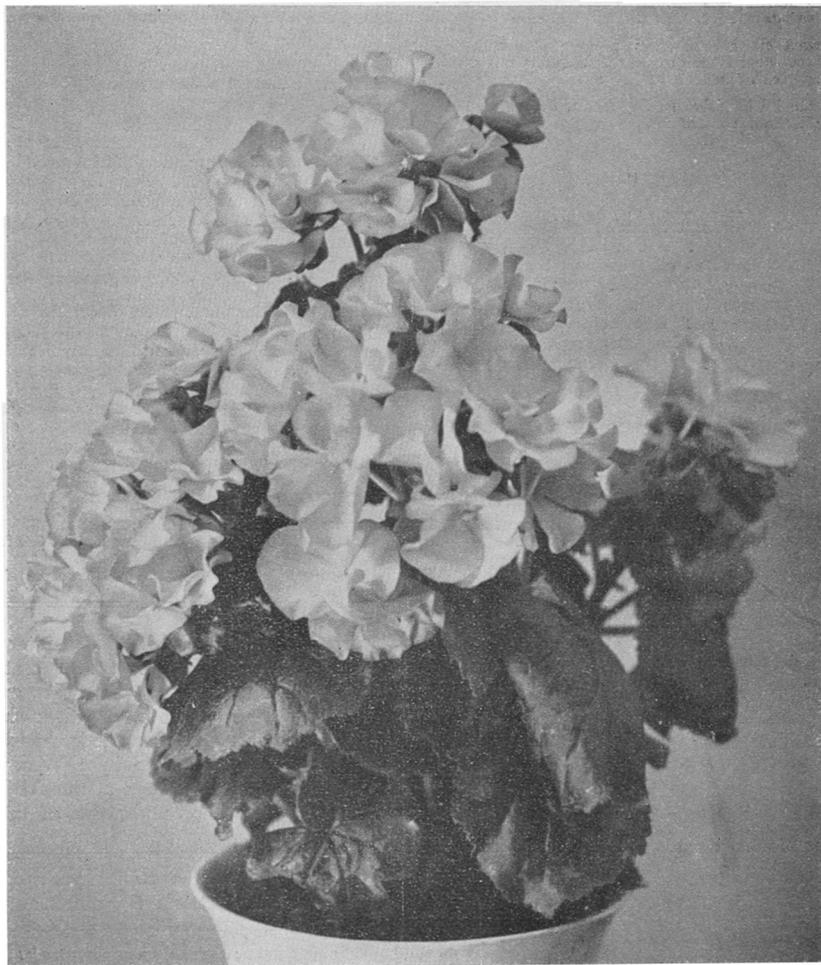


# The BEGONIAN

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# The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Business and General Offices: 757 Athens Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society

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## Eastern Exhibits

● Within a radius of 50 miles of Philadelphia, Penna., and perhaps further, from the middle of September until the middle of October many amateur flower shows are held. These represent the efforts and successes of the different localities in Floriculture.

Through the efforts of the Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch of the ABS, the Horsham Flower Lovers Club, and the Olney Garden Club have the following class in their schedule for their Fall Flower Show: Collection of Begonia Plants, (not less than 5 nor more than 10 pots) by an individual or a Garden Club. Naturally the ABS Branch expects to exhibit at both.

The Flower Show Committee of the Hatboro Neighbors Club have the same class for individuals only.

The Garden Club of Bala-Cynwyd at their

Flower Show on June 4th had an interesting exhibit of Begonias. They had studied at their monthly meetings during the year, one or more varieties each month. At their show a specimen of each variety studied was exhibited and prominently labeled. Mrs. Wm. Kurtz Myers, one of the members of the ABS was responsible for the ground work of this excellent exhibit.

● The picture on the cover furnished through the courtesy of Vetterle & Reinelt.

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# THE CULTURE OF STREPTOCARPUS

by LLOYD C. COSPER



HERE ARE three methods by which *Streptocarpus* may be propagated: by seed, by division, and by leaf cuttings.

## PROPAGATION BY SEED

Prepare a compost consisting of equal parts of finely sifted acid peat and well-washed sand. Pass the peat and the sand through a fine mesh screen, such as window screening. When the peat has been screened wet thoroughly and then place the peat in a piece of cloth, a sugar or flour sack is ideal, and squeeze out as much water as possible then add an equal part of sand to the peat and mix thoroughly. It is suggested that pottery seed pans be used as it is much easier and much safer to water by immersion than by sprinkling, thus eliminating the danger of washing out the fine seed. Fill the seed pan with the compost and firm down so that the surface of the compost is about one-quarter of an inch below the edge of the seed pan.

As the seed of *streptocarpus* are very small a much more even distribution may be obtained if the seed are mixed with very fine sand and then sprinkled over the surface of the compost. It is not necessary to firm the seed into the compost nor is it necessary to cover them with compost. After the seed have been sown place plant labels on the edge of the seed pan and cover with a piece

of glass. Over the glass place a piece of heavy brown paper. By placing plant labels under the glass a circulation of air is maintained which is so essential to germinating seed. Each morning this glass should be removed and turned or the moisture that has condensed on the under side, wiped off.

As soon as the seed have germinated—from ten days to three weeks, depending upon the freshness of the seed—remove the paper from the glass. At all times keep the seed pan in a shaded situation. As soon as the first true leaf is about an inch long the seedlings may be pricked off and potted.

The first potting should be in two-inch or two and one-half inch pots. As the plants develop they may be potted on into larger pots. It is not at all unusual to obtain specimen plants three years old that have a spread of twenty-four to thirty inches and as many as one hundred blooms. Plants in two-inch and three-inch pots do not require broken crocks as drainage but when the plants are potted in four-inch or larger pots it is essential that sufficient drainage be furnished. It is a good plan to under pot rather than over pot *Streptocarpus*. Seed sown from the middle of January to the middle of February will furnish blooming plants by July and August.

## PROPAGATION BY DIVISION

This is the easiest and quickest method of increasing your stock of plants. Mature *Streptocarpus* plants have a rhizome-like growth from which the leaves and the roots grow. By cutting this growth in sections, each section containing leaves and roots, and potting them up several plants are obtained from the original one. This division may be done at any time without injury to the plant.

## PROPAGATION BY LEAF CUTTINGS

Leaf cuttings may be handled in the same manner as followed with begonias. The larger lateral veins are cut through and the leaf pegged down flat on propagating sand and kept moist. Another method is to remove a leaf from the plant and insert the stem, about a quarter or half an inch, in sand.

## POTTING COMPOST

*Streptocarpus* respond best to a slightly acid soil and the following compost is recommended: 2 parts rich fibrous loam (well decomposed bermuda loam, at least two years old, is excellent), 2 parts leaf mold, one part acid peat, and one part sharp sand.

Please Turn to Page 143

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# The Marica Northiana

submitted by MAUDE A. FOX

• Some plants have peculiar habits. The Marica Northiana is one of them. This species is commonly called the Mexican Orchid, but one might suspect its Mama was an Iris. While the plant grows fan-shape similar to the Iris, the leaves are of a different shade of green and of unlike texture.

The Marica is found growing wild in Mexico in the coastal regions, and also in South America. In Mexico it is called the Mexican Orchid, but the people of South America have a different name for it. They classify it as "the walking plant."

The "walking" habit is indeed one of its peculiarities. In the spring, the Mother plant sends out a long, thin, flat leaf, at the extreme end of which a bloom forms. After flowering, a new plant forms at this bloom end. Growing in the ground, in their native state, these new plants take root, each new one following ahead of the other until they are literally "walking" away from their mother.

When the buds form during the winter and spring months, you wait anxiously for days to see it bloom. Suddenly some early morning it bursts open, and you are rewarded with exquisite flowers, with the delicate coloring of an orchid. The ones we have raised have deep cream petals, with smaller sky blue ones curled to the mahogany spotted center. It is indeed a flower of great beauty.

The plant's greatest attraction is its oddity, for it will have dozens of offspring dangling from Mama Marica's apron strings. It is an easy plant to care for. In fact give it plenty of water and it will take care of itself. It stands the coldest of weather, and does not worry about the freezing point.

It makes a pleasing house plant because of its lovely evergreen foliage. All it needs is plenty of water, good soil mixture of sandy loam, leaf mold and a sprinkle of bone meal.

This plant is so interesting, it immediately attracts attention in the lath house. It is a newcomer to this country, and therefore very rare. Surely no one can go wrong with a Marica in their shade plant collection.

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# North Long Beach Increases ABS Family



• With about 75 enthusiastic members and visitors present the North Long Beach Branch of the American Begonia Society came into being August 15.

Officers elected to serve for the balance of 1940 were:

Mrs. Mary Chapman.....President  
Mr. Earl Crawford.....Vice-President  
Miss Betty Wisker.....Secy.-Treas.  
Mr. E. A. Taylor.....National Director

National President Frank Harrison welcomed the members of this branch into the ABS family. New members included:

Claire Jackson, Mrs. Besse M. Andrews, Miss Betty Wisker, Mrs. Nellie Kiou, Mr. Earl Crawford, Lela Matthews, Mr. and Mr. Levi Wilkerson, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Warren, Mrs. Katie Steinen, Mrs. Mary Alice Shields, Mr. E. A. Taylor, Kathrine Day, Mrs. Elsie M. Riggs.

Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman, founder of the society, gave an instructive talk on the begonia family and answered many questions presented by those in the audience. Refreshments were served after the plant sale and the meeting adjourned until September 19.

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## Hollywood Turf Club Locale of Exhibit

• Support was spontaneously given to the Begonian after a pep talk by Mr. Liedler of Long Beach and an explanation by National Treasurer J. N. Nutter of the high costs of printing such an organ as our monthly magazine, which has certainly outgrown the "bulletin" stage! Nearly \$30.00 was gathered in and we hope this will be an incentive for other branches to do their part accordingly.

Fifteen new members came in—Inglewood branch now has 181 members.

We are exhibiting with the Dahlia Show September 7th and 8th at the Hollywood Turf Club. Do not fail to attend. List of exhibitors and their awards will be given in the October Begonian.

As announced by President McDowell, the proceeds of the September 6th meeting will be turned over to the Begonian. All plants for the plant sale are to be **DONATED, SO BRING IN YOURS.**

Mr. J. A. Barfoot of the Barfoot Insecticide Company will show films of "Pests and their Control."

More later about our big OCTOBER SHINDIG!

—MRS. ALICE NICKLOW.

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## Hybridizer Speaks At Ventura

• A large crowd was on hand at the August meeting to hear Mr. Leslie Woodriff of Inglewood speak on his recent improvements on begonias. Mrs. Woodriff, Sr., also talked on the culture of gloxinias.

By unanimous vote a substantial support was extended The Begonian and we all hope that this and similar actions will make possible the steady improvement of this begonia magazine, the only publication of its kind in the world.

—WALTER J. KNECHT.

## Annual Meeting

• Election of officers for 1941 will be on the program at the East Bay branch meeting Monday, Sept. 23 at 8 P.M. We will meet in the auditorium of the Blind School, Derby Street, opposite Bellview, at the invitation of Dr. Richard H. French.

—HARRIETTE W. BRIDGES.

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# BEGONIA HIEMALIS . . . by FRANK REINELT

## SOCOTRANA HYBRIDS



THE AMERICAN flower world has taken little advantage of the *Begonia socotrana* hybrids. At present the supply is limited and the price comparatively high. But their simplicity of culture and ability to bloom for six or eight weeks in the house under conditions where few plants would survive, combined with variety of forms and bright colors, are bound to make them favored subjects with both professional and amateur gardeners.

The discovery of *Begonia socotrana* in 1880 provided a base for startling new races of winter-flowering begonias. Of these the Lorraine type with all its sports and variations has enjoyed a prominent place in florists' windows almost since it was raised by the master breeder, Lemoine, in 1891. Before Lemoine struck the happy mating of *socotrana* x *Dregei*, which produced the Lorraine type, John Heal, of J. Veitch & Sons, Ltd., London, succeeded, in 1883, in raising a few seedlings by crossing *socotrana* to a hybrid tuberous-rooted begonia, the latter kind being at that time only in its infancy.

## VEITCH'S

Of the resulting children which were introduced by Veitch & Sons, Ltd., only Mrs. Heal is still to be found in commerce. They did not gain so much importance as Lorraine and, having limited commercial value, naturally were found only in private collections. Since Heal's beginnings, many new hybrids have been produced by mating B. *Socotrana* with tuberous begonias. The resulting seedlings have had a varying degree of possibilities. Clibrans' has perhaps contributed the lion's share to the development of this beautiful race and some of its varieties will play prominent parts in the florists' windows of the future. A great many of the varieties offered in England and on the Continent are similar, some being only of botanical interest. However, the few outstanding ones have enormous commercial possibilities and should be much in demand when sufficiently propagated.

The individual varieties combine the characters of both parents, inheriting from *socotrana* round, leathery foliage and cluster inflorescence. They form tubers as the summer-flowering tuberous begonias do and inherit from them color, form and larger size of the individual flowers. As all these hybrids are sterile, they cannot produce seeds; hence, the individual varieties have to be propagated asexually.

New varieties can be produced only by crossing *begonia socotrana* with tuberous begonias, and as we have now far superior varieties of the latter group than the pioneers had, the possibilities for development in the future are promising. From my own experience it seems that most of the hybrids that are in commerce have been raised from tuberous begonias crossed with *socotrana* pollen as all attempts by reversing the method and using *socotrana* as seed parents were failures. Although *socotrana* forms good seed when crossed with tuberous begonias, it fails to germinate. On the other hand, seed from the summer-flowering tuberous begonias produced by *socotrana* pollen germinates quite freely in some cases. On first attempt a few years ago only one seed pod resulted. It was a cross between dark red *camellia* type and *socotrana*. The majority of the seedlings were crimson *socotrana* hybrids of very good form but there was also a few small single flowered tuberous begonias of the summer type. Last year, I started wholesale crossing of *socotrana* on tuberous begonias. Some plants respond easily, others do not form seed at all. One individual cross in particular gave a large lot of seed from which almost three thousand seedlings resulted. If these prove of a satisfactory average, it may bring a possibility of distributing tubers of *socotrana* hybrids in quantity. Propagation of individual plants from cuttings, to which we have had to resort so far, is comparatively

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slow and if parents of tuberous begonias can be found that will seed freely to socotrana pollen and bring good average of seedlings, this would simplify the matter of propagation, they could be distributed on a very large scale which would help greatly in furthering the popularity of these begonias.

If a large number of seedlings from such crosses can be grown, there is bound to appear considerable variation in all characters and we may, some time in the future, get different types of winter flowering begonias with all the range of color and form as they exist in the summer-flowering tuberous begonias. Amateurs who are interested in breeding should take advantage of this and mate socotrana with other tuberous species as this field has been very little explored and interesting seedlings can be expected.

### CULTURE

After the flowering period in January, partial rest is required until May or June. During this time the plants are kept only moderately moist in a temperate greenhouse or on a window shelf in a room so that they retain their growth. Two-year-old plants can be gradually dried off entirely and left in soil. In May or June, with the increasing temper-

ature, they will show signs of new life, and thorough watering will be required from then on.

On plants which retained the stems and foliage, young shoots will appear from the axils of the leaves. When these reach the size of approximately three inches, they may be cut with basal rings and rooted in sand as are any other cuttings. Close, humid temperature for the first three weeks is necessary, after which more light and air can be given.

### IN SAND

As the cuttings are trimmed, the lower leaves also can be utilized for propagation. They should be fairly well matured, and if their stems are stuck in sand so that the actual leaf is above the surface, they will root almost 100 per cent. Not all of these will produce new growth; the percentage varies with varieties.

After all cuttings from the old stems have been utilized, they should be cut off clear to the base to provide room for the new shoots which will be induced to come from the tubers. If several appear, they, too, can be utilized as cuttings, but it is safer to leave one or two to perpetuate the growth; otherwise, the tuber will be weakened and eventually destroyed. At this time the tubers can be shaken out of the old soil and repotted into small pots.

When the cuttings are fully rooted, they can be shifted into 3 or 4-inch pots in a mixture of two-thirds coarse leaf mold and one-third loam; good drainage should be provided.

### BEST IN LATH HOUSE

They can be grown either in a cool, well-shaded greenhouse with as much ventilation as possible or simply transferred to a lath house, where they will grow even better. On hot days, over-head spray will be beneficial. Before pot-bound, they should be shifted into larger pots—5 or 6-inch—and again later if necessary into 6 or 7-inch, in which they are to bloom. At this time, a little well rotted cow manure can be added to the soil and also some coarse sand.

To stop them from early flowering and to develop bushy plants, they should be pinched once or twice when first buds appear in the heart of the young shoots. In some varieties, the lower foliage will have to be trimmed off to provide sufficient light and room for the new branches. The trimmed leaves can also be utilized as cuttings.

### AVOID HIGH TEMPERATURE

As a rule, the young plants from cuttings grow more vigorously than the old tuber it-

Please Turn to Page 146

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## Begonia Seed Free!!

• Mrs. Ruby Liedler, corresponding secretary of the ABS has generously offered a packet of begonia seed free to all members listed on the HONOR ROLL and all new members whose names are printed in this issue of the Begonian.

Send a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED envelope to Mrs. Liedler, 5858 California Ave., Long Beach, and you will receive the packet of seed by return mail. Remember, no stamp, no seed.

THIS OFFER IS GOOD UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15 and is extended to those listed on the Honor Roll and as new members in the September and October Begonians.

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Alice M. White  
Box 787, Menlo Park, Calif.

Mrs. Frischa Barfoot  
112 Roosevelt Ave., Montebello, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Nithoff  
203 No. Rural Drive, Monterey Park, Calif.

Mr. Herbert L. Baslee, Sr.  
47 Bayview Ave., Mill Valley, Calif.

Mr. Edward T. Hall  
255 Coombs St., Napa, Calif.

Mayme H. Crowell  
12142 Addison St., North Hollywood, Calif.

Mr. L. C. Graff  
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Mr. R. G. Hagar  
House of Flowers, 1123 So. Hill St., Oceanside, Cal.

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Scott Haselton  
Box 101, Pasadena, Calif.

Mr. Joseph P. Kihm  
488 Arbor St., Pasadena, Calif.

Marguerite Merrilees  
517 So. Sierra Madre Blvd., Pasadena, Calif.

Mrs. J. H. Slusser  
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Mrs. Jane B. Day  
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2609 Castro Way, Sacramento, Calif.

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11139 San Fernando Road, San Fernando, Calif.

Margaret McDonnell  
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Mr. H. W. Seaman  
465 California St., San Francisco, Calif.

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Mr. Nelson A. Wells  
100 Pemberton Place, San Francisco, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Matthews  
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Mr. Howard F. Honan  
R. 1, Box 718, San Leandro, Calif.

Mrs. Olla Freymoyer  
Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co., Calif.

Clara M. Larsen  
705 So. Meyler, San Pedro, Calif.

Nellie M. Parker  
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Mr. Orwyn P. Veach  
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Mr. D. J. Ceriale, Jr.  
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Mrs. L. S. Meigs  
2121 Ancampa St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

Mr. James Wait  
333 East Sola, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Mrs. Margaret Ziesenhenné  
1130 No. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

Mr. Lee Wilson  
1114 14th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

Mrs. S. B. Bagnall  
P. O. Box 935, Santa Paula, Calif.

Mr. Raymond S. Griggs  
Limoneira Ranch, Santa Paula, Calif.

Mrs. J. N. Thille  
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Mr. and Mrs. Leo Turner  
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Mrs. C. J. Riddle  
13956 Van Owen, Van Nuys, Calif.

Mr. Roy Price  
2306 Oakwood Ave., Venice, Calif.

Dr. and Mrs. L. W. Clark  
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Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Colvard  
477 So. Coronado St., Ventura, Calif.

Miss Mary Eaton  
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Mr. L. B. Hollowell  
161 No. Ash St., Ventura, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe La Motte  
413 So. Santa Cruz St., Ventura, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Ray Mayhew  
194 So. San Clemente St., Ventura, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Don C. Peak  
469 So. Arcade Drive, Ventura, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Ploch  
184 So. San Clemente St., Ventura, Calif.

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Mrs. Sidney Kerr  
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Miss Mamie Castles  
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3508 N. E. Simpson, Portland, Oregon

Mr. E. L. Taylor  
3515 N. E. Simpson St., Portland, Oregon

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# MRS. BESSIE BUXTON SPEAKER AT EASTERN BRANCH ALL-DAY MEETING



THE EASTERN branch of the American Begonia Society will hold its annual all-day meeting at the Essex County Agricultural School in Danvers, Mass., Saturday, August 24, taking the form of a house plant conference with begonias the chief feature.

There will be exhibits of all kinds of house plants, of house plant literature, of flower pots, plant shelves, insecticides and everything pertaining to house plant culture. Propagation will be illustrated by a propagating bowl, a Wardian case, and other things.

The Society's lathhouse, which was awarded a first prize at the recent Spring Flower Show at Boston, has been set up on the school grounds, also two smaller lathhouses of the simplest type. These will be filled

with begonias and related plants which would grow under the same conditions.

We also plan to have a booth which will show the Begonian, its cultural pamphlets and the little membership folders, and we hope to add to the Society's membership in this way.

In the afternoon a brief business meeting will be held followed by election of officers for the coming year. Mrs. H. H. Buxton, author of "Begonias and How to Grow Them" will be the principal speaker. In addition there will be two other speakers on subjects of interest to house plant growers.

At the July 13 meeting, Pres. Earle A. Sampson showed a very handsome specimen of **B. Viaude**, full of buds, flowers and seed-pods, and several small begonias of various kinds which were sold for the benefit of the club treasury. Seedlings of the **Manda** unknown begonia were shown by Mr. Sampson, which varied widely from the parent. The seedpods of the **Manda** plant show curious small growths on each side of the ovary.

The vice-president, Mr. H. L. White, gave notice that at the annual meeting, he would move to change the name of this group to the New England Branch.

## Celebrates Anniversary

• Members of the Herbert P. Dyckman branch held their first annual banquet at the California Heights M. E. Church, August 6.

Tables were beautifully decorated with flowers and favors were individually potted begonias. Seventy-three members and guests partook of the sumptuous dinner which was supervised by the hostess of the evening, Past President Mrs. Esther Randall.

The president of the Dyckman Branch, Dr. Clyde N. Moore presided and introduced many honored guests.

Prof. M. B. Dunkle was introduced as guest speaker and gave a very interesting lecture illustrated with colored slides of the plants and flowers on which he spoke. He also showed many beautiful pictures of the Channel Islands, their vegetation, etc., which were taken in connection with the research work which he is doing for the government on these islands.

The evening's entertainment was closed with the distribution of one hundred and fifty beautiful plants to those present.

The September 3rd meeting will be at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Liedler.

## Garden Tour and Picnic Lunch

• On Sunday, August 10, the friends and families of the San Francisco Branch held a garden tour.

We all met at the home of the Secretary, and after inspection of his humble offerings drove to Golden Gate Park to see the begonias in bloom at the conservatory.

A picnic lunch was then indulged in amid a very cheerful garden setting after which we visited the gardens and greenhouses of the following members:

Mr. Homer S. Pechart, Mrs. L. A. Schnell, Miss Paula Schoenholz, President of San Francisco Branch, and Dr. and Mrs. Nutman.

—HARRY F. O'DONNELL.

Another  
**PESTLESS LIKWID GROBI**  
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**THE LIQUID FERTILIZER CONTAINING VITAMIN B1**  
Particularly Recommended for BEGONIAS and other Shade Loving Plants  
THE CHOICE OF WINNERS

# THE CULTURE OF STREPTOCARPUS

(Continued from Page 135)

## POTTING

Streptocarpus may be planted out in beds but much better results will be obtained by carrying them as potted plants. A moist, but never wet soil condition, is required. After the seedlings have been pricked off and potted into two or two and one-half inch pots they make a very rapid growth and within two or three months they are ready to be shifted into larger pots. Plants that are to be carried on as pot plants should have the soil in the pots completely renewed once a year. A good time to repot is between January 15 and February 15. Remove the plant from the old pot and shake off all the old potting soil—it will not injure the plant—and repot in fresh compost and a CLEAN pot. Have the potting compost moist enough so that when grasped firmly in the hand the compost will retain its form but when disturbed it will fall apart.

## FEEDING

When the plants are beginning to form buds good results will be obtained if the plants are fed once a week with a good commercial fertilizer in liquid form. Take a level teaspoon full of fertilizer and dissolve it in one gallon of water and feed in this strength.

Streptocarpus are plants that will not give good results unless grown in complete shade. They do exceptionally well in lathhouses if cloth is placed under the lath. They will stand a great deal more cold than they are given credit for. They may be grown under glass but it is much more satisfactory to take them out of glass houses when the warmer weather comes.

Because of their succulent foliage, snails and slugs take special delight in Streptocarpus, as do mealy bugs and aphids. In some instances red spider will bother the plants and if such an unhappy event happens the best remedy is to syringe the foliage, both the

upper surface and the under surface with water every afternoon between three and four o'clock. Within two or three weeks the red spider will have departed. Any good pyrethrum spray will take care of the aphids without injury to the plants.

The bloom stems of Streptocarpus come from the midrib of the leaves and for this reason it is to your advantage to grow your plants with as much foliage as possible. The greater the number of leaves the greater the number of blooms.

Streptocarpus have been known and admired in England and on the Continent for over one hundred years but for some reason unknown they have not acquired the popularity in the United States that they are entitled to have. They have such valuable characteristics, especially for us in Southern California. They are perennials and are summer blooming shade plants. The colors are so varied and delightful that they do not clash with any planting in the garden. The blooming period is from about the middle of April until the middle of November, with the heaviest bloom in June, July and August. By keeping the old blooms removed a much longer and heavier bloom period is assured.

There are some extremely interesting and beautiful Streptocarpus species that are well worth growing. Every one is familiar with *S. Wendlandii* but some of the lesser known species are much more interesting. *S. polyanthus* is one that every one should grow. The plant has a single leaf from five to seven inches broad and eight to ten inches long and from this leaf numbers of flower stems are sent up each stem having from eight to ten lavender-blue flowers, very much the color of *Primula Obconica coerulea*. *S. Rexii* another interesting species in that it was the first Streptocarpus discovered, is a deep violet blue with yellow markings in the throat. *S. Dunnii* is another. With conditions as they are in Europe at present, it may be difficult to obtain any of the species but those that are interested will no doubt be able to contact some firm in South Africa that will be able to supply them with necessary information as to how the seed may be obtained. Hybrid Streptocarpus seed may be obtained from your seed man and if possible get seed that have come from the Continent or England. A much better selection of color and form will be obtained.

- Seed-raising is fun. Bring in a new member and get your free packet of seed.

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SHADE PLANTS FUCHSIAS  
Beautiful Selection of  
FIBROUS BEGONIAS  
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# THE COMPOST PILE

## From The Editor's Mail Box

● From Kennett Square, Pa.: "Since I have had the Begonian I have learned so much. The July number came yesterday and I think it is the most helpful of any yet. I like Questions and Answers and think the series of non-technical descriptions is going to be very helpful. I've had wonderful success with Vitamin B1, especially with transplanting."

● From Hollywood, Calif.: "Just a word of praise for the Begonian—it is such an improvement. I am just one of the amateurs but I do appreciate your fine work this year. Being a business woman I do not get to attend meetings but have a small lathhouse and fuss around with my begonias. Have some of the begonia folders that I place on the counter in my store which has been the means of several ladies becoming members."

● From Downey, Calif.: "I have long wanted to become a member of the Begonia Society but as my husband works nights I figured it was no use, as I couldn't attend the meetings. Until I met Mr. Ziesenhenné when we were on vacation; he praised the Begonian, showed us his copies, and that 'I'd like to belong' became a 'must belong.' It is a grand magazine and the articles on Nomenclature are very helpful. Now, maybe my poor unnamed begonias will get a name."

● From Ventura, Calif.: "Better than ever, your 'Reading Time, 1 Min. 30 Sec.'. There is a Spanish proverb: 'El que no habla Dios no lo escucha'. (If you don't speak no one



will hear you.) I don't wish to create any ill feeling, but I do believe in speaking what you wish your fellow man to know and understand. More power to you—I'll help you all I can."

● From Pine Plains, N. Y.: "My subscription expired and I find I can't get along without the Begonian, so am enclosing my dollar. Kindly send the back numbers. Thank you."

● From Atlanta, Ga.: "I am delighted with the recent copies of the Begonian which were received with my membership card and I am enclosing one dollar for a complete volume of the 1939 Begonian which I hope you still have on hand."

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## Santa Barbara Meets First Tuesday

● Shaking off its swaddling clothes with astonishing vigor, the new branch of the begonia society in Santa Barbara emerged from the oblivion of its infancy to capture the \$25 first prize in its section in the Santa Barbara Horse Show flower exhibit.

Thousands of visitors to the show viewed the exhibit, which lasted four days. Other exhibits were made privately in various classes by other members of the branch and several blue ribbons as well as second prizes rewarded the contestants.

The begonia society exhibit was arranged by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Peep, Mrs. Harriet Worden, and Mrs. Alice Murphy. Plants were loaned by various members. The perfection of the exhibit was heartily praised by the judges of the show.

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## Begonians Enjoy Pot-Luck Dinner

• Members of the San Gabriel Valley Branch enjoyed a sumptuous pot luck supper Sunday evening, August 18 in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Earl T. Dodson in El Monte. All members present toured around the lovely gardens of the acre home of the Dodsons, and learned what two energetic people can do with an acre of ground.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Dr. C. H. Lauder. The speaker of the evening, Mrs. Marmion, will talk on plants of the sheltered garden.

—MAUDE A. FOX.

• Are you listed on the HONOR ROLL this month?

### ROSE CROFT BEGONIA GARDENS

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since 1902

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## Coleus Answers by FRANK N. FOX

Q. Which is the best way to raise Coleus, by seed or slips?

A. By slips if you wish true varieties. It is interesting to plant seeds to procure new varieties.

Q. How do you prevent the plants from becoming leggy?

A. Nip the centers out and continue to do so to make them spread.

Q. How do you grow the slips?

A. In a sand box of coarse sand. Nip just below the joint, and plant in sand. Water often.

Q. In which exposure do they thrive best?

A. North. They enjoy shade with filtered sunlight.

Q. What do you do about the mealy bug that often infests these plants?

A. Dip plants in spray solution. Turn plant upside down in the solution. This process gives the spray a chance to cover all of the foliage of the plant.

Q. What soil mixture is required?

A. About two-thirds sandy loam and one-third leaf mold, with small amounts of bone and blood meal added.

### MONTALVO GARDENS

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Visitors welcome daily. Free picnic grounds.

#### GREAT LAKES NURSERY

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(Clara Sue Jarrett, Prop.)

## Begonia Hiemalis

(Continued from Page 139)

self and form large specimens the same season. With the advance of cold weather, they will have to be transferred into a greenhouse or an ordinary room where they will produce a mass of blooms for 6 to 10 weeks.

Too humid greenhouses with a high temperature are to be avoided. Fifty degrees at night, with rising temperature in the daytime, will be sufficient. Keeping the air as dry as possible will greatly help to develop clean flowers and gives them long lasting quality. An ordinary living room seems to suit these begonias perfectly. The plants being fully matured, will expand and hold their flowers for an unbelievably long period under almost any conditions.

In frostless regions, particularly that of Southern California or Florida, they could be grown outdoors. Florida would perhaps benefit more in this respect due to their humid warmer weather, and, as they are unable, under their climatic conditions to raise the summer flowering tuberous begonias at all, this should offset their disadvantage completely.

Last year we transplanted the rooted cuttings in cold beds in our lath house where they grew very rapidly and started flowering in early November. During December and January we covered the beds with hot bed sash under which they bloomed nicely clear to the beginning of February.

This experiment was done chiefly to see how much cold weather they would stand. Unfortunately, the temperature never fell below thirty-two degrees so that their hardiness could not be tested properly. On the whole, they seem to be best fitted as pot plants as well-grown specimens provide excellent house decoration during the months which are poorest for flowers.

Historical references:

Die Begonian — Carl A. Fotsch.

### FAIRYLAND

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	<i>EACH</i>
Lady Roberts, Dark Cream.....	50¢
Emily Clibran, Double Apricot Salmon.....	50¢
Apricot Beauty, Double Apricot.....	50¢
Conquest, Single Apricot Salmon.....	35¢
Clibrans Red, Single Ox Blood Red.....	35¢

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## COLLECTION OF ABOVE FIVE FOR \$2.00

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Fascination, Single Salmon.....	\$1.00
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Dazzler, Double Scarlet.....	1.00
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## COLLECTION OF ABOVE FOUR FOR \$3.50

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YOUR**

1940 == SEPTEMBER == 1940						
SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
1	2	3	4	5	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	»	»	»	»	»

**MEETING  
DATES**

**HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH**

Tuesday, September 3, 7:30 P.M.  
5858 California Ave.  
Mrs. Frank Graves, Sec'y.-Treasurer,  
651 Loma Avenue, Long Beach.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**

Tuesday, September 3, 7:30 P.M.  
1130 No. Milpas St., Santa Barbara.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**

Wednesday, September 4, 8:00 P.M.  
1575 - 31st Avenue  
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secretary.  
1575 - 31st Ave., San Francisco.

**INGLEWOOD BRANCH**

Friday, September 6, 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, September 10, 8:00 P.M.  
Coca-Cola Hall, Ventura.  
Mrs. Irene Van Fossen, Sec'y.-Treas.,  
349 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

**MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH**

Tuesday, September 10, 2:00 P.M.  
Hathoro Flower Show.  
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secretary,  
Willow Grove, Pa.

**LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH**

Thursday, September 12, 7:30 P.M.  
Community Hall, 9th & Lime, Long Beach.  
Mace Taylor, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer,  
520 East Esther St., Long Beach.

**NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH**

Thursday, September 19, 7:30 P.M.  
1644 East 55th Street  
Miss Betty Wisker, Secy.  
5800 Lime Ave., Long Beach.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**

Friday, September 20, 7:30 P.M.  
952 Fallen Leaf Road, Arcadia  
Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,  
1719 Alamitas Ave., Monrovia.

**EAST BAY BRANCH**

Monday, September 23, 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., Wednesday, Sept. 4, at the editor's home, 3112 W. 81st St., in Inglewood. (Six blocks North from Manchester and Crenshaw, Morningside Park district.)

All branch Presidents are urged to attend.

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