

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden



GENEVA SCARLET BEAUTY

The BEGONIAN

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

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More On Streptocarpus Seed

• I was very much interested in the article by Mr. Cosper in the September issue of the Begonian on the Streptocarpus, as it has been a favorite lathhouse subject of mine for some years. I have used seed from Suttons—England, Heinemans—Germany, and Peeds—England, but finding it difficult to get fresh seed from abroad, decided to raise some seed myself. I selected fifteen plants from several hundred for seed parents. These were early bloomers with an unusual number of blooms of large size and exquisite colorings, ranging from white to deepest purple, thru the blues, and orchid shades; dainty pinks, soft rose and a remarkably bright red. With the aid of a camel's hair paint brush I mixed the pollen very thoroughly, and the seed pods developed large and full; far exceeding my needs so I am offering it for sale.

My method of planting which has proved most successful, differs somewhat from that of Mr. Cosper. I make up a 6-in. seed pan with 1/2 in. drainage at the bottom, 1-in. Begonia compost or light soil, a thin layer sifted peat, then top off with a thin layer sand or sandy soil. I mix 1/2 package of seed with 1/2 teaspoonful dry sand or sandy soil and scatter thinly, then I soak in a shallow pan of water until moist. Next I cover it with glass and put in a shady place.

You may expect flowers about six months after planting, so for Spring and Summer bloom we plant in the Fall and Winter. I have plants blooming now from seed planted in April.

The Streptocarpus is not such an exacting plant as one might suppose and gives so generously of its loveliness that every one should grow it either in their sheltered garden or as a house plant.

Streptocarpus do not belong to the primrose family as commonly believed but to the Gesneria family and should be treated accordingly.

—ANNIE C. ROBINSON.

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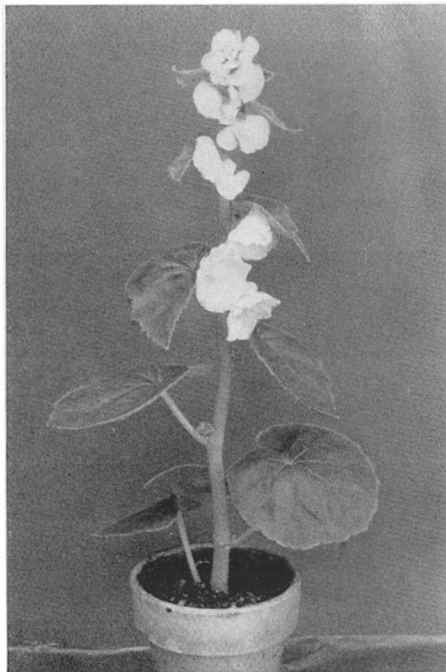
627 West Palmer

Compton

BEGONIA MARTIANA

by RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE, Director of Nomenclature

BEGONIA *Martiana*, Link and Otto, variety *grandiflora*, Garnier (Ill. Hort. Ser. vi. vol. ii, p. 98, fig. 14) produced in 1885 is one of the many lovely Begonia creations of Mr. Victor Lemoine of Nancy who also produced *Glorie de Lorraine*. This variety was produced by crossing *Martiana* with itself.



Begonia Martiana — 15 inches Tall

Begonia Martiana is a native of Mexico where it grows in the mountains around Mexico City at an elevation from 5000 to 8000 feet. The plant naturally grows in the lava beds there. *Begonia gracilis*, H. B. K. is also a native to the same region and is called "Carne de Dancella." Perhaps the same name is applied to *gracilis*, H. B. K. and all its varieties including *diversifolia*, *Graham* and *Martiana*.

Martiana grandiflora is a tuberous begonia and is considered to be one of the loveliest of this group. It is a tall-growing plant and will attain a height of five to eight feet. For this reason it should be planted at the back of a bed against a wall where it will be protected from the wind. It is a good idea to place a stake in the pot or soil when the

tuber is planted so the stem may be tied from time to time as it grows. The plant grows erect and begins to produce its flowers from the leaf axils which have not produced flowers. These later stems should be tied to the stake supporting the main stem in such a manner that the tips do not droop or they will bend over so the flowers will not be visible.

Plants may be grown from seeds or divisions of the tuber but they are most easily propagated by saving the multitude of bulbils which are produced in the leaf axils. The bulbils may be saved by placing a paper or cloth under the branches of the plant in the Fall when the mature bulbils drop from the plants. These bulbils may then be mixed with soil or dry sand to prevent them from drying out excessively. The following Spring they may be planted and cared for in the same manner as seeds. (These bulbils may be seen in the leaf axils of the lower leaves in the illustration). Unlike the hardy *Evansiana* bulbils, the bulbils of *Martiana* will not usually winter-over out of doors even in California.

It is a wise practice to lift the tubers in the Fall if they are planted in the ground for they have not proven hardy. The extremely thin layer of skin on the white tubers is easily penetrated by the various soil pests and rot often follows.

Lemoine produced the variety *grandiflora* from *Martiana* but this plant has not been used much in hybridizing. Mr. Brown of Capitola has crossed it with the double tuberous hybrids in an attempt to produce double flowers but without success. I have observed semi-double flowers on seedling
(Please Turn to Page 156)

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Begonias at the New York State Fair

● Secretary-Treasurer R. C. Atwood (Syracuse Branch) sent in a conventional report of the begonia exhibit but was entirely too modest about his own part in the show so we are using the following story contributed by a fellow-editor.



INCREASING local activity in Begonia growing was prophesied as a result of the excellent display staged by R. C. Atwood, Secretary of the Syracuse Chapter, American Begonia Society, at the Centennial New York State Fair.

Mr. Atwood, "Dick" to all Central New York gardeners, made three entries; one for the Begonia Society, one for the Men's Garden Club, and one for himself. In order to make a real showing the three entries were staked as one display using about a hundred plants. These were furnished by local enthusiasts, some of whom saw their best plants go over to the Horticultural Building with fear and trembling. But they were all returned to their proper owners in good condition.

The display was arranged on a step-up quarter circle made for the purpose by State Fair attendants. It made a most effective method of showing plants of this sort. The Horticultural Building itself, although only three years old, had been completely streamlined inside. Booths had been made for Garden Club and Grange exhibits so that the whole tied in making a picture long to be remembered. It was without question the greatest horticultural show ever attempted in Central New York. The building contains about two and a half acres of floor space and was built especially for flower shows. Next June the Men's Garden Clubs of America and the American Peony Society will hold their annual convention in this building. Peony, rose, and general garden flower shows will be staged at that time.

Prof. N. A. Rotunno, Superintendent of the Flower Dept. New York State Fair, remarked that the single class for Begonias in this year's schedule was only a "feeler." The display was so noticeable and caused so much favorable comment that he plans on a much larger class next year. Dick has announced his readiness to meet this challenge and is already seeking new varieties and fresh stock with which to make a larger entry.

Prizes? Oh, yes, The Begonia Society took first, the Men's Garden Club second, and Atwood himself, third. Out of fairness to the third prizewinner we'll let the secret out. After setting up the display, he asked Carmine Fazio, who helped him, to divide it into

three parts with a couple of ribbons. Then he turned to a bystander and said, "Here, you put these three entry cards on, one on each part." As a result the judges were nearly stumped, but after serious deliberation reached a decision, fair enough, but unfavorable to the man responsible for the work!

—LOU TARR, Editor "The Spreader"
Men's Garden Club, Syracuse, N. Y.

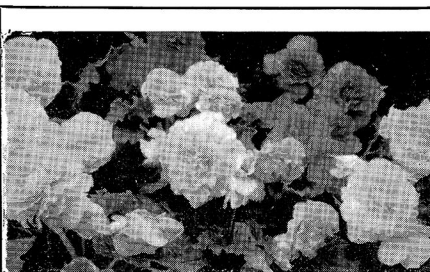
From San Francisco

● The last meeting was well attended and after visiting the secretary's garden where tuberous begonias are grown outdoors, the meeting got under way.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Henry Werle of the Bungalow Nursery who so kindly answered all questions put to him throughout the evening and donated the door prizes of some lovely specimen begonias.

Specimen flowers were also exhibited by members from new seedlings developed this year.

A buffet supper rounded out the evening.
—HARRY F. O'DONNELL.



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Anniversary Meeting at Inglewood Branch

ON THE occasion of the second birthday of the Inglewood branch Mrs. Ella Fewkes of San Diego will speak on the subject of "ferns" and those who heard Mrs. Fewkes a year ago will understand why they had better arrive at the Woman's Club early on October 4 to get a seat. The meeting will begin promptly at 8 P.M.

Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Dr. van Gelder, will report on the candidates chosen to run for office for 1941.

Following this interesting program refreshments will be served to all so do not plan to rush away early—stay for a friendly hour after the plant sale and become acquainted with all the members of this fast-growing branch.

About Ferns

- A fern is a flowerless plant growing from a rootstalk with fronds usually raised from an under-ground branch. The fronds, usually rolled up at first, bear on their lower surfaces at maturity the spores by means of which the plant reproduces.

The eight thousand species of ferns we find on the earth today are but a handful to the great number which grew on the earth centuries ago. As the temperature was much higher then, ferns attained their maximum growth. The great coal beds in lands that are now covered with ice for a large part of the year indicate that they once supported a luxuriant fern flora. Although individual fronds seldom live more than a year, nearly all ferns are perennial. Many are evergreen. Tree ferns with their erect trunks and tufts of fronds at the summit are probably the typical form. Ferns bear no flowers although one species is called the flowering fern.

Fern seed has always been elusive. The ancients had many queer ideas regarding fern seed and flowers. One legend says that in the beginning ferns had flowers but lost them in the following way. A great man died sometime back in the ages. All the flowers were very sad over the occasion and to show their sorrow they closed their flowers. The ferns failed to do this so the gods doomed them to be forever without blooms.

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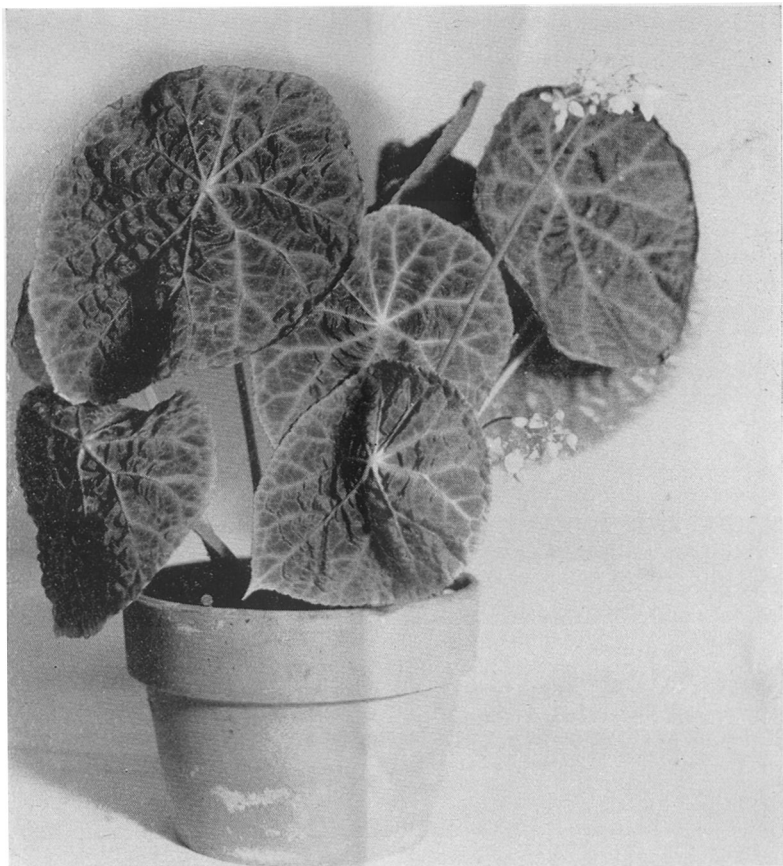
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THE CHOICE OF WINNERS

BEGONIA GOEGOENSIS

by RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE,
Director of Nomenclature



BEGONIA *goegoensis*, N. E. Brown was introduced from Goego, Sumatra into England in 1881. The plant was first described in *Gardeners' Chronicle* in 1882, II, page 71.

Begonia goegoensis, N. E. Brown is a choice plant for the enthusiastic collector and is both ornamental and odd. It delights in a soil rich in humus and food. Many *Begonia* fanciers have excellent results by planting this specimen in leafmold with the addition of soot and bonemeal. As the native habitat is a warm tropical region, this plant responds best when given a warm position in the lathhouse or glasshouse out of a draft. During the winter the plant does not do well with a low temperature and sheds some of its leaves but when the warm days and nights arrive it grows luxuriantly. It does well either in a pot or bed.

Propagation is most easily accomplished

by division or cuttings of the rhizome but leaf cuttings and seeds may also be used.

B. goegoensis, N. E. Brown has not been used in hybridizing.

Description: Stem rhizomatous, creeping. The space between the leaves is very short. The stipules which are reddish are egg-shaped and taper to a point. The leaf stems are described as being four-sided but in living specimens a cross section taken near the rhizome prove to be three-sided or triangular in shape. Three sharp ridges can be seen

TUBEROUS, REX and FIBROUS

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running the full length of the stem. The stems are bare except for a few scattered hairs near the leaf end. Leaves peltate, egg-round shaped, sharply tapering to a point, bare above and below, veins light green with the rest of the leaf olive green and bronzy. The leaf surface may be smooth or wavy. The underside of the leaf is reddish with green veins. The leaf edge is red and wavy with a few red hairs. The flower stem springs from the rhizome and carries a few medium sized rose-pink flowers. The male flowers have four and the females five petals. The stamens form a little pompom. The seed pod is bare with one large and two smaller wings. The flowers are produced in the summer and fall.

Dyckman Branch

• The September meeting of the Herbert P. Dyckman branch of the ABS was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leidler.

Mrs. Rush Lewis gave a very interesting talk on Wild Flowers and had many beautiful specimens mounted very artistically and had retained much of their original color.

A representative from Aggeler and Musser Seed Co. gave a very interesting talk on flowers of all kinds, accompanied by colored slides. After the usual flower sale, refreshments were served.

The October meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Starr, 3580 Brayton.

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New England Branch Elects New Officers

• The annual meeting of the Eastern Branch of the ABS was held at the Essex Agricultural School, Danvers, Mass. on August 24th. The subject was House Plants, especially Begonias, and the meeting was open to the public. More than 125 people attended, some traveling more than 200 miles, and all enjoyed the excellent program.

Prof. Arnold Davis of Mass. State College, Amherst, was the morning speaker and gave a witty dissertation on house plants, with much practical information. Picnic lunch was eaten under the fine old trees on the campus, and in the afternoon Mr. William Carter of Tewksbury spoke on Cacti and Succulents, showing many fine specimens and telling how to grow them successfully. He was followed by Mrs. H. H. Buxton of Peabody, who talked on Begonias, and showed beautiful Lumiere slides of the Robinson begonias, growing at Rosecroft Begonia Gardens in Point Loma, near San Diego.

There were many exhibits, cacti, succulents and specimen plants of many kinds, and extensive begonia displays. Among these was a sturdy four-foot specimen of Engleri, three beautiful Venosas, well branched and blooming, a notable specimen of Cathayana, 30 inches high, full of orange flowers, and several large calla lily begonias. There was a large exhibit of flower pots, of every size, shape and color, made at the Paige Pottery in Peabody, established in 1736, the last of the old colonial potteries.

At the business meeting it was voted to change the name to the New England Branch and the following officers were elected:

President—Mr. H. Linwood White, Danvers.
Vice-President—Mr. Aubert E. Giles, Danvers.

Secretary—Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Lynnfield Centre.

Treasurer—Mr. Charles I. Gould, Jr., Middleton.

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1940 ANNUAL CONVENTION

- The National Convention will be held on Saturday, November 2, at the American Legion Club House, 52 North California Street, Ventura. The Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of Ventura will be hosts.

PLANS have been made by the Venturans, so that the Convention will run smoothly and without undue loss of time and delay. A banquet will follow the business meeting, the banquet to be held in the Masonic Temple, 482 E. Santa Clara Street, corner of California. Reservations may be made through the President of your own branch, and be sure to make your reservations early, as the capacity of the banquet hall is just 300, and it is expected that many more than this number will attend. One of the highest ranking botanists of California is expected to make the after-dinner speech, and to hear this, will be well worth the trip to Ventura. A meeting of the retiring officers and the incoming officers is scheduled for Sunday morning.

In conjunction with the convention, a flower show will be held in the Civic Auditorium, California and Front Streets. The flower show will open at noon Friday, November 1, and will remain open until Sunday evening, November 3. At 3 P.M. Sunday, a well known Southern California horticulturist will speak from the stage in the Auditorium. This speaker has never before appeared before ABS members, and those members who are truly begonia fans will flock to hear him. This speech will be directed to the amateur flower grower, eliminating technical language and which will be of interest to all who want to know the whys and wherefores of flower culture.

Those who visited the spring flower show at Ventura, will know what is in store for them. Bring your camera—your note book, and figure on making it the most profitable and enjoyable week-end you've ever spent. Come on Saturday. Stay over for the Sunday doings, and let the Venturans show you the hospitality they are noted for.

Here's the schedule. Arrange your time in advance. It is important to sit in on the business meeting Saturday afternoon. Meet your new officers and listen to the plans for 1941.

Business Meeting—1 P.M. American Legion Club House, 52 No. California.

Banquet—6:30 P.M. Masonic Hall, corner Santa Clara and California Streets.

Flower Show—Opens noon Friday, Nov. 1. Continuous until 9:30 P.M. Sunday, Nov. 3, Civic Auditorium, corner California and Front Streets.

Speakers—Two distinguished speakers. One at the banquet and the other at the flower show, 3 P.M. Sunday.

All places of meetings are within three blocks of each other. Centrally located, and in the heart of Ventura.

Ventura is approximately 75 miles from Long Beach, and 65 from Los Angeles and Inglewood. A scenic drive up the coast to the hospitality that is yours for the trip. Meet together with real begonia enthusiasts from all branches. The latch string is out and Ventura cordially invites you.

Begonia Martiana

(Continued from Page 151)

plants and hope to obtain a double flowering variety.

Botanically *Martiana grandiflora* belongs to the genus *Knesbeckia*, Klotzsch and more recently to section *Begoniastrium*. Botanists do not agree as to whether *Martiana* is a separate species from *gracilis* H. B. K. or just a variety of it.

Description: Root a tuber almost round and of a white or creamy color. Stem several feet tall, smooth with few scattered hairs, green but reddish near the top. The joints are far apart below, becoming increasingly short to the tip where the leaves and flowers are pressed closely together. The stipules are not shed but remain green during the growing season. Leaf stems are shorter than the leaves, round but flattened on the top side. The lower leaves are almost round while the upper leaves are half heart-shaped and taper to a long point, green above and lighter green below, slightly hairy above and below. Base of leaf slightly lobed and doubly toothed with hairs tipping the teeth. The flowers are produced from the leaf axils in pairs, male above and female beneath. Male flowers slightly scented and larger than the females, being two inches in diameter. The two sepals are much larger than the petals. The female flowers have three large and two smaller petals. Seed pod three-celled with three wings of which one is longer. The flowers are produced in the summer and fall and are of a "Phlox Pink" color (Horticultural Color Chart Number 625/2).

Several years ago Mr. C. M. Kelly, then Research Editor, obtained tubers from Mexico City of *Begonia gracilis*, H. B. K., which

Your Candidates

• Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman is an Honorary Director and Life Member of the Society. He founded the ABS and was its first president. Mr. Frank J. Leidler is an old-time member of the ABS but has never held office. He free-lances, attending different branch meetings whenever possible.

Mr. Ferd P. Neels of El Segundo was chairman of the show committee of the begonia exhibit at the Hollywood Turf Club recently and attends Inglewood branch meetings. Mr. E. A. Taylor is Representative Director of the newly-organized North Long Beach branch and Mr. H. L. Weitz was president of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd branch at Ventura in 1937.

Mr. J. N. Nutter, member of the Parent Branch, has held the Treasurer's office very capably for the past two years.

Mrs. Mary Congdon has been affiliated with the Parent Branch for several years. Miss Lena Higgins has served as National Director in 1938 and again in 1940. Mr. Edward Tones is actively interested in the growth of the Society and attends the Inglewood branch meetings.

Mrs. Lucy Graham of Hawthorne has been Secretary and Program Chairman of Inglewood branch. Dr. van Gelder generously assists in Inglewood branch affairs. Miss Edna Ziesenhenne has been Librarian of the

San Gabriel Valley

• On the evening of Sept. 20, the San Gabriel Valley branch met in the beautiful gardens of the lovely home of Dr. and Mrs. Clark Lauder of Arcadia with Miss Lucile King presiding.

The large group of begonia lovers present gathered under the huge oaks where the speaker of the evening, Mrs. Mariam, told her listeners of the many plants to be used in the shaded garden. It was an interesting and instructive talk and enjoyed by all.

At the close of the evening, Dr. and Mrs. Lauder served refreshments. The next meeting in October will be held in the Arcadia City Hall on the evening of the third Friday.

—MAUDE A. FOX.

he distributed to the members of the Society. This plant differs from *Martiana grandiflora* in having smaller flowers and almost a deep maroon coloring on the veins on the upper leaf surface. The plant appears more delicate in every way than *Martiana grandiflora*.

Society and Secretary of the Parent Branch and is now handling their publicity.

Mr. Gus Coleman is from the Theodosia Burr Shepherd branch at Ventura and is very much interested in the society's welfare. Mrs. Anna E. Marek of Glendale is a conscientious worker and attends Inglewood branch. Dr. C. N. Moore is president of the Herbert P. Dyckman branch at Long Beach.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Hugh Hixon, Chairman, President, Long Beach Parent Branch.

Will T. Kemper, President, Ventura Branch.

George McDowell, President, Inglewood Br.

—BALLOT—

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.....☐

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Mrs. Anna E. Marek.....☐
Dr. C. N. Moore.....☐
.....☐

—Vote For One For Each Office—

CULTURAL DIRECTIONS FOR OCTOBER

by J. PAUL WALKER



HERE need be no alarm if some begonias cease their rapid growth or even lose some of their foliage at this time of the year. Evaporation is much less than during the hot weather and plants are unable to absorb sufficient plant food to continue their fast growth. Extra feeding may now do more harm than good. While begonias may be forced for winter growth in green-houses, most amateurs in this section think that to do so it at the expense of future vitality.

Practically all begonias require half shade

or even more during the summer but many of them, especially those of the bedding type, may be grown in the full sun during the Winter.

TUBEROUS

Many of these plants are going dormant and those that have ceased blooming may as well be forced into dormancy. This may be done by gradually withholding the water. Where this is impossible the plant may be balled and placed where it may dry slowly. Potted tubers when mature may be stored in a cool, dry place, laying the pots on their sides; or the tubers may be shaken out, dried in the sun a few days and stored in single layers in a cool, dark, dry place.

FIBROUS

These require little care during October. The summer bloomers should be watered less. The winter bloomers will still require frequent watering and may be fed as soon as they show signs of blooming.

SEMPERFLORENS (Bedding Type)

Plants that have flowered throughout the summer need little water now. Dead branches should be pruned and the seed pods, which sap the vitality of the plant and may even cause the plant to die, should be removed.

Many new varieties of this type have been developed during the past few years. Most begonia nurserymen can supply kinds that bloom well during the Winter.

REX

Watering may be cut down as these begonias start to become dormant. Re-potting at this time of the year is not advisable as oversized pots permit too much moisture to collect about the roots. New leaf mold may be added on top of the old soil to take care of any new roots.

About The Ballot

o Candidates for your 1941 officers will be voted on according to Article IX (Enabling Act) of the By-Laws of the American Begonia Society. We quote herewith:

Article IX Enabling Act

"The Constitution and these By-Laws shall go into effect January 1, 1940; except that it shall not affect the tenure of officers elected at the annual meeting of 1939; that the Vice-President and Directors shall serve as Directors-at-Large for one year; and that at the annual meeting in 1940 a President, a President-elect, one Director-at-Large for a term of one year, one Director-at-Large for a term of two years and one Director-at-Large for a term of three years, shall be elected; and provided further that this section shall expire on January 1, 1941."

The last paragraph of Article VI, (Elections) reads: "The newly elected Board of Directors will meet at the annual meeting or immediately thereafter to elect a Secretary, an Editor, a Research Director, a Nomenclature Director, a Public Relations Director, and a Business Manager."

**ALL BALLOTS MUST BE IN BEFORE
1:30 P.M. — NOVEMBER 2**

A committee to count the votes will be in Ventura at this time. If you cannot attend the Convention MAIL YOUR BALLOT to the American Begonia Society, 757 Athens Blvd., Los Angeles, so it will be received prior to October 31.

A copy of the Constitution and By-Laws will be found in the November, 1939 issue of the Begonian.

H O P K I N S BEGONIA GARDENS

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Rt. 3, Box 436, Anaheim, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Hixon
Rt. 1, 239 Francis St., Bakersfield, Calif.
Mrs. J. W. Hildreth
Route 1, Costa Mesa, Calif.
Mr. Ed. Trier
158 Woodrow, Daly City, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. Hazel H. Gunn
308 Whitney St., El Segundo, Calif.
Mrs. Frances Safstrom
627 Harvard Ave., Fresno, Calif.
Mrs. Wm. T. Wallop
Route 1, Box 62-A, Fullerton, Calif.
Mr. Geo. W. Lewis
Box 691, Garden Grove, Calif.
Mr. Herb A. Perk
1530 Virginia Ave., Glendale, Calif.
Mr. A. L. Dowdell
Empire Mine, Grass Valley, Calif.
Mr. A. C. Orr
524 Florence Ave., Inglewood, Calif.
Dr. G. R. Ramage
9123 Third Ave., Inglewood, Calif.
Lura E. Simpkins
321 Tamarack, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Marguerite Dixon
R. R. 1, Box 199, La Habra, Calif.
Miss Margaret Bird
3647 E. 1st St., Long Beach, Calif.
Dr. E. E. Hixon
5868 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. D. M. Powell
470 Cherry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. True B. Sipe
581 Nebraska Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mr. Clarence Hawkins
2328½ Thomas St., Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Jamison
314 Grtna Green Way, W. Los Angeles, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Remington
8900 So. St. Andrews, Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. I. L. Stauch
232 - 3rd Place, Manhattan Beach, Calif.
Mr. Chester F. Nave
3011 E. 29th St., Oakland, Calif.
Mr. H. A. Steiber
2956 - 7th Ave., Oakland, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hodgins
R. D. No. 2, Box 261-D, Ojai, Calif.
Mr. Stanley M. Heffner
266 E. 11th St., Pomona, Calif.
Mrs. Wm. Purcell Gail
4518 Bandini Ave., Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Harry M. Wallace
1804 - 7th St., Riverside, Calif.
Mr. M. J. Cordone
214 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Anselmo, Calif.
Miss Kyle, Librarian San Bernardino Sr. High School
18th & E Sts., San Bernardino, Calif.
Grace Humphrey
2887 Kilmia Place, San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Jane Hardey
225 W. Las Tunas Dr., San Gabriel, Calif.
Mrs. Vironida Livermore
530 So. Putney, San Gabriel, Calif.
Mrs. Grace King
2019 Gillespie St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. A. M. Peep
307 Melifont, Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger
246 W. Alamar Ave., Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. Kate E. Walker
1121 Cacique St., Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mr. John Antonelli
Route 2, Box 252, Santa Cruz, Calif.
Mrs. Amy J. Colley
R. D. No. 1, Box 107, Santa Paula, Calif.
Miss Anna M. Kidwell
2755 Ardmore Rd., San Marino, Calif.
Mrs. Judd Angelico
10517 Orange Ave., South Gate, Calif.

Honor Roll

Kathryn Weitz*****
Harry F. O'Donnell*****
Hugh Hixon*****
Frank Harrison*****
Eddie Tomes*****
Bessie R. Buxton*****
R. Ziesenhenn*****
Mrs. G. Herkelrath**

Jack Scoble**	H. Arden Edwards
Mrs. E. T. Boeshar	Mrs. Mary Chapman
Clayton M. Kelly	Mrs. Florence Carrell
A. E. Sphar	Mrs. Dorothy Knirck
J. N. Nutter	Chas. I. Gould, Jr.
Pauline Ney	Mrs. E. Holmquist
Irene Van Fossen	Mrs. A. M. Hartwell
R. B. Harrington	Ferd P. Neels
Mrs. Ruby Liedler	Bessie A. Hausis
Virginia SirKegian	Mrs. Bob Smith
H. P. Dyckman	House of Flowers
Harriette W. Bridges	R. C. Atwood
Mrs. M. A. Chaffee	Mrs. M. E. Congdon
Jessie B. Wright	J. W. V. Steele
Mrs. C. H. Harris	Mrs. Sadie Deines
Mrs. J. Sherman	Miss Helen Converse
George McDowell	Mrs. Lucy Graham
R. S. Denman	Dr. C. N. Moore
Betty Wisker	T. C. Whitaker

*New Members Brought In

Seed Offer Still Good

• The response to a request for new members has been exceptionally good. Mrs. Ruby Liedler, corresponding secretary, who so generously offered a packet of begonia seed to all new members and those listed on the Honor Roll has received many requests for seed, and will send them to those listed in this issue of the Begonian AND TO ALL NAMES THAT COME IN BEFORE OCTOBER 15.

Please remember to send a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED envelope if you wish to receive the seed. Her address is 5858 California Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

Mr. Bailey Fesler
4046 Longridge, Van Nuys, Calif.
Mrs. Wm. Appleby
474 Lupin Way, Ventura, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Hill
464 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. Will Temple
R. D. No. 2, Box 355-A, Ventura, Calif.
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Zschile
74 So. San Clemente St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Harvey Warren
Route 4, Box 199, Watsonville, Calif.
Mrs. N. F. Arnoldy
709 Cooper Ave., Yuba City, Calif.

OTHER STATES

Mrs. Jessie Shambaugh
Clarinda, Iowa
Miss Charlotte Judd
60 East Lake Road, Shateateles, N. Y.

FIBROUS ROOTED BEGONIAS . . .

by CHARLOTTE RODENBURG



ANTA MONICA's favorable climate makes it possible not only to grow Fibrous Begonias in the lath garden, but also many of the hardy varieties in the outside garden. The begonias in the outside garden must have a mulch of some kind to keep the roots cool and moist. By having the mulch, I have found in my soil that one good watering a week is all that is necessary to keep the begonias growing well. As the mulch decays it feeds the plants and helps to build up the soil above the old roots of the begonias. The new roots of the begonias have a tendency to grow above the old root system and this building up of the soil above the old roots is the secret of growing good begonias.

People often remark to me: "You must have a secret you do not tell, that you are able to grow such fine begonias in the sunny locations." I always tell them that the mulch is the real secret of my success in the outside garden.

Another rule to follow is never to cultivate around the begonias in the ground. Their root system is shallow which accounts for their dislike of any cultivation near them. The tiny hair-like roots lie close to the surface and when you disturb them you ruin your plant. The mulching takes the place of all cultivation and has the added benefit of keeping the weeds down. I often tell others that the begonia garden is the lazy man's garden for once in, it lasts for years with little additional work.

I have had for six years in my outside garden many varieties of the tall growing, intermediate and low growing fibrous begonias. Here you may find numerous plants of the ever beautiful **Coralline Lucerne** with its immense branches of red flowers. **President**

Carnot, somewhat more delicate and refined, also having the red flowers. The bunches of flowers not as large but the individual flowers are larger. **De Lesseps** not quite as rapid a grower or as tall with a white flower flushed pink, bringing a change of color to our garden.

Multiflora Rosea with its dainty pink fuchsia-like blossoms is one of my favorites doing not only well in the ground, but making a beautiful pot plant. Then the tall graceful **Rubra** or Angel wing type begonias work in beautifully for a background. Another tall grower with the small foliage and red fuchsia-like flowers is **Fuchsioides Coccinea**. This outside garden and its flowers are much more abundant. Our old friend **Argentea Guttata** makes wonderful growth here also. Lately I have placed **Wallow**, **Chiala** and **Bertha von Lothringen** in the ground and they are responding well at this early date.

Among those of lower growth that grow well outside are **Robusta** with its red flowers and fountain-like appearance, **Odorata Alba** one of the sweet scented ones.

Marguerite with its lovely flowers and foliage and the real beauty **Bertha DeChateau Rocher** with its multitude of coral blossoms. **Sachsen**, **Ricinifolia**, **Digswelliana**, **Haageana**, **Jessie** and others do wonderfully well without lath protection. The only attention these have had in all the time they have been in, besides the watering, is the putting on of the mulch and an occasional cutting back or the taking out of some of the old canes.

BEDDING TYPE

The semperflorens or bedding type begonias are certainly a great addition to our gardens wherever they are used. Mine attract more attention and comment than the other varieties. I think because many have tried to grow them without success. I grow them in all locations, on the South and East where they have a great deal of hot sunshine they are as fine or perhaps finer than on the North or West. They are such wonderful bloomers that in a short time they carry many seed pods and when a plant commences to run to seed something must be done. I cut them back at least once a year and they start their good work all over again. They come in shades of red, pink and white. Some are even two-toned. They may be single or double flowered. The doubles are indeed charming.

This type of begonia may be grown from

New Members (Cont'd.)

Mrs. Burt S. Collis
Belchertown, Mass.
Mr. Dwight Killam
East Boxford, Mass.
Mr. Howard Bacon
51 Pendexter St., East Lynn, Mass.
Mrs. Mabel A. Jones
86 Magoun Ave., Medford, Mass.
Mr. W. C. Stanley
4110 N. E. 37th Ave., Portland, Oregon
Dollie Walsh
Vida, Oregon
The Robert Packer Hospital
H. E. Bishop, Administrator
Sayre, Pa.
Mrs. D. A. Reed
2222 S Street, Washington, D. C.
Mrs. R. B. Rasmussen
Star Route 1, Box 74
Bremerton, Wash.
Mr. W. L. Stein
6711 Linden Ave., Seattle, Wash.
Mrs. James Muir
200 Sherman Avenue W., Fort Atkinson, Wisc.

Philadelphia Branch Organizes

• From a letter from Mr. Whitaker, an ABS member: "A new branch of the American Begonia Society was formed today, Sept. 12, 1940, to be known as "The Philadelphia and its Vicinity Branch."

"Seven members affiliated to study and acquire a better knowledge of begonias. Membership in this branch includes Mrs. G. P. Bishop and Mr. T. C. Whitaker who are already members and the following new members:

Mrs. J. N. Adam
"Dunnegan" W. C. R. 5,
West Chester, Pa.

Mrs. Robert E. Brinton
"The Lindens" West Chester, Pa.

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Dillon
2420 Nottingham Way
Trenton, New Jersey

Mrs. C. M. Paramore
114 Queen Lane Germantown, Phila., Pa

Mrs. Sophie E. Whitaker,
5343 Green St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

The next meeting will be at 2 P.M. October 14 at the home of Mr. Tristram Coffin Whitaker, 5343 Greene Street, Germantown, Phila., Pa., when a tour of his greenhouse will be made."

cuttings. But do not take the slips that have had the flowers and finished their work, but take the new tender shoots. They will form a good plant. The seeds of all these germinate very easily and the seedlings grow without a great deal of care. In fact, I believe the seedlings make the best plants. All the fibrous begonias may be grown from seed, but I do most of my propagating from slips, which I root in good sharp river sand. When the slips are well rooted I put them in small pots in a soil mixture of six parts leaf-mold, three of compost, one of sand and a sprinkling of bone meal. When I move the plants to the next sized pot I add a small amount of nitrophoska and they certainly do grow.

Not all have lath gardens, but we can grow fibrous begonias in pots or in our yards. They are comparatively easy to grow as they are hardier and are more suited to general use. Their waxy clean loveliness is a delight to all. I contend that these plants are far more useful than they are generally considered to be, and by their use we can add much to the beauty of our gardens.

Primroses — For Color In The Lathhouse

• For a Winter and early Spring flower which blends well in the garden with other seasonal bloom, as Cyclamen, Cineraria and Violas, and which is lovely massed alone, do not neglect primula malacoides, the Fairy Primrose.

Of all the primroses it is the easiest to grow and has the advantage of reseeding itself each year. Plants of fair size are now for sale, for planting in the garden.

For large plants of several crowns which will throw large numbers of flower stems the seed should be sown in July or August, or the volunteer plants can be lifted when large enough to handle and planted in flats. Sow seed in flats of loose loamy soil firmly pressed down, and cover if at all, with finely sifted peat. Water, cover with glass, and place in a semi-shady place. When plants have two or three leaves replant in flats of similar soil, two inches apart. Later replant in other flats of richer soil four inches or more each way.

This method is recommended because the flats can better be protected on days when hot dry winds are blowing and pests, as cut worms and slugs can be controlled. By October large plants are ready to place in the garden.

Ideal garden soil is one rich in humus, non-acid, and to which well rotted cow manure and bone-meal has been added. Good drainage is necessary. A little lime added to the soil is recommended for all primroses.

This baby primrose is more tolerant of the sun than others and will grow in full sun during cool weather, but is happiest in partial shade with full sun only part of the time.

The color of this primrose varies from lavender to white and recently red and pink shades have been added to this family.

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- RARE PLANTS
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Dodson

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Out of the Mail Bag

● From H. Arden Edwards, Alhambra, Cal.: "My name headed the list of new members in the last issue. I'm so well pleased with the Begonian that the least I could do is to try to round up some new members to help me enjoy it. The enclosed is the first one."

* * *

○ From Mr. and Mrs. Frank N. Fox, Arcadia, Calif.: "The Fox Begonia Gardens have had letters from Staten Island, New York, Maryland, Oklahoma and other places East in response to our ad in the Begonian. We are more than pleased and repaid for our expenditure of \$1.25. Yes, it pays to advertise."

* * *

○ From Mrs. Bessie Buxton, Peabody, Mass.: "Our all-day meeting on August 24 was grand. The begonias were lovely. Never have I seen such Venosas! Full of branches and flowers. The calla lily begonias were a red and white glory, and Mrs. Brown, who grew the finest ones, was besieged to tell how she did it, which she did, in the meeting, very modestly. A big Engleri had a stalk thicker than a man's thumb. The pot exhibit drew much attention. Only a few of the old handmade pots are left, for the last of the old-time potters died a few years ago and now only machine pots are available. I rooted around in the dusty old pottery and dug out a few of the old-timers, among them some hanging pots of the old colonial black glaze with a "pie crust" edge, and were they snapped up quickly! We also asked members to bring cuttings and small plants to sell for the benefit of our treasury and many were contributed and sold for very modest prices. It was a grand day and I surely hope it brings new members to the ABS. Time will tell."

● From Mrs. H. S. Travers, of Norwood Park, Ill.: "Can you tell me why some of my begonias get a pale color. The leaves get pale and soft regardless whether I keep them in sun or shade. One has wilted and died though it was not over-watered. Some do not seem to have the roots they should have. I have given them B-1 once a month, then every two weeks a liquid plant food but they seem to lack something that gives them the rich healthy leaf color. Thanking

you in advance for your help. I also enjoy the Begonia magazine very much."

(Answer by Mr. Day): "Several things might be wrong. Improper watering, improper fertilization might be the cause, or the plants might be suffering from a begonia wilt. You may be using a soil or water that is strongly alkaline or water that has too much chlorine in it. If this department had more information we could possibly give a more satisfactory answer."

The Picture on the Cover

● The new Geneva Scarlet Beauty which was shown for the first time at the Hall of Flowers on Treasure Island this year, and concerning which many members have inquired of the Begonian, is a fibrous type Begonia, originated by the Geneva and Sunnydale Nurseries of San Francisco, Calif.

Westport Beauty was crossed with a single pink blossom, the seed of which was imported from Europe. The result of this cross is the "mother" plant. This was crossed again and the result is the Geneva Scarlet Beauty, a second generation plant. There are two varieties, one a pot plant and another of larger growth for the outside border. There are various shades of red, one a salmon red. There is also a very beautiful sister plant called the Geneva Rose Beauty. This is a very lovely shade of rose, much richer than the Westport Beauty. The flowers of both the Geneva Scarlet Beauty and Geneva Rose Beauty are larger than those of the original Westport Beauty.

The picture on the cover was furnished through the courtesy of Geneva and Sunnydale Nurseries of San Francisco.



CHECK YOUR

1940 OCTOBER 1940													
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.							
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12							
13	14	15	16	17	18	19							
20	21	22	23	24	25	26							
27	28	29	30	31									

MEETING DATES

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Tuesday, October 1, 7:30 P.M.
5858 California Ave.
Mrs. Frank Graves, Sec'y.-Treasurer,
651 Loma Avenue, Long Beach.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, October 2, 8:00 P.M.
1060 Francisco Street.
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary.
1575 - 31st Ave., San Francisco.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, October 4, 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, October 8, 8:00 P.M.
Coca-Cola Hall, Ventura.
Mrs. Irene Van Fossen, Sec'y.-Treas.,
349 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, October 8, 2:00 P.M.
Home of Mrs. Frank Mather, Hatboro, Pa.
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secretary,
Willow Grove, Pa.

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

Thursday, October 10, 7:30 P.M.
Community Hall, 9th & Lime, Long Beach.
Mace Taylor, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer,
520 East Esther St., Long Beach.

PHILADELPHIA & VICINITY BRANCH

Monday, October 14, 2:00 P.M.
Tristram Coffin Whitaker (Infor.)
5343 Greene St. Germantown, Phila., Pa.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Tuesday, October 15, 7:30 P.M.
246 No. Alamar Ave., Santa Barbara.
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Secy.,
246 No. Alamar Ave., Santa Barbara.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Thursday, October 17, 7:30 P.M.
1644 East 55th Street
Miss Betty Wisker, Secy.
5800 Lime Ave., Long Beach.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, October 18, 7:30 P.M.
Arcadia City Hall, Arcadia.
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, October 28, 7:30 P.M.
Blind School, Derby St. opp. Bellevue.
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.

• A meeting of the National Board will be held at 7:30 P.M., Thurs., October 3, at the treasurer's home, 1050 E. 19 St. Long Beach. All branch Presidents are urged to attend.

Dr. J. Burton Van Gelder
O.D., D.C.

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(Fairlyland)

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