

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

	Page
HAPPY NEW YEAR MESSAGE - - - - -	3
Ferd P. Neels	
WE MUST CARRY ON - - - - -	3
J. N. Nutter	
IT DEPENDS ON US - - - - -	3
The Editor	
NEW ENGLAND BEGONIAS IN WINTER - - - - -	4
Bessie R. Buxton	
SAN DIEGO BRANCH - - - - -	5
INGLEWOOD 1942 OFFICERS - - - - -	5
DECIDUOUS AZALEAS AS LATH-HOUSE SUBJECTS - - - - -	6
Cloyd E. Marshall	
"PLANTLY SPEAKING—ON THE SHADY SIDE" - - - - -	7
John S. Vosburg	
CURRENT NOTES BY A DEALER - - - - -	8
Bob Anderson	
ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH - - - - -	8
EVA KENWORTHY GRAY, La Jolla - - - - -	8
STREPTOCARPUS - - - - -	9
Annie C. Robinson	
CULTURE OF TUBEROUS BEGONIAS BY SEED - - - - -	10
Frank Reinelt	
TIMELY SUGGESTIONS - - - - -	10
W. P. Dyckman	
SPEAKER IN THE DARK - - - - -	10
ANEMONE Japonica - - - - -	10
SAN GABRIEL OUTSTANDING PROGRAM - - - - -	11
Maria Wilkes	
PRE-HEARING OF BEGONIA BOOK - - - - -	13
Maria Wilkes	
HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR BEGONIA NAMES? - - - - -	7-13
Margaret C. Gruenbaum	
BEGONIA CALENDAR - - - - -	14

The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Business and General Offices: 158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society

● Annual Membership Fee: One Dollar per Calendar Year—seventy-five cents of which is for a year's subscription to THE BEGONIAN. Subscription to non-members, One Dollar a Year.

● Entered as second-class matter March 19th, 1941, at the Post Office of Long Beach, California, under the act of March 3rd, 1879.

● Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman, January, 1932 in Long Beach, California.

● Advertising Rates: \$1.50 per inch, one column wide. Three months discount of 10%, Six months less 15% and One Year less 20%. Seasonal changes allowed in contracts over three months. Closing date for articles 10th of each month, and 12th for Advertisement copy.

STAFF

MARIA WILKES - - - *Editor and Business Manager*
158 So. Oxford Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM - - - - *Eastern Editor*
316 West Chew Street, Phila., Pa.

BESSIE R. BUXTON - - - - *New England Reporter*
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

MRS. H. W. BRIDGES - - - - - *Representative*
1824 B. Street, Hayward, Calif.

MR. A. A. REMMERS - - - - *Staff Photographer*
5734 Lucia Walk, Long Beach, Calif.

OFFICERS

FERDINAND P. NEELS - - - - - *President*
426 E. Maple Ave., El Segundo, California

J. L. BAILY - - - - - *President Elect*
515 Hallwood Dr., El Monte, Calif.

J. N. NUTTER - - - - - *Secretary-Treasurer*

Membership Fees

1050 E. 19th Street, Long Beach, Calif.

MRS. A. N. HARTWELL - - *Corresponding Secretary*
1719 Alamitos Ave., Monrovia

R. C. ZIESENHENNE - - - - *Research Director and Nomenclature*
1130 No. Milpas Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.

MRS. ANNA E. MAREK - - *Director Public Relations*
604 No. Orange St., Glendale, Calif.

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN - - - - - *Past President*

MISS EDNA ZIESENHENNE - - - *Director one year*

DR. C. N. MOORE - - - - - *Director two years*

CLARENCE A. HALL - - - - - *Director three years*

HONORARY DIRECTORS

ALFRED D. ROBINSON
Point Loma, Calif.

MRS. HENRY H. BUXTON
Peabody, Mass.

T. H. GOODSPEED
University of Calif.
Berkley, Calif.

M. B. DUNKLE
Long Beach, Calif.

FRANK M. HARRISON
Long Beach, Calif.

FRANK REINELT
Capitola, Calif.

GEORGE OTTEN
Seaside, Oregon

T. H. EVERETT
N. Y. Botanical Gardens

CLAYTON M. KELLY
Long Beach, Calif.

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN
Long Beach, Calif.

LIFE MEMBERS

MR. HERBERT P. DYCKMAN
Long Beach, Calif.

MR. ALFRED D. ROBINSON
Rosecroft Begonia Gardens
Point Loma, San Diego, Calif.

MRS. FRANCIS MYRTLE SHEPHERD
Ventura, Calif.

HONORARY MEMBERS

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WINDSOR
Los Cayos, Nassau, Bahamas

HER GRACE THE DUCHESS OF WINDSOR
Los Cayos, Nassau, Bahamas

MRS. HENRY H. BUXTON
Peabody, Mass.

DR. T. H. GOODSPEED
University of California
Berkeley, Calif.

MR. M. B. DUNKLE
Long Beach, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY
La Jolla, Calif.

MR. FRANK REINELT
Capitola, Calif.

MR. GEORGE OTTEN
Seaside, Oregon

MR. T. H. EVERETT
New York Botanical Gardens

MR. CLAYTON M. KELLY
Long Beach, Calif.

A Happy New Year to All

• It is with a deep sense of responsibility that I assume the duties of so able a predecessor.

My ambition for 1942 is that every member will be proud of his affiliation with our society.

To accomplish this, your Board of Directors would like to know of any constructive suggestions that you may have to offer them. To you especially in the outlying districts who do not have the privilege of belonging to a branch society let us hear from you often.

The success of this organization does not depend on any one man, or any group of men, but on the contrary it is necessary that each small part unite to form the whole pattern. Only in this way shall we reach our goal.

Wishing you all the best of everything for the coming year.

Your National President,
Ferd P. Neels

We Must Carry On

by J. N. NUTTER
Long Beach, Calif.

• "To him who in the love of Nature holds
Communion with her visible forms, she speaks

A various language; for his gayer hours
She has a voice of gladness, and a smile
And eloquence of beauty, and she glides
Into his darker musings with a mild
And healing sympathy, that steals away
Their sharpness, ere he is aware."

These "darker musings" are likely to occupy much of our thought now, for our country is at war. Those of us who do not enter some branch of the armed service will all be doing our bit for national and local defense. We must keep production going full speed ahead. It is also necessary that we do everything humanly possible to preserve the morale of those who must stay at home and wait. So, our American Begonia Society must still carry on. I wish you might see the many letters that come to me telling of the pleasure derived from reading the articles in the Begonian.

It has long been my firm conviction that Nature is one of the principal avenues through which our Maker is trying to reveal himself to man. Of course we

cannot, like little Pippa, remain oblivious to evils surrounding us. Perhaps we cannot sing with the same simple, trusting faith, but oh how I wish that we may, as we walk through our gardens in the early morning hours, catch something of the spirit of her simple little song:

"The year's at the spring
And the day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorne;
God's in his heaven—
All's right with the world!"

It Depends on Us . . .

• Assuming the duties of Editor and Business Manager of "THE BEGONIAN" is an Herculean task. At the very outset, we desire to enroll each member and friend everywhere, to bethink himself or herself into telling on paper, the most valuable experiences and the best results achieved in the growing of BEGONIAS and companion shade-plants. This is primarily an organization dedicated to the growing of Begonias in all their various glories; that, of course, will be our piece de resistance in our yearly program.

We know that in our shade garden, as in the sun, to obtain a complete and satisfying picture the scene should be varied and balanced, for even the greater beauties of Begonias are offset by other shade plants. Our policy, therefore, shall be to offer, as has been done to a certain extent in the past, the proper proportions, (in-so-far as we are able and your cooperation upholds us,) of diversified shade-plant material, the habits, form, color, season, special cultural needs, particular uses, propagation, etc. With your compliance to this round-up call for written and pictured SHADE-PLANT material contributions, our members will have shortly, files of truly valuable Bulletins. The ambition is surely well-founded. The Editor will appreciate helpful comment the while thanking Begonians all over our precious UNITED STATES and friendly neighbouring countries, for a whole-hearted, a telling and enthusiastic support such as she intends to give each and every one. Let everyone consider the force of: "IT DEPENDS ON ME."

—The Editor

NEW ENGLAND BEGONIAS IN WINTER

by BESSIE R. BUXTON
Peabody, Mass.

WINTER is at hand now, that time of frost and short days, with a minimum of sun, and a maximum of effort to keep our begonias growing. What a difference the begonia must find from the freedom of the garden soil, to the cramped conditions of a five inch pot! And—at least, in my windows—crowded and jostled by others with hardly room to breathe. The dust which settles on the mahogany table, settles on the begonias also. The table is dusted daily, but is the begonia dusted also? I trow not! And yet it needs it more than the table, because the begonia is struggling to breathe through that dust. The inanimate table is indifferent to dust and stale air, but finally protests by shrinking, literally, from hot, dry air. So does the begonia. Something must be done, but what? Frequent spraying for the dust evil, of course. With care, a hand sprayer of some sort, and much elbow grease, the plants may be sprayed daily in their places. But not until after the sun has passed from their window, lest small imperfections in the glass focus on the wet foliage and blister it. Nor can the spraying be done later than 2 P.M. since darkness comes early now-a-days, and if the foliage is not dry before then, the poor plant will "sleep cold." I prefer to put my plants in a sink or tub, about ten A. M. and spray them forcefully with a bath spray, letting them stand until quite dry, which will be before dark. This means sacrificing one day's sun, but it is worth it. A thorough spraying once a week is better than a daily one which is inadequate.

As I water the plants in the morning—not too early, must wait until the sun (and the furnace fire) is up—I note that *Peltata* is unfolding new leaves, but because of its pseudo-succulent texture, I withhold water, because a surreptitious pinch tells me that the leaves are still firm. *Multiflora rosea* has pink flowers and buds on every tip—nothing to do here except nip off a faded blossom and give it a drink. The *Rex Crimson Glow* has five stalks of bloom. Once, I would have rejoiced to see them, but an old Scotch gardener spoiled my joy by say-

ing "I dinna like to see him bloom—he's getting ready for the winter nicht's sleep." *Corinthian Pink* has three big clusters of flowers and three buds coming—not bad for a five inch pot! The foliage is always a healthy, glossy green and it is a "must have" plant for the window garden.

Mr. Robinson says "Interlaken has such a beastly weedy habit!" Granted, but what lovely leaves it has — long, beautifully ruffled, with a sharply angled, pointed shoulder. And what a bloomer! All last winter there were great clusters of dark crimson flowers; all summer it continued blooming in the garden. This young plant has been in bloom for two months, and more buds are coming. So I hide its long, bare legs with other plants, and enjoy its beautiful leaves and blossoms. *Fuchsioides coccinea* is a nice plant to use in my Christmas window, with its glossy green leaves and pendant scarlet flowers. I think with envy of the three foot bushes of this begonia which I saw in California gardens—but what could I do with such a bush in New England? It would freeze in the garden, and certainly would not fit on my window sills, not even on a plant stand. I must limit my ambitions, as well as my begonias, to a five inch pot.

Coriacea alba is usually a sturdy grower, but now its new leaves are unnaturally crumpled. Thrips! It must be dipped in a solution of Volck at once. The tobacco insecticides do not check this pest, at least, not in my window garden, but Volck leaves a slightly oily film over the plant which smothers the tiny pest. A few days after dipping, I will go over the plant carefully with a small magnifying glass, and if I find even one live insect, I shall dip the plant again and again, until the leaves resume their natural smoothness. By the way, has any one seen it bloom? The New York Botanical Garden has a large plant, but no bloom yet.

The Mexican species No. 76,227, is growing apace these days, in spite of little sun, throwing up many stout, white-spotted stems. The petioles and undersides of the young leaves are silver-hairy, changing to brown as they age.

It is interesting to compare plants of Haageana var. Drosti, which came to this country some years ago from Kew Gardens, England, and Miss Constance Bower's new seedling, Rufida. At first glance, they are identical. Both have the typical Haageana leaf, deep red beneath, and both are white-hairy. Drosti's leaf is a little darker green above, Rufida's leaf has a longer point and is deeper red beneath and much more hairy. Both are extremely handsome plants, the thick, silky white hairs giving a frosted appearance to the red or green surfaces. And the young leaves, deep rose color, thickly frosted, are so lovely one wishes they would never grow up. When the blooms appear, other differences may be noted.

Engleri certainly is entitled to the booby prize for beauty. Tall, gawky, rarely branching, its thick stem is covered with red spots and coarse red hairs. The delicate pink flowers at the top of this bearded giant are as incongruous as a pink sunbonnet on a bearded lumberjack.

When it comes to fertilizer, I confess to being very old-fashioned, clinging to the fool-proof kinds,—old cow-manure or bone meal in the soil mixture, and liquid cow manure occasionally, diluted to the color of weak tea. New England has too little sun during December and January to fertilize freely, for the plants stand still, their vitality at a low ebb. But by February the days are longer, there is more sunshine and the plants begin to respond to nature's urge, and it will be fun to watch them grow.

- Why not a year's subscription to The BEGONIAN as a birthday or other gift?

BEGONIA TUBERS
Ready Now

Wide range of colors and types. Your choice as far as possible. Oregon grown healthy tubers—75c, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00 per dozen by size.

Our collection offers of October, November and December still good packed in red-wood shake pots, \$2.00 each.

Shake pot offer still good.

LESLIE WOODRIF
Harbor, Ore.

San Diego Branch, San Diego, Calif.

• San Diego Branch of the A.B.S. The November tenth meeting over which Mrs. Claude E. Woods, President, presided proved to be interesting in many ways. After the reports and business, Mr. Kearny demonstrated how he makes his wire baskets at much reduced cost over the manufactured article. A piece of fine poultry wire 24" by 20" was inserted in a pail, folded in to fit as neatly as possible, then a smaller pail was forced down into it to form the basket. A length of heavy (14 gauge) wire was twisted together to form the top of the basket with two loops made especially by which the basket may be hung.

Mrs. Woods opened the discussion on Rhyzomatous Begonias calling on Mr. Laing to identify the numerous specimens and enumerate the different classes. These being related to the REX Begonias, are easy to propagate. One method is to take a leaf with one inch of stem, cut off all the edges and curl the leaf in such a manner that the centre may be filled with potting dirt. Another member reported rooting a leaf in a milk-bottle of water, but it is better to harden slips for a day or so before carrying out this method, to avoid rotting. A member who grows fine Tuberous Begonias reported that the soil in which these Begonias have been grown is a splendid medium in which to root Begonias and many other plants.

In choosing leaf mould, try to obtain that which comes from the superior large leaved oaks rather than from the scrub Oaks. The latter grow so close to the ground that the leaves carry many pests not to be found in the higher trees.

Mrs. Clarence E. Moore
Secretary-Treasurer

1942 Officers Inglewood Branch

Mr. E. C. Tyler.....President
Mr. Frank Schmidt.....Vice President
Mrs. R. R. White.....Secretary
Mrs. O. D. Bradford.....Treasurer
Dr. J. Burton Van Gelder.....Nat'l Rep.
Mr. McKenzie.....Director

DECIDUOUS AZALEAS AS LATH HOUSE SUBJECTS

by CLOYD E. MARSHALL
Pasadena, Calif.

AZALEAS as potted or permanent plants add a riot of color to the lath house or semi-shaded garden, yet some species have been considerably overlooked by most gardeners. I am referring to the deciduous types and especially to the species of yellow and orange tints. Since these colors are lacking in the evergreen Azaleas a much more interesting picture can be obtained by their use.

The species *Azalea mollis* and *Azalea altaclarensis* may not be of correct botanical nomenclature but as they are known in the several West Coast Nurseries by these names we will disregard the botanical classification.

For true iridescent beauty in yellow the *Azalea altaclarensis* has no equal. The hundreds of bunched flowers opening before the leaves appear to give a feeling of Spring that is equalled by few other flowering plants. This particular *Azalea* grows to six or eight feet and more, but is of comparatively slow growth. Although blooming more profusely and consistently in a slightly colder climate than our own, if treated properly it seldom fails to burst into bloom in March and April.

Azalea mollis is of the same nature as *altaclarensis*, grows to be a slightly larger plant at maturity. Its range of salmon to orange make a pleasing contrast to that of the yellow *altaclarensis*. Both have a fragrance that is lacking in most Azaleas.

The culture of these Azaleas is fundamentally the same as that of the evergreen *Kurume* and *Indica* types. They like a well drained, cool soil, uniform moisture supply (especially in the summer), an acid soil (ph 4.5 is optimum) well aerated, permeable, and water retentive. Use little nitrogen and more phosphorus and potash to discourage luxuriant growth and encourage better flowering. Part sunshine and shade and protection from hot drying winds are afforded by your lath house. The use of peat moss, leaf mold, woodland soil or other organic material as a soil conditioner may differ according to the notions of various gardeners and growers.

Your own experience gained from a knowledge of your particular soil and situation should enable you to determine what has worked best for you.

With a little experimentation on your part and no more care than any other worthwhile plant, these deciduous Azaleas will help brighten your back ground plantings and give accents of color which are not possible with any other shrub.

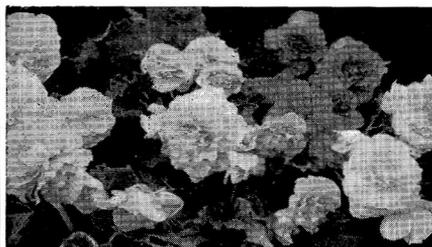
Wholesale and Retail Camellias and Azaleas

Over 300 Varieties—Many now in bloom—Illustrated Catalogue

R. C. LONG

SY:6-7305

2663 E. Foothill Blvd. Pasadena, Calif.



PACIFIC STRAIN

of

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

and

LARGEST SELECTION of
ALL TYPES and COLORS

— Ask for Catalog —

Vetterle and Reinelt
Capitola, California

"Plantly Speaking — On The Shady Side"

by JOHN S. VOSBURG
Hollywood, California

Mr. Vosburg is a recognized authoritative teacher of Horticulture and Floriculture; he is a hybridizer of note and spends his spare time on the air with some four Radio programs a week. The Title "Plantly Speaking" is copyrighted by him which he generously has adapted to our needs. Mr. Vosburg is perfectly willing to have this column become controversial. Address communications to your Editor.

• As one visits gardens and Nurseries in So. California, he becomes more and more amazed at the many, many things that are available, some are 'oldies' and many are quite new. Many of these should be suitable for seasonal growing in many sections, however, my own experience of the past twenty years is wholly Californian, so can only put together what information I have assembled thus far as to their adaptability to other portions of the United States. A plant that has struck popular fancy, particularly among those who are looking for something suitable for flower arrangement, is *Arum italicum*. Arums are usually grown as oddities, very often under the general name of Calla to which they bear considerable resemblance. This is true of this flower, that it is not as striking as the common Calla, its color is yellowish-white, sometimes of a greenish cast, less than one foot in height. The leaves, however, are the really decorative feature of the plant being hastate in shape; of a desirable green; the entire leaf being overlaid with a veined network of a light yellowish cast. This contrast and the variability of the overlay add to the attractiveness of this plant. The leaves last well both growing in the garden or in pots or as background material in flower arrangements. The seed pods are bright orange arranged on the stem much like irregular kernels of corn. Propagation is easy; by natural offsets or by their seeds or berries which seem to be produced quite freely. It prefers rich soil and should be watered freely when growing or in bloom. Their management entails much the same culture as the Fancy-leaved *Caladium*, though

apparently hardier here in California. In fact this variety is listed as being hardy. Their multiplying rapidly and the fact that they do not need to be lifted here from year to year should find them in demand for foreground plantings in the shade garden. Where freezing weather is experienced they may be planted in pots where desired and lifted in the Autumn when their leaves are at their best to be brought indoors.

How Well Do You Know Your Begonia Names?

by MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM

Questions

1. What is the perfect white?
2. How many can you recall whose names resemble some of the states of the United States?
3. Can you recall 5 or more varieties which remind you of foreign countries?
4. Which variety would remind you of what money is made of?
5. What name suggests a variety of particularly decorative value?
6. What variety would suggest extravagance?
7. What is the correct name for "Painted Leaf"?
8. Which Begonia brings thoughts of a plum?
9. We have a variety suggesting scented flower and purity. Which one?
10. What variety would remind you of a certain type of thought prevalent today?

See answers elsewhere this issue.

• When answering ads, don't forget to mention The BEGONIAN.

BEGONIAS	
Surplus Plants from a Large, Hobby Collection	
— Send in Your Want List —	
Fine Plants and Expert Packing	
— Correspondence Invited —	
MRS. B. L. SHIPPY	
536 Willow St.	Lockport, N. Y.

Current Notes by a Dealer

by BOB ANDERSON
Los Angeles, California

• I have been requested to say a few words about what you should expect to find at your local seed store relative to material for your shade-garden or lath-house and house potted plants. Of course, I am speaking in general about the average inquiries for this class of material.

Commencing in January, you should be able to find all of your needs in tuberous begonias, in all of their various types and colors. The shortage of Gloxinias this year makes it problematical as to whether you have much or any choice. You had better plant seed of this item.

Fancy Leaf Caladium are also limited on account of the lack of enough material for Easter trade, so would advise an early selection of these spectacular foliage plants.

NOTE: Do not advise planting of Fancy Leaf Caladium too early unless you have bottom heat, as they require a temperature of at least 70° day and night.

Lilies can still be had, but advise an early selection, for bulbs are too fragile to carry over for too long a period. If you have neglected selecting your bulbs, see your dealer at once.

Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*) are held in cold storage, and can be supplied up to only a limited time. Taken out of storage, they will perform beautifully, even in a semi-tropical environment, for they have been given an artificial winter rest and are ideal for pot or garden in the semi-shaded garden.

Astilbe also are in the same class; they need cold storage treatment. Roots of this plant, placed in pots, will reward you with beautiful racemes of feathery bloom in a few short weeks after planting.

It is still not too late to plant the pink calla (best in pots).

Veltheimia, the beautiful glossy-leaved plant with the ruffled edge, that blooms in late winter.

Specialists are needed to provide us dealers with the last word in up-to-date material, and the live dealer can be depended upon to offer you only the best of these professional products—all under one roof, where it will be handy to shop.

Eva Kenworthy Gray

La Jolla, Calif.

• At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors Eva Kenworthy Gray was made an Honorary Director in recognition of her contribution in spreading the interest of raising begonias as a hobby and for the many fine plants which she has produced by hybridizing.

Mrs. Gray first began to grow begonias in 1920 at Pacific Beach, California. Later she opened a nursery and in this manner contacted many people in the east.

In 1931 she wrote and published "The Begonia Book", an illustrated booklet of 50 pages.

Mrs. Gray is not well known to the newer begonia fans because her ill health, her almost total deafness and her advanced age (she was 86 at her last birthday) have prevented her from attending the various meetings and gatherings. However, her work is appreciated, for the new branch of the American Begonia Society at La Jolla, California has been named the Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch.

Mrs. Gray has won the right to recognition by the society for her contribution of the following fine begonia hybrids: Superbas: Kenzii, Azella, Kathii, Mentone, Janice, Alma, Patty Jean, Elva S., Lolita Gray. Also, Vian-Scharff, Picta Eva, Imaloea, Queen of May and Vesperia (erroneously called "Improved Marguerite").

Orange County Branch Officers

Mrs. E. W. Reese.....President
Mrs. Elizabeth B. Young.....Secretary
North Cambridge Street, Orange, Calif.
Mr. Clarence Dudderar.....Treasurer
Mrs. Ted Shaw.....Membership Sec.
Mrs. R. L. Martin.....Nat'l Rep.

• . . . "all of us need the relief of some counterabsorption. And no counterabsorption equals that which grows out of the care of living things, human, animal or vegetable."

—Lee Side o' L.A.
by Lee Shippey

STREPTOCARPUS

by ANNIE C. ROBINSON
Point Loma, Calif.

IN September, when the seed pods began to form and grow longer and larger, I thought my *Streptocarpus* would stop blooming as is the habit of most plants, but no, each morning found more flowers opening and new buds appearing. Then came October and November, when the seed matured and ripened. Surely now my plants would take a much deserved rest for they had brightened my benches, with their cheerful bouquets, since early May. Again I was mistaken for still they sent up blossoms; not so many on a stem, and fewer stems, but there they were, large gorgeous blooms; blues like the sky; pinks, whites, lavenders, and purples.

How one would like to know just what they do in their native haunts this season of the year, away off there in the Cape region of Africa. It might help us to better understand their habits and needs; then again, these American hybrids might not know how to behave there either. I must admit our seasons are a bit confusing, for didn't the poplars and fruit trees flash on the warning sign with their amber lights, and no sooner had our plants prepared to stop, when that warm rain came and the landscape flashed green, and they were off again with new growth and bloom.

The seedlings, with surprises in almost every new plant—they vary so much—seem to want to show what they have in store, regardless of the time of year the seed was planted, and send up at least one blossom as a sample about seven months from planting. However, to get the most from seedlings their first year, it is advisable to plant about seven or eight months before their normal blossoming time which begins about the first of June, depending on the season. This will place the time of planting about the first of January. Since they require a temperature of about sixty degrees to germinate well, some heat will be needed.

Growing *Streptocarpus* as hanging basket plants, seems to me the most pleasing and satisfactory method I have tried. It gives the plant more freedom for the development of those wonderful drooping leaves that suffer from crowded conditions, and the bloom stalks, standing erect, form a crown of blossom.

Planting in terraces, where the leaves can fall over the edge, also gives a delightful banked effect, and they revel in being planted in the ground where they can expand their root systems.

In the hybridizing of most of the shade loving plants, there seems to be a tendency in nature to develop larger and more complex flowers. Among the ferns, the fronds have become crested and tasseled. The begonias, as you all know, have developed, not only doubles, but frilled and crested doubles, getting larger and larger in an endless variety; while the species from which they developed were simple singles. The same is true of the *Streptocarpus*. More ruffled edges appear with each new generation and some are taking on a duplex form, carrying auxiliary petals, besides the great variation in tones and shades, as you who have grown them from seed have had the thrill of seeing. No one knows when or where one of these extraordinary individuals may occur, and your chances of growing one are just as good as mine. If you happen to be the lucky one, do write the *Begonian* and tell us all about it.

In February, when that impetus to grow begins to manifest itself by the appearance of new leaves and a general feeling of well-being that one senses about a plant, it is time to begin repotting your *Streptocarpus*, for you know, (even though you can't see them) that the feeder roots are starting to search for food and you also know that the soil in the pot or basket is pretty well exhausted. Then as the nights grow warmer and the days grow longer, in a surprisingly short time, the gay parade, with its colorful banners of bloom, will begin its long march to gladden us all thru the Summer months.

-
- Have you started a branch in your community?

GREEN TREE FLOWER GARDENS

TRISTRAM COFFIN WHITAKER, Prop.
5343 Greene St., Germantown, Phila. Pa.
"The Eastern Home of Rare Begonias"

Tuberous Begonias

Booklet describing more than 225
Varieties of rare begonias — 50 cents

Culture of Tuberous Begonias By Seed

by FRANK REINELT
Capitola, California

• JANUARY to MARCH are the months through which the seed of TUBEROUS BEGONIAS may be planted. Place one or two inches of gravel in flats or seed pans, to insure good drainage. Over this place a fairly coarse mixture of two-thirds leaf mold and one third peat, about one inch deep. Smooth the surface with the same mixture, finely sifted, not more than one eighth inch deep but do NOT press it down. It is necessary for the surface to be of a spongy character, so that when the seed germinates, the young roots can get into it. If the surface is too fine and packed, the seedlings will often fall over, as the young roots are unable to penetrate the soil. Place the pans in shallow water until thoroughly soaked up from below, then broadcast the seed. Cover with a glass and a sheet of paper or keep it in the dark until germination takes place. Night temperature of 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit is necessary for quick germination. Lower temperature than 65 degrees will considerably slow up germination, with poorer results.

As soon as germination takes place, take the paper off and in three or four days lift the glass also, otherwise the little seedlings will get too spindly. Warm temperature, protection from direct sunlight, and uniform moisture are absolutely necessary. Even a slight drying out of the surface will be fatal to the delicate young plants. Very gentle overhead watering should be used when necessary. Dampening off will occur only if flats are kept too wet in greenhouse without proper ventilation. Watering with a weak solution of Clorox, about 4 to 6 per cent, we found as best cure and preventive.

Further procedure with seedlings will follow next month.

• Our advertisers make it possible for us to have a better Bulletin, tell them so by purchasing from these firms and tell them you are a "BEGONIAN" too.

Timely Suggestions

by W. P. DYCKMAN
Long Beach, Calif.

• Plant seeds of tuberous Begonias this month. Look at your tubers to see that they are all sound. Put your leaf mold where you can keep it damp, until you need it in the spring. Keep old leaves off your Rexes and dead branches off your fibrous.

Fix a propagating bed either in your lath house or a box of one part sand three parts leaf mold, about three inches deep, because you can start putting down cuttings in Feb.

Pay a little more attention to your plants; that will help take your mind off of the war; try it, see if it doesn't help you.

Speaker in the Dark is Not in the Dark on His Subject

• Mr. Rudolph Ziesenhenné was scheduled to speak at the Santa Maria Branch in December. Tho' the meeting had to be held in the dark, he carried his part of the program through, speaking to the spartan members for two hours, after which he drove back to Santa Barbara also in the dark. Even the Xmas cookies were enjoyed during this historical blackout.

Anemone Japonica

• From a good Nurseryman friend I learned how simply and perfectly the Japanese Anemone, may be propagated. Choose only the best type and color desired, wash the roots gently and chop them into inch lengths or little longer place them over a bed of sharp, clean and washed sand in a flat, cover with about an eighth to a quarter-inch of the same clean sand and place on the ground in the lath-house near the South side. Keep the flat damp, and when the little plants develop from each piece, pot them off into leafy soil. It is a fascinating lesson to see how little pieces of root can bring large, fine, perfect plants into growth. This should be done after blooming period, November or about December, maybe a little later.—Maria Wilkes

SAN GABRIEL BRANCH OUTSTANDING PROGRAM

Reported by MARIA WILKES

AN unusually interesting evening was arranged for the Arcadia November meeting, and happily, there was a full house of garden lovers from San Gabriel Valley and its environs. Mr. Jack Baily, program chairman, introduced Rudolf Ziesenhenné, who had travelled all the way from Santa Barbara to talk on begonias.

Since the weather reports suggested possible frost, Mr. Ziesenhenné stressed the point that new growth must not be forced when there are any expectations of freezing temperatures. Begonias may be protected very satisfactorily from freezing by heaping dried leaves or leaf-mold that is not too fine about the base of the plant; it is important that the material used be open and porous. Even a dishtowel thrown over a pet plant in a hurry has helped. A light cover for the top of the lath house is often enough to carry begonias through the winter in Southern California, but this may have to be supplemented by the use of a regular oil heater. Watering the foliage while the plants are frozen sometimes helps to save them, but plants in this condition must be protected from direct sunlight.

A safety measure all should practice is to water in the middle of the day during winter. The hairy-leaved plants, especially, should be watered early to be sure that they have time to dry before evening. Since begonias get waterlogged very easily, at time of planting in the garden, prepare the soil very deeply and plant the begonia on a mound which will settle somewhat, giving proper room to add repeated top dressings of leafmold and fertilizer without having to disturb the soil around the plant for several years. Adobe soils are particularly bad if the plant is not placed properly. Begonias in pots should be watered carefully during the winter, making sure that a plant gets enough water each time the need arises by watering until a few drops come out of the bottom of the pot. Plants allotted a regular cup of water a day may still die of thirst if the moisture does not reach down to the feeding roots. Glazed pots retain moisture longer than the terra-cotta pots, and tins are

fine also for preventing the soil from drying out too fast. A fine point the old masters of horticulture taught their students is **when and how to water plants.**

Bedding begonias, where there is no frost, throw out many basal shoots with little or no protection. Mr. Ziesenhenné said that in Italy, where it is very cold in winter, bedding begonias are handled much as we handle tuberous; they are taken up, the tops are cut off, and they are placed in flats and stored until spring. Begonia growers in Southern California are fortunate but still there is need to protect our rare plants by placing them in a well sheltered place; sometimes but not always muslin houses will protect them sufficiently. The muslin will also ward off the winds we have that dry out the leaves by rapid evaporation, thus causing an effect like that of frost burn. When this happens, cut off the burned leaves to avoid the rot that may quickly follow such a condition. Growers of the less hardy begonias should make it a practice to take several cuttings from each of these plants during the summertime, potting them after rooting and keeping them in a safe corner.

Soil for tuberous begonias, Mr. Ziesenhenné advised, should be prepared now so that fresh manure and fresh leafmold, both of which furnish humus and food, may be used; it is not advisable to use these fresh materials later as the time element in composting is very important; the food value of leafmold is lacking until bacteria has broken it down well. Compost much more than will be needed for the first potting so that a uniform mixture will be available during the whole season. Most of us do not realize that begonias need more food than other plants. A good soil mixture is: one-third cow manure, one-third leafmold, one-third soil, mixed and piled up to be used in about three months.

Tuberous begonias do better in shaded garden beds than in pots. The chief danger of having them in pots, the speaker said, is that it is difficult to regulate the moisture content of the soil. Small pots dry out too quickly and in too deep a pot, the bottom soil may be-

come waterlogged and sour. A ringing sound from a tapped pot denotes need of water, but a thud is definitely a sign that enough water remains. For this reason, it may be that all the pots will not need to be watered when going around with hose or watering can. This is an important rule to gain success in growing better plants. In the garden wait until the soil is slightly dry on top before watering again. We have been told to withhold water gradually from maturing tubers; that is not advisable as the tuber should be moist all the time while the top is on. Most of the tuber growth takes place after the flowering is done. As long as the plant has any leaves on it, it needs water or it will have to draw moisture from the tuber which will cause it to be spongy and short-lived. If the tops of tuberous begonias maturing now should be frozen, take the tubers up with a clump of earth and place them in a protected place.

In order for the tuber to be healthy and free of bacteria, it must be stored very carefully. Mice, rats and sow-bugs may eat them unless precautions are taken for their control. If the soil is left on the tuber, it must not be allowed to become bone-dry as the soil will draw moisture from the fleshy roots and the tuber. In England tubers are generally kept in pots in which they have been grown and are not allowed to become quite dry.

Generally tuberous begonias in California are apt to grow with a leggy stem unless they are repotted every two months from April or May. The repotting insures enough food to grow side branches. By using the rich potting mixture every time they are repotted, they will then make strong growth and thrifty plants. When the tuberous begonia stops blooming in the middle of the season, look for the first bloom scar from the side shoots, and cut off the stem at this point to encourage a second crop of blossoms. If the plant is inclined to be leggy, wait until the first blossom develops and then cut below this bud. In this way side branches are forced and a more symmetrical plant will result.

Begonia glaucophylla and Marjorie Daw, two fibrous begonias, also need this treatment. Let them develop four joints, then top off, Mr. Ziesenhenné suggested. After they have put out branches with two or three joints, nip

these back, repeat a second time to form a nice, bushy plant. In large pots, they may even need a light application of home made liquid fertilizer. A dissolved complete commercial fertilizer should be used only occasionally as its continued use will eventually cause a toxic condition of the soil. Be sure to water the plants before applying liquid fertilizer, then use a diluted solution according to the directions given on the package, or if from animal manure, no stronger than the color of weak tea. A stronger solution may "burn the roots", a reaction more accurately attributed to the drawing of moisture out of the plant to bring the soil moisture to the same density of the moisture in the plant. Liquid manure should never be substituted for water. If a plant has been fed much mineral fertilizer, it is a good plan to give that pot a good flushing out occasionally with water to remove the sediment which has collected in the soil; let it drain and after the next watering, liquid fertilizer may again be applied.

A very simple method of fertilizing is to make a little hole in the soil near the side of the pot, then insert either capsule, powder or stick-form of complete fertilizer and water well. The speaker called attention to the fact that cottonseed meal takes about two or three weeks to become available and for this reason should be mixed into the soil at the time of planting.

See next month's Begonian for the discussion on the plants Mr. Ziesenhenné brought from his place in Santa Barbara.

- Why not a year's subscription to The BEGONIAN as a birthday or other gift?

SHADELAND GARDENS

EXTRA SPECIALS

The Rare Fibrous Begonia

CATHAYANA, 4 inch pots.....	\$1.25
GOGOENSIS, 3 inch pots.....	.75
IMPERIALIS50

RARE BILLBERGIAS, 50c and up
CYMBEDIUM ORCHIDS, good clumps,
\$5.00 and \$7.00

Back Bulbs \$1.50 to \$2.50

The Best for Less at

SHADELAND GARDENS

205 So. Inglewood Ave.
Corner Manchester Blvd.

Inglewood
Calif.

Pre-Hearing of Begonia Book Tantalizing

by **MARIA WILKES**
Los Angeles, Calif.

• At the regular meeting of The Inglewood Branch Begonia Soc. December 10th, Mr. F. Homer Walrath gave some excerpts from his soon to be published book. In his experimentations through "60 Years Among the Begonias" he has found many answers to countless perplexing questions. We shall be keen to read it in print. In the meantime, through his generous kindness we may give our readers some inklings now and then as to what to expect. This is one formula for potting soil he gave his audience which bears filing in your loose-leaf book or card file in the potting shed. 40 quarts leaf mould; 6 qts. peat moss; 25 qts. Peat humus; 12 qts. sandy soil; 12 qts. coarse sand; 12 qts. dry cow manure; 10 qts. powdered charcoal; 8 table-spoonfuls wood ashes and 2 qts. of bone-meal. This is particularly worked out for fourth transplanting of Semperflorens group of Begonias. Note: Bone meal should never be added to the potting soil or in a prepared hole for plants, until planting time.

He advises: 4 qts. of cow manure in second transplanting mixture; no bone-meal in first or second transplanting; and no wood ashes in first, second or third transplanting soil mixture.

Have you started a new branch in your community?

BULBS and ROOTS

For Shade and Semi-Shade

Bleeding Heart Roots	Each \$.35
Astilbe, Assorted Colors35
Fancy Leaf Caladium, 13 Colors.....	.35
Tub. Begonias, All Types and Colors..	.15
Lilies—Regale, Elegans, Etc.....	.15
Lilies—Formosanum, Dble. Tiger.....	.25

If by mail add 10%, plus Calif. Tax

Send for Spring Catalog—Now Ready

BOB ANDERSON

1415 Echo Park Ave.

Los AngelesCalifornia

Answers

by **MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM**

1. Alba Perfecta
2. Caroliniaefolia
Florida Species
Sutherlandii (South)
Washington Street
3. Argentea Guttata
Braziliensis
Ecuadoriensis
Guatemala
Sanguinea
Scotch Luxurians
Socotrana
Gogoensis
4. Metallica
5. Decorus
6. Luxuriant
7. Rex
8. Prunifolia
9. Odorata Alba
10. Speculata

Dr. J. Burton Van Gelder

O.D., D.C.

Optometric Eye Specialist

—28 Years in Practice—

323 East Manchester Blvd.

Inglewood, Calif.

Begonias: nigricans & peltatas,

Saintpaulias

Gloxinia Seed 25c

Choice pansy plants for winter planting

— Visitors welcome —

QUALITY PLANT GARDENS

G. A. BARROWS

1111 Louise St. Santa Ana, Cal.

"CAMELLIAS"

This booklet, with compendium of varieties, will assist you to successfully grow these flowering ornamentals. **Price 15c.**

See our fine collection of Named Camellias and Giant Flowered Azaleas. Priced from 75c to \$30.00.

MOORE'S NURSERY

"Our 25th Year"

200 W. Arbor Vitae St. Inglewood, Calif.

MEETING DATES

1942 JANUARY 1942						
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	31

AND SPEAKERS

Owing to the National emergency, it has been found necessary by many Branches to change their time of meeting, therefore the members will be advised accordingly. The Board of the American Begonia Society also postponed the scheduled meeting for the same reason.

The American Begonia Society Board will meet the first Monday of every month, Council Chamber, City Hall, Inglewood, California at 7:30 P.M.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Tuesday, January 6th
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Bl.
Mrs. Helen Ehret, Secy.,
7507 Lexington Ave., Hollywood, Calif.
SPEAKER: F. Homer Walrath
SUBJECT: History of Tuberous Begonias

PALOMAR BRANCH

Tuesday, January 6th, 7:30 P.M.
Jefferson Street School, Vista, Calif.
Margaret Rutherford, Secy.-Treas.,
Route 2, Box 340, Escondido, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BR.

Tuesday, January 6th
American Legion Hall.
North California St., Ventura, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Tuesday, January 6, 10:00 A.M.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.
362 Brokway, Merion, Pa.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Tuesday, January 6th
Mrs. Charlotte Sisson, Secy.-Treas.
Long Beach, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, January 6th
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Tuesday, January 6th
Girl Scouts Headquarters
1838 San Andres St., Santa Barbara.
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Secy.,
246 W. Alamar Ave., Santa Barbara,
Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Wednesday, January 7th
Dominguez Community Church,
21503 Prospect at Adams
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.-Treas.
Dominguez, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, January 7th
1060 Francisco St.,
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, January 8th
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.
Mr. Clarence Dudderar, Treas.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, January 9th
Woman's Club, 325 No. Hillcrest Blvd.
Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. R. R. White, Secy.-Treas.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Friday, January 9th
Harry M. Wallace, Secy'-Treas.
3455 Spruce St., Riverside, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Sunday, January 11th, 2 P.M.
Odfellows Hall,
7th & Elm, Long Beach
Mrs. Ethel G. Arbuckle, Secy.-Treas.,
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park,
Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, January 12th
Berkeley Council Chambers.
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, January 12th
4037 39 Ave.
Mrs. Clarence Moore, Secy.-Treas.
4191 40th St., San Diego, Calif.
Hostesses: Mesdames Balch, Burge,
and Burkhardt

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, January 13th
 La Casita Del Arroyo,
 177 So. Arroyo Blvd.
 J. Ellsworth Youtz Jr., Secy.,
 334 W. Green, Pasadena, Calif.
 SPEAKER: Maria Wilkes
 SUBJECT: Shade Plants

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Wednesday, January 14th
 Junior College Hall,
 Morrison Ave., Santa Maria
 Mrs. Peter Melschau, Secy-Treas.
 Nipomo, California

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Saturday, January 17th
 Houghton Park Clubhouse,
 Atlantic Ave. and Harding, L.B.
 Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.
 5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

January 19th, 8 P.M.
 329 No. Brand Blvd.
 News Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.
 Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,
 709 Milford Ave., Phone Citrus 17517.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
 7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Sunday, December 28th, 2 P.M.
 American Legion Hall, Arcadia
 Mrs. A. N. Hartwell, Secretary,
 1719 Alamosa Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BR.

Tuesday, January 27th
 Home of Mrs. W. E. Jones,
 Willow Grove, Pa.
 Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Sec.
 Willow Grove, Pa.
 SPEAKER: Mrs. F. Mather
 SUBJECT: Corm Varieties

SYRACUSE BRANCH

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

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secretary.
 54 Essex St., Lynnfield, Mass.

PHILADELPHIA & VICINITY BR.

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

Begonias — Ferns — Fuchsias
 Choice Tuberous Begonias
 English Primroses — Cinerarias

—Closed Mondays—

ALEXANDER B. SIM

305 N. Sepulveda Blvd.
 Manhattan Beach Calif.

OAK LEAF MOLD

Best Quality - Clean - Well-Rotted
 35c per Sack
 50 Sacks or more at 30c per Sack
 Plus: Sack Exchange or Deposit

A. L. Dickenson

Phone NEwmark 17645
 627 West Palmer Compton, Calif.

Special Offering at 50c each

GOGOENSIS

IMPERIALIS SMARAGDINA

These are sturdy seedling plants ready for
 shift to larger pots

Rosecroft Begonia Gardens

530 Silvergate Ave. Point Loma, Cal.

Rudolf Ziesenhenn

Over 400 Species and Varieties of

BEGONIAS

Choice Rex Hybrid Seed

\$1.00 Per Packet

Begonia Cathayana \$1.00

Plus postage

1130 N. Milpas Street

Santa Barbara, Calif.

BEGONIAS

4 varieties \$1.00; 9 varieties \$2.00
 (Sturdy Plants) (Beetle Zone Only)

MILTON CARVER, JR.

Fricks, Bucks Co., Penn.

FREE---Plant Dictionary

With 2 Year Subscription to

"THE GREEN THUMB"

50 Cents per Year—2 Years \$1.00

Send name, and remittance to

The Green Thumb

413 Duarte Road Monrovia, Calif.

POSTMASTER:

Please Notify J. N. Nutter, Sec'y
1050 East 19th Street
Long Beach, California
On All Address Changes



Tuberous, Rex & Fibrous
SHADE PLANTS
FUCHSIAS
CALADIUMS
GLOXINIAS
COLEUS — FERNS
—No Catalogue As Yet—

WILSON'S BEGONIA GARDEN
862 W. Firestone Blvd., Downey, Cal.

Orchids for Everyone!



*Interesting and
Easy to grow*
Visitors Welcome
Open Every Day
Orchid Supplies
SEE THESE
GORGEOUS
BLOOMS TODAY

RAPELLA ORCHID CO.
13518 Yukon Ave., Hawthorne, Calif.

MONTALVO GARDENS

- BEGONIAS
- RARE PLANTS
- FERNS

4455 Montalvo Ave. San Diego, Calif.

**ROSE CROFT
BEGONIA GARDENS**

530 Silvergate Ave., Point Loma, Cal.

Established in this one location
since 1902

A most complete assortment
of lathhouse subjects
BEGONIAS and FUCHSIAS
OUR SPECIALTIES

—Proprietors—
ANNIE C. and ALFRED D. ROBINSON

**BARFOOT
PRESENTS**

THE—

- *New!*
- *Modern!*
- *Complete!*



An Easy-to-use unit that makes

25 GALLONS!
of ALL-PURPOSE
Garden Spray with—

- BARFOOT ROTENONE
- BARFOOT SPREADER
- BARFOOT FUNGICIDE

Plus the convenient garden-spray
chart and record calendar!

*A product of J. A. Barfoot & Co.,
2469 Porter St., Los Angeles, Calif.*

**ON SALE AT ALL
GARDEN-SUPPLY STORES!**