

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens*



Leroy C. Berry with *Begonia rex cultorum van-ex*

# The BEGONIAN

Monthly Publication of the AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman, January, 1932

General Offices: 1618 Fickewirth Ave., El Monte, Calif.

*Affiliated with the American Horticultural Society*

- Annual Subscription Fee: One Dollar and Fifty Cents.
- Entered as second-class matter, September 21st, 1946, at the Post Office of El Monte, California, under the act of March 3rd, 1879.
- Advertising Rates: \$3.00 per inch, one column wide. Three months discount of 5%. Six months less 10% and One year less 20%. Seasonal changes allowed in contracts over three months. Closing date for articles 10th of each month, and 12th for Advertisement copy.

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## CHARLES FREDERICK LANGDON

Charles Frederick Langdon, V. M. H. of Bath, England, Begonia and Delphinium specialist, died March 2nd, 1947, at his home, Hillcote, Southdown Road, at the age of 79.

Mr. Langdon has been looked upon as the real father of the present day beauties of the modern TUBEROUS BEGONIA. He was one of the founders of the Delphinium Society and had been awarded the Victoria Medal of Horti-

culture by the Royal Horticultural Society and in 1938, his firm, Messrs. Blackmore & Langdon, won the Sherwood Cup at the Chelsea Show. With his wife surviving him are their two sons, Allan and Stephen and two daughters. The following article is reprinted from May "House & Garden," Copyright 1947, The Conde Nast Publications, Inc., and permission of the Author, Alma Mailman.—The Editor.

## TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIAS

*The story of the brilliant beauty and its famous hybridizer, C. F. Langdon. By Alma Mailman*

The tuberous-rooted begonia first became known to England during the early part of the 19th Century. By the end of the Century, the Peruvian Andes of South America had yielded up to enterprising plant hunters the entire seven species of tuberous begonias, and that great English horticultural house of Veitch had already started to cross-fertilize them. Veitch raised some eighteen noteworthy hybrids from these seven species, and laid the foundation for future hybridists and breeders. The history of the begonia from then on, however, is linked almost solely with the extraordinary patience and industry of but one man—Mr. C. F. Langdon of the Blackmore and Langdon nurseries of Bath, England, and more recently with Frank Reinelt of our own Pacific coast.

Mr. Langdon started his work about 1885. His material was a tiny, drooping flower, about the size of a quarter, with scarcely the good habit of the common buttercup. The stem was slim and weak, the flowers hung down, and the colors included only red, rose, and a doubtful shade of yellow. The contrast between this insignificant little flower of fifty years ago and our magnificent present-day varieties stands as a monument to careful and intelligent hybridization. Mr. Langdon has selected for his crossing material the best varieties of begonias he could get, best in habit, color, and form, in order to produce the present begonia—a straight, thick-stemmed plant, with full leafage, and beautifully formed, well-balanced blooms which look up at you instead of hanging their heads like the original blossoms. Anti-hybridists may scoff at the idea of making a flower as large as possible, but they cannot fail to see what Mr. Langdon has accomplished in improving the color and enlarging the bloom, and yet preserving its good proportion to the rest of the plant. Compared with the first begonia varieties, and especially with the doubles, which were nothing more than a small irregular mass of petals, with no pretence to form, Mr. Langdon's results are little short of miraculous.

The single begonias come true to form from seed and therefore do not need to be propagated by cuttings. So they are not named, but merely called by their various shades, as *single white*, or *single pink*. The ideal single begonia, according to Mr. Langdon, has a good circular flower, an effect gained by enlarging and rounding out the side petals which in the original species are elongated.

The double begonias are of three distinct varieties—the rose-formed double upright, the most beautiful and popular; the *fimbriata* variety, characterized by the cut or fringed petals, a form not favored by Mr. Langdon and therefore not worked on as much as the others; and thirdly, the basket variety, or *Begonia pendula*. Some years ago Mr. Langdon conceived the idea of improving the begonia in another way.

### *Basket Begonias*

Instead of straightening and strengthening the stem and enlarging the bloom, he thought of taking advantage of the original habit of the plant by encouraging the flowers to hang down. The result is this third group, the basket or hanging type of begonia, which is becoming increasingly popular for both porch and indoor decoration. Mr. Langdon's object has been to get a plant full of flowers hanging over the side of a basket, usually suspended; the flowers and foliage ideally cover the basket. He has succeeded in getting good clear colors with the exception of a good yellow. The rose-formed double begonias reach a tremendous size, often six to eight inches across, although size has been less the aim than perfection of color and form. One of Mr. Langdon's most recent creations is the named variety, Oriel, although not ready as yet to be catalogued, promises to be one of the most beautiful and popular of Mr. Langdon's introductions. Yellow was again a difficult shade to get in the double varieties, but after years of patient struggle and thousands of crosses, Mr. Langdon has been finally rewarded with a beautiful clear shade in the named variety Lady Lilford, which blossomed for the first time in 1930.

Raising the begonia from seed as we saw it in the Blackmore and Langdon nurseries is exceptionally interesting owing to the minute size of the seed itself—the smallest in existence. Mr. Langdon makes the startling statement that one ounce of choice begonia seed is worth five hundred pounds. The seed in this ounce is enough to supply easily all the growers in England. The difficulty at the start lies in separating the seeds from the brownish dust found with them in the pod, done by gently blowing and sifting the mixture through strips of gauze. The seed once separated, it must be mixed with fine white sand to prevent its clumping together. It is sown in January in a temperature of from 65 to 70 degrees, in the greenhouse. It germinates in about a week to ten days, and after three weeks the

little seedlings are removed from their shaded pans and put into small boxes about an inch apart. Here again the work has to be expert, because the seedlings are so tiny and delicate that they can only be lifted with forked sticks. After from three weeks to a month, they are set in large boxes, still in the greenhouse, and finally, out in cold-frames where they are allowed to get used to the sun and cold air. Eventually, when they are much stronger, they are given open beds out of doors, and by September they are in flower.

#### *Process of Selection*

About 150,000 plants used to be in flower each September at the Blackmore and Langdon nurseries, and from there begins the severe process of selection and elimination. The plants are all gone over carefully, and only the most outstanding are marked for cuttings. There are about 150 of these selected plants, the cuttings of which are grown in pots to prove and test them for named varieties, exhibition, and sales purposes. Thus a new "find" is never catalogued directly. The beautiful yellow Lady Lilford first blossomed in 1930, but not until 1935 was she introduced to the public. Today the casual grower can buy tubers of Mr. Langdon's most distinctive begonias, rear them to greenhouse perfection in the simplest garden, and perhaps pause and consider the long years, the innumerable crosses and the patient love that went into their making.

#### **IN MEMORIAM** **Mrs. T. K. Kovachoff**

With regret we report the untimely passing of Mrs. T. K. Kovachoff, President of the Missouri Branch of the A. B. S. who resided at 4034 Highland Ave., Kansas City, Mo. She will be greatly missed in this society for she had many plans for the fast growth and fine doings of the Branch and the organization as a whole. We now look to Mrs. McBride Baker to carry our Branch forward in the manner in which we know she is well gifted to do.

The last meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Dills. It was a huge success. The finishing feature was that every one who wanted to, collected four cuttings of four different begonias. This sort of thing will soon get us minded to make collections. We shall do our best to be a credit to our honored and beloved first President and organizer, Mrs. Kovachoff. —Leona Calmese, Treasurer.

MIAMI BRANCH, FLA., started Branch library by purchasing Mrs. Krauss' book, "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens." Members can borrow it for no longer than two weeks.

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## AT LAST A GOOD WORKING TEXT FOR AMATEUR BEGONIANS

By *Charlotte M. Hoak, So. Pasadena, Calif.*

(Self styled: An amateur for more than 60 years).

For many years Begonians on the Pacific Coast, especially in California, the world center for growing begonias out of doors, the headquarters for the American Begonia Society and having the largest number of Branch Societies . . . has struggled without much benefit derived from reference books. We have had no botanic gardens readily available and only a small research library maintained by the society. Aside from Bessie Buxton's admirable little volume, "Begonias and How to Grow Them," we have had no guide. Therefore, we hail with delight, the appearance of "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens" by Helen K. Krauss, a Macmillan book, up to the usual high standard of a publishing company noted for its Horticultural books.

It is a comprehensive, compact and authoritative book on the history and culture of the many varieties of begonias grown in American gardens. Under one cover it gives the information which has been available only in many English, German and French texts. Moreover, it has cleared up much of the hazy fog of nomenclature which has been a disturbing element in begonia circles so many years.

The book opens with seven full page genealogical charts by Alpha H. Gere tracing the history and development of the begonia groups.

The first chapter gives a brief history of begonias from 1690 to the present time, a consideration of the importance of nomenclature, the characteristics of Begoniaceae, a list of house-plant begonias for the beginner gardener and begonias for bedding.

In the next six chapters the different groups are organized and developed in an orderly manner.

Sixty-five photographs in black and white showing the growth, habit and various flower and leaf forms of some of our most popular begonias which we wish could have been in full page studies.

Following the example set by Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey in handling the complex begonia group, Mrs. Krauss has dealt splendidly with the semperflorens group working a complete chronological outline of the group from the appearance of *B. semperflorens* in 1878 to the distinctive hybrids and mutants of *B. semperflorens* and *B. semperflorens cultorum*. The Rex fans will be delighted with the chapter on *B. Rex-cultorum* (Bailey) and just ordinary begonians will not have to tread so gingerly and evasively when it comes to naming the best of our Rex begonias.

(See Page 203)

## VOTE OF CONFIDENCE APPRECIATED

As I take over the duties of my office I wish to express to everyone my sincere thanks for the confidence you have placed in me. I must confess, however, that I am not without a certain amount of trepidation at the real immensity of the work ahead. Were it not for the fact that I feel sure of the cooperation of each and every one, my enthusiasm might be somewhat dampened. The guiding of any large organization cannot be successfully accomplished by any one person, but is definitely the work of a well intended and a well organized group amongst whom every move is carefully studied as to its merits before injecting its use into action. While I promise to do everything in my power to further and improve the work of the American Begonia Society; I have no wish or intention of doing this alone.

Your National Board will look eagerly for constructive suggestions nor do they put on blinkers when confronted with complaints or adverse criticism, on the contrary this makes for better construction. This is where cooperation shows its real worth. There is no limit to the good a person can do, if he doesn't care who gets the credit for it, and that is the spirit with which we should work.

Do your friends a favor; invite them to the monthly meetings of your branch and show them what it means to be an active member of the American Begonia Society. Be proud of your affiliations for you have every right to be. The interest is definitely evident, by the ever increasing membership and the number of newly organized branches in the different parts of the country.

Two little words, "Thank you" have almost atomic power. Knowing this and feeling this then I say from my heart THANK YOU.

Mary Hazel Drummond, *president*  
The American Begonia Society

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**TREASURER'S REPORT — JULY 30 to AUG. 31, 1947**

**GENERAL FUND**

Accumulative from September 1, 1946

	This Month	Actual	Estimated	Difference
<b>GROSS INCOME</b>				
Memberships	\$270.00	\$3733.36	\$3720.00	\$ 13.36
Cultural Bulletins	10.65	109.80	120.00	10.20
Advertising	236.88	1827.29	1356.00	471.29
Other	37.70	591.30		591.30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$555.23</b>	<b>\$6261.75</b>	<b>\$5196.00</b>	<b>\$1065.75</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Begonian Printing & Engraving	\$246.56	\$3487.69	\$3000.00	\$ 487.69
Mailing	55.87	617.49	492.00	125.49
Other	60.00	607.20	696.00	28.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$362.43</b>	<b>\$4772.38</b>	<b>4188.00</b>	<b>584.38</b>
Membership Sect.	\$ 35.00	\$ 530.72	\$468.00	\$ 62.72
General				
Postage		\$ 15.00	\$ 24.00	\$ 9.00
Stationery		100.58	144.00	43.42
Round Robin	10.00	120.00	120.00	
Other	31.22	183.82	144.00	39.82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 41.22</b>	<b>\$ 419.40</b>	<b>\$432.00</b>	<b>\$ 12.60</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$438.65</b>	<b>\$5722.50</b>	<b>\$5088.00</b>	<b>\$634.50</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$116.58</b>	<b>\$ 539.25</b>	<b>\$ 108.00</b>	<b>\$431.25</b>

**FUND DISTRIBUTION**

	General	Robinson Mem.	Seed	Total All Accts.
On Hand July 30	\$1073.48	\$179.13	\$36.70	
Net Income	116.58		17.43	
On Hand Aug. 31	\$1190.06	\$179.13	\$19.27	
<b>Balance on Hand Aug. 31</b>				<b>\$13.88.46</b>

(Signed) W. E. WALTON, Treasurer

**FLOWER SHOW NOTES FROM SAN DIEGO BEGONIA SOCIETY**

*By Mrs. Clarence E. Moore, San Diego, California*

La Mesa, (just east of San Diego) held its annual flower show in August and this year Russ Eaker was general chairman of the shade plant division. He was president of our group for the second and third years and we were glad to welcome him and Mrs. Eaker when they came to invite us to exhibit. All the begonia groups in the country were invited to display and also the commercial firms. They

had a nice large open area well protected by trees and we chose a space roughly thirty by twelve along the upper edge and used palm fronds to further protect the plants. Lee Nelson furnished logs from a neighbor's pepper tree for the front and we had a very beautiful setting for the very good looking plants displayed, much like the one for the unclassified plants at the national convention at San Diego last year. We won a blue ribbon and a silver cup. Lee Nelson won a blue ribbon and a lovely cup for his exhibit of dwarf trees and Mrs. Barker helped with the Spring Valley display which won second prize, so we feel that our group was well represented. Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Davis and Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Owen picked up plants, arranged the display and brought the plants back to their owners, and the San Diego Begonia Society members are very grateful for the splendid work they did.

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# BEGONIA CATHAYANA

By Frances Downing, Bowie, Texas

## THE CASE OF THE MISSING ELEMENT

These notes are taken from The Directors' Round Robin and *cathayana* is only one of the so-called generally difficult begonias to grow in any locality. From New York to California reports tell of *B. luxurians*, *ivy ever*, and *B. r. c. "it"* as temperamental companions of the first named.

It is interesting, however, to learn that there are a few members of the Robins who have grown fine plants of *B. cathayana* successfully and the methods seem not to differ greatly from those used in growing other begonias. The small difference has to do with the soil. One Director aptly states the case thusly:

"This plant needs a little something that is not present in most soils. When *B. cathayana* acts so that one hardly dares to breathe upon it for fear the leaves will fall, the trouble is due to a soil deficiency. I received a soft cutting of *B. cathayana* from a member who could not root this begonia because every time she handled it a leaf or branch broke off. The cutting was placed in a glass containing one inch of water with one Vitamin B1 tablet. The slip hardened and there was no further breaking of the joints.

This experiment was discussed with two plant pathologists. Both agreed that this condition is not a disease but is due to a soil deficiency or to a high nitrogen content of the soil. Vitamin B1 does much to overcome the condition and to maintain a healthy plant. This also applies to other plants that fall apart without good reason."

A New York member who grows the plant successfully uses a soil mixture composed of three parts woods soil, one part sterilized garden loam and one teaspoon Scotch soot. The pot must be well drained and the plant is given only rain water. Even then it is never allowed to stand around the stem of the plant but is poured around the *edge* of the pot. The plant stands in a north window where it receives full light but only a bit of the morning sun.

A Massachusetts member is growing a fine *B. cathayana* by keeping the plant rather on the dry side and when she does water it—the water is always warmed before using. This plant gets a little of the late afternoon sun. A camel's hair brush is used to remove the dust off the leaves. This grower does not use any different soil from her other begonias. We have discussed this plant through correspondence for more than a year with its owner. No mention has ever been made of the joints falling apart. It did drop a few leaves during its period of dormancy, but that is to be expected.

We find another New York member successful with *B. cathayana* who uses the top soil (containing much coarse sand) from beneath soft maple trees.

So from all these methods and mixtures we return to the notes of the Director quoted above:

"It would take a great deal of research among the Round Robin members and much analyzing of soil from the various sections of the country in order to determine just what element is missing from the soil, or elements."

The case of the missing element; And who is going to solve the mystery? Will it also clear up the difficulties with the other finicky begonias?

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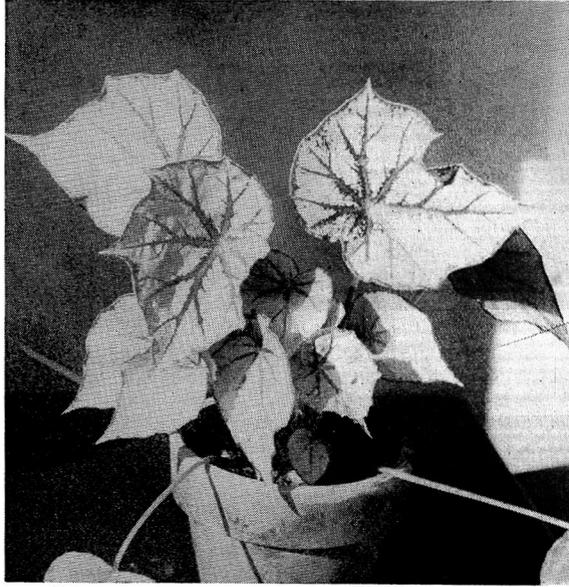
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**OCTOBER FOR TUBEROUS BEGONIA GROWERS**

*By Dorothy Bayliss, Hayward, California*

For those who grow tuberous begonias, October has only memories of past glories and dreams of beauties for the new year. These plants that have given so generously in beautiful blossoms, begin to show desire for a well earned rest.

Mother Nature will let you know. When there is a yellowing of leaves and skimpy single flowers, the plant is approaching dormancy, and

less moisture is required. After the main stalk drops off, the tubers may be lifted from the soil, cleaned under swift force of water, either from hose or faucet, given a thorough sun bath, by placing in trays in the sun (not too hot) for a period of about a week, bringing inside at night to escape dew. After being completely cured, they need at least six weeks rest in a cool, dry, well ventilated room.

Now that your tubers "have gone to sleep," don't let your interest stop. As soon as the new catalog comes in the mails, is the right time to order tubers and seed for the coming season.

When you read the list of glowing colors you really start to dream of what next year holds forth for you. First there are the lovely snowy whites. For sentimental reasons this is dear to every feminine heart. You can have luscious pinks—like strawberry ice cream on a warm day. Like trumpets, first to bloom the bold reds, flames and yellows, herald the Queen's entrance. And that queen—gorgeous Queen of the Tropics will reign supreme for five to six months if given a "throne" to her liking—she is a bit whimsical.

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## MAINTAINING ACIDITY

By R. B. Peters, Laguna Beach, Calif.

Dr. Drummond's very interesting articles on soil acidity and alkalinity as expressed by the pH of the soil solution make our problems very clear, especially for those of us who have to use Metropolitan water.

However, I think Dr. Drummond does not go quite far enough in his discussion of the Metropolitan water. He leaves us discouraged with the sodium content.

To be sure, analysis shows 200 or more p. p. m. of sodium and a pH of 8 plus but is it so bad as it looks from a theoretical point of view? I have been using this water for three years and find it possible to raise good begonias and fuchsias.

As Dr. Drummond's articles point out, the all important technique is to maintain acidity, maybe not much, but acidity nevertheless.

I have noted that when I bring in tuberous plants which I have bought in flower and which have been raised on "good water" that they pick up on metropolitan water for a time. I suspect and it is only a guess, that they have not had quite enough available potash and the sodium acts as a substitute temporarily, but that is not the problem—which is, to maintain acidity.

To do this I use a substantial amount of peat in the potting mixture, good drainage, and a liberal amount of water at each watering. That is, I prevent the build up of mineral content by keeping the pot flushed out. This requires gravel in the bottom of the pot and lots of organic matter and sand in the mixture (including ample peat). Liquid fertilizer is used though sparingly on the tuberous, and little or no oak leaf mold.

There are certain plants that apparently will not tolerate the high sodium content, regardless of acidity—such plants are Rex, some of the ferns and strange as it may seem, the small leaved ivy, when potted. I solve this problem by using rain water on these few plants.

I am not saying that I like metropolitan water for plants but offer the above suggestions on acidity and drainage that may help solve the pot problem.

Many failures I believe may be traced to too much dependency on leaf mold, which I think is seldom acid in Southern California. Peat is constantly adding a slight amount of acidity which is probably preferable to too much dependence on mineral acidifiers.

Last year I carried a few tuberous through on rain water, the rest on metropolitan water with little difference in results.

## FUCHSIAS IN THE SUMMER

By Mrs. Clarence Moore, San Diego, Calif.

• Mr. R. H. Palmer, of Palmscroft, in talking to the San Diego Branch about FUCHSIAS, said that spring (February and March) slips should be made from the tips of fuchsias but in summer cut  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inch pieces of firm, but not hard wood. The root end of these should be dipped in charcoal dust and put in sharp damp sand and peat moss in the proportion of two parts peat to one of sand. He said that he gets about 90% to grow with this method. Fuchsias being heavy feeders need rich soil supplemented with extra feedings every two weeks of a good liquid fertilizer.

Mr. Palmer spoke of the great confusion existing in the fuchsia nomenclature. New varieties should be named by the breeder after checking with the authorities who are trying valiantly to systematize this procedure. He advised selective buying so that one may have many months of bloom, and for cleanliness the use of a soap solution with nursery Volck about three times in the summer, and a close watch for thrips during the hot spells. Spray again in the Autumn.

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FOR SALE

SPECIALLY PREPARED SOIL  
for growing all kinds of Begonias and  
Shade Plants for sale at all times

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Tubers for sale in Feb., Seedlings in May  
No Catalogue—Price List on Request

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WALTERIA, CALIFORNIA

All Types of  
BEGONIAS and SHADE PLANTS  
Specialty: HYBRID NERINES

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## B. X MADAME DE LESSEPS, Hort. B. X PRESIDENT CARNOT, Hort.

By Alice M. Clark, San Diego, California

Let me begin my page this month by expressing my pleasure in actually being able to turn the leaves of our nomenclature chairman's long-awaited book, "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens." Her method of treating each begonia in a separate paragraph, with heavy or light italics indicating hybrid or species, make it easy to find. Breaking up the large and varied begonia family into smaller groups of related types, helps us to understand them better while the ingenious genealogical charts add visual clarification.

We always sigh for more pictures but with over sixty new ones added to those in Mrs. Buxton's book, we now have access to at least a hundred good photographs of different, named begonias. (I wish that Mrs. Krauss had indexed her illustrations or given their location in her text, for quick reference). Her comprehensive discussion of almost a thousand begonias, with more space than usual devoted to the long-neglected *semperflorens-cultorum*, is an amazing achievement, for which all who are interested in begonias will be grateful for many years to come.

This time two old favorites take their places in our gallery. The top sketch shows *B. Madame de Lesseps*, with *B. President Carnot* below. During their long period of bloom they are easily distinguished but at other times a leaf similarity, due to their common parentage in *B. olbia*, make it seem worthwhile to portray them together for comparison.

Both of the begonias under discussion are French hybrids. *B. Madame de Lesseps* is believed to derive from *B. olbia* and *B. argentea guttata*. *B. President Carnot* stemmed from *B. olbia* x *B. corallina*, in 1890. Both are are medium tall and well branched, requiring some judicious staking. The main stalks of *M. de L.* have a space of as much as 7 inches between the nodes of the gray-brown old wood, while sections in the bright green new growth are as close as one quarter inch. *P. C.* is less woody and the internodes on its reddish-tinted green stems only vary from 1 to 2 inches. The petioles of the latter are a deep red, strong, straight and slightly depressed on top, 2½ inches long. Those of *M. de L.* are 1½ inches, a weak greenish-red, with an upward curve that crowds the leaves on the branch, a marked distinction between the two hybrids.

Spots are in evidence on the lower leaves of both types, but they are hardly discernible on later foliage. The leaf texture of each is firm and silky, rather than embossed, like that

of *B. olbia*. Rose and green combine in *M. de L.* to look like changeable taffeta. That, with the coral-red of the underside, is more reminiscent of *B. olbia* than the richer green surface and deep red facing of *P. C.*

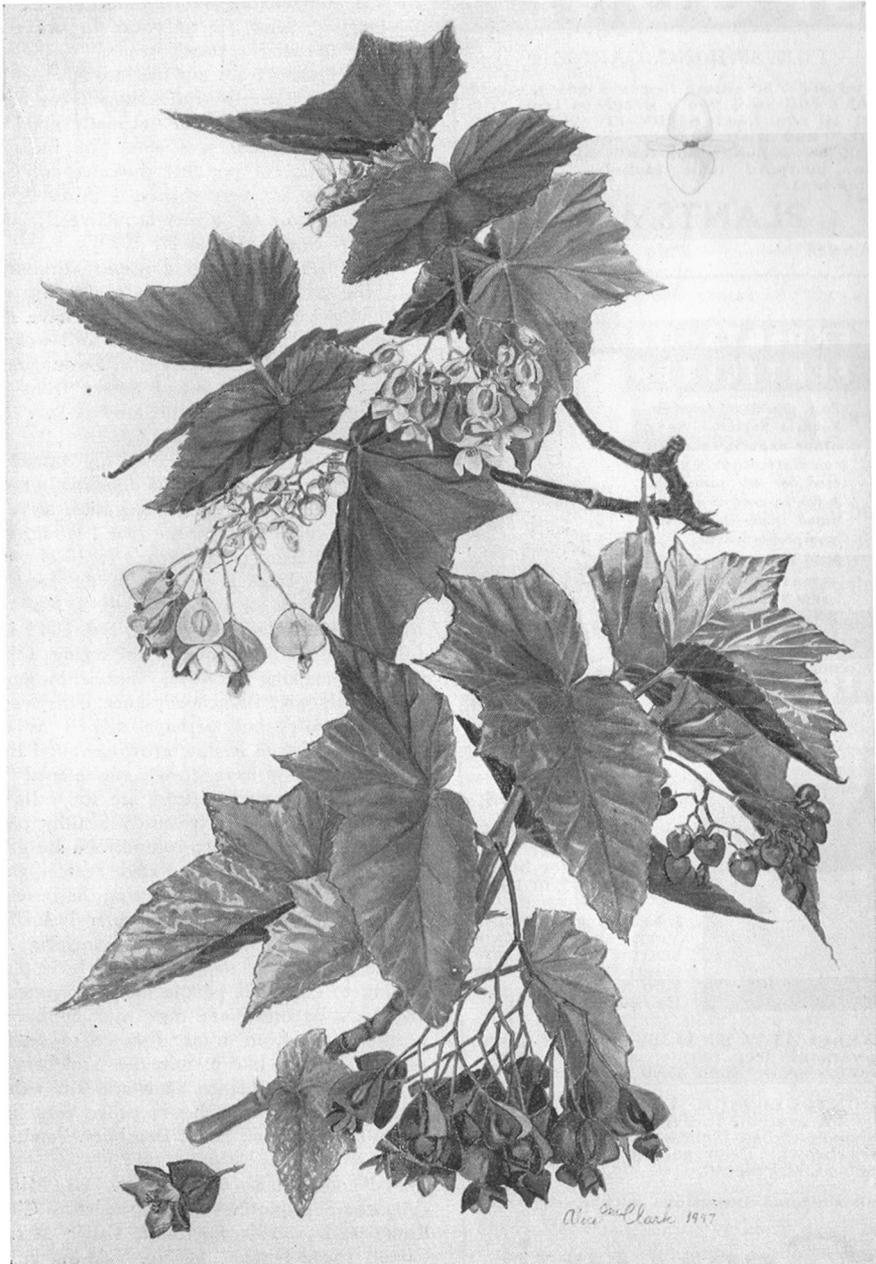
Except for more length, *B. President Carnot* seems to be just an enlarged pattern of its small parent. It averages 8 inches long as against 6 for *Madame de Lesseps*, which lacks one upper lobe and is somewhat cupped. Both begonias have serrate edges, showing the red of the under side and the lobes are sharply pointed.

The influence of *B. corallina* is visible in the large inflorescence of *P. C.* *M. de L.* improves on each of its small forbears with fine clusters of 14 or more good sized blooms. The peduncle of *P. C.*, like its petiole, is firm and red and about the same length. That of *M. de L.* is green and half an inch longer than its leaf stem. Like a nervous mother, afraid of drafts, *Madame de Lesseps* protects each branching section and each bud with pale pink shoulderettes that even persist on some of the dried seed-pods. The male flowers of both plants have perfect, heart-shaped buds with the same open form, 1½ inches across as sketched in the upper right-hand corner. The blooms seldom open to show their oblong, rather than round, stamen. They fall off early.

The female clusters that develop later are the most decorative part of the two begonias. The petals of *M. de L.* are creamy-pink and heart-shaped, and do not twist and turn like the longer, more pointed ones of its red sister, which is depicted in the lower left hand corner. In each case the two outer petals are brighter in color than those of the 3 to 4 narrower inner ones. The stigma of *P. C.* is much larger than its companion. Its wings, alike in size, start from an extra long shank, flaring out half an inch. They have blunt points and are red all over, lacking the white ovary of *B. corallina*. *M. de L.* has 3 rounder wings of equal size, flushed with pink on the edge and over the seed capsule, differing in this respect from *B. argentea guttata* which has pink wings and a white center, and from *B. olbia* which is pink tinted only on the edge of the wings of the all-green fruit, while the 5 short, twisted petals of even size below it, are pure white. The seedpods of *M. de L.*, 1½ inches across, turn a soft green.

There you have the blond and brunette sisters of the *Olbia* family. Both failed to inherit the wonderful leaf color and texture of

(See Page 202)



**Top: B. X MADAME DE LESSEPS, Hort.**  
**Bottom: B. X PRESIDENT CARNOT, Hort.**

# PLANTSMITHS SPOONIT

## FOR SMILING GARDENS

Send me a 3c stamp to cover postage cost and I will send you a generous trial can. Or, if you used SPOONIT "before the war," and wish to order some now, just mail me a dollar bill for a big 32 ounce can, postpaid (this includes California sales tax).

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### TRUE ORCHIDS

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**LAELIA ANCEPS**—Very showy orchid bearing purplish rose colored flowers. 3 to 4 on a stem. Ea. \$5.50 prepaid.

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**ODONTOGLOSSUM GRANDE**—Borne 3 to 4 on a stem. Individual flowers about 5 inches across. Yellow, lined and spotted dark brown. Deep golden yellow throat. Each \$5.50 Prepaid.

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Seed Growers and Horticulturists Since 1871

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## OCTOBER SEED FUND NEWS

New memberships to the Seed Fund arrive in the mail daily. Get your name on the list soon if you will be wanting Begonia seeds in the spring. Send \$2 to your skipper for a share of the seeds secured.

A few letters from our mailbox:

Dear Mrs. Carrell—I'm enclosing my \$2 for the Seed Fund, have had unusually good success with the seeds you sent. The India rex seeds came up 100 per cent, the callas and Costa Rica species are very thrifty. I think *B. coccinea megarama* to be very attractive . . . Mrs. Mabel Wickman, Utica, N. Y.

Dear Mrs. Carrell—I am most anxious to join the Armchair Explorers again this year. Each year I get more pleasure and have more success with growing from seed and welcome this chance to acquire rare kinds. I would rather have one plant that I had grown from seed than several bought fully grown . . . Mrs. Edith Blaker, Auburn, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Carrell—Here is my money for the Seed Fund. I had been debating whether I could manage any more begonias, although I think I knew all the time that I would have to have my share of this year's seed! The total number of plants I grew from the seed last year have given me a full size job. *B. No. 1482* from Colombia is now in bud. *No. 1041* is in full bloom and glorious. I am trying a little cross hybridizing with it. The *Echinosepalas* are already well branched plants. *Udisylvestris* seems spindly, but perhaps this is as they should be. *Vestita* is slow growing, but I think every seed must have grown two plants! The most outstanding to visitors are the calla begonias, have about forty sturdy healthy plants of these. *Incana* and also *rotundifolia* are growing well. The orange flowered *Pearcei* varies a great deal, none of them having the beautiful *Pearcei* leaf, and one in particular is inclined to be very tall, shrubby and branching . . . I have given away so many many little plants hoping to get other people more interested in begonias. Begonias are my chief hobby and people come from some distance to see my plants. I should like to join the Armchair Explorers' Correspondence Club and am writing to Mrs. Minter—this should prove very helpful to us. . . . Mrs. H. T. Bradbury, Petaluma, Calif.

Mail inquiries directly to: Mrs. Mary Minter, (Armchair Explorers' Correspondence Club) Route 1, Box 180, Encinitas, Calif.; Mrs. E. Carrell (Seed Fund) 214 No. Yale St., Fullerton, Calif. —Your skipper, Florence Carrell.

**BULBS FOR SHADE:** *Scilla campanulata* will grow and bloom well in shade and preferably in acid soil. Add bone and cottonseed meals to soil.

## LEADING PRIZE WINNERS AT LONG BEACH FLOWER SHOW

Noticeable for their exceptional charm were a group of quite a few MINIATURE REX cultorum hybrids. John R. Bauman had a nice collection, including some lovely seedlings, Mrs. L. C. Frost had an "It" that was admired, Mrs. L. Reese displayed a Black Widow miniature rex and a Dew-drop; Mrs. J. W. Jensen also had a nice Dew-drop miniature rex and Mrs. Etta Morant showed a five-year-old Countess Louise Erdody. We hope this class will be developed by next year so that more of these JEWELS of the rex group will be enjoyed.

The large rex cultorum group was very well represented as also the fibrous and the rhizomatous groups. The semperflorens cultorum were generally conspicuous by their absence. The A. B. S. exhibit had a pretty fern and double flowered bedding begonia with a few scattered pots here and there.

Of the Coccinea group there were quite a few representatives and exemplifying the patience and love of one plant was the many times winner in many shows, the giant *B. argentea-guttata* which won the amateur supreme ribbon as best fibrous begonia for its grower Mr. Robert Bezones.

In the professional field Mrs. Cardoza Sloan made everyone envious with her two magnificent specimens of *B. odorata alba* more than six feet high, spreading to four feet and with a cloud of blooms. Maybe some amateurs will have some as nice, some time. Her skill with the tuberhybrida group also set a mark for us to emulate. Of course, so does R. G. "Scotty" Hudson, who brought hundreds of beautiful plants to glorify the show but not in competition.

The Palos Verdes Gardens also in the professional field, had some glorious flowers including some very fine new seedlings.

Timing is something for us to learn, there were some excellent potted tuberous by amateurs, for Mrs. Louise M. Jenkins had some competition, but we hope more will go after this group of prizes as the years go by. The queen of all summer flowers really deserves to have more gardeners interested.

Mrs. Alice M. Clark has a special suggestion to offer us of The American Begonia Society. We should establish a *Tuberous Begonia Week* . . . and each one of us should grow as many of these as we possibly can, then combine our resources and energies, arranging beforehand special outlets whereby we can share them with people who cannot have the advantages we have. Hospitals, not forgetting children, libraries, and the like, also *each town and city should have a tuberous begonia show*. Of course, this will be a good excuse to bring the other begonias out too.

## ROUND ROBIN NEWS FOR OCTOBER

By Frances Downing  
422 Strong Street, Bowie, Texas

Our *Pelargonium* Robin needs several members to start flying.

The *Primrose* Robin is starting its second flight with room for more members.

Join the *Flowering Shrubs* Robin and learn to choose those best suited to your locality, learn their cultural needs and winter protection.

The *Simple Botany* No. 2 is forming. Here is a club real gardeners can easily pass by.

The *Ivy Geranium* and the *Cyclamen* await new members.

Our *Greenhouse Management* and the *Soils* Robins are progressing nicely.

The *Hybridizing* Robin No. 2 awaits new members before starting its first flight. This deals with the hybridizing of all kinds of plants. A *Hybridizing Begonias* Robin is forming, but it awaits more members to start.

*Gesneriaceae* Robin No. 4 can take a few more members.

An *Advanced African Violet* Robin has been asked for. While we have many African Violet Robins, this is our first advanced group. It should become one of our most interesting Robins.

Our *Billbergia* Robin is starting anew. Most members of this group grew discouraged with these plants, particularly those outside of California. Growers of *Billbergias* living in the northeast and midwest who have grown these plants successfully would be doing their neighbors a real service by contributing articles to THE BEGONIAN telling their methods of bringing these lovely exotic plants to bloom.

The *Fern* Robin No. 3 awaits new members. also *Iris* No. 2 and *Amaryllis* No. 2 as is the case with some of the *Begonia* Robins.

The *Fuchsias* Robin has started anew.

The *Caladium* Robin is complete and new ones must be started for both the southwest and the northeast.

These NEW Robins have been asked for: *Old Fashioned Gardens*; *The Lawn*; and *Begonias for the Apartment Dweller*. This last, means that in most instances the begonias are kept in the apartment windows the year around. This proves that begonias are really wonderful houseplants. Always at your service for more and better learning about lovely plants.

The professional florists of Long Beach district did a very breathtaking array of arrangements using these flowers . . . which came from Mr. Frank Reinelt himself.

Prizewinners in all Begonias who got most of the prizes are as follows: Mrs. Anne Smith with 28 points to her credit won the Sweepstakes Cup by the Long Beach Flower Shows

Inc.; Mr. Earl Wiltse 24 points; Mrs. J. W. Jensen 17; Mrs. Louise Jenkins 15 points; Mrs. Reese 7 points; Mrs. Laura Dodge 5; Mrs. L. C. Frost 4; Robert Bezones 5; Mrs. Etta Morant 3; Mrs. Gonda Hartwell 3 and many others, among them John Eader, Roy K. Dere, Alice Witman, Clarissa Harris, Mrs. Fred Hines, W. D. Hervey, Emma Wiltse, Mrs. D. R. Jones, Edith van Laningham, Laura Crandall, Mrs. Wm. Haskell, Mabel A. Keb, Ed Hall and Mrs. Hall, Dr. K. E. Smiley by E. C. Rockwell, Mrs. George Benson, Mrs. Sarah Hamel and Murray Minehart. Ferns and other exhibits will be reported on later.

### LEATHERMAN'S GARDENS

BEGONIAS—FERNS—FUCHSIAS  
PELARGONIUMS—GERANIUMS  
NOVELTY PLANTS

6 LABELED REX BEGONIAS—\$3.00  
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FUCHSIAS and allied garden needs

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- 50 Dendrobiums
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Posted Free by AIR EXPRESS

All different selected varieties.

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**HERBAL HOME**  
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### IN MEMORIAM (See Front Cover)

Sincere sympathy is extended to relatives of Leroy Charles Berry, 58 years of age, who passed away August 31st, at the Queen of the Angeles Hospital in Los Angeles, Calif.

Mr. Berry had been ill for some time, and was believed to be improving, however, a relapse caused his death.

A bachelor until his marriage nine years ago to Clemence Lucille Berry, who survives him, Mr. Berry was a great plant lover and upon purchasing some five acres of land with houses he ventured into growing a Poinsettia which was chewed by a pet rabbit. He gathered wild flowers of the fields for home and garden decoration and in 1925 became much interested in the growing of rex begonias. He was one of the earliest of the hybridizers to work for miniature rex cultorum, achieving some spectacular results. Among the great number of hybrids he developed one was named for his mother Barbara Berry; another for his step-daughter Andree and one Delilah, for Mrs. Jennings with whom he boarded for 25 years after coming to California.

Mr. Berry was a great friend of Alfred D. Robinson with whom he spent many visits. He was one of the charter members and organizers of the A. B. S. with Mr. Herbert Dyckman and Fred Richman being one of the first eight members. Every begonia lover looked to Leroy Berry to do great things with his beloved rexes; he had hundreds of them in a very large lathhouse and a small greenhouse which kept him busy and very happy.

All who attended the Convention at San Gabriel will remember the delightful vein of humor which ran through his address as speaker of the evening. At that time he donated one of his "Jewel" miniature Rex begonias which Mr. Art Nelson auctioned off for the benefit of the Hollywood Convention the following year.

California welcomed Leroy Berry, who was born in Chicago and lived for twenty-seven years in Keystone as charter member of the Keystone Chamber of Commerce. In Los Angeles he was member of the Pacific Coast Plumbers Inspectors Association, and plumbing Inspector for Los Angeles City. He is interred at Angeles Abbey Mausoleum.

#### Glendale Branch Annual Begonia Show

The annual begonia show of the Glendale Branch is to be held in The Tuesday Afternoon club, 400 No. Central Ave., Glendale, Saturday, October 4th, 1947, 1:30 to 10 p. m.

The usual banquet and entertainment will take place in the same place at 6:20 p. m. The dinner tickets will be \$1.85. Entertainment and show free. Call Mrs. Mullen, OL 3059.

# SETTING SEED ON GLOXINIAS

By Mary Duncomb, Luverne, Minn.

Reading about the many marvels of hybridizing, in these days of passing on knowledge freely, the layman is more fully aware of the many facts connected with its mysterious processes, the facts which puzzled even the great Darwin who never even guessed at the possibility of chromosomes and the wonderful genes which carry on their work of establishing the future generations of plant life. Today, without even the benefit of the microscope, we may in a measure understand many of these marvels of Nature by using our imagination plus the excellent explanations now found practically in every publication concerning horticulture. Should we like to experiment a little in this line ourselves, even the modest grower of a few houseplants may find it an interesting diversion.

A class of houseplants easy to experiment on is the gloxinia. Usually if one has many of these plants, there are some of them in bloom all during the year, but the average person may have only a few which come into bloom during late spring and continue on till fall. Since gloxinias have both pistils and stamens in the same blossom, it is an easy matter to hand-pollinate a bloom. This may be done with a plant having but a single blossom; or blooms may be cross pollinated on the same plant. The results of this will produce seed which will be the same as the parent plant; but if something different is desired and one has several different varieties of gloxinias, these plants may have their blossoms hybridized in a cross-pollination by artificial means, since in a home there is little chance of pollen being distributed by wind or insects as is the case out of doors. The seeds of these should produce a hybrid which may or may not be as good or even better than either one of its parents.

There are two forms of gloxinia blossoms, the bell-shaped and the slipper. It is a little harder to pollinate the latter because of the position of the pistil, as it tends to hug the side of the top petal. Both however have the same organs, which are very interesting in their make up. There is one pistil which grows out beyond the reach of the stamens, several in number, all united at the tip into a tiny ring on which the pollen is borne. Because of the position of the pistil, outside help is often necessary to get the pollen on to it; this we can do by watching until the pollen becomes detachable as we can see with the aid of a small magnifying glass. It will cling to a fine brush, a feather or even a shredded toothpick or match-stick and can be placed on the tiny sticky knob of the pistil, or female organ. If it is ready, it will travel to the seed-pod or

ovary below. Sometimes it is necessary to place the pollen on the stigma, or sticky knob several times to be sure it takes; as the blossom does not wilt as rapidly as that of some other flowers, notably the *Amaryllis* as soon as it is fertilized. When it does drop off, one may notice very visibly the small, hard, green knob which was hidden at the base of the flower. It is well protected by the green sepals, and will eventually grow into a round green seed pod about half an inch long, if the plant has been kept growing. This will not interfere with the further blooming of the plant, as new flowers form as the seed pod goes on to its destiny. Watch it carefully as it ripens, removing it to a place of safety before it bursts. It will be found to be full of very fine seeds which take the same care in sowing, as do the *begonias* and *African Violets*. This seed can be sown immediately, on well prepared soil in shallow well-drained seed pans, or in some of the mica preparations now on the market.

**BULBS** for part shade NOW: *Leucojum vernum*, the attractive Snowflake we use for small bouquets, will give much joy through extended winter and spring blooming.

## ASPARAGUS DEFLEXUS

An extremely graceful variety of *Asparagus Scandens* var., with long sprays of soft feathery foliage. An excellent evergreen plant for pot culture. It can be trained to grow like a fern, to climb, or may be used in a hanging basket. Grows equally well in sun or shade. Thrives under ordinary care given house plants. \$1.00 each postpaid, immediate delivery.

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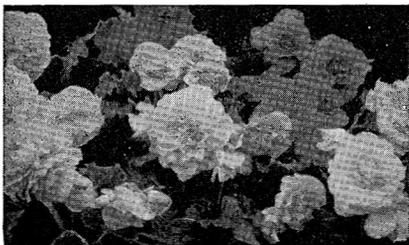
## PLANT BULBS FOR SPRING COLOR

LEUCOJUM vernum (Snowflake)  
for long blooming, each, 10c; per doz. 98c  
Scilla campanulata mixed colors,  
in deep shade, each 10c; doz. 98c  
Soleil D'or Narcissus for house pots  
each 20c; doz. \$2.00  
Babiana coerulea ..... doz. 60c  
Sacred Lily of China, ea. 15c; doz. \$1.50  
Madonna Lilies..... each 49c; 3 for \$1.25

Please add 25c for mailing plus Calif. tax.

### WINSEL-GIBBS NURSERY

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## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

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Capitola, California

## The Hollywood Branch

The National President, Mrs. Drummond, installed the following new officers for 1947-48 tenure at the September meeting.

National Representative: Mrs. Florence Flynn; President, Raymond T. Wilson; Treasurer, Mrs. Josephine Steinman; Executive Board Member: (Branch Director) Mrs. Zella Otto; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Harry Baxter; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Behrends; Branch Librarian, Mrs. Agatha Padilla.

One of the features of the plan for the next year is to have more concerted action between all membs for the good of the whole and complete cooperation between membership and officers. Hollywood is in a favored position and it is felt that the Branch should attain unusual achievements.

## CORRECTIONS TO BE MADE IN "BEGONIAS FOR AMERICAN HOMES AND GARDENS"

Page 18: Delete the coma between *Begonia Bunchi* near the bottom of the page.

Page 61: Delete the letter t in *B schulziana*.

Pages 112-131: The title of the chapter and the page headings should read "Tuberous Begonias as hybrids as well as species are discussed."

Page 122: (10) should read—flowers like a rose with a rosebudlike protuberance from the center.

Page 227: Spelling should be *B. scharffi* and *B. schulziana*.

Photographs: Insert the letter i between letters n and a in *B. caroliniaefolia*.

The picture of the rex-cultorum group was reversed and, therefore, the names should read from right to left. The word cannot should be striken out after *B. President*.

(Continued from Page 196)

their parent—the probable goal of their hybridizers—but they have been worthy garden favorites for fifty years. Some day fortune will favor a lucky begonia-crossing enthusiast by giving stamina and size to the *B. olbia* pattern.



Listen to Mirandy

Sat., KECA, 8:45 A.M.

*Thorough Fertilization  
with Perfect Ease*

Likwid GRO evenly fertilizes each plant as you water. Ask your dealer about Likwid GRO today.

Price: 1 qt., 75c; 1 Gal., \$1.75

**PESTLESS PRODUCTS CO.**  
PASADENA 2, CALIFORNIA

**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY  
14th ANNUAL CONVENTION**

As Director of Public Relations, from August 31, 1946, to February 24, 1947, I hereby submit the following report.

It is with pleasure to announce five new branches were organized in this period of six months.

The New York Suburban Branch was organized Sunday, November 24th, 1946, with eighteen Charter members. Members are from three states—New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. This branch takes in the suburban area around New York City, Westchester County and Long Island. Mr. Louis L. Kuester was elected president, and he gave a brief talk on the successful growing of 150 Begonias and Shade Plants in a New York apartment, and a second brief talk on growing tuberous begonias out-doors.

The Humboldt County Branch was organized December 11, 1946, with 57 Charter members. Mary Ashburn was elected president.

An informative talk was given by Frank Kemp, giving the discovery and early history of begonias.

They entered an exhibit in their local flower show, and were planning an exhibit in the county fair this summer.

The Missouri Branch was organized January 28th, 1947 with 10 Charter members. To date they have increased their membership to 20. Mrs. Matilda A. Kovachoff was elected president. They meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 2 p. m., in the member's homes. In May they entered a very nice begonia exhibit in the Kansas City Garden Club Show, and won a blue ribbon for their reward.

The Santa Monica Bay Branch was organized Wednesday, February 12th, 1947, with 15 Charter members. Mr. LeRoy Chitwood was elected president. Raymond T. Wilson gave a short talk on the use of shade plants as to the growth and color in your garden. Mr. W. C. Cocks showed some very beautiful colored pictures of tuberous begonias. Mr. Chitwood is the Horticultural Instructor at the University High School, at West Los Angeles. So, with a Horticulturist as their president, with privilege of meeting each month in a class room of this school we will look to this branch for great improvements on the culture of Begonias. The West Los Angeles Fiesta of Flowers, held at the University High School, was under the direction of Mr. Chitwood. The Hollywood Branch entered a lovely exhibit and won a blue ribbon.

The Santa Paula Branch was organized Thursday, February 27th, 1947, with 45 Charter members. Mr. Gus Colman was elected president. About 15 members from the Ventura Branch were guests for the evening, including one of our past national presidents, Mr. Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Weitz were the guest speakers for the evening. With Mr. Colman's friendly personality and his enthusiasm for begonias we will look to this branch for many good reports of their success.

We welcome each one of these branches to our society and offer our heartiest congratulations and best wishes for continued success and still more love of begonias.

As Chairman of Ways and Means, I hereby submit the following annual report.

January 8, 1947—Gift from the Seeders and Weeders Garden Club, Pasadena, \$10.00

February 22, 1947 — Washington's Birthday Garden Tour.

<b>Receipts</b>		
653 Tickets sold at \$1.00 each		\$653.00
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Government tax	\$111.01	
Plants for prizes	20.60	
Misc. Postage, Coffee at Brookside Park, Tea for Reception at Co. and Mrs. Gale, and etc.	33.95	
5% to Branches for Selling tickets	46.95	
	<u>\$212.51</u>	\$212.51
Net receipt from tour March, 1947—One Life Membership for Frank Reinelt		\$440.49
		50.00
Grand total		<u>\$500.49</u>
Respectfully submitted, Mary Hazel Drummond.		

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH  
TRIUMPHANT OVER SUCCESS OF SECOND SHOW**

*By Dorothy Bayliss, Hayward, California*

The success of our second flower show was voiced by many of the more than twenty-five hundred visitors who viewed the displays. We cannot expect to stage a show of the excellence maintained by the Oakland Flower Show, but all the products of our members, well groomed and staged with imagination looked inviting. Our show was not large, but it was interesting, educational and worthwhile. Upon leaving, many dropped coins in the Wishing Well, and were heard to exclaim, "beautiful, beautiful."

Flower lovers turned out en masse, wandered happily about the corridors filled with miniature gardens, admired displays set on tables, purchased begonia leaflets and went home with happy memories of lovely flowers.

Many caught "begonia fever." Twenty-two new members applied for membership during the two days of the show. Needless to say, they are launched on one of the most satisfying of hobbies.

Our members, stimulated with new zest over the great success, will now look forward into the new year, to planning and helping with the 1948 show.

**BEGONIA WORKING TEXT**

There is an excellent chapter on begonia culture gathered from various authorities on influences of temperature and light; soils for the different types; potting and planting; watering, spraying and feeding; seedage work; culture and propagation, hybridization and pest and disease control. This chapter is accompanied by ten full pages of drawings which provide step by step directions which will prove illuminating to the often perplexed beginner.

**Bulbs By Seed from South Africa**

Gladiolus gracilis, blue .....	50c
Gladiolus alatus 'Little Roosters' ....	50c
Gladiolus Watermeyer .....	50c
Synnotia metelerkampiae violet baby-glad .....	50c

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8th Annual Convention and Flower Show of the American Begonia Society put on by the North Long Beach Branch, August 16 and 17, 1947, at Municipal Auditorium, Long Beach, Calif. President Lawrence presiding.

E. A. Taylor, President the North Long Beach Branch, welcomed the Convention and thanked each and every one for his cooperation; stated the North Long Beach Branch was very proud to have the honor of entertaining the members this year.

Reports from all departments were read and on motion accepted as read and filed as part of the minutes. Lack of space prohibits printing of reports in full but here are a few highlights:

Chairman Ways & Means: Net receipts from Garden Tour Feb. 22, 1947 and one \$10.00 donation, and one Life Membership . . . \$500.49.

Director Public Relations: Contacts made to establish 16 new branches throughout California, the middle west, and western states. Follow ups of these contacts will be continued and we hope to add many new Branches. New Branches established, New York Suburban, Humboldt Co. Missouri Branch, Santa Monica Bay, Santa Paula. Membership Fees Chairman showed renewals coming in about as usual; new members being added all the time; 516 Cultural Bulletins sold; 186 back issues of The Begonian.

Seed Fund Administrator gave a most interesting report of her department; Paid out for begonia seeds \$263.00; 156 members this year—a gain of 92 over 1946; 35 kinds of begonia seeds were sent out. Seeds came from Costa Rica, India, Colombia, Dominica, Mexico, Dominican Republic.

Report of Chairman Speakers Bureau and Publicity Chairman, showed much thought and planning was being given. Efforts to form a list of speakers available for Branch meetings; getting together a group of people interested in this problem to volunteer to assist the program chairman next year; good cooperation from the publications to which I have given material this last year; local papers very generous with their space and in their efforts to get pictures for us."

Librarian: The increased interest in various round robin clubs sponsored by the society has activated library circulation; 120 loans were made by mail since the last annual meeting. Circulation of bound numbers of the Begonian continues to give much pleasure and information; the 3 scrap books prepared by Mrs. Hixon are most popular and many borrowers have used them. The highlight of the Library year was the publication of Helen K. Krauss' "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens." Lyman B. Smith and Bernice G. Schubert of the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University have issued "Begoniaceae of Columbia" which was recently received by our library.

Report of Committee to tally votes showed Geo. Johnson (San Gabriel Valley Branch) President Elect; Mr. Walton Inglewood Branch) retained as Treasurer; J. W. Bailey (Pasadena Branch) Director for 3 years.

Branches represented at the Annual Meeting—Pasadena, Inglewood, East Bay, San Francisco, San Gabriel Valley, Glendale, Hollywood, Foothill, North Long Beach, Parent Branch, Orange County, Robinson Branch, San Diego Branch, Santa Monica, Bellflower.

Mr. Hesketh from the San Francisco Branch, gave a very spirited report of the activities of their Branch; stated they had a delegation of 15 down to attend the annual meeting.

Emma Carlton, Secretary East Bay Branch reported for her Branch—told of the interesting work they were doing and the fine cooperation received from their membership.

Letter read from the Santa Paula Branch regretting their inability to have representation at the meeting but stated their branch was making progress; had 57 members and very fine meetings.

Mrs. Alice Clark, San Diego, told briefly of the progress being made for the Robinson Memorial Committee. Said that when she accepted the Chairmanship she felt it was a matter and responsibility that should be shared by all members of the Begonia Society and urged that each and everyone should be thinking about what the Robinson Memorial should mean to the Begonia world and should make it mean just as much as other medals do in other horticultural societies.

The September meeting of the Orange County Branch of the American Begonia Society was held in the Farm Bureau Hall, Orange, with President Ed Hall of Fullerton in the chair. Highlights of the meeting were reports of the National Convention and the Flower Show held in Long Beach, Aug. 14-17.

Orange County captured her share of honors, bringing home three challenge cups. The Gonda Hartwell cup for the best Rex Begonia was won by Mrs. Perry V. Grout of Santa Ana. The Hazel Drummond cup for the best Tuberous Begonia was won by Mrs. Louise Jenkins of Huntington Beach, and it was through Mrs. Ed Hall's and Mrs. Jenkins' winnings that the cup for the most points won by any branch was brought back to Orange County.

Mrs. Ed Hall won first on Fibrous Begonias and third on Dish gardens.

The Branch won second on their booth, a \$50 bond being the prize.

Mr. George Barrows of Santa Ana, the speaker of the evening, gave a very interesting talk on Saint Paula violets. He demonstrated the propagation, exhibiting many beautiful specimens and telling how to care for and fertilize the violets.

Mrs. Geo. Barrows was the winner of the door prize, a beautiful terrarium garden made and donated by Mrs. Ed Hall.

Mrs. Perry V. Grout.

Dr. Collins for the San Diego Branch told of their progress; had an average attendance at meetings of about 120; also reported on the fine flower show in La Mesa.

President Lawrence called for bids for the 1948 Convention.

Secretary read invitation from Miami Beach, Fla., also from the San Gabriel Valley Branch.

Motion by Mrs. McRae, second Frank Clark, that "we accept the very nice invitation from the San Gabriel Valley Branch and hold our 1948 Convention in San Gabriel Valley. Carried unanimously;

At the conclusion of the "Thank You Remarks" by President Lawrence meeting adjourned to meet again at 6:30 in the Masonic Temple for the banquet.

Banquet introduction of Miss Peterson, member North Long Beach Branch, as Queen of the Begonia Convention.

Salute to the Flag. Miss Peterson led in singing "My Country 'tis of Thee." Gordon Baker Lloyd, M. C.

Installation of newly elected officers and introductions of Board Members and Branch Representatives.

Permanent Life Membership Cards presented to Past Presidents.

Mrs. Drummond outlined her program for the coming year, which indicated it would be a very busy year.

The speaker of the evening, Mr. Alfred Carl Hottes, was introduced and gave an address proclaimed by all to be the finest ever listened to but all too soon it was concluded. There was much food for thought, however, and Mr. Hottes' talk will long be remembered.

Editor Wilkes presented the awards to the successful exhibitors, calling on Mr. Lawrence, and cup donors to assist her, which closed another memorable convention.

Respectfully submitted, Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

## Meeting Dates and Places

The next meeting of the American Begonia Society Board will be held in the Clark Hotel Grill Room, Hill Street, Monday, October 27th, 6:30 p. m.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Oct. 1st, 7:45 p. m.  
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.  
Sec.: Mrs. Walter Ashe  
1855 33rd Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

### SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Oct. 1st, 7:30 p. m.  
University High School Horticulture Dept.  
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles  
Mrs. Denman Bemus, Secy.-Treas.  
345 So. Santa Anita Ave.  
Brentwood, Los Angeles 24, Calif.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Oct. 2nd, 7:30 p. m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.  
Doris Burdick, Sec.-Treas., Rt. 4, Box 296,  
Anaheim, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Oct. 3rd, 8 p. m.  
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa  
Mrs. James M. Reed, Secretary  
643 No. Wabash Ave., Glendora, Calif.

### BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Oct. 6th, 7:30 p. m.  
Washington Street School Cafeteria  
Sec.: Mrs. Edna Leistner, 610 Nichols Street  
Bellflower, Calif.

### THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Oct. 7th, 7:30 p. m.  
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Harry Meyer, Secretary, 111 Leighton Dr.

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Oct. 8th, 8 p. m.  
Mrs. T. W. Gall, Sec.-Treas.  
4518 Bandini Ave., Riverside Calif.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Oct. 9th, 7:30 p. m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Vera Lynde, Rec. Sec.  
1030 N. Orange Grove Ave.  
Los Angeles 46, Calif.

### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Oct. 9th, 7:30 p. m.  
Community Institute Centre  
Room 5, 914 Santa Barbara St.  
Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Mrs. E. H. Mercer, Secretary  
2019 Bath St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

### CALIFORNIA HEIGHTS BRANCH

2nd Friday, Oct. 10th, 7:30 p. m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Esther L. Randall, Sec., 3638 Cerritos Ave.  
Long Beach 7, Calif.

### SEQUOIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Oct. 10th, 8 p. m.  
Members' Homes  
Mrs. Albert Lowery, Secretary  
620 W. Grove St., Visalia, Calif.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Friday, Oct. 10th, 8 p. m.  
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Laura Crandall, Secretary  
2730 Redondo Blvd., Los Angeles 16, Calif.

### LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Oct. 13th, 8 p. m.  
La Mesa Grammar School, La Mesa, Calif.  
Sec.-Treas.: Dr. Constance Holmes  
133 Prescott, El Cajon, Calif.

### NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Oct. 13th, 7:30 p. m.  
Houghton Park Club House  
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach  
Mrs. Harry H. Boyd, 5670 Walnut Ave.  
Long Beach 5, Calif.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Oct. 13th, 6:30 p. m.  
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church  
Sec.-Treas.: Dorothy Lark  
Box 16, Scotia, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, Oct. 14th, 7:30 p. m.  
Pasadena Public Library  
Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.  
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

### NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

2nd Sunday, November 9th, 2 p. m.  
Crestwood Branch, Yonkers Public Library, N. Y.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley  
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

### PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

Irregular Meetings  
May T. Drew, Pres.  
Box 331, Narbeth, Pa.

### SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Oct. 16th, 8 p. m.  
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss  
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

### EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Oct. 20th  
Community House, LaJolla  
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.  
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Third Tuesday, Oct. 21st, 7:30 p. m.  
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic  
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.  
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. E. G. Arbuclle

### 5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Oct. 22nd, 8 p. m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary  
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

### SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, Oct. 22nd, 7:30 p. m.  
Memorial Hall High School  
Mrs. C. F. Crang  
907 Pleasant St., Santa Paula, Calif.

### ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

4th Friday, Oct. 24th, 7:30 p. m.  
Loma Portal School  
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.  
Mrs. J. P. Stibolt, Secretary  
3738 Wawona Drive  
San Diego 7, California

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Oct. 27th  
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.  
Mrs. A. P. Carlton, Sec.-Treas.  
624 Arroyo Dr., San Diego, Calif.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Oct. 28th, 2 p. m.  
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary  
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA, BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Oct. 28th, 8 p. m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. W. G. Coffeen  
1742 S. W. 10th St., Miami 35, Fla.

### WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Oct. 28th, 8 p. m.  
Union High School, Room 19  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Madeleine Hall, Secretary  
509 Friends Ave., Whittier, Calif.

### EAST BAY BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Oct. 28th, 7:30 p. m.  
Council Chambers, Berkeley City Hall  
Mrs. Emma Carlton, Secretary-Treas.  
1430 Oxford St., Berkeley 9, Calif.

### MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

Mrs. W. E. Jones, Sec., Willow Grove, Pa.

### GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Oct. 28th, 8 p. m.  
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.  
Charles Richardson, Secretary  
1441 Fairfield, Glendale 1, Calif.

### SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau

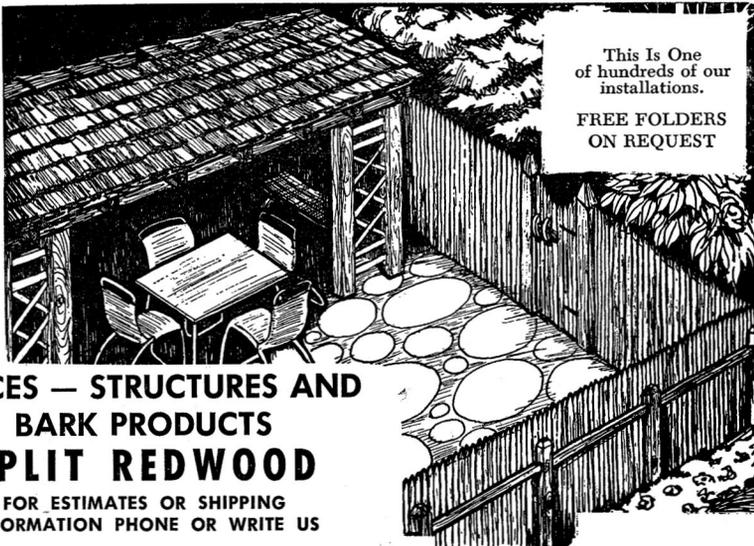
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