

The BEGONIAN

Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens

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PEACE ON EARTH

● HOW WE MUST PRAY FOR STRENGTH AND WISDOM TO MAINTAIN PEACE ON EARTH. August 14th, 1945 . . . never-to-be-forgotten day, not the sacrifices made by our men and women who won the greatest of all wars for us.

In our living and garden making, let us be thankful, every moment, for the limitless privileges we enjoy. Let us guard our families, our homes and our friends through all travail, seeking always a deeper understanding of PEACE, BEAUTY and WELL-BEING.

YOUR EDITOR.

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port they lend our BEGONIAN. YOUR BEGONIAN.

NOTE BENE: Due to several factors, it is almost impossible to get THE BEGONIAN to you by the first of the month. Surely you will mark your Calendar—IF YOU NEED REMINDING—of the meeting time of your own Branch and by referring to back issues of THE BEGONIAN, you have the name and address of your own Secretary, therefore you should not miss any meeting just because we are not always able to be on your desk on time. We are, surely, all doing the best within our powers . . . but let us stretch that a bit and do a little extra. We shall endeavour to be with you on time.

port they lend our BEGONIAN. YOUR BEGONIAN.

Annual Picnic

By ARTHUR E. NELSON, President, The American Begonia Society

• The Annual Picnic to be held September 16th, 1945, will take place of the Annual Convention.

There will be no Gasoline Excuse for your not being present at this, the substitute for our usual ANNUAL CONVENTION. Let us make a good celebration of happiness in being able to get together to talk freely about our gardens with the knowledge that our armed forces are "AT PEACE WITH THE WORLD."

Let us get together to make bigger and better plans for finer gardens so that no matter where the next convention will be, we may be sure to have lovely gardens to show off proudly. All those who will be able to come will be inspired to go forth and do likewise. The meeting on September 16th will open with a tour of the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Greenhouse at Lincoln Park, Los Angeles, Calif., from 1 o'clock in the

afternoon until 4 p.m., when there will be a business meeting. The picnic supper will be started by 5:30 p.m. and you may stay as long as the cool of the evening is attractive to you and your friends.

President-Elect Harold Hart will provide a public address system, chairs and tables. You bring your food, sugar and service. Mrs. Crawford of Long Beach and members of her Committee will kindly furnish coffee and cream. If you have a guitar or accordion, we shall provide the audience. Who said we cannot dance any more? Lincoln Park is on Valley Blvd., reached on the West by North Main Street, Alhambra Ave., or Mission Road, and from the East by Valley Blvd.

It will be a chance of studying the begonias in The Memorial. Mrs. Gladys Bullard and Committee are labeling them for us. COME —WE SHALL BE LOOKING FOR EVERY BLESSED ONE OF YOU!

MOSTLY ABOUT SPEAKERS AND THEIR SUBJECTS

San Gabriel July meeting was a record attendance to hear and see Mrs. Hazel Drummond demonstrate the Art of Corsage Making.

All Los Angeles County lovers of Horticulture and Orchidculture are sorry to bid Dr. Gustav Mehlquist adieu. He and his wife have left for a tour of the Missouri Botanic Gardens (The Henry Shaw Gardens) of St. Louis, Missouri. We all, however, wish him happy times and fine achievements. Dr. Mehlquist requested that THE BEGONIAN be sent to The University of California at Los Angeles, before he left.

"Landscaping With Begonias," was the subject chosen by Mr. Charles Stillwell of Altadena when he spoke for The Pasadena

Begonia Society in July. He dealt mainly with the shade garden and brought ferns and fuchsias into the picture. Unity, balance, sequence and simplicity of design and planting were the points highlighted in his talk. Miss Charlotte Hoak and Fred Willard of The Pasadena Begonia Branch identified and discussed fuchsias for the June meeting.

The members of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch reported flourishing lathhouses for the month of June. Mrs. Chas. Calloway, President, was happy to say that the response to Alfred Carl Hotte's call for plant material for Camp Lockett was surprisingly good. (Have you seen the picture and article in

(Continued on Page 178)



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Chlorosis

By W. C. DRUMMOND, Hollywood, Calif.

PART III

Temperatures Effecting Chlorosis

Temperature is an external force exerting a great influence on the vital and chemical forces of nature. When the soil temperature gets too low the roots of some plants are unable to absorb plant food, noticeably gardenias, the leaves of which become quite chlorotic and it is then when such tropical plants as coleus lose their beautiful color and drop their leaves. The temperature requirements vary greatly for different species and even varieties of plants. Annuals, such as cucumbers, and some tropical perennials (as coleus) may die before frost. Yet some perennials live on and eventually bloom, such as chrysanthemums and snapdragons, or others may go dormant. When plants go dormant from low temperatures, don't overfeed, you will rot the roots, and when the roots die the leaves become chlorotic. For those interested in knowing more about soil temperature and effects on plant growth, read "Natures and Properties of Soils" by Lyon & Buckman, page 62, 1943, "Soil-less Gardening" by Gericke, page 89, a chapter on temperature and plant growth.

Certain plants are called "cold weather" plants such as the crucifer or mustard family (including cabbage, alyssum, stocks, etc.). Certain are "warm weather" plants, as zinnias, corn, etc. When such plants are grown "out of season" they bolt, that is, form seed, or may turn chlorotic.

The leaves on deciduous trees in the fall turn yellow and red, a perfectly natural phenomenon, probably it is due to the shortening of the day—Photoperiodism.

The rate of chemical reactions doubles for every rise of 18° F. but no such increase of plant growth takes place. Practically, this means, as the soil temperature increases the more chemical activity we have. Bacterial activity also increases with the formation of more nitrogen fixed by bacteria and the liberation of nitrogen by bacteria from soil organic matter is also increased.

For plant growth the vital range is between 32° and 86° to 95° F. for some plants, higher temperatures having a retarding effect

on assimilation and growth. See page 45, "Text Book of Plant Physiology" by Maximov, 1930. Sacks names the cardinal points of plant growth temperature. The minimum where the process begins, optimum, at which it is highest, and maximum where assimilation stops. Assimilation is not limited to the roots, but also the leaves in their ability to assimilate CO₂. Potatoes cease to take CO₂ at around 86° F. while cucumbers and tomatoes cease at 95° F. Most other plants have a critical temperature where assimilation ceases. CO₂ assimilation ceases when the temperature goes below 50° F. for most plants and the amount of light present. One cannot expect the best growth where either CO₂ (carbon dioxide) or light, is in the extreme of too much or too little. Camellias vary in their optimum temperature. Certain varieties resent the extreme changes of night and day temperature. Some authorities say this has to do with bud drop.

Begonias are very much affected by temperature and light, the semperflorens standing full sun near the coast and blooming in winter while the Rex wants a lower summertime temperature and less light than the semperflorens.

(Soil temperatures also affect the growth of certain disease organisms growing in the soil. When strains of young cabbage resistant to cabbage yellows are planted in soil of a temperature of 62° F. or higher, they succumb quite readily; when planted in cooler soil or when they are older they are very resistant. See page 229, Soil and Fertilizers, 1942, by F. Bear.)

The optimum temperature for cuttings is 60° F. for the sand and 50° F. for the air for the average plant. Probably one of the best books on cuttings and propagation is Plant Propagation by Alfred C. Hottes, 1937, \$2.50. Propagation of Plants by Kains and McQuesten, Orange Judd Co., is a good book. Price \$4.00.

Symptoms of too high a temperature are yellowing of the old mature leaves with a gradual death and drying of the tissues. The

(Continued on Page 166)

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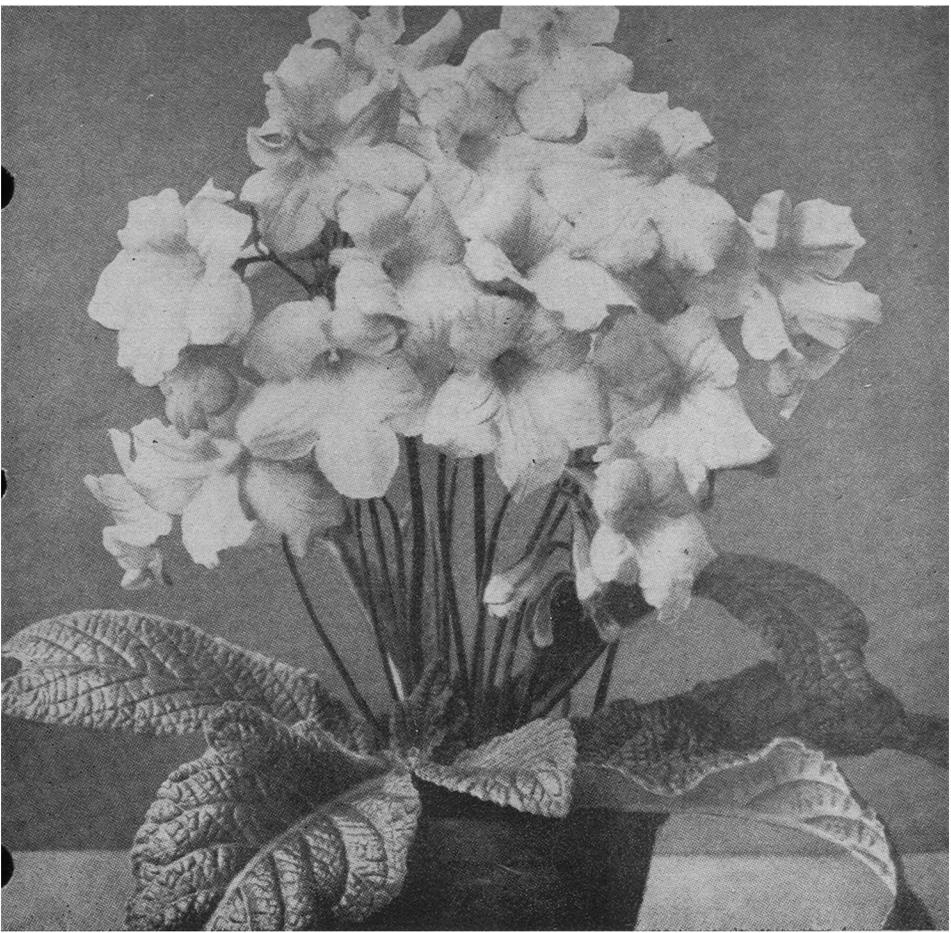
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Streptocarpus . . The Cape Primrose *Deserves a Place in the Shade Garden*

By EARLE WILTSE, Redondo Beach, California

• Anyone with a lathhouse or natural shade garden who is not growing streptocarpus (and their hybrids) is missing one of the best, one of the most outstanding and "showyest" of flowering plants for deep shade. The streptocarpus bloom over a long period if the seed pods are kept from forming on the plants or quickly picked off if they should form before being noticed, they will bloom from March until December or January.

These plants may be tucked under and between other plants where they will bloom and do well where hardly any other flowering plant will grow.

The common name for the streptocarpus is the Cape-Primrose, for they come from South Africa and Madagascar. In their native state they must get lots of moisture as I find they have to be kept very wet at all times especially during the growing and flowering

season. They start to put out new leaves with the beginning of March and up until January. They must have plenty of water not only on the roots but on the leaves as well as these are porous and will soak up water just like a sponge. These leaves must be kept full of water at all times and not allowed to dry out or they will start to burn at the tips, making a poor looking plant.

In the flowering and growing season, they should be fed about every two weeks with a liquid fertilizer. They do not lose their leaves in the winter-time, but just stop growing and then they should not be kept quite so wet nor should they be fertilized until about March when active growth is due and the new leaves appear.

Remove the old leaves that are not nice looking, pinching them off about two inches

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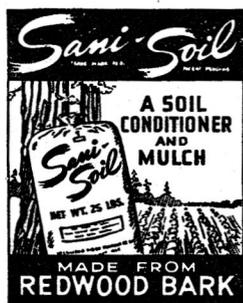
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CHLOROSIS

(Continued from Page 164)

plants lose their green color as in nitrogen shortage, become long and lanky with small leaves. Read *Chemical Gardening for the Amateur* by Connors and Tiedjens, page 160, 1939.

Light Effecting Chlorosis

Plants become chlorotic with insufficient light. The amount of light required varies with the species. Photosynthesis is the taking up of CO₂ from the air and water from the roots, then in the presence of chlorophyll in the leaf and with the proper light sugars are formed. Here also there is an optimum temperature for certain plants. In this process oxygen is liberated. When plants are grown in darkness they fail to develop chlorophyll, leaves and stems are almost white or have some yellow color from carotin and xanthophyll. When plants fail to develop green coloring they are said to be ETIOLATED. They usually turn green when exposed to light. This is clearly demonstrated when we bring a plant such as the sun-loving geranium into a darkened room it soome becomes chlorosed and drops it leaves from carbohydrate starvation. (Production of sugars of starches.) References, read *Chemical Gardening for the Amateur*, by Connors and Tiedjens, page 145, and *Text Book of Plant Physiology*, by Maximov, 1930, beginning page 7. Phototropism, while having nothing to do with chlorosis, is the ability of plants to turn to or from the light. Also having to do with light is the effect of the length of the day on the blooming period. The term given to this phenomena is called Photoperiodism. Read page 145, in *Chemical Gardening for the Amateur*. Commercial plants affected by Photoperiodism are chrysanthemum, China Aster, and kalanchoe coccinea, these are short day plants. Long day plants such as stocks, calceolarias, feverfew, and annual chrysanthemums are benefited by additional light when grown in a greenhouse. See *Ohio Annual Report*, 1933, Wooster, Ohio.

Albinism

Sometimes when plants are grown under the most favorable conditions they fail to develop chlorophyll. This is called Albinism. It should not be confused with chlorosis as generally described. The cause of albinism, while obscure, is thought to be physiological. Albinism is hereditary and occurs mostly in cereals.

Variation of Leaf Explained

This is a hereditary condition and in true variegation, plants crossed with normal green plants obey Mendel's law of heredity. Such

plants as *Hedera variegata* (variegated ivy) are true variegation. The variegation of such old garden favorites as *Aucuba Japonica* (the Gold Dust plant) and the *Abutilon Striatum* Var. *Thompsoni* (flowering maple) are now thought to be caused by a virus disease. These variegations should not be confused with nutritional deficiencies.

Humidity Effecting Chlorosis

Unless there is a proper relative humidity along with correct temperature plants cannot manufacture sugar in the leaves, and they then become chlorotic. Plants can be grown in relatively dry or humid air, but the atmosphere must remain relatively constant or they become chlorotic. The humidity needed for different species of plant vary. Some need a high humidity, others grow in relatively dry air. The amount of water vapor the air will hold depends on the temperature. If the relative humidity is high, plants transpire (give off water) very slowly. If the air is dry then the plants transpire very much, but they cannot adjust themselves to great changes in humidity from day to day. Begonias and some other plants grown in a humid greenhouse and carried directly into a dry house soon drop their leaves or become chlorotic. Too high a humidity, little air circulation, too little sunlight, and too high a night temperature, encourages the growth of fungus, causing damping off. This holds particularly true in greenhouses. Under these conditions the plants become chlorotic and drop their leaves and sometimes die. The plants rot at the soil line.

Diseases Effecting Chlorosis

Many diseases cause chlorosis, most of them produce peculiar characteristic leafmarkings. I shall only mention a few: Leaf spot, Rust, Virus or Mosaic, Spotted Wilt, Leaf Nematode, Blight, and Root Knot Nematode. Root Knot Nematode is serious in California. It is a whole story in itself. The same of Virus. I shall not go into these diseases, but refer you to that wonderful Circular No. 118, University of California, by Dr. R. E. Smith. Every gardener should own and study this circular. It is free for the asking, in California. Address the University at Berkeley.

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BOB ANDERSON

1415 Echo Park Ave. Los Angeles (26)

Musician's Ingenuity Creates Plant Symphony

By MARIA WILKES, Los Angeles, California

• The unpromising approach is a regular central walk between two long wings of a double story apartment court which leads back to the two double story apartments at the end forming the T enclosing the property.

Between that double apartment on the right, and the end of the right wing there is a space ten feet wide going east, approximately twenty-five feet long right into the back of the neighbor's garage with an intervening narrow walk that is usual at the rear of apartment houses. This ten-foot space has a concrete walk twenty-two inches wide, leaving two narrow beds for THE SYMPHONY GARDEN. The MAESTRO is the retired pianist, Mr. Emil Danenberg, at 4245 Monroe Street, Los Angeles, Calif. Someone had planted a seed of an avocado in the south bed which grew and grew. When Mr. Danenberg came to rent the right rear apartment six years ago, he started by topping the tree to make it spread to create more shade; he left the poinsettias and cut away most of the overlarge bananas, left some of the then scrubby boxwood which he made to grow as evergreen bushes and at the entrance to the twenty-five feet of garden, ten feet wide counting the walk, he let the avocado branches grow low and close to the ground on the right, at the same time trained the shielding pittosporum tobira to close the entrance on the left. Put your head down a little and step through this screen of green leaves and look at the revelation. The picture was taken at high noon with natural lighting. Mr. Danenberg has used a great many ferns and kentia palms on the ground, quite a few small-leaved and some variegated ivies, both of them trained to trail on all sides and on bare branches of the shrubs or tree that stretch out without foliage, like vine covered lianas. He bought a conglomerate collection of bird cage stands and wrought iron pot stands which are hardly

seen as they are placed between the ferns and palms but they carry pots and baskets and crocks of flowering plants such as several kinds of *B. semperflorens* in various colors, two of them are nice small specimens of the seldom seen *B. white Carmen*. There are many kinds of coleus, a good collection of fine rex begonias, silver fern (*Pteris quadraurita argyra*) and other pteris, several of the larger ferns and larger fibrous-rooted begonias, with a good display of various types of variegated ribbon-leaved plants. All of them look remarkably healthy especially as Mr. Danenberg keeps them individually in as small a pot as possible in order to keep them from getting overlarge but have instead a greater variety of small ones for the sake of more diversity and color.

To add life and character to the green plants such as ivies and other greenery, he has collected figurines, china heads and butterflies, birds and such things as can be affixed to the plants in a decorative manner, either humorously or purely for the sake of diversion or color, but his artistry restrained him from using any gnomes.

As will be seen by the picture on the right, the crotches of trees are utilized to hold several little pots of plants so as to carry the effect of plants up in the air as much as possible without using or marring the stucco wall of his own side or that of the apartment on the south.

Another touch that is quite nice. Note that the little fence is partly masked by the palm leaves, the pots of which are in turn hidden behind the foot-high picket fencing used only on one side. If he had used it on both sides the narrowness of the walk would be accentuated. It looks so natural. Nothing studied, it just seems to have evolved through the years. Which it has, through six years. Now look at the end of the walk. This is what Mr.

(Turn to Next Page)



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This is the garden between two apartment houses. The view from the inside of the apartment is most attractive, as may be guessed, especially at night when the lights are turned on. Photo by Weaver Photo Service, Los Angeles, Calif. ▶





Would you recognize this as the back of an ordinary garage—especially a neighbor's garage? We have to give him credit too, for permitting the use of his property as shown here, just as we recognize the cooperation of the occupant of the south apartment in relinquishing the right to the south bed, but gaining so much more thereby.

Photo by Weaver Photo Service, Los Angeles, Calif.

Danenberg calls "The Stage." The owner of the garage gave him permission to drive as many nails into it as he desired. The privi-

lege is not abused but see what can be done with the back of a garage. The overhang was only twelve inches wide. Mr. Danenberg



tacked on some extending strips of wood which he covered with heavy muslin and brought it down twelve inches on the face to give extra protection. He then strung a wire across the twenty feet of space and hung muslin curtains that he can draw easily

at noon, spray heavily with water and leave his fine plants perfectly happy under the two feet of space.

By late afternoon when the sun is tempered by the avocado tree and the apartment house, the curtains are opened and the stage is set
(Continued on Page 174)

Some South African Begonias

By ALICE M. CLARK, San Diego, California

• One of the pleasures of collecting begonias is to trace the resemblance of hybrids to species. Since the war has diverted our thoughts to more important things, and rightly so, it has become increasingly difficult to find authentic plants. Some have lost their labels while their growers were busy elsewhere, some have died of neglect, and some of the experts themselves have gone to a happier world. How I miss the Dean of Rosecroft!

I have been slow to give you this second "page" of small-leaved types because there was always a "missing link," either of an actual plant or of the accurate knowledge thereof. The combination I present this month is not what I had planned but, after four days of search and a dead-line to meet, we shall have to "make do" and trust that you will keep your back numbers handy for reference and comparison when I can get the data on another set.

B. Dregei, Otto & Dietr., was discovered in Natal, South Africa, and introduced to Edinburgh in 1836. It is semi-tuberous, the root being thick and brown, with knobby swollen base stalk and thickened lower joints above ground. It grows full and bushy, more than two feet high, even in a pot. Its main charm is its dark, bronze-green leaves, 3 inches across their longest part and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep. They are like a maple leaf if the upper corner were cut diagonally off with a pair of scissors. The stems are a pinky-brown but the veins on the back of the leaf are red and raised. On the front they look almost purple, except for a red axis. All of which makes me suspect that the plant I have painted may be the one Mrs. Krauss calls B. Dregei, var. rubronervis, but it is the only one all the growers here are sure is Dregei. The male flowers are $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch across their two white petals, while the females have five petals. The clusters are short and compact, half hidden under the leaves until the long stems of the green seed-pods show up. Chevalier describes Dregei as having small green leaves. He lists one with bronze foliage as a different type but does not name it.

B. Sutherlandii, Hook fil, was introduced to York, England, from Natal by Dr. Sutherland, for whom it was named. The date was 1865, but it was the parent of B. Weltoniensis in 1864, so there is a mistake somewhere. This begonia is the only one pictured that has a true tuber covered with fine brown cord-like roots when dormant. It starts to die down at the end of its summer season

and at that time bears small bulbils in the leaf axils which make nice plants the following year. The parent tuber grows very large.

B. Sutherlandii makes a lovely hanging basket, sometimes 2 feet high by 3 feet over, being full and graceful, which is belied by the few large leaves in the sketch. It seemed more important to show the leaf shape than a spray of leaves. They are $4\frac{1}{2}$ x $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, a bright yellow-green, almost twice as wide on one side of the very red rib as on the other, with many round-notched lobes feathering down to a long point. The flowers are an unusual "coppery-salmon," to quote M. Chevalier. The male flower is less than an inch over, with two round petals and two narrower. When the five female petals are shed it leaves the single seed-pod extending beyond every cluster, a distinctive trait in this plant and decorative too as the wings are a russet-red with green between on a winey-red peduncle, the same deep rich color as all the other stems.

Both of these species have been carefully described and pictured by Mr. Ziesenhenné in our BEGONIAN—B. Dregei on p. 104, July, 1940, and B. Sutherlandii on p. 26 of Feb., 1941—which should be consulted for fuller details.

The first hybrid of these two species was made by Major Clarke, of Welton Park, England. It has been a favorite for almost a century. In height it is more like Sutherlandii and it has a similar bright green color. The leaves are not quite 4 inches long by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. Except for the tip, it is less sharply notched than Dregei and the upper curve is not slashed off, but it has the same silky-smooth texture. The veins are inconspicuous, faintly red on front and back. It is semi-tuberous. The stems are a dregs-of-wine red, succulent clear to the ground and not so lumpy at the base. It has many bright pink blooms held stiffly above its leaves, further enhanced by two rose-colored seed-pods to the cluster. The flower form took after Sutherlandii, with four male petals and five female. Mr. Ziesenhenné thinks there is some pink tint to Dregei's flowers in full sun, which may account for the hybrid's bright color. There is a white-flowering form with smaller leaves and taller growth.

When Leslie Woodriff lived in Inglewood, he made a cross of B. Lucerna with B. Sutherlandii but gave it no name. This must have been about ten years ago and now he thinks

(Continued on Next Page)



B. Dreyeri
Otto et Dietrich



B. Sutherlandii,
Hook, fil



B. Lucerna x *B. Sutherlandii*,
Woodriff



B. x Weltoniensis
Hort, Clarke



B. Richardsiana,
Moore

SO. AFRICAN

SPECIES AND HYBRIDS

Alice M. Clark '95

it is too well known by its hybrid handle to change. It deserves a good name as it is a wondrous plant, growing like *Sutherlandii* in height and bushiness. It is hard to say how it favors the fibrous parent unless in the soft

rosy-pink color of the flower. The leaves are a little smaller but the same color as the tuberous parent and one-sided. They are wider in the upper lobes and have a thinner

(Continued on Next Page)

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Some South African Begonias

(Continued from Page 173)

red vein and little accents of red on the back edge of the leaf notches. The flowers are a warmer pink than Weltoniensis and a little larger but are not as stiff and erect above the leaves, so do not show so much. The painting was made from a side branch to show the flowers better but it does grow quite upright. Its stems are redder than Sutherlandi but not as beet-colored as Weltoniensis. It is also semi-tuberous, half-dormant in the winter.

Incidentally, watch the Woodriff products. Most of you know their lovely houseplant, "It." I found their double sweet-scented tuberous rather weak in the stem, like their "Wild Rose" but very free-flowering. They give their imagination full play in hybridizing so I shall never be surprised at anything they may introduce.

James Richards brought the plant of our fifth sketch from the same South African section as the others, in 1871. It was beautifully illustrated and described in Gardener's Chronicle by Moore, when it came out. It is semi-tuberous, knobby at the stem bases, with light brown, succulent branches and petioles. It grows over two feet tall, a veritable shower of lacy green, dripping with clusters of white flowers, slightly smaller than Dregei but the same in form and number. The leaves are a rich green, lighter on the back, except for the red dents at the deeply incised notches of the lobes. Across their longest part they are 1½ inches. Its shimmering beauty seems tops to me.

Someone please page the publishers of those new begonia books and tell them to hurry up! Then I can devote myself to drawings instead of research. How blessed is peace.

Symphony Garden

(Continued from Page 171)

again. The place is lit with colored lights so that at any time of night by the turn of a switch the place looks like a little bit of fairyland. Many are the visitors that are drawn to this unexpected beauty spot that offers, so suddenly, a cool, colorful little haven in which a man, busy with music, may go out, and in no time at all, lose himself in the charm of making many things grow delightfully, where no one would ever think of creating a little show place. Next month we shall show two reverse views of the same little place, but if you are going that way, NOW THAT PEACE, blessed word, has lifted the ban on gasoline, you might drop in for a short visit, just to see what can be done.

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**So. Calif. Hort. Inst. and A. B. S.
JOINT MEETING**

• The Joint Meeting of The Southern California Horticultural Institute with The American Begonia Society was held on August 6th. The huge hall of the Elks' Club in Los Angeles was crowded so that all the possible extra chairs, steps and standing room were taken up by the gathering of over 800 people.

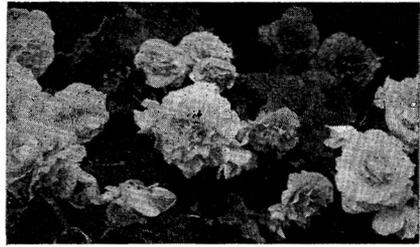
Great credit is due to all the Branches and their members who came from near and far to put on the biggest and finest plant exhibit the Institute has ever had. Mr. Clarence Hall, Past President of the A. B. S., was the speaker of the evening. He almost convinced everyone that all one has to do to obtain such beautiful plants as were shown, is to just thrust a piece of, or a whole leaf of a rex into the box of leaf mold and hundreds of plants would be available to furnish all one's friends with little rexes. His enthusiasm, illustrated by good specimens, was contagious for on the way out many people were asking for specific directions on the planting of the seed of *B. semperflorens* donated by Dr. W. C. Drummond to all who came. Since the directions were printed in the copy of THE BEGONIAN, given to all non-members, we hope there will be thousands of fine *semperflorens* in Southern California to mark the happy and most worthwhile evening.

The evening was not long enough though for everyone to see all the splendid plants and floral decorations on exhibit. It is clearly seen that Los Angeles should do something concrete about establishing a Hall of Horticulture where such exhibits may be brought in and taken out without so much hard work. Where such exhibits may be left under surveillance to be enjoyed by any plant lover most of the time. Where information may be had about plants of all kinds and their growers. We need a meeting place where such societies may gather and hold small or large meetings easily, with social facilities. WE NEED A GREAT GARDEN CENTER.

New Officers of the San Diego Branch

• President, Dr. C. E. Collins; Vice-President, Robert E. Lee; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. A. P. Carlton, 624 W. Arroyo Dr.; Directors, Mrs. R. J. McBride, Mrs. Loren Elliott and Edward Johnson. National Representative, Mrs. J. A. Hegel. Congratulations to each one and appreciation for fine achievements to the past officers.

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EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From HELEN K. KRAUSS, Director,
Clayton M. Kelly Research and Nomenclature
Departments

• I expect that my book will be in the hands of the publishers by the end of August. It might interest you to have a gist of what the book will consist. To me, all of it assumes importance. Eight hundred (800) or more begonias currently grown in America will be accounted for, mostly described. About 250 illustrations, some in color, will be in the book. The various chapters include:

Classification of Begonias in relation to the plant kingdom.

Characteristics of the Genus Begonia.

History of Begonias and some of the satellites associated with the subject.

Genealogical charts of the larger groups which will show at a glance to which group a given hybrid belongs.

Dates of origin of hybrids are given and much revealing information which has not been popularly given before.

The origin of some American hybrids have been traced to their source. Some interesting information on this phase.

Strict attention has been given to priority in nomenclature according to the Linnean principle. This principle is fully explained in the book.

Bibliography Chapter.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This certainly augurs well for Begonians interested in knowing their plants.

East Bay Annual Picnic

• This Branch held its Second Annual Picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Haberland, near Walnut Creek. Some Begonia Society members came from as far as San Rafael to enjoy the display that is building fame for the hosts.

Although the host's first love is the tuberous begonia, of which there were more than a thousand plants in bloom, many fibrous and rex members of the clan enjoy spots set aside for them. A notable addition since last year's picnic is an alcove about six by ten feet which members were heard to call "The Rex Grotto," where rexes were nestled into moss on a wall with ferns in the foreground. There is an arrangement whereby the turning of a faucet provides them with a very fine spray.

The Branch has already been extended an invitation for a third annual picnic and no doubt the number in attendance in 1946 will exceed the 65 gathered around the tables on Sunday, July 22.

MARIN COUNTY'S SECOND ANNUAL BEGONIA SHOW

• Marin County's Second Annual Begonia Show, sponsored by the First National Bank in San Rafael in its banking quarters Saturday afternoon and evening, August 4, 1945, was received with enthusiasm by all who attended.

Under the expert direction of the Show Manager, Mr. Frank C. Burns, the many lovely blossoms and the artistic arrangement of the plants were outstanding against the dark green background of the stands and the sand-colored marble pillars of the bank.

As usual the current transportation problem kept many growers from exhibiting, however, all those who did exhibit spoke highly of the friendly co-operation with which their exhibits were received and look forward to the next show to be held in 1946.

Judges of ability and wide experience in begonia knowledge were found in Richard Lohrmann of San Rafael, Louis Panholzer of Ross, and William Davidson of San Rafael.

The committee was particularly appreciative of the Borden Milk Company, through whose Marin County Manager, Mr. Ray Henfling, they were afforded the use of the 700 or more milk bottles used as containers for the cut blossoms.

The highly prized blue ribbon for best flower in the show was awarded Mr. F. Somers Peterson, Golf Tract, San Rafael. Many other winners of honors cannot be listed for want of space. Now that gasoline is freely available again, we look to great things from the creation of a Begonia Society Branch in Marin County.

GROWING OF SEEDS AND ROOTING SLIPS

By MRS. WALTER J. MUELLER
Hiawatha, Kansas

• I enjoy THE BEGONIAN very much and have gained much helpful advice from it. I wonder whether any of the members have ever tried sowing seeds in a fruit jar, laying the jar flat on its side, sprinkling the seed on the top of the soil, then screwing the lid on securely. The jar is then put in a cool, shady place. The seeds planted last Fall are nice little plants now. Those still in the fruit jar have never been watered. The ones that were potted up now have flowers.

I also have better luck in rooting slips if they are put in a dark brown glass jar filled with rain water.

Begonian Correspondence Club News

By FRANCES DOWNING

305 N. Mason Street, Bowie, Texas

• There are now more than 100 members of the Begonian Correspondence Clubs. Most of them are beginners. Some have only a few begonias, while others are blessed with a hundred or more varieties.

Established to date: Advanced and Beginners Clubs of Rex, Tuberosus, Fibrous, Semperflorens and Begonias in general. Most of these have started their first rounds while some are well into their second trip. Fuchsias No. 1 has 4 members. Impatiens No. 1 has 3 members. Trailing and basket plants and vines for shade—have been asked for. I received a very interesting letter from a nice person who feared she was not eligible as she has only 50 varieties of begonias. We do want to make it clear that the qualifications are: interest, enthusiasm, willingness to share experiences with ability to hold to the subject at hand, and the collector's fervor for accumulating good plants.

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CONDENSED MINUTES NATIONAL BOARD, A.B.S.

Held in the Lecture Room, Los Angeles Public Library, July 23rd, 1945.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 with President Nelson presiding. Board members present: Messrs. Nelson, Hart, Hawkins, Hall; Mesdames Wilkes, Poole, Clark, Hartwell.

On motion, duly seconded, reading of minutes of June 25th dispensed with.

Introduction of guests.

Bills ok'd and ordered paid.

REPORTS

Editor, Membership Fees, and Treasurer submitted typed reports which were read, accepted as read, and ordered filed as part of the minutes.

Speakers Bureau—Nothing to report.

Librarian—Unable to be present.

President agreed to contact Mrs. Crowder with reference to reserving L. A. Library Lecture Room for the fourth Monday of each month as a meeting place for the National Board.

Public Relations Chairman Mr. Lawrence reported on the Huntington Beach Flower Show, August 16th to 19th and appointed Mrs. Poole as Judge of the Begonia section, she to choose other Judges to assist her.

Discussion of plans for the annual meeting to be held Sunday, Sept. 16th, at Lincoln Park, followed:

Mr. Hart to arrange for public address system, chairs and tables; Mrs. Crawford, President North Long Beach Branch, to be General Chairman for the picnic and to see that coffee was available for all. Mrs. Wilkes to have detailed program in the September issue of the *Begonian*. Greenhouse open from 1:00 to 4:00, enabling everyone to see the Robinson Memorial. Business meeting at 4:00; picnic dinner at 5:30. This plan being a departure from our usual banquet and annual meeting, everyone was urged to cooperate and help make it a success.

Mr. Hart reported for the Robinson Memorial: "Mrs. Gladys Bullard has consented to look after naming the plants and get the place in shape. She is asking two or three to help, and this committee and myself are going to buy some additional plants and we hope to have things looking good by the 16th. There are some things we hope to do before fall to make a better growing condition for the begonias but we will go into that later."

Mr. Lawrence called attention to the joint meeting with the Horticultural Institute on August 6th, and urged members to attend the meeting and to bring their plants. Mr. Barber stated the Whittier Branch was bringing a nice exhibit; Mr. Hall spoke for Ventura and assured us they would really bring some plants; Mrs. Drummond is planning a unique exhibit which would add much to the decorative side; Mr. Hudson promised a table of his gorgeous tuberous; Glendale planned for a large display, and so on.

Mrs. Bayer as a member of the Nominating Committee read the ballot—see your August *Begonian*.

Representative Directors spoke for branches at Ventura, Inglewood, Glendale, San Gabriel Valley, and Whittier. As usual the reports were gratifying and excellent speakers available.

Inasmuch as 9 o'clock is closing time for the Library, further business held over until the next meeting of the Board, August 27th at 7:30 p.m. sharp, same place.

Respectfully submitted,

GONDA HARTWELL, Corres. Sec.

About Speakers

(Continued from Page 163)

July, 1945, "SUNSET" of Mrs. Calloway's lathhouse?) Miss Margaret Coats, Vice-President, gave an illustrated talk on "The Simple Identification of Plants," including the botanical formation of leaves and the function of plant cells.

Streptocarpus

(Continued from Page 165)

from the base of the plant. *Streptocarpus* may be propagated from these leaves just as one does the rex begonia. Other means of propagation of the Cape-Primrose is by seed sown in February and March, the plants of which will bloom the next spring, and also by division at about the same time. I have raised a large number of these plants and do not find them hard to grow—providing they have plenty of water and shade.

There are several species of *streptocarpus*. *S. dunnii* has a single leaf about three feet long with reddish flowers on one-foot stems. *S. wendlandii* has one leaf about two feet long and bears violet flowers. *S. rexi* has several leaves seven or eight inches long with mauve flowers on one-foot stems. *S. kewensis* is a hybrid between *S. dunnii* and *S. rexi*, the flowers of which are in all colors with striped throats. The leaves grow up to three feet long. It is one of the easiest of Cape-Primroses to grow, making a very showy plant in an eight or ten-inch pot.

I have read some articles on *streptocarpus* which stated that when they stop flowering they should be discarded. This is wrong, for I know of some plants that are several years old and still growing strongly. If you should have been considering this advice, stop, and listen again. Do not destroy them for as they get older they will have larger leaves and more flowers.

When you succeed in growing these nicely, then you'll want to do as I have done. It is great fun to make crosses between the Cape-Primrose and the gloxinia. The next step is to make tests with colchicum on the seed produced in order to obtain divers mutations.

Truly, this is a wonder plant for the shade, so if you have been looking for something to fill that densely shaded place, try the Cape-Primrose and you will be well rewarded for your efforts.

• Mrs. Alice M. Clark's splendid work appreciated:

Excerpts from a letter to The Editor: From Mrs. C. M. T.

"THE BEGONIAN is such a pleasure to me, I look forward eagerly to the receipt of every number. I marvel at Mrs. Clark's sketches as well as her word pictures which can actually bring a plant alive in one's imagination. Her sketches bring out so much more detail than do photographs.

"I found her "Small Leaved Begonias" in the May, 1944, BEGONIAN especially valuable, and I'm still hoping for the additional small leaved types that she promised in the last paragraph."

Meeting Dates and Speakers

It would be much appreciated if the Secretaries of the Branches would send meeting data to reach the Editor **NOT LATER THAN THE TENTH OF THE MONTH.**

The September American Begonia Society Board Meeting will be held at the Lincoln Park Picnic on Sept. 16, 4 P.M.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

Tuesday, Sept. 4th, 7:30 p.m.
American Legion Hall
North Carolina St., Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Wm. Smith, Sec.-Treas.
Ventura, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

Wednesday, Sept. 5th, 7:45 p.m.
Social Hall, Calvary Methodist Church
c/o 19th and Judah St., San Francisco, Calif.
Mrs. Theresa Ferrero, Secretary
2183 - 31st Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

Thursday, Sept. 6th
College Hall, Santa Ana J. C. 917 N. Maine St.
Santa Ana, Calif.
Mrs. K. D. Burdick, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 3, Box 355,
Santa Ana, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

Monday, Sept. 10th, 8 p.m.
La Mesa Grammar School
La Mesa, San Diego Co., Calif.,
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Joseph Christofferson

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Monday, Sept. 10th, 7:30 p.m.
42 East Market St., North Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Ruby W. Liedler, Secretary
169 E. Artesia, Bellflower, Calif.

WHITTIER BRANCH

Tuesday, Sept. 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Jonathan Bailey School, Room 19
Comstock Ave. & Hadley Street, Whittier, Calif.
Mrs. Madeleine Hall, Sec.-Treas.
1000 West Broadway, Whittier, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Tuesday, Sept. 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Pasadena Public Library
Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

Tuesday, Sept. 11th, 7:30 p.m.
Fairmont Park
Mrs. Curt Smith, Sec.-Treas.
3784 Central Ave., Riverside, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Sept. 13th, 8 p.m.
Woman's Club House, 325 No. Hillcrest, Ingle-
wood, Calif.
Mrs. Fred Witman, Secretary
3856 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Thursday, Sept. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Speaker: Ruby Liedler; subject: Fuchsias
Mrs. Helen Scherer, Secretary
3222 Larissa Dr., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

Friday, Sept. 14th, 7:30 p.m.
Home of Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Stock,
4127 Walnut Ave., Long Beach.
Mrs. Merle H. Penrose, Sec.-Treas.
4142 Walnut Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

Sunday, Sept. 16th, 5 p.m.
Home of Mrs. Bertie Nicholl, 1035 Ardmore St.,
Bellflower, Calif. (Pot Luck Supper.)
Mrs. Ardel Radle, Secretary
920 Flower St., Bellflower, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

Sunday, Sept. 16th, 2:30 p.m.
Home of H. L. Swager, 3872 - 35th Ave., Oakland.
Mrs. Ruth Utter, Secretary
155 Ardmore Rd., Berkeley 8, Calif.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

Monday, Sept. 17th
Tillie Genter, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., La Jolla, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Wednesday, Sept. 19th, 7:30 p.m.
Colonial Hall, Tenth & Locust Ave.
Mary Hotaling, Sec.-Treas.
324A Temple Ave., Long Beach 4, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings
Mrs. Albert H. Gere, Treasurer
362 Brookway, Merion, Pa.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

Monday, Sept. 24th
Hard of Hearing Hall
3843 Herbert Ave., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. George S. Bredford, Sec.-Treas.
1146 Oliver Ave., Pacific Beach, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Tuesday, Sept. 25th
Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

GLENDALE BRANCH

Tuesday, Sept. 25th, 8:00 p.m.
Picnic. Glendale, Calif.
Mrs. Helen Grigsby, Secretary
958 E. Mountain, Glendale 7, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Friday, Sept. 28th, 10:00 a.m.
Hall, Point Loma Community Church
Udal Street at Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Calif.
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secretary.
2838 Chatsworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

Friday, Sept. 28th, 8:00 p.m.
American Legion Hall
720 N. First Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. W. H. Corbett, Secretary
2017 S. Fourth Street, Alhambra, Calif.

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