

# The BEGONIAN

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ERYTHROPHYLLA**

Vol XV—No. 3  
**MARCH, 1948**  
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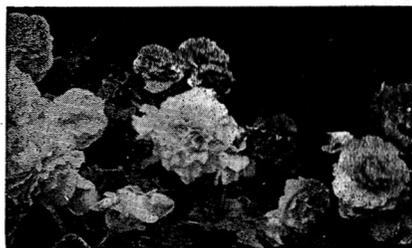
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# The BEGONIAN

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## HINTS TO THE BEGONIA GROWER FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

By Louise Schwerdtfeger

These hints are compiled from articles written by successful Begonia growers and printed in *The Begonian* at various times since the magazine was first published. March seems to be the busiest month of the year for the Begonia enthusiast. By following these timely hints, your plants will take a new lease on life and doubly repay you for the work and trouble that you take with them at this time of year.

1—It's house cleaning time for your plant room and lath-house.

2—Sterilize propagating boxes, beds or pans to kill eggs of insects and harmful spores.

3—Wash your pots in a solution of Clorox or Purex, use a piece of burlap, steel-wool or a stiff brush. Clean pots make healthy plants.

4—Put out snail bait and begin spraying, as every little bug that escapes now means lots of them later on.

5—Begin fertilizing your begonia beds and potted plants that you do not plan to re-pot.

6—Always have your soil medium damp when re-potting.

7—Remove all damaged leaves of your Rex begonias as they harbor insects.

8—Cut out all dead wood from your fibrous begonias and shape them.

9—Start leaf cuttings of Rexes and cuttings from fibrous begonias.

10—Re-pot your Rexes and other Begonias in good new medium.

11—When potting up always soak the plant thoroughly then give it no more water until almost dry.

12—Dampen your tuberous bulbs and as they sprout place them in flats of leaf-mold or peat.

13—Transplant your seedlings when the third leaf has developed, in about one to one and a half inches of soil medium, in this way there is plenty of drainage. Place the seedlings one inch apart.

14—Seeds of *semperflorens* and Rex begonias and the fibrous may still be planted.

15—Be sure that you have enough light and air in your lath house. Most begonias will take more filtered sunlight than most people think. So trim back vines that are keeping out the light.

16—Label your plants, you will find an ever increasing interest in Begonia growing.

17—Now is a good time to read over and study your Begonia Books and cultural Bulletins.

## CAMELIAS — THE PATRICIANS OF OUR GARDENS

By Roma Coolidge Mulvihill, Pasadena, Calif.

Early Camellias have put in a welcome appearance. The wide selection now attainable will give an ever increasing abundance of bloom from Fall through April. For beauty of flower and foliage, simplicity of culture and hardiness, few plants equal the Camellia. The two main groups of Camellias are the Japonicas and Sasanquas. The former, larger and better known, is upright in growth, with large foliage and single, semi-double and double flowers. Among the newer Japonicas, a formal, double white of good size is Pax, with petals of a gardenia-like texture. One of the newer and magnificent pinks is High Hat; its outer petals are wavy, the tall center ones frilled. Large and striking among the variegated sorts is the semi-double Ville de Nantes, rich, clear rose-red, hugely spotted in purest white. Fimbriata Superba, in a class by itself, inclines toward flame . . . its shaggy form is double with deeply fimbriated petals. All of these Camellias are sturdy growers and free bloomers.

Sasanqua Camellias in contrast to Japonicas, are small, single or semi-double flowers born in profusion on graceful shrubs. Appleblossom suggests its name in form and coloring. Hebe is a single rose-pink with twisted petals and showy yellow stamens. Minina is soft lilac-pink. Tanya is a trailing variety in watermelon pink. White Doves, a semi-double white, has an ethereal beauty all its own.

All of these Camellias thrive happily either as pot plants or when planted in the ground. They should preferably be placed in semi-shade, insured of good drainage. As to soil, equal parts of well rotted leafmold, peat and good sandy loam are most satisfactory. For successful pot culture, three feedings of a commercial Camellia food, applied in May, July and September are recommended. For plants in the ground, use a three inch mulch of steer manure and well rotted leafmold in equal parts, applied in the Fall.

If ease of culture and maximum beauty of both plants and flower are what you desire, plant Camellias, they're fun!

### "SHOWY" HARDY SPECIMEN BEGONIAS

*B. Lucerna* can take the chilling and grows like a tree. I have seen it here in Kansas seven feet tall and full of blossoms in a gallon container!

It is lots of work growing and exhibiting plants and it takes much love to put it over but there is a great deal of satisfaction, too.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

There is an old and familiar phrase that "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." It is almost comparable to a strong poison such as strychnine, which can either kill or cure, according to the dosage. However, when it concerns plants and plant life in general, any knowledge at all, no matter how scant, lifts one out of the darkness of total ignorance and brings to mind again the books, *Begonias for the American Home and Garden*, by Helen Krauss, and *Begonias and How to Grow Them*, by Bessie Buxton. As members of the American Begonia Society, we should all know and be able to discuss the subjects which are of tantamount importance, namely Begonias, and anyone reading these books cannot fail to improve his or her knowledge to an advantageous degree. The cost is nominal, especially when compared to the wealth of information contained within the covers. We have a number of good books, including pamphlets, written on the culture of begonias in our national library. A list of the library books was printed in the December, 1943, issue of *The Begonian*. If you were not a member on this date you may write to our Librarian, Mrs. John W. Crowder, 9838 Easton Drive, Beverly Hills, and she will mail you a library list.

### BEGONIA DICHROA

Q. My *B. dichroa* doesn't have good-looking leaves. Is this a disease or just a plant characteristic?

A. *Dichroa* is notoriously hard to grow. It requires heat in winter even here in San Diego—and we San Diego Begoniacs are sort of stuck on our almost ideal growing conditions that we are so lucky to have for begonias.

Mr. Ziesenne wrote an article on *B. dichroa* for the April, 1941, *BEGONIAN* with a photograph of a rather pathetic looking plant. Mrs. Robinson followed with an informal article in May, 1941, telling of their experiences with it at Rosecroft. She recommended the "jelly-glass" method in raising *dichroa*—covering the entire plant with a glass just large enough that the leaves do not touch the plant.

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# BRANCH NEWS

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

One member travelled sixty miles to the February meeting which was a fine and educational one.

Mrs. Vickery spoke on the violas in general for the shade garden. She told us that the more pansies are transplanted the smaller will be the blossoms. If the soil is squeezed up around the roots it should be loosened before setting the plants in the ground. This also, is responsible for small bloom.

Mrs. Thomas is the Round Robin Chairman for this Branch. Notes will be made from letters received and kept on file for reference. The Librarian will foster the use of the National Library and the compilation of a local library. Anyone knowing of a member who is ill will bring a card to the meeting for all to sign as a cheering message.

It was found that many members did not realize their Begonian would be stopped if their membership is not paid up consequently there will be a drive to get each one paid up early in November.

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

The Birthday Dinner was a happy event. Miss Charlotte Hoak began the series of "Begonia Lessons" which appears in this issue for the edification of those who could not take advantage of this special feature. Mr. John Parker spoke interestingly on the culture of the shrub of the season: The CAMELLIA. A splendid year is foreseen with the double program to make it especially worthwhile.

## MIAMI, FLORIDA, BRANCH

This group is preparing to enter a begonia exhibit in the forthcoming Orchid show. The committee in charge is composed of Mrs. L. Kendrick, Mrs. Sacket, Bob Wilson and F. Michelson.

## SANTA MONICA BRANCH

Notice a change of meeting day to second Wednesday and the place is now the Main Bldg., Room 232 of the University High School, 11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles, California. The new officers held a very fine meeting in February. They are planning an interesting year's program so bring your friends. Elected for 1948 are: President: Mr. John L. Mooney, 1013 Maple Street, Santa Monica, Calif., Vice-President: Mr. E. O. Sherer, 11983 Darlington, Los Angeles 24, Calif., Secretary-Treasurer: Mrs. D. Bemus, 845 So. Anita Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif., and National Representative: Mrs. J. R. Hall, 933 17th St., Santa Monica, California.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

The New England Branch of the A.B.S. asks that members residing in New England send their names and addresses to the Corresponding Secretary: Mrs. Henry H. Buxton, 114 Central Street, Peabody, Mass. in order that notices of the Branch meetings may be sent to them. Membership in the A. B. S. entitles them to attend these meetings without expense.

The President of this Branch, Mr. W. A. Starr, traveled about 70 miles over icy roads to attend the January Board meeting. With the membership scattered over six states, it is the aim of this group to advise each one of the renewed interest in the growing of begonias and their companion shade plants. The programs and activities in store are sure to be of interest.

## HUMBOLDT BRANCH

Plans for the year are designed so as to include every member's capabilities for the good of the others. Much use will be made of the National Library books. Mr. Minnie, Vice President, will present a special shade gardening topic of educational value each month.



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# ACTIVE SOILS

By R. Sanford Martin, Glendale, California

There is one all important process in a growing plant which is not understood or considered by the majority of people. That process is the function of humus and soil bacteria in the soil, and their relationship, one to the other. The prevailing belief seems to be that after plant food, or fertilizer is applied, there is nothing else to be done but sit back and watch things grow. If a soil has its normal bacterial balance that procedure is well and good, but if not, blame is frequently placed on the fertilizer as being "no good," when normal growth is not forthcoming.

To put the matter as simply as possible and refrain from technicalities, humus, or more properly, humic acid and soil bacteria act together within the soil to break down, or digest, the plant food for the roots to take into the plant. Without the presence of humus and soil bacteria the plant food in the soil, whether it be of mineral or organic source, would be unavailable to the roots. Such soil may be described as "dead" or "inactive" soil.

In a normal soil, humus and bacteria are maintained at a certain percentage and population respectively. But when we enter into the use of artificial feeding and watering, to say nothing of the various soil treatments, it is very easy to destroy that proper balance of humus and bacteria. When this occurs the plants do not receive their normal supply of elements and trace elements from the soil, and all sorts of trouble shows up in the plant. To name a few, off color leaves, dried edges of leaves, undersized leaves, inability to set or hold flowers, and generally poor growth.

To have bacterial count run on a soil is not only expensive, but inconclusive, so the recommendation of a comparatively new product known as "Humisite" is here made. Humisite is a strictly all-organic soil activator containing a high percentage of humus and a tremendously high soil bacteria count (780,000,000 per gram). These are of the aerobic type. With the application of a small proportion of this material to a potting soil or open bed, the proper balance of humus and soil bacteria is assured.

Humisite supplies to the soil the essential proportion of humus and bacteria needed to effect a complete release of whatever plant foods are present in the soil, thereby eliminating results of the various deficiencies which show in the plant when the soil has become inactive. The amount used is so small that its use is not an item of expense.

To the users of compost, Humisite will activate and make better even a good compost. With the application of Humisite it is even possible to use sub-soils, which are normally dead but often are rich in plant food and trace minerals.

Flower beds or other planted areas which have become depleted or non-productive due possibly to a reduction in humus and bacteria, from various practices, may be brought back into correct productive balance in a matter of twenty-four hours through the use of this new material.

The begonia as a family responds wonderfully to the use of Humisite, the Rex type taking on a better leaf texture and the stems gaining finer structure. The tuberous begonias have developed finer flowers and much stronger plant structure through the use of Humisite. Other types respond equally well.

If it were possible to always obtain a rich virgin soil for the growing of our finer plants the presence of bacteria in our soil would not be an item to worry about. But as we are compelled more and more, to mix the soils we use, the use of an activator becomes a "must," if we are to have best results. Nature's methods of activating soil is sometimes years too slow for us, and Humisite serves as a good time-saver.

If we could but see what goes on within the soil in the growing of a plant we would have much more respect for the soil we walk on and the great variety of plant life which springs from it.

## NEW OFFICERS MIAMI BRANCH

Mr. Ray Rosengren, President; Mrs. A. E. Sacket, Vice-President; Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Secretary; Mrs. W. A. Rathbone, Treasurer; Mr. Wilson R. G. Wilson, Director; Mr. F. Michelson, National Director.

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# DWARF TREE CULTURE

By Fred Kaye, Glendale, California

As lath-house or patio shade plants, few trees tell the full story of the seasons as does the dwarf maple. Botanically known as *Acer palmatum*, var. *japonicum*, this little maple seldom reaches a height of ten feet in the ground. In the containers its leaves average an inch and a half in width. Fairylike in spring, unfolding its delicately pink-flushed leaves, it goes into the fresh green of the early spring and thence into the rich green of the temperate summer. In fall it goes into the glory of red or yellow fall shades. Its delicate tracery of branches in the full winter is no less pleasing. In California it is often still in leaf in early December,

## ALL BEGONIANS TAKE NOTICE

Rudolph Zieshenne will speak at our Pasadena Branch meeting on the first Tuesday of April. His subject will be "Exhibition and Show Begonias Old and New." The Vasa Temple, 2031 E. Villa Street, Pasadena. There is room for your guest and parking space for your car. You are welcome.

San Fernando Begonians meet 2nd Monday, 6201 Wanetka Ave., Canoga Park, Calif.

and after only a brief rest, leafs out again in early February.

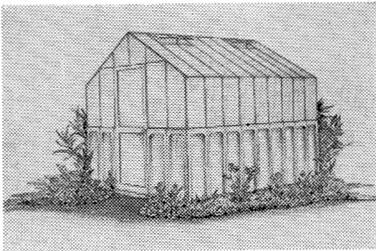
I know of no other tree that is so near the heart of its owners. Its many varieties of leaves make it a tree to be studied, however, it is important that the one chosen may be the best suited for culture. In southern and central sections of this state, I recommend only the thicker, shiny-leaved specimens for pot culture, the tissue-papery or thin-celled type of a leaf does not thrive in our arid climate, even in a lath-house after the middle of July. This makes a slower growing, much weaker tree. Planted out in the ground they develop more satisfactorily, but must be protected from drying winds and have some shade. Under these conditions they may be trained somewhat, but unless planted on a terrace or raised in a grouping of rockwork, are lost in effect. Unfortunately the red-leaved varieties fall in this group. The threadleaf, while tender to burning exposures, if well watered, will put out new leaves if the previous set are burned. If the red leaved varieties have too little sun, they soon become greenish after leaf maturity. Eastern, or more humid sections permit its planting in the full sun.

The most serious disease affecting the maple group is the die-back. This shows up first as black spots on the trunks or branches . . . and spreads. Beyond recommending a dormant spray of fungicide, I think only a cautious watch over them can help. Some gardeners would not think of letting a dog or cat pass the summer day without water, and yet will neglect plants. Serious drying accounts for most maple deaths, as well as die-back and blighting of the leaves. While they may be kept quite wet with late evening watering during the summer, they should have a bit more sunlight and morning waterings in the cold, wet seasons. A deciduous tree provides a happy overhead home for a maple shelter. A slightly heavy loam with abundant leafmold results in a more water retentive soil.

Several minor varieties of maples may be tried by the experimenter. The three-point-maple *Acer tridentata*, the Rocky Mountain dwarf maple, *Acer glabrum*, are too seldom tried, which is probably one reason which makes them hard to obtain.

I know of one plant lover in Pasadena who has three or four maples he has cared for and carried about since 1903. They now have finger sized trunks. A well cared for maple will outlive its brother in the ground. Practice, year after year, will teach what books cannot give. Why not adopt a maple?

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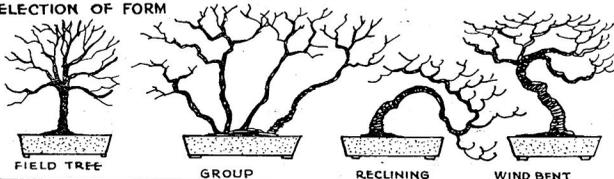
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## DWARF TREE CULTURE -- CHART No 2 --- MAPLES

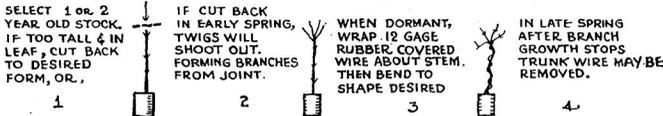
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A SLIGHT BEND TO THE TRUNK AND BRANCHES ENHANCE THE ILLUSION OF AGE. AS IF THE BRANCHES BENT WITH THE WEIGHT OF LEAVES, STRUGGLE UPWARD AT THE TIPS

### BRANCH PRUNING:

MAPLE BRANCHES TEND TO FORK. TO DEVELOP A FULL TOP, FORKING DEVELOPED BY TIP PRUNING.



SEVERE PRUNING SHOULD BE DONE IMMEDIATELY AFTER LEAFING OUT. SCARS HEAL SOON THEN. FALL PRUNING DANGEROUS.

TO PRUNE, CUT OUT LEADER AS IT LEAFS OUT. LEAVING ONLY TWO LEAVES ON EACH TIP. ALLOWING ONLY ONE JOINT PER YEAR ON EACH NEW SHOOT, FORMS A BUSHY TOP.

EVEN WITH ONLY ONE ANNUAL JOINT, MAPLES EVENTUALLY BECOME TOO TALL. SEVERE PRUNING ON ALTERNATE BRANCHES IN TWO SUCCESSIVE YEARS.



### DISEASES, PESTS & CARE:

MAPLES ARE SUBJECT TO SCALE, WHILE DORMANT, AN OIL SPRAY, OR A MILD SUMMER SPRAY WILL CONTROL.

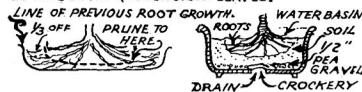
BRANCH DIE-BACK OF MAPLES IS A VIRUS DISEASE NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD. IT MAY RESULT FROM IMPROPER PRUNING, DRYNESS, BAD DRAINAGE, INSUFFICIENT OR OVEREXPOSURE TO WINTER SUNLIGHT, OR HOT DRY LOCATIONS, OR INDOOR EXPOSURE. APPEARS SIMILAR TO SUNSCALD.

LEAF-TIPS MAY DRY AND CURL IN DRY SUMMER PERIODS, OR MAY DROP LEAVES IF ALLOWED TO DRY OUT.

SOIL SHOULD BE CONSTANTLY MOIST, BUT NOT WET. WATER EVES. IN WARM WEATHER. MORN'S IN COLD.

### ROOT PRUNING & POTTING

MAPLES SHOULD BE REPOTTED YEARLY TO AVOID LONG JOINTS & OVERSIZED LEAVES.



IF TREE WOBBLER LOOSLY AFTER REPLANTING, WEIGHT WITH ROCK UNTIL ROOT ESTABLISHED.

SOIL MIX: 1/3 LOAM 1/3 SHARP SAND 1/3 FINE LEAF MOLD

FRED KAYE

## BEGONIA ERYTHROPHYLLA

By Charlotte M. Hoak, So. Pasadena, California

*B. erythrophylla* (*B. manicata* X *B. hydrocotylifolia*)—Syn. *B. Feasti*, which enjoys the honor of being one of our oldest hybrids along with *B. ricinifolia*, was first named in 1847. It belongs to the rhizomatous group, is popularly known as the "Beefsteak Begonia" and had its priority name changed when John Feast of Baltimore imported it in 1880 and decided to shorten its name. Its short petioled

leaves are a glossy, deep green above, quite fleshy and bright red beneath. They are orbicular in shape with overlapping basal lobes. The midwinter flowers are drooping, pale pink, and borne on tall erect panicles. It stands much abuse and long lived specimens often reach a huge size. In house culture it is tolerant of considerable shade. (See Front Page).

## SEED FUND NEWS FOR MARCH

Dear Armchair Explorers:

You now have your Begonia seed, perhaps much of it is planted. I am sorry that there weren't packets of each kind for everyone—but the seed just wouldn't stretch that far. Join our new Armchair Correspondence Club with Mrs. Marie Minter at the helm, Route 1, Box 180, Encinitas, Calif., and exchange seeds and plants with other members of our Seed Fund.

Only a small number of folks have signed up for the Tuberous Pool, and there is plenty of this seed left for a fee of \$2 per collection. The \$2 collection of Fibrous Begonia seeds will be sent out as long as they last, so if you missed out so far, you can still get some Begonia seeds to plant.

Some very small lots of seed which were far too small to include in the Seed Fund are available for those wanting them. These are offered now. 6 kinds from Colombia, \$1.00; The following at 25c per packet. *B. acida*, *acutangularis*, *andina*, *dregei*, *dichroa*, *aborensis* red, *josephi* *typica*, *rubro-venia*, *laciniata* red leaf, *laciniata* yellow flower, *sikkimensis* *maculata*, *tenuifolia*, *macrocarpa*.

Seeds of gourds from India at 25c per packet. Luffa, Bitter, Bottle and Snake.

Bulbils of *B. Martiana* and *B. gracilis* var. *diversifolia* at 25c.

Fern spores—we have a large collection of these, from tree ferns to choice greenhouse types. These at 25c per packet, or special prices on large collections.

New kinds of Gesneria seeds, only small amounts of these. Those especially interested may write for list.

The question keeps coming up—"How Can I Join the Seed Fund?" Any member of the A. B. S. may send a \$2 contribution to the Fund and secure a large collection of rare Begonia seeds. You must join up each year. You may buy whatever seed that is available from time to time whether or not a member of the Seed Fund. The only requirement is that you must be a member of our American Begonia Society. Commercial folks avail themselves of these rare seeds and help to place these new plants on the market.

Whenever you want something really rare and unusual in seeds, write your skipper.

Addition to the 1948 Seed Fund list:

No. 37, *B. gracilis* var. *diversifolia*.

No. 38, *B. India* species.

Now available—bulbs of *Evansiana* and *Evansiana alba* mixed at 50c per packet; *Martiana* crossed with *socotrana*, 50c per packet; and *Achimenes* mixed, 50c per packet.

Cheerio until next month—Mrs. E. Carrell, 214 North Yale St., Fullerton, California.

## ROUND ROBIN NEWS

By Frances Downing, Calera, Alabama

The new Billbergia Robin is flying with a new director. Most of the members are Californians. Would Billbergia fans in colder countries like to belong to a Billbergia Robin? Please let me hear from you.

The No. 2 Advanced African Violet Robin is awaiting new members. The Gesneriaceae, African Violet and Gloxinia are among our most popular clubs.

The Basket and Trailing Robin is flying with room for only a member or two before No. 2 must be started. The Cyclamen group is making excellent progress.

With the coming of spring the Fancy-leaved Caladium Robins will become active again. Two of these are flying, one for the Southwest, one for Northeast and one Midwest. Where winters are long and cold, the sectional discussion eliminates confusion. It has been suggested that some of our begonia robins should be divided likewise. We shall be glad to so arrange them if there are enough members in each section. A new Orchid group must soon be started as the other is on its way. The Pansies, Viola and Violet robin needs a few new members. If Violas are planted early they will bloom this summer.

The Garden Photography Robin has room for a few members as does the Perennial Robin.

The Annual Robin dealing with other than zinnias and marigolds is in progress of being formed. There are many annuals for the shady garden and some little known desirable plants to learn about.

The Lily group is awaiting a Director and a few more members which is also the case with the Day-lily Robin, who will volunteer? The Flowering Shrub group seems to be moving slowly. The Herb group is still open for a member or two. Do you belong to a Robin club in which the members confine their letters to the discussion of the club subject? That is an *ideal* Flower Robin Club. We also have a "Garden Gossip Robin" in which anything is discussed. It is enlightening to read these letters.

There are several requests for information as to where may unrooted or barely rooted cuttings of fibrous and rex begonias be purchased? So many feel that by getting cuttings or small seedling plants they enjoy the hobby more than by procuring larger ones. Others are unable to afford the more expensive though small plant in pots if they are to try and build up a collection.

## BEGONIA ARTHUR MALLET

By *Blanche Brimhall, State Center, Iowa*

Three years ago, through a gift from a Round Robin friend, I came into possession of a B. Arthur Mallet. It was small but I potted it right away in rich soil in a five-inch pot where it is yet. It now has three branches rising directly from the soil; fourteen inches tall, clothed with beautiful red leaves but I have never expected it to bloom under the conditions of my home.

I live in Central Iowa where the winters are severe. I heat with a hand fired coal furnace and it is the hot air type. This means that in very cold weather the house often gets down to fifty degrees or even lower before morning. To add humidity to the air I keep the pan on the furnace filled, it holds two gallons of water. Then I have hung pint cans in all of the registers and these I fill twice a day. So the air is kept quite moist.

Last summer I set the Mallet outside with the rest of my plants. I sunk the pot in the ground on the north side of a building and it was protected from the north and east winds by a picket fence.

This winter I have kept it growing next the double glass in my south window. I keep a thermometer standing next to the pot and a few times this winter it has been forty-five degrees or lower when I came downstairs. I have given it a pinch of Hyponex around the edge of the pot every three weeks and now it has rewarded me with a cluster of gorgeous pink blooms.

The first were the male blooms and they did not open at all. After they dropped the female blooms came out and they are the largest bloom. By actual measurements they are two inches across and the seed sac is one inch in depth or length. I have never had such large blooms on a rubra or a Lucerne.

I keep the pot standing in a soup bowl and water with warm water from the bottom. Keeping it just moist at all times. The leaves start new plants easily in March or April. I root them in clean, moist, sharp sand in an old glass fish globe and keep a glass cover over the top until the new plants have at least three leaves.

I think this proves that though we can't all live in sunny California, we can grow some of the choice begonias if we care to study their likes and dislikes. Needless to say I am thrilled with the blooms of my Arthur. They have been out in all their glory for ten days and are still nice.

NOTE TO BRANCH PRESIDENTS: Please read your Begonian — this issue — for *Announcement of a New Contest*.

## A WORD FROM YOUR FLOWER SHOW CHAIRMAN

By *Etta A. Pinnell, Arcadia, California*

As the flower show season draws near it is time for each Begonian to take inventory of his stock, choose and decide what he can contribute to his flower show; not only to display his successes but to arouse an interest in others to grow better begonias.

There are at least two kinds of flower shows. Each has its appeals and satisfactions. At either show the plants should be well groomed and arranged so that their full beauty may be seen and enjoyed.

One, that we usually call a flower show, consists of exhibiting a collection of plants under one roof. In such a place we find the choicest plants that are well grown and so placed as to show off their great beauty of form and growth. The exhibit lasts but a few days but gives great pleasure to many people in a short time. If this show is competitive and prizes are awarded the exhibitors should be informed on the points that judges will use in granting awards.

The other type of show consists of viewing plants as they grow in the garden. The owner usually conducts the guests about and is quite willing to answer questions about the growth and culture of his plants. Such a show may not be seen by so many people as the other kind but it may be of great value to those who do see it.

In either type of show the begonias, be they Rex, Tuberosus or Fibrous, are shown at their best when displayed with other shade loving plants. Both foliage and flowering plants compliment the begonia, aristocrat of the garden.

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## B. PEARLI, Hort.

By Alice M. Clark, San Diego, California

*B. pearli*, which we present this month, is one of the better begonias for window gardens, because of its lovely color and full, compact habit. Its small creeping rhizome, fine papillary surface and pointed heart-shaped leaves, class it with *B. imperialis*, and related types, although it has much sturdier growth. Like *B. speculata*, it is slightly larger than *B. illustrata*. They could be close relations, but its true origin is unknown.

The narrow rhizome of *B. pearli* is so crowded with new leaves pushing out of the axils of the old ones, that the characteristic scars are hardly visible. Pale green stipules, with hairy keels, guard the fuzzy pads of baby leaves, turning to brown twists when their job is done. As the leaves grow, the raised portions between the veins is strongly diffused with red. Later this spreads to a flush on the back that is darker on the edges, but, strangely enough, shows on the top as a brownish-green border that gives it the appearance of a rex begonia. In its medium stage, the general color is a pewter green, overlaid with a pinkish tint. The margins are faintly ruffled and toothed, with little sprouts of hairs. The main veins are faintly raised on a hairy ridge in a smooth green channel.

When mature, the leaf changes to a beautiful jade green with a pearly pink light that probably gave it its name. The largest leaf in my sketch was 6 by 4¼ inches. The back is a duller and lighter color. Both surfaces are heavily tufted with soft white bristles that cause a harsh texture. The round raised nerves underneath and the 4 inch petioles are plushy with hairs that have tiny red dots at their roots. One leaf on the left is turned back at the tip to show the under side. Normally the leaves are slightly reflexed.

I wish that I had caught the first inflorescence of *B. pearli* at its full height of 15 inches. The peduncles in my sketch are secondary lengths of 7 to 10 inches. Like the leaf stem, they are ¼ inch wide at the base but narrow as they approach the flowering section. They are white-hairy, with the same minute red spots at their source. Pale green bracts around each flower dry into brown accents that cling to each fork. One of the flowering branches seems to develop faster than the other. The male blooms are only a little more than ½ inch across, with two petals enclosing a full tuft of stamen. None of the little round, red-tinted buds opened before they fell.

The female blossoms of *B. pearli* are very gay. The twin petals at the tip of the ovary are like small pink polka dots. They part freely to

show a sturdy but very tiny trio of yellow stigma on a short neck. The pink capsule has a few red hairs over the seed pod on what, to borrow a Navy term, we might call "top-side." The points of the wings differ. Some are cut back into a notch or a hook with a twist to it and a few hairs on the edge. Others curve off smoothly. Light green pedicels hold the flowers almost straight out on their ¼ inch lengths, so they look like a string of bells arrested in the midst of a jangling of their enlarged clappers.

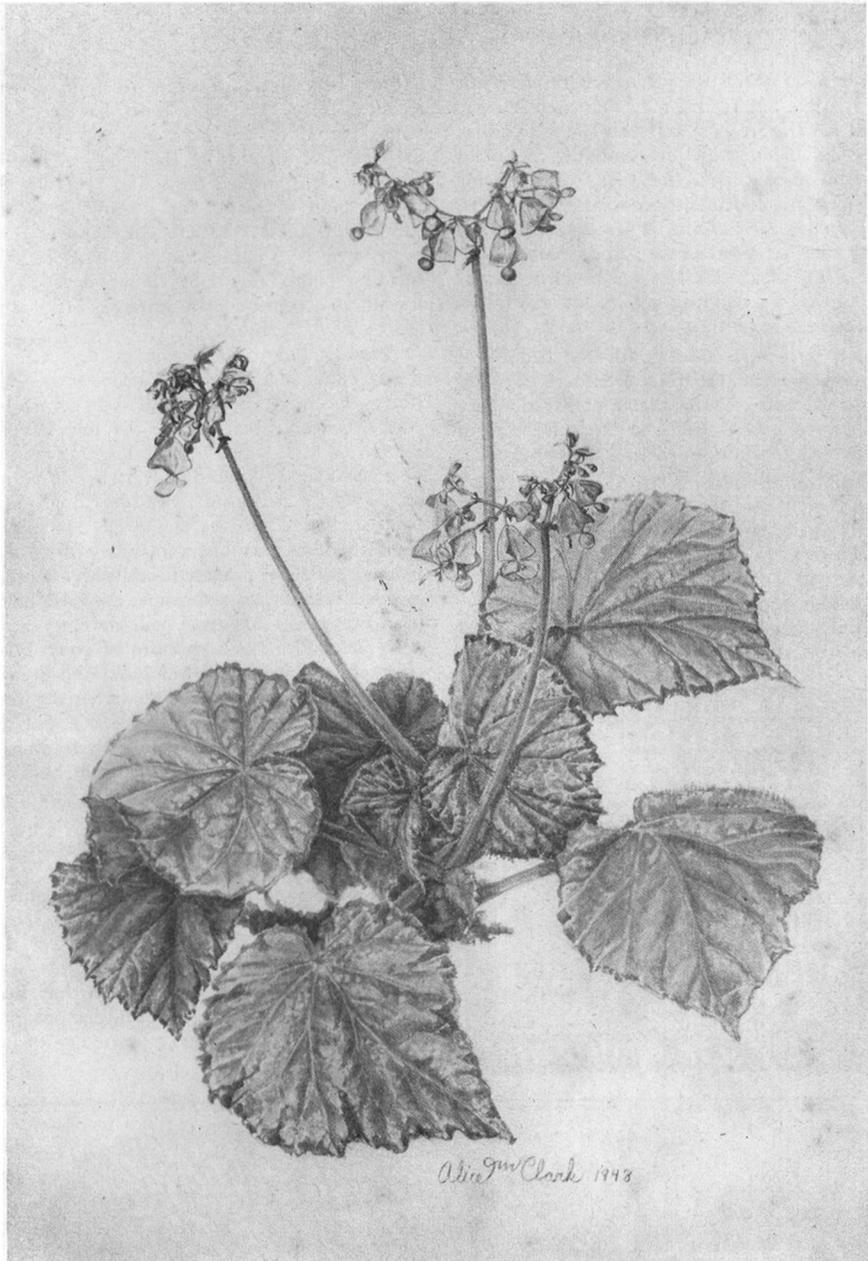
My sketch was made in early February from a hanging basket at Rosecroft. There was no difference between it and another specimen in the more protected, but darker, glasshouse, so we might infer that it stands more cold than we thought. The light bright tone of *B. pearli*, together with its habit of flowering well above the leaves makes this a fine begonia to add to a collection of rexes or any shelf of spring bloomers.

### TUBEROUS BEGONIA BY SEED

Seed of the tuberous begonia may be planted through March and still achieve blooming plants in the same year. Most begonia hobbyists have a seed soil mixture of their own, but since the advent of "Terralite" and "Soil-lite" and other products of the kind, it would be found expedient to make use of these to the extent of one third the bulk of the soil medium of either of the above named soil conditioners. Even if one uses the finely shredded redwood bark in the leaf and peat mixture, the above named amendments are desirable.

One thing to know that is not always pointed out is that plants or cuttings placed in such a mixture, and that includes seed, of course, should *not* be firmed into the mixture, the plant structure may be bruised. Let the watering settle the material which will hold more air thus aiding faster germination, quicker rooting and stronger growth. It also aids drainage. In transplanting lessen the amount of terralite or soil-lite but keep the usual two thirds leafmold to one third peat moss ratio in fairly coarse grade. The bed for begonia seed should be finished off with finely pudverized leafmold or sphagnum moss with the sifted grains of either of the new materials named. After this has been well moistened the seed is sprinkled over it. From here on follow the directions given in our Tuberous Begonia leaflet and past Begonians.—Maria Wilkes.

Send for Tuberous, Rex, or Fibrous Begonia Leaflets at 15c each, from Roy K. Dere.



B. PEARLI, Hort.

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● CINERARIAS are fine shade plants with many colors, but watch for slugs, snails, leaf miners, aphids and red spiders. Use spray of strong rotenone or pyrethrins for leaf miners. Black Leaf 40 for aphids, a summer oil for red spiders, and a poison bait for snails and slugs.

# TUBEROUS AND REX BEGONIAS

By Lillian Ashe, San Francisco, California

Last year several of our members were not able to exhibit at the San Francisco Flower Show held in August, as their Tuberhybridas attained full bloom in June and July. To avoid the same predicament this year, we asked for advice from one of our most honored members, Mrs. Sydney Stein Rich. In her capacity as Director of the Conservatory in Golden Gate Park Park, Mrs. Rich has had a great deal of experience in preparing plants for exhibition at a definite time.

After reviewing briefly, for the benefit of the new members, the usual procedure of planting seeds, care of tubers, soil preparation, re-potting, etc., Mrs. Rich devoted the rest of her talk to grooming plants for show purposes.

To have full blooms in August the tubers should be stored in a cool, dry place until March-April, thus preventing early sprouting. To assure large blooms, leave only one sprout which will develop into a strong stalk. The early buds should be continually pinched off until the beginning of June. The plants are to be well staked, tied with raffia and turned

a little from time to time to attain a symmetrical form. The pots must be clean, the stakes placed in the back are not to exceed the eventual height of the plant. Excessive feeding might weaken the stalks.

"Selection of plants for a show is a difficult task," said Mrs. Rich. Only a very small percentage is suitable for this purpose. The sturdiest plants are to be chosen early in the season and continuously groomed until they are ready for exhibition . . .

Another group of Begonias, the majestic Rexes, commanded attention at our next—February—meeting. The principal speaker was Mr. Harry Swager, Chairman of the Rex Begonia Section of Mrs. Krauss' committee. Mr. Swager who has over two hundred varieties of Rexes, told of his experiences in raising these plants from seeds, leaf wedges, stems, etc. He emphasized the fact that many plants will develop from a single leaf provided each wedge contains a vein junction. Large rhizomes may also be cut in many pieces and each will develop into a new plant. He uses a mixture of equal quantities of peat moss, oak leaf mold and decayed cow manure and suggested that frequent feeding with a small quantity of weak liquid cow manure is more effective than heavy feedings at long intervals. Proper drainage, high humidity and suffused light are of utmost importance in successful culture of Rexes.

Mr. Swager described the activities of several Rex growers and hybridizers such as Woodriff, Ziesenhenne and others. In conclusion he suggested that an authorized committee should be appointed for the proper naming of new hybrids.

As an additional feature, Mr. Arthur Boisier, the President of the Branch, demonstrated the care of Begonia tubers preparatory to potting.

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# A BASIC COLLECTION OF CAMELLIAS

By Roy T. Thompson, Editor Pacific Camellia Society Bulletin

I have been asked, "What are the best varieties of camellias for Southern California, and for other sections?" One might naturally suppose that different varieties thrive better in different geographical localities, but a review of camellia literature does not reveal this to be the case. Rather, if you can approximate "camellia conditions" of soil and climate, you can grow practically all varieties anywhere. The *American Camellia Yearbook* for 1946 contains a series of articles on camellia culture from seven widely separated sections of the U. S. Each article emphasizes certain local problems: for example, the soil in Austin, Texas, is alkaline; camellia growers in Knoxville, Tennessee, have to worry about low winter temperatures; the damp climate of Mobile encourages many fungus diseases. But these problems are not primarily concerned with camellia varieties.

I think it would be more sensible to classify camellias into "common" varieties, usually found in every collection and every locality, and "rare" varieties, found in the collections of camellia hobbyists and specialists. Between these two classifications lie the bulk of camellia varieties which are neither common nor rare. This classification has been in use for years by commercial growers who use it as the basis for their price lists.

It is therefore possible to assemble a list of camellias of the most common occurrence which we may call a "basic" collection for any section of the country. A person who wishes to have some fine camellias but who has no desire to become a camellia hobbyist, will find this group most satisfactory, if for no other reason, because they are the least expensive. But I wish to emphasize right here that the most beautiful and impressive camellias are not (as one might assume) to be found among the rare and expensive varieties. On the contrary, this basic group contains some of the most beautiful camellias in existence.

Take, for example, the *Chandleri elegans variegated* and its sister flower, the *Chandleri elegans pink* (Francine). The *elegans*, first described in 1831, is one of our oldest varieties, and by common consent and by record of sales, one of the most beautiful and desirable. I have heard many say that the *Francine* is the most beautiful camellia of them all. And among the variegated camellias, you will have to look long and far for a more beautiful creation than the *Daikagura*, also one of the commonest on the Pacific Coast.

One of the finest camellias for landscaping effects is the *Covina*, a beautiful rounded shrub

the year round and in winter a mass of blooms which will cause passers-by to stop and stare. The *Purity*, a double white, the *Herme*, pink and white and fragrant, and the *Pink Perfection* are old stand-bys. *Professor Sargent*, a peony type red, is a vigorous grower and can stand lots of sun.

Let these eight stand as your basic group, and if you wish to add a few more, you will find the following very dependable, and slightly more expensive: *Princess Baciocchi* (double red), *Elena Nobile* (double red), *Finlandia* (semi-double white), *Mathotiana* (large flowered deep pink) *Arajishi* (dark red), *C. M. Hovey*, known also as the Colonel Fiery, (dark red), *Kumasaka* (large rose-pink double), *Debutante* (handsome double pink) *Lallarook* or Laurel-leaf (pink formal), *Marchioness of Exeter* (double pink), *Pope Pins*, (formal red), *Vedrine*, or Ruby Glow (double red).

From here on your individual tastes and the size of your garden will determine any further choices, but if you go no further than your basic group of eight, you will always have a highly satisfactory camellia collection.

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

The March 23rd meeting will be held in new quarters: Gladys Bowen Dancing School, 2195 Chasworth Blvd., San Diego, Calif., 7:30 p.m.

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## HUB CITY SOCIETY BRANCH WELCOMED INTO A. B. S.

By Louise Schwerdtfeger, Santa Barbara, Calif.

The organization of another Branch in the Los Angeles area is indeed gratifying. The Hub City Begonia Society Branch was organized under the able leadership of Mrs. Blanche Watts. Their first meeting was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Faye Small, Compton, on January 20th. A great deal was accomplished at this meeting, officers were elected, the Constitution and By-Laws adopted, and eleven members enrolled on the Charter list. The Branch will draw its membership from the communities of Compton and Lynwood. Mrs. Blanche Watts was given the honor of being elected their first President.

The Constitution and By-Laws for this Branch were submitted by Mr. George Johnson, President-elect, to the National Board at their regular meeting in Los Angeles January 26th, and the Branch was accepted as an official Branch of The American Begonia Society.

At their second meeting February 17th, Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond, National President, presided and installed the following officers:

Mrs. Blanche Watts, 120 East Maple St., Compton, President; Mr. Al Taylor, 199 Willow St., Compton, Vice-President; Mrs. Eloise Scheller, 3556 Imperial Hwy., Lynwood, Secretary; Mrs. Theresa Olmsted, 428 Euclid Ave., Compton, Treasurer. They have our wholehearted welcome and support.

Editor's Note—Remember? Mrs. Alice Clark made a suggestion some time ago that we grow as many tuberous begonias as possible so that through Founders month we can take some to the nearby hospitals for all who are not able to grow them — enjoy them. Please remember.—M. W.

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## DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH

A special one-thirty dessert meeting was called at the home of Mrs. Dorothy B. Barton, on January 20th, at which the Flint Branch elected their officers, outlined their program for the year and discussed dates and meeting places. Twelve of the eighteen charter members were present.

At the first regular meeting of the Branch held at the home of Mrs. George Durury, 3509 Augusta Street, the evening of February 6th, the following officers were installed by Mrs. Barton in an impressive ceremony.

Mrs. Edwin Crosby, 2110 Lapeer St., Flint, 3, Phone 2-0525, President.

Mrs. Harold Reese, 1125 Macken Road, Flint 4, Vice-President.

Mrs. S. V. Clark, 1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Phone 2-3602, Secretary-Treasurer.

Mrs. George W. W. Barton, 929 East 7th St., Flint 3, Phone 2-4935, Director.

Committees were appointed and plans made for the annual Begonia exhibit to be displayed by The Branch at the Yard and Garden Flower Show later in the summer. The "Founders Month" suggestion was received enthusiastically with the choice of August. The program consisted of prepared papers on Tuberous and bulbous Begonias given by the members.

We wish the officers good luck and we will be looking forward to the interesting reports of their meetings and accomplishments.—Louise Schwerdtfeger.

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# SQUARING YOURSELF WITH NOMENCLATURE

By Charlotte M. Hoak, So. Pasadena, California

First of a Series of Lectures at Hollywood Branch.

## 1—The Binomial System

The Binomial System or binomial nomenclature is an accurate scientific system of naming all plants and all animals known by all people in all countries so that two names are used, one representing the genus or family group and the other the particular species. This system began with Linnaeus in *Species Plantarum* in 1753 and brought order out of confusion. Liberty Hyde Bailey says of it: "The system of binomial nomenclature is one of the best inventions of men. It is effective; it is beautiful in its simplicity. It serves all men and women. It is endlessly extensible. It answered the purpose of Linnaeus and his associates when the number of known plants was few; it is in daily use one hundred and eighty years later when plants are numbered in hundreds of thousands."

Thus, as a rule, scientific names applied to species consist of two parts: first, the generic name and, second, the specific name. (Ex: *Begonia nitida*). Species are sometimes divided into varieties, so a third part is added. (Ex: *Begonia manicata aureo-maculata*).

## 2—The Law of Priority

A plant can have but one legitimate scientific name, and this is the one given to it by the scientist who first named it and publicized it by a full description in Latin usually in a recognized botanical periodical or book. This oldest published description is the only correct scientific name, no matter if the wrong name has been used for years. Therefore, we say with all due authority *Begonia Scharffi*, not *Begonia Haageana*. Such is the Law of Priority, which we so often violate.

These technical names are based on dried specimens of the type plants in different herbaria and on authentic published descriptions. You should, if possible, compare your plant with the type specimens. Next, you should look for the oldest published description. If you are not able to do this personally, then you should consult the very best authorities in the field, who have spent years in doing careful research work. Turn to both of your texts, *Begonias and How to Grow Them* by Bessie Buxton and *Begonias for American Homes and Gardens* by Helen K. Krauss and compare them. Second, make a correct list of some of the *Begonias* you have (not less than twelve).

## 3—Correct Capitalization

The matter of capitalization of Initial Letters of Specific Epithets — Recommendation XLIII taken from Section 13, Article 70, of

the International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature reads as follows: "Specific epithets should be written with small initial letters except those which are derived from names of persons or are taken from general or vernacular names."

a. Commemorative names honoring explorers and scientists and most botanical workers follow this ruling:

*Begonia Dregei*, not *Begonia dregei*.

*Begonia Scharffi*, not *Begonia scharffi*.

*Begonia Sutherlandi*, not *Begonia sutherlandi*.

b. Geographic names are written with the initial letter in the lower case:

*Begonia nepalensis*, not *Begonia Nepalensis*.

*Begonia weltoniensis*, not *Begonia Weltoniensis*.

*Begonia cathayana*, not *Begonia Cathayana*.

*Begonia socotrana*, not *Begonia Socotrana*.

c. Descriptive specific epithets are always written with the initial letter in the lower case:

*Begonia nitida* means shining leaf begonia.

*Begonia manicata* means the cuffed begonia from the series of hairy cuffs at the base of the leaf.

*Begonia phyllo-maniaca* means literally the leaf crazy begonia from the adventitious leaves on the leaves and stems.

*Begonia argenteo-guttata* means silver-spotted begonia.

*Begonia ricinifolia* means the castor-bean leaf begonia.

*Begonia erythrophylla* means red leaf begonia.

*Begonia incana* means hoary haired begonia.

There is no excuse or even authority for writing the specific names in lists or articles in this manner: *Begonia Nitida*, *Begonia Manicata*, *Begonia Phyllo-maniaca*, *Begonia Argenteo-Guttata*, *Begonia Erythro-phylla*, or *Begonia Ricinifolia*.

Consult the best references, such as:

Index Kewensis.

Bailey, L. H. — *Hortus II*

Bailey's *Encyclopaedia of Horticulture*

Bailey, L. H. — *How Plants Get Their Names*.

*Standardized Plant Names*, second Edition, follows the zoological method and runs all specific names in the lower case.

## PASADENA BRANCH

Now meets on the first Tuesday of the month in the Vasa Temple at 2031 E. Villa, Pasadena. There is plenty of room for guests all of whom are welcome and the parking facilities are ample. Reserve the 6th of April that you may hear Rudolf Ziesenhenné as speaker of the evening.

**BEGONIA REX CULTURUM  
HAZEL DRUMMOND**

Mrs. P. J. Miller of Whittier gives us the following description of this seedling which was named in honor of our president, and illustrated in the January, 1948, issue of The Begonian:

. . . rhizomatous; medium, leaf ovate, color rich, soft red-brown, with silver band going to tip of leaf and broken at the base; small silver spots on outer band, few in center; sinus at base of leaf; some lobes turn back and some turn up double (spiraled); very thick and short red hairs on veins and petioles; margins crinkly with short hairs; the red veins show through the silver band.

Founders' Months chosen are July and August, commemorating Mr. H. Dyckman.

**NOW IS THE TIME**  
to order

**ACHIMINES**  
FANCY LEAVED CALADIUMS  
TUBEROUS BEGONIAS  
GLOXINIAS

We have them in many named varieties. They are all listed in our catalog which is yours for the asking. Send for your copy.

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**OAKHURST GARDENS**  
345 West Colorado Street—Arcadia, California

**BEGONIA SPECIAL**  
for  
**MARCH**

Digswelliana .....	each 35c
Nelly Bly .....	each 35c
Tea Rose .....	each 50c
Scabrada .....	each 75c
Loma Alta .....	each 75c
Multiflora Rosea .....	each 35c
Dwarf Houghtoni .....	each 50c
McBethii .....	each 35c
Arthur Mallett .....	each 75c
Medora .....	each 50c
Double Geneva (Rose Bud Begonias)	
Red, Pink or White .....	each 50c

**STRONG 2½" and 3" POTTED PLANTS**  
Mail Orders Add 20%

**FERNS—BEGONIAS—FUCHSIAS  
PELARGONIUMS and NOVELTY PLANTS**  
Large Display of Begonias and Other Plants  
We SHIP ANYWHERE—Price List on Request  
VISITORS WELCOME—CLOSED WEDNESDAYS

**LEATHERMAN'S GARDENS**  
1 blk. W. of Rosemead Blvd, 1½ blks. S. of  
  Garvey Road  
925 Lee Ave                      El Monte, California

**THANKS TO ALL**

To All Members of Branches of Los Angeles and Long Beach Area Mr. Herbert P. Dyckman extends grateful thanks and recognition for the fine plants so generously sent to be donated to the U. S. Naval Hospital in Long Beach. To them also the following letter is addressed:

Dear Mr. Dyckman:

It is a pleasure to thank you for presenting this hospital with the Begonia plants you delivered to the Recreation Department. The demand for these plants was great—the staff members in charge of the various wards seemed most anxious to secure them.

It was extremely kind of you to consider us for a donation of this type. Your plants do help to add cheer to the wards they grace and I am certain will inspire the goodwill you intended.

Your interest in the servicemen and veteran patients confined here is truly gratifying.

Very truly yours, F. C. Hill, Captain (MC) USN; Medical Officer in Command, U. S. Naval Hospital, Long Beach, California.

Long Beach Flower Show, Aug. 5, 6, 7, 8, 1948.

**YOUR OPPORTUNITY**  
**CATTLEYAS**

All Blooming Size Plants in Excellent Condition with Five Bulbs or More

Cattleya Triannae .....	ea. \$3.50 to \$7.50
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Cattleya H. S. Leon .....	ea. \$7.50 to \$25.00

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Cattleya Back Bulbs  
unnamed varieties, per doz \$5.00

★ ★

Cattleya Seedlings Mossiae X Nebo—2" Pots	each 75c
Cattleya S. J. Bracey X Grandulosa, Yellow,	2" Pots, each \$1.50
Cattleya Estelle X Conciency, White, 2" Pots,	each \$2.00

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# HOW TO GROW "TUBEROUS" BEGONIAS SUCCESSFULLY

By R. G. "Scotty" Hudson, Huntington Beach, California

The year 1947 was not a good year for the growing of tuberous begonias, so those of you who were amateurs and had poor luck at growing this most beautiful of all flowers, don't be disheartened or disgusted, as it possibly was not your fault.

After having consulted with a lot of growers of different kinds of flowers, I am convinced that the climatic conditions of 1947 had a lot to do with the mediocre success of growing not only tuberous begonias but many other plants. At the same time, however, I made some tests which convinced me that my soil mixture could be improved upon, and also the fundamentals of starting the tubers off, and am passing this on to you for your consideration. I have changed my soil mixture every year and this year is no exception, so those of you who have used my formula in the past will see quite a difference in this year's mixture. It is as follows: Eight parts leaf mold, two parts coarse sand, four parts cottonseed steer manure, two parts horse manure, two parts "Kellogg's Nitro Humus.

The horse manure is in place of the peat moss. No bone meal but in place of it two parts "Kellogg's" Nitro Humus. "Kellogg's" Nitro Humus is in my opinion one of the very best of fertilizers given to flower lovers in a long time. Don't be afraid to use it in any of your potted plants. Sprinkle it on top of the pot and water and you will be surprised how it will rejuvenate your Fuchsias, ferns, any of your shade plants. It will not burn so don't be afraid to use it. In the compost pile it readily takes its place and becomes part of the soil mixture, but bone meal takes a long time to really do any good. You will also find that the flowers will last longer, and the foliage is more luxuriant.

When starting your bulbs growing after the dormant season try the following method, viz: Take pure leaf mold and add to this twenty per cent of "Terralite." When the plants have advanced sufficiently to be potted you will find that the leaf mold and "Terralite" will hold to the root system, and you will also find that you will have a wonderful root system to start your plant out with. The reason of this is that the pure leaf mold combined with the "Terralite" gives you a very airy mixture and allows plenty of oxygen and hydrogen to get through down to the root system which produces the desired results. "Terralite" will hold moisture too, and be careful how much watering you do, as you just want your tubers moist, *not wet*, when you start them growing.

Pick the plants out very carefully so as not to break off the tiny white fragile roots and hold them up erect in the pot and fill the dirt around them, pressing down firmly but lightly. These little white roots are very tender, so you must be very careful. When the pot is about half full of dirt, sprinkle a little fish meal or cottonseed meal around and finish filling up with dirt.

Never use less than at least a seven inch pot and preferably larger. Tuberous begonias are not deep rooted but like to spread their roots, therefore, the big pot is desired to give them the area to spread out. Those of you who are using metropolitan water, I would advise a watering of some acidifier about every two weeks to counteract the alkalinity. "Liquid-Gro" is a good liquid fertilizer and has a pH of around 5, so it is also a good acidifier.

Tuberous begonias love a bath once in a while and so do all shade loving plants as a matter of fact, I prefer overhead water in the evening when the sun is low enough so as not to burn the foliage or the blooms. They will be dried off by morning and the sun will not affect them. When you overhead sprinkle you will accomplish two objects. First of all you clean the foliage of all dust and open the tiny spores in the leaves so that the plant breathes freely and feeds through these pores. Most shade plants function from their leaves as well as their roots where moisture is concerned. Secondly, when leaves and blooms are clean they look so much nicer and fresher. Do the sprinkling with a light spray on a hose so that you don't hit the plant too hard.

Tuberous begonias like a fair amount of sun and plenty of air but no draft. Most people give them too much shade and keep them too wet. There is a marked difference in having a plant wet as opposed to moist. Never set a pot in another receptacle and let the water drain out of the pot into it and allow the plant to suck it up again. Good drainage, plenty of light, good soil, and last but not least, a good bulb. There is a lot of difference in tuberous begonia stock. The best costs money but it is truly worth the price of the bulb to have the satisfaction of a beautiful flower. If the bulb is good and the soil inferior the plant does not grow right, but it does not matter how good the soil is you can't make a good plant out of inferior stock.

Get good bulbs and good soil and bring your plants and flowers to the "Long Beach Flower Show" on August 5, 6, 7 and 8, 1948, and get your reward in prizes being offered.

## SO. ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

New Officers were installed in December: A. R. BAYLISS, President, 26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, R. A. ALBERTS, Vice-President, 2889 Thornton Ave., Newark, Mrs. R. Clark, Recording Secretary, 1687 Grand Ave., Piedmont, Dorothy Bayliss, Corresponding Secretary, 26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Charles Perry, National Director, 23025 Victory Drive, Hayward.

Mrs. Irene McMills of Redwood City as guest speaker for the evening presented many fine ideas for starting seeds and tubers as well as demonstrations of the correct soil mixtures for these. The second anniversary took place in February while enjoying a program of excellent color films on orchids and a talk on their culture. Several other fine guest speakers are scheduled for the coming months.

With well planned programs, with help and participation from each member in events of the coming year, it is hoped to rate approval and applause and in a small measure contribute to the betterment of the A. B. S.

### FIRST OFFICERS PETALUMA BRANCH

We thank Mrs. Lee Wakefield for sending us the complete list of the charter members of this new Branch and the following initial officers to all of whom we extend every good wish:

President: Mr. J. C. Gould, 612 Kent St., Petaluma, Calif.; Vice President: Mr. C. D. Bundeson, 736 H. St., Petaluma, Calif.; Secretary: Mrs. Lee Wakefield, 47 5th St., Petaluma, Calif.; Treasurer: Mr. James Cornelius, 427 Broadway, Petaluma, Calif.; Director, 2 year term: Mrs. H. T. Bradberry, 207 Baker St., Petaluma, Calif.; Director, 1 year term: Mrs. J. Earl Wilson, 111 Hill Blvd., Petaluma, Calif.

"We didn't anticipate such a volume of orders through *The Begonian*"—an advertiser.

### SUGGESTION FOR EASTER PROGRAM

By Irene Nance, Ventura, California

A much enjoyed feature of April, '47 meeting was the EASTER BONNET PARADE during which the feminine members displayed many exotic and beautiful creations made of real flowers also novelty hats made of both flowers and vegetables.

The men were not to be outdone and they entered into the festive spirit with attractive chapeaux of real flowers also unique models of vegetables. They proved their ability at both making and modeling of hats by "walking off with their share of the prizes and

## BEGONIA NAMES PRIORITIES

By Helen K. Krauss, Lynnwood, Pa.

I submit the following in answer to requests as to how I arrived at giving preference to the specific begonia names mentioned.

In searching through botanical literature I found that A. Dietrich described *B. strigilosa* in *Allgemeine Gaertenzeitung*, 1851. The same species was described by Charles Lemaire in *L'illustration Horticole*, 1860, under the name of *B. daedalea*. Obviously, Dietrich's name was first published, and, therefore, stands as the correct one.

In regard to *Verschaffelti* versus *Verschaffeltiana*, a different problem is involved as both names were published in the same year and a decision had to be made as to which spelling should be the accepted one. L. H. Bailey does give preference to *Verschaffeltiana*, but ascribes the other spelling to horticultural origin which is contrary to the facts.

Dr. Ed Regel developed the begonia in question and described it in *Gartenflora*, 1855, under the name of *B. Verschaffeltii*. Charles Lemaire described the same begonia or similar hybrid in *L'illustration*, 1955.

Let us assume that you have a daughter whom you named Annabel and the name was thus recorded at the Bureau of Vital Statistics, and let us assume further that outside the immediate family the name persists as Annabella. Although both names are similar and either one will identify your daughter the fact remains that the legal name is the one *you first* gave her. So it is with Dr. Regel's plant child; he developed it and it is reasonable to assume that he wanted the plant to be known as *B. Verschaffeltii*, Lemaire and Bailey notwithstanding.

their pleasure in being awarded same was no less than that of the gentler sex.

Prizes for outstanding headgear, proclaimed by audience reaction, were presented to the following: Ralph Zinn for a Mexican sombrero brightly trimmed in green peppers, long red radishes, onions and a ball fringe of red, round radishes; Walter Knecht for a foundation of huge *Monstera* leaf beautifully bedecked with pink and white pelargoniums and pink satin ribbon. The most unusual in men's numbers was a combination of garden greens generously decorated with live snails.

Feminine prize winners were: Mrs. Noble McCollim with a "picture-hat" of rhubarb leaf brim and the crown a profusion of *Polyanthus* primroses; Mrs. A. Wiss, modeling a parsley "pill-box," chic with verbena trim, and Miss Charlene Hardacre who wore a colorful and delicious looking salad in a "bowl" made of Swiss chard.

## CONDENSED MINUTES, A. B. S.

National Board meeting held in Room 55, City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., anuary 26th, with President Drummond in the Chair.

Board members and Branch Representatives present for the meeting: Pres. Drummond, Messrs. Walton, Johnson, Dere, Lawrence, Hixon, Bailey, Mesdames Wilkes, Johnson, Bayer, Jenks, Pinnell, Hartwell, Hixon, McRae Representatives from Ventura, Foothill, Glendale, Inglewood, Parent Branch, North Long Beach Branch, Hollywood, Hub City, Pasadena, San Gabriel Valley, Orange County.

Reading of Minutes Nov. meeting dispensed with.

Reports of Treasurer, Membership Fees Chairman, Business Manager & Editor, Advertising Chairman read and on motion accepted as read and ordered filed.

Mr. Hart, as spokesman for the A. B. S. presented to Past President Lawrence a set of Bailey's "Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture."

Gordon Baker Lloyd spoke in favor of the Los Angeles Freedom Garden Club and urged everyone to attend the conference to be held in Plummer Park on the 23rd of Feb. Mr. Hottes to be main speaker.

Advertising Chairman Verna Johnson read a very interesting report of her activities for the month of January. One glance at the February Begonian will verify the results of her work.

Branch reports followed—all indicating continued interest, busy with birthday dinners, and plans for coming flower shows.

Mr. Humble asked the National Board to verify the dates of September 10th, 11th and 12th—Friday, Saturday and Sunday—for the annual meeting and flower show to be put on by the San Gabriel Valley Branch. On motion by Mrs. Wilkes, seconded by Mr. Bailey "That these dates be set apart and accepted as the dates for the 1948 Convention and Flower Show to be put on by the San Gabriel Valley Branch." Carried Unanimously.

Mr. Walton read the following report: "Madam Chairman, Acting as a Committee to audit the books of the Business Manager, the undersigned find the books in good order. Signed Harry B. Fasmer, W. E. Walton."

Bills read by Geo. Johnson and ordered paid.

Letter of appreciation from the Navy Hospital in Long Beach thanking the A. B. S. for the many fine rex begonias recently donated, was read and turned over to the Editor for use in the Begonian.

Mrs. Drummond reported her appointment of Committee to edit a Pest Control Bulletin—Mr. Parker, Chairman, Dr. Dunkle, Mr. Knecht to be ably assisted by Dr. Drummond.

Mrs. Hixon reported nothing definite as yet about Founders' Day programs but hoped to get it working very soon.

Mrs. Pinnell, Chairman Exhibits & Flower Shows, stated she hoped to have printed in the Begonian, from time to time, short articles of interest to Flower Show Committees; first article to be in the March Begonian. Also hopes to have printed shortly rules for judging Begonias so that the National Organization will have a common bond in standards and attainments.

By-Laws and Constitutions of two new branches, Petaluma and Hub City, Compton, were presented for ratification. On motion these were accepted and new branches welcomed to the A. B. S.

Mrs. Bayer exhibited a very comprehensive booklet for her Speakers Bureau and asked permission to attach a letter to the booklet for the Branches to use. Given. Also brought up the matter of establishing a fund for the Kodachrome Library. No action taken at this time; matter to be brought up again at next regular meeting.

Letter from Mrs. Downing read correcting error in number of members in the Round Robin which should read "750" members at the present time.

Mrs. Watts, President of the newly formed Branch "Hub City Branch, Compton," spoke of the fine success they were meeting with and they plan to be a very active branch; invited everyone to visit their branch whenever possible.

Ratification of new advertising rates.

Convention Guest Book still missing.

Meeting adjourned to meet again Feb. 23rd, same place. Respectfully submitted, Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

## HONOR FOR SAN FRANCISCAN

Eric Walther, General Supervisor of the San Francisco Golden Gate Park Arboretum and Director of Botanical Research, was awarded one of the nation's top horticultural honors, in January, for his "unusual skill" in assembling more than 4000 kinds of plants for the edification of flower lovers. This distinction won him The Thomas Roland Medal, awarded by The Massachusetts Horticultural Society, the oldest group of its kind in the U. S.

While Mr. Walther is thoroughly appreciative of the honor, he wishes some means were available through which a Botanical Building and Library could be built to accompany the 40-acre arboretum.

## ON THE EASE OF GROWING SEEDS

Dear Skipper: I am a new member of the A. B. S. and am very anxious to become an Armchair Explorer . . . I have learned of something that may be of interest to those who grow begonias from seed. I have been experimenting with Vermiculite for the growing of seeds and cuttings and have found that begonia seeds really do splendidly in this material, have had germination in as little as three days. The way to use it is, put some gravel in the bottom of a six inch fern pan, fill pan with Vermiculite, broadcast the seeds on top, then set the pot in water and allow it to soak until all material is wet, place a piece of glass on top and cover with paper. After seeds have germinated remove the glass and paper and wait until time to transplant. I really works fine and I am sure others will be interested in this method. Yours truly, Ed Yeckley, Glendale, Calif.

(Mr. Yeckley, I understand that the Vermiculite will not turn green if distilled water is used.—Florence Carrell)

- The CHRISTMAS BEGONIA — often called Socotrana hybrids, are a cross between B. socotrana and one of the bulbous types—such as B. dregei of Africa.

### ATTENTION BEGONIA MEMBERS

A contest for the best articles received on shade plants will begin March, 1948, and end June 30th, 1948.

We want your experiences in raising BEGONIAS and various SHADE PLANTS. The stories will be judged for content only. Special prizes and awards for the BEST FIVE. Mail to Editor.

## 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) March 22nd, 1948. Park Lower Garage South Entrance on Main St.

### BELLFLOWER BRANCH

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

### THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, March 2nd, 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, March 2nd, 7:30 p. m.  
2031 E. Villa Street  
Mrs. Frank Clark, Sec.-Treas.  
2168 Cooley Place, Pasadena 7, Calif.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, March 3rd, 7:30 p. m.  
American Legion Hall, 1641 Taraval St.  
Sec.: Mrs. Walter Ashe, 1855 33rd Ave.  
San Francisco, Calif.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, March 4th, 7:30 p. m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange.  
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. Ethelyn Morgan, 250 N. Center  
Orange, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, March 5th, 8 p. m.  
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa  
Mrs. James M. Reed, Secretary  
643 No. Wabash Ave., Glendora, Calif.

### DOROTHY PIERSON BARTON BRANCH

1st Friday, May 7th  
1016 Frost Street, Flint 4, Mich.  
Mrs. S. V. Clark, Rec.-Sec.  
1919 Zimmerman St., Flint 3, Mich.

### LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, March 8th, 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, March 8th, 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, March 8th, 8 p. m.  
Lanes Memorial Hall, 1st Christian Church  
Sec.-Treas., Margaret Smith  
Fortuna, Calif.

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, March 10th, 8 p. m.  
Mrs. T. W. Gall, Sec.-Treas.  
4518 Bandini Ave., Riverside Calif.

### SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, March 10th, 7:30 p. m.  
University High School, Room 232  
11800 Texas Ave., West Los Angeles  
Mrs. Denman Bemus, Sec.-Treas.  
845 So. Anita Ave., Los Angeles 24, Calif.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, March 11th, 7:30 p. m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, Rec. Sec.  
1633 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.

### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, March 11th, 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, March 11th, 8 p. m.  
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Harry B. Fasmer, Secretary  
5129 So. Manhattan, Los Angeles 43, Calif.

### PETALUMA BRANCH

2nd Friday, March 12th, 7:30 p. m.  
Place to be announced.  
Mrs. Cuma Wakefield, Secy.  
47 Fifth St., Petaluma, 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.

### EVA KENWORTHY GRAY BRANCH

3rd Monday, March 15th  
Community House, LaJolla  
Tillie Center, Sec.-Treas.  
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

Third Tuesday, March 16th, 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

### HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, March 18th, 7:30 p. m.  
14607 South White St., Compton, Calif.  
Mrs. Small, Sec.-Treas.  
14607 So. White, Compton, Calif.

### PHILOBEGONIA CLUB BRANCH

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

### SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH

3rd Thursday, March 18th, 8 p. m.  
Scout Room, Markham School, Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Corr.-Sec.  
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

### EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, March 18th, 7:30 p. m.  
Willard School, Ward Street  
Mrs. E. Carlson, Sec.-Treas.  
2130 McGee Ave., Berkeley 3, Calif.

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, March 22nd  
Hard of Hearing Hall, 3843 Herbert Ave.  
Mrs. L. J. Elliott, Sec.-Treas.  
3794 Grim Ave., San Diego 4, Calif.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, March 23rd, 2 p. m.  
Mrs. Bruce Dill, Secretary  
3715 Harrison, Kansas City, Mo.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA, BRANCH

4th Tuesday, March 23rd, 8 p. m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. W. G. Coffeen  
1742 S. W. 10th St., Miami 35, Fla.

### WHITTIER BRANCH

4th Tuesday, March 23rd, 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, March 23rd, 8 p. m.  
329 No. Brand Blvd., Glendale, Calif.  
Charles Richardson, Secretary  
1441 Fairfield, Glendale 1, Calif.

### ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

4th Tuesday, March 23rd, 8 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, March 24th, 8 p. m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Mrs. Myrtle Jones, Secretary  
132 May Ave., Monrovia, Calif.

### SANTA PAULA BRANCH

4th Thursday, March 25th, 7:30 p. m.  
Memorial Hall High School  
Mrs. C. F. Crang  
907 Pleasant St., Santa Paula, 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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**REX BEGONIA HYBRID SEED**

Per Packet — \$1.00

**Rudolph Zieshenne**

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