

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Garden*

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# The BEGONIAN

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## Resignation

• The Board of Directors very regretfully was forced to accept the resignation at the April meeting of our true and tried Sec.-Treasurer due to pressure of other duties. A committee was elected by Pres. Mr. Neels to nominate a Sec.-Treasurer as soon as possible that Mr. Nutter may be released. It may be necessary to have the duties of the office divided between two people.

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## Resolution of Appreciation

• It is with reluctance that the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society accept the resignation of Mr. J. N. Nutter, as of May 1, 1942, who has served our society as Secretary-Treasurer since January, 1939.

During the years of his membership in the Society, Mr. Nutter has been untiring in his efforts, serving wherever help was needed. When our society was planning their flower shows in 1937-1938, Mr. Nutter took over the responsible job of show manager, and we all know of the long hours he put in to make the shows a success. Since he has accepted the office of Secretary-Treasurer in 1939, he has put in a tremendous amount of work, and when you remember he has served without remuneration of any kind, you know how loyal he has been.

Be it resolved: That the above be entered in the minutes of the American Begonia Society, and that a copy be sent to Mr. J. N. Nutter.

Edna D. Ziesenhenné

Lena Higgins

J. S. Williams

Committee on Resolutions

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## Cheer from Begonias

by FLORENCE A. STILWELL

• May I express the wish to you all that you will get a great deal of cheer and comfort from your beautiful begonias during the year 1942. It seems to me that in times like the present beautiful flowers can do much to keep one's chin up and one's disposition cheerful.

## MRS. ANNIE C. ROBINSON HONORARY DIRECTOR

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society, it was unanimously decided to elect Mrs. Annie C. Robinson to the position of Honorary Director of the organization. To the letter informing her of the fact, she made the following answer: "I shall feel it a very great honor indeed, to be listed as an Honorary Director of the American Begonia Society.

"It was always a great pleasure to Mr. Robinson to contribute in any way he could to the advancement of the Begonia cause, and, come what may, I hope I may do likewise. One thing I feel I can do is to extend the usual invitation to the various Branches of the A. B. S. to have a day at the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens this summer. We shall be glad to reserve the date requested by any Branch or Branches that might choose to come together. I wish everyone could see the gardens now, raining Lavender Wistaria blooms on the pink Primulas below.

There is so much comfort in beauty and in kindly expressions of so many friends both known and unknown to me. I, again, want to thank one and all for the kind sympathy extended to me, and for the honor being bestowed upon me.

Sincerely yours,

Annie C. Robinson

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• **Merry should be the month of May.** May the tenth is MOTHER'S DAY. Do we need to be reminded of our blessed Mother? Some of us, do not realize the vital part played by live flowers offered with any gift. The Mother who loves her garden will sing with happiness over some lovely potted Begonia or a collection of a special type of plant she likes best WITH all the companion material that she will need, in order to plant the pretty things perfectly in the Patio, back yard, the green-house or the lath-house, or maybe in her apartment or even shaded-window. Perhaps the family will get together to remember MEMORIAL DAY on May thirtieth. Flowers will speak for you, speak the words that cannot be expressed and emphasize your feelings of undying love through living symbols of beauty with a renewed pledge to REMEMBER. It does depend on us—individually, does it not? This time I mean Defense. Your Editor.

# WATER, Part III

by RUDOLPH ZIESENHENNE  
Research Department, Santa Barbara, Calif.

HAVING discussed the role of water in its scientific relation to plant growth, now let us consider the more practical subject of when and how one should water.

Other things being equal, experiments tend to prove that it is best to water plants in the late afternoon, next best to water in early morning, and least desirable to water in the middle of the day. A logical reason for the midday watering giving the poorest results is that at that time there is the greatest variation between the temperature of the soil and the water which is applied, and the sudden lowering of the temperature results in a lessening of the water intake of the plant as well as a checking of the growth of soil bacteria.

How often one should water depends on various physical conditions. Plants in various positions will require water at different intervals. Soils vary a great deal in the amount of water they will absorb. For this reason, especially if preparing soil for tuberous begonias, it is advantageous to prepare at one time sufficient soil for the potting job at hand, so that uniform growth will result.

One point of interest to remember is that a plant which has been in a pot for quite a while will have a very well-developed root system and will need more water than a newly transplanted one. For this reason, if you are going on a trip or vacation for a few days, and are not sure your plants will be watered sufficiently, repot the plant and water well before leaving.

It is possible to tell the moisture content of a pot by tapping it gently with the hose nozzle; if it makes a ringing sound, the soil is dry; if a dull sound results, the soil is wet.

The soil should be kept uniformly moist but not wet, for a soil kept continually wet will lack air and become sour. In sour soil begonia roots are destroyed. If you believe your soil has been kept too moist, it will be beneficial to allow the soil to become reasonably dry occasionally. Do not, however, allow the soil to get so dry that the plant wilts. No plant will grow as well after having been allowed to wilt. The "Calla Begonia" is best handled by giving it a good watering and then allow it to get quite dry before watering again. This

method of watering prevents the plant from rotting.

After a good rain it is well to check over your pots of Rex begonias for their leaves are arranged in such a manner that they prevent any water from reaching the pot though everything else is wet, your plant may be wilting.

Often Rexes in a well watered bed are seen to wilt and usually the cause is the lack of water at the root-zone due to the leaves directing the water away.

Begonias which shed their leaves or stems during the dormant period should only be watered sufficiently to prevent the soil from becoming "bone dry." If a plant is not doing well, and no other ailment is found, try to keep the soil a little drier and the plant may recover.

In caring for plants in a greenhouse or glasshouse, it is well to remember to use water which has been warmed to the air temperature. Do not water so late in the day that the plants do not dry off for if fungus spores are present, they will attack the leaves and cause rot.

Now let us consider the methods of watering. Although the watering can is used throughout the world, it has been supplanted in America by the rubber hose. The standard  $\frac{1}{2}$ "- $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter is usually used in watering lath-house and greenhouse plants as well as gardens under trees. For a small lath-house or glasshouse the standard airhose, as used in the gas stations, fitted with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " diameter spray makes a handy and efficient hose for an elderly person or woman. A light hose of this type is very handy in watering pots on shelves or hanging baskets. Under trees or in large lathhouses, a sprinkler attached to the hose will apply the water much better than one can by hand. Tuberous begonias are best staked if a revolving sprinkler is used so that the plants will not be broken off.

In applying water, it is customary in Southern California to wet the foliage as well as the soil. Burning usually results if droplets get on the leaves and magnify the sun rays on a particular spot. To prevent this, it is customary to wet the entire leaf and thus leave no droplets. This method has also proven successful on other plants out of doors in the full sun. In other sections of the country, where the air is more humid or

where excessive amounts of chlorine occasionally occur, it is wise not to wet the leaves. If the leaves remain wet and fungus spores are present, they will develop, the disease causing the leaves to rot. Excessive amounts of chlorine will cause the leaves to fall from the plants.

In applying water, give a sufficient amount to wet the soil in a pot thoroughly, but do not add so much that a quantity runs out the bottom, as it will carry out the valuable fertilizer that you have put into the soil. If you have been using liquid fertilizer made from a complete chemical fertilizer, it is wise to flush out the chemicals not utilized by the plant by watering heavily or soaking the pot in a pan of water.

In watering small begonia seedlings, it is best to allow the soil to take up moisture by standing the pots or flats in a pan of water. The water must not be allowed to creep over the rim of the pot or flat, or the plants may be knocked over. The excess water which runs out when the pot or flat is removed takes some fertilizer with it, but small plants do not require much.

If you water large pots or flats by standing them in a pan of water, use just enough water so that it is thoroughly absorbed. In this way you will preserve what fertilizer there is in the pot. Should some water remain, save it to use later or water other plants with it for it contains valuable fertilizer elements. Some experimental work is being carried on in sub-irrigation of potted plants. These are stood in leakproof benches into which water is run and removed when the watering is finished. This method has not been too successful since all pots do not need water at the same time.

Another method of watering is proving more successful. A spun glass braided wick is put into the bottom of a regular flat or pot (not smaller than the 5" diameter—when smaller pots are used the soil becomes water-logged and sour, and the plants die.) The wick is unravelled and spread out like the spokes of a wheel. The potting soil is placed in the pot or flat, and the plants set in place. A thorough watering is given, and then the flat or pot is supported above a jar or pot of water to the bottom of which the wick dangles. The soil absorbs the water from the glass wick by capillary action. Should the water in the receptacle become dry, it must be water-

ed thoroughly again before capillary action will draw water up the wick. Other wicking will work, but because fungus and rot destroys it, it must be replaced, whereas the glass wicking will last indefinitely. Should you have to leave your plants for a considerable time, this wick method will keep your plants well-watered.

## "I Had A Dream"

by F. HOMER WALRATH  
Hollywood, Calif.

• I had a dream and it appeared to be the year 1943. In my dream I was visiting a very large Horticultural establishment, built of glass and lath with suitable outbuildings to care for the thousands of Begonias on display. Every class had a section of its own, every plant was grown to perfection and a large sized standard held a label giving the name of the plant; who found it or who produced it, and in the latter case, the parents of the plant. At last I seemed to have found a place where latin names were given only to plants that had been found and all others were given names in the language of the country where produced. I, in this dream, looked in vain for a plant with 2-3-4-5-6-7 names and I was happy. I was called into the library of this wonderful place and shown a shelf of books, (not the late Dr. Elliott five-foot shelf) the index indicated where any or all information about any given plant might be found, with soil combination, sun, shade, pruning, watering etc., and whether it belonged to the Fibrous, Rhizomatus, Bulbous, Tuberosus or semi-tuberosus class. The gentleman in charge must have been a master horticulturist to have the ability evidenced there. As we were walking out of the main entrance, my friend called my attention to the sign over the door which read: "Experimental Laboratory of the American Begonia Society" and under the sign something else, I read: "Free to all members of the A.B.S. to compare or study. Rooted cuttings given to members who have paid their dues." And then—I awoke, but my greatest hopes would be realized if this dream would come true.

• **Our ADVERTISERS have faith in us. Let us demonstrate our faith in them by patronizing them to the best of our ability.**

## Branch News

• Please do send in material to reach the Editor not later than the tenth of the month.

The Herbert P. Dyckman Begonia Society members are looking forward to the next meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry B. Ailman at 4404 Greenbrier Road, Lakewood Village, Long Beach, California, on May 8th.

**San Francisco Branch: Announces** having submitted a schedule, prepared by request, to the General Committee of the San Francisco Flower Show to be held in the Rotunda of the City Hall, Civic Centre, San Francisco, on September 2 and 3, 1942. Last year this Branch was fortunate enough to win honors for the Begonia Society, which fact stimulated the Branch to plan an exhibit for this year that will "stop the show." Mr. Robert Hoefler spoke at the last meeting on the growing of Begonias, but so interestingly and completely, that the second speaker deferred his talk until the next meeting. We hope Oliver Kehrlein, Garden Editor of the S. F. Examiner will send us a resume of the talk. Inadvertently the group discovered that it was Mr. Hoefler's birthday, so, very quietly, a cake with candles and other refreshments appeared at the end of the meeting to surprise the speaker and add to the thorough enjoyment of the evening. Mr. McDonnell adds to his letter: "The Tuberous Begonias, everyone reports, are coming along fine and we look for a very wonderful year. KEEP 'EM GROWING."

**New England Branch:** We have received the finest little Year-Book for the activities of this Branch through the year 1942. In spite of the fact that they cannot hold meetings December, January and February because of weather conditions, they have managed to arrange a very comprehensive year's pleasure with Begonias and their kind. We are requested to advise all 1942 members of the New England Branch that if a copy has not been received, a post-card to the Secretary will rectify the omission. This Branch again received **FIRST PRIZE AND A BRONZE MEDAL** at the recent Boston Flower Show, with an educational exhibit. Congratulations to one and all.

The San Diego Branch voted, at the April meeting, to donate to the American Begonia Society the proceeds of not only the plant-affle, but also of the sale of the specimen plant of the month. This netted \$7.50 for the Raffle and \$3.00 for the plant of Marjorie Daw, a total of \$10.50 for which the A. B. S. is truly appreciative. The program of the evening consisted of the showing of colored pictures of the National Olympics and Flower Show by Mr. Darcy Anderson, then Mrs. Russell read the A.B.S. leaflet on Tuberous Begonias which was followed by discussion.

Hostesses of the evening were Mrs. Hawthorne, Mrs. Stone and Mrs. Mutch. The May meeting will be arranged by Mrs. Dorothy Harvey, Asst. Prof. of Botany, San Diego College, with Mrs. Barker, Mrs. Rainwater and Mrs. Bailey as Hostesses.

**San Gabriel Begonia Society** members were interestingly entertained at the April meeting, by Mrs. Ross of Ross Gardens, Costa Mesa, who was the excellent speaker.

**Hollywood Begonia Branch:** The meeting date has been changed to the **SECOND THURSDAY** of each month beginning with May 14th, 1942. At this time Mr. George McDowell will talk on Culture of Begonias, possibly with emphasis on the Rex, of which he has such a beautiful collection.

**Riverside Branch** announces that "Until the weather is warm enough for regular outdoor meetings, when the members' gardens will be available, we shall gather at the home of Mrs. Jessie Topham, 4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside. We are proud to have our Charter in our possession." (We wish them lots of happy times.)

• For that Birthday gift: A year's subscription to *The Begonian*. Twelve months of pleasure, in honor of one day . . . besides making another friend for the A.B.S.

IF IT'S A BULB and IT'S SEASONABLE  
I think you'll find it for your sun or shade  
GARDEN

at

**BOB ANDERSON**

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Los Angeles

California



Photograph by Paul Genereux, 61 Gertrude St., East Lynn, Mass.

## A New England Sun Porch Garden

by ELIZABETH H. SKINNER  
Lynnfield Center, Mass.

• We have had a fine New England winter and I think the plants have enjoyed it for most of them have bloomed a month early. The photograph is of a group of begonias taken in my 9 feet by 15 feet sunporch for publicity for the spring flower show in Boston sponsored by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

You begonia enthusiasts will identify on the stand *Sunderbruchi*, an old favorite, just coming into bloom; *Bijou*, which was new to me last year, is very satisfactory as a house plant and a bedding type with its semi-double red flowers and foliage that colors up beautifully out doors. *Mrs. Townsend* is another old timer but what a pleasure to own when in bloom or just for its foliage. In back you see the glossy leaves of *Thurstoni* next to *Dianna* (Robinson's *Dichroa* seedling). *Dianna* has beautifully spotted leaves free of insect pests, so far, and an almost constant bloomer. Next is *Paul Bruant* loaded with six trusses of blooms amongst its pretty leaves. This

plant is on a four inch pot and is worth fighting the thrips that seem to have a preference for this and *Mme. Fanny Giron*.

In this un-heated porch, except what comes through connecting french doors with the living room, I have one hundred-forty plants mostly begonias with ferns, ivies and a few cactus and succulents to lend interest. A *Costa Rica* seedling, No. 1 is blooming the first time and with its leaves 7 inches by 9 inches and tall sprays of flowers it must be a wonderful sight in its native land. *Dichroa* has bloomed for five years but made very little growth until this last winter. It now has four branches with leaves ten inches long and kept in bloom 'til the middle of January. I think it needed more warmth and moisture which it had this last year by being next to an orchid that was growing on my home devised humidifier of an inverted clay pot in a pan of water. Another device for giving out moisture is a sponge, in the shape of a flower pot, set in water.

A good friend has just given me *Coriacea alba* and Mexican seedling No. 73301. The first is interesting for the way its leaves grow wrapped in a paper like sheath; the second for the brown markings on the leaves.

# THE PINEAPPLE FAMILY—

## Part 2

by GEORGE McDOWELL  
Inglewood, Calif.

**B**ILLBERGIA NUTANS is probably the commonest of all the Billbergias and has been sold as The Poor Man's Bird of Paradise, to quote one of the most extravagant names given to this species which has been used by hybridizers to develop newer varieties among the Billbergias. *B. nutans* has plain green foliage one-half to one inch wide and grows to a height of about 16 inches. Besides being a very reliable grower, it multiplies quite rapidly. In California it is one of the first to flower very surely about late winter or very early spring, during which time it is much used for potted plants, hanging baskets and floral arrangements, for the flowers are yellow green with a cobalt blue and yellow line edge encased in a clear pink sheath from which the bells hang most gracefully and delicately, yet they will last a long time as cut flowers.

*Billbergia nutans* Hybrid No. 2 is the best of the nutans hybrids. The leaves are wider and recurving. Although the plant does not stand as upright as nutans, it is far more attractive. Curiously, this plant did not inherit the definite flowering period, but will blossom at any time that the plant may reach maturity, perhaps in summer, spring or winter, a nice thing in some ways, as the elements of suspense and surprise are always present. The flowers vary from light orange to an orange pink with the same pink sheath of the parent but greatly enlarged. The blooms even last longer than the flowers of the parent.

*B. nutans* Hybrid No. 3 has still wider leaves which are about two inches wide and undulated. This one has a definite blooming period such as the parent possesses. The inflorescence has a background of an enlarged red bract or sheath, otherwise color is similar to the flowers of the parent. *Billbergia nutans* No. 3 X *B. Amoena* brought forth an

attractive tinge of lovely purple to the leaves. I have not seen this cross in bloom but the flowers should be interesting because *B. amoena* is highly colored.

*B. nutans* crosses have been many and varied. I have not seen the cross with *B. pyramidalis* (thyrsoidea) but I do have a new seedling cross of *B. nutans* X with *B. Leopoldii* that shows great promise. The foliage is different in many of the seedlings, some are tall and narrow, others are short and wide with silver or gray markings characteristic of the *B. Leopoldii*. As yet these seedlings have not bloomed, but since *Leopoldii* has an orange sheath with blue flowers the cross with nutans should bring forth some noteworthy inflorescence.

One of the largest of the group is *B. nobilis*. This plant has wide leaves and grows about thirty inches high. The foliage is dull green but a well cultivated plant makes a beautiful house decoration with its large clusters of clear yellow pendent flowers emanating from the pink sheath which does its best to partly cover the blooms.

The baby of the family, which grows to only about six inches, the *B. Lietzii*, is a splendid thing to use in miniature gardens. The flowers are few, only two or three to a sheath, and these do not droop as the others for the simple reason that they are so short, yet it is very interesting and has its definite place in a collection of this beautiful group of plants. There is still another dwarf of about the same size as *Lietzii*, but *B. amoena* has reddish-pink foliage with a dark pink sheath growing horizontally from which blue flowers stand out at the same angle. *B. amoena* and *Lietzii* have been crossed to produce other dwarf Billbergias of good growth, but not having seen the bloom as yet, I cannot tell how interesting they might be.

(To be continued)

### CALIFORNIA LIQUID FERTILIZER

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# Speaker's Bureau Ready for Action

by MRS. W. C. DRUMMOND  
Chairman—Los Angeles, Calif.

• I am happy to announce that I am ready to answer inquiries on Speakers and their subjects, and to give information relative to the equipment each one may or may not have or may need when engaged to speak, as well as fee. I shall appreciate the personal help of any and all members who will write and give me the name, address, type of talk, fee, illustration equipment of any speaker known to be desirable anywhere in America, for the various America Begonia Society Branches everywhere. Possibly, the Program Chairmen will help me by sending me the list of their proven speakers which will be of great value to other Branches.

It will take time to assemble a comprehensive list, but more than that it will take a lot of willing cooperation by everyone who listens to and enjoys a good speaker. The subjects must be of interest to lovers of shade gardening.

## SHADELAND GARDENS SPECIALS

REX BEGONIAS .....	7 for \$1.00
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100 Vars. Fuchsias.....	15c—2 for 25c

## SHADELAND GARDENS

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Inglewood

California

# Begonias at Philadelphia Flower Show

by HELEN K. KRAUSS  
Wynwood, Pa.

• The Begonia exhibit at the Philadelphia Flower Show was nicely staged by Mr. Thomas McKay, gardener for Mrs. H. Masters of Villa Nova, Penn. Approximately 40 different types were shown, the remainder being duplications of both plants and nomenclature.

Since Mr. McKay has expressed a desire for a correction of nomenclature and not knowing where to go for this information the writer has offered to help him by giving his list in the first column and the corrected names in the second column as follows:

B. olbia	is B. Thurstoni
B. Otto Hacker	is B. coccinea seedling
B. Veedeii	is B. Mrs. W. A. Wallow
B. gunneraeifolia	is B. nitida
B. plataniifolia	is B. nitida
B. miniata	is B. floribunda
B. nitida	is B. coccinea seedling
B. Otto Foster	is B. Rex x diadema hybrid
B. manicata	is B. incana
B. peltata	is B. riciniifolia
B. Scharffiana	is B. Viaudi
B. diadema	is B. superba
B. Margeritae	is B. Sunderbruchi
B. palmata	is B. palmifolia
B. riciniifolia	is B. Sunderbruchi
B. hydrocotylifolia	is B. Feastii helix
B. Arthur Maillet	is B. speculata
B. Haageana	is B. Scharffii
B. fuchsoides	is B. corbeille de feu
B. rubella	is B. Fisher's riciniifolia
B. Teuscherei	is B. coccinea seedling
Coraline Lucerne	is B. Pres. Carnot
B. albo-picta	is B. coccinea seedling
Dregei	is B. weltoniensis

• "These shades are still the abodes of gladness." Bryant, inscription for entrance to a wood.

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# HISTORY OF BEGONIAS (continued)

by HELEN K. KRAUSS  
Wynnewood, Pa.

THE earliest literature on Begonias, since Plumier described his discovery of 6 species of a new genus in the West Indies and a few isolated descriptions and illustrations to be found in old books dealing on botanical subjects, was compiled by Jonas Dryander and read before the Linnean Society on November 3, 1789.

The Linnean Society was founded in 1788. Dr. James E. Smith, who had purchased the elder Linnaeus' collection including 14,000 herbarium specimens, was resolved on forming an institution for the exclusive promotion of natural science. This was accomplished with the financial aid of Joseph Banks. The King of Sweden tried to intercept the precious cargo but it arrived safely in England in 1784.

Dryander's "Observations on the Genus of Begonia" was published in the Transactions of the Linnean Society in 1791. Twenty-one Begonias are described, the largest number assembled in one volume up to that time. Prior to publication Dryander had seen only three living specimens, *B. nitida*, *humilis* and *acuminata*. The remainder were taken from descriptions and illustrations in botanical books and manuscripts and also from herbarium specimens.

Two of Plumier's descriptions were adequate enough to be included. *B. macrophylla*, meaning large leaf, is commonly known as *dominicalis*. The leaves are not as large as one would suppose or exact (about  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$  now at the Montalvo gardens), but they were the largest known to Plumier. At the time of Dryander's observations the only other large leaved Begonia known was *B. Evansiana*.

The other Plumier Begonia is *rotundifolia*, in cultivation at the present time but very rare. It is an interesting subject

for rock work with its light green, round, crenate leaves which form a rosette and cling close to its creeping rhizome.

Of the other 21 Begonias, one or two of which are synonymous, we have in cultivation *nitida*, possibly one of Plumier's but not sufficiently described, with its varieties *nitida rosea* and *odorata alba*; *isoptera*, from Java, a beautiful plant when well grown; *longipes petiolata*, a variety of the described species; *Evansiana*, the hardy Begonia which reproduces itself by bulbils developed in its leaf axils as well as by seed; *humilis*, a small growing annual; *octopetala*, first discovered by Joseph Dombey, was lost and rediscovered numerous times and on a few occasions renamed; and *malabarica*, a choice but somewhat difficult species with white flowers sometimes delicately flushed with pink. *Glabra*, although not generally distributed, makes an admirable basket plant because of its trailing habit and clusters of small white flowers and its lustrous light green leaves. It should have a place among the smallest Begonia collections as there is no difficulty in growing it.

In recent years several Begonia species have been introduced from India, Ceylon, Java, etc., which have not yet been identified and I believe it quite possible that before too long the Dryander list of Begonias will be augmented by at least two or three additional species.

Of the four new Begonias listed by Willdenow in *Species Plantarum* in 1805 we have *B. dichotoma*, frequently called *Lindleyana*; *B. ulmifolia*, its leaves closely resembling those of the elm tree; and *cucullata* which in some respects suggests *semperflorens*. The fourth has been identified as *B. angularis* and is sometimes referred to as *zebrina*.

Aime Bonpland (1773-1758), French

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naturalist, travelled through South America and Mexico with Alexander Von Humboldt, German scientist, from 1799 to 1804. Bonpland became Director of the Empress Josephine's gardens at Malmaison in 1805. In 1818 he became professor of natural history at Buenos Aires. While engaged on a scientific work in 1821 he was siezed by Francis, the Dictator of Paraguay and kept a prisoner for several years. Among Humboldt's and Bonpland's discoveries were the ferny and graceful *Begonia foliosa*; *balmisiana*, which they had named *populifolia* not being aware of the earlier discovery by Ruiz and Pavon; *gracilis*, which is described as the hollyhock *Begonia*; and *B. ulmifolia*.

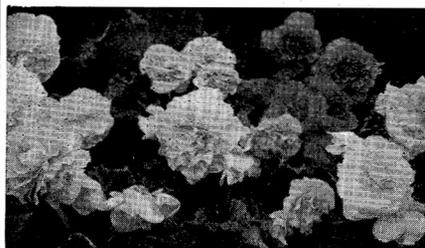
About 1814 German botanists seriously entered the race when Ferdinand Sello went to Brazil and collected assiduously for 17 years for his patron Prince Von Neuwied. Ferns and orchids were predominant, of course, and in consequence many *Begonias* were accidentally introduced, growing from the soil on other exotics. *B. semperflorens* was one of these. Several *Begonias* grew out of the sheaths of orchids while others were attached to the roots of tree ferns. *B. semperflorens* was named a second time, *Sellowii*, in honor of Sello but according to the rules the first name stands. The outstanding discovery by Sello were *B. sanguinea*, the seeds of which he sent to the botanical gardens of Berlin and *semperflorens* which was the progenitor of a large race of hybrids.

Deppe and Schiede were collectors in Mexico. In 1830 Deppe joined Dr. Schiede, a resident physician of Mexico City. They discovered the first "star *Begonia*" and introduced it into Europe. From this, *B. heracleifolia*, and its varieties some of our earliest hybrids were developed. *B. incarnata* grew from the soil on other plants and was purely an accidental discovery.

Riedel, also a German collector, who followed Sello within a few years to Brazil introduced the first silvery-gray-spotted-leaved *B. maculata* in 1819. Its synonym *B. argyrostigma* which was applied several years after it was already named has persisted to this day.

*Begonia Dregei*, discovered by Dr. Drege in Africa 1836, was the first semi tuberous species introduced.

A steady stream of *Begonias* arrived in Europe during this period and Klotzsch was able to list 210 species and



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varieties in 1854-55 before *B. Rex* and the Andean tuberous were known.

In 1852 the first yellow flowered *Begonia Xanthina* was introduced with *B. rubro-venia* both of which are in cultivation. *B. xanthina* was the forerunner of *B. Rex*, which will be discussed in a later issue.

# PLANTLY SPEAKING—ON THE SHADY SIDE

by JOHN S. VOSBURG  
Hollywood, Calif.

**W**HETHER you call it Ophiopogon Jaburan, or Mondo Jaburan, (the latter is given preference in the recently published Standardized Plant names) it is an attractive herb with grass-like sod-forming roots and foliage with innumerable uses in shade plantings. Individual clumps of either the variegated foliage or the variety with dark green leaves soon form a neatly spreading edging or turf, according to the manner in which it is planted, that retains the soil from washing off beds onto garden walks. Soon the spikes of flowers in white, sometimes bluish-white and tinted with lavender add interest to the planting, but actually most gardeners who seek it are thinking of the succeeding globe blue berries finished in a beautiful shining opalescent tone of deep blue. These are borne in racemes as tall as the flowers were, of course, carried well over the carpet of foliage in a manner altogether attractive and unusual. This magnificent border plant has a most rugged constitution, it will take lots of abuse and stand drought, yet it will respond wonderfully to proper care such as deep leafy soil with sustenance to carry it through many seasons of flowering followed by heavy fruit bearing, the while it spreads slowly but surely. Along shady driveways it is a great pleasure. In its home, Japan, it is known as the Turfing Lily or Lily-turf. As far as withstanding cold, I imagine it is quite hardy, in any case, it does very well in pots which can be plunged in the shade outdoors in summer then it may be taken indoors for the cold season where freezing weather is usual. It has a special place in lovely shade gardens that is supplanted by no other plant.

• Mr. Ferd. Neels, President of the A. B.S. desires to remind members of the very fine seventeen-page leaflet "Hints on Growing Begonias" by H. M. Butterfield. It is free. Write Mr. Butterfield, University of California, College of Agriculture, Berkeley, Calif.

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# Feeding of Tuberous Begonias

by FRANK REINELT  
Capitola, Calif.

• **FEEDING** . . . Subsequent to properly potting and feeding tuberous Begonias with liquid manure, a number of quick-acting commercial fertilizers can also be used. One of the safest is cottonseed meal, which we are using now almost exclusively, as it gives very good results. Half a teaspoonful, once or twice during the season, sprinkled around the edge of the pot (not too close to the stem) will be sufficient. Heavier doses will do more harm than good, often causing distortion in the flowers or burning up the roots, destroying the plant entirely. Lath houses with strong muslin roofs are a very suitable place for development of show specimens in warm regions where greenhouses would be too warm. If grown in a greenhouse, thorough ventilation day and night must be available. Openings in the walls under the benches, will give good circulation of air. On hot days, heavy shading and sprinkling the walks with water will keep the temperature down. 65 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit is the most ideal temperature, for as the cooler and slower they develop, the finer and larger the flowers will be. Higher temperature produce quick, weak growth, and the flowers do not develop as good size and as lasting quality.

**PRUNING** . . . Do not prune begonias. Any open wound will be immediately attacked by fungus, especially when crowded without good air circulation. If you cut the flowers, cut only half of the stem. The other half will mature and fall off easily without leaving a wound.

**BASKETS** . . . If well-balanced hanging baskets are desired, pick off all buds until the growth is enough advanced and the branching develops. Some hanging types are quite strong growers and if only one to three stems are on the tuber, they should be pinched off when first bud appears, to induce the side shoots to develop.

# Defense Gardening in the Shade

by MARIA WILKES

• Few gardeners know the value of Tobacco Stem Meal or Tobacco Leaf Dust. The gardeners who use it systematically in practically all plantings of annuals, perennials as well as bulbs literally swear by it. They do not lose plants from overnight droop; or from root infection by soil aphids and some other soil infestations. They like to set the little plant directly over a little heap of the dust and then cover with the soil to the correct level, after which the usual watering is done very carefully not to dislodge the plant or to wash away the soil from around the stem. **TRY IT.** While tobacco in these forms contains some nitrogen and other fine properties, the main benefit is derived from the prophylactic and slightly fumigant effects it has upon the soil, it seems to clear the way to the plant for straightforward growing, which it does in a much healthier and thriftier way. Besides this, the soil gradually is cleaned of several of the nuisances which bother and retard development on plants that depend on quick growth for better flowers.

• I live too far away from any branch to attend meetings, but I belong to a Begonia Round Robin Letter Club, all of us members of The American Begonia Society, but living in various parts of the United States, we thus discuss our plants and problems at long distance. I appreciate and enjoy the "Begonian."

—Alice N. Gobin  
Paradise, Calif.

Forget your troubles with some new plants or propagate from leaves and cuttings and you will have a real thrill when they are full grown with their lovely blossoms.

—Elizabeth H. Skinner

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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.

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

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, May 1st, 8 P.M.  
Woman's Club, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. R. R. White, Secretary  
937 Harding Ave., Venice, Calif.  
SPEAKER: H. Britton Logan  
SUBJECT: Nutrient Solutions

## PALOMAR BRANCH

Tuesday, May 5th, 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, May 5th  
American Legion Hall,  
North California St., Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.,  
515 So. Evergreen Drive, Ventura, Calif.

## BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, May 5th, 7:30 P.M.  
Home of Mrs. A. W. Haller, 949 E. Artesia Blvd.  
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,  
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

## SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Tuesday, May 5th  
Girl Scouts Headquarters  
1835 San Andres St., Santa Barbara.  
Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,  
210 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

## DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Wednesday, May 6th  
Dominguez Community Church,  
21503 Prospect at Adams  
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.  
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, May 6th, 8 P.M.  
1060 Francisco St.,  
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,  
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, May 7th  
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.  
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.

## HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, May 8th, 7:30 P.M.  
Mrs. Charlotte Sisson, Secy.-Treas.  
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Friday, May 8th  
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,  
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.  
Home of Mrs. Jessie Topham  
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.  
Mesdame Gall and Twomley, co-hostesses

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Saturday, May 9th  
Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secy.-Treas.,  
54 Essex St., Lynnfield Centre, Mass.  
"Begonias as House Plants"—H. L. White  
Hostess: Mrs. Gertrude MacAloney  
194 School St., Groveland, Mass.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, May 11th, 7:30 P.M.  
Democratic Hall, 5662 Atlantic Blvd.  
Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.  
5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, May 11th, 8 P.M.  
Washington School, Cor. Bancroft & Groves  
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,  
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.  
Final Plans Spring Garden Show

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, May 11th, 7:30 P.M.  
4037 39th Street  
Mrs. Clarence Moore, Secy.-Treas.  
3664 31st St., San Diego, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, May 12th, 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, May 14th, 7:30 P.M.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Helen Ehret, Secy.,  
7507 Lexington Ave., Hollywood, Calif.  
SPEAKER: George McDowell  
SUBJECT: Begonias

## PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, May 14th, 10:00 A.M.  
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,  
362 Brokway Merion, Pa.

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, May 14th, 7:30 P.M.  
Odd Fellows Temple  
728 Elm, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Ethel G. Arbuckle, Secy.-Treas.,  
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Sunday, May 17th at 2 P.M.  
American Legion Hall  
716 North First Ave., Arcadia  
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary  
419 South Ynez Ave.  
Monterey Park, Calif.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

Monday, May 18th  
329 No. Brand Blvd.  
News Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,  
709 Milford Ave., Phone Citrus 17517

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, May 18th  
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,  
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

## VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, May 21st  
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,  
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, May 26th  
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secty.  
Willow Grove, Pa.  
Home of Mrs. Alfred Boysen  
25 Tyson Ave., Glenside, Pa.

## SYRACUSE BRANCH

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

## PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY BRANCH

Wednesday, April 15th, 11 A.M.  
5343 Greene St.  
Mrs. Sophia E. Whitaker, Secy.-Treas.  
5343 Greene St., Germantown, Phila., Pa.

## SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Session: Pro-tem  
Mrs. Peter Melschau, Secy.-Treas.,  
Nipomo, Calif.

# BEGONIAS

by FRED G. WILLARD  
Pres. Pas. B. S., Pasadena, Calif.

**B**EAGONIAS form one of the most interesting and useful groups in the flower garden. There are so many types and species, over four hundred varieties are grown here, some flowering practically the whole year round. I have a border of *B. Indian maid* (red) with bronze leaf *Semperflorens* type that has been blooming constantly for three years in the same place. All one needs to do is to cut them back a little at times. You can get a *Begonia* for almost any position in the garden. For the background some of the tall woody types such as *Haageana* and *Coralline Delucerne*, *President Carnot* or *Multiflora Rosea*. They will grow 10 feet tall if you wish and have large clusters of bloom. For medium growth *Digswelliana*, *Margaritae*, *nitida*, *Preussen robusta* and *Gigantea rosea*. Some bedding varieties are: *Mrs. Margaret Ham*, *Red*, with good foliage, *Salmon Queen*, *Christmas Cheer*, *Gracillis compacta* and *Westport Beauty*, a very interesting double variety. Mr. Robinson of Point Loma contended there wasn't a time in the whole year he could not pick sixty types of *Begonia* flowers. Fibrous *Begonias* can be propagated either by stem cuttings or seed and are quite easy to grow. *Rex Begonia* is a name given to Horticultural hybrids of the colored or zoned leaf type. They form one of the most brilliant of all foliage plants and do well in a sheltered garden or on the north or east side of a porch. They are classed as *Rhizomatous* and are usually increased from leaf cuttings. Tuberous *Begonias* have the most gorgeous flowers of any of the *Begonia* family. Tubers may be secured from December to April at the seed stores or nurseries. They range in size from small to several inches across, but a medium size of about two inches across is preferred by most growers. They are long-lived and if treated right will last fifteen to twenty years. Tubers should not be started until a pink bud appears on the top of the bulb, then place them in a flat partly filled with peat and sand and cover lightly. Keep barely moist, until they sprout to three or four inches high. By this time a good rooting system has developed so that they can either be planted out in a shady location on the North or East, or pot them in five-inch pots in a slightly acid soil composed of three

parts leaf mold, two parts well-decayed cow manure, one part coarse sand and a little peat, if you desire. Use a little sphagnum moss in pots for drainage and sprinkle lightly with vaporite or crude naphtha flakes to repel pests. Plunge the pots in the ground, which makes them easier to care for and do not overwater. When the pots get full of roots, use liquid fertilizer. The same soil mixture may be used for other types of *Begonias*. The following are some of the types of Tuberous *Begonias* now available: *Lloydi*, *Giant single*, *Single frilled (crispa)*, *Single crested (cristata)*, *Single narcissiflora (Daffodil flowered)*, *Double*, *Double Camellia*, *Double Camellia picotee*, *Double rosebud*, *Double frilled (Fimbriata plena)*, *Double hanging type* and *Multiflora nana*. These main types are available in many varieties and in a wide range of colors. Buy tubers now and get the thrill of your life out of growing your own corsage or potted plants.

---

## **Begonia Elsie M. Fry (baumani X glaucophylla)**

by JOSEPH A. HAYDEN  
Tarzana, No. Hollywood, Calif.

• A full description of this *Begonia* can be found in the March 1941 issue of the *Begonian* on page 38 and 39. My reason for bringing it to the attention of readers at this time, is that the ones that I have seen in blossom this winter were—in both flower and growth—as beautiful as any *Begonia*. The flowers are as near the color of Pear blossoms as I can think of for comparison, though some of them are somewhat like the flowers of the *glaucophylla*. Not having tried to propagate it, I do not know what the difficulties may be, if any. I do know that that *glaucophylla* roots much easier in the Spring after flowering. The male flowers, I have observed, do not seem to open, so propagation would have to be from cuttings, especially as this is a first generation hybrid.

I think the Nurserymen and Florists will find this a fine plant for either pot or basket for winter bloom show.

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 and other shade-plants with a concise  
 story of the growing of them may be  
 just the very thing we are most desirous  
 to print in this Bulletin. The Editor will  
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