

# THE BEGONIAN

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDEN

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Monthly Bulletin of the American Begonia Society

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APRIL



1939

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The Largest Selection of

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

VETTERLE & REINELT  
HYBRIDIZING GARDENS

Capitola, California

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## QUESTION BOX

**Question:** What kind of spray would you advise for a Fuchsia that has a white scale under the leaves?

**Answer:** Try a mixture of Volck and Black Leaf 40. Be sure to spray from the under side of the plant.

**Q:** What fertilizer do you advise other than cow manure for fuchsias?

**A:** Cow manure is usually mixed in the potting soil; but, when feeding a weak "tea" of commercial fertilizer is generally used in the proportions of a teaspoonful to a gallon of water, applied at frequent intervals during the growing season. Stop feeding during the cold weather.

**Q:** When Should Caladium bulbs be started, and in what kind of soil and at what temperature?

**A:** Caladium bulbs should be started in March in German peat moss preferably in a hot bed where the heat can be controlled at about 70 to 75 degrees temperature. (They may be started later, when the ground warms up outside, out of doors.) When they are about 4 or 5 inches high, transfer to pots that will just hold the roots, they like to be pot-bound. The soil mixture should be of equal parts leaf-mold, sand, peat and well rotted cow manure. There are two kinds of caladiums, the bright colored leaves that are opaque and will stand quite a bit of light and heat; these can be put in the brighter and warmer part of the glass-house. The other kind has a parchment-like leaf, and should be put in a cooler and darker location than the first. Caladiums should not be kept too wet, just moist. When the bulbs have become dormant in the winter, they should not be removed from the pots, but should be kept moist enough that they do not dry out completely at any time, this will prevent rot when the bulbs are started in the spring. As Caladiums come from the "tierra Caliente" or hot lands of the east coast of Mexico, we simulate that condition as much as possible.

Last month someone asked for a durable whitewash for glass. This formula was handed to the Question Box Editor at the last meeting:

Durable White Wash for Glass—

5 lbs. salt

6 gals. water, hot and use this to slack fresh lime.

30 lbs. lime. While lime is still hot, stir in 4 lbs. grease or heavy oil, add water to make consistency desired. For spray gun, strain through burlap or fine wire screen.

—Mrs. Joe Gray.

## THE SHELTERED GARDEN

By M. B. Dunkle

The idea of a garden as an enclosed space has come down to us from antiquity. The ancient statement "Dividing the sown from the unsown," has reference to the gardens of the ancients who invariably enclosed their garden with a wall. Not only is this true of the Greeks, the Romans, and the Hebrews, but it was especially true of the Aztecs. Quoting from that excellent book, "Mexican Plants for American Gardens," by Cecile Hulse, "**Xochitl** is the word for flower. The gardens of the ruling class were known as **xochitecpancalli**, or the 'enclosed palace of flowers.' A walled or enclosed garden was **xochitepanyo**, while the small garden of the Indian was, and still is, **xochichinamcalli**, meaning 'place of flowers enclosed by a cane or reed hedge.'"

Probably the first need for enclosure came from the necessity of protection from animals, but the enclosing of a garden gives it an atmosphere of quiet privacy that quickly became an end in itself. While the enclosing of a garden, even today, does keep out the wandering dogs, cats, or chickens, and even more keeps out the harsh winds, the enclosing wall, hedge, or fence, if properly constructed, frames the garden and gives it an air of individuality.

Now we are going even further. Man now well controls the climate in his dwelling, and it is but a step further to at least partially control the climate in his garden. So the use of overhead glass, cloth, lath, or other material does more effectively keep out the wind, the hot sun, and even the rain or snow. This also tends to make the garden more useable, extends the area of living into the garden. The "Outdoor Living Room" represents a desirable step in this direction.

With the subduing of the sun, there has arisen the necessity of finding new flowers and plants that will flourish better under the new conditions. Fortunately, the partial climatic control that the enclosed garden gives affords conditions that will permit the growing of many desirable exotics from warmer climates, as well as shade-loving plants from our woodlands. Here was the great opening for the widespread culture of begonias, fuchsias, ferns, and dozens of other semi-tropical plants.

Begonias, for example, have long been used as house plants in the United States. Many of the more desirable varieties of begonias do not easily adapt themselves

to conditions in the average modern living room. When the enclosed garden offered more control of weather conditions, new possibilities have opened up. Rex, tuberous and fibrous begonias all thrive in the sheltered garden, and now we are beginning to bring in the winter-flowering hybrids of *Socotrana*.

Our small city lots do not lend themselves to extensive gardens. An enclosed sheltered garden can be small, and in even the smallest space, the improved growing conditions make possible a wealth of foliage and flower. It is not the size of your garden, but what you do with it, that marks a successful sheltered gardener.

Effective rock work, small pools, niched or hollow walls, and many other bits of cunning garden manipulation add individuality and charm to what might otherwise be a most prosaic setting. Nor need these items incur much expense, rocks can be picked up on country excursions, or broken masonry or pavement blocks can be substituted with fair effect.

The average gardener is, or should be, handy with many tools, and this is necessary, if he plans to do much of the work himself. Otherwise there will be jobs for the plumber, the electrician, the mason, the carpenter, the painter, and what not. Even if most of the work is hired, there are a hundred and one little details that the good gardener will want to do himself. Don't think that a sheltered garden is necessarily as complicated as indicated by the first part of this paragraph, the best gardens are often the simplest, and it is not the knick-knacks but the plants that make the garden. Your winter climate or the kind of plants you wish to grow will determine the particular form of enclosed garden you want. A glass-enclosed porch in the north, or a simple lath or cloth house in the south give the nucleus about which to expand in the summer.

## BEGONIA HINTS FOR APRIL

By J. P. Walker

Have you reconditioned the potted begonias? Bad leaves should all be removed and repotted, or good soil added.

Ground plants need a good mulching with leaf mold, or acid acting soil with plenty of plant food.

Do you want tuberous bulbs or plants? Local nurseries have them.

Do you want tuberous plants in bloom? This is one sure way of getting the color

[Continued on page 11]

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## EASTERN SECTION

Earle A. Sampson, Eastern Editor

**"Begonias try to be our masters—  
fool them—be theirs."**

As the months roll by, and spring comes nearer to hand, doesn't it make you feel more and more like getting out and obtaining more and more plants to work with? It certainly does me.

Mrs. Sampson and myself visited a friend's home a short time ago and stood there marvelling at a Medora which was four feet tall with leaves all the way up the stalk, also the plant was very bushy. Certainly, to me it was a marvelous sight.

I have asked this man to have a picture taken of this specimen; also to write an article on his trials of begonia culture.

The community group is going to meet at this same home March 11th, and I know we will have a fine time.

Personally, my Begonias in general are beginning to look much better after going through the hurricane which we Easterners experienced here last September. Also, in moving from my former home in Medford, the plants took considerable abuse due to the fact that my greenhouse was not completed at the time we moved.

In the greenhouse, as we call it—which, by the way, is only 14 feet by 7 feet—there are about fifty orchid plants as well as the eighty odd different kinds of Begonias.

Mrs. Sampson is really the "Boss" caretaker of the range as my business keeps me away from home all day. Nevertheless, when I get home the greenhouse is one of my first thoughts and always before going to bed, I have to look over the plants to see that everything is all right for the night.

Here I have been rambling on telling you nothing of interest, but candidly speaking the people here in the East are becoming more and more Begonia minded.

We are all looking forward to the Boston Show which will be held March 16th to 21st and also certainly hope to win a prize in our Begonia Exhibit.

**Watch for the new slogan each month!**

## An Easterner's Experience

By Elizabeth W. Skinner  
Lynnfield Centre, Mass.

Our new Eastern Editor has asked me to write of my experiences in growing begonias. Thinking some other amateur might receive help or encouragement from some of my struggles, I will tell you my house conditions and results.

From the time I was a child I have always had plants and just put them in earth and they grew—but, looking back, I have decided they must have been hardy individuals or they never would have survived my ignorant handling. Certainly, none of my finicky begonias could have lived through the ordeal.

Most of my plants are now kept in a sun porch 9 feet by 15 feet, facing nearly south, with glass exposure on three sides. You see, this approaches the ideal of a lean-to greenhouse but lacks its humidity. This lack I supply by as much spraying as I can find time for and by my home-made humidifier which I feel is of much benefit. A twelve-inch milk pan having in it an inverted half-inch clay pot and filled with boiling water gives a fine supply of steam and quite a surface for exaporation as it cools and remains in the plant room. My Multiflora Rosea sits on top of that humidifier and keeps its leaves which it has refused to do for me before, and is growing finely.

My plant room has no heat in it except what comes from the living room so I get stronger plants but not such quick growth. The success I have had with my plants I lay to the conditions I am fortunate enough to possess; cool room, fresh air, no gas and plenty of sun exposure.

This winter my begonias and ferns are doing unusually well, but the price is eternal vigilance—for, as you increase the number of your plants, the pests increase in the same ratio. Begonia mites have proved the most troublesome. So far Rottenone Dust and spraying with cold water has been very helpful.

Just at present, Preusen is very lovely with its dark foliage and blossoms of pink. Sunderbrückii is in bloom, Acutangularis and Compta are well branched and fine specimen begonias. Many other common varieties are blooming and numerous choice young plants provide a very pleasant spot to visit when outdoors has its heavy blanket of snow.

The Begonia Group started by Mrs. H. H. Buxton is giving us amateurs an opportunity to compare notes on our plants and gain much helpful information on growing begonias, their origin and names of new ones.



## BEGONIA NOTES

Mrs. Theodore Gruenbaum  
Philadelphia

With *Weltoniensis* Rosea, *McBethii*, *Weltoniensis* Alba and *Dregei* varieties, from spring on during the warmest weather of the summer in the locality of Philadelphia, one must be on the alert that the ant does not use the top of the tuber of these varieties upon which to fatten his mealy bugs. The appearance of the soil in the top of the pot is that either the size of the tuber is increasing or new shoots are starting to break through the ground. But further investigation with a dull toothpick will reveal nests of mealy bugs under the soil, feeding on the tuber. In such cases it is not necessary to repot, merely clean off the top soil, and fill the space up again with fresh soil, naturally watching closely for some time to see that there is no recurrence of the pests.

Volck has been found to be a very effective spray for mealy bugs in this locality. Also if there are no ants, mealy bugs are very scarce.

Marjorie Gibbs has been the most satisfactory hybrid of *Socotrana* in the east. They retain their bloom for a much longer period than such varieties as *Lady Mac*, *Melior*, etc. One woman's experience was that a plant bloomed from November until June, and showed no signs of resting during that period.

## THE HARDY BEGONIA EVANSIANA

The begonias as a class are tender plants adapted to florist shops or house cultivation. A series of studies on these decoratives has been made by the writer in various parts of the country.

One species, *Begonia evansiana*, is the hardiest of the group and is to be seen as an outdoor bedding plant in southern Indiana and Ohio. A planting of these interesting begonias has been observed in Indiana in full bloom and in fine, thrifty condition early in October.

The flowers of *B. evansiana* are of a very light pink color, verging toward white. When viewed closely the florets are conspicuous with flaring rounded petals and golden stamens, the flowers having a waxy appearance.

The leaves are of a medium size, dark green above, shiny, having a reddish un-

dersurface. In shape, the leaves are quite typical of many begonia species—that is, sharply pointed and somewhat heart shaped, being produced in abundance. The stems show dark red markings and the erect, clustered stems give the plant habit an open and very pleasing appearance.

An especially good situation for these begonias is a bed placed close to the house with a surrounding lower border of some close growing ornamental. This serves to set them off at better advantage as well as to cover up the basal portions of *B. evansiana*.

Differing from other begonias in the North this species can be left in the ground over winter and is hardy in southern Indiana and Ohio. While rarely to be seen they make a good development here, their unusual character making them attractive as garden or yard decoratives, offering Fall bloom. A straw or leaf protecting cover should be applied over winter.

—Paul Lawrence, Columbus, Ind.  
(Courtesy of HORTICULTURE)

## A NEW BEGONIA

By Rudolf Ziesenhenné

A new begonia, strikingly beautiful with scarlet red double blossoms, will be found in the florist shops next Christmas. A sport of *Begonia Glorie de Lorraine* variety *Melior*, *Begonia Lucille* was discovered in 1936, and developed alone by Harold E. Traver, M.D., of Woodbury, Conn.

Mr. Traver, in describing his plant says: "The plant averages (above the pot) 18 inches to 22 inches, strong heavy grower, responds well to pinching back. It forms several strong shoots from a crown which forms on the stem of a leaf-stem cutting. Leaves round, dark green, edges lobulated, stems heavy. Blossoms double and sterile, color scarlet-red, shading lighter to the center of the blossom. Flowers up to 1½ inches in diameter, number of petals 18 to 28, not uniform in number. Growth characteristics similar to *Melior*. The plant is propagated and blooms as with *Melior*."

In general appearance the new plant resembles the winter blooming tuberous begonias (*Begonia hiemalis*, Fotsch). The leaves, however, are deeper green, of heavier texture, and have small lobes at the edge. The heavy stems hold the many flowers erect, producing a mass of bloom at the top of the plant.

A plant patent has been applied for.

## ROCK-LOVING BEGONIAS

By C. M. Kelly

We have been impressed by the comment in infrequent articles on the growth habits and environment of the native begonias, that certain species are found growing on or among rocks, preferring such a location to one more in the open. Perhaps it is there, under a sheltering, shelving rock, that the roots find that degree of temperature and the unvarying amount of soil moisture that is to their liking, and only those plants that, in this case, "fall among stones" survive.

On the subject of rock-loving plants, Dr. C. A. Purpus, of Vera Cruz, Mexico, writes:

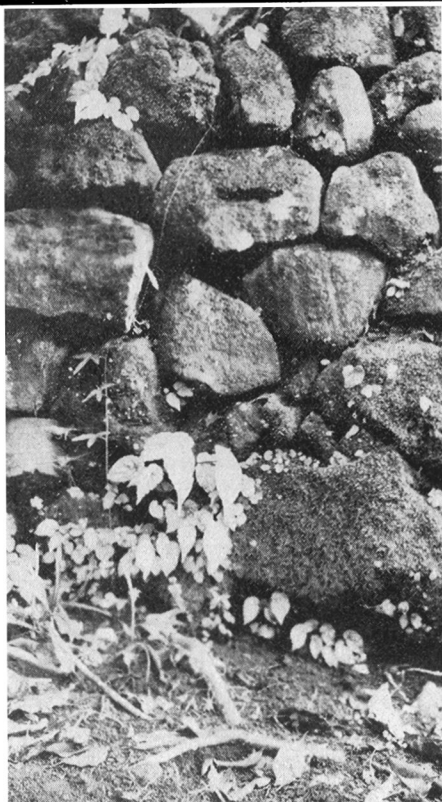
"About eight different species of begonias are found in the State of Vera Cruz. There is *B. hydrocotylifolia*, *B. ricinifolia*, *B. heracelifolia*, and others growing about here in our so-called 'Tierra Caliente.' *B. hydrocotylifolia* is a fine species with pale colored flowers. It grows on rocks, quite often on steep rocks, in the lower regions.

"One of the most noteworthy of all begonias is *B. incana*, a succulent species, with thick, fleshy lobes and greyish leaves. The flower is white, tinged with rose, not at all showy like flowers of *B. hydrocotylifolia*.

"All begonias are rock-loving plants, especially *B. incana* which is found only on rocks, rocky cliffs and on walls, in very sparse soil, in the Tierra Caliente."

Dr. Purpus sent us roots of the above mentioned begonias, besides seeds of them and of others, and these roots or rhizomes are sprouting now. *B. incana* is similar to our begonia *peltata*, having less of the white fuzz on the foliage. *B. hydrocotylifolia* has grown a shiny, bronze leaf which promises to develop into a large one, contrary to the descriptive note in the March Begonian.

Another Mexican begonia found only in rocky situations is the rare tuberous species having only one leaf, *B. unifolia*. Mr. Eric Walther, of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, reports seeing this begonia in the Cañon de la Mano, State of Guerrero. There it grows abundantly on the vertical marble or limestone walls of the canyon, the large, round leaves held so slightly above the ground that they often lie upon it.



Here must be the exception that proves the rule that begonias like an acid soil, for the soil formed by disintegrating limestone must be alkaline rather than acid.

Mr. Hoefler, a member of the San Francisco group, directs our attention to an article in the National Geographic Magazine (September, 1938) from which we quote:

"Atop of the 'Smoking Mountain' (on the island of Hainan in the China Sea) great blocks of stone rose out of the jungle—cliffs hundreds of feet high, covered with vines, ferns, lianas, orchids and wild jasmine. By using this tangle of vines we were able to scramble high up above the orchid topped jungle. Thousands of red begonias grew on the summit in crevices between the huge boulders." This was at an altitude of 4850 ft., only a few degrees north of the equator.

The begonia which we have in cultivation, labeled No. 1775, is from seeds gathered by the members of the University of

California Expedition to South America in '37, from plants growing among the rocky ruins of the ancient Inca city of Macchu Picchu high in the Andes. There it clambered as a vine over the fallen walls, and thrived without benefit of leaf mold or shade of overhanging trees. It is a hardy species, and in the lathhouse only the roof restrains it. It flowers freely during the late winter.

Another seed collector recently sent us begonia seeds from Mexico which were gathered from plants that sprawled over rocks with their roots running under and between broken slabs. Some of the species of India and the Philippines are said to prefer the protection of rocky situations.

## BEGONIA INCARNATA

By J. S. Williams

This begonia was discovered in Mexico by Ferdinand Deppe in 1822, and sent by him to the Berlin Botanical Garden in 1828. By 1850 it had been extensively crossed with tuberous hybrids, and with other begonias such as *B. cinnabarina*.

The plant is tall but rather "leggy," the rather narrow, thin, light green leaves not being borne in any profusion. The pale pink flowers are rather small. Bailey says the flowers are 1½ inches in diameter, but he must have been thinking of *B. incarnata grandiflora*, a plant with darker and larger flowers and a more attractive habit. The flowers of *B. incarnata* are interesting in that while the male flowers have two ovate and two narrow petals, the female flowers have five equal petals. The plant has two values, first it is a winter bloomer, and second it has been the parent of several interesting hybrids.

Most of the hybrids are rather temperamental to grow, and stock is not common in this country. Mme. Fanny Giron was produced by Mr. Schmitt in France in 1875, by crossing with a tuberous hybrid. The plant was later called Red Polard. Its leaves are larger and darker, and the scarlet flowers are larger. Other crosses gave both pink and white flowers.

## MAIL BOX GOSSIP

"My husband is very much interested in begonias as a hobby. He was given a copy of your splendid little paper and liked it so much—so I am enclosing \$1.00 for a year's subscription, for him for his birthday." Mrs. C. A. Roberts, West Covina, California.

"I planted a portion of the seed and am pleased to say they are making a wonderful growth. I have had some beautiful specimens of the family, and still have a few. I think I am too old to be a member, 79 and a shut-in . . ." E. F. Bartlett, San Francisco.

No, Mr. Bartlett, no one can be too old, or too young, to be a member, if he loves and grows begonias.

"I became interested in the activities of your Society through the advertisement which appears in the 1939 catalog of the Vetterle and Reinelt Hybridizing Gardens, and also through the very fine article by M. B. Dunkle, entitled, "Begonias" which appeared in the January issue of the Gardeners' Chronicle of America." Richard L. Hoodema, Holland, Michigan.

"I am afraid that the preparation of an article on the pronunciation of Begonia names is entirely beyond my meagre abilities, and to be perfectly frank, I don't think it matters very much how a name is pronounced, provided it is clear to the hearer just what is meant. After all, names are merely a means to an end . . . Of far greater importance than the exact pronunciation of names is the correct identification of the plants . . ." T. H. Everett, New York City.

" . . . Well, I have at last found something that kills the earthworms, and slugs, also, and does not injure the plants—Price's Slug and Earthworm Control. After sprinkling it on the ground and wetting it down in about ten minutes you will see the worms come up, and some will jump seven or eight inches up in the air. I have tried it on potted plants, also, and it has done no harm." Mrs. C. E. V. Draper, San Diego, California.

## BEGONIA NOTES FROM THE COAST

By Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray

Many people have Begonias which they know only as the Wax, Star, Beefsteak, and Angel Wing. The plants succeed and they are happy with them. But when their botanical names are learned, these tried and true house plants become the center of a new hobby—Begonia collecting.

So, let's first of all get the names of some common kinds straight.

For instance, the Wax Begonia is *Semperflorens* with many colors ranging from a pure white through shades of pink and red. It is the easiest to grow which, of course, is something not be to overlooked by a busy housewife. The Beefsteak Begonia is called *Feasti*. It was named for a grower named Feast. That makes it easy to remember. The Star is usually identified as *Sunderbrucki*. It is supposed to be of garden origin from a plant grown in Mexico.

The Angel Wing is something else again. It is a tall cane variety that looks like the pictured wing of an angel with high point and tapering at the end. There are so many varieties now grown from the original Angel Wing type that many of them have been designated by names which refer to the different colors and introducers. We now speak of the *Rubras* which are in shades of red, pink and even white. Being very strong, hardy growers these are justly popular.

Interest in Begonias is international. They are found in many places in the United States and Europe. At Kew Gardens in London, England, they are grown in great variety, gathered from many countries. We have looked to them to identify those that have been imported to this country. France also has propagated and sent out many new hybrids. Their oldest known one, still popular over here, is *Coralline Lucerne*. There are other hybrids of the same type, but none has ever taken its place.

### New Varieties of Note

Of late years, as the Begonia fad has spread, there has been much hybridizing in this country. Every year new seedlings are introduced to the delight of Begonia fans. For instance, from *Heracleifolia* has sprung, besides *Sunderbrucki*, the varieties of *Nigricans*, *Indian Ricinifolia*, *Nine Point*, *Grayola*, *Idealia*, and other seedlings.

From *Feasti*, we have *Bunchi* and *Con-*

*chaefolia*, all with thick, heavy, round leaves, brown-red underneath, *Bunchi* being frilled on the edge. *Conchaefolia* has a spiralled center.

From seeds of President *Faureana*, known over here as *Palmata*, has come a new strain known as *Superba*. It includes *Superba Azella*, pink flowered, *Superba Kenzi*, pure white flowered, *Superba Kathi*, which is like *Faureana* in leaf and flower but a rather dwarf grower, and *Superba Lemorna*, flowers white tinted pink.

Though these seedlings sprang from a *Faureana*, their leaves resemble those of the *Coralline Lucerne* type, except that they're usually spotted and blotched with silver. They grow quite tall if given space, but then I've seen *Faureana* grow six feet high.

Besides the old *Haageana* we now have *Croftoni*, *Urophylla* (*Houghtoni*), *Morgana* and *Loma Alta*. All have leaves somewhat resembling *Haageana* but of different form.

Of the smooth, shiny leaved varieties we would cite *Dorothy Grant*, and *Odorata Rosea* and *Albo*. From seed sent to this country came a new and delightful winter bloomer which is called *Bracteosa*; the name refers to the white sheath covering the flower buds. The flowers are pink in large clusters.

Another new variety that has become popular is *Mrs. Fred Scripps*, found in the lath house of the owner. It is supposed to be a cross between the old *Luxuriant* and *Scharffiana*, as it shows a resemblance to both varieties. The leaves are of the *Luxuriant* type with some sections wider; there is a small tuft of leaves at the junction of leaf and stem. This seems to be a hardier grower than *Luxuriant*. The flowers are in tight bud clusters, pink and more like the *Luxuriant* variety.

In the *Semperflorens* type we find some with fuzzy stems but in leaf and flower they are like the usual kinds. From a cross between a *Semperflorens* and the little double red *Bijou de Jardins* there is a double variety, red with white center.

There seems to be no end to the many new varieties. Some are unique and difficult to grow, while others are stronger growers than their parents. A good many are not different enough from the parent to warrant their introduction. It confuses the amateur when too many are introduced. Only those with distinguishable characteristics should be grown.

(Courtesy Flower Grower)

## TUBEROUS-ROOTED BEGONIA

By Mrs. J. M. Smith, Lompoc  
(Mrs. Goold, San Luis Obispo)

Information gathered from articles written by George Otten and J. M. Smith's successful growing of the Tuberous Begonias both in the greenhouses and in the yard.

The tuberous rooted begonia is one of the most colorful and fascinating plants to be grown by the flower grower, when its culture is understood. They are as easy to grow as fuchsias.

One of the particular points in its favor is that it will grow in shady places protected from the cold, drying winds, and will furnish you a wonderful amount of flowers all summer of the brightest and pastel shades, excluding blues, purples and lavenders.

The tuberous rooted begonia was introduced into Europe in the early part of the 19th century, seeds and tubers having been sent from Bolivia to Henderson in England in 1847. It was a novelty, but its flowers were small and did not excite the floral world.

Another shipment of these bulbs from Bolivia was made by A. T. Candolle in 1864 to James Veitch in England. This was named *Begonia Boliviensis* and was the first variety of its class worth cultivating. Other native species of tuberous begonias were found in Peru, Mexico, Central and South America, where they grew in the higher altitudes in shady ravines, moist woods, and valleys.

Through crossing the different varieties, the present majestic flowers hardly resemble the original stock. There are two classifications, generally speaking, double and single flowering types.

### Single Varieties

**Single**—*Gigantea*

**Narcissae flora**—Two outer petals horizontally spread and the center forming a trumpet shape petal.

**Crispa**—Flowers are curly on the outer rim of each petal.

**Tuplex**—Similar to *Crispa* and has two rows of petals.

**Cristata**—This flower has an out-growth of crested formation on each petal.

**Multiflora**—Comparatively new variety. Small in growth, but a profuse bloomer.

### Table Flowering Varieties

**Camellae Flora**—Similar in form to a double camellia flower.

**Fembriata**—Full double with each petal fringed, similar to a huge carnation.

**Tabulata**—Double flower with round flat petals.

**Rotundaeiflora**—Protruding center, almost forming a ball.

**Lloydi** or **Pendula**—Basket Begonias.

These have trailing habits and are very showy in baskets or porch boxes. Trails from one to three feet. Make a good showing when three bulbs are placed in a ten-inch basket.

A winter blooming variety now being developed.

The tuberous begonia is very little cultivated in the gardens, but is growing more popular each year, as the flower minded people are experimenting with a few and find it well worth their time.

The tuberous-rooted begonia requires four things:

1. Shade
2. Rich soil
3. Moisture
4. Plenty of air (moist)

If natural shade is not at hand, one can create artificial shade with lath houses pergola covered with thin unbleached muslin. Shade is one of the necessities for their culture. The foliage will burn in the sun before the blossoms will. The ideal place to grow them is under trees where the branches are not less than ten feet above the ground.

### Soil

The plants are surface feeders. Their roots spread horizontally in the ground. Therefore, no matter what kind of soil you have, select a shady protected place, remove the soil eight or ten inches deep and fill in with a mixture of well decomposed barnyard manure (one-third), leaf-mold (one-third), and sediment or soil (one-third), a little wood soot or bone meal.

It is best to start your tubers in flats in leafmold by placing the bulb nearly on top of the soil, watering sparingly, and see that the water does not get on the crown as it will decay it. When it is well started, (say the sprout is 2 or 3 inches high), place in the rich soil or bed. Do not over-water at first. They must have a good root system and begin to show good, strong leaves. Give a light spraying of water each evening after the sun is down.

I consider the tuberous rooted plant a better out-door plant than in the house, as it will give you a longer season of flower.

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## OFFICERS

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769 Cherry Avenue

J. N. Nutter *Treasurer*  
Membership Fees  
1050 East Nineteenth Street

Burdell Bulgrin *Corresponding Secretary*  
Bulletins, Information  
1732 Temple Avenue

In order to save space and make the membership list more convenient to file with the membership directory, the list of new members will not be printed each month, as formerly. Whenever sufficient new names are on hand to fill a full sheet it will be printed as a separate sheet and inserted loosely in the Begonian.

## April Meetings

Friday, April 7—Inglewood, Oddfellows Hall, 161½ La Brea Ave., 7:30 p.m. Leslie Woodriff will speak on Tuberous Begonias.

Tuesday, April 11—Ventura, Coco Cola Hall, Thompson Blvd., 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 14—Long Beach, Houghton Park Club House. Dinner 5:30 to 7:00, program at 7:30. Rudolph Ziesenhenné will be the speaker.

Wednesday, April 19—San Francisco, 1060 San Francisco Street.

Thursday, April 27—National Board of Directors, 831 San Marcus St., Compton.

## Board of Directors

The directors met at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Warren B. Davis. A report was made of a visit of several directors to the Plant Lover's Study Club in Fullerton. They reported a very friendly and enthusiastic meeting. The Fullerton group is considering affiliation with the American Begonia Society.

Mrs. L. J. Green, of Inglewood, was appointed to take charge of the organiza-

tion of Branch Societies. A committee was appointed to draw up a constitution for the local Long Beach Branch. This was proposed in order to give the Long Beach meeting more individuality and to relieve the national officers of the burden of local duties.

## SAN FRANCISCO DOINGS

Harry F. O'Donnell

The third monthly meeting of the Golden Gate Branch was held at the residence of Miss Paula Schoenholz on Wednesday evening, March 15. The evening started with a garden party. The grounds, illuminated with reflected lighting, were truly beautiful, and the setting—overlooking San Francisco Bay with the World's Fair on Treasure Island—sparkling in the distance, was entrancing. It was hard to go indoors to the meeting.

Open forum was the order of the evening, with Mr. Henry Werle of Colma on the spot for questions and answers, and he sure did a swell job.

The members of the Golden Gate Branch invite members of the Society to visit them and their gardens when in San Francisco. Come and see what we grow up here.

## OUR SAN FRANCISCO EXHIBIT

By Tom Smith

There were approximately 150 excellent plants in the collection gathered by our committee from San Diego to Ventura. The plants were entirely Rex and fibrous types, with a few ferns and kindred shade plants.

They were wrapped in heavy paper and staked very firmly to avoid shaking. The truck was first prepared by having a layer of damp sawdust, eight inches deep, spread over the floor. The plants were set in shallow holes in the sawdust, then packed tightly by tamping around each pot.

The plants left here Monday evening and were at Treasure Island the next day. They have been installed in a large semi-circular space at the main entrance to the Horticultural Hall. A separate exhibit of duplicate plants has been arranged at Pacific House, as the main exhibit was arranged without any duplication. A report from Mr. Gillespie states that the exhibit is very fine, and will continue to become even better as the plants put on their summer growth.

The committee wishes to thank all who donated plants and helped in the selection and packing of our exhibit. The fol-



lowing are the members who donated plants.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Blades  
 Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Dunkle  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jack Williams  
 Mrs. R. E. Cole  
 Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Hough  
 Mrs. Ruby Liedler  
 Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hixon  
 Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Lewis  
 Alice and Mr. Fackelman  
 Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Harrison  
 Alfred D. Robinson  
 Dr. Nellie Schenck  
 Mr. and Mrs. Glen Collins  
 Mrs. Mary Gongdon  
 Mrs. Alta Wellman  
 C. M. and Flossie Kelly  
 Mr. and Mrs. O. P. Palestine  
 Mrs. Katherine Day  
 Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Wilson  
 Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Saunders  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Smith  
 W. H. and Mrs. Rodenburg  
 Mrs. Elia Fewkes  
 Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Johnson  
 Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Day  
 Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ney  
 Mrs. John Dent  
 Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Gowdy  
 Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Kemper  
 Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Lowdermilk  
 Mrs. John McCollim  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Harris  
 Austin Perley  
 Mrs. Ed. Savard  
 Mrs. Nellie Wade  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Weitz  
 Mrs. C. F. Zapf  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ferd Neels  
 Mrs. O. R. Bounds  
 Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Flaitz  
 Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Hall  
 Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Knecht  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ben Mason  
 Clarence Mets  
 Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Peep  
 Mrs. L. C. Rudolph  
 Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Shaw  
 A. G. Woods, grown by Mr. Longmire  
 B. E. Yarrick

(Continued from Page 3)

and type you want. Begonia nurseries will have them soon.

Do your shady beds need spring color? Cinerarias and Primula Malacoides are fine for spring bloom.

Bedding type begonias are fine for borders. Seed may be planted now for July bloom. Cuttings started now may bloom in June. Or you may buy many varieties ready to bloom.

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## BOOK REVIEW

GARDENING IN THE SHADE, by H. K. Morse, Charles Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth Ave., New York. \$3.00.

Any book that adds to our information about plants that thrive in the shade, and that gives helpful landscaping ideas for shaded gardens is a most welcome addition to this field. Mrs. Morse is an easterner and she has eastern conditions and plants in mind.

She writes most entertainingly about soils, planting, garden types, and shade plants. There are useful hints here for shade gardens anywhere. The book is delightfully illustrated with large full page illustrations of plants by themselves, and plants in charming garden settings.

Everywhere through the text are lists of plants suitable for each location described, and over a third of the book is devoted to a helpful directory of shade plants. From our viewpoint it is to be regretted that the author does not mention fuchsias or any begonia other than the tuberous begonias and Evansiana.

For those who wish to reproduce the elusive charm of eastern woodlands, with its delicate wildings, the book is most valuable.

## THE USE OF SOOT

By Rudolph Ziesenhenné

Although soot has been used by floricultural experts in Europe for many generations, it has not yet reached its deserved popularity in the United States. For stimulating growth, improving color of foliage and flowers, for repelling soil-dwelling pests, soot has great value. Although composed chiefly of carbon, it is the ammonia in soot that aids in the development of richer color and improved size of blossoms. Great improvement in the color of leaves of Rex hybrids grown in cloth houses is noticed when soot is incorporated in the soil.

For flower beds, one pound of soot is used for thirty square feet of soil surface. In potting mixtures a four inch pot of soot is used to a wheelbarrow ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  cubic feet) of soil. For potted plants, one teaspoonful may be stirred into the surface of the soil followed by a gentle watering. Soot may be used as liquid solution, (as liquid manure for its nitrogen value) on potted plants after the root system is well established. For this purpose one pound of soot is mixed into a gallon of water and occasionally stirred up for two days. It is then applied sparingly to the damp soil in the pot every ten days.

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