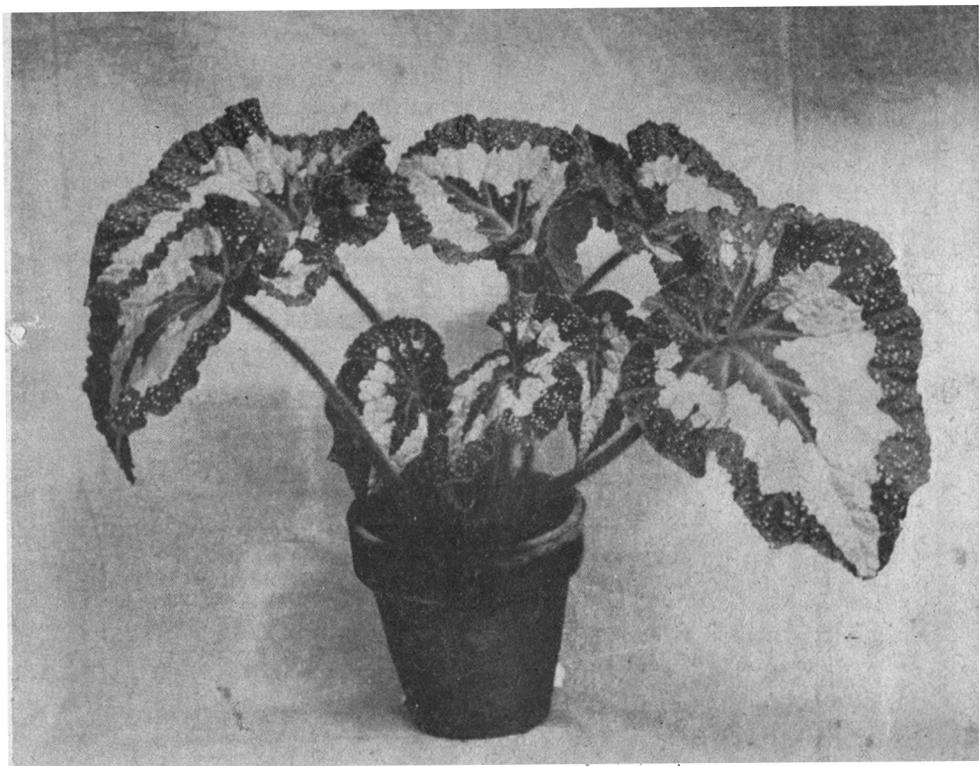


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TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

BY LAMBERT DAY

Reprinted by Courtesy of the Author and The American Horticultural Society

The modern or popular forms of our tuberous begonias are winning new friends wherever they are seen. I wonder, as we gaze at their exquisite forms and colors, if we half appreciate the amount of work and skill that has been employed to produce these flowers. It has taken over eighty years of constant labor on the part of many hybridists. This means that several generations have been devoting their best energy and thought in this development. The job is as yet by no means complete and the hybridist is still silently and patiently at work, creating new forms, or removing defects from old ones, adding a delicate fragrance and changing growth habits to conform to our modern mode of civilization.

The ancestors of our tuberous begonias came from South and Central America. They were found growing at various altitudes between two and twelve thousand feet. This means that they are found growing in a temperate zone and require the duplicating of these cool conditions to be at their best. Mr. Henderson is credited with introducing the first tuberous begonia into England. This he received from Bolivia, and grew it under the name of *B. cinnabarina*. By 1864 *B. Pearcei*, *B. octopetala*, *B. Veitchii*, *B. Davisii*, and *B. roseafolia* were in the cultures of the early hybridizers. Within ten years the first double flower made its appearance. From within this group came all of our present color and most of our present forms.

Hybridists have developed the begonia along three different lines. First, are those commonly called, "Lloydii," which were developed for use in hanging baskets, and are available in yellow, red, and white, with intermediate shades. The flowers may be selected from singles or doubles, and large or small to suit the taste of the individual. The second group are the "Multiflora," which are unexcelled for profusion of bloom in brilliant color. They are compact growers, seldom reaching more than fifteen to eighteen inches in height. With some varieties the foliage is to be scarcely seen because of the dense bloom. This form deserves much more popularity than it has had in the past in this country. It may be used as a bedding plant and will stand more sun than other types.

In the third grouping are our regular tuberous varieties. These may be had in all varieties of color except shades of blue. The flowers have been developed into many pleasing forms

among which are "Narcissiflora," "Cristata" and "Crispa" in the single flowered types. The double flowered include "Camellia," "Camellia Picotee," "Frimbriata," and "Rosebud" types. No garden or conservatory is complete without at least a few of the latter group.

These plants may be started from the dormant tubers procurable from most seed supply houses and nurseries during the months from December to March, at other times from nurseries as potted specimens. The dormant tubers should be kept at all times in places where they will not freeze. Temperatures between 50 and 60 degrees Fahrenheit are satisfactory. When the tubers begin to show pink sprouts it is time to start them on their first cycle of growth.

A very good way is to place them so that they are just flush with the surface or slightly buried in moist peat moss. Spacing the tubers about three inches apart will allow ample room for root growth. The peat moss should be in a shallow box or seed flat about two and one-half to three inches deep. The tubers may then be given gentle heat in the greenhouse. For those that do not have a greenhouse, it is advisable to mix sharp sand and oak leaf mold in equal proportions with the peat moss as less water will be retained by this mixture. This will help prevent rotting of the tubers and young, tender growth. This mixture should be kept just moist and never allowed to become soggy. The flat should then be placed where it will receive plenty of strong filtered sun light but no direct sun. Night temperatures should not drop below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Warmer temperatures are liable to cause a more rapid, spindling growth. This is an undesirable condition because the plants are more readily attacked by diseases, and the succulent growth will not produce as many nor as large flowers as the plant that is allowed to start slowly with the resultant compact growth.

When the growth has reached a height of four to six inches and a good root system has developed it is time to transplant them. If placed in small pots, select a pot of the size that will allow the ball of roots to be within an inch of the edge. Fill the first quarter of the pot with good drainage material or sphagnum moss. The rest of the pot is filled with a soil mixture suitable for begonias. The tuber may be covered with soil only up to the first joint on the stem. Care should be used not to cover this joint as a new tuber will form at



TUBEROUS BEGONIA, DOUBLE FRILLED TYPE (FIMBRIATA PLENA)

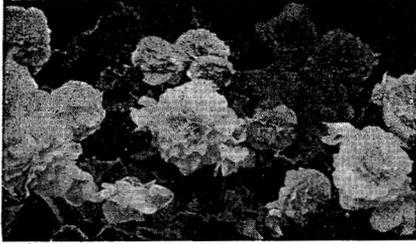
Courtesy Vetterle & Reinelt and National Horticultural Magazine

this place, and the old one will be destroyed. The plant may or may not flower during this period and a very sickly plant with a small tuber may result or total loss of the plant may follow. From one-half to one inch of space should be left at the top of the pot as a basin for watering and fertilizing.

Tap the plant out of the pot occasionally for examination of the root system. When the roots have reached the edge of the pot, the plants should be transferred to the next size larger pot. Do not allow the plants to become pot bound until the greater part of their growth period has been reached. The first few flower buds should be pinched off in order that the plant may become sturdy. All female flowers should be removed as soon as they have

developed enough to be recognized by the seed pods, visible, just below the petals.

For those that may wish to plant the tuber directly from the starting flat into the pot in which they are to mature, some additional suggestions are offered. An eight, ten or twelve inch pot should be selected depending on the size of the individual tuber. Use plenty of drainage material in the bottom of the pot and then add a couple of inches of potting soil. A tablespoonful fish meal may then be sprinkled over this. At least two inches (more if practical) of soil should now be added before putting in the tuber. This method has the advantage of only one operation and little need of further fertilization during the growing season. The fish meal is far enough away from



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the root system of the tuber so that the plant is forced to send out its roots in search of food. This results in a well developed root system that is so essential in producing high quality flowers.

Unless great care and good judgment are used in watering the plants when put directly in large pots, their mortality will be high. The soil should be only kept moist until the plants are well established, when they may be watered more freely.

The tubers may also be planted from the flats directly into beds if proper provision has been made for drainage and watering. Most of the standard tuberous varieties of begonias are one sided, so to speak, as the flowers all face in the direction that the leaves point. This should be remembered when placing in a permanent bed so that the flowers may open in the desired direction. While this is also true of hanging basket and multiflora varieties, they have numerous shoots so that the flowers will face in all directions.

The soil mixture for tuberous begonias should approximate one-third leaf mold, one-third *well rotted* cow manure or compost and one-sixth of sand and sod or friable loam. One five-inch pot of bone meal or fish meal to each wheelbarrow of soil. Charcoal bits are also beneficial in maintaining a sweet soil.

Provision should be made for protection of the plants from the direct rays of the sun at all times. This may be accomplished by a lath, cloth or greenhouse, or by planting beneath the shade of large trees and shrubs. As some sun is needed they will not do well in full shade. When the plants have become well established and hot weather has arrived they will require an abundance of water and may be sprinkled overhead. Keep the humidity high by wetting the area adjacent to the plants.

The plants should be fed so that they will retain their vigor until the end of the season. For dry feeding cotton seed meal or ammon-



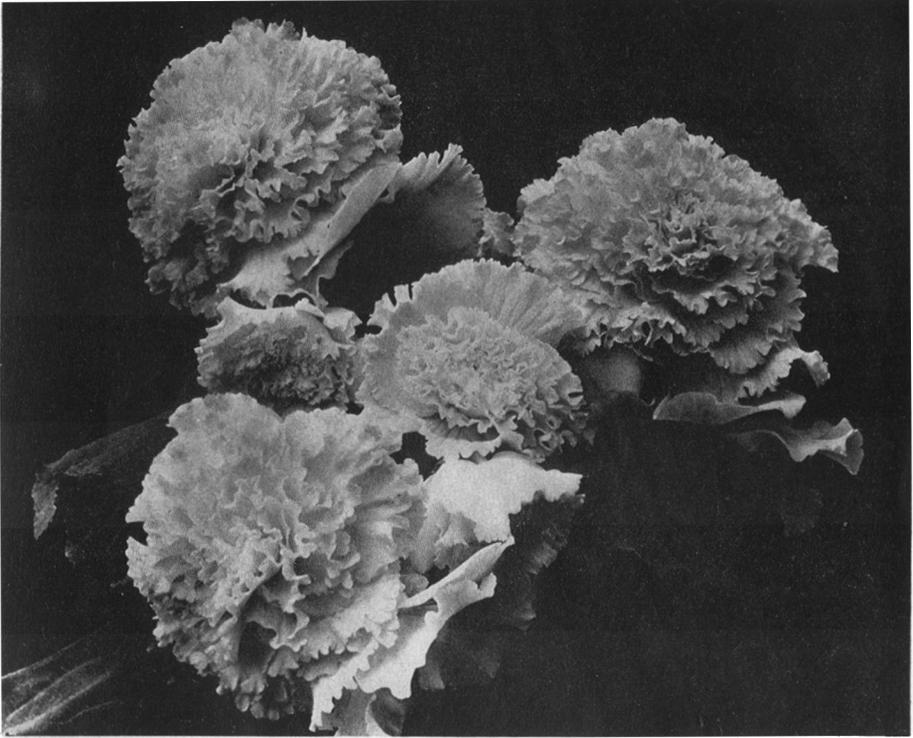
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TUBEROUS BEGONIA, DOUBLE CAMELLIA TYPE

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ium phosphate used at the rate of one-half teaspoon per eight-inch pot has proven satisfactory. Larger quantities are injurious, doing more harm than good. This should be sprinkled evenly around the edge of the pot, covered lightly, and the plant watered immediately. Never feed a plant that is dry or not in good growing condition. Two such feedings per season should suffice. Vigoro, Nitro-phoska and other commercial fertilizers, when used according to directions, may be used if preferred.

With the coming of cool weather in the fall the tubers will begin to mature and the stems and leaves take on a yellowish cast. It is then time to gradually withhold the water. In localities that are subject to early killing frosts the tubers may be taken up with as much soil as will adhere to the roots, bunched close together and allowed to ripen inside. The tops may be cut off within six to eight inches of the tuber. In either case when the tubers are fully matured the stems will loosen and break away from the tubers. The soil should be kept slightly moist during this period to prevent the tubers from shriveling. When the last of the stems have fallen off the tubers

should be dug up and the dirt washed off the roots. Leave them in a bright airy place for a few days until they are thoroughly dried off and then store in a dry dark place where there is no danger of freezing. Some growers recommend storing them in leaf mold or peat moss which is a good suggestion.

Tuberous begonias may also be started from seeds and the majority of them are raised from seed by the begonia specialist. Many amateurs are growing them successfully but until one has learned from experience, success is rather elusive. For those needing lessons in patience it is highly recommended, but alas! that is another story.

MIAMI BRANCH has had the good fortune of having Mr. M. O. Kent from Okeechobee, Fla., as speaker on the subject of CALADIUMS and Begonias. Mr. Kent has an extensive collection of fancy-leaved Caladiums and is well fitted to tell much about them and their culture. Another speaker also greatly enjoyed recently was Mrs. E. Barfield who discussed the subject of Saintpaulia Violets. There is always much interest in South African Violets and it seems to be increasing now everywhere.

JANUARY SEED FUND NEWS

Dear Armchair Explorers:

Your Begonia seed is almost ready to mail out. Watch for it about the end of this month. Each packet will be numbered and you will find the key to the numbers in your February Begonian. Please note: Of some kinds of seeds there wasn't enough for all, but you are each receiving the same number of packets. I suggest that you plant only half the seeds in each packet, saving back some in case you have an accident with your first planting; but if all goes well and you grow all the plants you wish, then you can use your surplus seeds to exchange with other Armchair Explorers. Mrs. Minter writes that two Armchair Explorer's Correspondence Clubs are sailing, don't neglect to get in on this new department of our Seed Fund.

One of our members would like to get in touch with other Armchair Explorers who might be interested in exchanging begonia cuttings, he is Mr. James B. McFarlin, P. O. Box 35, Florence Villa, Florida. Mr. B. F. Kemp of Fortuna, California, has made a wonderful contribution to our Seed Fund of bulbils of *Begonia Martiana*, this is the "holly-hock" begonia. He writes: "These begonias volunteer in our lath houses every year, they bloom the first year from these bulbils. We leave the large tubers in the ground all the time and they seem to be perfectly hardy in this climate where the temperature sometimes gets as low as twenty degrees below zero." These bulbs may be had at 25c per small packet, and the proceeds will be used for purchasing other begonia seeds.

Several members have asked that they be sent only tuberous begonia seed. Heretofore I have included a few types of tuberous seed in the regular Seed Fund, but this year we will have a special Tuberous Seed Fund at \$2. At this writing it is difficult to say how many packets of seed there will be, but my guess is approximately 15 kinds of tuberous species and named hybrids. In the regular Seed Fund there will be one packet of mixed tuberous seed only, others will all be of the fibrous types. If you are wanting tuberous seed only, then notify your skipper immediately and your name will be transferred to the Tuberous list.

Note—Anyone having copies of really good flower magazines, send to your skipper to be forwarded to Mr. Rolston. Many forwarded by members recently were in poor condition—all good pictures and articles had been cut out—making them worthless, so send me only recent and good issues please—a packet of choice seed will be sent as payment. *Florence Carrell.*

ANOTHER LETTER FROM OUR NEW ZEALAND A. B. S. MEMBER

Dear Mrs. Carrell:

I received your very welcome and interesting letter and I am so glad that you and others have had success with the fern spores I sent you. You must get much pleasure watching the results of seed procured from other lands. I should have written before, but have been waiting to give a report of the seeds of Begonias, etc. that you have sent me. As our season for sowing these is nearly opposite to yours I had to hold them until the beginning of August to sow them, and I am pleased to say that I have had splendid results with most of the varieties, only one or two failed, so I have a splendid lot of seedlings now pricked out. In another couple of weeks they will be ready for potting. I am looking forward to seeing these in bloom, which will be about the middle of March. It is quite exciting to watch the progress they make almost daily. Thanks so much for putting my name on the Armchair Explorers list for Begonia seed in 1948, will look forward to these with pleasure. I would like the name of the country each lot comes from as I keep a record of each individual packet and record results.



I received the parcels of newspapers, magazines and catalogues, we were all thrilled with them, the seed catalogues were especially welcome. My wife settled down with them straightaway. She is fond of shrubs and has a good variety growing here, many of which are of American origin. I would be very pleased to receive any catalogues and magazines from time to time. They are welcome here and of great interest to us and our friends. Recently we drove through Wanganui and in a book store window I saw a book "Begonias and How to Grow Them" by Bessie Raymond Buxton, so I secured it. It is very good. I should like to have "Begonias" by Helen Krauss sometime.

(Continued on Page 20)

FERNS

By Sylvia B. Leatherman, El Monte, California

The luxuriant beauty of the foliage, the relaxing soft shades of greens and the endless variety of forms is making people more fern conscious. To obtain ferns just for the sake of having the fern and having no knowledge of its culture is a sad mistake. Before getting a fern for a particular purpose study the fern first and learn if it will be happy in the position you want it to grow in. Your locality must be taken into consideration. Along the cool coast many ferns will take considerable sun, but inland where there are hot summers these ferns will not tolerate as much sun.

As we start with our fern species I think it will be wise to begin with the easiest varieties of both our natives and those originating from other latitudes and gradually build up to the more difficult kinds. Many of our so-called "Exotic Ferns" or termed by many as "Hot House Species" are very easy to grow if given a happy growing position.

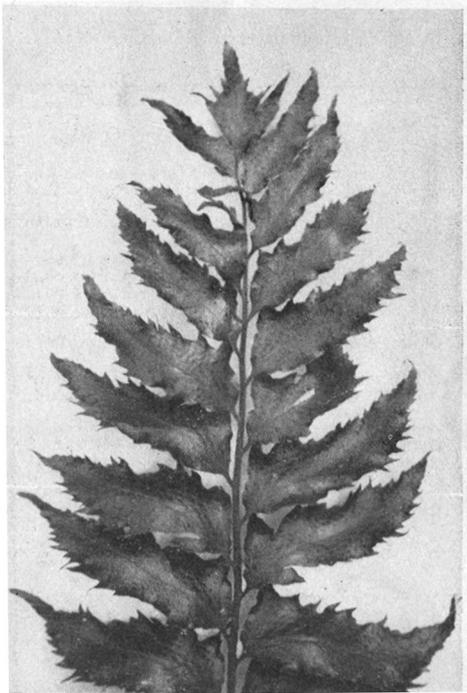
Cyrtomium (sir-toh-mi-um) *falcatum* and *Cyrtomium Rochfordianum* (polypodiaceae) are the well known Tender Holly Ferns. They have heavy, glossy, leathery textured leaves with chaffy stipes—(The bare stalk is the stipe). The edges of the leaves are serrated, with sharp prickly points. The fronds rise from the crown on strong stiff stems. There is only a slight difference in these two ferns. *Cyrtomium Rochfordianum* has leaves a little bit wider, a variation of only about one fourth to one half inch, but the difference on each leaf gives a bolder appearance. The top tip leaves wing out slightly. The leaves of the *Cyrtomium Rochfordianum* come closer to resembling a Holly Leaf. *Cyrtomium falcatum* has leaves that are uniform from the bottom to tip of the stem. Both are good subjects for background or intermediate plantings. They will attain a height of about four and one half feet. The fronds are of a medium shade of green. For cutting purposes they are long lasting.

I have found a medium acid soil (pH 6 to 6.5) is ideal for these ferns. Basic fern soil as given in the November, 1947, *Begonian*. These ferns are not demanding as to feedings or pampering and are very easy to grow. They will tolerate more dry conditions than the majority of ferns. Inland they are happy growing on the north or east side of a building or under lath. Along the coast they will take more sun but they are happy growing under the above conditions. They are not at their best grown in dense shade. They also make very nice potted

(Continued on Page 20)



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READY FOR ANOTHER ERA IN BEGONIA CULTURE

We are looking forward to the contributions of the three Chairmen of the several Begonia divisions under the direction of the Clayton M. Kelly Research & Nomenclature Committee. They will make every endeavor to keep the members informed about old and new Begonias and their culture and maintain a standard of accuracy set forth by the Director of the Committee.

Mrs. Lillian Ashe is Chairman of the *B. tuberhybrida* class which has the showiest flowers of the genus. Living in the San Francisco area where these subjects may be seen at their best makes it possible for Mrs. Ashe to tell us a great deal about the numerous varieties and their culture.

Miss Charlotte M. Hoak has undertaken to head the *hirsute*, *cane-stemmed*, *semperflorens-cultorum* and *semi-tuberous begonia* classes. Among these groups are to be found the hundreds of popular house plants in America and about which plant lovers are constantly seeking information.

Mr. Harry L. Swager, fancier and collector of *B. Rex-cultorum* varieties, should have much to tell us about old and new varieties of this handsome colored-leaved group. In addition to this group, he will also keep us informed about the rhizomatous group which is noted for its distinctive flowering habit and among which are some of the most desirable house plants.—Helen K. Krauss, Director, Clayton M. Kelly Research & Nomenclature Committee of The American Begonia Society.

Nota Bene:

The article on page 212 in the November issue of *The Begonian* is noted in "Contents" as "Krauss Begonia Book Correction." This is an error as no corrections have been authorized by me other than those published in the September and October issues of 1947.

The November correction was made by Mrs. John G. Clark and refers to her illustrated article in the September issue in which the names *B. Montalvo* and *B. Montalvo Gardens* were reversed for the Begonias as published in my book in July—Helen K. Krauss.

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Along with *The Begonian* your magazine shelf should possess for your pleasure and profit *The National Horticultural Magazine*, which is available to all members in good standing of the A. B. S. for only \$2.00 per year instead of the usual \$3.00 Address: Charlotte Elliott, Sec., 821 Washington Loan & Trust Bldg., Washington 4, D. C.

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY MESSAGE

Another year has been added to the calendar of the past and a New Year is beginning. The careful and industrious gardener will have kept a close and accurate account of the progress or otherwise of gardening activities and a careful examination of the results should serve to obviate a recurrence of any failure or help to improve on only fair or moderate results. Those of you who enjoy the protection of a lath house will do well to start house cleaning now. The conditions under such circumstances are generally prepared and not of natural origin; consequently it will be necessary to renew the soil. Discard all but the desirable subjects. Isolate any suspected items which may be possible disease carriers. It may be necessary to do some spray and disinfectant work. Those little seeds which we hope you received safely at Christmas are ready to be started. We are hoping for great results from them. Give them a real chance. Prepare the starting medium by sterilizing the soil; You can use a kettle of boiling water for this purpose or more technically you could procure some commercial Formalin using 2½ oz. to 5 gals. of water. This amount will sterilize one square foot of soil 6 inches deep. You pour the solution on the soil and cover the soil for 24 hours and then permit to dry for two weeks in which time you should have a soil free from any harmful bacteria and safe to use for starting your seeds. This is the time to start your dormant spraying. This is important inasmuch as a spread of many fungus troubles is stopped or at least checked by using a lime sulfur spray on your deciduous trees and also spraying your soil with a good copper spray. If you know of any plants which have been attacked by nematode, it would be well to treat the ground with Lawn-a-gen. Are you a regular attender of your Branch meetings? These subjects and many other instructive and interesting subjects are discussed for your information and assistance in raising better Begonias and shade loving plants. Remember also that any problem not brought up at a particular time may be answered in the literature contained in your Branch library which is there for your use. Also your questions and answers department will gladly assist you in any problem you may have relative to the growing of your plants. Plan to attend your meetings regularly this year and don't come alone but bring a friend. Do you read your *Begonian*? If you do not we are anxious to know why. Have you any suggestions to make? Have you any subjects you would like to read about? These are the things in which we desire your full cooperation. Write to us and give us the

pleasure of knowing that you are an active member in this ever growing organization. Your response to my requests have been wonderful. May I hope for your continued cooperation and I will have no doubts left but that we will make this coming year an outstanding one in the history of Begonians.

On my recent visit to the Alfred D. Robinson Branch, San Diego, I was received with a very warm welcome by the President, Mrs. Sally Bancroft. Many of the members were present from the San Diego Branch. We were all delighted with the Della Robbia Christmas wreath demonstrated by Mrs. H. H. Brown. We spent one morning in the well known and famous "Rosecroft Gardens." Mrs. John Hunter is re-establishing this lovely garden, and we should all make a great effort to visit there in the near future. After saying adieu to our gracious hostess Mrs. Alice M. Clark, we returned to Los Angeles, with pleasant memories of our trip to San Diego.—*Mary Hazel Drummond.*

Roy K. Dere will send your Branch Stationary upon request.

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B. DIADEMA, LINDEN

By Alice M. Clark, San Diego, California

B. diadema is well known as a parent in *rex-cultorum*, but it is interesting in its own right and worthwhile to establish its existence with us today. This summer an intensive study was made of this species and the group comprising *B. sceptrum*, *B. aconitifolia* and *B. deliciosa*, so it is to be hoped that *B. diadema* has been correctly identified. It tallies with the descriptions given by Chevalier, Fotsch and Buxton and a leaf coincides with one kindly sent me by Mr. Ziesenhenné.

The subject of our January sketch was introduced from Borneo by Linden in 1881. I should apologize for depicting an exceptionally beautiful begonia with few of its handsome leaves. One was removed from the center to give a clearer view of the flower and stem formation, while the left branch shows the less attractive underside of the leaf. In the fall when the flowers of *B. diadema* push out between the petioles and the main stem, the leaves start to crinkle with the cold and soon fall away. The sketch opposite page 61 in Mrs. Buxton's last begonia book gives a better idea of the leaf in its prime.

The underground rhizome of *B. diadema*, in the lower right-hand part of the painting, is much like those above the earth, except that it seems woodier. The scars made by the old stalks are less pronounced and are marked between by chains of small warts and raised ridges around the swollen stem bases. The first internode was too long to show its full 12 inches. Nearer the tip, the interstices are shorter and the color a bright green, with white flecks. The stem is enlarged and encircled at the lower end by a feverish red band that later fades to brown. Leaf scars and rings of putty color are very conspicuous. There are several main stalks rising from the ground but branches start at the joints from reddish stipules, curved and tipped like a bird's claw.

The leaves are alternate, set at a stiff angle on one side of the node while the stalk balances at a similar degree on the other side. The petiole is strong, light green, with the usual stitches on the stem and little white bumps at the base. The average for a full-grown leaf is 3 inches long.

The leaf rounds out and curves gently under, to best display its beauty. It is fully formed even when small, as may be seen, and grows as large as 5 by 9 inches. Five or more main lobes are cut in about two-thirds from the tip. The wider side of each finger is notched, with some minor lobes, and dentated on the other. Contrary to the usual procedure, the

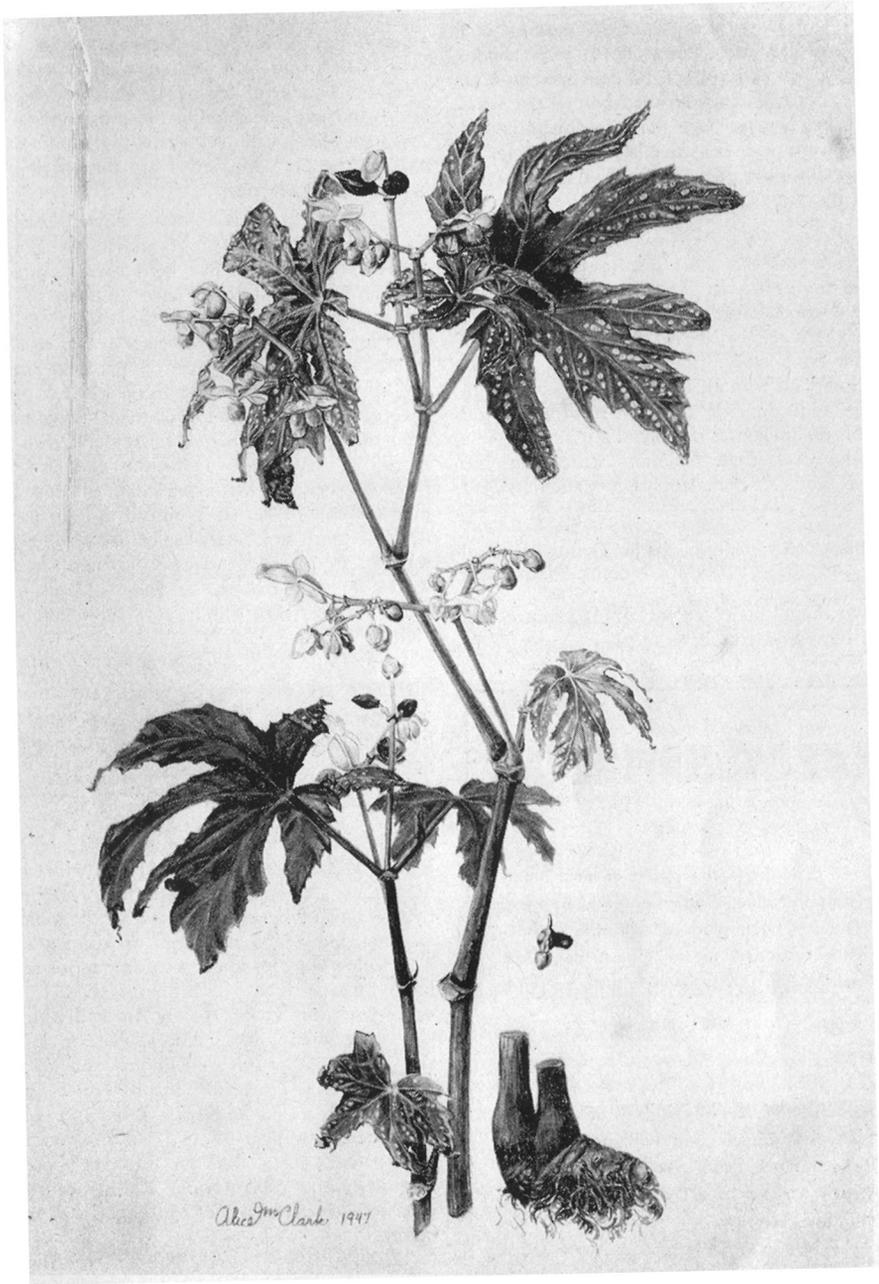
top veins are in high relief, beveled to a sharp edge, even over the white axis. The leaf color is a bright green, with a silky lustre shaded with dark flushes from splashes of dull red around the center and edges of the back. (All red in the painting reproduced darker than it should have). To add to the excitement, tiny silver smoke rings dot the surface between the veins, sometimes running together to make larger clusters, but usually quite distinct. The veins underneath are raised but rounded.

The peduncle of *B. diadema* is the same color, but a little longer, than the petiole. The inflorescence is in two branching sections with an early flower between the red-sheathed buds, as can be seen at the top of the picture. The pale pink floral branches develop such short, thick joints that they look like plastic plumbing connections. The male buds, on $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pedicels have an ivory, toothlike formation in the center, edged with a wave of pink. Two large $\frac{3}{4}$ inch petals open perpendicularly, like those of *B. tenuifolia*. They are pink-tinted with a ridge down the middle, outside. Two narrow side petals span an inch across. The stamen form a cylindrical yellow head, $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter, on a pronounced neck. They become loose and shaggy towards the tip.

A female flower in bud is shown just above the root-stalk. The ovary is green, marked with touches of red over the two very short wings, one of which happens to have a double edge. The third wing is long and broad and rosy red. *B. diadema* loses its female flowers before they unfold so I was lucky to find one in bud. It has 5 even petals.

The leaves of *B. aconitifolia* are larger than *B. diadema*, with more irregular lobes and wider spaces in between them, and larger silver splashes. My flowers did not develop but they looked to be the regular type. *B. aconitifolia* is shown in the second photograph beyond page 52 in Mrs. Buxton's book, while the third is *B. aconitifolia*, var. *Hildegard Schneider*. Mrs. Krauss has identified it as *B. sceptrum*. It seems to be the one local fans have been calling *diadema erecta*. It has sunken veins on the top of the leaves, giving a crepy look to the dull surface. The lobes are separated by angles rather than curves and one lobe is much longer than the others. The stalks are straighter than *B. diadema*, the joints less noticeable, the peduncles and petioles are reddish and the pale pink male buds have but two petals, unless some tiny ones develop later when the flower is in full bloom. The silver spots on the leaves are more irregular.

(Continued on Page 14)



B. DIADEMA

B. deliciosa, formerly known as Indian Spotted, looks more like *B. diadema*, but the leaves have shallower lobes and are more heavily silvered. The flower clusters are almost identical with those of *B. tenuifolia*. I find it the hardest of the group to grow. There is a good photograph of *B. deliciosa* in Mrs. Krauss' book, just two pages before page 71. Four pages beyond page 71, *B. aconitifolia* and *B. sceptrum* are illustrated side by side. If you get all these pictures together it may help to clarify these types.

B. diadema keeps its leaves longer and generally presents the most distinguished appearance of the group. In "*Die Begonien*" it is said to be a good house plant. Does anyone have any experience with it along those lines? Despite its portrait, it is a charming begonia for closer acquaintance. I shall be happy to receive additional or contrary information on any of the begonias I may discuss. My New Year's wish is that *Begonian* readers may be able to order all the plants they want in 1948!

CINERARIAS: While shade loving, demand some sunshine to produce blooms. Plant them now.

Give them plenty of leafmold, manure and some bone and cottonseedmeal.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



1947 brought to the public several memorable introductions, species and hybrids. We have been pleased with the enthusiastic response to our new Begonias. Freddie has been especially successful.



1948 should be the year of Begonias. The war-neglected collections should be replenished. We have most of the old, faithful Begonias, and will, in 1948, introduce more new species and hybrids. Watch for our "ad," and write for our monthly price list.



Rudolph Zieshenne

BEGONIA SPECIALIST

1130 N. Milpas St.—Santa Barbara, California

ROUND ROBIN NEWS

By Frances Downing, Calera, Ala.

Let us all hail 1948 and let me wish you all a Happy New Year! No one knows what 1948 will bring but we can wish everything fine and wonderful for our friends and neighbors. And gardeners being the most optimistic creatures alive, will feel again that *this* season will be the best one yet! I am hoping it will be that to all of you.

Our membership is now at the *two thousand* mark, which is gratifying. Some sixty different subjects are covered by these correspondence clubs and some of them have as many as ten separate groups discussing the same subject. That means a Director for each group each of whom is willing to give of personal effort and time unstintingly and diligently for guidance of each group. Some of them direct more than one group. To these Directors I owe my success in maintaining ambition and an ever-increasing desire for knowledge of our fine plants and their needs. We need to help others to make more and better use of beautiful plants for the home and garden. Nowhere in the world can you realize the value of this need more than through this type of correspondence club.

Each club is composed of ten to fifteen members the majority of which are amateur gardeners. Some, however, are so expert as to give points to the ordinary commercial greenhouse man or woman.

Our Fuchsia Robin needs several new members in order to start flying. The Begonia Hybridizing Robin has the advantage of having two directors, a husband and wife, both of whom are eager to share their hobby of hybridizing of begonias with other Begoniastes are awaiting added members to make a start. The following are others awaiting more members: Impatiens No. 2, Billbergia No. 1, Advanced African Violet No. 1, Amaryllis No. 2, Cyclamen No. 1, Rose No. 1, Pansies, Violas and Violets No. 1, Garden Photography No. 1, Annual No. 1, Flowering Shrubs No. 1, Primroses No. 1, Easter and Calla Lilies No. 1 and Apartment Dwellers No. 1. It is not too soon to consider plans for our summer borders. The Perennial and Annual Robins can help you to achieve lovelier gardens than ever before.

With our Seed Fund Skipper working so valiantly to secure many kinds of begonia seed for the A. B. S. members, the coming season should be one of great and happy efforts for the Seed Sowing Robins. Mrs. Marie Minter, Route 1, Box 180, Encinitas, Calif., conducts the Seed Sowing Robins. Write to her if you wish to plant seed this spring.

BRANCH NEWS

Several Branches end their fiscal year at this time. To these we extend our congratulations for a year's work well done and to the new officers, our best wishes for success and high achievements in the year to come. These have the laws of nature to help them in their efforts since new strength is born with the New Year.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

The following officers are those who will be doing double duty this year since they will be responsible for *The Annual Convention of The American Begonia Society* at El Monte, California.

President: Dr. C. H. Lauder, 136 Garfield Ave., Monrovia, Calif.; Vice President: Dr. R. E. Smith, 3915 Mt. View Ave., Pasadena 10, Calif.; Secretary: Mrs. Myrtle Jones, 132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.; Treasurer: Mrs. Josephine Hotz, 123 E. Lime Ave., Monrovia, Calif.; Director: James I. Daley, 1850 S. Earle St., Rosemead, Calif.; National Representative: Robert Humble, 235 E. Forest Ave., Arcadia, Calif.

This Branch celebrated the eighth Anniversary dinner December 10, at which time the new officers were installed. Mr. Harry Davis of 521 Lower Azusa Road, El Monte, spoke about his beloved Camellias, how to raise them, graft and bring them to successful flowering. Mr. and Mrs. Davis have a large collection of Camellia pictures. The program drew many visitors.

The Cymbidium orchid plant sale held by San Gabriel Branch was won by Mrs. Sophia Jones of El Monte and second by Mr. Clarence A. Hall of Ventura, Calif. Thanks are extended to all participators.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

The following is a list of the officers for 1948 of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of the American Begonia Society:

President—Mrs. Dora Hodgins, R. D. 2, Box 552, Ojai, California.

Vice President—Mr. George Fitch, 70 S. Hurst, Ventura, California.

Secretary—Miss Caroline Peyton, 335 A. So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, California.

Treasurer—Mr. Gerald Claypool, 104 Forbes Lane, Ventura, California.

National Director—Mr. Walter Knecht, R. D. 2, Box 94, Ventura, California.

Directors—Mr. Marion Walker, R. D. 2, Box 328, Ventura, Calif.; Mr. Harry Meyer, 111 Leighton Dr., Ventura, Calif.; Mrs. Clyde Snodgrass, R. D. 2, Box 54, Ventura, Calif.

Please send names and addresses of your new officers to the Editor.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

Officers for 1948 were elected on November 25th at the A. D. Robinson Branch.

President: Mrs. Harlie H. Brown; Vice President: Mrs. L. L. Carringer; Secretary: Mrs. Louise Gardner; Treasurer: Mrs. R. K. Whitney; Social Chairman: Mrs. Louis Michael Horvath; Telephone Chairman: Mrs. Anne Luce; Publicity: Miss Sally Bancroft; Program Committee: Mrs. Katherine Hunter, Miss Sally Bancroft; Directors: Mrs. Alice Clark, Mrs. Louise Gardner and Mrs. Annibel Barry.

Installation of officers will be January 27, 1948.

Though just before Thanksgiving our November meeting looked and felt like a Christmas party. We were showing Christmas decorations and how to make them. Mrs. Harlie H. Brown had all the materials with her, showing us how to make a Della Robbia wreath. As there were far more decorations than whose construction could be explained, it was up to guests and members to go around the room to examine them. One arrangement, from Rosecroft Begonia Gardens, was of the lovely *Begonia Orrell*. Really this name should be changed to Christmas Begonia! Its clear green leaves with silver spots and vivid, bright red blooms make it an ideal plant for the season.

Our National President, Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond, gave us interesting and informative news of the National group, then shared much information of her own profession. It was sheer delight to watch her nimble, dexterous fingers fashion corsages. It is our regret that we are too far away for National Officers to visit us more often.

The A. D. Robinson Branch is grateful to retiring officers and welcome their new ones—and look forward to an interesting year.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

Officers of 1947 desire to express thanks to San Diego Branch for sending \$50.00 for last Annual meeting and also to The Pacific Flower Shows, Inc., for \$50.00 which balanced the accounts for the 1947 Convention expenses.

Dr. and Mrs. Drummond attended the Bazaar meeting in December and Mrs. Drummond installed the 1948 officers as follows:

President: E. P. Christensen, 5837 Harcol St., Lakewood City, Long Beach, Calif.; Vice President: Mrs. Dorise Trigg, 5649 Lime Ave., Long Beach, Calif.; Secretary: Miss Evelyn Peterson, 1414 East 68th St., Long Beach, Calif.; Treasurer: Ralph H. Boyd, 5670 Walnut Ave., Long Beach, Calif.; National Representative: Mrs. Jean Stocklasa, 5505 Olive Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

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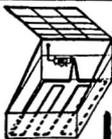
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SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

Over thirty members were present to celebrate the end of 1947 with a potluck dinner and the evening was spent in getting acquainted and planning for 1948. Our new President acted as hostess.

1947 was a full year for the Branch, only three meetings were without guest speakers, among the visitors from other Branches, who honored us were: Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond and Dr. Drummond, from Hollywood, Miss Charlotte Hoak, Col. and Mrs. C. M. Gale of Pasadena, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Swager of East Bay Branch, and Mrs. Alice Clark, who with Mrs. Alfred D. Robinson came from San Diego. Messrs. Clarence Hall, Walter Knect, Arthur Longmire and Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Weitz were guest speakers at various times during the year and they always brought a delegation from our mother Branch in Ventura.

Our Branch is steadily growing and we are looking forward to a very active year, under the leadership of our new President, Mrs. Raymond Sommerfield, with Mrs. Kem Weber as her Vice President, Mrs. Jay Ayersman as Secretary, and Mrs. Raymond Broder as Treasurer. Mrs. Weber will continue to be our National Representative.

Members are still busy with their new hybrids and the begonias they have grown from seed. Should you be in our city call our Secretary Mrs. Jay Ayersman 21298 and make arrangements to visit our gardens.—*Louise Schwerdtfeger.*

SAN FRANCISCO'S OFFSPRING

Mrs. Walter D. Ashe, Secretary, was called by Mrs. Lillian Bradberry, San Francisco member, of Petaluma (about 40 miles north of San Francisco) to help her organize a new branch in that town. Mrs. Ashe took seven other leaders of the San Francisco Branch with her and Mrs. Schwerdtfeger, is now advised, we understand, that she has another child. Since it will be January before she can present the New Branch to the Board of the A. B. S., we feel that we want to extend an unofficial welcome and congratulations to sponsor Mrs. Bradberry, Mr. Jay C. Gould, President, and Mrs. Lee Wakefield, Secretary, 47 Fifth St., Petaluma, who are desirous of getting as many members as possible into the new Branch. They will meet on the second Friday of every month. Mr. Irvin Kramer speeded up the organization routine; Mr. Wm. Sharp discussed various aspects of Begonia culture and answered numerous questions. Mrs. Ashe spoke on the fundamentals of a substantial Begonia Club, proudly stating that this is the first link in the chain she hopes will extend into every Central California town. We join her in that good wish.

A WELCOME TO THE DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH

By Louise Schwerdtfeger
Santa Barbara, California

We are happy to announce, that at the last meeting of the National Board of Directors, the Constitution and By-laws of the Dorothy Pierson Barton Branch of Flint, Michigan, was submitted and accepted.

In April of 1947, a local Begonia Club was founded by Mrs. Dorothy Pierson Barton, in Flint, Michigan. Meetings were held in the homes of the members, monthly. Well prepared papers on the different kinds of Begonias were read at each meeting. Specimens of the various begonias were brought to demonstrate each kind being studied, the care, propagation and soil requirements were discussed. The Barton Begonia Club exhibited a beautiful Begonia collection at The Yard and Garden Flower Show, held in September. The collection contained many rare species and varieties of Begonias, which drew great acclaim and admiration from more than sixty thousand visitors of the Flower Show.

Through the efforts of our National President, Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond, while she held the office of Director of Public Relations, arrangements were made to have this fine club of Begonia enthusiasts admitted as a Branch of The American Begonia Society.

The Dorothy Pierson Barton Branch is our first Branch Society in Michigan. The Branch has been named in honor of Mrs. Barton. The eighteen charter members, with the enthusiasm and knowledge acquired under the able leadership of Mrs. Barton, will be the nucleus of a Branch Society destined to be active and outstanding.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

The following officers were elected at the Christmas Party Meeting: President: L. C. Frost, 1307 W. 78th St., Los Angeles 44, Calif.; Vice President: Mrs. Fred Witman, 3856 W. 27th St., Los Angeles 16, Calif.; Secretary: Harry B. Fasmer, 5129 So. Manhattan, Los Angeles 43, Calif.; Treasurer: Robert Bezones, 2815 Rimpau Ave., Los Angeles, 16, Calif.; National Representative: Murray Minehart, 3618 W. 59th Street, Los Angeles 43, Calif.; New Board member: Mrs. May Frost, 1307 W. 78th St., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

Preview of Begonia Rex cultorum *Hazel Drummond*. A seedling produced by Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Miller of Whittier.

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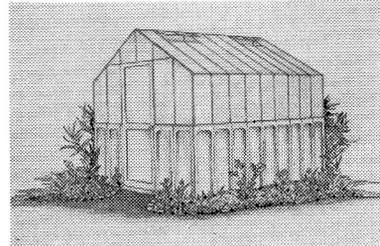
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TIME AND ONE HALF FOR OVERTIME

By Winifred A. Harding, East Derry, New Hampshire

Much has been written on the subject of long and short day-crops for the greenhouse, but little if anything about the merits of extra lighting for Begonias.

Having a fairly large collection which I use for lecture purposes, it became necessary for me to keep these plants in a constant state of good blooming health. This became a problem especially with those having a semi-dormant period or a period of growth without bloom. As the days became shorter and shorter this fall I was faced with a falling off of blooms and a general lack of healthy green tone. It appeared at first that nothing was to be done but let nature take its course, until Yankee ingenuity came to the front and by placing the choicer specimens on a metal stand designed for conservatory use the experiment was begun.

Selecting three plants of *B. Gloire Delucerna*, a minimum of five hours was given to one, half light was given to the second and no extra lighting to the third. These plants were all of the same age, size and condition; and all given the same soil mixture, water, food and etc., so all had an equal chance. All were given equal sunlight daily when possible so that no other factor could account for the results. At the end of a six weeks period the results are amazing.

The plant with the extra five hours of exposure to a sixty watt light bulb has two full sets of blooms, each cluster measuring six inches in length and five inches in width, with each floret measuring one and one half inches in diameter. The plant itself was started as a five inch cutting and now measures ten and one half inches with three side breaks.

The plant given half light has one set of buds measuring three inches in length by three and one half in width with medium average florets. It measures nine inches in height and has no side breaks.

The last grown without benefit of extra lighting has no blooms, measures twelve inches in height with one break. While this plant is much taller the growth is much weaker and lighter in color. So it would appear that something was to be said for extra length of day in influencing the growth and blooming period, at least here in New England where dull day follows dull day for often a week at a time.

This method is being tried on three plants of the tuberous group in an attempt to bloom them out of season. The three selected have been growing a full year the end of next

month and have passed their normal blooming season out of doors this summer. They were removed indoors at the end of August and allowed to acclimate gradually so that no arresting of growth or bloom occurred. By supplementary regular feedings growth has been maintained and the plant with light exposure has a very healthy appearance with considerable new growth but no sign of bud or bloom as yet.

The semi-tuberous group of which *B. weltoniensis* is being used to experiment with, presents the greatest problem. It is still inclined to dormancy although complete resting has been prevented by removing the tuber and repotting the fibrous portions. The blooms are still shy but the leaves have ceased dropping and new growth is being stimulated. It was too late when the experiments were started to achieve overmuch with this particular group but it is to be hoped that another year some real results will be attained.

The method used in these experiments follows: Place the plant to be exposed directly beneath a lamp containing a sixty watt light bulb. I use one of the so-called pin-up lamps with a flaring shade about eight inches in diameter. The lamp is suspended not more than a foot nor less than eight inches above the plant for a minimum of five hours beginning at dusk in the afternoon. For those given so called half light the same lamp is used but with the half-exposed plant simply lower down and slightly shaded by the plant getting full exposure. Really a very simple arrangement and a very lovely sight as well as interesting experiment.

THE PEOPLE'S FORESTS

Conservationists of the United States will want to get information from Mrs. C. N. Edge, Chairman Emergency Conservation Committee, 706 Lexington Ave., New York 21, N. Y., on the preservation of *Olympic National Park* in the State of Washington, from which it is threatened to cut out 56,000 acres of virgin, and wonderfully beautiful rain forest. In response to the unequivocal demand of citizens that the forests, their property, be protected from the greedy lumber operators, the Interior Department has now withdrawn its support of the bills that are now pending. However, the pressure of the lumber interests is mighty, and conservationists are warned that there is a hard fight ahead of them, if the forests of the *Olympic National Park* are to be saved.

GERMINATING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS IN SPHAGNUM MOSS

By Charles O. Dean, Springfield, Mass.

While this moss is familiar to most of our readers, perhaps a little information regarding it will be helpful before we discuss its value as a germinating medium.

According to the "Garden Encyclopedia" there are some three hundred species found in north temperate countries. It is sometimes called "bog moss" because one usually finds it in wet places.

If you will examine the set pieces made up by most florists, you will find that the flower stems are set in sphagnum moss and you will also find that shipments of shrubs and flowers are also packed in moist sphagnum moss.

I obtain my supply of this moss down in the dingle at the foot of the street on which I live and I usually replenish my supply in the spring and fall. It is stored in a tin can with a loose cover near the boiler, and it dries out nicely there.

From my own personal experience I have found this the best germinating medium for many kinds of seeds. At the present time I am starting some tuberous begonia seeds in three germinating mediums—peat, vermiculite and sphagnum moss. The seeds grown in this moss show a much better germination than either of the other two.

I sifted the moss through a fly screen very fine and sprinkled the seeds carefully on it, wetting from the bottom. If the moss alone is used as a germinating medium for seeds you may experience a little difficulty in separating your seedlings. This can be overcome by using one-fourth to one-half inch of fine sifted moss on top of sterilized sand as the seedlings can be easily separated in the sand.

Use one-half teaspoon of saltpetre to a half cup of water to each square foot of seed surface as a fertilizer to sustain the seedlings until they reach the transplanting stage. There is no danger of dampening off if you use this moss to start your seeds.

In regard to acidity which Tuberous Begonias require, the sphagnum moss which I use registers a reading of 4.0 which is highly acid. This applies to the dried moss, also to that which was freshly gathered. This may not be true of all moss as mine was gathered where there were oak trees and the humus, made from their leaves may have some effect on the acidity.

Last winter I tried unsifted moss as a growing medium for tuberous begonia bulbs and it gave better results than most of the other mediums that I used.

Each bulb was placed in a 3 x 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plant band which was cut in two, as a depth of 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ inches is sufficient to get a bulb started. The bands were packed in tin trays holding one dozen each, as this amount is easy to handle. In packing the moss around the bulbs do not pack it too hard as a loose pack will not be as soggy when moistened as one that is packed solid.

This moss retains its moisture longer than most of the other growing mediums and tuberous begonias must have moisture.

Amazing results have been obtained with soilless culture and I think that for pot culture one could use sphagnum moss instead of soil.

Using a balanced fertilizer at the rate of one tablespoonful to a gallon of water, wet the moss once a week. A dose of manure water once a week is helpful instead of the above, using one pound of dehydrated cow manure to five gallons of water.

The fun of growing flowers is either to try some new seeds or some new method so if you have not tried sphagnum moss before, try it now but remember not to use too much water as the moss will absorb a lot of it—just keep the moss damp.

TO ALL — A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The New Year 1948 has great possibilities for every one of us Begoniaites. With every new catalogue we receive, every plant we procure or have presented to us, let us do as we would be done by. Success cannot but be ours, happiness is a foregone conclusion, and as good gardeners generally do, they have to see that the other fellow is also content. To do this let us make more Begonia friends all around us and thus widen the charmed circle ever onward. A Happy New Year indeed—
Maria Wilkes.

Suggestion to Every Begoniaite

No matter where one lives, it is worthwhile studying all publications available on "BEGONIAS." The University of California College of Agriculture, Office of the Director, Berkeley 4, California, has issued a Bulletin "HINTS ON GROWING BEGONIAS" by H. M. Butterfield, Specialist in Agricultural Extension. This 16-page publication has been regarded as a must-have reference pamphlet, and whether it will be revised at the public appearance of Mrs. Krauss's book or not, it is one of the things each BEGONIAN should have at hand. It is free. It might be nice to send 6c for postage with your request.

BEGONIA CAVUM

On September 16, 1946, Mr. Thomas MacDougall, a plant collector of New York City, came upon a cave in limestone at the 5500 foot elevation of the west slope of Cerro de Lachiguire (Santiago) Oaxaca, Mexico. The cave is 6 ft. x 6 ft. x 6 ft. in size with the opening about equal to the height and width. There was no vegetation except the shriveled plants of the unusual little begonia which I have named *cavum* and is described below. The begonias were found growing in the cracks of the limestone walls and ceiling where the tubers are firmly wedged in. Mr. MacDougall states that the cracks in which the tubers were growing had no room for anything as big as a pea, and scarcely a trace of soil. There were no begonias found outside the cave but it would be difficult to find them during the dormant season. Thanks to Mr. MacDougall I now have some plants growing in my garden.

Begonia cavum stands only three inches tall and is of a dull green color. There are very few leaves and these are unequal egg shaped and the margins are doubly toothed. Three white flowers are produced on an axillary stem. The tuberous base is quite unusual for it is lima-bean shaped and is encased in a thick fibrous husk or coat which may be peeled off in layers. The flowers are structurally unlike any other begonia and form the basis of a new *Begonia* Section which is set forth below. The stamens are united into a cylinder with the top ends free. The stigmas are moon shaped at the top and the stigma papillae are on the outer top edge. The seed pod carries the placenta on the inner walls of the cells instead of on the central axis which is the usual mode of attachment.

Begonia Section *Dissepbegonia* Ziesenhennae, sect. nov., tepalis masculinis 4, staminibus raris (15), filamentis in columna cylindrica connatis, superne liberis, antheris subaequalibus, obovatis, reusis, bilocularibus, loculis obliquis, quamdiu liberis pars filamentis; tepalis femineis 5, subaequalibus, stylis 3, apice lunulato-bilobis, stigmatibus in exterioribus labris. Ovario 3-loculato, elongato, placentis bi non partitone in singulis cellis, singulis affixo in dissaeplo, medio axe et externo muro in un separo base, undique ovuliferis; capsulis elongatis, glandulosis, alis 3, linearis, 1 conspicuis, 2 inconspicuis. Floribus paucis, axillaribus. Species unica.

Begonia (*Dissepbegonia*) *cavum*, Ziesenhennae, spec. nov., herbaeae, monoica, caulescens, erecta, 8.5 cm. elata, tota densa pusilla (.01 mm. longa) glandulosa non in petalae et frons sepalae; caule base perenne tubre fabaforma 2 cm. longo, 1.6 cm. alta, .05 cm. crasso, conclusum in glabero crasso corticato; caule annuo, erecto, viridi, nitido, 3 cm. longo internodis, 3 mm. crasso; stipulis persistens, non siccis, triangularis, 3mm. longis, 2mm. latis in basis, acutis, integeris, blaberis; petiolis rotundis, glabris, nitidis, 2 cm. longis, 2mm. latis; foliis inaequalis ovatis, acutis, bidentatis, glaberis, nitidis, viridis, 6.5 longis, 4 cm. latis, palmatis 6-nervis, prominenter; floribus, paucis, axillaribus, autumnis floridis, albis; pedunculis rotundis, nitidis, 2 cm. longis, 2 mm. rotundis, bracte base capsule adherens, une, persistens, non sicca, lanceolata, acute, 4 mm. longa, 2 mm. lata; pedicellis glaberis, nitidis, 6.5 longis, 1.6 rotundis; tepalis, masculinis 4, duobus exterioribus ovatis, obtusis 1 cm. longis, 1.3 cm.

latis, duobus interioribus lanceolatis, acutis, 1.3 cm. longis, .7 cm. latis; staminibus raris, filamentis in columna cylindrica connatis, superne liberis, antheris subaequalibus, ovatis, reusis, bilocularibus, loculis obliquis, quamdiu liberis pars filamentis; tepalis femineis 5, duobus exterioribus rotundis, obtusis, 7 mm. longis, 5 mm. latis, tribus interioribus obovatis, obtusis 7 mm. longis, 4 mm. latis; stylis 3, apice lunulato-bilobis, stigmatibus in exterioribus labris; ovaris 3-locularis, elongatis, 4 mm. longis, 1 cm. diametro, placentis bi non partitone in singulis cellis, singulis affixo in dissaeplo, medio axe et externo muro in un separo base, undique ovuliferis; capsulis elongatis, alis 3, linearis, 1 conspicua, 2mm. longo, 2 inconspicuis. Mr. MacDougall's collection number is C-15.

FERNS—Continued

ferns. This is one variety that will enjoy having its foliage sprayed with a fine spray of water. Being of heavy texture with strong stems they will not break down from these waterings.

For a dainty foreground fern ranging about eighteen inches is *Pellaea* (pe-lee-ah) *adiantoides*, or *P. viridis* (polypodiaceae) also called "Clover Fern" by many because some of the pinnae (each major lobe or division of a fern frond) are broadly lobed; the other being once pinnate. The stipe is glossy black. It is a delicate fern reminding one a great deal of a heavy maidenhair. Each individual leaf is dark green in the center with a border of light green.

This variety requires constant moisture at the roots and a medium acid condition. A light porous soil is essential with good drainage. If you have a spot in a semi-shaded position and have a stone or tree limb you are using for atmosphere, plant this fern along side of the stone or log and it will tuck its roots under these in the cool moist soil. To retain the moisture in spring give the soil around this fern a top dressing of damp peat moss. Being a fine textured fern it will not tolerate the direct rays of the sun. It makes a lovely pot plant. If grown as a pot plant use a top dressing of damp peat moss.

All of the above ferns are quite hardy. Our temperature dropped to 26 degrees last winter and they withstood this without a single frozen leaf. Ferns are truly beautiful and interesting.

(Continued from Page 8)

December is our first month of summer here and the weather is nice now. It has been cold and wet up till recently with a fall of snow on the nearby mountain ranges, a beautiful sight when half covered with snow, especially in the evening when the sun is setting in the west and casting its rays directly on to the snow and giving it a purple hue. It looks as if we are going to have a good season on the farm.

(Continued on Page 21)

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CONDENSED MINUTES

National Board, American Begonia Society

Held in Room 55, City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., President Drummond presiding.

Present for the meeting—Mrs. Drummond, George Johnson, George Lawrence, Capt. Dere, Walton, Bailey, Hixon; Mesdames Wilkes, Schwerdtfeger, Pinnell; Branches represented: Hollywood, Inglewood, San Gabriel Valley, Pasadena, Glendale, Parent Branch and North Long Beach and Foothill Branch.

Sub-Chairman of Fibrous Begonia class—Miss Charlotte Hoak; Sub-Chairman in the Rex class—Mr. Harry L. Swager; Historian—Mrs. Hugh Hixon.

Motion by Col. Gale that we accept these three appointments as presented. Carried. Public Relations Director presented Constitution and By-laws of newly formed branch at Flint, Mich. Accepted. Letter read from Branch Humboldt Co. telling of their inability to procure speakers and asked if we could furnish them with some slides or some printed lectures which they could use in their programs. Some suggestions were made where this Branch might procure some information.

REPORTS

Branches Foothill, North Long Beach and Parent Branch, Pasadena, Hollywood, Glendale, Inglewood, Santa Barbara, San Gabriel Valley reported interesting speaker and good attendance and some novel ideas for keeping up the membership. George Lawrence reported Mrs. Krauss had withdrawn her offer to prepare a Glossary of Begonia Nomenclature. Information received with regret; Committee formally relieved of further consideration of this matter.

Motion to complete the payment for the addressograph machine. Carried.

Discussion as to whether we should increase the number of pages in *The Begonian*; whether we should increase the advertising rates. On motion duly seconded it was voted to increase the number of pages in the December issue of *The Begonian*; to increase the advertising rates effective January 1st, 1948; Verna Johnson appointed Chairman of Advertising. Mrs. Johnson asked that everyone enter into this work and feel it is also their work.

Motion by Mrs. Wilkes that we dispense with the December, 1947, meeting; that the Treasurer be authorized to pay the bills for December. Carried.

Capt. Dere told of his need for a typewriter; also felt that our supply of membership cards, letterheads and envelopes, etc., should all be in one place with one person to supply the demands as they came in. On motion Capt. Dere was appointed as custodian of supplies and branches needing membership cards or stationary, etc., kindly write him.

Vote of thanks extended George Johnson for his efforts in securing the very nice meeting place and members felt we should continue to use this room as long as it was available—Room 55, City Hall, First & Main Sts., Los Angeles.

Mrs. Drummond reported she was leaving tomorrow for San Diego to confer with Mrs. Clark and other members in San Diego with reference to the Robinson medals and plaque and hoped to have a definite report to make at the next Board meeting. Mrs. Drummond announced meeting of the So. Calif. Horticultural Society Dec. 1st and invited everyone to attend if possible; Christmas arrangements to be the theme for the decorations. Prof. Wheeler to be the speaker.

No further business, meeting adjourned to meet again, same place, January 26th, 1948.—Respectfully submitted, *Gonda Hartwell, Sec.*

(Continued from Page 20)

I am enclosing a picture of my begonias. I took them out of the glasshouse and set them against the wall of the house to get the photograph.

I wish you and my other friends in the Begonia Society a very happy holiday season. Sincerely, W. H. Rolston, Levin, N. Zealand.

BEGONIA HERACLEIFOLIA SUNDERBRUCHI

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

Begonia heracleifolia Sunderbruchi, one of the most popular and widely distributed of the "Star Begonias," is one of the descendants of the rhizomatous Mexican species, *B. heracleifolia*, discovered about 1830. This old favorite is probably of American origin, as it is not mentioned in any of the old editions of Curtis or by other European authorities. It came to the gardens of Northern California in the early nineties and was here in Southern California in 1906. Rust's Nursery listed it as *B. nigricans*.

The leaves are bronze green, deep cut into seven or nine long, narrow lobes, the number of lobes being dependent upon the culture the leaves are given, varying from the very small nine-lobed ones to the twelve to fifteen-inch ones of a well-fed plant. The underside of these leaves is dark red mottled with light green, the veins are heavy, and there is a thick collar of coarse red hairs tipped with finer white ones at the point where the stem and leaf join, and the red-spotted stems are thickly set with long, silvery hairs. The light green bands, splashing down the ribs, are a distinguishing mark of the beautiful leaves of this begonia. The flowers, borne on fairly tall stems in early spring, are a clear, rosy pink. The leaves are usually small and immature when the bloom panicles are in full flower. Both male and female flowers have two petals.

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Meeting Dates and Places

The next meeting of the American Begonia Society Board will be held in the Los Angeles City Hall, Room 55, 7:30 p. m. (4th Monday) January 26th, 1948. Park Lower Garage South Entrance on Main St.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Jan. 1st, 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, Jan. 2nd, 8 p. m.
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa
Mrs. James M. Reed, Secretary
643 N. Wabash Ave., Glendora, Calif.

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Jan. 5th, 7:30 p. m.
Washington Street School Cafeteria
Sec.: Mrs. Edna Leistner, 610 Nichols Street
Bellflower, Calif.

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Jan. 6th, 7:30 p. m.
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Carolyn Peyton, Secretary
335A So. Evergreen Dr., Ventura, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Jan. 6th, 7:30 p. m.
2031 E. Villa
Lester F. Harrell, Sec.-Treas.
668 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Jan. 7th, 7:30 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, Jan. 7th, 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.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 8th, 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, Jan. 8th, 7:30 p. m.
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.
Santa Barbara, California
Martha Ayersman, Secretary
1120 Olive Street, Santa Barbara, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 8th, 8 p. m.
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.
Harry B. Fasmer, Secretary
5129 So. Manhattan, Los Angeles 43, Calif.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

2nd Sunday, March 14th, 2:30 p. m.
Crestwood Public Library, Crestwood, N. Y.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Norman Hedley
71 Willard Terrace, Stamford, Conn.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 12th, 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, Jan. 12th, 7:30 p. m.
Houghton Park Club House
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach
Miss Evelyn Peterson
1414 E. 68th St., Long Beach, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 12th, 8 p. m.
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church
Sec.-Treas.: Dorothy Lark
Box 16, Scotia, Calif.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Jan. 14th, 8 p. m.
Mrs. T. W. Call, Sec.-Treas.
4518 Bandini Ave., Riverside Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Jan. 15th, 8 p. m.
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Third Tuesday, Jan. 15th, 7:30 p. m.
Robert Louis Stevenson School, 5th & Atlantic
Cafeteria, Lime St. Entrance, Long Beach, Calif.
Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Rose C. Hixon
Long Beach, California

PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

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

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 19th
Community House, LaJolla
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH

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

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Jan. 26th
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.
Mrs. A. P. Carlton, Sec.-Treas.
624 Arroyo Dr., San Diego, Calif.

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 27th, 7:30 p. m.
Council Chambers, Berkeley City Hall
Mrs. Emma Carlton, Secretary-Treas.
1430 Oxford St., Berkeley 9, Calif.

MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 27th, 2 p. m.
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

MIAMI, FLORIDA, BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 27th, 8 p. m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. W. G. Coffeen
1742 S. W. 10th St., Miami 35, Fla.

WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 27th, 8 p. m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Madeleine Hall, Secretary
509 Friends Ave., Whittier, Calif.

MARGARET GRUENBAUM BRANCH

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

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 27th, 8 p. m.
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.
Charles Richardson, Secretary
1441 Fairfield, Glendale 1, Calif.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 27th, 7:30 p. m.
Loma Portal School
3341 Browning St., San Diego, Calif.
Louise Gardener, Secretary
3212 James Street, San Diego 6, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Jan. 28th, 8 p. m.
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

SANTA MARIA BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Peter Mehlschau

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. M. W. Stewart
224 Armington St., Edgewood, R. I.

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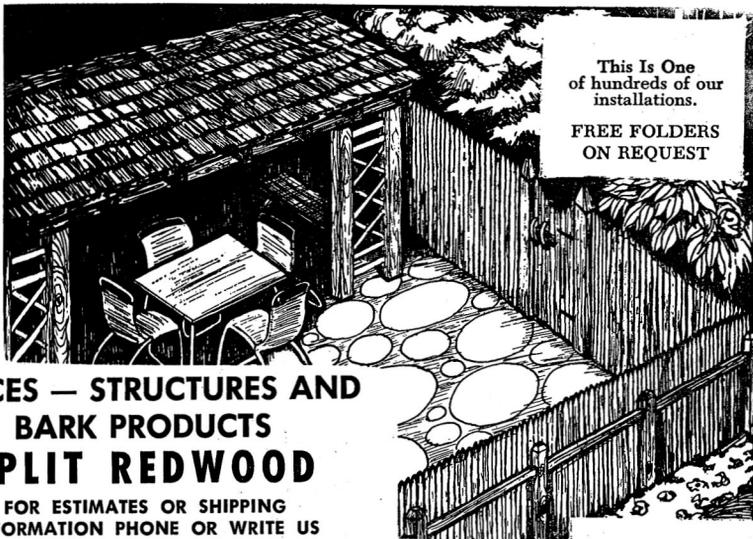
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