

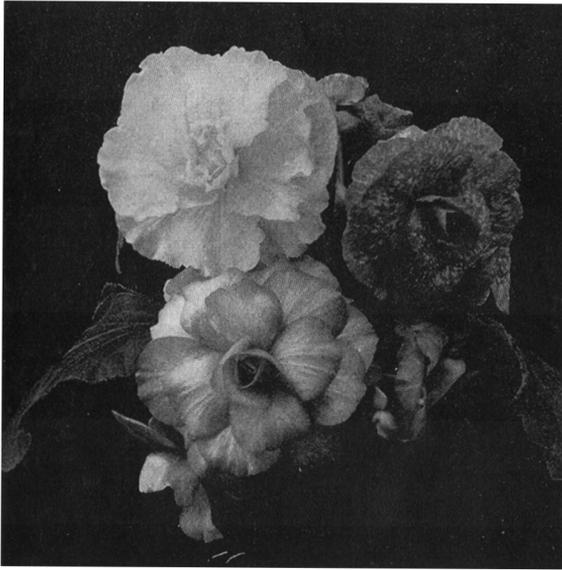


THE BEGONIAN



DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDEN

Monthly Bulletin of the American Begonia Society



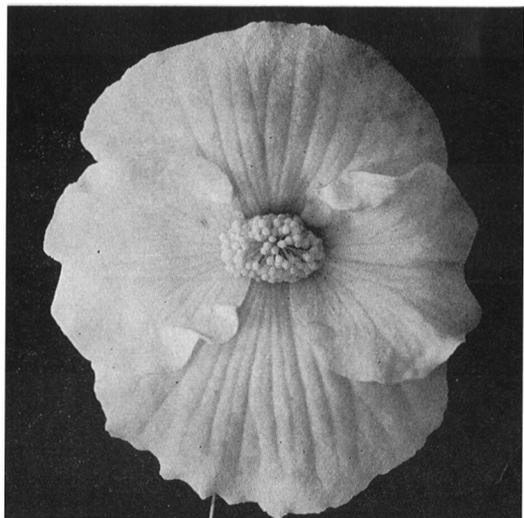
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

DOUBLE PICOTEE
(Left)

SINGLE PICOTEE
(Below)

●
Courtesy
VETTERLE
and
REINELT

OCTOBER
1939



The Largest Selection of
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

VETTERLE & REINELT
HYBRIDIZING GARDENS

Capitola, California

**SPECIAL CULTURAL
BULLETINS**

Tuberous	15c
Rex	15c
Fibrous	15c
Pest Control	15c
New Membership List	25c

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INGLEWOOD CELEBRATES

An invitation is hereby extended to ALL Begonians to attend the Inglewood Branch Anniversary meeting on October 6.

Mrs. A. F. Graham, program chairman, has arranged for Rudolph Ziesenhenné of Santa Barbara as the principal speaker, to be followed by George McDowell, chairman of the Plant Display. There will also be a plant study period, the new feature inaugurated last month, and Questions and Answers conducted by Mrs. Clarissa Harris. Mrs. Elva Hartley will have charge of the plant distribution. Refreshments will be served during the social hour after adjournment of the meeting.

The Hon. Raymond V. Darby, Mayor of Inglewood, has accepted an invitation to attend the meeting. Inglewoodians are particularly fortunate in having a Mayor who favors beautiful gardens and parkways and it is our desire to show Mayor Darby how interesting and fascinating the royal hobby of begonia growing can be.

Ventura branch has sent word that their Board Meeting has been changed to another date as so many members expressed a wish to attend Inglewood's anniversary celebration.

EAST BAY NOTES

By H. W. Bridges

East Bay Chapter met in the Assembly Room of the California School for the Blind, August 28th, and had a most enjoyable evening with Mr. Frank Reinalt as speaker for the evening. He gave a most interesting talk, illustrating with many beautiful specimens; two large boxes of flowers were presented to those present by Mr. Reinalt. We had an attendance of seventy.

On September 25th we are to have the pleasure of hearing Dr. Mervyn Hirschfeld give an illustrated talk on the subject of hybridizing. Our meetings are held in the Assembly Room of the California School for the Blind, 3001 Derby Street, Berkeley, Dr. French having kindly permitted us the use of the room. The announcement of last month was an error.

On October 23rd, Dr. T. S. Goodspeed will speak on his recent expedition to South America.

We were delighted to receive through the generosity of the Golden Gate Branch a share of the beautiful plants given them by the Long Beach group. It was a most gracious gift and we sincerely thank them.

YES, I'M STILL AN AMATEUR

By Mrs. Pauline Ney

Until recently my knowledge of plants and flowers was limited to wearing an occasional corsage for an evening, receiving the usual cyclamen and poinsettias in pots at Christmas time (this was when I lived in Oregon), tulips on St. Valentine's Day and lilies and azaleas on Easter Sunday, and when they hung their heads from lack of proper attention were thrown away and the space they occupied given back to whatever had been there before.

After buying a home, a couple of cocker spaniels and having Michael, who is now at the ripe old age of four and who tells ME which is leaf mold and which is peat moss, a 72-year old neighbor presented me with a plant which she called a begonia. There were some other plants with it which I thought very attractive, so I thanked her and planted them as she told me to do, but didn't know where to put this begonia as I certainly couldn't see anything attractive about it. Just a bunch of shiny, thick leaves, sort of pointed, all growing from a stalk or root that lay on the soil—but not wishing to hurt her feelings I put it in a pot and placed it on my front porch which luckily had a semi-shaded Eastern exposure.

Along about Christmas time this plant sent up long straight shoots and unfolded many flowerlets up and down each shoot and so many people remarked about it that I began to think the plant might amount to something after all.

This begonia was later identified as Mrs. Townsend and at this time is in full bloom on the wall of my lath-house.

After that lively surprise I started inquiring at the nurseries about begonias, but didn't have too much success because I didn't happen to go to a nursery that specialized in them. But finally I heard about the American Begonia Society, so sent in my membership fee and alone and wondering if I would be bored I attended the meeting in Long Beach the following month. This was March, 1938.

That evening I had one of the pleasantest surprises I have ever had. Explaining to the Reception Committee that I was a new member, they very graciously introduced me to other Inglewood members and I sat between two ladies, one of whom

I found out later was Mrs. Williams, wife of the President of the Begonia Society that year.

I was certainly all ears. The speaker was good, business matters were taken care of and lovely begonias and related plants discussed as a Plant Display and then my world crashed! Mrs. Williams leaned over to her friend and asked, "How's your *Glaucophylla Scandens*?" I wondered how I ever had the nerve to be there. Would I ever be able to know and use words like that?

I went home high one minute and low the next. But the next day I did what turned out to be a step up in my begonia career. Remember, none of my friends at that time knew a begonia from any other plant, so I called on Mrs. Frank Harrison who lives fairly close to me and whom I had met the evening before and explained to her how thrilled I was about the meet—but how down-hearted I felt after that *glaucophylla scandens* affair and then to come home to my 8 x 18 lath-house with a few plants in it whose names I didn't even know. She could probably see this was a turning-point in my life and as I was close to tears she explained how her husband had come home about four years ago and said he had seen a plant in the ten-cent store like one his mother used to have, called a Rex, so the next day they purchased two of them and that was how they become begonians.

We then went through their lath-houses and after I had stood around open-mouthed for practically ages, she began taking cuttings (not slips, if you please) and told me how to plant them and I went home feeling much, much better. The begonias I love the most in my lath-house today were grown from those cuttings.

Don't know whether I had better tell you about my holly fern or not. One day I noticed little teeny things on the under side of all the leaves. Imagine! Boll-weevil (or something) in my lath-house. I got a bucket of soap and water and a stiff brush and did I go to town! Nearly ruined the fern, but I got most of them off. And at the next meeting the guest speaker from Ventura explained all about SPORES!

Yes, I'm still an amateur.

Branch Secretaries please note that we would like information about your coming meetings. Copy must reach us by the middle of the month, however, if we are to be able to use it in the next month's issue.

EASTERN DEPARTMENT

By Earle A. Sampson, Eastern Editor

"Make people more Begonia-minded by talking to them."

On Saturday, August 26, the Eastern Branch members made a trip to the Logee Greenhouses at Pomfret, Conn., for their annual meeting. Certainly any person interested in begonias or, as a matter of fact, interested in any kind of plant, could not help having a grand time browsing around among their plants. The cordiality of the Logee family is such as to make you feel right at home.

There were thirty-five people at the meeting and everyone enjoyed the examinations of the many kinds and types of begonias displayed. At 12:30 a box lunch was served in the Italian Garden.

At 2:00 p.m. a business meeting, followed by a program, was held in the Casino attached to the garden. In the absence of the president, T. H. Everett of New York, the vice-president, Miss Joy Logee, presided. New officers were elected for the coming year as follows:

Mr. Earle A. Sampson, President
Mr. H. Linwood White, Vice-President
Mr. C. E. Giles, Secretary
Mr. Chas. I. Gould, Jr., Treasurer
Mr. William C. Atherton, Auditor

It was voted to hold the 1940 annual meeting at the Essex Agricultural School of Danvers, Mass.

After the business meeting there were two very interesting lectures. Mr. Stuart Bastow, Jr., of Saylesville, R.I., spoke on the culture of Tuberous Begonias, and certainly to judge from the wonderful dis-

play of blooms, he knows how to grow them. As stated by him he grows them all around his home, as well as in a cloth house which he has erected.

Mrs. Buxton, of Peabody, Mass., gave a most interesting talk on the house care of Begonias, and also a descriptive picture of several types with their peculiarities.

Many of the members added fine plants to their collections, and all went home more begonia-conscious.

The Eastern Branch had the good fortune to win first prize with an exhibit of house-grown begonias at the Topsfield Fair held during the week of September 5th to 9th. Naturally, we of the Eastern Branch feel quite elated over the fact of winning two first prizes in one year.

Mrs. Buxton has sent in a full page account of the Topsfield Fair exhibits which appeared in the Salem Evening News. This show, 125 years old, is considered the best flower show in the state. The Begonia Society exhibit was only 18 square feet, but was all house-grown begonias loaned by members. The members of the Eastern Branch deserve much credit for their splendid efforts.

THE GOLDEN GATE BRANCH

By Harry F. O'Donnell

The regular monthly meeting of the Golden Gate Branch was held on Sunday, September 17, 1939, on the grounds of The Redwood Begonia Gardens of Mr. and Mrs. V. Schath at Redwood City, California.

The meeting was well attended by both



LOGEE'S ITALIAN GARDENS, Pomfret, Connecticut
Where Eastern Branch met on August 26.

the San Francisco Chapter and the newly organized East Bay Chapter.

Luncheon and refreshments were served by our charming host, Mrs. Verna Schath, outdoors, under an ivy clung arbor, and surrounded on all sides by thousands of Begonias in their many coloured beds. It truly was a Begonian's paradise.

After luncheon, Begonias were, of course, the subject, and our host again came through with first-hand information on this pleasing subject.

When the day drew to a close, we all wended our way to our respective homes and gardens, with a pleasant memory of a day well spent and thoroughly enjoyed.

The next meeting of the San Francisco Chapter will be on Wednesday evening, October 27, 1939.

The November date will be the third Wednesday, as usual.

There will be no December meeting.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT NOTES

By C. M. Kelly

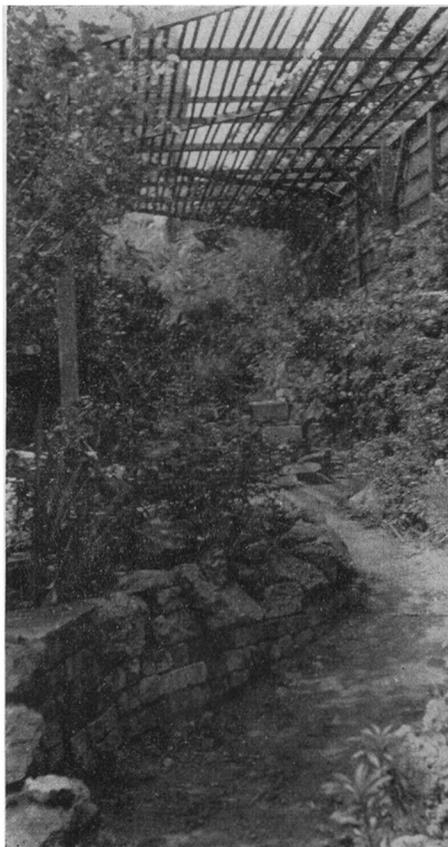
REX BEGONIA, VENTURA: The standard varieties of Rex begonias have been crossed and re-crossed so thoroughly that it is only occasionally that a hybrid resulting from such experiments possesses markings sufficiently different from the parents or others in cultivation to warrant its propagation, naming and marketing.

However, such a one, seemingly, is the Rex Ventura, the child of the gardens of Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Weitz, who organized the thriving Theodosia B. Shepard Branch of the Begonia Society at Ventura, California. This seedling, a cross of Crimson Glow and Mrs. John B. Burnham, has been nurtured several years by the Weitzes, and is now being shown for the first time.

The leaves of this begonia are pointed but not deeply serrated. The color of the background of the upper surfaces is a metallic silvery-green. They are edged with a quarter-inch band of dark purple, and about the axes of the leaves, from which the veins radiate, there is a shading of orchid. Over the whole is a sheen that gives to this Rex a brilliancy possessed by few others.

The under surfaces of the leaves are pea-green except that the veins, edge and the areas about the stems are dark red.

One must see the plant to appreciate its beauties fully.



A Corner of the Dunkle's Sheltered Garden

The Pan American Society of Tropical Research again offers the members of the Begonia Society seeds of a South American flowering shrub, and an informational pamphlet on Ecuador.

Of this shrub, the retama, they say: "The retama is a lovely, flowering fragrant bush or shrub that is hardy and believed easily grown. Since it grows wild high in the Andes mountains, close to the snow line in Ecuador, it should be readily propagated throughout most of North America."

A small packet of these seeds may be obtained by sending your name and address, together with a loose coin or postage, to the Pan American Society of Tropical Research, P. O. Box 1698, New Orleans, La. Apply within the next 60 days.

THE BEGONIAN

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The Editor is especially pleased by the promptness with which so much of the copy for this issue came in from the many contributors. It is this splendid spirit of cooperation that so marks the activities of our Society.

Now that our membership has passed the 800 mark and so many new branches have been organized or are being organized, considerable reorganization and expansion is being discussed for the coming year. Legal incorporation of the Society will be proposed at the annual meeting. A committee is working over the present constitution and drawing up new by-laws. The full details of this proposed reorganization will be given in detail in the November Begonian. In the setting up of more efficient departmental organization for our publications, Research, Nomenclature and Publicity, it will be desirable to ask the assistance of a larger number of members in the activities of the central organization.

Your Board of Directors would like to put out a larger Begonian, and enlarge those activities that will benefit all members. This may need an increased income. Whether this can best be assured by a determined membership drive, or by increasing the annual dues is a problem that demands earnest consideration.

The dollar you now pay has been stretched about to its limits in putting out the Begonian and other activities, principally of the Research Department. Would an increase of these activities and the initiation of others be worth an additional dollar to you? One branch Society

has already petitioned the Board of Directors to raise the dues, but the Board would like to know your reaction. Write in to the Editor, the Corresponding Secretary, or any of the officers, giving your views and possible suggestions.

Make your plans now to attend the annual meeting, to be held Saturday, November 18, in Long Beach. There will be a business meeting in the afternoon to hear reports, elect officers, and thrash out policies for the coming year. In the evening there will be an exceptionally fine program, with Mr. A. D. Robinson and other noteworthy figures in the begonia world as speakers. Come early in the day and visit your Long Beach hosts and their gardens. Various forms of entertainment are being planned.

CALIFORNIA MEETINGS

- October 3, Tuesday, New Long Beach Branch.
- October 6, Friday, Inglewood Branch Anniversary Meeting, 8:00 p.m., 159½ N. La Brea Avenue. Rudolph Ziesenhenné, of Santa Barbara, and George McDowell will be the principal speakers.
- October 10, Tuesday, Ventura Branch, Coco Cola Hall, Thompson Blvd., 7:30.
- October 12, Thursday, Parent Branch, Long Beach, Community Hall, Ninth and Lime, 7:30 p.m. Mr. J. A. Barfoot, of Los Angeles, will speak on "Insecticides."
- October 23, Monday, East Bay Branch, Assembly Room of the California School for the Blind, 3001 Derby St., Berkeley. Dr. T. S. Goodspeed will speak on his recent expedition to South America.
- October 25, Wednesday, Golden Gate Branch, 1060 Francisco Street,, San Francisco.
- October 26, Thursday, Board of Directors.

A GARDEN TOUR

By Mrs. Ruby W. Liedler

The last and one of the most outstanding garden tours of the season was held September 8. It was attended by 100 members and friends.

The members of the party gathered first at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Dyckman, where seedling Rex begonias were the principal feature. Then the group was directed to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Day, where an array of begonias and other plants was inspected. "Shangril," the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Lied-

ler, was then visited. There the unique hanging baskets potted with begonias and fuchsias, distributed in the lath house and patio, draw many favorable comments.

The large glass house and fireplace in the spacious grounds of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Chapman brought out the favorable comments of the visitors. The garden of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hixon next presented a magnificent display of hundreds of begonias at their best.

The surprise of the evening was found in the unique garden of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Blade. Here, in a delightful setting about a large double fireplace, the entire courtage was treated to "hot dawg and coffee," followed by a free plant drawing.

This carefully planned tour was so enthusiastically enjoyed by all who participated that similar tours will undoubtedly be arranged next summer.

BOOK REVIEW

Last month there was a brief mention of Mrs. Buxton's new book, "Begonias And How to Grow Them." Since then a copy has come to hand from the publishers, Hale, Cushman and Flint.

The book is profusely illustrated so that the amateur should have little difficulty in identifying the more common varieties. One Chapter is devoted to the development of begonia culture in America, and includes an exposition of the activities of the American Begonia Society.

The main part of the book gives very charming and accurately written descriptions of most of our common varieties. One enjoys the delightful style of Mrs. Buxton, with the many, many piquant comments on habit and culture.

There are also chapters on "Soils and Fertilizers," "Seed-Sowing Methods," "Propagation from Cuttings," and "Pests and Diseases." This is the first complete work in the English language on Begonias and their culture. No begonia enthusiast can afford to be without it.

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QUESTION BOX

By Alice Fackelman

Q.: Could some one please give a solution for the destruction of cut worms and caterpillars?

A.: Cut worms are best controlled by placing a poison bait on the ground late in the evening after watering. If a plant has been cut off during the night, dig around the base of the plant and the worm will be there. Derris spray has been found very effective for caterpillars.

Q.: Should old stems be cut off Epidendrums after flowers have faded?

A.: No, for the new growth comes out along this old stem.

Q.: Why do the buds of gardenias fall off?

A.: This can be caused by lack of food or overhead watering. Feed the plant with cottonseed meal.

Question: How should I take care of my semi-tuberous begonias when they really begin to need a rest?

Answer: The semi-tuberous type of begonia begins to die back a certain amount at this time of year, some varieties more than others. Withhold part of the water that you have been giving it. Weltoniensis Rosea dies back partially, and loses a good portion of its leaves; do not feel nervous, as it will come out larger and better for the rest in the following year. McBethii dies back even more, but does better the next season.

Q.: How does one cure off the tuberous begonia?

A.: As soon as the blossoms are through for the season, start cutting down on the water until the tuber is completely dormant. This should take approximately two months. Turn pot on side, to complete drying, then dig and store until the spring planting season.

Q.: My achimenes did not bloom this summer, what is the cause? They were fed with a commercial fertilizer.

A.: Achimenes do not like much water, perhaps this is the cause.

Q.: What is the parentage of Fireflush, the Rex begonia?

A.: Fireflush is of German origin, and there are no records of its parentage in this country. The German name for it is Baron de Rothschild.

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