

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Garden*

## Index

	Page
THE EDITOR'S SALUTE - - - - -	18
THIS IS PART OF OUR DUTY - - - - -	19
By C. H. Lauder, M. D.	
NOTE TO PROGRAM CHAIRMEN - - - - -	20
By Clarence A. Hall	
A FEW DON'TS — BY THE WAY - - - - -	21
By A. A. Longmire	
NOTES: NATIONAL BOARD MEETING - - - - -	21
By C. H. Lauder, M. D.	
BRANCH NEWS - - - - -	22, 23
By YOU	
REVISED BULLETINS - - - - -	24
PROPAGATION OF FUCHSIAS - - - - -	24, 30
By James C. Fairclo	
BEGONIA MRS. (FRED T.) SCRIPPS AND SKETCH - - - - -	25
By Alice Clark	
LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION - - - - -	26, 27, 29
By Alfred D. Robinson, Dec.	
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - - - - -	28
A LETTER FROM ARKANSAS - - - - -	28
PLANTLY SPEAKING — ON THE SHADY SIDE - - - - -	29
By John S. Vosburg — Sketch By Stella Vosburg	
PRUNING BEGONIAS - - - - -	30
Reprinted from Christian Science Monitor	
BRANCH CALENDAR - - - - -	31

# The BEGONIAN

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## The Editor's Salute!

● There is something that puts zest and happy enthusiasm in the daily life of this Editor of which a few words should be said.

At the end of the fiscal year of a club, it is always exciting to listen, and learn in good time, who is going to have the courage, the driving interest, the power and many other special abilities to take on the work, and work it is, of leading the club for the next year. Always, someone is there to "carry on." Always, the new officers have advanced ideas and do an amazing lot to renew the enthusiasm of the members. Let us remember, with gratitude, these men and

women, who are what they are, because of what others have done before them. Let us really try to help them sincerely to put into effect all the fine innovations that are good for the greater number of members. Each one is AS important as the leaders (and you may be called on next), for how would the leaders fare without faithful followers?

Apropos of this idea, let the Editor know how you like, or do not like (and what you WOULD like) what we are trying to do for you in this publication. Each one of you has a special experience to relate, and that is what we think our readers would like to have.

Strange how each depends on the other!

# This Is Part of Our Duty

by C. H. LAUDER, M. D.  
Arcadia, Calif.

• Every American, whether he is on the fighting front or the home front, is fully aware by this time that our country is at war. Whether we like it or not, whether it is necessary or not, rationing is here, will remain, and will, without question, become more extended. Of course, we shall cooperate as always, but as highly important as any other war effort is the necessity of keeping up the morale of our citizens. There is nothing that will aid more in doing this than spending the few idle moments available to us in the propagation and growing of lovely flowers, especially our Begonias. They have a way of taking our minds away from the sad and ugly things to the pleasant and beautiful things of life.

At this time of the year, whether we live in Massachussetts, Missouri or California, we all make preparations for our Begonias of next summer by starting leaf or stem cuttings or by seed. Begonias are not difficult to raise by all these methods (even I can do it) and through cross-pollination new types can be developed which are most thrilling and exciting.

I can remember when I was a boy back in Iowa, I thought the sun rose on the east boundary of Iowa and set on the west. Now I know it shines quite constantly on every state in the Union. By the way, there are many states in which we have no branches of the ABS. What about the Middle West? That old state of Iowa, where the tall corn grows, and Illinois — they ought to be doing something really noteworthy and to have wonderful branches. The climate isn't any more severe and the soil is just as suitable as in the New England states where the branches are very active. Haven't we any members back there who are alive and can start something?

While gas rationing will limit the attendance at our branch meetings, we must carry on and stimulate new interests. One of the most recent efforts of your national board is the establishment of the Alfred Robinson Memorial at Lincoln Park in Los Angeles. This exhibit is the property of the Am. Begonia Society and at present is only a small beginning. It is the plan to make this the largest and best collection of both rare and common species of begonias in the world. This can only be accomplished with the help of each branch and every member of these branches. We now have some wonderful plants but need many, many more. Several plants of the same species would be desirable.

It is impossible to publish in The Begonian a complete list of the plants now in the Memorial but, should any branch wish a copy, it will be gladly sent. Members living in the vicinity of Los Angeles should avail themselves of the opportunity to visit this exhibit. Several of the branches have already held a monthly meeting at the Park and expressed tremendous enthusiasm over the display. Many offered suggestions and constructive criticism which we gladly received.

The Committee and I cannot make this Memorial a success without your help. We need the stimulation of your interest, we need plant donations and, yes, we need money—not much, but some—to buy pots, fertilizer, leaf mold, etc. I wish I could communicate my feeling about this project to all of you—my feeling that it is a tie-in with the morale effort of our country and of the greatest importance. I admit I talked too much in this vein at one of the national meetings and found myself with this Chairmanship and I hope you'll help me to do a good job. I'm a busy doctor—and I do mean busy—trying to keep the eyes and ears of war workers in good condition so they can help keep our soldiers flying and fighting. However, I still have a little time to spare and so have you, so let us keep our Begonias growing.

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# Note To Program Chairmen

by CLARENCE A. HALL  
Ventura, Calif.

• Are you looking for a speaker or material to present to your branch?

We realize that branches outside the larger cities have less opportunity to secure speakers and variety, than those in the Metropolitan areas. Sometimes this proves a blessing in disguise, often times leading the Program Chairman to discovering literal "gold mines" of information, and "diamonds in the rough" in the form of speakers recruited from their own membership. Do you have your speaker ready for next month? Or this month?

The Ventura Branch has fortunately been able to have speakers who have given very interesting and entertaining programs, and many of these have been secured from the members of this branch. A thoroughly interesting diversion was presented to us in our January meeting, presided over by our 1943 President, Mr. Clarence Mets. This proved to be entertaining and was received with such enthusiasm by the 70 members present, that the writer feels it should be passed on to all the branches of the ABS.

It was a "motion picture" evening. No—no advertising. No sales talks. Just worthwhile entertainment, that left one spell-bound and marvelling at the mysteries of nature, and the miracles she performs. And the beauty of it is that for the modest outlay of \$3.00, it can be yours. Below is the description of two of the films presented to the Venturans, and which if used should

prove to be one of the best evenings of the year for your branch:

**FLOWERS AT WORK.** Sound. 1 Reel. Rental, \$1.50. Catalog #2519. Description: The parts and physiology of plant flowers. Various types of flowers and different methods of pollination. Every important step is carefully covered in the narrative. The relation of insects to cross fertilization of flowers. How man has modified flowers by cultivation.

**PLANT GROWTH.** Sound. 1 Reel. Rental, \$1.50. Catalog #2517. Description: The growth of the pea plant is shown in time-lapse photography and microphotography from the time the seed first sends out its root and stalk, until the ripened seeds are scattered. Process of pollination and fertilization. A film of beauty and breath-taking photography.

Where to get them? Write or call at the University of California Extension Division, Dept. of Visual Instruction, 813 S. Hill Street, Los Angeles. Ask for their free catalog of educational films. It lists many adaptable to our use, besides those listed above.

Where to get the projector: In Ventura, the Dept. of Schools, Educational Dept., loans to any non-profit organization, projector and screen, free of charge. Your Department of Education or your Public Library no doubt does the same. If not, locate some one who owns a 16mm. projector equipped for sound. Your problem is then solved. You will also find that the Dept of Education has many films which are adaptable to your meetings that are loaned, rent free.

Won't you please write to the Editor of the Begonian after you have used the films recommended? Tell the Editor about your meeting. Maybe you have some good ideas to pass along. The Editor is "hungry" for such material—and remember the Begonian is your magazine. Its policy and material is dictated by your wants and wishes. Why not write and tell the Editor what they are?

## BEGONIA TUBERS

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## A Few Don'ts — By the Way

by A. A. LONGMIRE  
Carpinteria, Calif.

- Don't buy seed from a seed-house that is not reliable.
- Don't expect to get choice seed at a cheap price.
- Don't plant a dollar packet of seed in mouldy leaf-mold.
- Don't plant cheap seed and expect to get fine flowers.
- Don't plant seed given you by someone, unless you know what it is.
- Don't plant seed that is too old.
- Don't save seed, unless your plants are of the BEST.
- Don't plant seed and expect them to take care of themselves.
- Don't water seed boxes and pans from the top. Water by immersion until the moisture has permeated to the surface of the seed box. No more.
- Don't fail to cover boxes or pans with a pane of glass and
- Don't leave glass over seedlings too long, or they will become soft and over leggy.
- Don't try to grow flowers, weeds and grass in the same box. It won't work.
- Don't propagate from sick plants, unless you want plants like the parents.
- Don't plant Begonia tubers in wet, soggy peat. Just slightly moist is best.
- Don't spend all your money for flowers, Buy War Bonds, so that the flowers won't have to be heaped over you.

- Send your dues, \$1.50, to Mrs. Harker — if not already paid to your Branch Treasurer. See front page.

## Notes — National Board Meeting

- First National Board meeting of 1943 indicated interest was still keen and several Representative Directors were present and reported things at their respective branches were going ahead and interest keeping up.

Dr. Lauder promised to have ready for the Begonian soon some news of the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial. Also stated the plants at the Memorial made quite a nice exhibit but he hoped for many many more plants, as there is ample space for from 300 to 400 plants. Also more space is available as needed.

The new Fibrous and Rex Bulletins were hailed with pleasure and they are certainly attractive looking booklets and filled with begonia-minded information.

Librarian Mrs. Crowder was much pleased to receive some additional booklets, pamphlets and books turned over to her for the library. She also asked permission to purchase additional material to have on file for the use of the membership.

As an innovation, it was felt a Question and Answer column would be of interest and members are asked to submit their problems to the Editor, and a Committee was appointed to answer these inquiries. Our problems are often our neighbor's problems and the Board felt this would be of interest to all. Members of the organization are asked to present questions to be answered in this column.

Nothing further of importance to be discussed, therefore, the meeting was adjourned until February 8, 1943.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. H. Lauder

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## Branch News

The Herbert P. Dyckman Branch of the ABS, Long Beach, met at the home of their new president, Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, for their January meeting with 24 present. It was decided at the November meeting that this Branch would hold all meetings on the second Friday of each month and they will be at the home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, 3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, for the "duration." All visitors welcome.

The new officers installed at the December meeting were as follows:

Mrs. Jessie Jenkins, President  
Mrs. J. W. Smoot, Vice-President  
Mrs. Rush Lewis, Secy.-Treas.

A gadget sale was conducted at the January meeting and there were some very interesting things in the display.

**Glendale Branch:** A new date has been chosen by this group for the regular meeting: Fourth Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m., but still at the old place of meeting: 329 No. Brand Blvd., News Press Exhibitorium, in Glendale.

On January 26th, Dr. Wm. A. Reynolds spoke on "Plant Nutrition and the Federal Program for Victory Gardens." Dr. Reynolds is a particularly sincere and learned speaker having both the latest technical knowledge and

practical first-hand experience, PLUS a personality which we shall leave you to discover for yourselves, to make his talks most vital and interesting. (We fortunate ones of Hollywood Garden Club and Hollywood Begonia Society ought to speak proudly of him, and we do.)

**Pasadena Branch:** It is a pity to have to tell you that we heard from Mr. Fred Willard, one of our finest Horticulturists, that because so many of the members of that group are now occupied in defense work, it has been decided, that for the time being, the regular meetings will be discontinued. We hope, though, that some means will be found to have those who are still free on some one evening, morning or any old time at all, will get together as often as possible with their Leader who can do so much for them, and thus, keep the Home Fires Burning for those who are otherwise occupied.

**Hollywood Branch:** On January 14th, a fine attendance greeted the new officers; celebrated their second birthday with cake, punch and lovely flowers and listened to Mr. Henry Murietta who spoke in detail on the growing of Tuberous Begonias so that none who heard him can fail to grow them well enough

---

**TUBEROUS BEGONIAS** — We have 15,000 tubers this year grown on new soil, absolutely free of Root Knot or Nematodes, from our own seed and the best seed that we can buy. We are using every type we can get for our hybridizing program with fibrous and other types of Begonias from which YOU will get the benefit in future years of Begonia joy.

We have an exceptionally fine lot of Tuberous Begonia red carnation type and a group of orange and pink crosses that come in every conceivable shade through salmon, apricot, peach-pink and orange camellia type. ALSO good lots of almost everything you might want in tuberous: carnation, camellia, single, frilled, crested, and some grand basket type hybrids.

A few 1" in diameter at \$1.00 per doz.; 1" to 1¼" at \$1.25; 1¼" to 1½" at \$1.75; 1½" to 2" at \$2.25; and over 2" at \$3.00 per doz., prepaid to your door. **Wild Rose**, our fine, fragrant single hybrid, 50c each. Our original narcissiflora seedlings grown from a cutting of a plant we kept as a house-plant for twenty years; seedlings of this practically all bear trumpet flowers and slightly fragrant, chiefly in salmon and peach shades. 50c each.

**HELP WANTED** to put a fragrance better than a rose in our lovely tuberous Begonia. With each \$2.00 order for tuberous, we will include, free, one of our fine red Lloydii x Wild Rose crosses that come 3 out of 4 double and about half of them with a fair fragrance. **WE WANT YOU TO GROW SEEDLINGS FROM THEM** to increase this fragrance. We have a few colors under propagation that are nearly what we want, so we know it can be done . . . with your help.

**FIBROUS BEGONIAS** — We have a few nice small plants of our new double RED CALLA BEGONIA at \$5.00 each, and our double near-white SNOWBLUSH at \$2.50 each.

●  
**LESLIE WOODRIF**

Fairyland Begonia Garden  
HARBOR, OREGON

to exhibit them later, when the shows will honor the winner of the "Twelve Special Tuberous Begonia Bulbs" to be donated by Mr. Frank Reinelt for the best result shown by each Branch of the American Begonia Society. Mr. Rundel, a visitor from the East spoke about "Staleymone," then Dr. C. H. Lauder told of the progress and plans for the future of the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Greenhouse Begonia collection in Los Angeles Lincoln Park. (See his article elsewhere in this issue.)

**North Long Beach Branch:** At a recent meeting of this Branch Mrs. H. A. Cuyler was elected President to succeed Mrs. Ruby Liedler who has filled that office for the last year. Also elected to serve with Mrs. Cuyler are Mrs. E. L. Crawford, Vice-President, and Mrs. M. E. Van Hook, as Secretary-Treasurer, with Mrs. Liedler as National Representative.

These new officers were installed with special ceremony December 14th, 1942, during a fine meeting of a group of really enthusiastic gardeners.

The program was arranged by Mrs. Ruby Liedler (You know she is Chairman of Speaker's Bureau) and was thoroughly interesting.

The November meeting was a hard-times affair which afforded much amusement for those attending. A box-supper was enjoyed and entertainment was provided by A. A. Remmers who showed motion pictures of scenic beauty.

**Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch:** Just too late for last Begonian, as the Branch just above, are happy news from this Branch: Mr. Clarence Mets has been elected President with Mrs. Olive Hamilton as Vice-President; Mr. George Fitch as Secretary-Treasurer, and Mr. Austen Perley as National Representative. We know these officers will carry on beautifully and with renewed enthusiasm the fine work done by the retiring Board. Good luck to all of them.

**Riverside Branch:** This Branch will meet on the first Tuesday of the month February 2nd, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Feror, 7135 Potomac St., Riverside, with Mesdames Glenn and May as co-hostesses. Last meeting was made interesting and educational by a talk on Camellias by Mr. George Blair of the Riverside Experimental Station.

**San Francisco Branch:** We are happy that this Branch is resuming active meetings after a little rest. February 3rd, at 1060 Francisco St., at 8 p.m., to have a fine time and greet the officers of 1943: Miss Paula Schoenholz, in whose home the meetings are held, and Secy.-Treas., Mr. Harry F. O'Donnell.

**Inglewood Branch:** Mr. Hart really gave this group a most interesting and colorful program. "CALADIUMS" was the subject of which he brought many leaves (and Mrs. Crowder, like many others, took some away with her to display at the Library where, she says, everyone who came in while they were still lovely, had to ask about these lovely and decorative leaves.)

Mr. Hart had a splendid array of slides and covered the subject very thoroughly from Florida to California.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodenburg have been missed for some time so that that Mr. Schmidt asked friends to stop and see them, since they cannot come to the meetings from so far away now, but if not in person, we can still write them in order to keep in touch with these fine old-timers.

The following are the names of the new Chairmen appointed: Mr. A. E. Rippey, Representative for the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial for this Branch; Mr. Minehart, Chairman of Flower Shows and Plant Sales; Mrs. Bemis, Registrar; Mr. J. Fairclo, Chairman Garden and Nursery Visitations; and Mr. Harold Clark, Custodian of the Beautiful Flag.

**East Bay Branch:** Meeting place for February will be The Washington School, 60th and Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif. (in the P.T.A. room by special arrangement). Time: Second Monday of the month at 7:45 p.m.

The National Representative, Mrs. Tom Ahrens, gave a fine report of the Annual Meeting at Glendale during the last meeting. Mrs. E. M. Carleton, one of the New Honorary Vice-Presidents, is a valuable member of this branch.

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## Revised Bulletins Ready

• The Rex Begonia Bulletin has been entirely revised and so has the Fibrous Begonia Bulletin. These are available from Mrs. Harker, Membership Chairman, to whom you should send your overdue \$1.50 for the next year of The Begonian including membership in the nearest Begonia Branch which, in turn, is allied to the American Begonia Society. The Bulletins are 15c each up to 25, 10c each up to 50 in one order, 9c each up to 100, and 7c each from 100 up. Here is a chance for your Branch to make a little extra for the Treasurer to buy some stamps for your Branch . . . we mean U. S. War Stamps, which will bring bigger and better returns again in good times.

These Bulletins are necessary to every Begonia lover everywhere, and if you do not actually find the answer to the trouble bothering you, please send your questions in to either the Editor or (but preferably) to Mr. Ferd P. Neels, for a good and reliable answer. With Mr. Neels as Chairman of the Questions and Answer column (we hope page), everyone ought to be on the road to knowing just about everything shortly. So far we have had few questions, the Editor has sent them to specially trained growers capable of answering those questions, but we know that there are problems galore everywhere, these we want to solve for you to the best of our ability. Give us a chance to help you and every reader at one and the same time.

See addresses on front page for both Mrs. Harker and Mr. Neels.

## Propagation of Fuchsias

by JAMES C. FAIRCLO  
Gardena, Calif.

• First it is to be understood that if you have a way and get results that are satisfactory to you, by all means don't change. This is only my way and there may be better ways than mine.

Take a clean, regulation flat, one generally made of Redwood, to keep it from rotting. Fill the flat with damp coarse sand (building sand may be purchased at any lumber yard). Take a clean brick and pound the sand down till it is firm. Sprinkle until water runs through the bottom. With a putty knife space your flat into about 6 trenches or rows 1½ inches deep. Now you are ready for cuttings. I make my cuttings an average of 5 inches, some longer, some shorter, depending on the type of Fuchsia. San Francisco, Covent Garden, Orange Glory, Doctor, I make cuttings up to 6 inches long off the tip end of new tender growth. Of other types like Little Beauty, Lord Byron and Brentwood, the structure is smaller and if I can get a 4 inch soft wood cutting, I am lucky. I take off as few leaves as possible and try to get a stem as long as I can below the first two nodes. I cut out my cutting as close the bottom node, on a slight angle, with a sharpknife. Try and make the cut as clean as you can. I cut all unnecessary leaves off, for by cutting I don't break the buds that are just inside the bark, where by pulling them off, I would break them or spoil them for growth that in a few months would be

(Continued on page 30)

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# BEGONIA MRS. (FRED T.) SCRIPPS

by ALICE CLARK  
San Diego, Calif.

A chance seedling in the lath-house of Mrs. Fred T. Scripps, at "Braemar," Pacific Beach, bears her full name. Found in 1937, it is presumed, from the small tuft at the center of the leaf, to be related to B. Luxurians on one side and its very hairy texture and color would indicate the parentage of B. Scharfii, on the other.

It is a fascinating plant to raise if you have the room, because it seems to have inherited strength of growth from both sides of the house. The Begonia in the illustration has been grown in a pot sunk in the earth, under some trees in the garden, for two years. It is now twenty-eight inches tall, exclusive of flower stem, and twenty-six inches wide. In the ground it would be very much taller, in fact, it gets to be a giant. The leaves being so large, it makes a splendid filler. It stands more sun and less coddling than most people give it. I could hardly recognize a hot-house plant of this variety, seen in a recent exhibit.

This sketch will serve to show the little ruffle at junction of most of the stems with the leaf. It was difficult to depict the beauty of the very red veins on the top of the leaves as well as on the back and the stems. All are frosted over with silvery hairs, even to a few



Alice Clark

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on the surface of the rich green foliage. The great variety of leaf form is half of its charm; some are indented almost as deeply as B. Luxurians itself; some have only three lobes; some are duplex; some have a thumb and a large hand, like the one on the lower right; the new growth is like lovely hairy stars and those on older plants are over a foot long.

The flower stem is longer than sketched, and it is always strong enough to hold the huge panicles of small pearly flowers, only two of which are visible open in the drawing of my specimen. In bud they are a very light pink.

This plant is probably too large and vigorous to appreciate the cramped quarters of an eastern window-box, but it is definitely a "must-have" for outdoors in California. I would like to see Mrs. Scripps established beside the many Corallina Delucernas, to hide their dormant stems in winter when it is always in fair form and about to commence blooming.

# LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

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

## CHAPTER V

### The Workshop

IN earlier pages I have stressed the necessity of providing adequate working quarters in the making of a lathed garden, but this feature cannot be over-emphasized and it is with a distinct feeling of pleasure that I now reach that department. Among the thousands of visitors, there have been a mere handful, who halting at the sign "No Admittance" that is nailed on the gate letting into the working portion, reply, when told "that is just the propagating end," say, "But that is the very thing I most want to see." For these the gate swings wide, they are my kind of folks, gardeners, and if they show real interest in my compost bins, they pretty well qualify for a Vice-Presidency, like the diligent bank clerk whose salary ought to be raised but who can be bought off with a high sounding, but cheap, title.

Like every one else, I started my workshop by building fixed benches and shelves, planning an occupation for every square inch of space, and as time passed I tore them all out, one after the other, because this department must change, or grow if you please, like the show section, and I make no apology for once more insisting that gardens grow rather than are made. I have hundreds of feet of bench but it is all in ten foot sections three feet wide, and as the design has proven effective and cheap, it is detailed. Three sets of legs are made of 3 by 4 lumber cross-braced at top and about six inches from bottom with 1 by 6. On these are nailed the ten foot by one floor boards. The sides and ends of 1 foot board are nailed through the center to the floor boards, and also the legs. This gives a good brace to the legs. The top is a tray 5 inches deep and there is also a similar inverted tray underneath, most valuable for applying bottom heat. In any glass-house, which has no other means of heating, an ordinary brooder kerosene lamp is used under such a bench, with the lid of a garbage can, a discarded roaster or what not, suspended above the lamp. Three such lamps to a ten

foot bench give most satisfactory results. No over heating occurs because any over plus escapes as the air expands. This does not mean I would prefer this method to a properly constructed and heated greenhouse with its electric or steam gadgets, but I am writing for common folks who make gardens with what they have, not for those who can buy any kind of a one they fancy.

Before leaving our benches, let it be said that the thirty inch height has proven most acceptable, but if I were taller they might be three feet or if much shorter two feet, but they should not be over three feet wide as that is the limit of the ordinary reach.

A considerable space in this propagating department is given over to beds three feet wide, made with six inch boards, and these contain a continuous succession of cuttings, seedlings, etc. Of course between crops the soil is renewed. These beds have a sprinkling system, as moisture must be kept near the surface.

Here seems to be a good place to say don't economize on faucets or hose. Every part of the lathed garden should be within reach of a twenty-five foot length of hose, and there should be a length on every faucet. Use a light cheap hose and throw it away when it begins to definitely show age.

All summer long the varied operations of propagation, potting, repotting, etc., center around one of the ten foot benches described, and handy to the same is a trough, which used to water the horses before they became museum pieces. In this, pots are soaked. It is not ideal for the purpose, but I had it. There is also a copper lined tray on legs for soaking flats and some of those shallow circular galvanized wash tubs that are handy for lots of purposes.

If I were building from the ground up, I should make a soaking tray with bottom in steps to accommodate 4, 6, and 8 inch pots, so that at the same time the various sizes could be plunged. This could be of wood so that when empty it could be easily shifted around.

Another very useful adjunct to the benches has been a cloth cover. This has one foot sides to fit on the top of the



sides of the bench and a light frame above rising another foot at the center. The cover of cheap unbleached sheeting is fastened along the highest point, with a lath at the edge on each side which holds the flap down, but can be thrown back from either side to get at the contents. Four short legs will hold this cover in position.

Seeds and seedlings germinate and grow in a multiplicity of containers. Some folks swear by cigar boxes, others prefer other empties and discards, but general convenience and economy would seem to indicate a sort of standardization. For seeds we use the potman's seed pans, and for flats, we make our own out of 3" by half, redwood bats, and shakes of the same material. These are 17 by 17 inches, the size being regulated to accommodate two of these flats in our three foot benches, and they are square so that one does not have to think which is the right way to place them, there is no wrong way. These flats will take one hundred of the ordinary seedlings and grow them till ready for pots or setting out. Flats are a regular article of garden merchandise and can be bought for less than I can make my own, but I have never seen listed the size I want.

It is about time I had a little relaxation, so I shall take it by way of a confessional, and go back to very early days when a lathed garden was not even in my dreams, but in which I was a gardener at heart. I see the old garden in front of the centuries-old house, but clearer than anything else, the gardeners who made and kept the garden, men without one bit of knowledge except that born of experience of their own, and of their forebears for generations. They never heard of a soil testing set, but they could tell you the qualities of any sample by simply rolling it in their horny hands. "This will grow cabbages, that is good strawberry ground," etc., they would say and so it would prove. I want to tell you about one of these gardeners, before trying to sketch in a technic for operating in the propagating department, so that you can understand that I emphatically believe that real gardening goes much deeper than just scientific formula.

"Jolly" was the name of my gardener, and today as always, he is my embodiment of the "Garden Spirit." Let me introduce him as he arrives in the early

part of the year, when the last snow has melted, he has come to scythe the lawn, so that the mower can begin its work. The long grass lies tangled and matted, a hopeless appearing job, but Jolly sets his scythe heel in his shoulder, the snath resting on the ground, his left arm over the blade and draws his stone from his belt, and the steel rings a merry tune as it plays first on one side and then on the other. The sun comes up and from my bedroom window I see Jolly bathed in its rays, his ruddy beard and hair like a halo, his blue eyes twinkling, much bluer than his faded shirt above corduroy pants, tied slightly with twine just below the knee. Why this tying I have never know, but all real gardeners do it. I open the window and shout, "Hello, Jolly!" and he waves the stone in reply, and with feet wide apart sets to work on that grassy tangle. Swish! Swish! goes the strokes first from one direction then another; Jolly knows just how to make his attack and in no time the job is done with unbelievable efficiency. They were red letter days when Jolly came to work. I was fascinated with the play of his spade as he turned the moist earth, I liked to see him planting or pruning, but most of all I liked him with his scythe, and I have a nostalgia now for the smell of him, earth and sweat mingled with Jolly, a good clean smell, for Jolly took a real pride in Jolly. I was often told that Jolly was bad for boys, he drank a lot of beer, had many children but no wives, never went to church, etc., what did I care, he was Jolly, the blithe spirit of the garden, the golden bearded one with blue eyes that always smiled; and by the way, his name was really Jolly, what a happy coincidence. When I am bothered by the conflicting advice of experts, for experts do disagree, I think of Jolly and am greatly comforted and so say to you, if you are planting by the moon or following along other paths, that have proven successful, keep on the same old way and let the scientific souls stew in their own sneers. One more little reminiscence before stopping these mental strolls. One of my gardener friends sowed a patch of turnips, and when the seed was in and the surface all nicely raked, he brought up a barrow load of cobbles and placed them around in his planting. He took a lot of chaffing about his rock patch with a quiet

(Continued on page 29)



## Questions and Answers

Dear Editor:

I understand that you want to enlarge the question and answer column in *The Begonian*. I would like the following answered:

**Question:** Last Spring I planted some tuberous begonia seedlings under an oak tree. The seeds were from Vetterle and Reinelt (Frank, please note the free advertisement). The plants did wonderfully and bloomed all Summer. They are not blooming now but are still green and growing, not having died as would be expected. What shall I do with them? take a club and hit them over the heads or leave them alone? —C.H.L.

**Answer:** Withhold water, strip leaves, leave stem to mature, remove with soil to flat, and thus force dormancy.

**Question:** Is redwood fibre a good media in which to start Rex leaf cuttings? If not, what is better than sand or leaf mold? And should the media be kept wet or just moist?

**Part Answer:** Let us hear from our readers. We do know this: Sani-Soil alone does not hold sufficient moisture to grow cuttings or plants. It is a ground conditioner, holds soil open, porous and clean even as an insect repellent, and as a mulch it maintains constant and equable moisture besides other benefits. We are told by professional orchid growers the coarse Sani-Soil is a perfect growing medium for many orchids. What do you know?

**Question:** Rex Begonias look so drab at present. Should I remove these old leaves or should I leave them until — when?

**Answer:** If you need leaves for propagation, take some off but leave most of them to shelter the newer leaves and the rhizomes — until warmer weather starts.

**Question:** How should I treat Tuberous Begonias in storage? Mine look so very dry.

**Answer:** Tubers should be inspected about once a week to check moisture content and possible infection by insects. If too dry, give them a very light sprinkling with water, if too damp pack in layers of dry peat moss or Sani-Soil. If infected dust for specific insect and if rotting remove parts affected, and dip cut into two parts fine charcoal and one part sulphur.

## A Letter From Arkansas

• Arkansas is a perfect state for growing Begonias I have found since moving here from Tulsa, Oklahoma. The water is extra soft, the atmosphere is moist and there is plenty of leaf-mold as well as lots of trees for shade and coolness. I already have ten Begonias but am unable to identify them, due to the scarcity of Begonia information in this area.

I have other friends with Begonias who are in the same state of trouble. Could some one in the ABS do something to remedy this situation? The greenhouse owners here and in Tulsa do not know the Begonias by name, therefore, they also would be helped.

**Answer:** To begin with: Pack some of the leaves of Begonias in some damp cotton, place in a box and address to our Research Director, Mrs. H. W. Bridges, 1824 B Street, Hayward, Calif., and she will name them for you. Keep a record as to the number you tag each leaf in a book, and mark your pot with same number; in that way you will not have the naming in vain.

As for the rest, yes indeed, something can be done, and will be done. Look for letter.

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# Plantly Speaking — On the Shady Side

by JOHN S. VOSBURG  
Hollywood, Calif.

• This month's plant, chose because it is such a pretty sight just now in our Southern California gardens, is more of a shrub than any we have discussed in this column to date.

*Reinwardtia indica* (Yellowflax) should not be confused with *Linum flavum*, as it often is because of its close relationship. For many weeks now the *Reinwardtia indica* will flaunt its warm lemon yellow funnel-shaped flowers in gay abandon, a very welcome color to the Winter garden, and particularly desirable and valuable in the shade-garden where it will bloom better for a little sun. This shrub grows to about four feet in height and should be placed where the solid mass of yellow blooms will show off in its glory. Being a little frost tender it can be protected on either side by other hardier shrubs, or it may be planted in pots where it will be hard to find an equal during its season of abundance.

It is not too difficult to grow from cuttings if they are started from good basal shoots, these make much better plants than other cuttings. It should be easy to determine the difference between this and the *Linum flavum* which is a perennial of Spring and Summer bloom and more of a sun-lover. The *Reinwardtia* likes a well-drained soil and protection from wind, otherwise it is very simple of culture and certainly an asset in our gardens.



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## LATHHOUSE CONSTRUCTION

(Continued from page 27)

smile, but the laugh was not on him when the crop matured, for all the best turnips grow around those cobbles. Don't laugh and forget this little story, it may be useful to remember when you have a fern that sulks, I find a lot of the *Pteris* like to keep company with a rock.

(To be continued)

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

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## PROPAGATION OF FUCHSIAS

(Continued from page 24)

branches. I next dip the cut end in a hormone powder to help callous over the end of the cutting. This callous is very much like a callous on your hand, if you look at it under a magnifying glass. When I put the cutting in the sand after dipping it in the hormone powder, I press it down and try to make it as solid in the sand as possible, to a depth of 1½ inches. Soon will come the tiny white roots around the callous. Some times, if you leave the cutting in the sand a little longer, you will see a root system starting at the node next above the callous. I leave the cuttings in sand about six weeks before I disturb them. I have not noticed that it retards growth in any way to lift one out to see how it is growing.

When there is a nice ball of roots on the bottom, lift out of the sand by placing the putty knife under and lifting them out carefully. Most of the sand will fall off. Now they are ready for their first potting. If the root system is not too large, I put them first into 2½ inch pots. If there are too many roots, put them in not over a 3 inch pot. I think that small plants in large pots get too much water. I use Oak Leaf mold—meaning just that—not leaf mold with sand already in it. I get the Oak Leaves partly decayed ground up and make a compost of 2 parts leaves, 1 part Walteria sand, with 1 part very old chicken fertilizer. I let this mold together for some time before needed—then it works nicely and is easy to handle. After the plant has filled the pot with roots, I transfer to 4 inch pots, using the same soil mixture. I find here at "Home Gardens" that some plants do better in one place than another, so I shift them around, keeping them in the pot until I find the place in which they seem to do best, before I settle them in a permanent location. Sometimes I have to shift them to larger pots before I find the place they like best.

## Pruning Begonias

• Fibrous rooted begonias are dormant this time of year and have dropped most of their leaves. However, along the top-most parts of their branches they are still clinging to a few leaves and the amateur who raises them is apt to give them a little soil food, a wee bit more water, and perhaps stir the soil around their roots to coax them back into a good humor, or to urge the former crisp shewn again to their leaves.

But in this treatment he is mistaken. If they show evidence of not wanting to take care of their stalks and leaves take their branches away from them. Also, remove all stalks that are over one year old.

All fibrous rooted begonias should be given a vigorous pruning at this time of year when they are most dormant. Use a sharp knife for the work and cut back all the old growth clear to the ground. In the case of the single-stalk specimens cut them back to within two or three "eyes" from the soil. This will leave two places for new growth to start from the old stalk and will force the roots to send up new stalks from the soil. If you want the new shoots to branch out instead of growing tall with a single stalk pinch the crown out as soon as the third set of leaves have formed.

All the cuttings and best leaves should be put into damp leaf mold and rooted for new plants. No true lath-house lover likes to throw away anything, even a leaf, which may be developed into a future plant.

Never give plant food to fibrous-rooted begonias. They like it and will send up rapid growth from it at first but, in the long run, it will harm the plant. Sifted leaf mold will produce good show plants—plants which will live year after year and stand the rigors of the change in seasons and those of transplanting.—Reprinted from Christian Science Monitor.

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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 February (2nd Monday) American Begonia Society Board Meeting will take place in Board of Directors Room, Retail Merchants Credit Assn., 417 So. Hill, Los Angeles, Calif., Feb. 8th, 7:30 p.m.

## PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Tuesday, February 2nd, 10:00 a.m.  
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Secy.-Treas.,  
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, February 2nd  
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,  
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

## BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, February 2nd, 8:00 p.m.  
Mrs. L. D. Thalheimer, Secy.-Treas.,  
222 S. Woodruff St., Bellflower, Calif.

## THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, February 2nd, 7:30 p.m.  
American Legion Hall.  
North California St., Ventura, Calif.  
Mr. George Fitch, Secy.-Treas.  
70 So. Hurst Ave., Ventura, Calif.

## SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

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

## DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, February 4th  
Dominguez Casualty Station,  
2171 So. Alameda St., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.  
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, February 4th  
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C.  
917 N. Maine St., Santa Ana, Calif.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Young, Secy.  
No. Cambridge St., Orange, Calif.

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Friday, February 5th  
148 No. La Brea, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary

## SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, February 8th  
4037 39th Street, San Diego  
Mrs. Edwin F. Barker, Secy.-Treas.,  
4561 El Cerrito Dr., San Diego, Calif.

## EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, February 8th, 7:45 p.m.  
Washington School,  
60th and Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif.  
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,  
2116 Derby Street, Berkeley, Calif.

## NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, February 8th, 7:30 p.m.  
5708 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. M. E. Van Hook, Secy.-Treas.,  
6774 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, February 11th, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Grant Waldref, Sec.,  
1615 No. Genesee, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Speaker: Mr. Ferd Neels  
Demonstration: Transplanting Tuberous Begonias

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Thursday, February 11th, 7:30 p.m.  
Odd Fellows Temple  
728 Elm, Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. M. S. Algeo, Secy.-Treas.  
1712 Gardena, Long Beach, Calif.

## HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, February 12th  
Home of Mrs. Jessie Jenkins,  
3615 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Rush T. Lewis, Secy.-Treas.  
3733-A California, Long Beach, Calif.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

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

## EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

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

## VICTORY BRANCH

Thursday, February 18th  
11228 Atlantic Ave.  
Mrs. Clara Moore, Secy.-Treas.,  
11275 Duncan Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, February 23rd  
329 No. Brand Blvd.,  
New Press Bldg., Glendale, Calif.  
Mrs. M. B. Dewar, Secretary,  
709 Milford Ave., Phone Citrus 17517

## MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, February 23rd  
Mrs. M. S. Price, Secy., Hatboro, Pa.  
Home of Mrs. Augusta Paxson

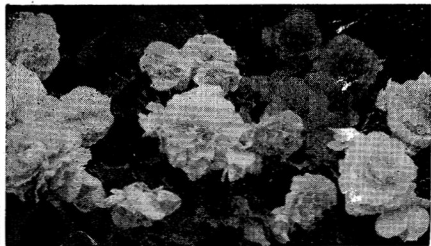
## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday Evening, February 26th, 7:30 p.m.  
123 E. Lime St., Monrovia, Calif.  
Mrs. N. H. Powell, Secretary  
419 South Ynez Ave.  
Monterey Park, Calif.

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Sunday, February 28th, 1:30 p.m.  
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