

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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News from President Mr. Neels

• Mr. Neels, President of the American Begonia Society, advises us he has appointed Mr. Harold Hart, our Treasurer and member of the Glendale branch, as Chairman of the Convention to be held in Glendale starting Friday evening, Oct. 30th, to last through Sat. and Sun. Mrs. Jessie A. Poole is chairman of the Flower Show that is to be held at the same time as the Convention, which will enable exhibitors, as well as delegates, members and visitors, to save on travel time and expense. These chairmen will have splendid cooperation in arranging a most worth-while time for the members of, not only Glendale, but other near-by branches, judging from enthusiastic plans heard here and there. Do mark the days about October 23rd on your calendar, and plan to be with us. Look for a tentative program in the next Begonian.



Records depend on you

• Is there anyone who has not forgotten some important things that were, seemingly, unforgettable?

If there is something that should be remembered; then it should be written so that there may be a record of it, and not be forgotten. Recorded materials of past ages are priceless heirlooms to us and we should endeavour to leave some mark of advancement as we prove some worth-while point—different from someone else's experience.

All of us, who have read Mr. Alfred D. Robinson's articles in the years gone by, must have had one thought in common among all the regrets, when he left us recently . . . "What a mine of information went with him. Wish he had made time to write it down . . . for all to read."

To our delighted surprise there is a MSS that was to be published in booklet form, but Mrs. Robinson has decided, magnanimously and altruistically, putting aside all personal gain, to share it with us, free of charge. This will be another stone in the monument to the dear memory of a beloved personage, and his family. We are indeed grateful.

The Editor

A. B. S. CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN GLENDALE LATE OCTOBER

Branch News

Hollywood Branch: Those who were fortunate enough to attend the meeting in July enjoyed a most worth while program. Mr. Nick Davanzo spoke very learnedly on the hybridization of Tuberous Begonias, and then to end the evening most beautifully, Mr. G. A. Bauman of Palos Verdes, Calif., showed a series of Tuberous Begonias colored pictures and some of his fine collection of Flowering Gingers. Everyone present now wants to grow Tuberous Begonias and Ginger "lilies" just like that—some day.

For August the program will be devoted to Ferns, and Mr. George McDowell will speak, with specimen plants to illustrate the subject.

North Long Beach Branch: The August meeting is to be held in the YMCA Bldg., at 61st., St., and California, August 9th., from 2-4 p.m. The change is being made to enable all members and friends to exhibit at the Flower Show being held that day. A very fine display is anticipated which will make it worth while taking a trip to see.

The Santa Maria Branch is celebrating its First Birthday this month. The members are expecting a happy reunion in the home of Mrs. Peter Melshau in Nipomo, Calif., where they organized their group just a year ago. The hostess is planning delightful things while she extends an open invitation to Begonians to come and enjoy the occasion. She will have a "Giftie" and show you her two-hundred varieties of Fuchsias with some four thousand Tuberous Begonias she has grown from seed. August 6th., 2 p.m. You are welcome.

The Herbert P. Dyckman Branch: will probably have a record attendance on August 14th., at the California Heights Community Church, corner Bixby Rd., and Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif. The Dinner at 6:30 p.m. is to raise funds for the War Relief, at 50¢ per person. Telephone Mrs. J. W. Smoot 247-95 or Mrs. H. P. Dyckman 211-90 for reservations. Of course, there will be a plant sale.

• Branch members able to report Speaker's talk high lights—please send to Editor.

THE LATHHOUSE

by ALFRED D. ROBINSON, Dec.
Latery of Point Loma, Calif.

CHAPTER I

WHEN Adam and Eve lost their job in the Garden of Eden they came out with a complex that has profoundly influenced their gardening descendants throughout the ages, irrespective of whether those ages were thousands or millions of years. It was the urge "to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food" no matter the location or climate. From this urge came the thousands and one devices that today seek to remove the differentiation between other places and the Garden of Eden, for the real equal of that delectable spot only exists in the conversation and literature of the realtor. This gave us the green house and will increasingly multiply Lathed Gardens.

It is probable that some device to do that which the lath seeks to accomplish, was used very early in the history of gardening, for a most limited intelligence could sense that the sun was too hot, the wind too strong, the rain too wet, or its absence made things too dry, and so through grass and branches we have reached the lath.

I am not concerned with the use of laths merely as an aid to growing commercial crops, nor as a help in mere propagating, but am a self-appointed advocate of it as an adjunct to the garden, per se, and, strangely enough, find that the chief handicaps in putting it over are two of its early titles still burdening its progress—The Slat-House in Florida and The Shade House elsewhere. The former suggests crudity and sheer ugliness, the latter the shutting out of the sun, whereas its employment permits of at least not unpleasing architectural treatment, and the latter gives an absolutely inadequate, if not quite false, picture of its service. But more of this later.

When it became obvious that the use of lath was a definite help to growing certain things, lathhouses sprang up here and there and, to add to this story the human interest side so beloved of the modern editor, and, perhaps with a little excuse for its injection, I shall briefly relate my introduction to the lathhouse. It was in the days of the wooden houses unbelievably betowered and bescrolled, and I was visiting the nursery of the most interesting and worth-while

personality I have encountered in my half century or more of gardening obsession, Kate O. Sessions. If you should think I am unique in this estimate consider this: Mr. Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum came to my lathed garden almost directly on a visit to our fair city and gave it a casual once over and the only remark I can remember he made was "Where is Miss Sessions?, or this, Mr. and Mrs. David Fairchild came with Miss Sessions to see what I was doing and the one picture Mrs. Fairchild took was of Miss Sessions, with my lathed garden as a frame. To return to the lathhouse of Miss Sessions. It was there as an aid to growing *Ixias* and *Sparaxis* and it was doing it, but it had no post upholding the sagging lath, which lined with no more than one other post. It was probably about seven feet high, however I felt gigantic, (though really quite medium.) I crept about under it in an uncomfortable, stooping position and so came away with a sprouting horror of lathhouses. Shortly afterwards I visited a near by place, an unworthy rival to the title of the Garden of Eden, and was taken to see the finest yet in lathhouses. It proved to be a duplicate in design of every conservatory in every park in every country I had ever visited, the only difference was the glass had been replaced by lath. Here was definitely something wrong, for there were practically no flowers, nothing but greenery, palms, bamboos, etc., and the house itself would keep suggesting a skeleton.

After that I was in several lathhouses small and medium, but in all, the plants were a surprise. I found myself looking for chickens on tiered perches with inquisitive eyes on the end of extended necks. Finally I went home and built my own chicken coop out of panels from a wind-break that served no useful purpose I could sense; and that was the beginning of all this.

From that time on, for over a quarter of a century, I have made so many mistakes that I can at least tell something of what not to do, and that in the year of our Lord, 1940, should surely have some merit.

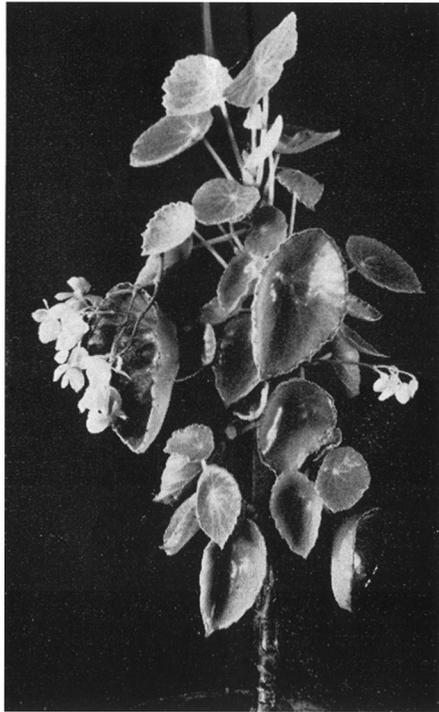
Perhaps in all the world's activities, none is so fruitful of alibis as gardening. Among these thousands of reasons for not gardening at all, there is one special

(Continued on page 123)

by HELEN K. KRAUSS
Wynnewood, Pa.

• *Begonia Kellermanii* (C. De C.) is one of 14 new species of *Begonia* discovered during a biological exploration of Panama under the auspices of the Smithsonian Institute. Specimens were sent to Casimir De Candolle (son of Alphonse De C.) at Geneva for identification and were described by him in 1919, a number of years after the discovery.

C. De C. placed *B. Kellermanii* in section *Rachia* (A. De C.) along with *B. incana* to which it bears a resemblance except that it is smaller and daintier throughout. *Kellermanii* is fibrous and differs in having somewhat less fleshy leaves and the upper surface of the older leaves are greener in appearance due to lack of density of tomentum. The leaves are peltate but not as broad as those of *B. incana* and sometimes decidedly cupped. The stems appear weaker and require support to keep upright. Flowers are white and drooping and inflorescence more drooping than the arching ones of *B. incana*.



• Much may be gleaned by reading the advertisements in this bulletin.

• This picture of *Begonia Kellermanii*, comes to us from Mr. Ross W. Baker of Dedham, Mass. The photograph was taken for him by Mr. Logee of Danielson, Conn, and Mrs. Krauss sent us the description.

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HANGING BASKET BEGONIAS

by FRANK REINELT
Capitola, Calif.

THE first forms of hanging type begonias were developed by Lloyd in England, apparently from *Begonia Boliviensis*, and were consequently named *Lloydii*. Progress since then has wrought a great deal of change so that today most of the forms carry little resemblance to the original *Lloydii*.

When I started breeding begonias, the seed of the hanging basket type was available from Europe only, and in a mixture containing as a rule, shades ranging from light pink through rose, crimson-rose, and salmon to a sort of salmon-red. Occasionally a white of rather poor form appeared and very rarely a pale yellow of even poorer form. Only among the named varieties of Blackmore & Langdon were the better sorts of both yellow and white.

These were all of the smooth foliage type, vigorous and forming large bulbs. The flowers came in profusion early in the season, but declined rapidly. The branches never reached great length and were brittle, often breaking off. This type at its best today is represented by varieties such as *Avalanche* and *Pink Shower*, which we are propagating by cuttings. An amateur friend of mine who had an excellent collection of tuberous begonias and who was doing breeding for fun raised a basket begonia with dark green hairy foliage which had a hanging habit par excellence. Its branches kept growing longer and longer without breaking, and the flowers were carried on very long individual stems. At that time it was a radical advance, and although I have developed many varieties since with better flowers, the hanging habit of the original has never been superseded. With my friend's permission I have been propagating this variety for six years, and it will be offered eventually in our catalog under the name of "Lucy Lee." As a grandparent, its influence in developing baskets with a better hanging habit was such that today all of the light colors we are producing carry 25 to 75 per cent of its blood.

At that time I also made some crosses between baskets and camellia types which produced very large flowers, but with stiff growth. Successive generations produced occasionally better hanging habit, but on the whole they were not satisfactory, at least for commercial pur-

poses. They made grand baskets, though, after two or three years, once the tubers had reached three to six inches in diameter. Small one year old bulbs usually sent up one stiff stock only, but the older tubers sent a number of weaker stems which gradually hung down. They had the capacity of producing flowers the whole season and keep growing longer and longer. These were available in pink, rose, and salmon tones. Unfortunately a great deal of sterility was inherited from such wide crosses and prevented further breeding. They were eventually abandoned.

The best results from Lucy Lee crossed with one of the larger pinks were carried on, and although they do not have as large blooms as the first camellia-basket crosses they are better balanced and of much finer hanging habit. The public demands larger and larger flowers, but unless the whole plant is balanced and of good hanging habit it becomes a weak and sprawly large type and ceases to be a hanging basket at all. The medium sized flower types still make the finest specimen baskets.

Yellow, apricot, and orange were very hard colors to budge. The existing types then were very inferior and almost sterile. Seed of those colors coming from Europe was extremely poor, and in it one would find everything but the desired colors. At that time I was experimenting with *Begonia Martiana* and happened to cross it on a large apricot camellia that had a weak stem. The result was astonishing. Among the seedlings were beautiful large flowers in yellow, apricot and orange with hairy green foliage and fine hanging habit. Here, by chance, results were reached practically overnight which logically should have taken many generations to develop. Alas, there was a great disappointment awaiting for me. They were sterile between themselves. In my haste I did not bother to save the original camellia parent and have not been able to reproduce this seed in any quantity again. Although occasionally they will form seed with pollen from another type basket, it is very hard to produce and not very viable, germinating hardly more than 30 per cent. Results from such crosses, although comparatively good, have never reached the quality of their parents. Gradually eliminating one by

one, we have now a few separations which when sufficiently propagated will be offered as named varieties. These represent the ideal show baskets, but unless sterility is overcome, they will not be available either in quantity or at a low price for a long time as the propagation by cuttings is quite slow.

Reds are progressing fairly well with the exception of dark red. The latter comes from crossing dark red camellia with red baskets and has the usual fault of poor hanging habit besides sterility so that we are unable to raise second generations so far. Perhaps in the future a break in some cross will appear, but it is unlikely that it will come soon.

For commercial purposes the medium sized flower with the old Lloydii type of growth will perhaps stay as it is easier to produce in quantity at a low cost. For show purposes the finest varieties will have to be propagated from cuttings until such time as they can be successfully produced from seed.

Cultivation of basket begonias is the same as for any other type with minor exceptions. Of all the containers for growing I prefer clay pots, glazed if possible. Shallow clay containers in the form of baskets are available, and even if the glazed ones are more costly, they are cheaper in the long run. The glazed pot in comparison to the plain clay one does not form any kind of fungus or moss if kept wet for any length of time, and also does not dry out so rapidly. An ordinary clay pot if saturated with water often gets green with fungi which tends to make the soil rapidly sour, preventing the best development of the plant. Wooden boxes give excellent results if one likes them, although they tend to dry out quicker. I do not recommend wire baskets at all. They are for ferns, orchids, and so on, but not for begonias unless one is willing to sacrifice the growth for general effect. I have never seen a begonia as well grown in a wire basket as can be grown in a pot or wooden box. They dry out too rapidly.

We start our tubers in peat. Sandy leafmold or sand alone will do also. When sufficient roots are developed plant directly in the final pots in a mixture of leafmold, loam, and sand, one-third of each, or for that matter any light mixture you have used before with success.

For our own purposes we standardize

our planting to a point where mistakes are hardly possible. In October we turn the two year old pile of leafmold, which is still fairly coarse, and mix fish meal with it at the rate of 10 to 15 pounds to the cubic yard, wetting the pile thoroughly so the fish meal will decay immediately. In March when the planting season begins one third peat is added for the young seedling begonias. For potting up the started tubers we add one third silt, and if this is not available, sandy loam or sand alone will do just as well. We use no peat or manure for potting up. Heavy use of these can give poor results, although with care and good judgment good results can be obtained. We have eliminated the manure and peat in this step entirely for simplicity's sake as the fish meal mixed with the leafmold is far more potent and lasting in terms of cash and results. Cotton seed meal is just as good or even better in regions where the water is on the alkali side as it is more acid than fish meal. No doubt there are many other fertilizers giving good results, but I have never seen begonias grown better than ours with this simple combination, both in terms of results and costs. A small hand-full of fish meal mixed with the soil in the lower half of the pot at the time of transplanting will furnish the plant sufficient food for the whole season. In the case of basket begonias, when the flowers show signs of diminishing in July, additional fish meal dug into a trench around the edge and covered with soil will give them new vigor, and the secondary show of flowers will be even better.

Types which form a great many stems do not require pinching. The strong growing larger types that form one or two stems only will make finer plants if the main shoots are pinched after their fourth leaf appears. This is usually when the flower begins to form. This will force development of the side branches which

(Continued on page 121)

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CONVENTION IS TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH FLOWER SHOW

Reminiscence

by EVA KENWORTHY GRAY
Pacific Beach, Calif.

• Looking back over the years of begonia growing and the first start of the Begonia Club recalls the beginning of my trials in growing new plants from seed. Of the old No. I Begonia Round Robin Club that was started by Nora Sample of Ohio, there is but one other, besides myself, who still belongs. This is Mrs. Ross Swisher of Sycamore Pa. She is an ardent lover of begonias and has been successful in developing several new varieties. Mrs. Swisher writes thusly about one (a pink flowered Subvillosa (Scotch Luxurians): "I notice that some of my seedlings of subvillosa have a pink tinge on the edge of the petals. Growing as these plants do among so many pink flowered varieties it is not surprising that the pollen should mix. The leaves of the pink flowered ones seem smaller than the old white flowered variety."

Mrs. Swisher also obtained seedlings from the Superbakenzi, a white flowered Superba strain, but all the flowers were pink. One of these, Elva S., is rather freakish in-as-much as while most of the leaves are of the green of the rubra type, there occurs an occasional variegated blotched leaf, some like the Templini begonia. Another of these seedlings has very large leaves heavily blotched with silver, and is a rather dwarf grower. She calls this after a little granddaughter: Janice Millican. It is strange that one seed pod should produce so many varieties, none alike in foliage or manner of growth. I think that is what makes growing from seed so fascinating.

The first seed I tried was from a pod of Viaude, and from this planting I obtained Neely Gaddis and Vesperia. From Cyprea seed I obtained Nelly Bly and a large hybrid Cypraea with large leaves and very large flower clusters. Then came the Superba varieties from seed of Palmata, as I knew it then. The name has since been changed. From these seeds I obtained the pink flowered Superba-Azella, the white flowered Superbakenzi, and Superba-mentone, white tinted pink, also the Superbakathi, a deeply cut leaf with blotches of silver and white flowers like the seed parent. I chose these from dozens of seedlings, taking only the best and those showing a va-

riety of color and leaf shape. One can grow a great many seedlings, but unless they show individual characteristics it is confusing to grow every seedling; one must pick out the best.

I still plant seeds and watch for new variations in the plants. My most recent one is a seedling of Prunifolia crossed with Scharffiana. I call this Irene, and it is showing a new departure from both parents. Though the leaf is of the same type as Scharffiana, it is more pointed and promises to be a taller grower, but not as tall as Prunifolia.

From seed of the Picta alba grew the one I call Queen of May, a tall grower with an abundance of white tinted flowers along the stems, with leaves and flowers much larger than Picta alba.

There are other seedlings, too, but I have not named all of them and perhaps they would not be wanted in any one else's collection. But one likes one's own children and can see merit in them when others might not.

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Q. What is the best form of fertilizer I may use for house potted plants?

A. With the several forms of liquid fertilizers now available in various sized bottles, it is just too much bother and expense to make the old-time liquid fertilizer we have always used. Buy it from your nurseryman, read the directions carefully for while these liquid fertilizers are almost fool-proof, there are pointers to glean from every manufacturer. A safe precaution is to always have the soil quite damp, before applying liquid manure of any kind. These liquids are quickly available to the roots of a plant, free of odor, most easily applied and the response is usually very surprising.



(Top) Basket Begonias. (Bottom) Vetterle and Reinelt Tuberous Begonias

Hanging Basket Begonias

(Continued from page 119)

will hang better and form a more balanced plant.

After started tubers are potted, water only lightly, increasing the amount as the growth develops. Overwatering in the young stage is often fatal as the soil will get sour and diminish the capacity for growth.

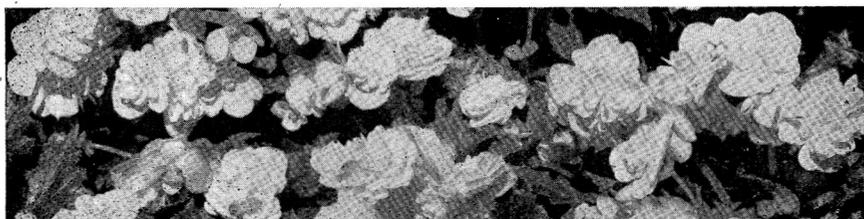
The size of the container varies with the size of the tubers. A two inch tuber should have at the minimum an eight to ten inch pot; a three inch tuber, a twelve inch pot, and larger tubers will require fourteen inch pots.

As a rule the larger the tuber, the better the basket. Three, four, and five

year old tubers reaching as much as six to nine inches in diameter, will give enormous show plants. A number of small tubers can also be used in a large basket, but their shoots will never reach the length of those of the larger tuber.

If one has an exceptionally good variety the best way to preserve it is to make a few cuttings. Cut with a basal ring and keep in moist sand in a closed temperature. They will root readily in three to four weeks, and form small bulbs the first season.

The age of tubers averages from four to six years, of course with exceptions. I have tubers eight years old and know of one over twenty-five. Due to injury or other external causes, we lose about twenty per cent each year, and this brings our average to five years.



SELECT PLANTS FOR THE GLENDALE OCTOBER SHOW CAREFULLY NOW

Why I Grow Begonias

by CLARA A. WALL
Peoria, Ill.

• The summer of '42 was to bring to fruition, one of my fondest dreams to visit California and see "with mine own eyes" the beauties of Begonia gardens, the four foot bushes of fuschioides full of scarlet bloom; fifteen foot plants of Margery Daw covering a cottage porch—such beauties! To see the lath houses, walled gardens, and perhaps make the acquaintance of other Begonia lovers, or perchance attend a branch meeting of those cultivating this hobby.

Begonias are truly a fascinating genus. I find many are growing them unaware that they are entertaining "Royalty." There is such a diversity of form. Who, at first glance would recognize a plant of foliosa with its tiny leaves, to be akin to Pres. Carnot or similar large leaved kind?

A Rose enthusiast collects colors, scent, or size as there is very little difference in shape of leaves or flowers. Some leaves are smoother, crinkled or larger perhaps, and the flowers may be full or single but they are easily recognized and most people can do it.

The same is true of the Iris, Rainbow flower, poor man's orchid, another darling of the fanciers, and deservedly so. But, while the dutch iris are bulbous the Japanese are fibrous rooted, and the German are rhizomatous—they are all similar in appearance. I am not belittling any of these beauties as I am very fond of all and grow them. But for diversity of form, I choose Begonias.

Is is this very thing that started me on my collection. A small plant of Beefsteak Begonia was given me about three years ago as a "Mexican lily that never blooms but stays green all winter." Next a 'cactus' which I later identified as Fishers Ricinifolia. I started sending for all available literature and soon had about thirty varieties. These flourished until we made an addition to our house which necessitated moving some plants to other windows. I learned thru this experience that some dislike being moved about so intently that they will sulk and even die. A "Calla Lily" Begonia was one of these. It had been growing vigorously in an east window, but promptly departed this life when placed in a southern exposure

In the course of my collecting, I have grown fifty or more varieites. Some I still have and some have passed on. At first, I was discouraged, but later, I philosophized that as long as I couldn't accomodate the 235 (or so) varieties in cultivation, I could grow a few kinds at a time. For those that become unhappy I could substitute others or replace with any of which I grew especially fond. So, tho' I am sorry to lose any, I get a thrill out of the new one taking its place.

Fuschias, Ivies, and Achimenes, I find, enjoy the same conditions as Begonias and I have a box of them in my north windows. The Achimenes are a novelty here. I've never seen them growing except in the flower house of our park. They get their share of oh's and ah's from passing cars and many stop to inquire about them. Mine are the lavender but I understand they come also in purple, pink and white.

I enjoy the bulletin very much and my only criticism is the omission of the photos and excellent descriptions accompanying them. And so, to the Editor's plea for pictures, sketches, etc., I add my most fervent hopes that we may again have them.

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"THE LATHHOUSE"

(Continued from page 116)

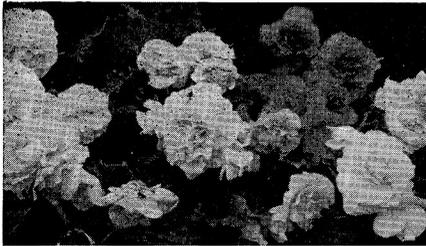
one applied to the lathed garden that I desire to vigorously contest, and that is the "locality alibi". Literally hundreds, if not thousands, of times, I have been told: We could not use a lathhouse in our climate!" Against that I place a firm belief that a lathhouse can be useful in any locality. The Eastern States particularly advance the climatic alibi and yet the extreme heat of their summers, their winds, etc., all point to the possible worth of the very thing they reject as the impossible.

Let us briefly consider here what it is the lathhouse is expected to do though later on with detailed structural discussion the subject may come up again.

The lathhouse is primarily designed to modify atmospheric handicaps, such as too warm a sun, too dry an atmosphere or too hard a rain, or, too strong winds. It is not so much a shade house as it is a sunshine filter, it seeks to make a wind a breeze, not to stop air circulation, in short to modify out of doors conditions not to create an indoor state. In cultural directions emanating from all over the country, constantly occur the phases "Modified Sunshine", "Half shade",

"Sheltered position", etc., and the idea conveyed is that the gardener should hunt through the garden seeking a location to fit these specifications and put the plant there whether that fits into the gardener's scheme or not. It is hardly surprising that most of our gardens contain only those things that will grow any old place.

The second prize alibi is "a lathhouse is so ugly!" granted most of them are, but they need not be. The early lathhouses and the majority of the later ones have been modeled by recruits from that enormous army of those who have gone in and out of the chicken business and the far lesser number of architects who knowing nothing of lathhouse or plants have gone ahead on a conservatory foundation. From the first we have a plague of box-like abominations, from the latter, skeletons of glass conservatories, Here and there, where friends have been superabundantly supplied, are more ambitious creations with cornices, plate glass windows, domes and turrets. All these fall short of that perfect service so freely offered in all lines of business in these latter days. We must approach the lathhouse matter in the spirit of a New Deal and having done the wrong thing in so many ways, over so long a time, I make bold to have to try.



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THAT EXOTIC WEED

by H. F. PINNELL
San Pedro, California

IN range of color of foliage no plant surpasses the East Indian and African weed known to us as Coleus.

By hybridizing and selecting, many very beautiful combinations of hue and various modifications of leaf form have been obtained. Colors range from red through the whole spectrum save pure blue. It is not uncommon to find red, gold, deep purple, and green on the same leaf. The leaf may be pointed or nearly round, plain or toothed, smooth or ruffled.

Most varieties are annual. If they live over winter they become leggy and lose their luster. As seeds do not come true, growers make cuttings from choice plants to have first year growth each season. The Coleus propagate most easily from cuttings taken either at nodes or between nodes. Plants may be kept at an even height for they will stand shearing.

Once a great favorite for shady borders it has been largely displaced by more easily grown flowering plants. Being tropical it must have heat at all times. A few nights with temperatures below forty-five degrees will stop its growth and cause most of the leaves to drop; and full sun will fade it. It requires too long a season to be a success without artificial heat.

Belonging to the mint family it usually has square stems and bracts at the leaf bases. The blossoms are blue or purple and are inconspicuous. They should be removed as soon as the buds appear. The leaf colors most commonly seen are the all gold, the bronzy red, the crimson, and the red or gold with green margins. The Pacific Northwest has developed some of the finest specimens grown. Cultivated in pots in the green house they surpass, in form of leaf and richness of color, anything we have seen. One example brought from Seattle by the gardener at Fort McArthur attracted more attention at our annual flower show than any other plant in the whole exhibit. It grew like a bushy shrub nearly three feet high and over two feet wide, with roundish deeply ruffled velvety leaves, so rich a purple they were almost black, bordered in bright gold and spotted with deep red.

Coleus is easily grown from seeds, but do not sow them and expect a lot of beautifully colored plants. Most of them will have green leaves with dirty brown

markings,—like the old horse mint. Buy a packet of seed from each of three or four seed firms and plant in separate pans. When seedlings have four or six leaves lift out those that promise good color, set in a flat, and discard the rest. You will be surprised at the difference between the results obtained from the seeds of the various firms. From hundreds of plants from one firm you may not save a single one but from those of another you may find a number that are good. When these are large enough to show their true form and color select the best and transfer to pots or to the open ground. In the seed pans a good mixture is one part each of loam, leaf mold, and sand, to which is added a little of sifted wellrotted steer manure. In the flat increase the amount of manure and decrease the leaf mold and sand. No particular attention is needed except to see that there is plenty of heat and moisture. In a lath house it is best not to plant till the weather is warm.

Without some heat it is difficult to hold coleus cuttings over winter, though the perennial red foliaged, round stemmed variety can be depended upon to live several seasons near the coast. But to keep good plants it is best to slip all varieties early in the fall if you have some heat; or in the spring take cuttings that have lived through the winter.



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Begonia Odorata Alba and Its Babies

by LESLIE WOODRIFF
Harbor, Ore.

• Some seven years ago at Mr. Robinson's we were first introduced to *Begonia odorata alba* as it should be grown in wooden boxes some 14 inches across and wintered in a greenhouse with a minimum of around 60 deg. F. There the plants stood some 4 to 5 feet tall with dozens of clusters of pure white blooms to each plant, but most impressive to me was the delightful fragrance that could be noted several feet away. We took a six inch pot of it home and went to work. It seemed to us the plant was a little too tall for very great popularity and that any color but white would be more desirable so we crossed it with most everything we could find and out of several dozen pollinated flowers a few pods set. One set with the small near double *semperflorens* *Bijou de Jardin* and another, with, of all things, *B. foliosa*. Out of a dozen or so seedlings that germinated from *odorata* *Bijou* only one was strong enough growing to be worth while and it carried clusters nearly as large as *odorata* from a better shaped plant that grows about half the height of *odorata* 3 to 3½ ft. It was pictured on the front of the *Begonian* under the name of *Pet. I believe Mrs. Robinson has it? I have discontinued it in favor of a later cross of odorata alba x Dichroa* from which some four hundred seedlings grew and selected the most fragrant and the largest flowered one for further work. We find them much freer blooming than *odorata* with growth not over 30 inches with clusters nearly as large and individual flowers much larger of a lovely shade of pink. *B. Tea Rose* we find a good deal more fragrant than *odorata* and the most fragrant we had from our lot of seedlings. The other one served for propagation has flowers near 2 inches across and a very free year round bloomer.

We have a plant flowering with 2½ inch semi double flowers from a semi basket plant with leaves under 3 inches that is a seedling from *odorata alba* which stood strong x-ray treatment crossed with double Red Tuberos. The

flower is white, the plant evergreen and under ideal conditions should be ever-blooming. Anyway, it proves that we can cross the tall cane type begonias with double tuberous and get some plants to grow and bloom.

Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

by JOHN S VOSBURG
Hollywood, Calif.

• With the mention of the word *Fuchsia* one's imagination portrays a wide variety of color and form for they have contributed much to our shade gardens.

One not so generally thought of is *Fuchsia procumbens* or *Trailing Fuchsia*. Not spectacular but dainty and neat. Quite different from the other types for it is prostrate and trailing, forming a rather compact mat of stems and rather small round ovate leaves. It is best suited to a rock garden or as a border subject when used in the garden.

The solitary, pale orange flowers with purple calyx-lobes, and blue anthers make—not a bold combination of color, but a truly delightful and charming picture.

Because of its difference in character it is not so well known yet it deserves a place in your shaded garden. It hails from New Zealand where it grows abundantly in close association with the tree ferns and kindred materials.

It has possibilities as a basket plant. Just how long the runners might become I am not sure. It needs no coddling other than a leafy soil kept on the damp side and it will respond admirably.

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CONTACT MR. HAROLD HART ABOUT GLENDALE OCTOBER CONVENTION

Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor not later than the tenth of the month.

Note: The American Begonia Society Board will meet Sunday, Aug. 9th, 2 P.M., at Auditorium Jim Dandy Market, Crenshaw Blvd. and 84th Place, Inglewood, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Friday, August 4th
Home of Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer,
4219 Sunnyside Drive
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

PALOMAR BRANCH

Tuesday, August 4th, 7:30 P.M.
Jefferson Street School, Vista, Calif.
Mrs. E. A. Boillot, Secy.-Treas.,
Route 1, Box 445, Oceanside, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, August 4th
American Legion Hall,
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.,
515 So. Evergreen Drive, Ventura, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, August 4th, 8:00 P.M.
Home of Mrs. Fred Hines, 554 Nichols St.
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Tuesday, August 4th
Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,
210 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Wednesday, August 5th
Dominguez Community Church,
21503 Prospect at Adams
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, August 5th, 8:00 P.M.
1060 Francisco St.,
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Annual Meeting, August 6th, 2 P.M.
Home of Mrs. Peter Melschau, Secy.-Treas.,
Nipomo, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, August 6th
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, August 7th, 8:00 P.M.
Auditorium Better Foods Market
Crenshaw Blvd. and 84th Place
Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. R. R. White, Secretary
937 Harding Ave., Venice, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Fifth Annual Meeting and Third Window Plant
Day
Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secy.-Treas.,
54 Essex St., Lynnfield Centre, Mass.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Sunday, August 9th, 2-4 P.M.
Y.M.C.A. Bldg., 6075 California Ave.
Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.
5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Flower Show

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, August 10th, 8:00 P.M.
Washington School, Cor. Bancroft & Groves
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, August 10th, 7:30 P.M.
4037 39th Street, San Diego
Mrs. Clarence Moore, Secy.-Treas.
3664 31st St., San Diego, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, August 11th, 7:30 P.M.
Pasadena Library, Walnut and Garfield
Samuel R. Works, Secy.,
71 N. San Gabriel, Pasadena, Calif.
Speaker: Mrs. Ruby Liedler
Subject: Fuchsias

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, August 13th, 7:30 P.M.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Helen Ehret, Secy.,
7507 Lexington Ave., Hollywood, Calif.
Speaker: George McDowell
Subject: Ferns

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, August 13th, 10:00 A.M.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,
362 Brokway Merion, Pa.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, August 13th, 7:30 P.M.
Odd Fellows Temple
728 Elm, Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Ethel G. Arbuckle, Secy.-Treas.,
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, August 14th, 7:30 P.M.
Calif. Heights Comm. Church, Bixby and Cerrito
Mrs. Charlotte Sisson, Secy.-Treas.,
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Sunday, August 16th, 2:00 P.M.
American Legion Hall, 716 N. 1st Ave., Arcadia
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary
419 South Ynez Ave.
Monterey Park, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Sunday, August 23rd
Mr. and Mrs. Cullough
1227 No. Spazier Ave., Glendale
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,
709 Milford Ave., Phone Citrus 17517

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, August 17th
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, August 20th
11228 Atlantic Ave.
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, August 25th
Home of Mrs. Fred Oehrle, Hatboro, Pa.
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secy.
Willow Grove, Pa.

SYRACUSE BRANCH

Richard C. Atwood, Secy.-Treas.,
1405 East Fayette St., Syracuse, N. Y.
Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY BRANCH

5343 Greene St.
Mrs. Sophia E. Whitaker, Secy.-Treas.
5343 Greene St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

The Inglewood Begonia Society members were exhibitors at the Centinela Garden Flower Show held recently for the benefit of the local U.S.O. Mr. Henry Vose displayed a table of beautiful Rex Begonias, Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Thompson had a unique collection of Fuchsias and Begonias, Mrs. Caroline Olson, Mrs. Dorothy Cantrell, Mrs. B. Wilhelm and others contributed generously. The show was well attended which resulted in a nice sum for the beneficiary. Thanks are here extended to each one who participated through Mr. John H. Rowland.

The San Francisco Branch news are enthusiastically full of the forthcoming Flower Show to be held Sept. 2 & 3rd. in the City Hall, San Francisco. The Dahlia Soc. of Calif., The San Francisco Rose Soc., the American Fuchsia Soc., and the American Begonia Soc., are joining forces to make this the best show yet. All who are interested, please contact Mr. Oliver Kerlein (Garden Editor of the S. F. Examiner) who is show manager for the A. B. S. They are still talking about the pictures of Mexico shown them by Howard Gilkey taken by him on the trip which gave him the inspiration for the designing of the last marvellous Oakland Spring Flower Show.

Glendale Branch: Day of meeting for August is changed to August 23rd at 3:00 p. m. in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. McCullough, 1227 No. Spazier Avenue, Glendale.

The San Diego Branch just celebrated its first Birthday and now has new officers to carry on the bright banner passed on by the Board. The fifty-five active members enjoyed the pilgrimages arranged often and have a monthly meeting through the year. They usually enjoy a speaker to advance their knowledge and take part in a splendid show of plants for the usual raffle, plus a second sale of specimen plants. The hostesses are chosen each meeting to serve the refreshments for the following month's gathering. Welcoming greetings and congratulations are extended to the new officers:

President, Mrs. Russ Eaker; V. Pres., Mrs. J. A. Hegel; Sec. Treas., Mrs. Edwin F. Barker; Nat'l Rep., Mrs. Russ Eaker; Directors, Mrs. A. M. Rogers, Mrs. Russel T. Bailey, and Mrs. J. S. Michel.

New England Branch: Will celebrate its Fifth Annual Meeting and Third Window Plant Day this August. Our warmest congratulations and good wishes. We shall welcome a report from them. Congratulations and happy returns of the day.

Riverside Branch: Twelve of this group travelled to North Long Beach Branch to attend the Garden Tour and dinner last month which they found much worth the while. They report the sad news, however, of the passing of one highly esteemed member, Mrs. Frank Lord. To the bereaved ones we send our deepest sympathy.

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