

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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The Christmas Spirit

● What a glorious world this would be—IF—we all had FAITH and PRIDE in each other. If we consistently worked for Beauty, and gave GOOD CHEER and GOOD FELLOWSHIP instead of affecting these qualities at command for special effects. Were we to get together and work for such a common purpose as Peace and Good-will to men . . . and believed in it, what could we not do with this weary old world of ours? Rejuvenation. Happiness, Prosperity and Well-Being — would these not be our common daily pass-words? Optimistically — as

Editor of this magazine and as your friend, I wish for each and every one of you and yours, the strength to work for VICTORY and a lasting and enduring Peace with Good-will to all men.

● Xmas present list bothering you? Where can you find a gift that comes to life with a smile each month of the year plus conferring membership in our splendid organization — better than — THE BEGONIAN?

● Give THE BEGONIAN for a HAPPY BIRTHDAY, too.

Tuberous Rooted Begonia Compost

By O. A. COCHRUN
Ventura, California

• As promised in the September issue of *The Begonian*, we now let you share the special formula by which Mr. and Mrs. Cochrun grow especially fine "sidewalk Tuberous Begonias." This is about the time Mr. Cochrun suggests this procedure should be carried out. He says that it may be done as late as January, but early December will be much better.

Provide a five-gallon can, fill it half-full of the best steer manure available, add half a pound of fish-meal—mix the two well together, fill the can to the top with water and cover so that the flies will not get to it. Let this mixture stand for a month.

Operation two: Turn out into a larger container and add all the clean oak leaf mold the mixture will absorb, to the point of complete saturation of the dry material without leaving any moisture. This must be mixed every day for a few days to ripen.

Operation three: Turn the mixture out into a wooden box in which it may be allowed to dry, but remain covered, until April. This is the BASIC mixture—or Basic Compost.

In April, take one part of the Basic Compost and mix it with five parts of regular, clean oak or chapparal leaf mold that has been watered once with boiling water just prior to mixing with the Basic compost. This "5 to 1 mixture" is the medium that has proved so very successful for the last three years. It is too strong for Fibrous rooted Begonias.

Right in Ventura we were surprised to find the antithesis to the preachment for special soil mixtures entailing a great deal of work for the growing of Tuberous-rooted Begonias.

Mr. Clarence Mets, President of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of Ventura, had proof to show us in the form of large, well grown and beautifully developed plants in ten-inch pots, all with saucer-size Tuberous-rooted Begonia blooms—grown in: Two parts soil, one part Canadian Peat Moss, and one part sand. We must, however, state that the soil he uses is composted Bermuda sod. We all know the richness of

(Continued on page 218)

Question For the Question Box

• The M. C. G. Branch of the A. B. S. has endeavored to open its meetings with the Begonia Song, but we have had difficulty finding music to suit the words. Are other Branches using the song, and if so, would it not be worth while to print the music for the song in the *Begonian*?—M. C. Gruenbaum.

Ans. Sing it to the music of "I've Been Working on the Railroad," available from almost any music shop.

A Letter To YOU

By J. L. BAILY, President,
The American Begonia Society
El Monte, California

• Your present Board of Directors, whose term as a Board member expires this month, would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your whole-hearted support during the past twelve months. As Presiding officer of that Board I would like to assure you of my appreciation of your cooperation. It has never been my pleasure to work with a more sympathetic or understanding group of people. I, personally, have enjoyed every minute of every meeting and it is with sincere regret that I pass the gavel to your incoming President, Clarence Hall. I know, however, that the destiny of our organization is passing into competent hands. I would like to thank every member of the Board for the untiring work and splendid manner in which each assumed any task laid at his or her door.

I wish each one of you a Bright and Cheerful Christmas and a VICTORIOUS New Year. May we all look forward to accomplishing everything in the New Year which we have dreamed of but failed to do during the past year.

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Branch News

San Gabriel Valley Branch: Our ABS President's Home Branch will meet on Thursday, December 30th, combining thusly the regular meeting with a Christmas party and felicitations to Mr. Baily for a fine year's work as National leader. The speaker of the evening is the proprietor of the lovely Camellia Gardens we visited during the Annual Convention, Mr. Harry Davis, who has recently joined our organization. Visitors are welcome. Fellowship Hall, 304 E. Valley Blvd., El Monte, California.

San Diego Branch: From Mrs. Clarence E. Moore, Pub. Ch., we hear that about a hundred members and guests greatly enjoyed listening to Mr. William Ross on the growing of Rex Begonias. Of particular value was his advice on the making of compost incorporating all good garden refuse, lawn clippings, etc. Due to the scarcity of leaf mold, gardeners will benefit greatly through the use of nature's fertilizer. Mr. Ross' Begonias were eagerly sought during the plant sale. A social hour followed with refreshments served by the hostesses, augmented by Russ Eaker, their genial President.

Riverside Branch: The December meeting will be held at the C. O. Meyer home, with Mesdames Smith and Schaefer as co-hostesses.

Philobegonia Club: Though this group is having trouble in finding a suitable meeting time for most of the members, they maintain monthly meetings as usual. The day found best for the present is the THIRD Thursday (Dec. 16th, 1943). The following are the officers who will guide the activities of this group from December, 1943, for the next year.

President: Mrs. E. C. Drew; Vice-President, Mrs. P. D. Richards; Treasurer, Mrs. A. H. Gere; Secretary, yet to be secured.

The group has planned for special study through the coming year: the Hairy-leaved members of the fibrous rooted Begonias, especially the hybrids
(Continued on page 216)

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Mrs. Henry Flaitz's Rex Begonias

(Part II. See November Issue)

• With the presentation, this month, of two more of the splendid pictures taken by Rudolph Ziesenhene and reproduced herein as well as in the November issue by his consent, we draw attention to the beauty that may be created by an amateur of only seven years' experience with Rex Begonias and only four years of hybridizing.

Mrs. Flaitz is so naively modest, that it is almost impossible to have her write much about her achievements, but by a visit with her in her lovely hillside Rex Garden one gleans pearls of Begonia wisdom that should be enjoyed by all Begonia lovers.

Experienced Rex Begonia growers may all know well that to be successful in the growing of these plants one must plant the seed as soon as it is dry, or as soon thereafter as physically possible. Beginners: note. There are many of Mrs. Flaitz's crosses being carefully checked for the usual three years to be sure that they are well fixed, in the meanwhile, she is never idle. She dreams actively of improvements in this and that strain, many more curls with brighter and more metallic colors are being sought in difficult and patience-trying crosses.

Mrs. Flaitz watches most alertly for that tell-tale "crook" in the neck of the seed pod which denotes the setting of seed, and then that seed pod has to be watched until the right moment to be picked before it will crack thus expelling the seed abroad.

The manner in which the seedlings are planted out in the hillside garden makes it possible to study the group produced from each seed pod more directly and thoroughly. Being treated identically, the separate characteristics show up more clearly and a choice of the more deserving individuals is made with more certainty.

Mrs. Flaitz grows many kinds of Be-
(Continued on next page)

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(Photograph by Rudolph Ziesenhenne, Santa Barbara, Calif.)

This is Ojai, the cross made during the first year of hybridizing. This year the hanging plant of Ojai measures 37 inches across, with countless, large spiralled leaves.

gonias so as to have all types at hand with which she may be guided to make crosses of interest. We noticed Leslie Woodriff's "PET" which she says makes

a wonderful basket; we corroborate her statement. Mr. Ziesenhenne's "Indian Maid" showed to advantage among the
(Continued on page 215)

Delightful Fertilizer Business

By A. F. THORNTON
Pasadena, Calif.

• That heading probably sounds very ambiguous to you, and it would to me too if manures were the only fertilizers I am thinking of. Even they, manures, have their own particular delight in making your ground over and making "two blades of grass grow where only one grew before." That same grass will have better color and grow more prolifically if a concentrated plant food is added, particularly liquid plant food which is extremely easy to apply through garden hose. It has no odor or other disagreeable faults so often attributed to other types of fertilizer.

For many months it looked as if liquid plant foods for flowers, lawns, etc., would be out for the duration. Our government thought we would have only enough synthetic nitrates for munitions and vegetables and quite naturally decided these were more important toward winning the war than flowers or lawns.

Last September the War Production Board notified all fertilizer manufacturers they were to sell no more synthetic nitrates in mixed fertilizers. We could, however, sell what was already put up in bottles, if we were lucky enough to have any. That stock was soon gone and then what to do?

Our help dispersed far and wide, into defense mainly, where they were paid about twice the amount we felt we could afford. Then what to do? Close down and let our investment go? We have a lot of odds and ends, tanks and other material, that have cost quite a sum. We were faced with a problem that almost flooded us for a time. I am well on the shady side of fifty and have been in the fertilizer business in southern California for over thirty years; that's about all I know and to pull out and go into something else would be difficult to say the least. Anyway, what could I go in except a defense job of some kind

(Continued on page 218)



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BY ELENOR CROWDER, Librarian
The Clayton M. Kelly Research Dept.

Books and Pamphlets

- THE BEGONIAN, Vol. 1-4, 1934-1937
5, 1938
6, 1939
7, 1940
8, 1941
9, 1942
- Butterfield, H. M.—Hints on Growing Begonias; University of California, April, 1940.
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- Everett, T. H.—Begonias, a series of illustrated articles reprinted from The Journal of the New York Botanical Garden, March, 1939 - January, 1940.
- Fotsch, Karl Albert—Die Begonien, ihre, beschreibung, kulture, etc.; Stuttgart, B. Ulmer, 1933—English translation by Hans Schломoka.
- Gause & Bissell—Illustrated Catalogue of Flowers, 1892-1905; Richmond, Indiana; photostatic copies of sections on begonias.
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- Merrill, E. D.—Philippine Species of Begonia; Philippine Jour. of Science, Dec., 1911.
- New York Botanical Garden—List of references on begonias; a bibliography.
- Smith, Lyman B.—Begoniaceae; Flora of Peru, June 30, 1941.
- Tuberous Begonias**
- Ark, P. A.—Bacteriosis of Tuberous Begonias; Phytopathology, July, 1939.
- Dyckman, H. P.—Tuberous Begonias, their propagation and culture; Amer. Begonia Society Spec. Bul. No. 1, 1941.
- Gillespie, Norvell—How to Grow Tuberous Begonias; Lane Publishing Co., San Francisco, 1940.

(Continued on page 223)



(Photograph by Rudolph Ziezenhenne, Santa Barbara, Calif.)

At the time Frances Kay, this Evansiana and Rex cross, was photographed, it measured 47 inches across.

MRS. FLAITZ'S REX BEGONIAS

(Continued from page 213)

other colors. She praised the fine work being done by Mrs. Fry of Santa Barbara, who is striving for finer pastel shades and spoke so dearly of the Robinsons and how much they have meant in her short life as a grower of Begonias. She made us feel that whoever has given her a plant, or seed, such as the seed of wild species Begonias given her by Mr. Clayton M. Kelly, has imbued that seed or plant with a special personality so that in talking about the plants the donor is seemingly standing in smiling admiration close by. We shall look for-

ward to the productions of Mrs. Flaitz with the help of her silent partner Mr. Henry Flaitz.

Please Note: Through an unexplainable oversight, we omitted in November, to mention that the fine pictures of Mrs. Flaitz's Hillside garden as presented in the November issue were released to us by special permission of Mr. Rudolph Ziesenhenne, of Santa Barbara, California.

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BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 212)

and seedlings of the Haageana, scharfiana, metallica and echinosepala species. They hope they will learn the origin and description of three or four kinds at each meeting the while discussing the various methods to grow them better.

Margaret Gruenbaum Branch: The October meeting was held in the home of Ruth Prince, on Saturday afternoon. The war duties which Mrs. Prince has assumed make it impossible for her to attend the meeting when held on the fourth Tuesday. The following officers were elected for the next year: President, Margaret C. Gruenbaum; Vice-President, Anna Oehrlé; Secretary, Selina Jones; Treasurer, Phoebe Mather; and Corresponding Secretary to ABS, Lillian Boysen. Mrs. Gruenbaum is very happy to have Mrs. Boysen added to the officers in order that the Branch may keep in closer contact with the National organization.

Hollywood Branch: December meeting will be a Christmas party, door prizes, with the program supplied by surprise members of the Branch, and after the usual plant sale there will be refreshments. Bring your friends.

North Long Beach Branch: For the annual Xmas party each member brings a plant for a gift exchange. The entertainment will be provided by a moving picture. (Continued on page 218)

Here I Am Again

By MRS. HARRY HARKER
Long Beach, California

• Since we changed the membership dues from the Calendar year to a year from the receipt of dues, no matter what month, a great many of our members are timed through the year but the majority date from December and January. This means that I am ready to receive your subscription dues NOW — as quickly as possible, a month ahead of time, so that we shall not be too crowded at the last minute through this busiest of periods for the Post Office. We are also trying to avoid having you miss a copy or two from your files of The Begonian.

We cannot, under the present necessary conservation of paper reserves, print any more Begonians than we need, hence, do please help me to help you — by sending me your own subscription dues (\$1.50) right away with what gift subscription-memberships you wish to confer on friends for holidays or birthdays.

Mrs. Harry Harker, 2461 Fashion Ave., Long Beach 6, California.

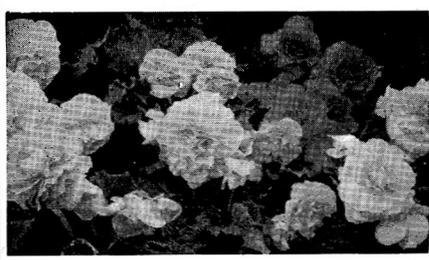
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BEGONIA RUFIDA

By ALICE M. CLARK
San Diego, California

ANOTHER achievement of Constance Bower makes its appearance this month in the drawing of "Rufida." Please take a bow, Miss Bower. Everyone who has grown this comparatively new plant thinks it is "tops," so I know you rate an ovation.

Probably some of you, glancing at the sketch, say to yourselves—"just another hairy fibrous!" Of course I just can't make you see the plant in black and white because its most amazing feature is the strawberry red color of the hairs on the flowers. When in bud it is so furry that you want to stroke it as if it were a new puppy but you draw back because it has such a fiery hue it looks too hot to touch. As you may have guessed, the name is from the Latin, "rufus," meaning red.

Miss Bower's fine notes tell us that the plant is a seedling of *Viaude*, probably crossed with *Pink Prunifolia*, in San Diego, in 1937. Sad to say I lost my plant of *Pink Prunifolia* so cannot compare it. *Rufida*'s leaves bear little resemblance to *Viaude*. They are broad and pointed instead of long and narrow and are quite large, often as much as ten by seven inches, resembling *Duchartrei* in shape but almost as thick as *scharffiana*. Their surface color is a very dark olive green, literally bristling with short white hairs, above and below. There is a dull red flush over the backs, darker on the veins except for a pale green spot at the apex of stem and leaf. This feature is also noted in *Viaude*. The peduncles are reddish beneath the white fuzz. On the surface, the veins cut a smooth path to the edge of the leaf,



RUFIDA

without puckers, and there is a round fullness between the veins, as in *Duchartrei*. It seems to me that the leaf stems are extra long on *Rufida*.

The flower stalks really extend themselves, even to eighteen or twenty inches. The sketch fails to convey this proportionate length and is minus many of its blooms which fell off when transported from Miss Bower's garden to my own. These pedicels are much branched and have many small blooms along with the very large ones, reminding me of *scharffiana* both as to bloom type and sprawling habit of the stem. The large male blooms never seem to open, furnishing no pollen and female flowers are scarce. The points on the seed forms are quite pink. All the flowers have a faint pink flush on the white petals when they grow large enough to show anything between the red whiskers. The mature flowers are long-lasting—too much so to please me, as they grow shabby if left on.

Rufida has a tendency to ramble if not restrained but behaves nicely if tied up in the way it should go. It is quite bushy. I had to omit three fine thick shoots from my drawing, that were already a foot or more high. Miss Bower

(Continued on page 218)

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GEORGE McDOWELL

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Inglewood

California

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 216)

San Francisco Branch: This group thoroughly enjoyed the splendid talk by Miss Sidney Stein and the lovely color pictures of the various colorful flowers grown at the Golden Gate Park, of which she is Director of the Conservatory, with very special emphasis on the growing of Tuberous Begonias. Four new members were added to the group, among them Mrs. W. D. Gall from Riverside Branch who will grow Begonias in San Francisco "for the duration." Election of the following officers took place to officiate for the next year: President, Harry F. O'Donnell; Secretary, Mrs. Theresa Ferrero; Treasurer, Mrs. Irene McMills; and Publicity Director, Miss Paula Schoenholz. The meeting night has been changed to the **FOURTH WEDNESDAY** of each

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BEGONIA RUFIDA

(Continued from page 217)

notes that this variety, when young, was the hairiest of all of her plants. The baby leaves make delightful puckers of luscious pinky-green plush, like the velvet rosettes that used to trim the hats of long ago. The delicate light-green leaf sheaths have a nice decorative value and are not too thick to disfigure the plant when they dry up.

I was so enamoured of a fine Rufida that I had a year ago that I couldn't bear to donate it to the convention at Glendale. Instead I secured a beautiful specimen from Ethel Calloway, Eva Gray's daughter, who sent it from the La Jolla Branch of that name and I trust it now thrives in the Robinson Memorial. As a punishment for my selfishness, I lost my plant as well as many others, victim of nematodes, so I had to borrow another model from its originator.

No word or pen picture can give you the real feeling of Rufida. Those of you who own this plant will cherish it. I understand that there are some people in the East fortunate enough to possess it as well as some in California. You will have observed before now that the selection of "sitters" for this page is not based on wide-spread popularity. Instead, I ask myself these questions: is it a local hybrid, is it a strong, worthwhile plant in good blooming condition for a sketch and lastly, do I like it? The answer in this case is, definitely, "yes." Thank you for raising it, Constance Bower.

BEGONIA COMPOST

(Continued from page 211)

this material is good enough for the production of the finest ground orchids and other plants needing consistently rich soil. We did not inquire as to the source of his tubers before he grew them so well in this mild mixture — nor have we followed through as yet, to find out the condition of the tubers and the quality of the seed set by these tubers. We would like to have Mr. Mets keep us informed upon these points when sufficient time has elapsed for him to judge results. Since he is growing Cyclamen and Gloxinias with the same soil mixture, and all of them for the production of hybrid seed, it will be very interesting to have him tell us whether the growing of seed plants in this spartan fashion may be productive of hardier progeny.

FERTILIZER BUSINESS

(Continued from page 214)

and that for a man of my age would be only temporary. So we hung on here, my girl and I, trying to be optimistic. Along about the first of the year we began to hear of meetings in Washington to discuss the fertilizer problem and the end of February we received notice from the WPB that synthetic nitrates could be used on Victory Gardens.

You should have seen us go. What a change. We were inundated with orders. Then the question of help. All Spring we depended on high school boys and girls. The only really unsatisfactory thing about that was the way we had to stagger hours to conform to their school work. They did their stuff well, those boys and girls, all the time they were with us.

This setup lasted until commencement time in June this year when the kids all left us for other things. In the meantime we were fortunate to get more mature help.

Recently the picture was improved again to enable manufacturers to turn out an all purpose fertilizer for flowers, lawns, or what have you, so now we are back again with the old reliable green lable fertilizer and the worries of last year are gone like the "snows of yesteryear." Of course we have some worries. To mention a few, raw products, bottles and cartons. Bottles have been and are our present headache. These problems too will pass and anyway we're winning the war and that means more than a fertilizer man's troubles.



Begonia Rex Black Knight

THE REX BEGONIA-- ORIGIN AND INTRODUCTION

By NADINE WOODS
Clayton M. Kelly Research Dept.,
Nomenclature Rex Begonias

THE first Begonia, species rex, was found in Assam, India, in the year 1858, by a traveler named Simons. It was introduced under the name "Putz" by the world renowned Belgian florist, Linden.

Thus, in two short sentences, we relate what is known of the discovery and introduction of the majestic rex. The researcher finds little written material from qualified and authenticated sources. The best reference, we think, is Karl Albert Fotsch's "Die Begonien." The writer has had access to a typewritten translation from the original German, a project of the late W. P. A., and many of the facts set forth in these articles must be credited to this scientific treatise.

The original species has been frequently crossed with other Begonias. For example, with *B. imperialis*, *B. discolor*, *B. diadema*, and many others. Our present strains and varieties have been obtained by crossing with *B. incarnata*, and particularly *B. diadema*.

Enthusiastic hybridizers everywhere have endeavored to increase the variety and beauty of markings and colorings by new matings. An endless number of species have appeared and then disappeared entirely after a few years. The genuine Begonia rex Putz is very rarely found in culture today. The only two of the older rexes, listed in "Die Begonien," that have survived are Countess Louise Erdody, introduced in 1884, and Louise Closson.

The Begonia rex of the present are divided into six groups:

The large leaved type, such as President Carnot, Lesoudsi, and rajah.

The medium size leaf: Lucy Closson, Moonbeam, Mikado, Fireflush now called Baron Rothschild and Crimson Glow.

The small leaf: imperialis smaragdina, smaragdina maculata, and Illustrata.

The helix or spiralled type, with the lobe of the leaf curled round like a snail's shell: Countess Louise Erdody, (Continued on page 224)

Delores Moran, center, (Warner Bros.' featured player who will soon be seen in "OLD ACQUAINTANCE" with Bette Davis—on one of her visits to the Hollywood Branch of the American Begonia Society. The Actress is shown with Mr. John L. Baily, National President, and Mrs. W. C. Drummond, local President, whose table arrangement with hybrids and Tuberous Begonias was made for the August meeting in honor of the visiting National Board of the A. B. S.



(Photograph by Floyd McCarty—Warner Bros.)

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 218)

month, excepting December. The next meeting will be on the fourth Wednesday of January. We congratulate these officers and wish them a continuation of their success and fine achievements.

Pasadena Branch: Some 5 members and friends met to hear Mrs. "Peg" Jewell, a member, talk on the growing of vegetables, just to prove how versatile a gardener she really is. Fred Willard, National Representative, reported on the last Board meeting which he attended with Col. Gale, and that the Branch has been granted a charter which is in process of preparation. This Branch has arranged to set aside \$2.00 a month for the special upkeep fund of the Robinson Memorial. Each person attending received a plant or two to take home plus a piece with seed of a prize-winning twenty-five pound squash grown by the Secy.-Treas., Mr. Harrell. Mr. Wm. Jonson, of Destrujol Corp., will be the guest speaker at the De-

ember meeting; his subject: Soil Conservation and Pest Control. Thirteen them a big percentage of very fine and influential Horticulturists. Congratulations and good luck.

Ventura Branch: A large and appreciative audience greeted Mr. Alfred Carl Hottes, nationally well known garden authority. His talks are always brimming full of wit as well as really down to earth advice.

Bellflower Branch: The December meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. A. Haller, 949 Artesia St., to celebrate Xmas in exchanging gifts, enjoying a prepared entertainment with refreshments to give the evening a nice finish. The new officers are: President, Anna Haller; Secy.-Treas., Esther McElthinney; Vice-President, Marie Hines; and National Representative, Carrie Boggs. We wish them all a happy time in the year to come with the continued camaraderie of the entire membership.

(Continued on page 220)

Notes On Planting And Overwintering Fuchsias

(Reprinted from Bulletin No. 43-11, Nov., 1943)

By Courtesy of American Fuchsia Society

• Not so long ago, the writer listened to a discourse on Wartime Gardening and the problems it presents to the gardener who wants to maintain an attractive garden in the face of the handicaps of lack of time, fertilizer and spray materials. He mentioned several solutions, but never fuchsias! This, in spite of the many fuchsias that we see all over the Bay Area, that were originally planted in a shallow sprinkling of top soil and are growing under conditions of almost total neglect as to watering and feeding, yet are bravely putting out flowers almost the year around. Why not give them a break!

Now is the time to prepare the soil for fuchsia plantings. Ordinarily, fuchsias are considered shallow-rooting plants. It will be well worth the extra effort, however, if you can find the time, to spade the soil deeply, 24 inches, or even 30 inches. Mix in a generous amount of humus material, such as leaf mold or peat moss, say half soil and half humus, and add plenty of old cow manure. This should be done a few weeks prior to the actual planting, if possible.

Fuchsias planted in such a manner will be able to almost take care of themselves, at least in the temperate zones of the coastal region. They will be able to withstand a good deal of cold and will thrive in the summer without being continually pampered, even in more or less exposed locations. Having been planted deeply, they can be watered weekly, or even bi-weekly, but that watering should be of a very copious nature, including irrigation and overhead sprinkling. Of course, any additional care will be rewarded by bigger blooms.

So much for plantings in the open ground in temperate climates. Under more rigorous conditions, fuchsias must be protected against freezing. There are several ways of doing this, depending on the amount of cold they will encounter. A deep mulch of manure and leaves will help to keep them warm. If the tops are killed off by the cold, this covering can be removed after the cold season is over and the roots will send out new growth, which will most likely be better than last year's growth.

Where the cold is severe enough to freeze the ground, the plants should be dug up and placed in containers large enough to accommodate the roots. The plants should be staked, pruned and kept in a glass house protecting them from the cold and still admitting light, and a moderate amount of watering should be maintained.

Another plan is to dig up the plants and store them side by side in a shed having good circulation of air, packed tightly together with the roots covered with leaf mold, and watered occasionally. The plants will, of course, lose the foliage completely, and in the latter part of the winter, they should be pruned and placed into containers large enough to sustain them until planting-out time. At no time should the plants be permitted to dry out completely. After growth starts in early spring, regular watering should be resumed, including frequent overhead sprinklings.

Potted fuchsias are more subject to damage by frost. They should be moved indoors as soon as frost threatens, and those activities which tend to promote new growth, should be discontinued, including frequent watering, fertilizing, and pruning. The soil should never be permitted to become dust-dry. Watering should be done early in the morning, so that the plants have a chance to dry out a little before nightfall. In heavy frosts, they may be protected by burlap, canvas, or other coverings. The plants may drop all their leaves, which should give no concern, as they will come right back with the growing season.

Pruning should be delayed until early in the spring. Pruning, along with other factors, controls the time of bloom. However, if you have quite a number of potted plants and wish some early bloom, you may prune some plants earlier, removing them from the pots and cutting or washing away some of the old soil. Then place the plant back into the same pot or one a size smaller, using new and enriched potting soil to fill the container. Extra care must be taken with these plants to protect them from frosts, and they will reward you with earlier bloom than you could expect ordinarily.

As an additional safeguard, it is wise to take cuttings of your choice plants and place them in the cold frame, so that you will have replacements should you suffer a total loss. If you will just employ a little extra time and effort in planting fuchsias, you can have a beautiful garden almost the year around.



Dr. Drummond, young enthusiast, Miss Dorothy Mets and one section of greenhouse



Mr. "Jack" L. Baily holding his audience in Lincoln Park



Mr. Work, Mrs. Jessie Poole and Mrs. Arthur E. Nelson



The Admiring Crowd in South Section of Greenhouse

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 220)

East Bay Branch: The September meeting was held in the greenhouse at Lakeside Park where the election of the new officers for the ensuing year took place. President, Mr. H. L. Swager; Vice-President, Mr. M. L. Boyd; and Secy.-Treas., Mr. Dick G. Goodnow. We know that Mr. Swager and Mr. Goodnow are seasoned leaders, and we are sure that with Mr. Boyd they will again put through a splendid year's fine work for the happiness of all flowers lovers. They extend to all of us an invitation to

see their exhibit of fibrous and Rex Begonias in the Greenhouse at their disposal in the Lakeside Park, when we are in that region.

Glendale Branch: The last meeting was on Monday, November 22nd, at the News Exhibitorium. Since the previous month's talks by their own members were so fine, the program for this meeting was also along the same line, with such experts: Mrs. Harold Hart telling about her favorite plant; Mrs. Jessie Poole, expounding on begonias; Mr. Fred Kaye letting them in on his fund of information on ferns.

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Plantly Speaking— In the Shade

By JOHN S. VOSBURG
Hollywood, California

• There are a lot of Campanulas, but to date none can compare with *Campanula isophylla* for us in hanging baskets or over a well or ledge in a rockery. It is graceful, not formal, excellent in foliage which is abundant and serves delightfully as background for the many blue cup-shaped flowers. The variety *alba* is one of the very finest white flowers for the northern exposure or in semi-shade used like the blue variety. In either case, the cup or bell shaped flowers are starry and prolific, borne over a long period each winning a most certain place in the regard of any plantsman—so much so that it becomes one of the must-have flowers.

This *Campanula* is easily grown, requires a leafy or peaty soil which will provide a cool root run for it likes to be kept on the cool side. It should be maintained on the moist side with plenty of room for the curtain of soft grey-green woolly leaves almost covered with flowers. Being a native of Italy it has had little difficulty in adjusting itself to our California climatic conditions, but even so, it is not seen as often as it might be.

Once you grow *Campanulas* you will find many of them most desirable, but none as much so as the *C. isophylla*.



Campanulas isophylla

ABS LIBRARY

(Continued from page 214)

Otten, George—*Tuberous Rooted Begonias and Their Culture*; De la Mare, 1941.

Shade Plants

Hoagland, B. R.—*Water Culture Method for Growing Plants Without Soil*; Univ. of Calif. Circular 347, Dec., 1938.
Scientific Tank Farming; Plant Culture League of San Pedro, 1938.

Shive, J. W.—*Methods of Growing Plants in Solution and Sand Culture*; New Jersey Ag. Ex. Sta. Bul. 636, Sept., 1939.

General

Arnoldia—*The Naming of Horticultural Varieties*; Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University, April 15, 1943.

Bailey, L. H.—*Botany, an elementary text*; Macmillan, 1910.

Jackson, B. D.—*A Glossary of Botanic Terms*; Duckworth, London, 1938.

Roberts—*Rules of Order*.

Note: All the titles listed are for borrowing by the members from the ABS library. The cultural bulletins are for sale through the membership secretary.

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Primulas and Primroses — Here, There, Everywhere

By FRED WILLARD
Pasadena, California

• Primulas have an interesting history. They are perennial but generally speaking they should be treated as annuals. Their flowers rise in clusters or scapes from radical rosettes of simple, entire or lobed leaves. Often the herbage is covered with farina or powder. Their compact growth and generous flowering has made them favorite of commercial growers. Primulas are mostly alpine plants and are native to the north temperate zone; only one being found in the cold part of South America, one in Java, and a few in Africa. About a score are native to the colder parts of North America. Among the 300 species now known, the largest number (150) is found in China. Seventy or so are found in the Himalayan regions. Japan, North America and Europe have the rest.

Let us start with those that really do well here in California, and particularly in Southern California. *Primula auricula* takes its name from the Latin "an ear" from the supposed resemblance of the foliage to the ear of an animal. They are rock or border plants. Those covered with farina are termed show auricula and those free of it are alpine. The tube of the flower is usually white with a circle of maroon, violet, plum color, or chocolate and a margin of green, gray, white or yellow. The flower usually has a sweet fragrance.

The blossoms come well above the foliage with 20 or more individual blooms. You should allow half that number to develop. The flowering season lasts two to three months. Care should be taken not to wet the foliage in watering.

A satisfactory compost for *Primula auricula* follows: Two parts good fibrous loam, one part leaf mold, one part well decayed sheep manure or cow manure, and a little sand. (To be continued.)

WILLIAM ROSS
BEGONIA GARDENS
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THE REX BEGONIA —

(Continued from page 219)

Bronze King, Captain Nemo, and Curly Closson.

Another group is the Discolor or branching type, of which the best known examples are Van-Ex, Abel Carriere,

(Continued on page 225)

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Roezli, Bracteosa or Machu Picchu?

By HELEN K. KRAUSS
Ch., Nomenclature Fibrous Div.,
The Clayton M. Kelly Research Dept.

• The story of the controversial subject of the names of this plant is as follows:

Benedict Roezli discovered a Begonia in Peru and sent seed to Regel, who was the head of the Royal Botanical Garden at St. Petersburg, Russia. At that time Regel named this Begonia for the discoverer, described and illustrated it in *Gartenflora* in 1876. In 1879 the *Gardener's Chronicle* described *B. Lyncheana* under the name of Roezli and continued to do so until Hooker called attention to the error. A correction appeared in the *Garden Chronicle* in 1884, and also in 1885, which straightened out the *Lyncheana-Roezli* angle.

Regel believed *Lyncheana* to be a seedling of Roezli and some other Begonia. *B. Lyncheana* is not in cultiva-

tion here or in Europe so that we shall remain in the dark until it appears.

Note this—Regel makes copious references to A. deCandolle's *Prodromus* which was published only twelve years before the Regel description of Roezli.

The N. Y. Botanical Garden has a comprehensive botanical library and is staffed with able, scientific men who determined the name to be Roezli. Mr. Smith of the Gray Herbarium determined the same plant to be *Bracteosa*. The crux of the matter is that Roezli and *Bracteosa* belong to different sections and since Regel availed himself of the A. deC. reference book and went so far as to quote it even in his articles on Roezli, my deduction is that Mr. Smith did not have all the information available to him or else he did not seek carefully enough, and applied the name from information out of deC. instead of critically examining *Gartenflora* also. My deduction was further strengthened by correspondence with Mr. Smith.

Roezli was re-discovered in more recent years and while awaiting identification was called Machu Picchu, for the ruins in Peru where it was found.

REX BEGONIA

(Continued from page 224)

Mrs. Moon, Robert George, Adrien Schmitt, and Mrs. A. G. Shepherd.

The miniature is the newest of these of these groups, and several excellent articles on this popular type have recently appeared in the "Begonian." Some of the outstanding rexes in this group are Linda Lewis, Annie C. Robinson, Toy, Glory of St. Albans, Donald Lewis, Rosy Morn, and the largest leaved of these, Butterfly. There are a number as yet unnamed, and undoubtedly deserving of a name. The coloring of these new miniatures is beyond description. They have a metallic quality which has not been produced in the larger leaved types. The miniatures so far developed have been crosses between various rexes and *Weltoniensis Alba*, *Dregei* and *Weltoniensis Rosea*. The new type of rex, miniature, proves what can be done by the patient plant breeder, and reveals again the fascination of begonia culture.

The first of the better known Rexes which we shall discuss and illustrate in these articles is *B. rex Black Knight*. It has a broad leaf, pointed. The coloring is purple black, with a lighter zone in blotches and spots of light grey green tinted with purple. The plant pictured here is grown in a seven-inch pot, from which you can judge proportionate size.

Black Knight is a beautiful and well-known rex. We have begun with this begonia to illustrate a problem experienced by all growers; that of identifying closely similar plants. And, while we are about it, we might point out the fallacy of naming a new variety which so resembles another already accepted that even the experts cannot distinguish between the two. *Black Knight* is so similar to *Helen Lewis* that one is often mistaken for the other. No formula for identification can be given because as growing conditions in the lath house differ so the colorings and markings will vary in their shadings.

Black Knight and *Helen Lewis* are offered only in illustrating a point; that before a new type is introduced by name there should be sufficient variance to enable the amateur enthusiast to readily distinguish between the new and the older established plants. If we do not hold to this, confusion is bound to result, with detrimental effects to our beloved hobby.

The purpose of these articles will be to picture and describe the varieties. If our beginning has tended to discourage rather than encourage, we hasten to reassure you that the great majority of types and varieties are easy to identify and name.

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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 December (Second Monday) American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in the Director's Room, Retail Merchants Credit Assn., 417 So. Hill, Los Angeles, Calif., Dec. 13th, 1943.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, December 2nd
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, December 2nd
Geo. A. Barrows, Secretary
1111 Louise St., Santa Ana, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, December 6th
Vasa Club House,
3094 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Olive Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, December 7th, 7:30 p.m.
Home of C. O. Meyer
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, December 7th, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall,
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Second Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
2218 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Miss Cecile Block, Secy.-Treas.
1263 E. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, December 9th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Grant Waldref, Sec.,
1615 No. Genesee, Los Angeles, Calif.
Surprise Speakers, Door Prizes, Xmas Party

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, December 9th, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club of Inglewood
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary
1618½ W. 52nd St., Los Angeles, Calif.

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, December 10th
Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins,
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Rush T. Lewis, Secy.-Treas.
3733-A California, Long Beach, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, December 13th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Claire Jackson, Secy.,
6017 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Annual Xmas Party, Gift Exchange

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, December 13th
Washington School,
1st and Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif.
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, December 14th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.
Speaker: Wm. Jonson of Destruxol Corp.
Subject: "Soil Cond. and Pest Control"

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, December 14th, 8:00 p.m.
Miss Esther Elthinney, Secy.-Treas.,
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.
Home of Mrs. A. Haller, Pres.,
949 Artesia St., Bellflower, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, December 16th
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, December 16th
11228 Atlantic Ave.
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, December 20th
Mrs. Henry O. Colt, Secy.-Treas.,
7221 Olivetas, La Jolla, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

No Meeting in December
1060 Francisco St., San Francisco, Calif.
Harry F. O'Donnel, Pres.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secy.,

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, December 24th, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. John G. Clark,
3026 Freeman St., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Graves, Secy.-Treas.
2922 Evergreen St., San Diego, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, December 28th
Home of Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec.,
Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, December 28th
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. C. C. Cook, Secretary,
1345 Virginia Ave., Glendale, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Thursday, December 30th
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary
419 South Ynez Ave.
Monterey Park, Calif.
Fellowship Hall,
304 S. Valley Blvd., El Monte, Calif.
Speaker: Mr. Harry Davis
Subject: "Camellias"

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Irregular Meetings
Thelma Sommerfield, Secy.,
210 E. Anapamu, Santa Barbara, Calif.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Miss Annabelle Sylvester, Secy.,
Pleasant St., Middleton, Mass.

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