

# The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden



o Moment's Halt o

# The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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## The Editor's Corner

ENTHUSIASM for the New BEGONIAN knows no bounds, and the Editor's Mail Box is filled with paeans of praise for which we, of course, are very proud. However, the staff is not resting on its laurels, nor are they claiming credit for the success of our magazine.

We fully realize it is the response to our request that you mention the BEGONIAN when you make your purchases that has made this increase possible.

We have members who not only have thanked our advertisers for their helpfulness but called us to make sure we knew what they had done. This is real COOPERATION and with this kind of support our slogan of *Forward In Forty* will be no idle gesture.

We might add here that some of our members have been most helpful in lining up advertising not already in the magazine. One advertiser particularly called this to our attention saying: "I will be glad to advertise because any paper that can stir up that kind of spirit will certainly get results."

So your Business Manager, Editor and staff members wish at this time to thank you for your help and hope that you will continue supporting those who, by their advertising, make the newer and larger BEGONIAN possible.

Spirit such as this proves conclusively that OURS is truly a ROYAL HOBBY.

# METHODS OF INDUCING A PERMANENT FRAGRANCE IN TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

by  
H. BRITTON LOGAN Jr.



ANY OF US, both begonia hobbyists and growers, have been dreaming a dream, yet doing little to realize it. With the rediscovery of the quince-scented tuberous begonia, *Baumannii*, and the recent introduction of the rose-scented species, still named 37.1041, we have developed a tremendous yen to hybridize these fragrances into the modern garden varieties of begonias.

While this may seem like "painting the lily," it is not an impossible task. To a slight extent it already has been accomplished. The English firm of Blackmore and Langdon offers "John G. White", a full-double camellia-type begonia with a quince fragrance. More recently Brown in Capitola, Woodriff in Inglewood, and Ziesenhenné in Santa Barbara have developed flowers with one or the other fragrance.

And yet, in spite of the work being done by these individuals, they have failed so far in one important factor. The fragrance of *Baumannii* and 37.1041 is noticeable only in the early morning hours—and at no other time. This is also true of their hybrid progeny over a period of several generations.

So, it appears that we have allowed our enthusiasm to run way. We are putting the cart before the horse. We are trying to hitch a scent onto modern tuberous begonias, forgetting that we must first try to perfect the scent in its original species.

Apparently the customary methods of hybridizing begonias will not help us to produce a permanent scent as rapidly as we would like. Therefore, it becomes necessary to use supernumerary methods which are not ordinarily available. This is a big job, an exacting one, and an exciting one. It is a job that most commercial firms won't touch. They are so busy making a living they do not have the time to experiment. In the long run, this puts the job of perfecting a scent in begonias squarely up to the interested ama-

teur gardener or hybridist.

Today it is largely with the amateur gardener that you find the combination of time, patience and a deep enthusiasm that is necessary to successful flower hybridizing. It was an amateur who introduced the magnificent fuchsia "Cascade." It was an amateur who bred the extraordinary giant race of freesias to be marketed in the fall of 1940. It was an amateur who rediscovered the red-flowering gazania.

It would be impossible, within the limits of this article, to write exhaustively of the four artificial methods—used in connection with "inbreeding"—by which botanists are producing new plant species. The most I can do is to suggest what the problem is, the four ways of solving it, and list a bibliography which you may read in order to secure a working outline of the method that may appeal to you.

Each plant is made up of a multitude of microscopic cells designated as somatic—or body—cells. In each of these cells is a nucleus containing threads of differentiated protoplasm called chromosomes. The chromosomes are the bearers of heredity. A change in the pattern the chromosomes form, an increase or decrease in their number, forecasts a change in some characteristic or habit of the plant.

Our problem, then, is to so change the chromosome pattern, or alter the number of chromosomes that eventually we will find just that combination which will directly, or indirectly, produce a lasting fragrance in either *Baumannii* or 37.1041.

(Continued on Page 54)

## MONTALVO GARDENS

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- RARE PLANTS
- FERNS

4455 Montalvo Ave. San Diego

## We still have a complete stock of Tuberous Begonias

But do not delay in your orders  
this year, for supply is very short.

Let us fill your wants  
before too late

Headquarters For All  
Seasonal Bulbs

## BOB ANDERSON

317 So. Broadway Los Angeles

# EPIPHYLLUMS -- ORCHIDS FROM CACTUS

by R. F. KADO

**W**HAT IS YOUR idea of cacti? Don't you immediately think of hot sandy stretches of desert land and the dull-colored, spine-covered plants that, in a brief season, show forth strangely lovely blossoms—plants that, to cultivate successfully in your garden must be given poor soil, full sun and little moisture? That is the usual mental picture conjured up by the word cactus.

But there is a member of the large cactus family which comes from the jungles of South and Central America, which thrives in rich, moist soil and in shaded situations, under precisely the same conditions as your beloved begonias, which produces such wonderfully tinted, fragile-looking flowers that the name "Orchid Cactus" is most aptly applied. These are the Epiphyllums.

You probably know the Night-Blooming Cereus. When someone has one of these exotic plants, the swelling of its buds heralding its brief, nocturnal period of beauty, marks a period of breathless suspense when the owner and her neighbors wait for the white wonder of its full flowering. But, do

you know that the Epiphyllums can provide plants with even more beautiful blooms, by day as well as by night, in magnificent colorings as well as purest white, many of which are as sweetly scented?

To the begonia grower, Epiphyllums offer no cultural problems at all. They can be placed in the same bed with begonias and treated exactly the same. Their color range is so great that varieties to continue or compliment any color scheme can be selected. One may choose the types suitable for background use, tall-growing, supported by stakes, or more compact ones, for intermediate use. Or, to accompany the hanging basket begonias, such as the *Lloydii*, there are other varieties, adaptable for such purposes from which to choose.

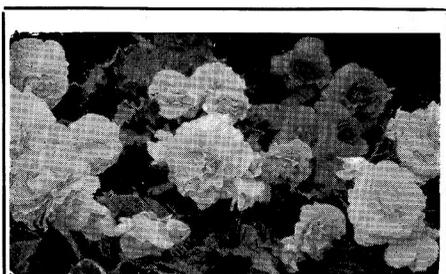
In the several years I have been growing and developing Orchid Cacti, I have definitely determined several points in regard to their culture which should aid anyone in achieving real success with these plants.

In the warm months, when the temperature is hovering between 90 and 120 degrees, the plants should be watered once every three days, but as soon as buds appear, care should be taken to water only at the roots. After the blooming is over, the whole plant should be watered to help it regain its strength.

Like begonias, the plants flower best when the roots are crowded in small pots in proportion to the plant's size. After they flower is the time to shift them to larger pots, always making sure the drainage is good. An idea as to the increase in size of pot is—from a five to a seven-inch pot.

Begonias like an extra bit of feeding. So do Epiphyllums. They will respond to the same kind of food stimulation.

Epiphyllums are not subject to much trouble from pests and disease. A good foliage spray, such as you use for your begonias is a good precaution but caution should be taken during budding season. At that time, if I need anything, I brush or spray the plants with rubbing alcohol. If mealy-bug should appear, lift out the plant, sprinkle Vaporite inside the pot, reset the plant and water it. If needed, the process can be repeated in four weeks.



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*of*  
**TUBEROUS  
BEGONIAS**

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*and*  
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ALL TYPES and COLORS

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# BERTHA VON LOTHRINGEN



• The picture on the left is Bertha von Lothringen, sometimes called Perle de Lorraine. It was originated by Lemoine in 1902, and is **Polyantha x daedalea**. The plant is about eighteen inches tall and bears glossy green foliage curiously veined with chocolate brown. The netted veins show dark red on the pale green underside. Both leaf and pedicel are sparsely white-hairy. This variety drops its leaves badly in Winter and should be kept on the dry side.

—Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

From the Begonia Booklet of the Journal of the New York Botanical Garden:

**Perle Lorraine** — low, bushy; leaves pointed-ovate, dark green freely marbled with chocolate; flowers soft pink, darker in bud. A very beautiful variety. Raised in France, (1902). Listed as "Bertha von Lothringen."

*Picture courtesy Baake Nursery*

## Begonia Booklet

• Your national officers have seen advance copies of the Begonia Booklet which is now off the press. No member of the Royal Hobby should be without this valuable material. Enclose twenty-five cents in an envelope with your name and address and **SEND YOUR ORDER DIRECT** to the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, (Fordham Branch P.O.), New York, N. Y.

• Members are respectfully requested to patronize the firms who, by their advertisements, have made possible the **BIGGER and BETTER BEGONIAN**.

### SAUNDERS' BEGONIA GARDEN

REX BEGONIAS and  
SHADE PLANTS

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(1 Mile west of Santa Fe Springs)

## Correction

• Mrs. Bessie Buxton, author of "Begonias And How to Grow Them" has asked us to call attention to two errors in her book. The picture on page 64 which is labeled Duchartrei, should be Viaude, and the "Brazilian species," page 96, should be Compta.

### Our Ranunculus Fields Are in Bloom

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CAMELLIAS — FUCHSIAS  
BELGIAN TYPE AZALEAS  
PLANT FOOD—VITAMIN B-1  
Insecticides (in pellet form)

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INGLEWOOD, CALIF.

# First Pennsylvania Branch of American Begonia Society



On October 31, 1939, Mrs. Frank H. Mather, 515 Windover Road, Hatboro, Pa., invited seven ladies to her home for the sole purpose of discussing begonias, their culture and variety.

Of the group only Mrs. Mather and Mrs. Theo. Gruenbaum, Philadelphia, were members of the American Begonia Society. This discussion and talk proved sufficiently interesting to warrant plans for another meeting Nov. 28, 1939 at Green Tree Flower Gardens, Begonia Specialists, 5343 Greene St., Phila., to study and observe begonias. At this time it was explained in detail the difference between corm and fibrous rooted varieties, also that the Rex or painted leaf seemed to be in a class by themselves.

Because of the Christmas Season and its demands upon all of us, our next meeting was not until January 9, 1940 at the home of Mrs. W. E. Jones, Willow Grove, Pa. This was the third time we had been together, so it seemed that the group should have a name. Nothing definite was decided, but between this and the 4th monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. W. L. Paxson, Willow Grove, Pa., February 13, 1940, some correspondence was had with our president Mr. Frank Harrison. This letter was read to the group, and after a short deliberation it was decided to affiliate ourselves with the American Begonia Society.

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**Tuberous Begonias**

Vitamin B-1 Indole Acetic Acid  
Seasonal Plants

*A Nursery That is Different*

—We Do Not Ship By Mail—

Mrs. Paxton, Willow Grove, Pa.; Mrs. Comly, Hatboro, Pa.; Mrs. Prince, Hatboro, Pa.; Mrs. Finckel, Horsham, Pa. and Mrs. Jones, Willow Grove, Pa.; forwarded their dues to Mr. J. N. Nutter, our Treasurer. These 5 together with Mrs. Mather and Mrs. Gruenbaum who are already members, make the required 7.

This is the first Pennsylvania Branch, and as soon as a name has been decided upon you will be advised. This will probably not be until April as the Group have planned to visit the Philadelphia Flower Show in March.

All of the ladies are Begonia conscious and will naturally be much more so when all are receiving *The Begonian*—which awakens interest and gives new ideas.

—M. C. G.

**'BUG-GETA'**

**THE NEW METALDEHYDE BAIT**

**KILLS SNAILS and SLUGS!**

Attracts and destroys them on the spot. Write for FREE SAMPLE. California Spray-Chemical Corporation, "The ORTHO Company" ● Richmond, California

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A new liquid Copper Fungicide to use against Mildews, Black Spot & other plant diseases. Combines with "EXTRAX" Garden Spray for combination control of many insects and diseases. Pest Control Guide FREE. California Spray-Chemical Corp., "The ORTHO Co." Elizabeth, New Jersey • Richmond, California

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THE FASTEST WICKER BAIT THE TRICK

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EASY TO USE  
DOES NOT SPILL  
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NEW and better. No fuss. No mess. Use ANT-B-GON. California Spray-Chemical Corp., "The ORTHO Company" Elizabeth, N. J. • Richmond, Calif.

## Dyckman Branch

• The March meeting of the Herbert P. Dyckman Branch of the ABS met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Judd on the evening of the 5th. Forty-eight members and guests were present, among them President Hugh Hixon of the Long Beach Parent Branch and Mrs. Hixon.

After the business, Mrs. Ruby Liedler presented our Mr. F. B. Blades, who gave an interesting and witty talk. He brought several particularly beautiful rex begonias from his collection. During his discussion of the Erdody family of rexes, he read from Mrs. Buxton's book, and delighted his listeners by demonstrating his method of pronouncing some of the more difficult names by ringing a cow bell. He insisted, in his best Robert Benchley manner, that this was pronunciation simplified for any novice in the study of begonias.

The guest speaker, Mr. Leslie Woodriff, who needed no introduction to most of the group, was accompanied by his charming bride. His fascinating talk dealt mostly with the results of his cross-pollination of fibrous, tuberous and rex begonias. Special mention was made of his cross of "1041" and Baumannii, which produced the fragrant "Wild Rose" tuberous; and of Odorata Alba and Bijou de Jardin, which produced Pet (not a cowbell name.) His plant display in connection with his talk, was more than interesting; Pet, of course, being the most outstanding.

The plant sale was a huge success. (Many thanks to L. W. for the donation of some of his fine hybrids). The pleasant evening concluded with the serving of refreshments in the St. Patricks' Day motif.

Hosts for the next meeting, on April 2nd, will be Mr. and Mrs. Frank Graves, 651 Loma Ave. Mr. J. A. Barfoot will give a talk on insecticides, a very timely subject, and Mrs. Grace Collins will continue the plant study.

### ROSECROFT BEGONIA GARDENS

530 Silvergate Ave. Point Loma  
Established in this one location  
since 1902

*A most complete assortment  
of lathhouse subjects*

**BEGONIAS and FUCHSIAS  
OUR SPECIALTIES**

—Proprietors—

ANNIE C. and ALFRED D. ROBINSON



### HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

**Tuesday, April 2nd, 7:30 P.M.**

651 Loma Avenue, Long Beach.  
Mrs. Frank Graves, Sec'y.-Treasurer,  
651 Loma Avenue, Long Beach.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

**Wednesday, April 3rd, 8:00 P.M.**

1060 Francisco St., San Francisco.  
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary.  
1575 - 31st Ave., San Francisco.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

**Friday, April 5th, 8:00 P.M.**

Odd Fellows Hall, 159½ No. La Brea.  
Mrs. V. SirKegian, Secretary,  
413 West Ellis Ave., Inglewood.

### THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

**Tuesday, April 9th, 8:00 P.M.**

Coca-Cola Hall, Ventura.  
Mrs. Irene Van Fossen, Sec'y.-Treas.,  
349 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

**Thursday, April 11th, 7:30 P.M.**

Community Hall, 9th & Lime, Long Beach.  
Mace Taylor, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer,  
520 East Esther St., Long Beach.

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

**Friday, April 19th, 7:30 P.M.**

El Monte High School.  
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,  
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

### EAST BAY BRANCH

**Monday, April 22nd, 8:00 P.M.**

City Hall Council Chambers, Grove St.,  
and Allston Way, Berkeley.  
R. L. Barnhard, Secretary,  
2419 Oregon St., Berkeley, Calif.

• The next national officer's and director's meeting will be at 7:30 P.M., Friday, April 12, at the home of the vice-president, 141 West 53rd Street in Long Beach.

# WINTER BLOOMING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

by C. M. KELLY



THE GORGEOUS beds of flowering tuberous begonias at the San Francisco Fair made thousands of persons begonia-conscious. Of those who stopped to admire, many resolved to grow them in their own gardens. Once becoming an addict, they will always regret, as is common to all of us who are begonia fans, the coming of autumn's cold weather, which means the close of the blooming season for these choicest of plants for the sheltered location. To those who desire to extend the period of their enjoyment of tuberous begonias we recommend a trial of the winter-blooming types.

The standard upright varieties developed from the Andean species—the summer flowering kinds—which comprised the San Francisco exhibit are classified as *B. tuberhybrida*. This class includes a large number of varieties in singles and doubles in many colors and diversity of form.

Another group having a lower, bushy habit of growth and producing clusters of flowers in singles and doubles is called *B. multiflora nana*. These are now enjoying a renewed popularity and are readily available commercially.

The winter-blooming begonias offered for sale by the florists under the name of Christmas Begonias are derivatives of a *B. socotrana* hybrid, *Glorie de Lorraine*. *Lady Mac* is probably the most popular of the present-day varieties of this class. *Marjorie Gibbs* and *Lucille* are newer introductions and are not so widely distributed. Mr. T. H. Everett, of the New York Botanical Gardens, has recently proposed that the name *B. cheimantha* be applied to this group.

## SOCOTRANA CROSSES

But the winter-flowering begonias to which I refer as being worthy of a trial is a less well-known class called *B. hiemalis*. These also are *socotrana* crosses, the pod-bearing parents being various ones of the large flowered varieties of *B. tuberhybrida*. These

were developed before the *cheimantha* types. The English hybridists have been given credit for producing them in 1883. Similar work was done in Holland about the same time; and more recently improvements have been made by other English growers. There is now a long list of named varieties, some single flowered and others double, but all blossoms are smaller than those of their summer-flowering parents.

The *hiemalis* begonias begin blooming in late September, and some varieties will continue into January. Although this characteristic has long been recognized as a very desirable one, these begonias have not been popular because: having *socotrana* blood they are more difficult to grow successfully; and because they require different culture from the summer varieties; and because they are prone to die during the summer rest period if not watched carefully. Recent experiments and close study of their requirements have resulted in greater success, and amateurs can now obtain stock and detailed cultural instructions from commercial growers.

## FLOWERS STERILE

Since the flowers are completely sterile these begonias must be propagated from cuttings. The method of making leaf cuttings from *B. socotrana* and the *cheimantha* begonias is not satisfactory with these. It is recommended that stem cuttings (tips) or the young shoots that start in the axils of the leaves be used instead. It therefore takes time and patience to increase one's stock, and it may be necessary to sacrifice a plant in making cuttings, though usually a few may

(Continued on Page 53)

BEGONIAS Shade FUCHSIAS  
AZALEAS Plants FERN S

Dodson

Water Gardens and Fernery

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... send for the following cultural bulletins and

## KNOW THE FACTS

Tuberous Begonias.....15c  
Rex Begonias.....15c  
Fibrous Begonias.....15c  
Pests and Pest Control.....15c

## AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

J. N. NUTTER, Treasurer  
1050 E. 19th St. Long Beach, Calif.

## Start Your Tubers Now

● Never plant your tubers in the open ground, especially if it is cold and wet as they are likely to rot and you will find that those that do sprout will be very irregular and the bed will not have that neat appearance so desired.

When your tubers are showing a pink sprout place them in flats of wet peat moss, nestling them into the moss so that the top of the tuber is level with the moss.

Keep these flats moist and in a warm dark place and you will soon be rewarded with good growth from the tubers. Do not be discouraged if they seem slow in growing, for often the Spring weather is cold. As soon as it begins to warm up, the little plants will grow with unbelievable rapidity, for they have been developing a good root system while they seemed to be standing still.

When the plants are about three inches high they can be potted up or planted in the shady garden.

A good potting soil mixture is four parts leaf mold, three parts good garden soil, one part peat moss, a little bone meal and some well pulverized charcoal.

Your garden soil should have lots of coarse leaf mold, well rotted barnyard fertilizer and sand worked into it thoroughly and kept wet until ready for the tubers.

—by **CLARISSA HARRIS**

● From M.C.G., Philadelphia: "Just reached home from the Philadelphia Flower Show; surely some people are becoming Begonia-conscious. There were several collections of begonias on exhibit, some having as many as 30 varieties. There was an exhibit of Christmas Flowering as well as Rex.

"The writer surely hopes some other of our Eastern members visited the show and will write you giving the names of exhibitors and the number of varieties exhibited and other interesting details.

"It was very encouraging from a 'Begonia' standpoint."

**GREEN TREE FLOWER GARDENS**  
5343 Greene St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.  
*We grow more than 200 varieties of —*  
**RARE BEGONIAS**  
Tuberous — Hardy Evansiana  
Description Book, Culture, etc., 50 cents

## Inglewood Branch

● The March 1 meeting of the Inglewood branch was a huge success. Eight boxes of plants were presented to members who joined in February and eight more were enrolled. Two hundred were present which is an indication of the popularity of our branch.

Mr. Cundy, that bundle of personality, lectured FULLY on azaleas and camellias. The consensus of opinion is that the azalea leads in popularity by a large margin according to the number of questions asked. If you have ever visited Coolidge's Rare Plant Gardens at this time of year you will agree that the azalea in bloom is a representative picture of what heaven should be like.

On March 12, twenty-five members and guests visited the Gardens. Among the guests in one party were Mesdames "Budd, Climer and Water." Truly this is a GARDEN CLUB.

This is the forerunner of many visitations during the spring and summer months.

At the April 5 meeting, one of our new members, Mr. Elmer Smith, is to lecture on that very interesting subject "LEAF MOLD." There is more variation in leaf mold than there is between brown and black peat! This lecture is going to be of benefit to beginners especially who are oftentimes confused between leaf mold and peat moss.

We ask for constructive criticism. Is there anything about the programs that you would especially like to change? Is there any PARTICULARLY INTERESTING subject that would "tie" in with our lathhouses such as lighting, garden furniture, pools, etc.? Let me know and I will do my best to please you!

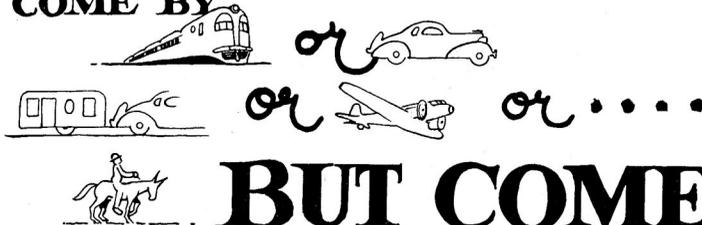
—**MRS. ALICE NICKLOW**  
Publicity Chairman.

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*All Varieties and Prices*  
ENGLISH PRIMROSES  
SHADE PLANTS  
—Visitors Welcome—  
*We Close on Monday—January to April*

# On to Ventura for the . .

• Everyone is cordially invited to visit the Ventura Spring Flower Show to be held April 19, 20 and 21st.

COME BY



# BUT COME!

The show opens at noon on Friday, April 19th and is sponsored by the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the American Begonia Society. Readily accessible to town, two blocks east of Main Street, on California Street, in the Civic Auditorium.

This is the Ventura Branch's fourth sponsored show. It is non-competitive, flower lovers and flower growers exhibiting their plants and specimens for the sheer joy of seeing them on display, and for the enjoyment of fellow flower lovers. Of course, there will be a Begonia Section in the show, but every kind and variety of plant will be exhibited. It is probably not common knowledge, but the Ventura County climate is ideal for the growing of flowers, exotics and semi-tropicals, which flourish in the cool breezes, sweeping off the Pacific at our door.

## WORLD'S SEED SUPPLY

The first commercial flower seed grower in California was Mrs. Theodosia B. Shepherd, who grew flowers for seed in Ventura upon

the sight where the Public Library now stands. In 1880 Mrs. Shepherd started exchanging seeds with easterners, and seeds forwarded to a wholesale house, were so fertile as to warrant the seedmen writing Mrs. Shepherd and telling her that undoubtedly in less than fifty years' time California would be the world's seed supply. So Ventura became the home of the first seed growers in California.

## HAPPY

Members of the Ventura Branch are an enthusiastic and happy bunch of people. They can back up their claims of the Ventura climate being ideal for Begonias and all flowers. You will never see as healthy specimens of Rexes as are grown in Ventura,

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In Ventura . . . . .

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## Spring Flower Show . .

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In Ventura—In California—In U.S.A.  
The largest wall garden and display of  
**REX BEGONIAS**

—and—  
**RARE FERNS**

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# SPRING FLOWER SHOW

—sponsored by—

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

and the tuberous just outdo themselves. Ventura boasts the largest wall garden in the county, a beautiful sight. A few miles from Ventura is a Rex Garden in a natural setting, upon the terraced slopes of a sun-drenched hill, whose mighty oaks produce the mold and the shade for their luxurious growth.

### GARDEN VISITATIONS

All Ventura gardens will be open to visitors and if you want to give yourselves a treat, be sure to visit the show, and the gardens.

### SHOW OFFICIALS

Bill Kemper is chairman of the show; Huber Morris, contact chairman and Clarence Hall, publicity chairman, all of Ventura. They will arrange for a very happy visit in Ventura, and guarantee you'll come again. The date, April 19, 20 and 21st. The place—Civic Auditorium, Front and California Streets, Ventura. Sponsors—our own Ventura Branch—the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the ABS.

April 19 - 20 - 21 . . . . .

**METS NURSERY**  
 2242 E. Main Street      Ventura  
 —Visit Our Gardens—  
**FULL OF RARE AND EXOTIC PLANTS**

### President's Invited

Invitations have gone out to the presidents of all local branches to attend the Ventura Annual Flower Show, sponsored by the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, approved by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and backed by all civic bodies!

The KEY to the city is YOURS. Get a taste of Ventura hospitality this Spring and look forward to NOVEMBER 2 and 3 when Ventura will be hosts to the SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY.

*WE'RE PRACTICALLY THERE,  
VENTURA!!*

..... IT'S A DATE!

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 150 Varieties — Many Late Creations  
**Wade's Fuchsia Gardens**  
 Yearout Ranch  
 One Mile out Telegraph Rd.—Ventura

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**KNECHT'S PATIO GARDEN**  
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**RARE PLANTS FUCHSIAS**  
*See Our Exhibit at the Show*

ty is a Joy Forever  
**LOWER SHOP**  
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 A, CALIF.



# FERNS

Highlights from a recent talk by **ELLA MARGUERITE FEWKES**



**F**ERNS—those “some things” that many think are impossible for them to grow. Well, tain’t true, tain’t!

First, **don’t** overpot. You will have a splendid root system, but no top. Now, if you have a **CROWDED** root system, that suggests **FOOD**—lots of it. I said food, not shots. There is a difference, you know. A food is something that takes a long time to disintegrate; a shot is something that promotes rapidity in growth for a very short period and then another shot forcing said plant unnaturally, with the result that the plant goes to heaven or wherever good little plants go.

Second, **don’t** keep fussing with a fern. Plant it and let it alone. They don’t like their root systems disturbed.

Third, **don’t** allow a fern to dry out. They will immediately show you their displeasure by turning brown and crisp. On the other hand, don’t make a swamp condition. They want moisture, but perfect drainage.

Fourth, **don’t** sit a fern in front of a window with the sun streaming in on it. Or allow container to sit in another vessel holding water. This cuts off all air supply and that hole in the bottom of your container is for a purpose—air circulation.

Keep all dead or fully matured fronds cut off.

## RE-POTTING

When fern needs to be transplanted use a good, rich mixture. Three buckets leaf mold, 1 bucket rich top loam (not gummy or hard clay soil) 1 pound nitrogenic, 3-inch pot crude naphthalene, 1 bucket peat. Use fern pots as they are more graceful excepting in six or eight-foot specimens.

## DIVIDING

When cracking up fern, cut bottom off about one-third way, then cut **FROM BOTTOM** toward crown. Just before your knife touches the crown stop and with your hands

tear the fern apart. If you should cut through the crown you do not cut with the natural growth, consequently do a great deal of harm, but when you tear the crown apart you will see the segments will pull apart with the growth.

Plant these pieces in the mixture mentioned above, covering each piece with not more than two inches of soil. That will allow the crown to be deep enough so it won’t be exposed and yet not so deep as to cause new fronds to travel too far to come to the light.

If you have a fernery, once a year go into the woods and find a fallen oak tree pretty thoroughly pulverized. Gather that wood and mix with some good oak leaf mold. First cut back all dead fronds. Spread crude naphthalene, then nitrogenic, then this mixture mentioned above.

Dare you to say you “cain’t” grow ferns! Bye now. See you later.

## ANNUAL AZALEA FESTIVAL

Where blossoms and birds songs mingle in the free and easy fellowship of Spring.

**Worth a King’s Ransom . . .**  
And it Doesn’t Cost You One Cent to SEE and ENJOY IT!

## IT IS MAGIC!!

A MIRACLE OF COLOR! Tens of thousands of glorious blooms in over 100 different shades.

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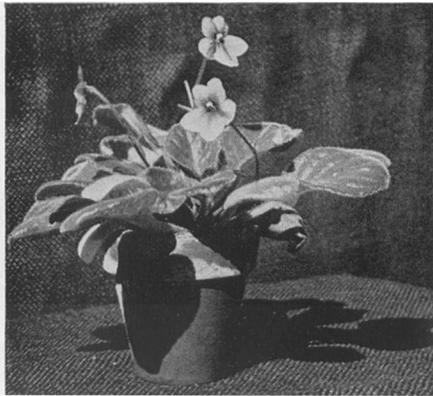
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# SAINTPAULIAS

by MARTHA GREEN



THE SAINTPAULIAS, named for their discoverer Baron Walter von Saint Paul, are one of our loveliest and most satisfactory houseplants. They will tolerate the gas fumes of our front rooms as no other houseplant does, you can grow them in a sunny or in a north window. Give them plenty of water and food and they will delight you with their soft fuzzy leaves and their gay deep violet or light blue flowers.



Another advantage is the ease with which you may propagate them from leaf cuttings. A method which I find very satisfactory is as follows: In a seven-inch fern pot, put about an inch of pea gravel and a layer of wet sand in the bottom, put a cork in the drainage hole of a three-inch pot and set this pot on the wet sand. The small pot should come about one-quarter inch above the rim of the large pot, fill the space around the small pot with wet sand, filling clear to the rim.

Now cut the large matured leaves from the outside of your Saintpaulia plant with about an inch of stem and insert in the wet sand leaving the leaf a fraction above the level of the sand. You should be able to get about nine leaves in this space. Fill the small pot with water, set in a warm (not sunny) place and have patience, it will take

## Begonias — Ferns

Shade Loving Plants  
**CARDOZA GARDENS**  
MRS. H. CARDOZA SLOAN  
503 Coast Boulevard  
Corona Del Mar, Calif.

from four weeks to three months for the small plants to start. Always be sure to keep the small pot filled with water.

As soon as the small plants appear, pot them up in small pots using the following soil mixture: three-fourths leaf mold, one-eighth sharp sand and one-eighth GOOD garden soil. I fertilize once a month with Liquid Fertilizer and have blooming plants in about six to eight months. They do their best for me in a South window which gets filtered sunlight. Repot as the pots become full of roots.

Never use overhead water for Saintpaulias as any moisture on the leaves will discolor them. A very satisfactory method of watering is to use the small ornamental watering pot that resembles the long-spouted oil can used by the railroad men, as you can get under the leaves with the long spout and yet avoid danger of water getting into the crown of the plant or on the leaves.

## Long Beach Parent Branch

• The speaker for the April 11 meeting of the Parent Branch will be Mr. Frank Marrin of Sawtelle on fuchsias. Also Mr. G. A. Bauman of Palos Verdes Estates will show colored pictures of tuberous begonias. All members of the ABS are cordially invited to attend the Parent Branch meetings.

—RUBY LEIDLER

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

LATHHOUSE PLANTS VISITORS WELCOME

CINERARIAS NOW

Large Flowered Hybrids & Multiflora Nana

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★ **THE COMPOST PILE** ★ ★ ★

From Mrs. E. B., Hollywood: "Our Royal Hobby grips us with such absorbing interest. Why not the HOBBY LOBBY instead of Compost Pile."

\* \* \*

Suggestion for The Compost Pile from M.C.G.: "Agglomeration," "Aggregation," "Ossa upon Pelion," "The Fascicle."

\* \* \*

From L. P., Pasadena: "I think the COMPOST PILE is well named but since you're cutting your correspondence down to the choicest parts why not name it PRUNING SHEARS?"

\* \* \*

**Here Comes Malicious!**



"Where under the sun did you get the idea I had been a teacher? Not me. And have I been getting a lot of ribbing. Anyway it proves that the Begonian is read. Next time tell them I said I had been a race track follower all my life!"

\* \* \*

**School Teacher NOT Retired**

"I see nothing wrong nor unusual in a school teacher, retired or not, in recognizing a HONEY and saying so. More power to you. Your Easter edition is a RATTLING good number."

\* \* \*

**Feud**

From A.N., Los Angeles, to C.H., Ventura: "Now I think The Compost Pile is fittin' but then we could call it the "Offal Heap", especially when stuff like this is sent in!" To the editor from A.N.; "Confucius say "If Compost Heap is discontinued, it will be offal."

\* \* \*

It looks like we're going to have to refer this subject to the Nomenclature department. Mr. Ziesenhenne, what do you think about it?

\* \* \*

From L.C.S., Corona Del Mar: "Congratulations on your Easter Begonian."

\* \* \*

From F. B. Berkeley: "I like your new Begonian exceedingly. It is really a credit to the "royal hobbyists."

\* \* \*

From R.H., San Francisco "The new Begonian is worthy of the Royal Hobby. It's splendid."

From Mrs. J.M.B., Membership No. 780: "Can't your advertisers who do not have catalogs, have inexpensive price lists of their plants? They answer us with 'We can supply you with whatever you want' but it's nice to know what they have and their price. The new Begonian is fine and should help to build up the membership."

\* \* \*

From Mrs. C.D.M., Ventura: "I want to congratulate you on the new set-up of the Begonian. It is such a great improvement, and believe me, you are going right to town with it. We enjoy it so very much, and send our best wishes for your continued success."

\* \* \*

**Satisfies**

From L.S.M. Carlsbad: "We have just read The Begonian from cover to cover and find it is a 'must have' for us. Enclosed is one dollar for membership and one dollar for my fare as an Armchair Explorer. Thank you sincerely for the opportunity of enjoying such a satisfying hobby."

\* \* \*

From H.F.O'D., San Francisco: "Ney, Ney Pauline. You can't do that. Please note the date of this letter. (March 12). Have you? Well then, do you realize that to date I have not received my copy of the March Begonian?"

"If you did not put out such a good piece of work—well, I would not miss it so much.

"So will you please, please send me a March Begonian?"

\* \* \*

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All materials for 5 x 6 house  
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## San Gabriel Valley Branch

• The San Gabriel Valley Branch of the ABS held its third meeting Friday evening, March 15, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank N. Fox in Arcadia. There was a large attendance, with many new members.

Mr. Harvey T. Moss of the Moss Perennial Gardens of Arcadia, gave a most instructive talk on proper seed planting and germination. Good seed and the right soil mixture was highly recommended.

Mr. Fox showed one of his large Maricas covered with buds, and told a little history of this "Mexican Orchid."

President Carl Essig announced the next meeting would be held at the El Monte High School until a permanent location is selected.

The usual plant sale was successful, with T. A. Dodson in charge. Mrs. Dodson conducted the question box, and Mrs. Bisbee was in charge of the program. Looks as if this three months old baby has just about cut its first tooth—and it won't be long before it will be walking.

—MAUDE A. FOX,  
Publicity Chairman.

## The Picture on the Cover

The picture on the cover was furnished through the courtesy of the Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens.

## Azaleas— A Feast of Sheer Beauty

• Never have the Coolidge Gardens' azaleas been lovelier than they are now. In the wide shaded lath houses, the azaleas, growing as in a forest of their own, are startlingly brilliant. Every tiny branch is aflame with color. Scarlet, pale rose, deep rose, apple blossom, orchids, salmons, flame, mauve, lilac, charming variations in form, for with all its intensity and brilliance there is no sameness to the azalea.

Everybody is welcome and there is no admission charge to these acres of singing color, including a very charming and authentic Oriental Garden.



BEGONIAS . . . *Rex and Fibrous* . . . SHADE PLANTS  
BEGONIA TUBERS  
Now Ready  
—Reasonably Priced—  
**WILSON'S**  
**Begonia Garden**  
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Downey, Calif.

## We Want to Know

by MRS. GEO. C. JOHNSON

- Q—When repotting, is it advisable to use any old material? How can you use up this old soil if you must use new every year?
- A—Old material may be put into a box or compost pile and worked over with new fertilizer and additional compost and used again. It is exceptionally good soil in which to start your seeds.
- Q—Please name some acid-loving plants and shrubs.
- A—Begonias, fuchsias, ferns, camellias, azaleas, cinerarias, rhododendrons, brunfelsia and many others.
- Q—What does Rubra mean with regard to begonias? We often hear it used.
- A—The Rubra begonias are cane types with lots of red in the foliage. The true name is *B. coccinea*.
- Q—Do Scotch Luxurians, Luxurians and Luxuriant have anything in common?
- A—Subvillosa is the correct name for Scotch Luxurians. The only similarity is that all three have white flowers.
- Q—Are the Saintpaulias (African Violet) classified as to male and female and does the male plant bloom and if so how can you determine the sexes?
- A—The Saintpaulia blooms are considered perfect—one flower contains both male and female so there is no male plant.

## Orchid Cactus

(Epiphyllum)

One of the most magnificent  
**Day-Blooming  
Tropical Plants**

CULTURE SAME AS BEGONIAS

. . . AN INVITATION . . .

Visit our nurseries and see our collection of over 100 varieties in bloom. Flowering period April 15 to July 15. Peak of bloom during month of May.

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749 Kinman Ave., Santa Monica, Calif.  
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407 No. Rosemead Blvd., Temple City, Calif.  
Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Musick  
2148 E. Live Oak Ave., Temple City, Calif.  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Van Fleet  
150 So. Oak Ave., Temple City, Calif.  
Mrs. J. Gordon Holden  
54 So. Catalina St., Ventura, Calif.  
Mr. Paul Zemella  
10644 Bellagio Road, Bel Air  
West Los Angeles, Calif.

## OTHER STATES

Mrs. Dudley Wadsworth  
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Mr. E. A. Beane  
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172 Malone Ave., Belleville, N. J.  
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Mr. Walter C. Gaitton  
3111 Harvard Ave., Seattle, Wash.  
Mr. C. Tochterman  
Gardner, Queens Hospital, Honolulu, T. H.

● In the list of new members published in the March BEGONIAN, T. A. Dodson should have been listed as a new commercial member, thusly:

\*Dodson Water Gardens & Fernery,  
1064 E. Hermosa Drive,  
San Gabriel, Calif.

● Deadline on copy for the May number of the BEGONIAN is April 15th.

## Winter Blooming Tuberous Begonias

(Continued from Page 44)

be obtained without destroying the whole plant.

### CULTURE

Soil mixture to be used must be coarse and light—loam, leaf mold and sand, and the plants must not be firmed in the pots. Begonia mites and thrips can be controlled by spraying or fumigating persistently. A glasshouse, while desirable, is not a necessary accessory to successful growth of these winter-bloomers. They take more kindly to living-room conditions than the other types of tuberous begonias and will do well in a location where the light, humidity and heat can be controlled. They are not out-of-door plants. Their growing and blooming season is the winter, and unlike the standard tuberous types their dormant time is in early summer. One should purchase young, well-established plants in late summer, (dry tubers are not available) as these will bloom the first season. As these begonias are new in this country, and as their propagation is slow, prices are relatively high.

My own experience has been limited to three plants, and I would not attempt to give complete directions for their care but will refer you to the sources of information that have come to my attention: The translation of *Die Begonien*, by Karl Albert Fotsch, which is in the library of the Society and which gives several pages on this subject; the September issue of the Journal of the N. Y. Botanical Garden, which is also in the library; the 1940 catalogue of Vetterle and Reinelt, of Capitola, California; and the revised cultural bulletin of the Society on Tuberous Begonias.

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the practical, inexpensive way*

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makes 250 quarts of fertilizer  
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Small quantities may be applied to potted plants at rate of one teaspoonful of base solution to one quart of hydrant water.

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## East Bay Branch

• In spite of a heavy downpour of rain, our February meeting was very well attended. We had a most interesting meeting, the speaker being Mr. Toichi Domoto, an authority on camellias. It was surprising to note the number of camellia "fans" we have in our midst. In addition to a very interesting talk, illustrated with beautiful blossoms from his own gardens, Mr. Domoto answered questions and led a very helpful discussion on problems of camellia cultivation.

The April meeting will be held Monday the 22nd, at 8:00 P.M. We are planning to have a general discussion on begonia culture, which will be led by Dr. Richard H. French. The meeting will be open for discussion so "pack your troubles in your old kit bag" and come along. Here's your chance to air that pet theory of yours on how to grow and care for begonias, or maybe you want to find out why the "blamed things" act the way they do. Come along and if you are bashful about asking your questions, let us have it in writing.

We are looking forward with much eagerness to the Annual Spring Garden Show in which we are to have a part this year.

## SPECIAL NUMBER

• The May number of The *BEGONIAN* will be dedicated to the  
**ANNUAL SPRING  
GARDEN SHOW**

and the East Bay Branch of the  
**American Begonia Society** as  
gracious hosts. Show Dates:  
Wednesday, May 1 to Sunday,  
May 5, inclusive. Watch for  
the East Bay Branch Special!

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*Interesting and  
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Visitors Welcome  
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Orchid Supplies

SEE THESE  
GORGEOUS  
BLOOMS TODAY

### RAPELLA ORCHID CO.

13518 Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, Cal.

## Inducing Permanent Fragrance

(Continued from Page 39)

We possibly can accomplish this by "inbreeding," or "selfing," as the method is variously called. So far as I know, this is the only natural method which has not been tried. I recommend that it be used in connection with the more recent artificial methods of inducing a rearrangement of chromosomes. Simply, it consists of taking the pollen from a male flower and applying it to a female flower on the same plant, and preferably on the same bloom stem.

In a way, inbreeding is contrary to nature, for most plants are not self-fertile, and begonias distinctly are no exception to this. A plant must have new blood constantly in order to develop vigorously and survive in the struggle for existence. By inbreeding we rob the plant of its vigor. We weaken its morphological structure. And, most important, we weaken the tendency of the chromosomes to form always in a definite pattern.

The strongest urge a plant knows is the urge to complete its life cycle—to mature, to flower and seed and thus perpetuate its kind. This it cannot do if its vigor is lessened. Consequently the chromosome pattern breaks, new patterns are formed, new characteristics and habits appear through which the plant hopes to gain a renewed vigor or re-adapt itself to its environment. These altered chromosome patterns result in plants which are called "mutations." Perhaps one of these mutations will have the characteristic we desire—in this instance a permanent scent.

It is too much to hope that in one generation we can produce just the mutation we want. Generally, it requires from five to ten years of inbreeding to develop the exact characteristic we are searching for. It is

## Begonias As House Plants

● How do I succeed in keeping my begonias so nice? Mostly love; for one must love any hobby in order to have any measure of successful results. But begonias, like humans, cannot live on love alone so food is the next course on the begonia list.

I plant my begonias in a rather rich mixture. Sand, garden soil and WELL ROTTED goat manure. Statistics show that goat manure contains all of the nutrients necessary for vegetative growth except phosphate. I add about a tablespoonful of phosphate to a ten-inch pot just when the stems are showing bloom color, not before. And of course plenty of winter sunlight and plenty of water, with frequent spraying of water on the leaves to keep them shiny and to let them breathe. A dust-laden plant cannot breathe as plants take their oxygen through the leaves.

Contributed by—

**MRS. H. R. FLESHMAN,**  
Webster Groves, Missouri.

---

necessary, then, to select each year from our "inbred" stock the five or six strongest plants—or those which may show a tendency to develop a more lasting fragrance—and repeat the inbreeding.

For most amateurs this inbreeding offers the greatest possibilities. It is not difficult or involved, although it is essential toward the end of the inbreeding period to raise several thousand or more plants in order to reduce the odds against which you are working.

Should this method of hybridizing intrigue you, I suggest—for further information—you read:

"The Genetics of Garden Plants"

by Crane and Lawrence,

"Chromosomes and Plant Breeding"

by Darlington.

(To be continued in the May Begonian)

### FAIRYLAND

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# How to Plant and Care For Azaleas

by ALICE NICKLOW

Q—How many varieties are there?

A—There are two—Kurume, having small single and double flowers; Indica (*Leadifolia*) having large single and double camellia-type flowers, in solid and variegated shades. Both have a wide variety of color, except yellow and blue.

Q—How large do they grow?

A—The Kurume is the low bushy type—that is, they reach a height of around four feet and as wide. The Indica is a taller grower, reaching a height of approximately six feet—is usually a more scraggly plant than the Kurume.

Q—How to plant and when.

A—If planted in ground, make a hole about one foot in diameter, place 2 inches of pea-gravel on the bottom for drainage, fill in with damp peat moss—black or brown, there is no difference. Place the plant in this, tapping down the peat around the roots, so there will be no air spaces. Plant any time.

Q—When and what to feed.

A—One teaspoonful of Prepared Azalea Food to a small plant—give to a large plant according to size. Work this in gently on top of peat moss being careful not to disturb the roots—Azaleas are surface feeders. Feed after plant has stopped blooming; give two additional feedings at intervals of six weeks. No more.

Q—How to water and where to plant.

A—NEVER let the peat moss dry out. Do not TOP water, but let the peat absorb the water. Plant in semi-shade—under lath that is 1½ or more inches apart is ideal. May be planted in semi-shade outside with success. If planting under trees, be sure they do not have surface roots, most trees do—the Oak is satisfactory, however.

Q—When to prune.

A—Pruning may be done in May after blooming period has ceased. This is a simple matter—simply use hedge shears or any other instrument and cut according to individual taste. Azaleas may be trained into many interesting shapes.

Q—When to transplant.

A—Transplanting may be done to best advantage after blooming period—however, never later than August, as the plants are ready then to begin production in earnest.

Q—In starting an Azalea bed, is it advisable to plant in solid peat, that is, fill a 6-foot bed with peat moss?

A—No. Peat moss retains too much moisture. Make as many holes as you have plants.

● In planting, remember that the Azalea is not a small plant under proper conditions, but likes to spread out. Give it lots of room and it will present a picture hard to forget.

At the end of a two-year period it is likely the peat will have to be renewed as dirt will have washed into the peat. Simply remove the plant, shake off the peat moss, wash the roots, and set in new fresh peat. Now your plant is ready for another two-year period.

The root system of the Azalea will not go beyond the peat moss into the surrounding dirt, but as stated previously the dirt will wash into the peat over a period of time.

## Ventura Notes

by WALTER J. KNECHT

● The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the American Begonia Society met Tuesday, March 12 at their old meeting place, the Coca-Cola Building. Everybody felt quite at home again after meeting in several other places for a while.

A lively meeting was enjoyed under President Kemper, highlighted by Mrs. Frank Orr in her talk and demonstration on modern flower arrangements.

Refreshments and the usual plant sale helped to make the evening an enjoyable one for everybody.

Nothing extraordinary seemed to have happened during the past month worth mentioning. From what I could hear in conversation, it appears that everybody likes the new style and makeup of The Begonian very much. Posies to the editor from Ventura members.

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