

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden



REX BEGONIA "Bertha McGregor"

The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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The Picture on the Cover



● Rex begonias form one of the most brilliant and regal of all foliage plants and a very popular hybrid is "Bertha McGregor", pictured on the cover through the courtesy of the Lewis Begonia Gardens of Rivera.

Mr. Robinson's description of this plant reads: "Most majestic upright grower, leaves large, almost palmate center and edges oliveaceous black, large long blotches of tea green and irregular spots running out at ends of points."

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SPRINGTIME IN THE LATHHOUSE

by FRANK HARRISON and FERD. P. NEELS

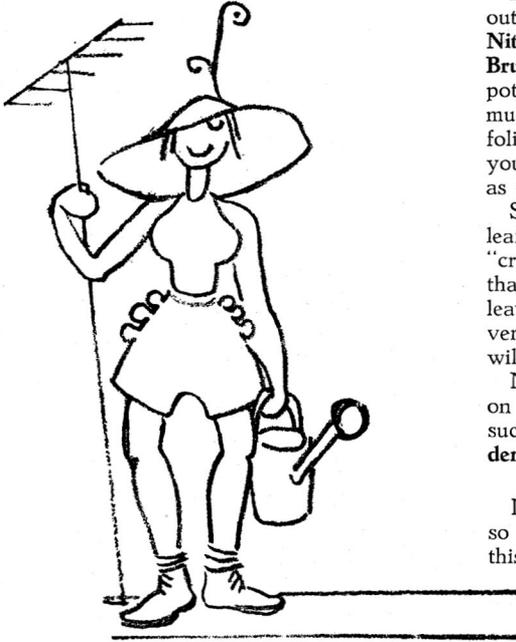


HIS IS THE time of the year to beautify your lathhouse for the summer months.

Rex, fibrous and tuberous begonias and other lathhouse plants are now starting their summer growth.

TRY TIP CUTTINGS

Begonia tubers that were started in flats or those that show signs of growth are now ready to be planted in beds or pots assuming that the beds and potting soil has already been prepared. A good soil mixture is two-thirds leaf mold, one-third well rotted dairy fertilizer and a sprinkling of steamed bone



The "Little Gardener"
Courtesy Castle Garden Club, Akron, Ohio

meal. The soil mixture should be of a coarse texture to provide good drainage.

If you have a favorite tuber, and would like to have more of it, why not try making some tip cuttings at this time. When the plant is well started take tip cuttings about two inches long and start them in moist sharp sand. By using this method you will get nice tubers which will bloom next year.

Do not be afraid to water the tuberous foliage as the plants breathe through the leaves and like to have the dust washed off. Water in the morning and evening. Do not allow the soil to become too wet.

TRY LEAF PLANTINGS

Now let us discuss the fibrous types. The tall ones can be staked up. They can all be shaped at this time, using the pieces cut off to propagate more plants. These cuttings also seem to root better in moist sharp sand. Fibrous begonias can stand more sun than tuberous and rex. You will notice a decided lack of bloom if they have too much shade. They also require frequent watering but be sure the drainage is good. Don't forget to fertilize your fibrous begonias. Any good commercial fertilizer used according to directions will do.

If you like plants of a bushy habit pinch out the tops. We find that plants such as **Nitida**, **Odorata Rosea**, **Medora** and **Paul Bruant** make fine specimens when grown in pots. They do not like to be pot bound as much as the rex. Keep all old discolored foliage picked off, keep the pots clean and you will be well satisfied with the results as a clean lathhouse always looks attractive.

Some fibrous varieties can be grown from leaf plantings. **Phyllomaniaca**, which means "crazy leaf" because of the small plantlets that come from the center of the mature leaves, and better known as "Jessie", strikes very easily from a leaf. "Mrs. Fred Scripps" will also respond readily from a leaf planting.

Now is a good time to use a little fertilizer on your hanging basket or scandent types such as **Alba Scandens**, **Glaucophylla Scandens** and **Marjorie Daw**.

TRY SMALL LEAF TYPES

Let us now take care of our rex begonias so we may have large beautiful plants for this summer.

If you have not repotted your rex you should do so now. Tap them out of the pots and see if they are pot bound. If so, shift to a larger pot. Shake all the old soil off the roots before repotting. Use clean, sterilized pots and put plenty of drainage material in each pot. Use good leaf mold for the potting soil adding a little sharp sand to keep porous. Remove all old and disfigured leaves, breaking them off at the main stem. Use the best of these leaves for propagating more plants.

When the plants are repotted and pruned, it is a good idea to either dust or spray them with arsenate of lead as this is a protective measure for leaf-eating pests.

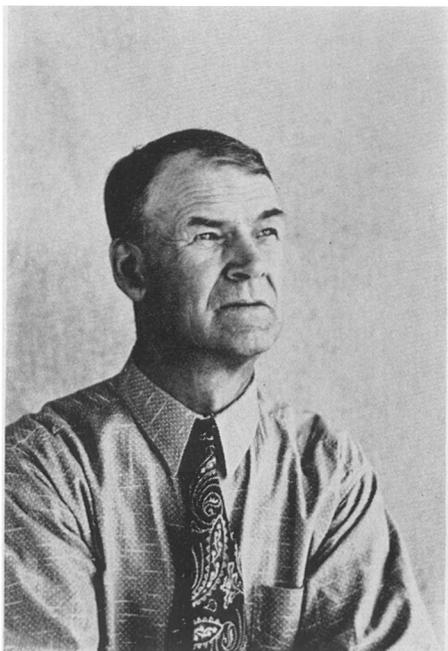
When you add to your rex collection try

(Continued on Page 99)

Presenting . . .

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN

Founder of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY



THE ABS is the outgrowth of the enthusiasm and love for begonias of Mr. Herbert Dyckman of Long Beach, California.

Some two or three years prior to the founding of the ABS two friends of Mr. Dyckman, Mr. Carl Fisher and Mr. A. W. Wallow gave him some small plants and cuttings of begonias, his interest was aroused and soon his very small lath shelter grew to a 6x12 lathhouse, this to be replaced within a short time by an even more spacious one of 12x18.

Incidentally Mr. Wallow at that time had one of the largest private collections of begonias in Southern California and was the originator of the well-known Mrs. A. W. Wallow begonia.

Mr. Dyckman tells us that the magnificent specimens of "Magnifica" in his collection are all descended from a leaf of this beautiful Rex given him by Mr. Wallow.

Mr. Dyckman and Mr. Reidman, another begonia fan exhibited their begonias at several of the Dahlia society flower shows held at Long Beach prior to 1932, where they attracted a great deal of attention and many people became interested in the growing of begonias. As this interest grew the thought came to Mr. Dyckman that it would be nice to form a group to make a study of these interesting plants, exchange experiences and further the interest in them. In December of 1931 he invited a small group of men interested in growing begonias to his home to talk over the idea, among those present were Messrs. Berry, Rocque, Ford, Reidman, Fisher, Kelly, Williams and Wiley. They were all enthusiastic and in January of 1932 at the home of Clayton Kelly in Long Beach the ABS officially came into existence, with Mr. Dyckman as president.

The organization was first known as The California Begonia Society but through the efforts of Mr. Kelly, who was writing to different places all over the world to try to secure seed of new and different varieties of begonias, others learned of the Society and soon there were members in so many different sections of the country that it was decided to change the name to the American Begonia Society.

Much credit is due Mrs. Bessie Buxton for the interest aroused in the East, as when this famous begonia enthusiast came West one time to attend a Garden Conference she learned of the ABS, attended a meeting and on her return to her Boston home mentioned the Society in the letters of the Round Robin group of Begonia Growers.

Mr. A. D. Robinson of Point Loma, the Dean of Begonia Growers, also gave the Society much help by mentioning it in his catalog as well as assisting in many other ways.

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Rex Begonias in Southern Maine

• Editor Ney would ask a question to uncover the fact that Rex begonias are few in Southern Maine—I know of five growers including myself. As to climatic conditions, they are hard on tender plants, six months of winter, four of spring and but two of real summer. This is a bit rude to the “Boost Maine for vacations” promotions but it is a fact.

The home conditions are good. Old houses, thick-walled, heated by wood fire, kerosene lamps or electricity provide light—all help to grow happy plants. Abundant woodsoil and sandy loam provide the “half and half with a handful of manure” potting soil for all but the writer. The other plants are in two groups, those grown in bay windows branch well due to side lighting. The ones grown in single windows tend to produce a single long rhizome, well-leaved on the lower parts.

Neither method would do for me as during the winter I must keep all my plants in an 8x10 foot room lighted from the south and west. During my first years of growing Rex I used well-rotted cow manure in small quantities, sandy loam and woodsoil two and one. This resulted in over-large plants with very tender leaves. I also believe I gave too much water. I now grow smaller plants by letting the blooming season pass, then cut six or eight inches from the tip of rhizome, re-root in new soil. When new leaves prove the roots are on the job I train the plant to live on a subsistence ration of water and the result pleases me. The color is good and leaves large enough to do justice to the family.

Possibly I should end here as we now change to a sad note. By November I am sure to find a brown drying edge on a leaf or two. One plant then another settle back and mope. January and February find me wondering if? — Come March things are a bit better. Yes—March is definitely a tonic month. Rhizomes are coloring, new leaves come, three or four of them. Then buds—soon the color shows and my eight Rex begonias from then on are a beautiful pink cloud; with the passing of the last spray I cut off the tips for rooting and make several leaf cuttings at the same time as a precautionary measure.

I often wonder if all Rex are as seasonal as mine or do some grow and bloom through the year—I would like to know the answer.

—MRS. HAROLD R. ALFORD,
Kennebunkport, Maine.

Ventura Preparing For Convention

• The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the ABS met at the Coca Cola Building on May 14th under Mr. Wm. T. Kemper, Pres.

Plans were laid for the annual convention and flower show in Ventura. The annual picnic will take place on June 23 at the Municipal Golf Course in Montalvo, starting at noon and everybody is cordially invited.

Mrs. Myrtle Francis gave an interesting account of her flying trip to Mexico and her observations there. Maybe we all feel a wee bit of envy for not having been along to see the sights of a different life, climate and flora.

Mr. Kemper thanked all the members and committees for their cooperation during our recent flower show which proved to be a grand success. Many visitors from other branches were noticeable, and we want to thank them for their attendance.

Now we are looking forward to our fall flower show and hope to see you again. Hasta la vista!

—WALTER J. KNECHT

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East Bay Branch Awarded Blue Ribbon; Moves Attractive Display to Treasure Island

THE ANNUAL Spring Garden Show in Oakland is a thing of the glorious past now. It was truly a thing of beauty this year with its Gardens of Fairyland settings. This setting lent itself very readily to the more formal garden type of display than have previous year's shows.

loaned to us by Frank Reinelt. There were Begonias of all types on display all of which were loaned to the exhibit by many other members and non-members. All of these were arranged for and gathered by the chairman of our show committee, H. L. Swagger. Around the edge of the space were arranged many small Rex. These made an effective



Our Branch had two hundred and fifty square feet of Begonias on display. It was awarded the blue-ribboned first prize of its class. In the center of the exhibit was a huge mound of Rex Begonias which were loaned to us by Alferdo Gomes with many fibrous and Rex varieties around its base. Around the three exposed faces of the space were arranged about twenty Tuberous Begonias in full bloom. These were arranged so that the blossoms held up their faces through the smaller rex and fibrous types. They attracted a great deal of attention and were

border. There were two small pools in corners of our exhibit which were fringed with maiden hair ferns. The heat of the show caused several of the Tuberous blossoms to drop. We took advantage of this to float the blossoms in the pools. All in all, it was a very gratifying and successful affair both to the members of the Branch and the management of the show. It was so successful that the management has already asked us to participate again next year with a larger space.

The next activity of the East Bay Branch

will be the sponsoring of an exhibit in the National Garden Show to be held at Treasure Island for four months commencing May 25th. In this activity we will welcome the help and cooperation of any of the other branches. The management have assigned us about six hundred square feet of space against a fence. The space is approximately eleven feet wide and sixty feet long. The front of it will be framed with a ten-foot wide pergola upon which will be displayed hanging fuchsias by one of the Bay Region nurserymen. This show does not have any definite theme except to display garden ideas and methods. At the present time there are expected to be put on display a number of fuchsias and other sheltered garden plants in addition to the Begonias. However, it will be necessary to change our exhibit from time to time and at such times it will be possible to put in other plants.

At our April meeting Dr. R. E. French led a very interesting and well participated in "question and answer" discussion. All those who were present learned a great deal and many contributed much to the discussion. This was so successful that perhaps more of them will be in order, if the members desire them. At the conclusion of the meeting there was an exchange of plants.

The East Bay Branch has been invited by Dr. R. E. French to hold the June meeting at the California School for the Blind in the Auditorium. He has asked us up to view his lathhouses and the display of his Begonia seedlings. This will take place before the meeting. At the meeting proper the program will consist of a symposium or panel discussion. Dr. French has volunteered to act as one of the members and two or three others are to be selected. We hope that Frank Reinelt will be one of the panel. Invitations have been sent to others but no definite acceptances have been received yet.

Discuss Ferns And Lathhouse Arrangement

• Ferns, which soften and beautify our lathhouses, will be the subject of a talk by Mrs. Alexander B. Sim of 305 No. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, before the members and friends of the Long Beach Parent Branch, Thursday evening, June 13.

Mrs. Sim will also discuss lathhouse arrangement. Open Forum will be conducted following the principal speaker.

—EDNA ZIESENHENNE

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More Than Five Hundred Expected at June 7 Meeting

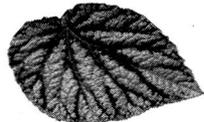


President George McDowell of Inglewood Branch has prepared for an attendance of five hundred at the June 7 meeting when National President Frank Harrison will speak on rex begonias.



This talk is the result of Mr. Harrison's answering a question on rex propagation which appeared in the Question Box. When he had completed his explanation there was a spontaneous burst of applause and since then repeated requests for further information on this interesting subject have been made. Mr. Harrison will explain in detail various ways of propagating rex leaves and will show the different stages of

growth in small flats, bottles, jars, etc., which will be passed among the audience.



The meeting will be at 8 p.m. in the Inglewood Woman's Club where there is a large lobby in which to greet fellow Begonians, and plenty of parking space on a wide street.

This is a splendid opportunity for members of all branches to see and hear their National President on a subject with which he is thoroughly familiar.

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Members View Stars

• The May meeting of the Herbert P. Dyckman Branch of the ABS was held on the 7th at the home of Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Bicknell, 1433 East First Street.

A number of guests were present as well as several visitors from other branches, including Mr. George McDowell, President of the Inglewood Branch.

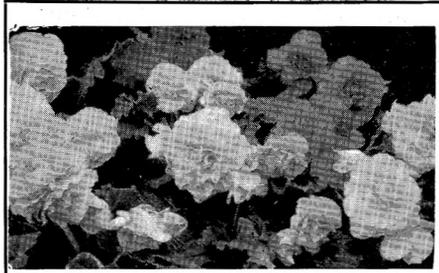
Mrs. Caroline Green gave a very interesting and instructive talk on B. Coralline Lucerne, which was followed by the guest speaker of the evening, Mrs. Lucy Graham of Hawthorne, who spoke on "Lath House Plants, other than Begonias." Her subject was covered in a very able and interesting manner.

A feature of the evening was viewing the stars through a large telescope provided by Dr. Bicknell. Everyone present also admired his conservatory and beautiful gardens.

Our usually successful plant distribution was made doubly so at this meeting by the very choice and large number of plants we had to offer. The plants purchased from Palestine's were exceptional specimens, and those donated by members and visitors were all outstanding plants. Special mention is deserved by Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Hough and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Woodruff for their very generous donations.

Delicious refreshments were served by the ladies of that committee.

The June meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd B. Blades, 2147 Compton Blvd. (Second house east of Flood Control Bridge).



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Reported by HARRIETTE W. BRIDGES



Beautiful things have always been his work and so growing things of beauty is his hobby. From weaving and reweaving of beautiful tapestries, another object of Royalty, to the Royal Hobby of growing Begonias have been the life work of Alferdo Gomes, of San Leandro, California. To say the least, his Rex are objects of beauty in size, shape, and color.

"Nitrate of Potash makes my Rex leaves firm," was the reply of Mr. Gomes to our exclamations of surprise and excitement when we first saw his display on the shelves of his outdoor lathhouse.

Mr. Gomes' little home at 968 Alice Street, San Leandro, belies the beauty which lovers of the Royal Hobby know so well. The only thing to distinguish his home from that of his neighbors is the bed of beautiful pansies grown from imported Swiss seed, that fill the parking strip. It is the rear of the house that holds the beauty in store for the Begonia lover. Here at the rear of his home one comes suddenly upon a pool in which goldfish sport. This pool is surrounded with a bed of Tuberous Begonias. These and the pool form a fitting foreground to frame the lathhouse bleachers on which are displayed Mr. Gomes' fine collection of Rex Begonias. Here one sees many types of leaves with many shadings, colors and shapes. The plants range from Rajah to Fireflush.

Across the back of his lot Mr. Gomes has a large conservatory in which he grows many types of Rex and Tuberous Begonias. Even as early as May 7th he had many of his Tuberous in full blossom. He is doing some remarkable work in hybridizing with tubers. But more about them at another time.

He claims the secret of his success with his Rex is largely due to the mixture of his soils and the use of Nitrate of Potash. He admitted you can use Nitrate of Soda or "Chilean Nitrate" but it is not as active or potent as the Nitrate of Potash.

He consented to give the secret of his soil mixture which is very similar to that used by many but has some differences. It is 3 parts leaf mold, 1 part loam or sandy soil, 1/2 part sheep manure, 1/2 part cow manure (well rotted) and one pound of bone meal. His leaf mold is usually made up of 1/2 oak and 1/2 madrone leaf mold. This makes a very porous and loose soil mixture yet it

is firm enough to hold his large plants well and provides good drainage.

At our Spring Garden Show, Mr. Gomes displayed quite a number of his beloved Rex, in fact they did a great deal towards making the East Bay Branch exhibit a success. Naturally these plants suffered from the effects of the close confinement and the crowded conditions of the exhibition hall. However, a week after the show they are looking up and practically back to normal due to Mr. Gomes' treating them with Nitrate of Potash. "You should use a pinch of it to a pot—a big pinch, a little pinch—according to the size of the plant and the pot," he explained.

His method of propagating new Rex plants is that of leaf cuttings in a soil mixture consisting of 1/2 peat and 1/2 leaf mold. He has not tried any seeds as yet. He starts the cuttings in this soil mixture after soaking the cuttings in a solution of Vitamin B1. "Instead of one drop to a gallon as they say in the directions for watering, I use 3 drops to a pint for this purpose, and then soak these cuttings in it for one hour. See, I will show you." With that he proceeded to pull off a leaf and demonstrate how to cut the leaf into sections. He first cut a rough circle around the stem. "You see that's your first plant and you ought to surely get one from that," he said, holding it up for us to see. "Then we take the rest of the leaf like this," he continued as he picked up the portion he had trimmed off and started to cut between the veins. "You see you cut between each of these big veins and each will be a plant. Then you put them in the Vitamin B1 for one hour—one hour is long enough, no need

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to leave them any longer—then you plant them like this." He proceeded to insert them in the ground with the pointed end of the wedge down. "Maybe you don't get a plant for each one but you will get plenty!" Later he showed us how he planted all of the leaf cuttings and set the box away under the bench in his conservatory.

Under the benches there are many small potted Rex Begonias. Frequently when one lifts a leaf to look more closely one notices small Rex plantlets. "Those just grew there," he explained. "Leaves fell off. I didn't notice them and the next thing I knew there were the little plants. The ground is good and moist and it's always warm here so they just grew. That's nature," he finished with a Latin shrug.

One of Mr. Gomes' ambitions is to bring to this country some of the beautiful specimens of Rex Begonias he knew as a boy in his far off native Madeira. He said "There they grow everywhere. Some grow wild. There must be two thousand kinds and types and varieties. They are beautiful. They grow in houses, they grow in gardens, they grow in the patios. Many of them hang in the upstairs balconies. Many have beautiful flowers. They all have beautiful leaves. They are found wild in many parts of the islands. If I can get permission I want to bring some of them to this country and show my friends what they are like."

"Maybe you won't believe it," he continued, "but in Lisbon I have seen the largest collection of Rex Begonias in a single place in the world. In the Lisbon Botanical Gardens they have eight acres with nothing but Rex Begonias. Eight acres of 'Cold Green Houses' with nothing but Rex Begonias. It is beautiful in there under those lathhouses. There they have Rex in beds, they are in little specially made hollows to fit and frame them. Rex everywhere in rocky caverns in boxes, hanging overhead, and clinging to moss growing up the sides of the lathhouses. They call the lathhouses "Cold Green Houses" over there. They are growing everywhere in this eight acres. They are the finest I have ever seen. In fact those Lisbon gardens are the best in the world, even the English admit they are better than anything they have!"

He described many of the Rex to be found in these gardens. He described large leaves and small ones, some with large flowers. Do you wonder he wants to bring them to this country? I do not. They sounded magnificent.

We measured several of his Rex and found them of large proportions. He has a Fire-flush with a spread of between four and five feet in proportionate height.

To prove the effects of his pet Nitrate of Potash he showed us several plants, two Rajah, one Stardust and a Curley Cluster. The Stardust is about seventeen months old. It is twenty-one inches tall and has a spread of three feet. One of the Rajahs is about seven months old and has a spread of twenty-five inches and is fourteen inches tall. The other Rajah is about seventeen months old and has a spread of forty-two inches and is twenty inches high. The Curley Cluster is six months old but is already eight inches tall and has a spread of fourteen inches. It is a very sturdy young plant with the curl on the leaves very pronounced. All of this growth he attributes to his use of Nitrate of Potash.

Another use of Nitrate of Potash which Mr. Gomes finds very useful is to use a small amount of it throughout the winter during the dormant period to keep his plants healthy. "Use your own judgment as to the quantity. A pinch to a large sized pot. This makes the leaves stay firm all winter. It makes the leaves and whole plant much stronger in the spring. "It peeps the plants up."

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Adventures of a Renter

by KATHRYN WEITZ

(Concluded)

WE COVERED the walls with roofing paper to keep the wood from decaying, and to that we tacked Oregon green moss and chicken wire. I made pockets of wire covered with moss and fitted them into the background, covering them solidly and filling them with leafmold in which I planted ferns and Rex begonias, which I bought with great care and propagated riotously.

We gathered a lot of Helxine which grows so abundantly in shady spots and let it fill in ugly gaps for which at first we had no plants. The river bottoms yielded up good rocks of all sorts of colors and sizes, and the woodpile was robbed of several logs with good-looking bark to furnish us with stools and plantstands.

We planted over fifteen hundred ferns of various sizes and kinds, a hundred or more different varieties of Rex begonias, some fifteen Fibrous and about thirty Tuberosus begonias, both hanging and bedding varieties, besides many different kinds of plants used to blend the whole together or to give individual accents. We made hanging baskets out of discarded bean buckets painted green; the little plants grew into big ones—and suddenly we found ourselves famous!

The local paper sent a reporter who in turn sent a photographer, and then the fun started. For weeks I had a steady stream of visitors, from five to twenty in a day, all to see my backyard garden!

The experiences I have had with the public would make anecdotes for all sorts of occasions. While some frankly admire the garden for its own sake, I find the reactions of others a source of insight into the human critter that I never had before.

One very well-dressed woman drove up in her limousine and made a supercilious survey of the house from the street. After seeing my Yami's Paradise she looked me over from head to foot, and said severely, "How can you afford all this?" I asked her in my most most respectful tones how she could afford the dress she wore, and she left abruptly!

One practical man stood with his hands in his pockets looking at the cloth top of the enclosure and said judiciously, "You ought to know that cloth will rot in a year." Whereat I could not help rejoicing "So would your shirt if you were to wear it that long."

Many people voice their sentiments by indirection, contrasting my garden with my cheap print dress and the general neighborhood, by asking the price of my plants. I reply that they are not for sale, and that as this is my private garden it is my privilege to show it to them. Their reactions are various, but whatever form they may take at the moment, I feel that I have done missionary work for something which is vital.

Often I am asked if I can take my plants with me if I ever move, and I can cheerfully say "No", for many would not stand the transplanting, but I shall be happy if the next tenant loves them and has an easier start than I did.

When I hear such remarks as "This is so beautiful, you'd never think to look at the

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front of the house that there could be such a gorgeous garden back here", I say "It is like a homely woman whose beauty does not appear until you talk with her, then you can see the radiance of her heart and soul." So from day to day we now store up human contacts as well as enjoy the happiness of a dream come true.

In the last five years we may have spent actually \$150.00 on plant material. I could easily get much more than that now if I were to sell all the movable plants, and in the meantime I have literally had beauty from ashes; home has meant something better than a place to eat and sleep and eke out a miserable existence in drab dejection because the premises were rented and not my own. My two boys were kept out of idle mischief and learned what it is to love and rear plants; our own minds and bodies were too full of our creation to brood over a lack of work or what age and the future would bring. I heartily subscribe to a remark I overheard: "I'd have a garden if I had to make it in a trailer", and I could wish our millions of low-income renters had the same spirit, for it would surely be quick to reflect itself in a saner national life.

—Reprinted from "Flower Grower."

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**Miss Lucile King
Presides at Meeting**

• San Gabriel Valley branch of the ABS met in the Arcadia City Hall May 17 with President Lucile King conducting the meeting. Among those present were Mr. J. N. Nutter, National Treasurer, with Mrs. Nutter and Mr. J. S. Williams from the Long Beach Parent Branch.

Mrs. W. Bisbee, presented an instructive talk on fibrous begonias illustrating her remarks with beautiful specimens grown in her gardens. These plants, with names attached, were passed among the audience. The speaker told of her soil mixtures and the cultural peculiarities of the plants in her collection.

Frank Fox, research chairman of this branch, reported on fifteen varieties of seeds he is raising for distribution among society members.

After the plant distribution and refreshments the meeting adjourned until June 21.

—MAUDE A. FOX,
Publicity Chairman.

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INDUCING PERMANENT FRAGRANCE

by H. BRITTON LOGAN Jr.

(Concluded)

 O LITTLE WORK has been done with the heat applications that, for further information, you will have to be satisfied with the two very brief reports of one man:

L. F. Randolph (1932)
"Some Effects of High Temperature on Polyploidy,"

National Academy of Science Proc.
18:222-229.

"Cytogenetics of Tetraploid Maize,"
Journal of Agricultural Research,
50:591-605.

The final method by which mutations have been produced is the decapitation or wounding of plants. This has worked very well for species of tomatoes, potatoes and geraniums, but probably, because of the considerably different morphological structure of begonias, would not be applicable to them. However, no one has tried it as yet and until it has been tried, no one can say with any reasonable degree of accuracy whether it will or will not work.

With this method seedlings are allowed to reach a height of three or four inches and then decapitated. Not infrequently the side shoots growing from the remaining portion of the decapitated plant, particularly from, or near, the wound, will produce a stock that has doubled the chromosome number of the original seedling. This stock with the double chromosome number can be cut off and propagated vegetatively, brought to the flowering point, and then used for hybridizing purposes.

A variation of this technique consists in wounding (or cutting into) a plant stock, or a root that is capable of a sexual reproduction. From the healing tissues which surround the wound a bud may be initiated. Sometimes this bud may contain somatic cells with a doubled chromosome number. If it does you can propagate the bud and develop a new plant species with which to work.

Jorgensen and Crane (1927)
"Formation and Morphology of Salanun Chinaeras,"

Journal of Genetics, 18:247-273.

Shachavinskaya (1937)
"Restoration of Fertility in the Geranium",
Bulletin of Applied Botanical Genetics,
II, 7:13-33.

Probably the best working outline for you to use in trying to secure a permanent scent in *Begonia Baumannii* and 37.1041 is to first weaken them with several successive generations of inbreeding. Then apply to the inbred progeny one or more of the four artificial methods of inducing chromosome changes. Inbreed your plants with the doubled chromosomes. Cross them back and forth with the original inbred progeny—and, in the end, so thoroughly mix up your plants' habits and characteristics that they will start producing mutations, and continue to produce mutations until you finally locate the individual with the strongest and the most lasting fragrance.

If you succeed in doing this, don't think your success is complete. You have to "fix" the fragrance. Having forced your plants to mutate, they may keep on doing just that—and you will get some plants having no scent at all, some with a temporary fragrance, and a few with a permanent scent.

So pick out the best plant with, of course, the most desirable fragrance and inbreed it for one or, at the most, two generations. This will tend to fix the scent. After you have accomplished this you can then hybridize the fragrant plant into the modern tuberous varieties.

One last word of warning. Don't underestimate the importance of hybridizing and go about it haphazardly. Always keep permanent records of each experiment you make. Whether it succeeds or fails—many of us would like to know. Sometimes a failure is more indicative of the path to take than a temporary success. And the more experimental data we can accumulate, the more exactly can we formulate laws and rules for future botanical investigations. Ten years from now your records may be the difference between success and failure in some gravely important botanical research.

So—good luck to you, if you want to try these modern methods of hybridizing. Whatever approach you may use to the problem of putting a scent in tuberous begonias, it may be difficult and it probably will take a long time. You certainly won't get rich if you succeed you might even find the expense prohibitive. But, in the end, you will always have the satisfaction of a work enthusiastically undertaken and a job well worth your while.

SPRINGTIME IN THE LATHHOUSE

(Continued from Page 87)

some of the small leaf types such as *Imperialis Smaragdina*, *Illustrata*, and the grape-leaf begonia, *Speculata*.

Rex begonias favor the shadiest part of the lathhouse. They will produce their best colors in such a spot. Begonias in pots should have the pots plunged in the ground to keep them cool and moist.

Remember that the roots of begonias are many, small and near the surface and no digging should be done around them. All fertilizing material should be applied on the top of the soil. Sprinkle the leaves of the rexes also to keep the pores open.

BE DIFFERENT

If you would like to try a different way to grow begonias from leaves that is both novel and interesting take a small flat, fill with clean sharp, moist (not wet) sand, place a rex leaf flat on the surface burying the stem about one-fourth inch. Then press a four-inch pot, top side down, on the leaf just hard enough to bruise the leaf but not to cut it, then place in a cool shady place. You should get small plants all around the pot and along the stem.

Another interesting way is to take a quart fruit jar, put about two inches of moist sand

in the bottom. Place a small but healthy leaf firmly down on the surface of the sand covering the stem with about one-fourth inch of sand. Screw the lid on the jar tight to keep all air out. Place in a cool dark place. Do not disturb until plant grows and fills jar. This is very similar to a glass house except there is no air.

You may also follow this idea using a five-gallon jar, making a very interesting "plantarium." Try this with a tuberous begonia.

Always use clean, sterile pots or bottles and above all keep your lathhouse clean to discourage pests.



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16	17	18	19	20	21	22				
23	24	25	26	27	28	29				

**MEETING
DATES**

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Tuesday, June 4, 7:30 P.M.
2147 Compton Blvd., Compton.
Mrs. Frank Graves, Sec'y.-Treasurer,
651 Loma Avenue, Long Beach.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, June 5, 8:00 P.M.
1060 Francisco St., San Francisco.
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary,
1575 - 31st Ave., San Francisco.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, June 7, 8:00 P.M.
Woman's Club, 325 No. Hillcrest Blvd.
Mrs. V. SirKegian, Secretary,
413 West Ellis Ave., Inglewood.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BR.

Tuesday, June 11, 8:00 P.M.
Coca-Cola Hall, Ventura.
Mrs. Irene Van Fossen, Sec'y.-Treas.,
349 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, June 11, 1:30 P.M.
Home of Mrs. Ruth Prince,
Hatboro, Pa.
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secretary,
Willow Grove, Pa.

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

Thursday, June 13, 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, June 21, 7:30 P.M.
Arcadia City Hall.
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, June 24, 8:00 P.M.
School for the Blind, Berkeley.
R. L. Barnhard, Secretary,
2419 Oregon St., Berkeley, Calif.

SYRACUSE BRANCH

Richard C. Atwood, Secy.-Treas.
1405 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, N. Y.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Chas. I. Gould, Jr., Treasurer,
East Street, Middleton, Mass.

• There will be no National Officer's and Director's meeting in June unless notice is received by mail.

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