illustrated his talk with many plants which were later drawn by lucky members.

The following report was given by the nominating committee:

President - Mr. M. B. Dunkle                      Vice Pres. - Mr. W. Sherwood Bell  
Sec. Treas. - Miss Edna Ziesenhenne            Cor. Sec'y. - Mr. Paul Walker  
Nominations from the floor were:  
Vice Pres. - Mr. F. J. Liedler                      Cor. Sec'y - Mr. C. M. Kelly

NEW MEMBERS

Through the interest and enthusiasm of Begonia lovers we feel that our Society has made a very gratifying increase in its membership the past year. We are happy to add another list of new members. We hope the bulletin is of sufficient interest to warrant continued membership as well as continued growth.

Mr. Newman H. Athoe	The Hotchkiss School	Lakeville, Conn.
Mr. Robert Hoefler	432 Collingwood St.	San Francisco, Calif.
Mr. L. F. Trumbull	101 Ramona Avenue	Piedmont, California
Mr. C. P. Finger	5927 McAndrew Drive	Oakland, California
Mr. H. C. Baake	2616 So. Santelle Blvd.	West Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. Bisbee	1728 Ralph Street	Rosemead, California
Mr. W. F. Boice	3 - 64th Place	Long Beach, California
Mrs. Stella L. Lombard	329 Argonne Avenue	Long Beach, California
Mr. Manfred Mayberg	241 Copa de Oro Road, Bel Air	Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Dudley Wadsworth		Westport, Conn.
Mrs. J. Bergues	114 Allendale Road	Saratoga, California
Mabel E. Anderson	313 Castor Street	San Francisco, Calif.

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

With this last issue of 1935 the editors wish to express deep appreciation to all those who have so kindly helped with bulletin material. Especially are we indebted to Mrs. C. A. Rodenburg for the hours she has taken from her busy life and the effort she has put into her cultural suggestions from month to month. Also to Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenne who has made so much of our German book "Die Begonien" available to our readers through his translations. We believe all members will join with us in this word of thanks.

## NOTICE

Through the solicitation of the American Begonia Society the Long Beach Public Library has just placed in the reference department of the Alamitos Branch Library, 1836 East Third Street, a copy of the latest edition of Bailey's Cyclopedia of Horticulture - in three volumes. This work is the American authority on all horticultural subjects. The article on Begonias has been re-written and includes descriptions of varieties not given in the former edition. It is probably the most comprehensive article yet published in America on Begonias. We hope all members will consult it frequently. The Society wishes to thank Miss Lena Tipton, Librarian at Alamitos Branch who secured it through her recommendation of its purchase.

## DECEMBER HINTS by Charlotte A. Rodenburg

Frequently the question is asked in a rather shocked voice, "Do you have to feed plants?" It seems much confusion and misunderstanding exists in the minds of many regarding the use of various fertilizers. Occasionally you are made to feel, that it is almost a disgrace to mention the fact that food is necessary in the successful growing of plants. Those who seem to know about a fertilizer most frequently mention the use of Blood Meal. Blood Meal is said to be rich in Nitrogen and is one of the best and safest means of applying this element, which is regarded as one of the most necessary to the soil, because it stimulates the growth of foliage and flowers. The nitrogen content is from 11 to 13%. Many use it very successfully with Begonias.

Bone Meal is said to be the only safe fertilizer to use on newly transplanted plants and this is because it is usually six weeks or more before the bone meal begins to dissolve in the soil. It contains 1% of nitrogen and 30% of phosphoric acid. Slow as it is, it is lasting in action, being an excellent addition to the soil of any garden for supplying as it does that amount of phosphoric acid. It promotes root growth and increases fruit and flowers. It is of real value in all Begonia potting soil.

Almost all plants that are said to thrive in the sun will be benefited by the use of a small amount of lime at least once a year. Not so those which prefer the shade as our Begonias. They object to the use of lime as they prefer an acid soil. Lime is not a fertilizer itself, but it does render available the potash and phosphoric acid contained in the soil, because it puts them in a usable form. Its use over a long period of time also loosens up heavy soils by breaking down the density of the soil particles and thus makes cultivation much easier. It aids in promoting the normal decay of organic matter in the soil. Lime kills many forms of insect pests which are in the soil and is one of our best helps in destroying mold or fungus. It is of value used in various ways in our lath houses but should be omitted from Begonia potting soil.

Nothing is equal to the liquid fertilizers for quick growth. These may be found in the market under various trade names and all contain the three most needed elements. They should always be used according to directions that come with the brand used. They have been used successfully with Begonias. Then too, we have the barnyard manures, not so heavy in the above elements but containing much humus which is a valuable addition to all soils. They may be added to our compost heap or pit and when well rotted are a valuable asset to our potting soil for Begonias.

We hear much also of the value of Peat Moss and there is no doubt it does much to improve the soil in our gardens. It loosens up heavy soils, absorbs much moisture and supplies much organic matter to the soil. It likely contains some plant food but not enough to assure plants enough food without the use of other fertilizers. Small amounts may be used in our mixture for seed planting and also in our potting soil for Begonias; but I do not think a large amount is good in potting soil for Begonias when they are grown in pots with only lath protection. During the winter months when our rains are heavy the Peat Moss in the pots may hold so much moisture that it might cause our plants to rot. Lately a substance called Black Peat is being used by many. It is humus formed from reeds, sedges and various water grasses. Much of it is said to be strongly alkaline and has decomposed to such an extent that

### DECEMBER HINTS (cont'd)

it really is injurious to growing things and may destroy some of your choice plants. So if you must use it try it on only a few plants at first until you have proven its value.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Now is a good time to commence to plan just what varieties of this type of Begonia, we wish to grow this coming year. Since all our members recently had the pleasure of receiving the good catalog from Vetterle and Reinelt; we should have no difficulty in making a wise choice. Perhaps many who failed in making a success with this type in the past will profit by the directions so well given for growing them and in the future will be able to grow them successfully. Get in orders early before stocks are low on the kinds you wish.

### FIBROUS BEGONIAS

The nights becoming suddenly much cooler after our hot, dry and windy spell of weather brought our plants to the dormant stage very suddenly. This always loosens the foliage, so many leaves were dropped. This should cause no alarm at this season of the year. Keep them a little on the dry side and do not try to force the growth.

### BEDDING TYPE

Spray young plants of this type occasionally for the next few months to prevent aphids from getting a start. Should the foliage show a tendency to curl always examine the leaves for this pest. Aphid seldom bothers the older plants of this type.

### REX BEGONIAS

Continue potting all young plants of the Rex family as soon as they are large enough. They will be developing the root system although the leaf growth slows up at this season of the year.

### IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST

Mr. Alfred D. Robinson, who has always so graciously come to our assistance with every request, has sent us the comparative descriptions of the following Begonias.

### FISCHER'S RICINAFOLIA

Fischer's Ricinafolia is not more than half the size of the regular Ricinafolia, with longer points on the leaf which is light green and the scattering short red hairs on its surface show up conspicuously. The whole leaf is definitely pointed. Whereas MARION has an irregular circular leaf with short points, the surface is smooth of a dark green with lighter green veins. There is a metallic quality to the leaf showing bronzy in the young state.

McBETHII - Also known as THE MAPLE LEAF, THE GRAPE LEAF and DEWDROP has a typical small maple leaf of dark green. Whereas RICHARDSONI has a very irregular maple leaf deeply serrated almost fern-like. Both are species from South Africa, semi-tuberous and otherwise similar in habit of growth and bloom, though RICHARDSONI is apt to be larger and more straggly while McBETHII is quite bushy and regular.



## WANTED BEGONIAS

When Mrs. H. H. Buxton, our member from Massachusetts, was with us in May she told us of some of the rare Begonias that had vanished from the commercial world. She sent us a list of these rare species, some of which we are printing in this issue.

## RARE BEGONIAS by Bessie Raymond Buxton

Between 1840 and 1860, when begonia growing was at its height, many beautiful species were introduced into Europe by English and French horticulturists. Some of these fine plants came to this country, and we enjoy them to this day, but the more delicate ones soon vanished from the commercial world. The begonia enthusiast, always searching for a new treasure, from time to time reports finding some rare beauty in an out-of-the-way corner. Mme. Fanny Giron, for instance, a French hybrid between *Begonia incarnata* and some tuberous variety, finally was found in a Wisconsin home. Another was found in a farmhouse in northern New Hampshire. It is quite possible that other lost treasures are still in existence somewhere, awaiting a discoverer. Rarely does the owner of these treasures know the correct name. It was grandmother's favorite plant, or one that a neighbor gave to mother. Perhaps it went across the plains in a covered wagon, like many another plant. The enthusiasm of the Begonia Society, plus the California climate, makes discovery in this state not only possible, but highly probable. Members of the Begonia Club which meets by means of a Round Robin letter, are already at work on this interesting hunt. This club was started in 1921, and has 24 members in 17 states, from Maine to California.

The following list and brief description of the missing plants will stimulate the search. Any one finding a plant which answers any of the descriptions should notify Mrs. Buxton of the Society. If stock is scarce, urge the owner of the plant to propagate, if possible. If the plant can be bought, it should be taken to a good grower, for propagation and distribution. A record of the time and place of discovery would be interesting, to show how far the plant has traveled.

### BEGONIA VENOSA

A tall growing species, with few branches. Stem stout, and quite sheathed with the light brown, papery leaf stipules. The leaves kidney shaped, very succulent and brittle, white frosted. Flowers small, white, on long peduncles. A native of Brazil. Difficult to propagate from cuttings, but grows well from seed. Where can it be obtained?

### BEGONIA SUBPELTATA NIGRICANS

In 1875 this was a distinct variety, but now has distinct allies in B. Mme. Lionnet, B. Mme. Hardy, and B. Pres. Boureville. (Has anyone a description of these French hybrids?) B. Subpeltata Nigricans is the best grower, but may not have the brightest leaves. It is well worth growing for foliage and flowers. Stems, upright light green with linear white streaks. Petioles (leaf stems) 6 inches long reddish, hairy. Leaves, when mature,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, of a gray metallic luster, shaded still darker, the veins and mid-ribs depressed, hairy, the hairs short and deflexed. The young leaves are a beautiful garnet-red, densely covered with red hairs. Margins of leaves undulate. Flowers, blush-pink,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter.

### BEGONIA BISMARCKII

A remarkably fine flowering plant. The beautiful dark rose color of the male flowers and the large handsome trusses of female flowers that follow them, the capsules the same color, last a long time. Blooms constantly from November to April, and can be had in flower at any season. The first few leaves on shoots from the root are silver spotted. Said to be a garden variety. Introduced in 1888. Stems upright, green, russety-brown when old. Petioles 3 inches long, reddish-green, smooth. Leaves,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, 9 inches long, dark satiny-green, with lighter

WANTED - RARE BEGONIAS (cont'd)

BEGONIA BISMARCKII (cont'd)

green midribs, smooth. Under surface, midribs and veins, light green and smooth. Peduncles  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches long. Flowers 2 inches in diameter, color a beautiful bright satin-rose, smooth. Wings of capsule equal.

BEGONIA INCARNATA SUPERBA

One of the best winter blooming varieties. After a lapse of 20 years another variety was sent from Europe, said to be a native of Mexico, under the name of Polyantha. So far, it is identical with the above, if the true Polyantha has been received here. An improvement of this variety has been produced by Mr. Chas. Sanders of Massachusetts. Plants from seed sown August 19 were in full bloom 13 months later. Stems upright and smooth, nodes, branches drooping. Petioles  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, smooth and slender. Leaves  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, 4 inches long, light or dark green with yellowish-green midribs and veins. Hairy. Under surface light green, smooth. Peduncles 2 inches long. Flowers  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter, deep rosy-pink in bud, lighter when fully open, smooth. A limited stock of the Sanders seedling exists in private greenhouses on the North Shore in Massachusetts.

BEGONIA ERTHROPHYLLA

A tall plant, with strong fleshy stems, soft-hairy. Leaves thick, kidney shape, long stalked, dark green and shiny above, red beneath, hairy. Flowers small, white. Color similar to Sanguinea, but quite hairy. One of the handsomest plants in the Kew (England) collection in 1930.

BEGONIA DECORA

A small compact species from Perak, 1892 allied to the Rex. Rhizome short, reddish green. Leaves 3-4 inches long, ovate, rich reddish-brown with prominent yellow-green veins, the whole plant velvety with thickset short hairs. Flowers pink, comparatively large for so small a plant. Seen at Kew, 1930. A delicate grower.

BEGONIA MODICA

A spreading dwarf plant with green, slender stems. Leaves peltate, 2-4 inches long, pale green, margins pink, undulate, margins and veins hairy. Petioles greenish-red, 3-5 inches long. Male flowers small, 2 petalled, orange-yellow, with red blotch at base of petal. Females same color, ovary  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch long, winged and hairy. From tropical Africa, 1908 therefore needs heat. Seen at Kew, 1930.

BEGONIA CINNABARINA

Tuberous rooted. Stems short, green zigzag, slightly downy. Leaves on short petioles, obliquely ovate, lobed and serrate. Peduncles 9-12 inches long, red. Flowers cinnabar red, 2 inches across. A species from Bolivia, introduced in 1849.

BEGONIA ENGLERI

A tall growing species, with few branches, from East tropical Africa. The stem red mottled and hairy, the leaves thin, flat, oblique, deeply serrate, light green, red ribbed, hairy. Free blooming, flowers pink.