

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

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The BEGONIAN

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Patriotic Cooperation Necessary By THE EDITOR

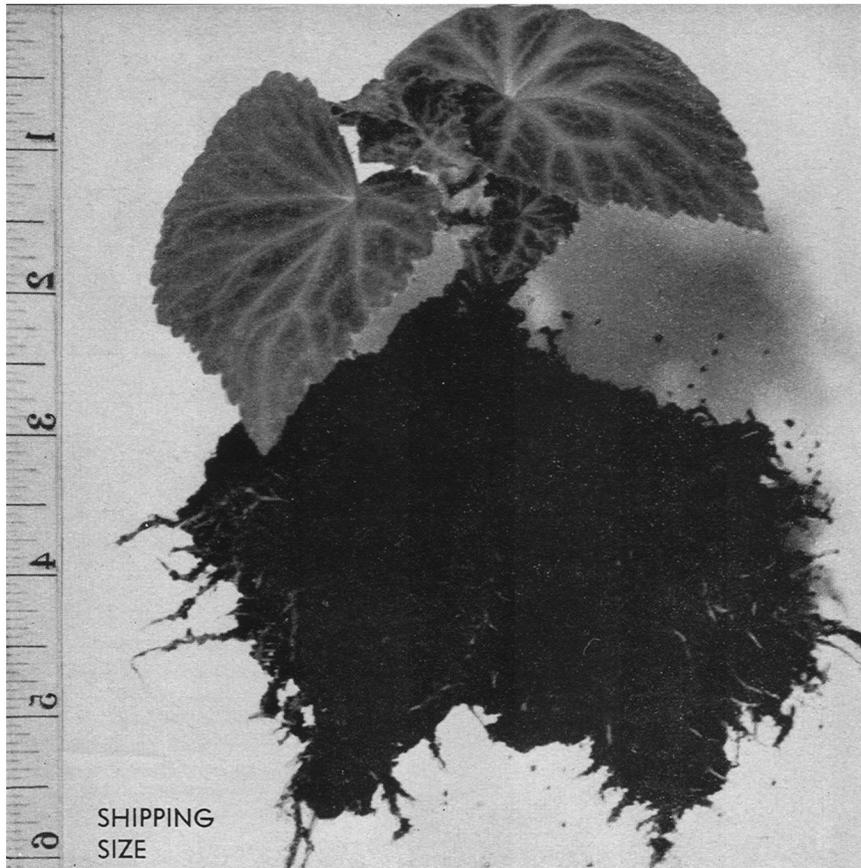
• Unified action by Begoniates added to all the other organizations can build up an invulnerable front to the common enemies . . . in at least two ways. Simply this. We already are upholding high standards of American ideals through our manner of maintaining what floral beauty we already possess; this is as it should be. We can do better yet and this should call forth further effort from each one of us.

Another field of action is to utilize every inch of space possible in which to plant and carefully tend whatever fruits and vegetables we possibly can. This is not only as it should be, but as it

MUST be—if we are to be real help-mates to the men and women giving their precious lives and future years of suffering through war injuries to keep us safe.

Are you sure that you cannot grow a lettuce border to your Begonia beds? Parsley and chives will do fairly decently with some shade as several other plants for food. Chervil, if we could get the seed of this most delectable of all salad herbs, must have shade, as also Tarragon, if it gets some filtered sun, through the best part of the day.

(Continued on page 265)



What a seedling tuber should look like at time of transplanting into final pots or in bed
 (Directions and photo courtesy Vetterle & Reinelt, Capitola, Calif.)

Tuberous Begonia Plants

• **Seedling Plants:** Commercially all tuberous Begonias are produced annually from seed. Seed sown during January and February will produce flowering plants, from July on, and a tuber upon maturing in December. From then on the tuber, each year, grows in size forming a larger and larger plant.

These seedlings are twice transplanted and hardened off before they can be planted directly outdoors in a permanent location. Later plantings that June 15 would not bring sufficiently large plants to give enough flowers the same season. Plants that are planted in May and early June will begin to bloom by the end of July and reach their height of flowering season during August-September and continuing on into November.

Regions with warm summers and long cool autumns, such as most parts of California, will get better results from seedlings than from tubers. Tubers start blooming earlier and the flowers often burn during the hot summer months. If

one desires a long season of flowering, tubers can be planted for early bloom and seedlings for continuing the season until the end of autumn. For bedding purposes seedlings are preferable as they grow uniformly and form a mass of color.

CULTURE OF TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Seed: Sow from January to March. Place one or two inches of gravel in flats or seed pans, to insure good drainage, over which place a fairly coarse mixture of two-thirds leaf mold and one-third peat, about one inch deep. Smooth the surface with the same mixture, finely sifted, not more than one-eighth inch deep but do not press it down. It is necessary for the surface to be of a spongy character, so that when the seed germinates, the young roots can get into it. If surface is too fine and packed, the seedlings will often fall over, as the young roots are unable to get in . . . Place the pans in shallow water until thoroughly soaked up from below, then broadcast the seed. Cover with glass and a sheet of paper or keep it in the

dark until germination takes place. Night temperature of 65 or 75 degrees Fahrenheit is necessary for quick germination. Lower temperature than 65 degrees will considerably slow up germination, with poorer results . . . As soon as germination takes place, take the paper off and in three or four days lift the glass also, otherwise the little seedlings will get too spindly. Warm temperature, protection from direct sunlight, and uniform moisture, are absolutely necessary. Even a slight drying out of the surface will be fatal to the delicate young plants. Very gentle overhead watering should be used when necessary . . . Dampening off will occur only if flats are kept too wet in greenhouse without proper ventilation. Watering with a weak solution of Clorox, about 2 to 4 per cent, is found to be best cure and preventive.

Transplanting: When the third leaves are developed, transplant one inch apart in flats containing the same mixture as for sowing. No finely-sifted surface is necessary any more. Do not put more than one to one and one-half inches deep of soil in your flats. Deep flats filled with several inches of soil are not necessary. Usually they do not drain well, soil will sour, and checking of the growth will be the result. Before they get too crowded, transplant in the same manner again farther apart, until strong enough to be planted out in the open or, if desired, potted up. If planting in open ground, enrich the soil liberally with well-rotted cow or sheep manure and a sprinkling of bone meal. If soil is heavy, add plenty of either leaf mold, peat or sand or a mixture of all, so that the ground will be light and porous. Plant in a shaded position, such as under the trees or north side of the house, where direct sunlight cannot reach them. Keep well watered; fine, overhead sprinkling preferred.

HELP

We are forced to move — cannot find a place for love nor money. Need a place for rent, one, or better two bedrooms.

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Will some kind Begoniaite come to our rescue in finding a house for us and our Begonias?

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Branch News

Following are the 1944 officers of the **San Gabriel Valley Branch** of the American Begonia Society:

President: George G. Lawrence, 447 N. Hidalgo Ave., Alhambra, Calif.

Vice-Pres. and Program Ch.: Clarence W. Johnston, 1101 Rio Hondo Pkwy., El Monte, Calif.

Past Pres.: Arthur E. Nelson, 506 LeRoy Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

Secretary: Mrs. Elma C. Dunn, 244 N. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.

Treasurer: Mrs. Josephine Hotz, 123 E. Lime St., Monrovia, Calif.

Director: Ralph Davis, 1023 Ferris Rd., El Monte, Calif.

Rep. Dir.: Captain Roy K. Dere, 949 So. Eastman, Los Angeles 23, Calif.

We have thought it important to give the addresses as well as the names of the different Branch officers. Since this will help to bind the Begonia Family all over the United States and elsewhere closer together, we hope you will mark these names and the associations so that when you need them you will find them.

The February meeting will surely be well attended for Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond is to speak on Flower Arrangements.

The **East Bay Branch** held its first meeting for 1944 in its usual meeting place, last Monday night.

For our program we had an open forum in which we were privileged to have Dr. French, who has written articles for the *Begonian*, participate. Mr. Boyd, our vice-president, presided due to the absence of our President. The short monthly talk on the culture of tuberous Begonias were given by Mr. Boyd.

Our branch hopes to purchase a camera with which to take colored pictures that can be used as slides. Toward the purchase price Mr. Boyd brought some packets of cornlets he has saved from *Begonia Sutherlandii*, which we sold at 50c each. Dr. French in the Spring is going to donate some tuberous Begonia plants to sell to the membership and those proceeds will go in this fund. One of our members is going to bring some *Streptocarpus* plants to be sold for this purpose also.

The display of Begonias in the glass house is in A-1 condition this winter because of the good care they have had.

(Continued on page 256)



Hanging Basket Begonia — photo and article by Vetterle & Reinelt

Culture of Hanging Begonias

• Hanging basket Begonias have the same cultural requirements as all other types, with minor exceptions. For good results one should have large tubers, as the larger tubers will have more shoots come from it and consequently the plant will be larger and more effective. Tubers can be started from January to March, the same as any other type, but when the growth reaches three or four inches transplant them in a light mixture of soil; if possible, two-thirds coarse leaf mold and one-third sand, as they are very sensitive to perfect drainage. Containers should be large enough; a minimum of 8 inches in diameter for small tubers and up to 12 inches for large ones. Shallow pots, if possible, are better than wire or any other type basket, as the plants do not dry out in these types so severely and can produce far better growth. Wire baskets, lined with moss, can be utilized but one can not expect to grow excellent specimens by this method. Tubers started in peat will develop a sufficiently large root system so that they can be planted immediately in pots large enough to carry them through the season.

Feeding: It will be necessary to mix a small handful of fish meal with the soil going into the lower half of the pot, which will supply the plant with sufficient nutrients to start with. Later in summer, when the plant shows a decline in growth, another small handful dug into a shallow trench around the edge of the pot and covered with soil will revive it completely, and bring a new profusion of blooms.

Pinching: Some types, which do not show more than one or two shoots at the beginning of the season, should have the heart pinched out when the growth reaches the first flower bud. This will induce the side shoots to develop fully and form a better balanced plant.

NOTE: We are advised that the date of publication of Eva Kenworthy Gray's Begonia Book should read 1931, not as we had it in the December issue. Please make your corrections now, so that should you have to refer to this list of books you will have the right date, even though we understand this book is out of print. — The Editor.

Questions and Answers

Q. Is the rhizome on *B. manicata* supposed to lie on the ground or stand upright?

Ans. *B. manicata* is an erect grower.

Q. Should a rhizomatous begonia be placed to grow toward the light or away in a window?

Ans. A rhizomatous begonia will grow best toward the light, but suggest that you turn it around at intervals to obtain a good and well shaped plant.

Q. Where can a mid-westerner purchase Begonias?

Ans. See advertisements in "The Begonian."

Q. Is it true that rich soil causes colored begonia leaves to turn plain green?

Ans. No.

Q. What causes the leaves to grow "puckered" on *B. fuchsoides* in the house?

Ans. Suggest that you look for thrips or red spider.

(The above questions sent in by Mrs. Ruth Mudd.)

Is the fibrous begonia Darling started from seed or cuttings?

Ans. Both.

Q. Can Rex Begonias be grown in Sani-Soil?

Ans. The soil mixture may contain up to one-third of the S. S. in bulk for beneficial results in heavy soil. The coarse S. S. is better used as a mulch on Rex Begonias.

Q. (a) Will tip cuttings of bedding begonias be good, and make bushy plants? (b) Or must they be grown from seeds?

Ans. (a) No, the best cuttings are made from the new shoots at the base of the plant. (b) Seed is a very satisfactory method.

(These questions are from Mrs. S. F. Zug.)

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Song In A Begonia Greenhouse

I slip away on a wintry day
Beneath the shining glass.
North wind may blow, but here below
No cruel cold shall pass.

The soft air sings of lovely things
That blossom in peace and fade.
But no foe but a mouse in our little
greenhouse,
Though all the world is afraid.

Pause for Refreshment
(Venosa in your paper sheath,
Templini, tree to sit beneath,
Tingley Mallet — What a red!
Lord Palmerston's vast leaves outspread,
Funny Bunchi, crinkled up,
Calla Lily's little cup,
Kellermani, Woolly Bear,
The common and the very rare,
More names than one could ever think.
Tell, me, dears, do you want a drink?)

In the garden outside the colors hide
In a uniform of white,
But here they show, with a shimmer and
glow,

A thousand shadings bright.
There is no rose that the poet knows
More exquisite in grace
Than you, dear things. My old hear-
sings
In this sunny, blessed place.

— Charlotte M. Post
17 Beaconsfield Rd.
Worcester 2, Mass.

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PRIMULA POLYANTHA

By FRANK REINELT
Capitola, Calif.

I FIRST BEGAN selecting Primroses when working for McCutcheon in Los Altos, Calif., in 1928. They were a large lot I grew from Blackmore and Langdon and German seed. The work was crude, dealing only with a few plants which I carried over with me to the Marvin estate. In 1930, I robbed Sidney Mitchell of the best plants he grew from an English amateur's seed—8 plants in all, which, combined with the three or four that I chose from my own lot, forming the nucleus, I started real work.

When I moved to Capitola in 1934, my stock still was very modest by any standard and during spring I chose about a dozen plants here and there on private estates, anywhere I saw something good. A trip to Hugh Logan's in Inverness brought by far the best haul, as he gave me several fine named varieties of large *P. acaulis* and also generously divided with me the two best blue *Polyanthus* seedlings he grew from some English seed. Victor, too, parted with his best blue *acaulis*, which rounded out my stock of blues, since none of those I grew from imported seed came up to the standard of these few.

From a large lot of seed bought from various firms in England and Germany, I chose the Suttons white for breeding which had a very large flower and good uniformity, and brilliancy, from the same firm, which had very good color, large umbels, although the flowers were not as large as the whites. None of the other stands offered anything on a par with the selection I already had and I kept inbreeding only this lot during the next years; although I kept testing new seed from various sources, none was used for breeding since my original stock gave more advanced material already than anything I could buy.

The progress was painfully slow—nothing like when one works with flowers which are breeders such as begonias or delphinium, and I was on the verge several times of giving it up. However, each Spring there appeared a few seedlings that brought the excitement back and finally it went so far that it was too late to give up. I grew some 20,000 seedlings a year, most of which were usually plowed up since the average was not what I wanted. By interbreeding the various color combinations, the range began to widen and

new color shades appeared. One of these was muddy cream with a pinkish edge. Although I have crossed it into every direction, it kept eluding me for several years. Three years ago one lot brought about a dozen plants, two of which were quite pink, although they still faded in stronger sunlight. These were the progenitors of the pink primroses which we hope to introduce some day. The successive generations brought higher and higher percentage of pinks, with gradually larger flowers, and although they are still not tall or large enough to suit my taste, they are definitely here to stay, and within three or four more generations they should come, to some degree, true from seed.

Intercrossed with yellow shades and apricots, they give a range of pastel shades—some of them of unusually good quality.

My chief idea in breeding Primroses is to produce large round flowers, very large umbels, on stiff tall stems. I had to use a great deal of the large flowered *P. acaulis* in the beginning to raise the size of individual flowers of the *Polyanthus*, which on an average were much smaller. The crosses produced larger blooms, but were often dwarfed, and the problem now is to continue lifting them up. Most of the colors in Primroses, with the exception of yellow gold, are dull, running into muddy magentas. From Sutton's brilliancy came some very large flame and scarlet shades, and in the last season, a few seedlings appeared in red where the color was so clear and lively as to be startling, as compared with the existing types in that color. The average of quality, too, has been going up steadily so that seedlings which would, four or five years ago, create excitement, are now classed as ordinary. I expect it will take at least five more generations to standardize, clear and enlarge the various shades before they will be on the road to a finished product. (To be continued)

• Pictures of and personal experiences with Begonias and shade plants will inspire others to grow finer gardens. This will add to the happiness of many people and if you feel your garden is not sufficiently important, look for others that are and write the Editor about them.

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 252)

Pasadena Branch: At the January meeting Miss Charlotte Hoak spoke shortly on the fine condition of the Begonias in the A. D. Robinson Memorial since the two men now in charge have undertaken the responsibility of their care.

The speaker of the evening was the famous Lester Rowntree of Carmel, Calif. She spoke of shade material particularly with emphasis on the fine things to be had from the native flora of California. She asked that if natives of any State are used as a backbone for a shade garden it should be planted on the north of buildings and mainly or as much as possible of native material thus maintaining a natural atmosphere. She presented a long list of interesting material to use in the many ways necessary for a complete shade garden but asked that gardeners refrain from overplanting and overcrowding. Most plantings will fill out in the second and subsequent years, therefore plant with an eye to the future.

Fred Willard's talk on Primulas, illustrated with specimens, was postponed to the February meeting and Miss Charlotte Hoak will lead a roundtable discussion on Begonias.

Hollywood Branch: The January meeting opened the year's activities with the initial effort on behalf of a membership drive. The following officers want to make this Branch thoroughly conscious of the many happy times members will have with the visitors who will come to Hollywood for the Annual Meeting during the last part of this year.

Names and addresses of the Board of Directors, Hollywood Begonia Branch:
President: Mrs. W. C. Drummond, 1246 No. King's Rd., Los Angeles 46.
Vice-President: Mr. John Parker, 2411 Glendower, Los Angeles 27.
Treasurer: Mr. W. C. Cooke, 629 Micheltorena, Los Angeles 26.
Corres. Secy.: Mrs. Ada Brown, 1116 Burnside, Los Angeles 35.
Recording Secy.: Mrs. Kem Weber, 6707 Milner Rd., Los Angeles 28.
Branch Director: Mrs. Zella Otto, 7758 Waring, Los Angeles 35.
Nat'l Rep.: Mr. Murray Hawkins, 1307 Sierra Alta Way, Los Angeles 46.

Among the visitors were Mrs. Alice M. Clark of San Diego. Yes, the artist of the fine drawings you find and have been enjoying in *The Begonian* for many months now.

Mrs. Kem Weber presented a fine lesson on Begonia Wallow. It will be passed on to you very soon.

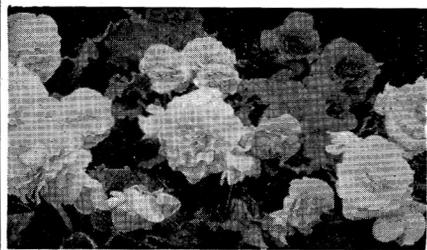
The three speakers made the evening interesting indeed. Mr. John Parker spoke on the culture of Camellias; Mr. Edward Flynn told of his fine Tuberos Begonias, and Dr. W. C. Drummond spoke about a still pretty winter blooming Socotrana hybrid, one of the very floriferous plants that bloom so beautifully for Christmas. This also will be published in *The Begonian* soon.

Meetings like this are most worthwhile to anyone interested in making fine friends and gaining success in the production of lovely shade gardens. You are invited very cordially.

(Continued on page 262)

- Why not take advantage of the excellent books available in the Society library, on Begonia lore?

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Capitola, California

How To Grow Specimen Fuchsias For Shows

By HENRY WERLE, Colma, Calif.

• Show Fuchsias may be grown as baskets, standards, pillars or pyramids, espaliers, and in the bush form. Some varieties lend themselves better for certain forms than others, and the grower may, through experimenting and practice, determine what varieties are best for each form. An unlimited range of possibilities is open, as some varieties will behave differently for some growers than for others. The manner of growth of a plant will also largely determine the form to which it is best adapted.

For a "basket" Fuchsia, one that is to be trained to hang, we select a soft, bushy plant, either in a 2½" or 4" pot. For quick results we place three plants in a 8" hanging pot, but for the best effect, we use only one plant, which takes a little longer to fill the basket. Keep the plants pinched until you have the desired amount of branches. The soil for baskets should be quite light, with one-half leaf mold, one-fourth cow manure, and one-fourth garden loam. Liquid cow manure is fed once a week. Keep the seed pods picked off, then the branches will be long.

For a standard Fuchsia, select a nice straight, soft plant in a 2½" or 4" pot. The plant should be repotted to a 6" pot, a stake placed next to it and the plant kept tied every four or five inches. The stake should be about five times taller than the plant to start with and increased in size as the plant grows larger. The new stake should always be placed in the hole left by the old stake, so that the root will not be injured. When the plant

gets to be about four feet tall, you may start taking the lower branches off, rubbing or snapping them off right at the joint, to prevent further growth from that point. After the plant reaches the desired height, pinch out the center, so that the crown of the standard can take shape. The plant at this time should be in an 8" pot. Take off more of the branches to about one foot from the top, and pinch tips of the branches, to make a good, bushy crown. It requires from one to two years to make a good standard Fuchsia. The soil should be a little heavier than for the basket. Feed same as the basket.

Pillar or pyramid Fuchsias are selected the same as standards, only more branches. They are staked and tied the same as standards, but no side branches are removed. Tip when the plant reaches the desired height, and pinch all tips to encourage branching.

Espalier Fuchsias are quite a sensation when properly grown. Select a plant with either one or two straight shoots. Place a vertical stake in the center of the pot and one stake at each side at an angle. Then place one stake across at the first branch and tie the branches to it. As the plant grows, add more cross stakes, and pinch off the tips of the main shoots as the plant reaches the desired height.

Bush Fuchsias are selected the same as pillar or pyramid plants, only kept shorter and bushier by pinching.

For exact timing of the flowering, the specimen Fuchsias for shows depend on the care that is given them. We usually get them to bloom from 21 to 30 days after every pinching. Keep the plants moist at all times, remember to feed them regularly, and be sure to keep all the seed pods picked off.



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BEGONIA WASHINGTON STREET

By ALICE M. CLARK
San Diego, Calif.

OVER thirty-five years ago four women in San Diego, led by Mrs. Frank Waite, formed a group to study Begonias. Mrs. W. L. Frevert was one who became a very enthusiastic grower of these plants. In order to have a place to display their favorites, she and her husband converted the space between their home and the carriage house into a lathed garden. It was the first outdoor living-room or patio in San Diego, according to Mr. Robinson. They were fond of Rexes and one of their seedlings, "Brooke," still a favorite in collections, was named for their daughter with whom Mrs. Frevert makes her home in San Diego.

One day back in 1912, when out for a walk, Mrs. Frevert observed a nice Begonia in a neighboring yard. On one occasion, when the owner was present, she admired it and, as is the friendly custom of gardeners, received a generous slip. It made a good growth so she was able to give cuttings to her friends. She casually told those who inquired about its origin that it came from a garden on Washington Street. Eventually it found its way into the trade and then it was discovered that it was quite unlike any other existing Begonia.

By that time the unknown occupant of the house where it was found had moved away and could not be traced. Research has not uncovered any authentic data as to its origin or any other plant similar enough to be related.

Mr. Robinson once showed me a plant from some new seed that he thought might be more like it than anything he had ever found before but I was not alert enough to remember where the seed originated and I doubt if it is still to be found; unless someone else has raised it too. If it were a hybrid one would have expected that it might have repeated again in the interval of years.

One can only surmise that, like the fuchsia in England, it might have been picked up by a seafaring man in some port-of-call and brought to a friend or relative here in San Diego. Meanwhile, the place of its origin, Washington Street, became the accepted name. It seems to me that, since no one else has claimed it in these thirty-two years, it might properly be credited to the observant lady responsible for its introduc-

tion and be christened, "Mrs. Frevert." How about it, Mrs. Krauss?

Those of you who know this plant will be disappointed in the sketch this month or perhaps even fail to recognize it. When well grown it has fine healthy leaves, three to four inches long instead of two to three inches as those of the drawing. A nice specimen from here was donated to the Robinson Memorial where I hope it continues to thrive. If you would get some idea of it when in its prime, turn to the photograph on page 183 of the Begonian for December, 1942, where it shows quite well on the right-hand side in front of the glass door between two tall plants on the top shelf.

Like some other plants that choose to bloom in the winter, Washington Street cannot be expected to keep its smooth thin foliage in the cold months. Taken right from my open garden in January, a few of the pale old leaves still hang on but it is only the tip growth that shows the characteristic bright green color. Everyone here wondered why I should be drawing such a poor specimen. The answer, of course, is to show it in flower. Back in October when the leaves were lustrous the buds were too small to notice. Even now you may have difficulty finding the one open flower at the tip of a twisted branch near the middle of the sketch. The flowers always appear in thick terminal clusters. The peduncle pushes out just above the leaf and where it branches usually has a larger flower on a longer pedicel. In bud it is about three-quarters of an inch long by half an inch wide, with two small and two larger petals. The color is a greenish-white outside, pure white within and a bright yellow center. The smaller buds on my plant are quite pink due to direct sunlight. A careful survey disclosed no female flowers and I have been unable to find another specimen for further comparison.

The unusual feature of Washington Street is its leaf structure. It is thin and smooth with a light green vein down almost the exact center, instead of off-side as in most Begonias. The other veins start near the stem and parallel the center one. The edge is as serrate as a saw, further accented with

(Continued on page 265)



WASHINGTON STREET
OR
PEACH-LEAF

Tuberous Begonias Under Tree

By EDWARD B. FLYNN
Hollywood, Calif.

• Plants of all kinds have always been interesting to me. About five years ago, however, I became greatly interested in tuberous Begonias, and each year since I have eagerly tried to grow them. I have a large, spreading Catalina cherry tree the branches of which are kept cut out ten feet from the ground to allow circulation of air, plus the admittance of early morning and later afternoon filtered sunlight, yet shut out the hot noonday sun. My Begonias are perfectly happy under this tree.

Our soil at 1319 N. Ogden Drive, Hollywood, is very porous decomposed granite. Each Spring I spade in a great amount of compost material which consists of equal parts of grass cuttings, bean straw, oak leaves and dairy fertilizer thoroughly well decayed. Early in March I plant the tubers in flats in a mixture of three parts of this compost and one part of garden loam. The tubers are spaced about five inches apart each way with the oval side of the tuber down and the top of the tuber about half an inch below the surface of the soil, covering each one gently. They are kept moist but not too wet and placed in

semi-shade. They come to life in a few days.

In three weeks they are ready to be cut out with a putty knife and transplanted under the tree where the soil has been prepared as stated above. These three inch plants are spaced about eighteen inches apart each way, and mulched to within five inches of the plant. They are then sprayed with a fine set overhead sprinkler between noon and four o'clock, which I have found is the best time for my location.

About June I top-dress the whole of the ground with two inches of compost and keep the place moist. By this time I have a fine stand of sturdy, dark green plants about twelve to fourteen inches high with lots of buds which will be opening in a few days.

The pure white Camellia flowered ones show off the vivid red rose type blossoms, and all the gorgeous colors and shades mingled with the dark green foliage blanketing the ground beneath that tree with a splendid display that gladdens the eye of the beholder.

Some poet has said, "Only God can grow a tree"—surely only God can produce such glorious color, season after season, from the same tubers.

We enjoy our Begonia blossoms in our home, in the patio and for our friends from June to November, and I don't know of a finer hobby that will bring so many people happiness than growing tuberous Begonias.



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Sources of Information On Begonias

By HELEN K. KRAUSS
Wynnewood, Pa.

• The most important book on Begonias in the United States was written by Mr. T. H. Everett, Hort., and issued by the New York Botanical Garden. The first list of Begonias appeared in the March, 1939, issue of the N. Y. B. G. Journal. This list was revised and enlarged, and subsequently published in separate form in January, 1940. About two hundred Begonias are described and twenty-nine beautifully illustrated.

As is usual in scientific journals, rex and semperflorens varieties are not enumerated separately. The former are classified under the general heading, rex culturum, and the varietal names of the latter are given at the end of the semperflorens paragraph.

As new or unidentified species are introduced into the Garden, the names are determined and subsequently described and illustrated in the N. Y. B. G. Journal and other horticultural magazines by Mr. Everett. New information forthcoming appears to be a slow process to Begonia fanciers who look for information from authoritative sources but it should be remembered that horticultural authorities are concerned with many plant families. Also, due to the exigencies of war, the analyses of food and economic plants have made further inroads on their time.

So much is said and published about morale builders these days. How cheerless our world would be without flowering or decorative plants. They hold a unique place of their own in gladdening the hearts of men and nowhere is the generous impulse of sharing with your neighbor more evident than amongst Begonians. We hope that the determination of Begonians will continue and will be most grateful for any time that can be given in that direction.

Another important Begonia source of information is Bailey's *Cyclopedia of Horticulture*. About one hundred and twenty Begonias are described and the descriptions are followed by a running account of many more by the author. Although some revision is needed in view of the light which has been shed on the subject in recent years, the overall picture is reliable.

A general book on Begonias was written by Bessie R. Buxton and pub-

lished in June, 1939. About one hundred and twenty Begonias are listed not including the varietal names of the large rex culturum group or those of the semperflorens group, commonly known as wax or bedding Begonias. Unfortunately, many names and synonyms are used interchangeably, thus leaving the choice of names to the reader, which adds rather than reduces the confusion in nomenclature. Credit is due to Mrs. Buxton for having brought forth a book when nothing was available in English to the average Begonia fancier and for the stimulus she has aroused in others for more serious study.

Previous to the publication of the books mentioned, isolated articles on Begonias appeared in magazines and trade papers and catalogs.

The Rosecroft catalogs, issued by Mr. Alfred D. Robinson for a number of years prior to his death in 1942, listed almost two hundred Begonias. Over one-fourth of these are California hybrids, the greater percentage of which were developed by him. Mr. Robinson rendered a special service in listing Begonias of California origin, which field has barely been touched.

Before the last Rosecroft catalog was issued nomenclature appeared hopelessly muddled. With the advent of the N. Y. B. G. Journal and Begonias by B. R. Buxton a change transpired which showed the eagerness for a solution to the problem. In the last catalog issued by Mr. Robinson synonyms of species and European hybrids were listed with the names so that the disappointment of purchasers, because of duplication, would be reduced.

An example of one listing should be of interest: *B. corbeille de feu*, *Bertha de Chateau Rocher*, *ascotiensis*. Needless to say this suggests the intervening days between Theophrastus and Bauhin. Somehow, information is spread about so that the synonyms are not heard very often these days.

Further encouraging news is that recently issued mimeographed lists sent out by commercial growers appear painstakingly correct. This applies to Mrs. Bess Shipley's list and that of the Montalvo Gardens. Others will no doubt be issued in the future and we feel confident that the same spirit will prevail in uniformity and correctness. It will be a pleasure to know a plant by one name and clear our cluttered minds of excess verbiage.

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BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 256)

Glendale Branch: The following list of officers does not yet include a Secretary, but this will be remedied very soon. In the meantime, Mrs. Grace Dewar will carry double responsibility. President: Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, 709 Milford St., Glendale 3, Calif. Vice-President: Mrs. Grace Bayer, 907 Pass Ave., Burbank, Calif. Treasurer: Mr. David Winnans, 215 Winchester Ave., Glendale 1, Calif.

Speakers and Program Subjects

By W. M. HAWKINS, Ch.
Speakers Bureau, Hollywood, Calif.

• There is very little doubt but that all branches will have increasing difficulty in securing outside speakers to address their meetings.

With this in mind and believing that there is much latent talent in our membership that is not being sufficiently used, your Speakers Bureau asks that each Branch of the American Begonia Society send in the names of any member who will be willing to speak to nearby Branches. In sending in names, please include the subject or subjects on which your member will talk and the length of the talk together with address and phone number.

This information should be sent as soon as possible to W. M. Hawkins, 609 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 14, Calif., Phones — Office: TR 8858, Home: CR 6-6627. Inquiries for speakers should also be sent to him for the time being. It is hoped that we will be able to send all Branches a list of available speakers in the near future.

Director: Mr. F. W. Arnold, 419 Griswold St., Glendale 5, Calif.

Nat'l Representative: Mrs. Sue McRae, 1608 Hill Dr., Eagle Rock, Calif.

Bellflower Branch: The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer at 1834 McKenzie St., North Long Beach, Calif.

The Riverside Branch will meet at the home of Mrs. F. E. Topham at 4620 Arlington Ave.

(See page 263)

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Plantly Speaking — In the Shade

By JOHN S. VOSBURG
Hollywood, California

• It is often difficult to find a plant that does equally well in sun or shade. Sometimes our so-called shaded areas have spots where the sun's rays creep in with sufficient intensity to burn some of our plants. *Abutilon pictum* has proven very adaptable with me and I find it serves especially nicely as a medium height background plant to grow in those areas that are not always shaded or it may be pleached against a wall with success. Of its own accord it is not a rigid type shrub, so it usually needs some support unless you are willing that it should completely occupy a given space.

Three feet seems to be a good height at which to keep it under control. It will take any kind of pruning at any season of the year. The flowers are dropping lanterns in orange or yellow veined crimson, borne abundantly over its entire growing season. The leaves are green or variegated with the variegation adding much interest to the plant.

How much cold it will stand I do not know. I have known it to keep a very presentable appearance where temperatures have dropped to twenty-four degrees and presume by this that it is quite tolerant to cold. *A. pictum* is native to Argentina and Brazil. I often use it where I might use a *Fuchsia* and find it is a shrub giving good contrast effect in landscaping effects.

Editor's note: There are many other *Abutilons* also available ranging from white through pinks and lovely yellows, bronze, vivid red and doubles in several of these colors, from many parts of the world. It is one of the flowers that makes delightful corsages because of its long lasting qualities and charm of design as well as color.

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 262)

Inglewood Branch: The year was started with an attendance of 50 members. They had three speakers from their own membership and they proved to be most successful each speaking for fifteen minutes on different subjects. Mr. Geo. McDowell spoke on *Rex Begonias*; Mr. LePla about *Saint Paulia Violets*, and Mr.



Abutilon pictum

Tanner on *Tuberous Begonias*. Next month women are expected to bring a box lunch for two which will be raffled in the old-fashioned way. Mr. H. G. Vose and Mr. J. G. Berkshire will speak.

Inglewood Branch Officers for 1944:
President: Mr. H. B. Fasmer, 5716 4th Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.

Vice-Pres.: Mr. J. S. Robson, 1140 W. Gage Ave., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

Secretary: Mary Ellen Clark, 1618½ W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.

Treasurer: Mrs. F. K. Ehrhardt, 3307 W. 79th St., Los Angeles 43, Calif.

Nat'l Representative: Mr. John Crowder, 1857 W. 166th St., Gardena, Calif.

Executive Board Member: Mr. S. S. Tompkins, 413 W. Queen St., Inglewood, Calif.

Robinson Foundation, Inglewood Br.: Mr. E. C. Tyler, 6631 Cimarron St., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

Plant Sale Chairman: Mr. S. S. Tompkins, 413 W. Queen St., Inglewood.

Registrar: Mrs. Henry LePla, 4515 W. 64th St., Los Angeles 43, Calif.

Program Chairman: Mr. C. D. Tanner, 6156 3rd Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.

Custodian of Flag: Mr. H. S. Clark, 1618½ W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37.

(See page 264)

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INFORMATION WANTED

January 11, 1944

• I have enjoyed the Begonian in a general way, but there is seldom anything in it that would be useful to anyone growing Begonias in this climate. Your members in the east must feel the same way. In this section of the country Begonias are mostly grown in homes for the pleasure they bring during our long cold winter season. During the summer they present quite a problem for those of us who do not have slat houses or covered porches. Many people also go away to summer homes for about 3 months which adds to the burden of what to do with the begonias and other houseplants. I put mine right in the ground in semi-shade, but when lifted in the fall the plants are all covered with dirt on the under side which is hard to remove without injury. I feel there must be a better way to handle plants.

What I am trying to say is—that it would be wonderful to have some articles in the Begonian dealing with some of the problems begonia growers have in a climate different from the west coast. I realize of course that the vast majority of the membership is in the west and that most of the magazine should be devoted to their interests but I do think the Begonia Society should feel some obligation toward its membership in the central and eastern states. I joined the society to increase my begonia knowledge (which isn't much) but so far there has been little in the magazine of practical value to me.

Thanking you, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Victoria G. Kartack.
Wisconsin

(Editor's Note: This is what an answer to our pleas for "experience notes" will correct. The Editor will be so happy to publish your helpful notes. Do send them as soon as possible. The writer of above letter asks for sincere aid—you can give it through the Begonian.)

BRANCH NEWS

(Continued from page 263)

Margaret Gruenbaum Branch: The December meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Howard Comly of Hatsboro, Pa., where a covered-dish luncheon was served. Plans were made for the entertaining of the Garden Committee of the Neighbors of Hatsboro at their meeting of January 10th, 1944. They were to

(See next page)

B. WASHINGTON STREET

(Continued from page 258)

a red hair at each tiny point. The long narrow shape and the cut edge explains the familiar name of Peach-Leaf by which it is also known. The bright green color, much like Nitida, is lighter at the edge and on the back there is a faint red flush near the margin. The leaf petioles are short and the stem, light green, with a red stain at the leaf axil and a tiny tuft where the leaf or sub-branch should be, as though an embryo flower pedicel fell off there.

The main stalk is a light brownish green and is distinguished by definite white pin-pricks on the smooth surface as though hairs had meant to sprout but couldn't quite make it. Both leaves and branches are alternate. Generally it sends up several shoots from the ground which grow four to five feet tall. This Begonia seems hardy except to cold, and makes a fine filler in the summer when it is not in bloom. If it only flowered then I think it would be a great favorite.

At any rate it holds top place on our mystery shelf. Until its origin is known, I shall always think of it as "Mrs. Frevvert," for the little lady who has added so much in so many ways to both the cultural and horticultural life of her community. Today, living at such a frenzied pace, we envy her the "good old days" when one might stop by the road-side long enough to admire a flower and thereby preserve a Begonia to puzzle posterity.

BRANCH NEWS

(continued from preceding page)

meet at the home of Mrs. Selina Jones, Willow Grove, Pa., with the purpose of showing the visitors some nice Begonias.

Alfred D. Robinson Branch announces the following officers for 1944 in keeping with the very definite belief held by Mr. Robinson during his lifetime, that if officers were changed every year the club would be kept at a higher pitch of activity.

President: Mrs. John A. Bellows, 920 Runnymede Lane, San Diego, Calif.

Vice-Pres: Mrs. Annibell Barry, 3145 James St., San Diego, Calif.

Secretary: Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, 2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

Treas.: Mrs. F. J. Rhodes, 4835 Niagara St., San Diego, Calif.

Program Ch. and A. D. Robinson Memorial Rep.: Mrs. John G. Clark, 3026 Freeman St., San Diego, Calif.

PATRIOTIC COOPERATION

(Continued from page 250)

Try lettuce as I have seen it in the garden of our ABS President, Mr. Clarence Hall. Actually it is delightful to see and a most amusing and economic touch.

Every paper in the country, every radio, most teachers and anyone interested in the welfare of Americans everywhere will enlist your cooperation in planting Victory Gardens in 1944 and onwards. Don't let it be said that we, as Begonianites, are like ostriches and through hiding our heads in the lathhouse or greenhouse we do not see wherein we can be of inestimable further use to our country?

Your best foot forward then—on the spading fork. Get those children of yours out there with you and make it interesting for them. What priceless hours they will be for all.

Maria Wilkes

Herbert Dyckman Branch: The following officers were elected to serve for 1944:

Pres.: Mrs. Ann Smith, 250 E. Home St., Long Beach 5, Calif.

Vice-Pres.: Mrs. Chalmers Bower, 1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

Secy.-Treas.: Chalmers Bower, 1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

The other officers will be announced later.

The January meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry W. Starr, 3580 Brayton Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

San Diego Branch: The President, Mr. Russ Eaker, presented Mr. Harvey Lamb from Encinitas, who gave a very fine talk on Camellias. Being a specialist on these plants he was able to give many tried and successful pointers on the culture thereof. His beautiful colored slides of many varieties of Camellias were much enjoyed as well as the noteworthy lathhouses shown.

• A Speakers Bureau is in process of formation. Mr. Murray Hawkins, 1307 Sierra Alta Way, Los Angeles, is Chairman. He plans to arrange for speakers for the various branches. Branch Secretaries are asked to let Mr. Hawkins know of any talent available from their branch. In return he will arrange to supply a speaker for your branch.

NEW MEMBERS

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MRS. EVA BUCHANAN
443 N. Ave. 52, Los Angeles 42

MRS. MAY BURGESS
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DR. MARTHA CASE
326 S. Cordova, Alhambra

MRS. ZOAR CHAMBERLAIN
482 E. 51st St., Long Beach 5

MISS MARJORIE CLAPP
317 N. Saint Andrews Ave., Los Angeles 4

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MISS LINA FRANZ
31 N. Oak St., Ventura

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MRS. RICHARD M. GRAY
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MR. E. A. TAYLOR
2551 Oregon Ave., Long Beach 6

MRS. M. B. THOMPSON
2617 E. First St., Long Beach 3

MR. G. TURNER
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MRS. ALBERTA UDICK
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NOMENCLATURE NOTES

from Helen K. Krauss, Director,
Nomenclature Department

- The *Begonia deliciosa* is the name most applicable and correct for the Indian spotted which, until recently, has remained nameless. The name of *B. macrocapra* is now given to the one generally known as African species. Mrs. Krauss will soon have illustrations of these *Begonias* for our magazine.



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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 (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., Feb. 14th, 1943.

BELFLOWER BRANCH

Tuesday, February 1st, 8:00 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Ethel Thalheimer,
1834 McKenzie St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Esther McElhinney, Secy.-Treas.,
534 Darnell St., Bellflower, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, February 1st, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mrs. F. E. Topham,
4620 Arlington Ave., Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Harriet E. Meyer, Secy.-Treas.,
4219 Sunnyside Dr., Riverside, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, February 1st, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall,
North California St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Olive Hamilton, Secy.-Treas.
515 So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

DOMINGUEZ BRANCH

Thursday, February 3rd
Mrs. R. L. Warren, Secy.
21718 So. Alameda, Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, February 3rd
Laurance Archibald, Secretary
12126 W. Chapman, Orange, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, February 7th
Vasa Club House,
3094 El Cajon Blvd., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Breidford, Secy.-Treas.,
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, February 8th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Secy.-Treas.,
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.
Speakers: Charlotte M. Hoak and Fred Willard
Subject: Primulas
Round Table: Begonias

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, February 9th, 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, February 10th, 7:30 p.m.
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Mrs. Kem Weber, Secy.,
6707 Milner Road, Los Angeles, Calif.
Speakers: Three Members
Various Subjects

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, February 10th, 8:00 p.m.
Woman's Club of Inglewood,
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Harold S. Clark, Secretary
1618 1/2 W. 52nd St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.
Speakers: Messrs. Vose and Berkshire

HERBERT DYCKMAN BRANCH

Friday, February 7th, 8:00 p.m.
Home of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Randall,
3638 Cerritos Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Chalmers Bower, Secy.-Treas.,
1020 Belmont Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, February 14th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, Secy.,
5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Monday, February 14th
Washington School,
61st and Shattuck Ave., Oakland, Calif.
Dick G. Goodnow, Secy.-Treas.,
2519 Milvia Street, Berkeley, Calif.

PHIOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Thursday, February 17th
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treas.,
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

VICTORY BRANCH

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

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

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

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, February 22nd
Home of Mrs. Alfred E. Boyson,
25 Tyson Ave., Glenside, Pa.
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Secy., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, February 22nd
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Grace A. Dewar, Pres.,
709 Millford St., Glendale 3, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, February 23, 8:00 p.m.
1060 Francisco St., San Francisco, Calif.
Harry F. O'Donnel, Pres.,
1575 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secy.,

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, February 25th
Mrs. Elma C. Dunn, Secretary,
244 No. Ivy St., Monrovia, Calif.
Fellowship Hall,
304 E. Valley Blvd., El Monte, Calif.
Speaker: Mrs. Mary H. Drummond
Subject: Flower Arrangements

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, February 25th, 7:30 p.m.
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.,
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

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

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

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

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Mrs. Peter Mehlschau, Secy.,
Box 12, Nipomo, Calif.

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