

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

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

CHAPTER II

HAVE you ever seen a chicken prone on his stomach tied there by a straight line drawn with chalk from his bill, That line has frozen him mentally and physically. I am that chicken when asked to confine myself to mechanical details and I dislike the situation. My advisors, however, insist that if I am to tell folks how to build a lathhouse, I should cut out the "wise-cracks".

It should be an aid to understanding the problem to lay down a few basic items, which though not exactly like the law of the Medes and Persians, are in my mind, most important. Here they are with brief reasons why they are.

The roof should be flat and the material used, ordinary size lath— $\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{4}$, because a sun filter can be made of maximum efficiency of these. (I use what is called car strips 8 ft long.) With this lath spaced the width of the lath apart and set up flat running North and South with the sunshine passing from East to West, sunshine and shade will change places every five minutes. Any departure from the flat form or the dimension of the lath interferes with the perfect functioning of the sun filter. It is much easier for a mechanic to work on the ground than up in the air so the roof of the lathhouse is built on the ground in panels 8 ft square with a strip at the ends and in the middle. The frame to take these panels should be planned in 12ft units, with rafters or stringers four feet apart. The panels will go across these so that the lath is supported at two foot intervals which will prevent any tendency to sag. Thus starting from the outside will we would have a two foot overhang, then a stringer, then in two feet, a cross strip of the panel, in two feet more, another stringer and so on. Naturally there must be departures made frequently from squares of twelve feet, which can be easily taken up by fractional panels.

The frame work for a good roof should have the tying stringer between posts 2 x 6 inches, though the cross stringers can be 1 x 6. Posts should be 6 x 6 though 3 x 4 could be used. The

posts and the stringers will then have a pergolalike effect and the lath will not be conspicuous.

It is essential for growing a miscellany of plants, and that is the object this seeks to promote, to have the roof at different elevations. Low growing plants won't do their best, especially in blooming, under a high roof, and tall growers can't grow tall under a low roof. A somewhat tardy realisation of this has led to roofs of varying heights, the elevation being made in rises of eighteen inches, leaving this space open but giving the next roof an overhang of eighteen inches to cut off direct sunlight. Beside giving different elevations, these unlathed spaces tend to spread the light so that growth underneath is more normal as the tendency to draw up is minimized. Good elevations would be 8, $9\frac{1}{2}$, 11, and $12\frac{1}{2}$ feet, and would be none too tall for some very desirable kind of lathed garden dwellers. A well built lathed house should stand on its own feet like a table, in fact it is excellent practice to set the inside posts on a cement base and not in the ground at all.

The kind of lumber to be used depends of course a good deal on what is available. Redwood for posts will last longer in the ground, though pine, if well tarred and set in cement, is good for twenty years. The pine for super-structure hardens with age and its durability need not be considered.

Having dealt with the roof, we now come to the outside walls. Provided the lathhouse is of good size, anything from 50 feet, or more square, it is not of great cultural importance how the outside walls are treated except that on the side exposed to prevailing winds, which occur in many locations, a solid construction is indicated and all sides should be solid from base for three feet. For appearance sake, lath in squares or diamonds is much preferred to paralleled lath, and is permissible on the sides though not on the roof.

On the street side, for two hundred feet my lathhouse has a rock wall with latticed windows in each twelve feet, and it has been much admired. It is of soft dull reddish sand stone just as pick-

ANNUAL ABS CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

ed up or quarried and was built against a board background nailed to the six by six uprights supporting the roof. The rock was carefully piled turning each piece to put its best looking face forward and avoiding any urge to get the front even. The back space between rock and board was filled with a good quality cement. To keep the cement from showing a moss packing was used to fill in the holes and cracks between the rocks. When the cement set the boards were removed exposing a grey wall which has harmonized with any planting and as the whole wall was set on a solid cement foundation it has stood without deteriorating for several years and looks better every year as it weathers. I do not favor a hard rock for this purpose or a fancy one as such gives too much architectural slant rather than a garden one. On another side facing the dwelling there is a three foot base of the same rock of largest units selected for looks, they are mostly surface pieces that have grey lichen patches and occasional holes with little ferns and mosses and by the time this section was reached in the building the man who placed the rock, a veritable giant who picked up a 200 pounder and turned it about like a jeweler looking at an uncut gem, had caught the spirit of the thing and he did a real job. Above this is a four inch square lathing.

There is no reason why the outside wall or walls of a lathhouse should not conform to the dwelling structure which might very well be advisable if they are close together and especially if connected by a pergola, a happy combination.

Before leaving the construction to take up interior ground planning it might be well to consider certain modifications of the general plan that has been outlined.

The city gardens, on small lots of 25 and 50 feet, far outnumber the larger spaces, and the lathhouse of a worthwhile size therein would occupy the whole area or it would be too small for practical purposes, and stick out in the landscaping plan like a sore thumb. Realization of this led to the development of what I call our Family Patch, the most approved feature of our whole lathed garden scheme. In this 40 x 60 feet an inexpensive library and reading room occupies the wind exposed end, the other three sides are enclosed by two out-

side walls and a high growth of Begonias and Fuchsias. Along the three sides runs a twelve foot pergola covered with the eight foot square lath panels leaving the center space open and the whole area free for landscaping. This affords everything from full sun to complete modifications, and has the added advantage of sunning the whole surface as the sun rays slant from the north to the south.

In the Family Patch there is a place for any plant I like and I can sit in the shade or the sun or anything between. That living conditions are superior under this treatment is proven by the fact that visitors eventually gravitate there and settle down. There is no compulsion to have the pergola run round the sides, a similar effect could be obtained with one through the center if such treatment better tied garden and dwelling together. It gives a much better effect if the pergola has different levels which break the straight uninteresting line of the roof. This is easily arranged by raising the posts of one or more sections, the twelve foot square sections advised in the regular lathhouse construction being still favored here. In this pergola treatment the larger the material used in framing, the better the pergola feature is emphasized. Such a raised section may well be treated as an outdoor lounge.

There is another feature of lathhouse planning very generally ignored but most essential and that is the working department, without which no lathed garden can function satisfactorily. This working part, which returns the real owner the best interest on his investment, should be at least half the size of the show section. It must allow room for propagating, storage of materials such as soil, pots, stakes, tools, etc., and give room for growing replacement stock and would be much more efficient if it included a bit of glass.

It is astonishing how the modern garden planned by the house architect utterly ignores the function of gardening and has no place for even such things as rakes and spades and lawn mowers which have to find an abiding place in the garage where they trip the unwary and are kicked around unceremoniously and cussed most generously.

I have always wanted to build two types of lathhouse; one on a hill slope, the other round a swimming pool and though neither wish has ever been grati-

fied I did come near enough to draw detailed plans for the former and have a definite conception of the latter in my head. Feeling sure that some day some one will want these very things, I am going to put down a general plan for both.

A certain man who had a house on a hill had long flirted with the idea of a lathhouse but could not see why I would go fifty miles joyously to consult with him for nothing but a dim prospect of a job, finally made up his mind that my advice might be worth something in hard cash and arranged to have me come up to his hilltop and look over the situation. After one abortive attempt to connect we made it on the second trail. I found he had the swimming pool and the hillside but only wanted one lathhouse. The residence was on the flattened top of a smooth but quite steep hill with an almost limitless view of similar hills and through a V shaped opening was a glimpse of the ocean. The house was a pleasing one story spreading type of cement and tile but if, as the owner hinted, landscape architects had charged him plenty for developing his grounds, they had done a better job on his purse than his land for outside the swimming pool there was nothing to show for their work as the rest of the space was just an unhappy lawn broken only by some rocks too big to remove without a major operation. I tried him first on the situation round the pool which was the apple of his eye, he could see it from his bedroom window, if he got out of bed to do so and stooped plenty, he was a big man. I drew the picture around the pool leaving strips of lawn at the waters edge then a heavy pergola with lathed roof under which the color of Begonias, etc., completed the frame, all to the added glory of his pool. He had almost signed on the dotted line when his wife put in an appearance, delayed I afterwards conceived to get him where he belonged. She was half his size and had a grown family but directly I saw her I sensed here is the party to whom I must sell the idea and was astonishingly eager to do so. Mr. Brown introduced me and asked me to outline the house round the pool again. I did so a bit more elaborately while Mrs. Brown never said a word, never looked at either of us. When I had done my best, a silence ensued, broken at last by Mr. Brown with "What do you think

of that, dear?", he was trying to "save his face," as the Oriental says, by being almost haughty but she gave him just a look and said, "I never saw a lathhouse that was not ugly." I could only say this need not be, and Mr. Brown took it out in sweating. Of course there was a bit more conversation about the house by the side of the pool but the idea was as dead as if it had never existed. Mr. Brown mopped his brow and asked me, "Where would you put the lathhouse?" Now I never expected to desecrate the sacred pool after Mrs. Brown appeared, and anyway there was not space enough to do a worthwhile thing, but I had spotted an ideal place for my hillside dream, and I pointed it out off to one side where it could be tied to the house and not obtrude itself on Mrs. Brown's view. I thought then and think now, that she had been raised in a flat country where all she saw day in and out was the dead level of the plain and the straight horizon line and now she had exchanged that deadly monotony for rolling hills, valleys, the sea, and blue sky, and she did not mean to have anything blur the picture. The hilltop had been flattened and there was a drive on a wide curve approaching the house, it was supported on the slope side by a low stone wall. This drive evidently had no use for there was no outlet unless one backed out or broke through the house but as it curved to cross the hilltop it formed a corner with a sort of miscellaneous planted hedge that ran straight down the hill between the lawn and an orchard. In this corner were a few eucalyptus trees, and having once before had my ideas utterly frustrated by an insignificant oak to which its owner clung obstinately and inexcusably, mainly because he had moved it three times at extraordinary expense, I demanded unconditionally the sacrifice of those eucalyptus. When I finished the outline of the plan I was given the order to go ahead. A survey of the location with levels and measurements was made and photos taken and detailed plans drawn and here is a description of them.

From the house was projected a heavy balustrade with the low stone driveway wall as its base giving three wide openings before the lathed structure began framing, but not obstructing the precious view. Then the spaces beyond these were closed by raising the wall a foot or so

ENTERTAINING DAY BEING PLANNED FOR CONVENTION

and lathing above in squares or diamonds to form the back of the house, which was fortunately also the windy side. Four units of twelve feet square followed by three, then two, and one went down the hill and the slope was just right to accommodate a drop of eighteen inches for each lowering of the roof. This gave the triangular effect sought and also allowed for addition by similar units if desired. It was proposed to leave the front open except for a three foot stone wall for trial, which later could be lathed in without any alteration if the exposure proved too much. A circular sitting room effect was to be made in the center and the approach was by steps from the balustrade and a paved walk entering the lathhouse on the residence end of the top units. There was also to be a complimentary planting of low flowering things in front and an exit there with a path to the pool. I had a drawing made that showed the effect and obtained a surprisingly low estimate for the construction, but alas family complications overtook the Brown family before I could begin and the deal was called off. Mr. Brown paid for these preliminary efforts like a major and that was the end of my dream lathhouse.

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

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ADVANTAGE FOR EVERYONE

• Early this year, when it was discovered that the cost of the monthly Bulletin and general administration would outweigh the subscription and membership already charged, Mr. Ed. C. Tyler, Pres. of the Inglewood Branch, came forth with an offer of a way and means of obtaining extra revenue to the Treasury of the A. B. S. while actually handing each member a service on a silver platter. The work entailed cooperation of each Branch Secretary with the help of the Branch President. The plan is that anyone wanting any magazine publication confer with the Secretary of the nearest Branch or if too far to do this, send your order to the Corres. Sec. of the A. B. S. in Monrovia, Calif, who will take your orders and subscriptions and place them immediately.. The usual commission due to Mr. Tyler is to be turned over to the A. B. S. It costs you no more, but gets you better service, if possible, and, if we all cooperate, it will gain considerable financial returns to the A. B. S. It depends on each one of us. Let us get more interest out of our leisure time by reading more. Here is the opportunity. Branch Secretaries should contact Mrs. Hartwell for further information though they should have it already at hand for quick action.

—Your Editor



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Branch News

The Hollywood Branch expects a record attendance for the September meeting, with speaker Mr. H. Britton Logan, Jr., of West Los Angeles, author on begonias and subjects related to them, who will give a talk on, "New Phases of Pot Culture and Substitutes for Fertilizers."

July Meeting, M.C.G., Branch of A.B.S.

• Beginning with April, 1942, it was planned that each month a different member should take over the program for the monthly meeting.

Mrs. Ruth Prince was chairman for July, and her plan was so outstanding that we want to tell other readers of *The Begonian* about it. She came to the meeting equipped with a map of the world, 8 sheets of typewriter paper each containing the name of 8 Begonia species and the country in which each was discovered, and at least 65 push or map pins.

The sheets were distributed to 8 of those present, together with 8 map pins for each sheet. Then as she called out the species name from a master sheet, a push pin was placed in the country this Begonia was first discovered in.

To our great surprise, the audience and those partaking in the program found the push pins indicated that an unbelievable number of Begonias were discovered on the Pacific Coast of South America, Central America and Mexico—making it very plain why Begonias grow so well at Point Loma and generally on the West Coast of California. If anyone does not believe this an informative plan, try it out, and see what a surprise you have coming to you.

Margaret C. Gruenbaum

The features of **The East Bay Branch's** July meetings were a fine plant exchange and open forum. For August, Mr. Goodnow advises that the members who are

interested in Tuberous Begonias brought specimens of plants or blossoms and told about their character and culture. To make the meeting attractive, refreshments were served. On August 23rd the members were invited by a co-member to attend a Tea at his house where he presented each one with a Rex Begonia propagated by him from leaf cuttings of Begonias the Branch had exhibited at The Golden Gate Exposition.

San Gabriel Branch members are looking back on two outstanding meetings, one in which a tidy sum of over \$50.00 was made through a splendid plant sale and the proceeds donated to the A.B.S. and the other one in which the Treasurer of the A.B.S. spoke to them on Fancy-leaved Caladiums, in the cultivation of which he is an exceptional expert, plus learning from him how to heat the lath-house and greenhouse most economically which happens to be his business.

The Inglewood Branch enjoyed another splendid plant sale donated by the members at the last meeting, to say nothing of the very fine talk given by Mrs. Sims, on Ferns. Each time Mrs. Sims speaks she gives a wealth of information. It is planned to have Mr. W. B. Richmond show his films about his trip to the Dutch East Indies and Australia showing lovely Begonias there, as the big treat for the September meeting. Do not miss it. Guests are welcome, so bring your friends. At this meeting the proceeds of the plant sale over and above expenses will be donated to the Glendale Branch to help defray the costs of the convention. Come and be very generous, also bring a plant to help out.

(Continued on Page 143)

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

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ONE-DAY CONVENTION — ONE BEST PLANT EXHIBITION



BEGONIA REX RULES LIFE OF LEO STEINER by MARIA WILKES

photos by Lindberg Studio, Inglewood, Calif.

HOW did Mr. Leo Steiner get started on the hobby of growing Begonias? Just over a year ago, he walked into a nursery where he saw a crowd of half-sick-looking Begonias. He was suddenly overtaken by the intriguing desire to see if HE could do better with these interesting but half-starved-looking plants. He asked questions, fussed around with the idea for a little while and then bought about fifty plants. He took them home and farmed them out on the shady side of the house, then proceeded to learn how to clean the plants thoroughly. In six months there was not an insect or pest of any kind around them and they were beginning to look as though they were really growing apace with shiny, clean, beautifully marked and healthy growth. In the meantime he had bought Rex Begonias here, there and everywhere he could find something different from those he had. He tried all kinds of fertilizers, and nine months ago

built a lath-house 40' x 48' covered with heavy unbleached muslin. Now he is finishing a second lath-house and planning a third.

He is a very busy man as he has a business to attend to, but his hobbies of Rex Begonias, Chinese flowering Magnolias and Camellias with a growing collection of Billbergias (See former articles on Pineapple family—Billbergias) keep him thoroughly occupied in all his spare time everyday—but extremely happy. He loves to have plant lovers see his plants, but since it is quite a trip, do call him on the telephone to make sure he will be at home before going for a most interesting visit—Oregon 8-1637, 14807 Condon Avenue, Lawndale, Calif.

The North side of the lath-house is boarded in from ground to ceiling and in the center of the wall there is a moss wall that is dripping here and there with various Rex Begonias and other suitable plants. The house is divided so as to



have three lengthwise walks toward the moss wall with two sets of shelves placed along the wide beds in such a manner that both sides of the shelves may be used, and the bed surrounding the elevated shelves may be landscaped. The left central bed is already crammed with all kinds of prize plants with ferns and a few other than Begonia plants. The right central set of shelves is crowded with his own seedlings of Rexes. Among them are two outstanding Rexes, of which we shall hear further, later. The extreme right bed is planted to Camellias and various other types of plants besides specimen Rexes. The extreme left is the work-shop. Here he has his many propagating flats. The above pictures show the central bed cut in the center so as to almost give a panoramic view of the lath-house. The hundreds of pots with their precious plants are so well cared for that it is a thrill to see every perfect leaf, one has to look hard to find flaws in these wonderful leaves, and all of them so busy growing, growing bigger and with more beautiful leaves. There are many seed

pods showing that Mr. Steiner intends to have plenty of plants for that third lath-house soon. We shall have to ask him to tell us how he succeeds in growing his Rexes so very magnificently.

◆
 • Question: I am told there is some chemical that helps in bringing out the colours in Coleus, what is it?

Answer: We understand that Potassium phosphate in light doses will do this.

◆
 • Correction: In the last paragraph of "Begonian odorata alba and its Babies" of August issue, speaking of the results from strong Xray treatment and crossed with double red Tuberous, the flower is PINK instead of white. Please mark your article accordingly.

◆
 • Good pictures of your finest Begonias 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 welcome such contributions.

SELECT BEST OF ALL PLANTS TO SHOW AT CONVENTION

Prepare for Freezing Weather

by MARGARET S. MYERS
Merion, Pa.

• They say that there is never a loss without some gain. If it is true, perhaps something may be gained from my experience of the coldest night of last Winter. Through a belated delivery of oil the furnace fire went out about four o'clock in the morning. It was only out for SIX HOURS, but in that time my Begonia bench in the greenhouse was a sorry-looking mess.

It was quite amazing to see which of the Begonias were able to withstand the freeze and which were badly affected. For instance, B. Scotch luxurians which is very succulent, was very little burned, yet B. Marion and B. ricinifolia were frozen down to the last stem and looked like cooked spinach. Another surprise was the very delicate B. Dawn, only lost a leaf or two, while near it, B. Abel Carriere, much sturdier, was almost gone. About six o'clock in the morning I sprayed the plants with cold water and noted that the ground was not frozen. Three weeks after the freeze, the Begonia Club paid us a visit, this is what was found. The plants that were so badly frozen which we thought were a total loss were Begonias perfecta*; argenteo guttata (one argenteo that was planted in the bench, tho' next the glass, was only partly frozen. Two large plants in pots were completely gone; Bayern; Berthe du Chateau Rocher; coccinea; Costa Rica species‡; foliosa*; dichroa; Dorothy Grant; Fisher's ricinifolia‡; Florida species°; Mrs. Kimball; Lady Waterlow; Macbethi° (this plant was frozen to the ground but the bulb seemed sound and later recovered beautifully). Begonias: manicata; Machu Pichu or 1773 or roezli; Marion°; Marjorie Daw; sessifolia; Mrs. Scripps*; Mrs. Mary Peace‡; multiflora rosea**; Nelly Geddis; nitida*; olbia; odorata alba; Orrell; Perle Lorraine; robusta; rosea gigantea; Rosie Murphiski*; rubra dielytra; Rubrapink; Sachsen°; Sarabelle; speculata‡; Sunderbruchii; ulmifolia; Viaude; and vitifolia.

The following were very badly frozen, but already at this time they were showing little signs of life, either by a shoot coming up from the root or by minute specs of green at the nodes. Begonias: Abel Carriere; angularis; Audree;

OUR OWN ABSOLUTELY NEW BEGONIAS

Due to war conditions, our location on the coast and our splendid crop of new and second generation hybrid seed coming on we are offering the following varieties as worthwhile additions to your shady gardens. Many of them should have been propagated to tens of thousands and sold under patent, but that they may live and brighten your homes sooner, we are offering limited quantities at prices far below their true worth.

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Baby calla. A pink like above but with single flowers and growth less than half the size of the old calla with whiter leaves and much better branching habit. Each.....\$2.50

Winter Hollyhock. A Martiana x Socotrana hybrid that grows to two feet with lovely bright pink flowers. Blooms till Christmas and multiplies by stem bulblets. Each.....\$1.00

Spider Web. An Evansiana x Socotrana hybrid with round leaves, bright green with red veins, pink fragrant long lasting flowers in successive clusters. A very interesting cross for further work. Multiplies rapidly by bulblets and blooms fall and winter. Each.....\$1.00

Soco Rose. Of all the fragrant single begonias we have grown this group is tops. Three inch rose pink flowers in successive flowering clusters that string out to over 20 blooms one after the other for months and often branch to three or four branches making sometimes over 80 flowers from each joint. Fall and winter bloomers. Cuttings from plants that wintered through in growth in a cool greenhouse. Each.....\$1.50

Kris Krinkles. The best plant out of thousands of seedlings of Socotrana x double Tuberous, perfectly double camellia type flowers of light red with wrinkled edges carried in clusters up to 7 doubles four inches across by three inches deep. Miles ahead of the old Hiemalis group, naturally blooms August to after Christmas. Each.....\$2.50

Carol Imp. An interesting cross in fibrous that gives a plant somewhat similar to old speculata but with better carriage of bloom and mostly pink. Seedlings ready for 4 inch pots. Each.....50c

New Spiral Rexes. We have several hundred seedlings ranging from pure green to pure silver with as good or better curls than Countess Ercedy. Many of them will eventually carry leaves twice as large and some are miniatures. We can't grow them all to maturity and since the general run is better than any of the old varieties we are offering them to you with our hopes that you may have the finest spiral there is. Each \$1.00

Silver Sweet. One of our best silver seedlings with small green star in center and 2½ inch bright pink flowers carried above the foliage. Lovely fragrance in morning. Each.....50c

Nigger Tree. We believe this to be the tallest growing Rex. Over five inches between joints. Our plant grows more like a rubra than Rex but has leaves the color of King Edward but not quite as large. Pink flowers. Fine for background. Each.....\$1.00

Winter Rexes. Our Socotrana x Rex seedlings with leaves from the size of a dollar to 10 inches from pure green to pure silver through mottlings. Some are beautiful blooming varieties. Each 50c

OADR. So far as we know the only plant ever grown to flower between the tall cane type fibrous and the double tuberous. odorata alba crossed with double red tuberous. A splendid basket plant carrying 2½ inch semi-double pink flowers in successive clusters THE YEAR AROUND. Each.....\$2.50

We grow large quantities of Rex, tuberous, fibrous and hybrid types for mail order only. Our plants are not picked over by a retail trade first.

A few plants B. Elsie Fry. Each.....50c

Woodriff's Fairyland Begonia Garden
Harbor - Oregon

Bellagio; acida (Braziliensis); Corallina Delucerna; De Lesseps; Digswelliana; Dominican species; Dregei; Elithe; fuchsioides; fuchsioides coccinea; Gilsoni; Helen King; immense; Lecco; Lugano; maculata; manicata-aureo; Paul Bruant; picta alba; Pres. Carnot; red rubra; rubella; Templini; verschaffeltiana and Weltoniensis rubra. These are now all flourishing exceedingly well, in fact, my lath-house looks like a tropical jungle. Begonias really need a lath-house here in the East. Next year I plan to put a lot of Tuberous Begonias in the lath-house for better results than I now enjoy in a shaded bed outdoors.

An interesting thing has been noted by two of our members. Both had seedlings this Spring from *B. semperflorens* that were bedded out last year. We had a mild winter last year and evidently the seeds lived over tho' no extra covering was given the beds.

The group which stood the cold very well should be marked triple X, for on these only signs of a freeze were to be noticed: *Begonia Chiala*; *coccinea* unnamed seedling; *Compta*; *Croftoni*; *Cypraea*; *Dawn*; *De Cours*; *Druryi*; *Echinosepala*; *frutescans*; *glaucophylla scandens*; *Grace*, *Haageana* (all *Begonias* showing the *Haageana* blood seemed to have stood up very well); *Houghtoni*; *Jinnie May*; *Lady Lou*; *lindleyana*; *lobata variegata*; *loma alta*; *palmifolia*; *Shasta Pink*; *prunifolia*; *scotch luxurians*; *suncana* or *palomar*; *undemille*; *Vedderi*; and *Mrs. Wallow*.

The *Rexes* varied a great deal. Some were badly frozen, could not tell at that time whether they might come back or not, others showed signs of life even then, some few plants lost only a few leaves, but the majority were hard hit.

By July all the *Rexes* were in good growing condition and very particularly the *B. Macbethii*. Most interesting is the fact that some I thought lost, came back, others "gave up the ghost" and I had thought them saved!

This experience will be of little value, if any at all, to the *Begonians* in California or in the South, but to the *Begonia* lovers of the East, who often wish to put some plants on "the third floor," it will, I hope, act as somewhat of a guide as to which plants to choose, if it comes to a matter of room space. I expect to winter my plants in the house and basement this winter as we do not think there will be any oil available.

- * Fair recovery
- ° Good recovery
- ** Very good recovery
- † Struggling
- ‡ From root very well (or rhizomes)

• **Mr. Harold Hart** will divulge his plans for the One-day Convention through the publication of the next *Begonian*. This we do know, it will be a little later than originally planned, it will be for a complete day and evening, so bring a pair of comfortable walking shoes, particularly for the morning Garden Tour, and be prepared to have a delightful banquet with a very fine speaker. Bring your very best plant for exhibition, just one, and you may win the prize for the best in that class, or maybe the sweepstakes. It will be very much worth your while to plan to be with us on that day, so—until next month, bide in happy gardening peace.

<p><i>Pestless</i> LIKWID-GRO</p> <p>and <i>Pestless</i> GREEN HOUSE SPRAY</p> <p>to control</p> <p>Aphis - Beetles - Worms That destroy foliage</p>	<p>The Balanced Liquid Fertilizer</p> <p>and <i>Pestless</i> SLUG and SNAIL BAIT</p> <p>The Green, Fine-texture bait that's DIFFERENT</p>
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PREPARE TO ENJOY TOUR OF GARDENS IN GLENDALE

Redwood Bark Fibre To Help Gardening In Many Ways

by RAY OLLESTAD
Santa Cruz, Calif.

• The answer to the question which has always puzzled laymen as well as scientists, why redwoods live 6000 years and longer without their commercial value being affected by harmful fungi or by injuries caused by insect pests, may be found in their bark. Nature, apparently, has stored in the bark of the redwood tree most of the elements that prevent the development of the usual type of fungi and at the same time act as insect repellents.

This, perhaps, may be one of the discoveries which resulted from experiments conducted for the past year by the Redwood Fibre Products Company, Inc., of this city with their "Sani-Soil," a mulch made from Redwood bark.

Fibre Holds Moisture in Soil

Discovery of the remarkable qualities of this mulch was made by John Alexander, vice-president and general manager of the company which has headquarters and factory in Santa Cruz, California. The discovery was made quite by accident, when it was noted that the very short redwood fibre which was wasted after all commercial fibre had been removed from the bark, would hold moisture in the ground. Weeds and tall grass around the unmulched ground dried out as the season advanced, while those on the Redwood bark mulch covered places remained green throughout the entire summer without watering.

Definite experiments followed in two localities, considerably distant from each other and with different soil and climatic conditions. One at the Vetterle & Reinelt nursery in Capitola and the other in Fillmore, Santa Barbara county, where Fillmore Union high school agricultural classes carry on horticultural experiments on a plot of ground.

Leaf Mold Mix

Frank Reinelt of Vetterle & Reinelt, internationally famous for the work he has done in hybridizing begonias, has found a formula of one-third "Sani-Soil" and two-thirds leafmold in seed beds, covering the seed with an additional fine dusting of "Sani-Soil." This method entirely eliminated the formation of any moss or algae. Germination, according to Reinelt, was excellent and no dampening off appeared. In fact, in this group he produced the finest stand of begonia seedlings he ever had, with losses cut down to zero.

Here as well as at Fillmore the immediate results showed that snails and similar pests kept off the ground covered

with "Sani-Soil" and weeds were choked out. The mulch applied over the previously watered soil held just the necessary moisture in the ground, preventing a rapid evaporation of the moisture rising from the sub-soil to the surface.

Cover Top Soil

Reinelt stated:

"We grew callas in pots for early flowering and used "Sani-Soil" to cover the top soil in most of the pots to a depth of from one-fourth to one-half inch. These grew beautifully; the soil kept moist and it remained sweet under the mulch. The few pots that were not mulched kept drying out rapidly, moss forming very early and the soil turning slightly sour, stunting the growth and delaying the flowering.

When properly handled it will eliminate a great many difficulties such as moss forming on the surface and dampening off. It will also aid in developing better root systems for the young seedlings. Undoubtedly it will be of great value in plant cultivation, especially under glass."

Expense Saver

The seed and flower beds which are cared for by Reinelt are an outstanding example of what saving in time, energy, and expense the new product may mean. Reinelt says it saves from 60 to 80 per cent watering with practically no weeds coming up at all, if it is spread evenly over the ground.

"Under normal conditions," Reinelt says, "when seeds come up, moss and algae start forming from the dampness and the soil turns sour as a result. By putting "Sani-Soil" on the ground, weed growth is greatly retarded. If used thickly enough it will choke out small weeds.

Check Weeds

A layer of from two to three inches will check growth of most weeds among the larger plants. The fibre has no capillary attraction. It will hold moisture in the ground and keep soil temperature even.

The Redwood Fibre Products Company is convinced that "Sani-Soil" is a sure way to control most plant diseases and insect pests in our gardens and orchards; that it will prove a boon to the nursery man and because of its simple and harmless application, to the home gardener as well.

Reprinted from the Santa Cruz Sentinel-News
Sunday, August 9, 1942

Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

by JOHN S. VOSBURG
Hollywood, Calif.

• Shade is created either by something natural or something structural. In either case, provision is made for hanging baskets. Well-grown plants in hanging baskets add much to any shaded area and careful planning will find room for more baskets than you ever believed possible. A suitable and very attractive plant for hanging baskets is *Achimenes longiflora*. Here we have a small tuberous plant that covers itself with showy flowers in mauve, white or light blue, with leaves of a warm mahogany color and lightly covered with a fuzz. Its use is not limited to hanging baskets in favored sections, but used as such increases the growing range of this very attractive plant. Attractive, yes, but they are a test of a grower's skill for they respond in proportion to the right amount of skillful attention.

Achimenes prefer a well-drained, rather rich, leafy compost and very little sunlight, then they soon cover a basket. A wire-basket lined with green moss and then filled with the growing medium allows full development of the plant. They are shallow, almost surface rooted bulbs so their moisture demands are such as must be carefully considered. Being heavy feeders indicates regular feedings with liquid manure from the time they show a desire for development.

Care should be used in ripening the tubers so that they may be used again next year. They may be planted in pots for spotting in sheltered places around the garden or in the house, and gardeners who have lathhouses with landscaped effects use them tumbling over the edge of rock walls for a very delightful effect.

◆

• **Branch Secretaries Please Note:** Send all matters and inquiries pertaining to membership or dues or leaflets to Mrs. Harry Harker, 2751 E. 17th Street, Long Beach, to avoid extra expense and loss of time.

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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, Sept. 13th, 2 p.m., at Auditorium Jim Dandy Market, Crenshaw Blvd. and 84th Place, Inglewood, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, September 1st
Home of Mrs. Jessie Topham,
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

PALOMAR BRANCH

Meetings Suspended
Mrs. E. A. Boillot, Secy.-Treas.,
Route 1, Box 445, Oceanside, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, September 1st, 8:00 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Ralph Jump,
950 Maple Street, Bellflower, Calif.
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, September 1st
American Legion Hall.
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.,
515 So. Evergreen Drive, Ventura, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Wednesday, September 2nd
Dominguez Community Church,
21503 Prospect at Adams
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, September 2nd, 8:00 p.m.
1060 Francisco St.,
Harry F. O'Donnell, Secy.-Treas.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Thursday, September 3rd
Home of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Davis,
3019 Serena Rd., Santa Barbara, Calif.
Mrs. Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,
210 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, September 3rd
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, September 4th, 8:00 p.m.
Auditorium Better Foods Market
Crenshaw Blvd. and 84th Place
Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. R. R. White, Secretary
937 Harding Ave., Venice, Calif.
Speaker: W. B. Richmond

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, September 8th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Library, Walnut and Garfield
Samuel R. Works, Secy.
71 N. San Gabriel, Pasadena, Calif.
Speaker: Mrs. Ruby Liedler
Subject: Fuchsias

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, September 10th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Helen Ehret, Secy.
7507 Lexington Ave., Hollywood, Calif.
Speaker: Mr. H. Britton Logan, Jr.
Subject: "New Phases Pot Culture."

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, September 10th, 10:00 a.m.
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,
362 Brokway Merion, Pa.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, September 10th, 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, September 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins,
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Charlotte Sisson, Secy.-Treas.,
6025 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Saturday, September 12th
Annual Election of Officers
Mrs. B. W. Skinner, Secy.-Treas.,
54 Essex St., Lynnfield Centre, Mass.
Guest Speakers: Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Starr,
418 Hamilton Street, Southbridge, Mass.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Sunday, September 13th, 2p.m.
Roy Elgins, 5975 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. H. A. Cuyler, Secy.-Treas.
5676 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Flower Show

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, September 14th, 8:00 p.m.
Washington School, Cor. Bancroft & Groves
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, September 14th, 7:30 p.m.
4037 39th Street, San Diego
Mrs. Edwin F. Barker, Secy.-Treas.,
4561 El Cerrito Dr., San Diego, Calif.

VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, September 17th
11228 Atlantic Ave.
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Sunday, September 19th, 2:00 p.m.
American Legion Hall, 716 N. 1st Ave., Arcadia
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary
419 South Ynez Ave.
Monterey Park, Calif.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Monday, September 21st
329 No. Brand Blvd.,
New Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,
709 Milford Ave., Phone Citrus 17517

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, September 21st
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, September 22nd
Local Flower Shows
Mrs. Wm. L. Paxson, Secty.
Willow Grove, Pa.

SYRACUSE BRANCH

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

PHILADELPHIA AND VICINITY BRANCH

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

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Mrs. Peter Melschau, Secy.-Treas.,
Nipomo, Calif.

The San Diego Branch will surely accept our apology for the following typographical errors in the August issue of The Begonian. Rr. Russ Eaker is President while Mrs. Eaker is National representative, and for one of the Directors we named Mrs. but it should have been Mr. J. S. Michel. A letter from the past President Mrs. Nadine Woods mentions the membership growing from fourteen to seventy or more in the year. How very fine. Of course, we enjoy the nice things said to us about the enjoyment and useful value of The Begonian, but we like to be correct about our statements, hence, please note above corrections. We read rather enviously of the happy times they have at Rosecroft Begonia Gardens.

The Palomar Branch has suspended meetings for the duration due to dimout rulings.

Riverside Branch members and friends will meet at the home of Mrs. Jessie Topham, 4620 Arlington Ave., for a potluck supper and Birthday cake in September, celebrating the first anniversary. Our congratulations to the twenty-eight members for past achievements and lots of happy gardening times for the ensuing year.

• The Santa Barbara Public Library was transformed into a lush, shaded garden for the first of what it is hoped will be an annual show of shade loving plants, by members of the Santa Barbara Begonia Soc. on July 24-25. Free of charge

Most showy entries in the strictly non-competitive events were the tuberous begonias, specialty plants of many of the members. All types of this species were displayed, from the small single blooms to great camellia-like flowers of delicate shading.

Masses of various types of fibrous begonias and foliage plants formed a background for the table displays which included Rex, Fibrous, and tuberous begonias, streptocarpus, fuchsias, ferns, and other lovers of shade.

Outstanding in the exhibit was a miniature garden prepared by Mrs. Elsie M. Frey. The calla lily begonia display also attracted a great deal of attention.

Members of the Society remained on duty throughout the show to explain the various plants on exhibition.

Exhibitors included Rudolph Ziesenne, Mrs. Elsie Frey, Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger, Mr. and Mrs. James Wait, Mrs. J. L. Frank, Mrs. Pauline Gullifer, Mrs. Lorena Meigs, Mrs. John Morelli, Mrs. Allan F. Duncan and Bert Kallman.

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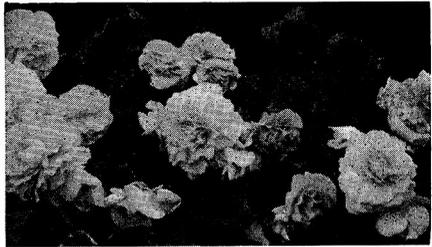
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