

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Welcome to the New Officers of The American Begonia Society

by The Board of Directors

• Mr. Harold J. Hart, 1314 Dorothy Drive, Glendale, California, is now our Treasurer, while the office of Membership Secretary has been entrusted to Mrs. Harry Harker, to whom all membership fees will be sent directly at 2751 E. 17th St., Long Beach, California. By dividing these two activities, it is hoped that the time of both will allow of some enjoyment of the work to be done, which we know will be well and successfully done. The A.B.S. considers the Nominating Committee did very nicely in relieving Mr. Nutter so quickly of the responsibility he had to relinquish.

It is the conviction of the writer that had we a mentor beside us to whisper a suggestion—once in awhile—a great many more fine gestures would be accomplished. Of course, there will be celebrations galore wherever Americans may be on FLAG DAY June 14th, 1942, the 165th Anniversary of our Flag. What a fine opportunity to do some really patriotic deed as well as some original home decorations on that day.

What about FATHER'S DAY on June 21st? Is it to be just another tie, or pair of socks . . . or ? ? It is to be the longest day of the year and the FIRST day of Summer. Three excellent reasons for making that nicest, and most important of all men, conscious of the beauty and kindness and love about him. It might even turn out to be the shortest day of the year—in reality—but the longest in his memory. It depends on you. FLOWERS and plants should be given a part to play in all your celebrations. Don't you think so—FATHERS?

—The Editor

Grow Begonias To Maintain Morale

by CHRISTEE L. GEER
San Francisco, Calif.

• During troublous times there is hardly a better source productive of well-being and quiet strength as a garden. The age-old written word proves the wisdom of the statement: "Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden."

I have a Begonia garden with about five hundred plants. It takes a lot of my time to get results but I receive full reward for every effort put forth, at present, I am busy with Tuberous Begonias. When the bulbs begin to show the little sprout, I place them in either damp leaf-mold or peat moss until they are about three inches high, I then transplant them into well-mixed leaf mold, fertilizer and peat which I prepare six months ahead of the planting time, stirring the mixture and mixing it well once in awhile, which makes it nice and light to help the small roots start growth without much effort. They do not like to be kept too moist.

I always secure the choicest bulbs. One has to work harder with inferior bulbs, so why waste time on poor stock? When the first sign of blossoms appear, I begin to water plants once a week for three weeks with liquid fertilizer, then wait until the successive blooms show a decline in size of the flowers, then I water again for three more weeks with liquid fertilizer. This makes nice, large blossoms which very seldom drop until the flowers are fully matured.

When people come to see the garden I enjoy hearing the exclamations of surprise and excitement when they first view it, then an ethereal sense seems to transport them into another world. Do you wonder I strongly advocate a Begonia garden for the trying period we are going through? I am sure this type of hobby will help to win the war.

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CAMELLIA BACKGROUNDS

by JOHN PARKER
Hollywood, Calif.

DESIGN in the garden is regarded as of primary importance. To secure the desired effect no better subjects could present themselves for this purpose than the Azaleas and CAMELLIAS, any garden using these subjects, in a large way, is immediately lifted out of the commonplace, and this article will discuss mainly the latter group. In addition to taking the place of any good evergreen or deciduous shrub, they fill the garden, at certain seasons, with a glory unsurpassed and that, at a time when most gardens are drab and uninteresting; for we must admit, that the need for plants which bloom in the winter, even in our warm Southern California climate, is very great. Unquestionably, the Azaleas and Camellias are in the first rank in filling this lack.

It has been a matter of years, even centuries of work and unselfish effort to bring these plants to our shores so that now it is possible for even the most conservative income to indulge in their use. The Camellia was named for a Moravian Jesuit Priest, Rev. George Joseph Kamel who travelled through Asia in the 17th century. It was taken to England prior to 1739 and by 1850 its use had developed into literally hundreds of varieties, many of which found their way to America where again, they were further increased in the hands of propagators. Up to this point they were favorite greenhouse plants. Because the tendency was toward formal pruning and the very double and symmetrical flowers sat on these beautiful shrubs in such a stiff manner their popularity waned. The delightful and informal beauty of the single and partly double varieties with their natural habit of growth was overlooked until these plants found their way to the South and Pacific Coasts; from California northwards even to Oregon where up to this day they have maintained a place amongst the most prized shrubs.

The re-awakened interest in their culture definitely indicates the importance of their worth and prominence in our gardens where they can be grown outdoors with ease and a minimum of care, while the fact that their growth is slow is also in their favor, for they never outgrow quickly the space allotted to them.

The main group in cultivation is Cam-

ellia japonica. The Camellia Sasanqua group is also used to advantage where their partly trailing branches can be trained around poles, trees and trellis or espaliered somewhere near a path where the fragrance of this group may be appreciated. Two varieties of the C. Sasanqua are grown extensively in fine gardens, one bears pure white, partly double flowers with lots of yellow stamens, the other a single pink with a rim of five petals which are very suggestive of the Cherokee Rose. Both of these are early flowering, meaning: October to January. The rarest variety known as C. reticulata bears the most gorgeous and largest flowers of this group, about six inches across, but because of its tenderness it is grown only under most suitable conditions.

Success with both Camellias and Azaleas is dependent upon fitting them into conditions suited to their needs, this means that the natural environment, with conditions of soil and air to which they have been accustomed for ages past, must be duplicated or fitted about them. Soil may be made to order, drainage can be improved, protection against wind provided, the while being sure that the air circulation is assured. This can be achieved almost anywhere, but light, temperature and rainfall are factors to be dealt with, and not so simple to control. In California we do not have to worry as conditions are admirably suited to the growing of the very finest Camellias. Many cities have tried Azaleas as a feature, but few, if any, excepting Sacramento, have tried Camellias. This city had them as early as 1853. Many were planted along the river front and later in the popular residential area. On the Capitol grounds there are now specimens 60 or more years old. In 1925 a Camellia show was initiated which is probably the reason for the city now boasting of a general planting of some 8000 bushes of Camellias.

The flowering season, from October to May reaches a peak in about February.

The Camellias flower best at lower temperatures, about 50 degrees F., and buds, unless they are showing color, are not harmed by light white frosts. Although Camellias are termed shade plants, they like the sun too, and to bloom thriftily, they must have some,

preferably morning sun. The problem with Azaleas which have to be protected from strong sunshine after a night of low temperature is not applicable to Camellias. They are not even bothered by wind, unless in a draft, or close to the ocean, in the latter case the wind coming laden with salt spray is not conducive to success with Camellias.

Having met all the previous conditions, the soil generally found to be suitable for Camellias consists of equal parts good loam, leaf mold, and peat moss. A pocket at least three feet deep and two feet in diameter will take care of a plant for a good many years. It must be remembered that through the growing season of May to September it is recommended to feed Camellias every five weeks with a good acid food, and at no time should the plants be allowed to dry out. A top mulch of peat or peat and leaf mold is an excellent protection to the Camellia feeder roots to offset any suffering from drying out which might be responsible for the inability of the plants to bring buds to maturity through the flowering season. Keep the plants moist and when humidity is low, sprinkle the foliage.

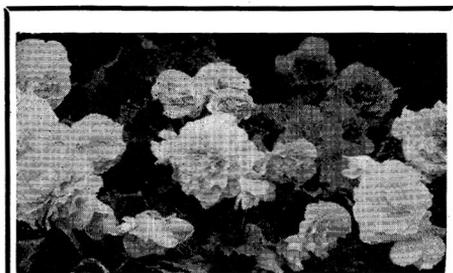
If the surrounding soil has a tendency toward alkalinity, sprinkle aluminum sulphate in the proportion of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. per square yard and wash in twice a year. Never cultivate around either Azaleas or Camellias.

Propagation is generally done by cuttings during July to November. Take tips of shoots of the current season's growth on branches well grown and hardened. Non-flowering wood is best, and the cutting should be no longer than three and a half to four inches long, carrying four or five buds. Remove the lower leaves leaving two or three at the tips. Considerable benefit is found to result by dipping the cuttings in one of the various hormone powders or immersing in a similar solution previous to placing them in good sharp sand or sand and peat moss in a tightly closed cupboard window, or box. A little bottom heat if available, will help. The Camellia japonica is available in enough colors to satisfy the most exacting taste, excepting for yellow and blue. So let us now slip out and fill our gardens with a beauty unsurpassed by any other subjects, dispelling all doubts and fears about the raising of these plants. Their wants are few, but they are definite and specific.

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

• The next American Begonia Society Board meeting will be Sunday, June 14, at 2 P.M. in the Auditorium of the Better Foods Market, Crenshaw Boulevard and 84th Place in the Morningside Park District, Inglewood, California. (It is two blocks North from the intersection of Manchester and Crenshaw Blvd.)

ALL THE BRANCH PRESIDENTS ARE CORDIALLY INVITED to attend the regular monthly meetings of the National Board of the American Begonia Society. Many of us can only attend our local Branch meetings and we would welcome this opportunity to become better acquainted with the men and women who are so ably leading our members in their search of knowledge related to Begonias. — Ferd. P. Neels, President, El Segundo, California.



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EARLY BEGONIA HYBRIDS

by HELEN K. KRAUSS
Wynnewood, Pa.

IL. VON WARSCEWICZ (1812-1866), Inspector and later Director of the Botanical Gardens of Krakau, was one of the earliest Begonia hybridizers. About 1840 or 1841 Warscewicz crossed *manicata* x *B. dipetala*, commonly known as Mrs. Kimball; and *B. dipetala* x *B. hydrocotylifolia*. It was the custom to refer to hybrids by the hyphenated names of both parents after the spanish fashion except that in botany the seed parent is always given first. These are not in cultivation at the present time.

About this time or possibly within the following few years Warscewicz crossed *B. hydrocotylifolia* x *B. manicata* and the resulting hybrid was recorded by Neumann in *Revue Horticole* 1847 as *B. erythrophylla*. In 1880 Dr. Feast of Baltimore imported an unidentified Begonia and in order to furnish a handle to the plant named it or had it named *B. Feastii*. To prove the parentage of *B. erythrophylla* Carl Fotch made a similar cross some years ago in Switzerland and obtained an identical plant and established the priority of Neumann's name.

B. ricinifolia, another well known hybrid was described by A. Dietrich in the *Allgemeine Gartenzeitung* 1847. The description was made from a plant in the Botanical Gardens of Hamburg. It's origin is obscure but it is known that it did not originate in Hamburg. Its parents are supposedly *B. heracleifolia* and *B. peponifolia*.

B. Ingrami was one of a large number of seedlings raised in 1849 by T. Ingram in the gardens at Frogmore near Windsor. This Begonia has been distributed here for years under the name of *B. robusta* and has caused considerable confusion because the true *B. robusta* (Blume) from Java has been under cultivation here for several years. It appears that a Begonia enthusiast in California purchased an unidentified plant in a Los Angeles nursery and instead of awaiting positive identification had a second name appended, apparently unaware of a species entitled to that name.

B. phyllomaniaca, noted for its adventitious leaves on the stems of the plant was first described by Martius in 1853. He believed it to be a hybrid of *B. heracleifolia* x *B. incarnata*. It may be of interest to note here that in the Garden-

ers' Journal of 1847 a similar plant is figured and described by the raiser, P. N. Don, a nurseryman of Chelsea, England which he called *B. prolifera*. This name does not apply, however, because of an Asiatic species (rhizomatous-tuberous) by that name. The raiser claims to have been very careful in hybridizing and can not account for the lack of resemblance to either parent which he gives as *B. manicata* x *B. coccinea*, neither of which has deeply toothed leaves. There may have been carelessness in hybridizing or possibly the grower was not familiar with Begonia nomenclature. Botanists of that day and ever since have decried the chaotic condition of nomenclature. Records are useless if not exact. The importance of this note is the establishment of the date of origin.

B. verschaffeltiana, the spelling of Alphonse DeCandolle, was developed by Ed. Regel in Zurich about 1854 by crossing *B. manicata* with *B. caroliniaefolia*. Its bluntly lobed and shiny leaves are distinctive. It is one of the aristocrats of the rhizomatous group. It is obtainable but somewhat rare.

Major Trevor Clarke of Welton, England was an enthusiastic hybridizer for over 30 years. Of the numerous crosses that he made Weltoniensis, a seedling of *B. Dregei* x *B. sutherlandi* in 1868, is as popular today as it was then.

For those interested in hybridization it may be of interest to mention a few of Major Clarke's crosses which he considered worthy of attention but which are apparently no longer in cultivation. One of his earliest (1841) was *B. incarnata* x *B. nitida* and described as "a very elegant plant, flowering for months in succession." *B. Dregei* x *B. smaragdina*, a variety of *B. imperialis* is described as "a singular-looking thing with very handsome foliage." *B. acuminata* x *B. fuchsioides* is described as "a useful autumn and winter flowering plant, with handsome foliage." There are several current small-leaved Begonias which are awaiting identification and it is possible that this hybrid is with us, although not named by Clarke it may have been named in Europe.

B. glaucophylla, a beautiful scandent Begonia has several pseudonyms. It originated in the gardens of Comte Alfred de Limminghe of Belgium in 1866 and

was first referred to as *B. coccinea* var. *Comte Alf. de Limminghe*. The earliest printed record is by Ed. Pynaert in *Rev. Hort. Belge* 1875 and he called it *B. Limminghei*. In the *Curtis' Bot. Mag.* 1892 Hooker fils refers to it as *glaucophylla* and adds that it has been in cultivation for years at Kew. In England both terms *B. glaucophylla* and *B. Limminghe* are in use today. Because of its great beauty, no doubt, botanists have tried to guess its parentage but it still remains a mystery. Ed. Morren believes it to be the hybrid of *B. coccinea* x *B. undulata*. Pynaert believes *B. fagifolia* to be one of its parents. Hooker fils believes it allied to *B. maculata*. Carl Fotsch believes *B. coccinea* one of its parents and Charles Chevalier believes one of its ancestors to be the *B. glabra*. This is an enigma which only the patient hybridizer can solve.

Branch News

Member of Inglewood Branch of A.B. S. opens Patio and Greenhouse for American Red Cross Benefit. Orchid lovers will welcome this opportunity to see how well Captain Carl Ammenhauser loves and grows these exotics and other beautiful flowers when they attend the Plant Sale to be held on June 12th, 1942 from 1-5 p.m. at 2126 So. Orange Drive, Los Angeles, Calif. He will be assisted by Mrs. Paul Berger, in staging one of the now famous plant-lover's gatherings. Donations of general garden plants will be welcomed to help swell the receipts which will go to the American Red Cross. Several door prizes will be given with a corsage of one of Captain Ammenhauser's own orchids. There will be no admission fee.

San Gabriel Valley Branch: Members and guests have been invited to hold the regular meeting of May 17th at 2:30 sharp at the estate of Mr. Ben F. Thorpe in Covina. This is a lovely place for an outdoor meeting therefore it is bound to be a record meeting. This same Branch has decided to have the special Plant Sale pro-National Begonia Society in July. Of course the collection of plants to be gathered from the many enthusiastic members will be an outstanding one, and again, it is hoped that this also will be a really "Big Affair."

Santa Barbara Branch announces the first of what is hoped will be a regular

Annual Flower Show devoted exclusively to the SHELTERED GARDEN. The Show will be held Friday and Saturday, July 24th and 25th at The Santa Barbara Public Library.

At the last meeting it was voted to resume gatherings in the homes of members rather than in the Hall used for some time past. The next meeting will be held Tues., June 2nd, at the home of Vice-Pres. Mrs. Pauline Gullifer, 610 West Carillo St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

—o—

This thought was sent to us by Mrs. Olive Hamilton of Ventura, Calif.: "Keeping our hands in God's good earth will help us to keep our feet on the ground in these trying times. We can grow our own Begonias and still "Keep 'Em Flying."

A. B. S. Director of Ventura, Calif., sends us this formula which he and Mrs. Hall with other members of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch are using with such excellent results against SNAILS, SLUGS and SOW-BUGS. We quote:

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Now we are ready for snails, slugs and sow-bugs. First, water everywhere well. Then broadcast the mixture as though sowing seeds. Go back into the house or about some other pleasure in the garden, relaxed in the knowledge that these pests just disappear. Where they go, nobody knows, but the fact that they go, is sufficient. We were bothered with all three pests last year, but with two applications of the above mixture during the whole summer, our garden was made free of them."

Hollywood Branch: Now meeting on second Thursday eve. of the month, is anticipating fine evening in June with speaker Mrs. Ruby Liedler, who will discuss *Fuchsias*, illustrated with fine plants.

Your Begonia Library

by ELEANOR CROWDER, Librarian,
A.B.S., Moneta, Calif.

• The Library of The American Begonia Society is in the process of being organized for the use and information of the membership. Officers of the society have assembled some valuable material that should be of interest to all begonia growers.

Outstanding books in the begonia library are listed.

"Les Begonias" by Charles Chevalier. Published in French this book was written by the conservator of the botanic garden at the University of Liege in Belgium and traces the botanic background of begonias, discusses diseases and parasites peculiar to this type of plant, then proceeds to describe and analyze the many varieties of begonias. The book is well illustrated with many photographs and line drawings.

"Die Begonien" by Karl Albert Fotsch. Published in German this is another outstanding contribution to the literature of begonias. The book is profusely illustrated with photographs and colored plates. The society owns two copies of the original in German as well as an English translation done by Hans Schlomka working through the office of Dr. T. H. Goodspeed at the University of California. Anyone wishing to consult this work would probably wish to use the translation with the illustrated German edition.

The most practical book for the general reader is Bessie Buxton's "Begonias" published in 1939 in Massachusetts. Bessie Buxton is a generous contributor to "The Begonian" and needs no introduction to the members. The book outlines briefly the history of begonias in America, discusses species and varieties, soils and fertilizers, seed-sowing methods, propagation from cuttings, pests and diseases. Growers would profit by

owning a copy of this excellent guide.

"Tuberous-rooted begonias and their culture" by G. Otten is another useful book for the grower's of tubers.

Several copies of the pamphlet, "Begonias", a series of illustrated articles reprinted from The Journal of the New York Botanical Garden March 1939 — January 1940, is available to borrowers.

"Hints on growing begonias" by H. M. Butterfield is a most interesting bulletin issued by the University of California in February 1941. Individuals can secure a copy by requesting one from the University at Berkeley.

Files of magazines containing much valuable information on begonia culture are a part of the library holdings. Indexing and organizing this material is now in process. Titles are listed:

American Horticultural Society, Horticulture, Flower Grower, Horticultural News, Garden Chronicle of America, Southern California Homes and Gardens, California Garden, Journal of the New York Botanic Garden.

Begonia enthusiasts who have printed material that should be in the collection are urged to contribute it to the society library. In that way it will serve many members and be preserved for future research workers.

Anyone having books or pamphlets belonging to the American Begonia Society library is asked to return them to the librarian for accessioning and cataloging. Several copies of Buxton and Otten are outstanding at the present time.

The library belongs to the members and use should be made of it. While the collection at the present time is limited it is planned to add to it as fast as funds will allow but even now there is much information available for those who would use it. Any of the titles listed may be borrowed by writing to the librarian. There is a low postal rate on books which will aid considerably in making loans by mail.

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CALIFORNIA BEGONIAS IN TOPEKA, KANSAS

by MRS. EVERETTE F. WILSON
Topeka, Kansas

I ENJOY The Begonian so much, I wish it came twice a month. Maybe some of the readers will be interested in my telling a little about my Begonia-Hobby-room.

It is an upstairs, eastern room with twelve windows (four on the north, four east, and four on the south). The house is warmed by gas, but as I keep the stairway door shut, the temperature is more often kept at fifty degrees F., sometimes sixty, as there is a heat-stack which runs through this room. If it isn't too cold I leave a window part-way open from the top, then, of course I give each plant a bath every week with a nice dose of fresh air every day. I feed them chicken manure tea every two weeks, and with this regime, I seem to be able to maintain a healthy and fine collection of forty-four varieties growing quite delightfully.

My pride and joy are those my daughter sent me from California through one of the famous nurseries there. Unfortunately haageana refused to grow for me, but that was the only one which failed to respond to my care and happy home. In January B. Mrs. Wallow and B. Templini bloomed very nicely for me. Some of my California plants such as B. Mrs. Fred Scripps, Tingley Mallet, Nellie Bly, Odorata alba, and others, are doing beautifully and I am grateful to another Begonian member of Topeka for a suggestion I am sure most will agree with me is a splendid idea. She advised me to start two plants of any variety I wished to propagate, so that if one died, there would be at least one left. There are three for which I have no name, but I understand that the Research Director will check them for me, if I send him a leaf of each wrapped in damp cotton. I have worked long with interest on a series of scrap-books and reading every article I could find so as to be able to prepare a fine Begonia program for the April meeting of our Flower Lovers Club. Now we are looking forward to the meeting of the National Peony and Iris Show here in June. It is great fun working with these organizations, the while we make new friends and keep on trying to make our home and garden more worth-while fighting for.

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How the Milkman Cares For His Begonias

by REGINALD DENNIS
Newport, R. I.

- I have been growing fibrous begonias for the past three years and have had fairly good luck with them. I hope to be more successful as I gain more experience. I use two parts coarse leaf mould, one part sandy loam, one part coarse fresh water sand, one half part well rotted cow manure, that is picked up in the pasture where it has lain for about one year, a little charcoal and bone meal. I think all begonias like quite a lot of coarse leaf mould.

From September to June I grow my begonias in the house, most of them in a sun room with windows facing east, west, and south. I use venetian blinds to keep the sun out from eleven o'clock to about three o'clock. I keep all my plants in saucers and pans, standing the

(Continued on page 95)

THINGS THAT I'VE LEARNED THROUGH EXPERIENCE

by EMELINE M. COLE
Enid, Oklahoma

1. I'm sure that I killed "Mrs. Townsend", "Bunchi" and some other pro-cumbents through over-watering this winter, especially Bunchi a huge plant that had been re-potted.

2. All so-called hairy-leaved varieties such as *metallica*, *scharffiana* and their children definitely do better in the winter in a dryer atmosphere, with 6 to 7 hours of sunlight, than on the porch in a humid atmosphere with only about 4 hours of sunlight.

3. That I could root practically any healthy cutting of Begonia in glasses of water, setting in my kitchen window, where they received the morning sun. Rooted so-called difficult ones such as *Venosa*, *dichroa*, *Alleryi*, *Faureana* and Richard Robinson.

4. Never again will I use even a little pinch of cow manure until I've baked it or otherwise sterilized it. I've lost too many fine plants the past year from root-knott, caused by nematodes.

5. I've always thought Thrips were some insignificant animal that folks in other parts of the world were bothered with. When my beautiful 2 ft. plant of "Roezli", in full bloom started dropping the bud bloom, had an unusually funny wilted look, then the leaf buds turned brown and dropped off, or failed to open up, I was utterly disgusted, and determined to tear the plant apart, leaf by leaf, and root by root until I discovered the reason for its losing its health. I opened one dried up leaf bud and found dozens of thrips, I knew they were thrips for I had heard and read of them enough, also they looked exactly like the thrips that ruined about 200 of my *Gladiolus* the past year. I mixed a large pan of Destruxol, a poison which is also a fumigant, and dipped the whole plant in the mixture. Within 10 days my dying plant was staging a come-back and now it is putting out new leaves.

6. That the much discussed little black fly, or acid fly, really does some damage. I found that tiny three and four day Begonia seedlings would disappear, usually overnight, and I knew they were not damping off, because there was absolutely nothing there, and of course several acid flies were hovering over them. I killed the flies with spray, and I watched for every one, and stalked him—I've lost no more seedlings.

• I'm almost alone in my part of the country in the collecting of Begonias, and I have nothing but those; there are many other beautiful plants, I especially like the Succulent family, but I do not have the room, had to discard everything I had, and still I do not have enough for my Begonias, I know they are too crowded. But I'm unwilling to part with any of them, so they stay that way.

I often think of you folks in California who have dozens and dozens of friends and neighbors, or perhaps folks a few miles away, that you can call or visit with about your plants and your plant problems, then consider me, without a soul, except a woman in Kansas whom I've never seen, and a woman and her husband in Oklahoma City, who were just becoming interested in Begonias and came to see my collection. I have never seen a collection of Begonias except my own, I have nothing to judge by, how well mine are grown, or how poorly grown. And you can't possibly have the slightest idea how I long to see a large fine collection of Begonias, and talk Begonias with some one else. I am in two round robin Begonia circles, and those letters reach me about every two months. I enjoy those so very much, I've gained lots of information about the plants, and I feel that the folks in these circles are very good friends, though I may never see a one of them.

I have to experiment and thresh out my own problems, and I am writing on a separate page, a few little things which I have discovered for my self, these items I believe would apply to folks in the east and in the colder sections of the country, who have about my same conditions to face.

Just received my copy of the Begonian yesterday, just skimmed over the titles, and read a few paragraphs, looks good and interesting, I can hardly wait to read it from cover to cover. I am a working woman, I have to care for my 225 big and little pots early of mornings and at night, then on Sundays, I really pet all of them, pick them up, turn 'em around, pick off leaves, and examine for bugs, spray, etc.

• Tell advertisers you are a "Begonian" too!

Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

by JOHN S. VOSBURG
Hollywood, Calif.

• A plant that one should know, and knowing it will arouse the desire to grow it is the hardy Calceolaria. (Latin, Calceolus, a slipper. Not to be confused with the Lady-Slipper.) Calceolaria integrifolia (rugosa) including the C. fruticohybrida, horticultural varieties or forms of the shrubby Calceolaria integrifolia, this will give one a fine range and choice of colors. They are hardy in Southern California, perennial in nature, and offer much to the gardener who is desirous of something above the ordinary. There is nothing difficult about the culture of this type of Calceolaria but because the name suggests the growing difficulties of the hot-house variety, most gardeners veer away from it. I have always found it most satisfactory arranged in interesting color groups especially for a background to Begonias and kindred materials. The shrubby Calceolarias grow from two to six feet in height giving one a wide latitude of placement. The soil preference is identical with that of Begonias and most other shade-loving plants; a leafy, well-drained soil.

True, the flowers are smaller than the herbeohybrida types supplied by the florist with gorgeously colored puffed-up little sacks, but the flowers are still large enough in the former varieties to be attractive and call for considerable attention to their presence in any planting. The colors range through the many yellows, orange, orange-reds and bronzy-browns, characteristic of this group of plants. The shape of the flower places the plant among the unusual class, seldom seen in the average garden, yet the profusion of these flowers and the ease with which the plant may be grown should make it a popular semi-shade plant. Yes, it is worthy of a place in your garden.

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New England Begonias

by W. E. STARR
Southbridge, Mass.

• I'll start off by saying frankly that I'm envious of our California members with their long growing season. We read of their worrying when the temperature goes down near 40 degrees, and wonder what they'd do if they had to worry about nights of 20 degrees below. About the only place near New England where we can see 10 ft. rubra's is in the New York Botanical Gardens.

Adverse weather conditions are probably more important here than in most other sections. Outdoor plantings being obviously impossible (even *B. evansiana* isn't sure to survive outdoors), we are restricted to varieties that will stand house conditions, some dryness in the atmosphere, bloom plentifully with a minimum of space, etc.

For the last two years I've had in use a 7 x 12 foot greenhouse for begonias. I've used a small oil burner but I can say definitely that it isn't entirely satisfactory. It doesn't seem to have the ability to provide extra heat to maintain a steady temperature on excessively cold nights. Despite this shortcoming, I have had some success with begonias.

Space being at a premium here, as well as in most houses, we have to restrict ourselves to some extent to get the most in the room we have.

Here, as in most other sections, *Begonia corallina deLucerna* is acceptable, because it will bloom while still a comparatively small plant, thus qualifying as a "Window Sill Begonia." *B. haageana*, for the same reason, meets our requirements. This year, a small plant of *B. Gilsoni* I have, had several stalks of

bloom and, in February, was still brightening up its corner after 6 weeks of constant bloom.

B. incarnata, var. *Saunderi*, bloomed for over two months and just dropped the last one at about the end of February. *B. Townsend* was late this year, a plant in a 4 inch pot just started has six clusters of bloom at same period.

While it seems to take 3 or 4 years to attain blooming size, *B. Fischer's Ricinifolia* is eminently satisfactory if space can be provided for it. *B. Feasti*, I believe, would be satisfactory anywhere. *Rubras*, because of the fact that they must be sizeable plants before flowering, are ruled out of my collection. The ability of *B. Thurstoni* to survive needs no comment.

I offer *B. richardisiana* as my favorite over all others. Its dainty growth appeals to all who see it, and while it doesn't bloom in winter, or at least not here, the profusion of white flowers all summer makes up for all its shortcomings.

Altogether, I've tried over eighty varieties, but if I were building a collection of New England begonias, considering the results I've had, it would be built around *B. richardisiana*, *B. corallina deLucerna*, *B. haageana*, *B. incarnata*, var. *Saunderi*, and *B. Mrs. Townsend*. I would use these for results, and all others for experiments.

Q. What causes my Fuchsias to blight? They get to a certain stage of flowering and then the buds are discolored and they fall off or fail to open.

A. It is possible that in using too strong a solution of liquid fertilizer this very condition may have been created. Do not overdo anything no matter how good.

<p><i>Pestless</i> LIKWID-GRO • The Balanced Liquid Fertilizer</p> <p>and <i>Pestless</i> GREEN HOUSE SPRAY to control Aphis - Beetles - Worms That destroy foliage</p>	<p>and <i>Pestless</i> SLUG and SNAIL BAIT The Green. Fine-texture bait that's DIFFERENT</p>
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Tuberous Begonias In June

by FRANK REINELT
Capitola, Calif.

• **PESTS** . . . Occasionally Begonias are attacked by aphids and thrips in the greenhouse, if kept in dry, close temperatures. Fumigating with nicotine on two or three alternate evenings will control these pests easily. Very rarely they are also subject to mite attacks. These are very small and cannot be seen without a lense. The first signs of their presence are brown, rusty streaks on the young shoots and foliage, deforming and destroying the season's growth entirely if not checked. Infected plants should be isolated immediately. Thorough spraying with Volck will check this pest.

FAILURES . . . The most common failure in Begonias is the falling off of buds before they develop, which is caused either by the plants being grown in too small pots without a sufficient amount of food, severe drying out or severe over-watering. In hot weather the flowers develop too rapidly and the plants, by drawing much more water from the soil, tend to throw off the buds. Abundant growth, with little or no flowers, is the result of too heavy shade. Curled and shiny foliage is a sign of too strong an exposure to the sun. The most damage is done by over-feeding; the first signs of it are a soft, glassy texture of the foliage, curling under gradually, wilting and dying off.

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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, June 14th. 2 P.M. at Auditorium Better Foods Market, Crenshaw Blvd. and 84th Place, Inglewood, Calif.

PALOMAR BRANCH

Tuesday, June 2nd. 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, June 2nd
American Legion Hall.
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.,
515 So. Evergreen Drive, Ventura, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, June 2nd. 8:00 P.M.
Home of Mrs. Ruth Robinson,
555 Harvard St., Bellflower
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Tuesday, June 2nd
Home of Mrs. P. Gullifer,
610 W. Carillo St., Santa Barbara
Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,
210 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Wednesday, June 3rd
Dominguez Community Church,
21503 Prospect at Adams
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, June 3rd, 8 P.M.
1060 Francisco St.,
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, June 4th
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, June 5th, 8 P.M.
Woman's Club, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. R. R. White, Secretary
937 Harding Ave., Venice, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

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

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, June 8th, 7:30 P.M.
Home of Roy Elgin, 5975 Olive Ave., L. B.
Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.
5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, June 8th, 7:30 P.M.
4037 39th Street, San Diego
Mrs. Clarence Moore, Secy.-Treas.
3664 31st St., San Diego, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, June 9th. 7:30 P.M.
La Casita Del Arroyo,
177 So. Arroyo Blvd.
Samuel R. Works, Secy.,
71 N. San Gabriel, Pasadena, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, June 11th. 7:30 P.M.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Helen Ehret, Secy.,
7507 Lexington Ave., Hollywood, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, June 11th, 10:00 A.M.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,
362 Brokway Merion, Pa.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, June 11th. 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, June 12th, 7:30 P.M.
Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, 3615 Cerritos Ave.
Hostess: Mrs. C. A. Poe
Mrs. Charlotte Sisson, Secy.-Treas.
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Friday, June 12th
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Saturday, June 13th
Hostess and Speaker: Miss Mary Ellen Logee,
Magnolia, Mass., Magnolia Nurseries
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Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secy.-Treas.,
54 Essex St., Lynnfield Centre, Mass.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Monday, June 15th
329 No. Brand Blvd.
News Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,
709 Milford Ave., Phone Clitrus 17517

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, June 15th
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, June 18th
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Sunday, June 20th. 2 P.M.
American Legion Hall, 716 N. 1st Ave., Arcadia
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary
419 South Ynez Ave.
Monterey Park, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, June 23rd
Home of Mrs. M. S. Prince, Hatboro, Pa.
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secy.
Willow Grove, Pa.

SYRACUSE BRANCH

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Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secretary.

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Nipomo, Calif.

Branch News Continued

Congratulations are warmly extended to the **East Bay Branch**, Berkeley, Calif. for being awarded a first prize in the Oakland Spring Flower Show held from April 28th through to May 3rd, 1942. Some of the members of this Branch were guest-broadcasters on Radio Station KROW on the evening of April 30th, directly from the Show.

From **San Francisco**, we hear that Mr. Alfred Stettler, a member of the American Begonia Society, has been appointed Editor for the monthly Bulletin of the American Fuchsia Society. Congratulations and good luck to him and the Bulletin. Naturally, the publication will be of great interest to nearly all of the Sheltered Garden enthusiasts where Fuchsias may be grown. Fuchsias are becoming more and more important to gardeners everywhere, and many are the specialists working hard on the creation of finer, more entrancing blooms than are already known to us. Evans & Reeves of West Los Angeles, Calif., have a very new hanging basket Fuchsia. Mr. Victor Reiter of San Francisco, can be counted on to produce something more beautiful every season and many other well known hybridizers will be heard from. Since "The Begonian" covers everything in the sheltered garden, we hope to bring to our readers as much information on all groups of plants that belong. We shall watch with interest the publications which devote their space to specific groups of plants so that we may keep "au courant" on all plants for the shade-garden, and we hope that anyone especially interested in Fuchsias will write directly to Mr. Alfred Stettler, 125 Howth Street, San Francisco, Calif. There is so much to learn and so little time in which to experiment, therefore, let us appreciate to the utmost the work done by others.

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HOW THE MILKMAN CARES FOR HIS BEGONIAS

(Continued from page 89)

pots on small mayonnaise jar covers inverted enabling me to keep water in the saucers for moisture without wet feet for plants. I have a small electric humidifier that goes most of the time using about two quarts of water a day. This humidifier registers about forty to forty-five degrees pressure.

On pleasant days I spray my plants with plain water early in the morning and again about one-thirty.

From June to September I live near the sea shore where I have to keep my begonias on a porch, which I have had latticed, as it faces the north and west and gets a great deal of wind, and in the afternoons the western sun. Some of my begonias do very well on the porch, but I find that we have so much fog and damp weather from the middle of June to the middle of August that I have to bring some inside as they shed their leaves the while even the stalks decay and drop off. I water my begonias once a week with a weak solution of liquid cow manure, which I prepare by putting old, well rotted manure in a burlap bag and place it in a container, then strain and add water to container and let soak for a couple of days before using as a weak solution.

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