

# The BEGONIAN

*Devoted to the Sheltered Gardens*



**BEGONIA  
ALLERYI**



Photo by  
A. H. Gere



Courtesy  
Helen K. Krauss



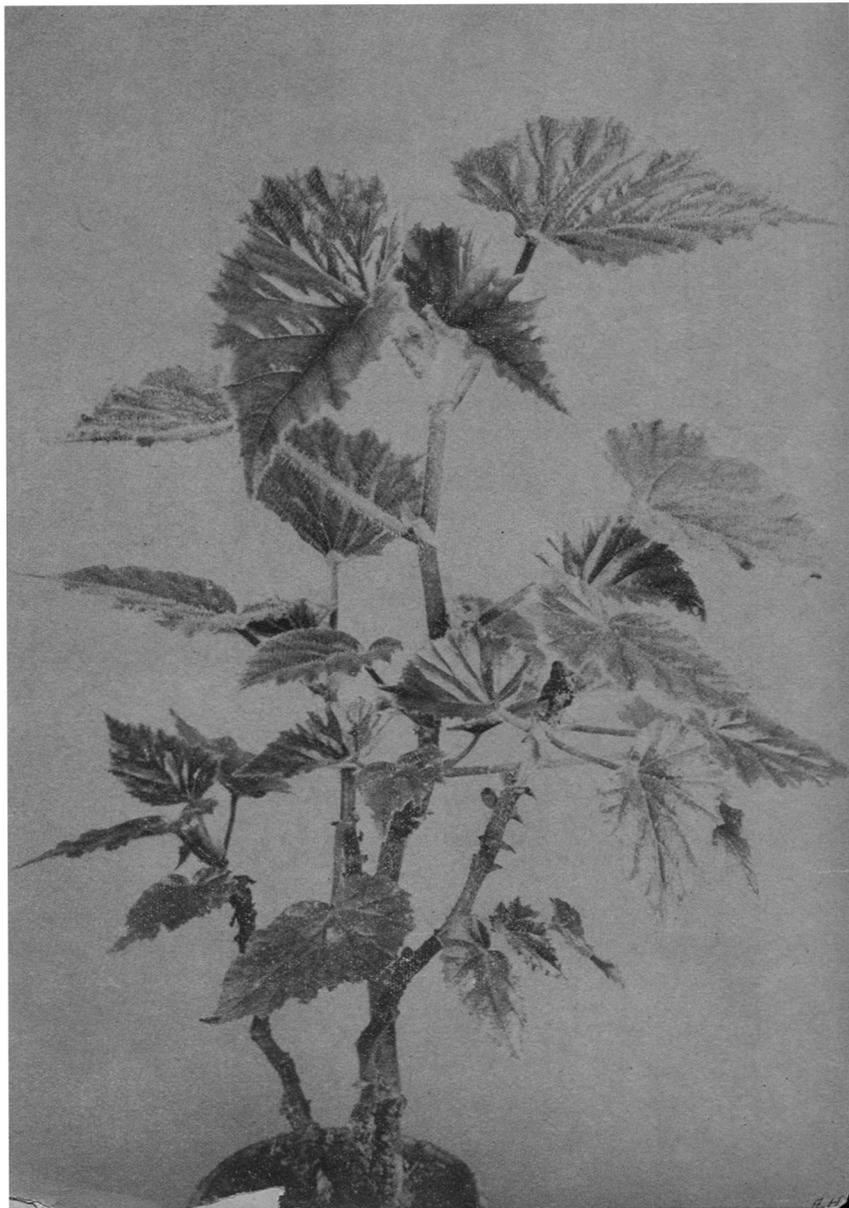
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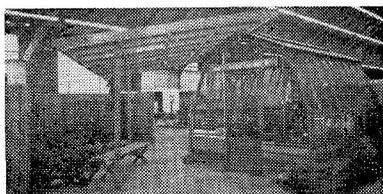
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Please, members and friends, when writing to any of the American Begonia Society Departments (for instance, the Library, Research Department, Membership Secretary, etc.) for assistance or material such as library lists, addresses, or questions to be answered, kindly enclose a self-addressed envelope for their reply.

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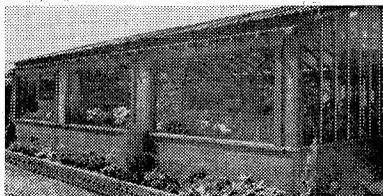
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Visitors Welcome

**YOUR EDITOR RECEIVED—**

—From Maria Wilkes, former Begonian Editor, notice of her transfer to Evans and Reeves Nursery and a copy of "The Grapevine," Evans and Reeves' monthly leaflet which cleverly presents current plant notes and bits of philosophy and information about their nursery.

—From L. Maurice Mason, Talbot Manor, England, a copy of his list of begonias containing many names unfamiliar to ye editor. Persons wishing to borrow this list for purposes of exchanging cuttings with Mr. Mason are welcome to do so if they will send me a 9-inch or longer self-addressed envelope with 6c postage attached.

# The Miracle --

## Your Begonia Garden From Seed

By Elsie Frey, Santa Barbara, Calif.



r. c. Cutie—introduced by Elsie Frey: Dark green veins, silver body with pink overlay; pale green margin shading to rose. 3 inch leaves. —Photos by R. V. Iden

*(Our very fine begonia hybridist tells you how she continually produces the age-old but varied miracle of sowing "dust" and reaping beauty—how you can do it too.—Editor)*

First of all, before I describe the planting of begonia seed, you should know from what source you can obtain seeds. They are quite scarce but you can purchase seeds of tuberous and semperflorens in almost any seed store. Rex seeds aren't so easy to purchase, but several growers advertise in *The Begonian*, as is the case with the tuberous. You can seldom find a place to buy fibrous begonia seeds.

The Seed Fund Chairman of the American Begonia Society has seeds of a great many different begonias. Mrs. Carrell writes all over the world where begonias grow naturally and gets seeds; also she has many of the members pollenate their begonias and save seed to send her.

This year she has many collections to offer, both for beginners and advanced growers, as listed in your October *Begonian*. The begonias grown from this seed are of many kinds and you always get some beauties to be proud

of. So, if you want these seeds, send your money and order in right away, as they are busy now packaging them for you:

Seed Fund, c/o Mrs. Florence Carrell  
214 North Yale Street, Fullerton, Calif.

Perhaps you have saved seed of your own begonias—perhaps some you have hybridized—and wonder if you will be successful in growing them; or perhaps a friend has given you some seed.

Begonia seeds are very tiny and almost like dust of a brownish color.

We who save our own seed thresh it, you might say, by having two sheets of paper such as typing paper. We open the ripened pod over one paper and get the seed out. A single pod may contain many hundreds of fertile seeds, though the number varies greatly according to variety and type. Then we roll the seeds onto the other sheet of paper, being careful not to spill them. The fertile seeds will roll freely onto the other sheet but the unfertile ones will stick more or less to the paper or slide off instead of rolling. If you

*Turn to next page*

will look closely at the seed, maybe through a magnifying glass, you will notice how plump the fertile seeds look.

If there is a great deal of unfertile seeds or pod mixed with the seeds, we shall have to roll them from one sheet to the other several times to remove it. Pieces of pod may be removed with a moistened toothpick.

It is very important that you get rid of all this chaff before planting the seed, as so often when you plant uncleaned seed a mold starts from it and may cause you to lose your seedlings.

I usually crease my paper through the center, so when they are clean, I can pour them into the seed packet and lay them away until ready to plant.

I have been planting seeds of begonias a good many ways for nearly twenty years now so have had lots of experience in the different ways.

A few years ago I knew of planting them in glass covered dishes but thought that shouldn't be good because with no drainage or air they would be sure to damp off. Mrs. Schwerdtfeger got me started planting them that way over a year ago when she demonstrated it to us at one of our meetings. She planted some seeds in a small glass ice box dish and offered them as a second door prize and I won it.

I found it an exceptionally good way to plant seeds, so planted all of my seed the next time in glass-covered dishes. I found they didn't damp off and I could leave them in there a little longer before transplanting. I purchased dishes and also robbed the kitchen. You can use any size glass covered dish but it is best to have clear glass.

Before putting the leafmold in the dishes, we must have the dishes clean and dry and sterilize the leafmold. I have sterilized small amounts by moistening the leafmold and placing it in a medium large shallow pan over the flame and stirring it until it became well heated. Then it only has to cool before using.

Moisten leafmold with just what water it will absorb, as there shouldn't be enough water to drain off of it and stand in the bottom of the dish.

Place coarser sieved leafmold in the bottom of the dish, patting it down lightly (about 1 inch) and add about an eighth of an inch of window-screened leafmold on top, on which you sprinkle the seeds. Don't cover the seeds; only place the lid on the dish and set it away in a warm and light place, 65 to 75 degrees, to germinate—a warm room or the top of your gas refrigerator or in a glass frame in your cloth house or a hotbed, if you're fortunate enough to have one. Label each dish by put-

ting the name on a piece of adhesive tape and sticking it on the outside of the dish.

Tuberous seeds should be planted in January.

Rex and other seeds may be planted most any time of the year, depending on the facilities you have to handle them.

These planted dishes may not need any more water, but if they should, you can put just a little around the edge of the soil inside and the soil will absorb it. Don't allow the soil to become dry.

Another way of using a casserole is to use a clay saucer and place well-soaked peatmoss in the saucer. Soak the peat first in water and squeeze out all the water you can. Over this you place about an eighth of an inch of window-screened one part leaf mold and one part peat in dry or moist condition. It will absorb water from the soaked peatmoss below. You need no drainage hole in the saucer. After this top mixture is wet, plant your seeds on it. Place the saucer in the casserole and place the lid on that. Should there be an excess of moisture, the clay saucer will absorb it, or if too much water gets in the bottom of the casserole, you can remove the saucer and empty the casserole. When your seedlings are ready to transplant, you can just lift the saucer out and it makes it handier and quicker to work. It takes begonia seed anywhere from a week to several weeks to germinate depending on the type.

When the young plants have their first main leaf well developed they are ready for transplanting.

Prepare your soil for transplanting out of sterilized leafmold coarsely screened and sift one-eighth inch of the finely screened peat and leafmold over the top. A shallow flat is best, but if you use a deep flat, put soil only 1½ inch deep. Soak the flat thoroughly first and allow excess water to drain off. There are several different types of dibbles that you can use to remove seedlings.

Loosen the seedlings first, then prick them out separately. The plants are set into the flats 1 or 1½ inches apart, using the pointed end of your dibble to make a hole and the forked end to press the soil fairly firm around the plants. Make holes deep enough in the soil to have room for the roots to go down easily. You could use a board with nails driven in it an even distance apart. Leave enough of the nail out to make the holes the depth you want them. Be sure your board will fit into the flat. This way you can make nice even rows and then you'll be real proud of your transplanted seedlings.

You won't need to water them until they show signs of dryness. You can place a glass

*Turn to page 8*

# Begonia Therapy

By Manson E. Hume

The sheltered garden can have therapeutic value to those who are disabled; should your handicap be a result of War, accident or disease, it matters not. All can be helped to a happier, more interesting lease on life.

Most of us who are disabled need a hobby to keep from being bored with ourselves. Begonia Therapy will try and give you that happier interesting lease on life. It is not a cereal or medicine. It is just the most wonderful hobby of all: the growing of *Begonias*. When you grow plants, no matter what kind, you are working with the Creator of ALL.

Before I became interested in plants, and the growing of begonias especially, I would awake in the morning with the same depressed feeling that life had dealt me a miserable existence of just sitting all day long in a wheelchair. I tried making jewelry; I even tried tying fishing flies, for one of my hobbies was fishing, but it was no use, I just was not interested in anything and just kept feeling sorry for myself. But all that is in the past now. Today I do more than I have ever done in my whole life; I am up at seven each morning and work with my plants all day long. I am growing Begonias and never felt better or looked healthier. I have not had a sick day since I began growing plants and now, with begonias, I find the days are not long enough. I lie awake nights thinking what I have to do the next day: make some more potting soil, build a few more flats for my seedlings, prepare the propagating beds for leaves of begonias (Rex) that I want to increase, mix up some sprays to keep the insects from my plants.

I studied plant propagating under Public Law 16 for disabled veterans and finally decided to specialize in *rex* and *tuberous* begonias. My *rex* are doing fine. The *tuberous* begonias I have not tackled as yet, but this year I am going to try my hand at growing them.

The few little seeds and plants with which I started are plants in the hundreds now. When I left the Army Hospital in 1946 I could just about lift three pounds in each hand; today I can lift a five gallon can full of dirt. I have rigged up all kinds of contraptions to make my working with plants easier and faster. I cut the handles short on all the tools that I use and can work them from my wheelchair just as fast as anyone having the use of his legs. And BOY do I get dirty, even with the shoemaker's apron that I wear. I pot plants just using a board across my lap. I can pull a cart full of dirt attached to the back of my chair.

Any disabled person reading this column

who does not wake in the morning with a smile on his or her face because it is just another day: Please write to me and I will have you laughing again growing begonias, the hobby of Kings. Nothing is impossible. I was given five years to live and that was in 1945, today I received an insurance policy other than my government insurance from a reputable company. WHO said five years? I am going to live to be a hundred growing BEGONIAS.

If you are growing plants now and would like to try begonias, write to me. If you are already growing begonias and have some problems you cannot overcome because of your disability, write me and I will try and solve your problem. If you would like to grow begonias, but just do not think you could, write me. For I have gotten more exercise and therapeutic value from growing begonias than any physio-therapy I had in the hospital.

If you have problems in growing begonias or would like to start growing them, my address is: Interlaken Road, Orlando, Florida. So long until we meet again.

M. E. H.

(Thank you very much, Mr. Hume, for undertaking this, making "The Begonian" finer—Ed.)

## Begonia Alleryi

### —OUR COVER PICTURE

This outstanding hairy fibrous begonia has been with us since 1935 but was first introduced in France in 1905 by M. Allery Aubert. It is recorded that the cross was between *B. metallica* and *B. gigantea* but there is little evidence of *B. gigantea*. It definitely shows its *B. metallica* influence.

The entire plant is covered with short white glistening hairs. The leaves are shallowly lobed but not as deeply lobed as those of *B. metallica*. In color, the leaves are greener than most of the hairy fibrous and have a harder texture than most of this class. The veins are quite depressed on the upper surface. The under surface of the leaves are only a trifle lighter than the top surface but the veins are quite pronounced and a deep purplish red.

The stems are green, flushed with red in the older stems but the newer growth shows only reddish. The entire stem is flecked with white dashes. The petioles of the leaves are dark purplish red, while those of the flower stems are a lighter red.

The flowers themselves are white, although it takes close scrutiny to determine this. The backs of the petals are covered with such a brilliant shade of pink that it casts an aura over the whole cluster. The male flowers

Turn to next page

are composed of two large petals and two narrow ones. They are about two inches long and about an inch and a quarter wide. The female flowers are composed of five petals, four of them the same size, and one somewhat smaller. The flower averages about an inch in width. The seed pod has two small wings and one elongated wing and is tinted pink.

The plant is a good bloomer with large clusters of flowers growing upright above the foliage, often drooping with the weight of the many blossoms.

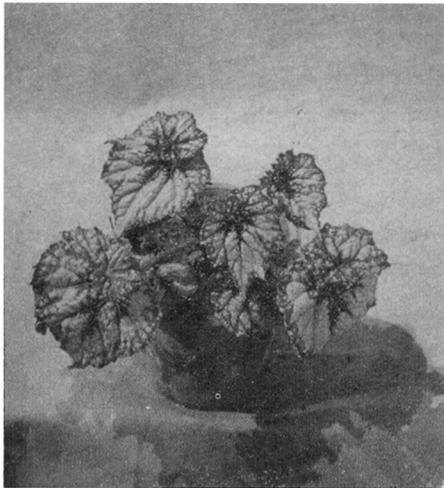
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#### BEGONIAS FROM SEED, cont. from page 6

over the flat for a while and leave a small air space.

Transplant again into flats of deeper soil when the plants touch each other.

Tuberous seedlings and *semperflorens* grow very fast. Some fibrous grow fast while others are quite slow. Rex seedlings are quite slow although some will grow so fast they are ready to be potted while others are still tiny and must remain in the flat for some time longer. Don't throw away the tiny ones, as often they develop into some of the finest plants. Don't pot up rex seedlings until they are large enough to go into 3½ or 4 inch pots, as they



r. c. Mickey—introduced by Louise Schwerdtfeger: Center brown, body silver with pea green and brown margin stippled with silver dots. A miniature, total diameter 10 inches.

will grow much better in flats or boxes. You may lose some of them if you pot them too soon.

Don't have the idea you can't grow begonias from seed before you've tried. You can if

you try, and if first you don't succeed, try again.

It is most exciting to watch them grow from tiny seedlings into lovely, beautiful begonias. You never know what your little hybrids will be like until you grow them to a pretty good size. You always get new types from rex begonia seed. If you've grown rexes from leaves, you know how exciting it is when you see them starting to grow. Plant some seeds of rex begonias and you will thrill to a much greater degree.

Remember, for quite a while they remain green and you think, "Oh, they are all going to be green." But don't get discouraged, because soon they'll develop new leaves that will perhaps have a few silver spots or blotches of silver here and there and you can see which ones are going to be curls. Then some will develop true leaves which are simply beautiful, and each day you have to run out and look at them before you do your breakfast dishes to see if any more have new leaves. That's the most fun! Why not try your luck out with some seeds?

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#### LIBRARY NOTES

A recent monograph — *STUDIES IN THE BEGONIACEAE*, by Lyman B. Smith, Dept. of Botany, U. S. National Museum, and Bernice G. Schubert, Gray Herbarium, of Harvard University, has been added to the library files. Serious students of the begonia will be interested in the botanical descriptions of three species from Mexico, two from Panama and two from Colombia. This is a reprint from the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*, Vol. 40, No. 8, Aug. 15, 1950, and may be purchased from the Academy of Sciences for \$0.90 per copy. Remittances should be addressed to the Treasurer, H. S. Rappleye, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington 25, D. C. and made payable to the Washington Academy of Sciences. The library copy is available on loan to those members who are interested.

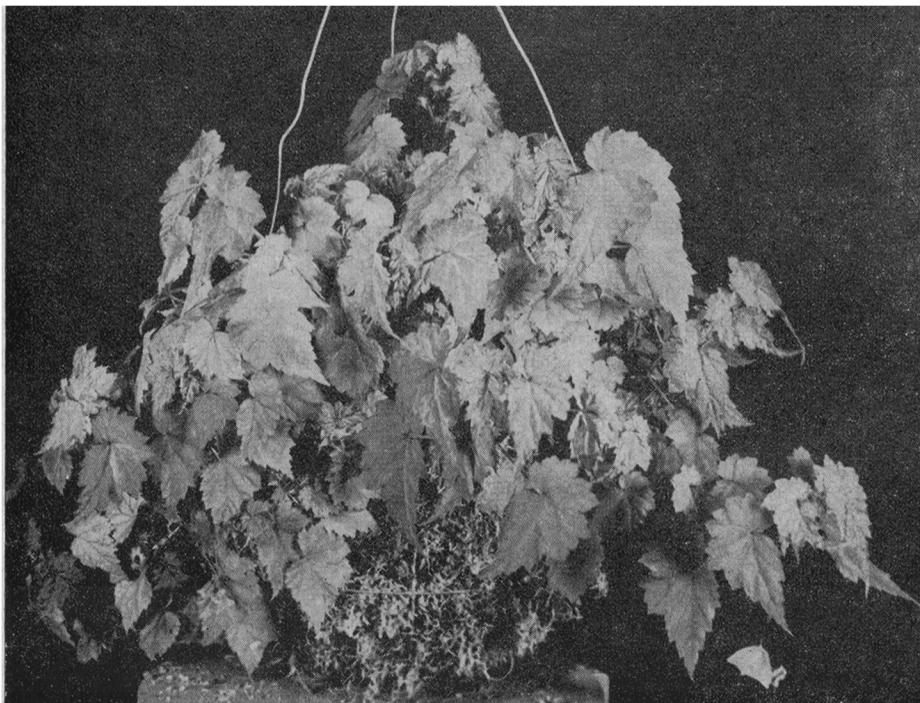
*SYMPTOMS INDUCED BY SOME SPECIES OF APHIDS FEEDING ON FERNS* by Henry H. P. Severin and C. M. Tompkins should assist members who are having difficulty in growing a show specimen of a "bird's nest" fern.

The above seem to be rather heavy technical tomes but I can assure you they will be found of interest to all members and it is advisable to add such material, when possible, to your library. These are your books and you should make them serve you.

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian

# Begonia Lulandi

By Marie Minter, Encinitas, California



If one were looking for an excellent hanging basket type of begonia, he would not go wrong in selecting *B. Lulandi* for the purpose. The plant is low and spreading, thickly branched and soon fills a basket with a well rounded specimen plant.

The original cross was *B. lucerna* x *B. Sutherlandi*, but it shows very little of the *lucerna* blood. The larger size flowers are its only indication that a cane variety was used as one of the parents. The plant forms a small tuber and its branching habit and shape of the leaves readily identify it as a child of *B. Sutherlandi*.

The stems are swollen at the nodes, light red in color, which contrasts very effectively with the green leaves. The leaves themselves are shaped somewhat like *B. Sutherlandi* but are wider and not quite as long. They are a little lighter green in color with a fine line of red around the edge of the leaf. The flowers are larger than others in this class and bright pink in color.

While this plant retains more of an evergreen habit, it is not as long lived and new plants should be started at least every two years.

Leslie Woodriff made the original cross in

Photo Courtesy Helen K. Krauss

1939 and it has proved to be one of the more popular types carried by many nurseries, both because of its ease in propagating and its more or less evergreen habit.

## Beginners' Corner

*Begonia Lulandi* is recommended to you who would like to display your new hobby in hanging baskets. Also good are the manicatas, Bunchi, Feasti, erythrophylla helix, Sunderbruchi, sanguinea, Limminghei, glabra, etc.

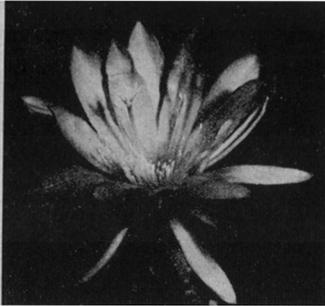
The rooms in your home would be dull without pictures on the walls. Did you ever consider your front porch as a room? Begonias in baskets will serve the same purpose there as pictures do within, welcoming visitors by their glowing warmth decorating the plain porch walls.

Start the new year by contacting one of the begonia growers advertising herein. They will be glad to supply the baskets, plants and cultural directions on the care of hanging baskets.

"BUY BEGONIAN"

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT OUR FRIENDS, THE EPIPHYLLUMS

By Mr. Guy R. Cadwallader, Glendale, Calif.



(In answer to some questions propounded by Mrs. Floyd Mumford of Kuna, Idaho, about our companion plants the epiphyllums, Mr. Cadwallader came to our rescue from his great store of knowledge on the subject with the following answers, which should help many readers who treasure *Orchid Cacti* side by side with their *Begonias*.—Editor.)

Regarding round and flat growths: Epiphyllum plants differ in many ways; some have flat, some four-sided, some three-sided leaves, and all seedlings (first year) will be many-sided and round. Most of the wild epiphyllums are three-sided or very narrow, flat and long. Sometimes a good flat-leaved variety that is starved and not taken care of will revert back to the seedling stage of many angles and short thorns. I have had this experience. Some of the epiphyllum that have three angles are: *Eden*, *Achermanii*, *Moncherie*, *G. W. Beahm*, *Erlauer* (thorny), *Cooperii*, *Curt Gierhard*, *Cinnabarinus*, *Peacockii* (thorny), etc.

The fine color and size is acquired over a long period of time by cross-pollenizing the wild epiphyllum with the *Heliocereus*, *Nyctocereus*, *Selenicereus*, *Hyllocereus*, *Azoro Cactus* and others of the cactus family of the red flowering variety. The above varieties are of the round or many-angled varieties of cactus that will cross easily. Growing from seed is a long slow process, taking from five to seven years to bloom and then the bloom may be inferior and of no value. I have in my stock about forty plants, and if I get one good bloom, I will accomplish about all that can be expected.

Question: Should they be grown in sun or shade?

Answer: The wild epiphyllum is naturally a shade or filtered sunlight plant. They are jungle plants. They are found mostly in Central America, the Northern Coast of South America near the Amazon River, in Paraguay,

or in the tropical districts of Mexico. Growing in trees as epiphyte and not a parasite, they do not derive their nourishment from the tree itself but from the old dead leaves, moss and humus that is lodged in the rough bark of the tree. In this territory they have a very high humidity and lots of rain; being in trees they have perfect drainage, eliminating the danger of root rot.

Question: Prune or allow to grow the way they wish?

Answer: Pruning should be done to keep the plant clean of dead wood, old, unnecessary or bloomed out stock, or to keep a well balanced plant. Their natural style of growth is trailing or basket, taking up a great amount of space. Staking or trellising is advisable where space is limited. Making them grow upward will show off the flowers to better advantage and they will be easier to handle when moving.

Question: How can I make them bloom freely?

Answer: There is no set rule for blooming. Some types bloom more than others. The age of the plant controls the blooming to a certain extent. Don't expect too much from a young plant. Two, three or four year olds, or more, are the ones from which to expect bloom.

Question: Should they have a dry season?

Answer: They have or should have a rest period at the close of the flowering season, not a dry season. During the rest period some will seem to shrivel and look bad but if properly cared for will return to normal. During the flowering period the plant gives its all to beauty and must be allowed a rest period.

Question: What kind of soil and fertilizer are best?

Answer: Go back to their native life: Their chief food and rooting mix is leaf mold, moss and dust from the air with humidity, rain and good drainage. For the gardener at home: equal parts organic compost and sandy loam; or one part good topsoil, one part leafmold, one part sand and one-half part charcoal or charred wood (not ashes). They take about the same potting mix as *Begonias*, with good drainage. They don't want to be too wet or too dry.

Fertilizer? A mixture of equal parts of steer and sheep manure with blood and bone and cottonseed meal applied on the surface about twice a year—say September and February are good months.



## Q + A = Success

by Research Dept.

Question: May ferns be hybridized?

Answer: Yes. This is usually accomplished by planting two or more varieties of the same group of ferns in one pot. Two varieties of *Adiantums* may produce a new variety. Or two varieties of *Polypodium*. There is no way to pollinize fern spores and any new variation must take place in the prothallium stage. By planting two allied species, the sperm and egg cycle will often produce a distinct variation from either plant used originally.

Question: Do all ferns have spores?

Answer: Most of them do, but there are exceptions. *Polypodium Knightii* is one of them.

Question: Can the little bulbs on the Mother fern be grown on?

Answer: These may be detached from the parent plant when of sufficient size and planted into shallow, well-drained seed pans, and for a week or two left in the propagating frame, where they will soon form roots, when they can be potted up. Incidentally the correct name of this fern is *Asplenium bulbiferum*.

Question: Are there other ferns with bulbs growing on the leaf?

Answer: Bailey lists the following: *Adiantum caudatum*, *A. Edgeworthii*, *A. lunulatum* var. *dolabriforme*, *Asplenium Belangerii*, *A. salicifolium*, *Polystichum angulare* var. *proliferum* and many others.

Questions come in during the course of the year concerning the Armchair Explorers' Correspondence Clubs, so perhaps it would not be amiss to clear up a few points.

There are no dues attached. This is a service of the Research Department which is your privilege to join. The only requirements for joining are that you are a member of the American Begonia Society and that you are a member of the Seed Fund.

When you ask to join in our discussions you are placed in one of the Correspondence Clubs best suited for your particular locality and growing conditions. In that way, you gain the experience of other members who have about the same conditions to work under. There is a special division for California growers, one for our northern states and Canada, and one for the mid-west. If sufficient requests come in for other sections of the country, new Clubs will be started immediately. I would like to hear particularly from the South-east section of the country, especially Florida. We exchange information concerning the seeds

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## Armchair Explorers

January Newsletter

Our skipper has asked me to write you a few lines this month and I want to tell you about a grand trip our former editor, Dorothy Behrends, her small son, Bill, and I took down the coast and on into Mexico. We went as far as Ensenada, Baja Calif., where we ate Mexican food in the beautiful Hotel Jack Dempsey built in the early 30's. It overlooks Todos Santos Bay. The flora of Mexico is quite different from our side of the border; there the hills are covered with succulents and cacti; some hills had great patches of a white *Dudleya* and had the appearance of snow at a distance. Most of our trip was along the ocean and the views were most beautiful looking off into that deep blue. We came back with the car loaded with sea shells and lobsters. We found many treasures along the rocky beaches and did have a most wonderful time.

Another trip recently took me to visit Mrs. Susie Zug and her beautiful begonia garden in San Dimas. Many of her largest rex begonias are grown in large pots set around in a most natural looking setting under lath, these are mingled with ferns, philodendrons and other attractive plants. Many of her rex plants are her own seedlings. One unnamed rex was so large it could be the Granddaddy of all rexes. She hopes to send a picture to the Begonian soon. I saw the plant when in full bloom, the leaves were huge and very colorful. It is worth a trip over to San Dimas just to see this one large rex begonia.

Over one hundred members have already sent in for their begonia seed, many are wanting to plant their seed before spring. We can still supply the begonia seed collections as listed in the October issue. These seeds will be mailed out as soon as your order is received, but don't put it off, for you may be disappointed as there is a limit to the number of collections we can make up. The seed will just go so far, and each year many are disappointed.

New seeds:

*Begonias hispidavillosa*, *Johnstoni*, No. C42, *circumlobata*, *epipsila*, and *heracleicoryle major* —25c per packet.

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*Saintpaulia bicolor* and *Saintpaulia* mixed hybrids—75c per packet.

*Gloxinia pink slipper*—25c per packet.  
Send orders to Mrs. E. Carrell, 214 No. Yale St., Fullerton, Calif.

Your skipper's helper,  
*Mrs. Maud Nichols*

### MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION—

To support our advertisers by buying their merchandise whenever possible and then telling them you read their ads in *The Begonian*.



*Mrs. Victoria Kartack, Baraboo, Wis.*—On Growing *Amaryllis* from Seed.

*Amaryllis* seed should be planted as soon as possible after harvesting since they lose their viability quickly.

Grow in flats having good drainage or use flat bulb pots if growing only a few seeds. Place seeds one inch apart and cover with half an inch of soil mixture: 3 parts good friable loam, one part leafmold, and a sprinkling of sand. Run soil mixture through a sieve. Water well after planting and then sparingly as a fungus may develop which destroys the seeds. Put in a light place at about 60-65 degrees. The seedlings can be kept in the flats or pots until they show signs of crowding, when they should be potted in three-inch pots having at least an inch of cinders or gravel at the bottom. Use the following mixture: 3 parts of good loam, 1 part well rotted manure, and a sprinkling of sand. When the pots are full of roots, the bulbs should be shifted into 5-inch pots and care should be taken at this time to see that half the bulb is above the soil. Always water well after each repotting but do not over-water after that. Never let water stand in the saucer. The bulbs should be grown to the flowering stage without a check or rest. If they seem crowded in the 5-inch pots, they should be shifted to 7-inch, in which they will flower. After the bulbs are in the 5-inch pots, they should be given manure water at two week intervals.

If grown under greenhouse conditions they should flower in about two years. Under house conditions they usually take about a year longer. From experience I find that it is best to keep the seedlings growing till they bloom. It does not hurt the bulblets to rest them a part of the winter but it takes that much longer to bring them to the bloom stage.

### BRANCH NEWS

**EL MONTE**—Held election at the November 16th meeting and installed the following officers: President, Mr. Earl Bushey; Vice-president, Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman; Recording secretary, Mrs. Russell Hewitt; Corresponding secretary, Mrs. Gladys Adams; Treasurer, Floyd Adams; National representative, Mrs. Elinor Slocum; Director, Mr. Ozell Abbott; Librarian, Mrs. Earl Bushey. Our speaker was Gordon Baker Lloyd on "Holiday Flower Arrangements."—*Mrs. Gladys Adams*.

**GLENDALE**—Has elected 1951 officers as follows: President, Mrs. Anna Marek; Vice-president, Mr. George Stark; Treasurer, Mr. Oscar Haller; Secretary, Mrs. Gladys Beirdeau; Cor. Secretary, Mrs. Edna Bradley; National representative, Mr. Charles Richardson; Membership directors, Mr. and Mrs. David Winans.—*Mrs. Violet Moore*.

**HUB CITY**—Held a fine potluck dinner at the Lynwood home of Mrs. Cuppers followed by a meeting which Mrs. Jensen addressed on our namesake plants—*Begonias*.

—*Mrs. Walter Marsh*

**INGLEWOOD**—Had a rousing Christmas meeting with Landscape Architect Peggy Sullivan describing her trip to Hawaii and showing her marvelous color slides. Past National President Bill Walton installed officers.

Our January 11th meeting will also be exceptionally fine with Norvell Gillespie showing slides of his European garden tour.

**MIAMI**—At our November meeting our nominating committee reported and also our Show Committee. No sweepstakes plant was selected because our 9 accredited judges decided at least 20 plants were too closely matched to select one among them for the honor. —*Mrs. A. E. Sackett*. (*Mrs. Sackett entered 16 plants which took 11 first and second ribbons and has sent in seven beautiful portraits of plants entered in the show for the use of The Begonian.* THANKS!—EDITOR.)

**MISSOURI**—The subject of this meeting could have been "There'll be some changes made." Most important was our \$1.00 local dues. Scarcely any complaint was heard and some said it was cheap at twice the price. We changed our meeting time to the third Tuesday of the month instead of the fourth. We also moved our election to November instead of December.

The following officers were elected: President, Lucille Taylor; vice-president, Amy Bre shears; secretary, Mona Ayers; treasurer, Hattie Taylor; historian, Sarah Greene; and representative director, Leora Calmese.

We think this year should be outstanding. One new member, Mrs. Seeves, has built a green house 7 x 12 feet—and with zero

weather she needs it. Mrs. Ayers has a lath house ready to go up in the spring, and several others are talking about lath houses. Plans are under way for two shows. We have a year book in the making. Each meeting we plan a study on one group of plants, a little show, for judging, and some other subject.

We had a fine social time afterwards. Our other outside project was completed before Thanksgiving—donating fifty plants to the Nettleton Home. They were furnished by our members.—*Leora Calmese.*

ORANGE CO.—November was election evening. Our speaker was Art Wertz, camellia expert, who discussed them thoroughly and answered many questions. He told us camellias can stand more sun than we give them. He and Harold Larsen then showed slides of many varieties, following which we had a social hour and plant sale.

December was our Christmas party with tree and gifts. Among visitors were San Francisco members, Mr. and Mrs. James Shepherd. A fine program of poetry and music was presented.

The following officers were installed: President, Mr. Chas. Criss; vice-president, Mrs. Woods; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Perry Grout; and Miss Wood, national representative. In appreciation of her fine leadership during the past three years, Mrs. Woods presented the retiring president, Mrs. Mary Green, with a camellia plant. We are all looking forward to a fine year under the leadership of our new officers.—*Helen Meyer.*

PASADENA—Held election of officers as follows: President, W. Martin Bell; president-elect, Frank Rich; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Harold Benson; and national representative, Col. C. M. Gale.

SACRAMENTO—At our November meeting we were fortunate to have as our speaker Mrs. Bert Foster, who is the permanent chairman of floral displays for the annual Camellia Shows in Sacramento.

Mrs. Foster demonstrated the actual processes of making floral arrangements and used begonia leaves and flowers and other shade loving plants. She stressed the necessity of using plastic waterproof clay to anchor frogs in the vase before beginning an arrangement. She showed us how to anchor the frogs in a dry vase in accordance with the design desired. Mrs. Foster said that when stems are too small to fit on pin-point frogs, we may use small piece of additional stem wrapped to the other with thread and they will stand up nicely; suggested that we save all pieces of stems and leaves to finish off arrangements in both front and back; showed how to use stiff pieces of stems to brace floppy leaves. Mrs. Foster told us to strive for rhythm and flowing lines,

which comes to one by study and practice. She said that clay should not be used in silver bowls; that black tops of cold cream jars make nice substitutes for teakwood stands; to use white or light colored bowls for white or delicately colored flowers and dark bowls for darker flowers; if tones in flowers blend with those of vase, the effect is pleasing. She told us that we might rejuvenate rusted pin point frogs by brushing them with ammonia and drying them over the pilot light on the gas range.

Election and the installation of officers was the only business at the December 19th meeting, which was followed by a cheery Christmas party with the exchange of garden gifts among the members. This Christmas meeting was truly a place —

*Where all was joy and gladness at the Christmas tide,*

*Where we, by love and friendliness, endeavor to abide*

*By the teachings of the Saviour, born this Christmas day.*

*Helped by God and Nature, we have surely found the way*

*Through the beautiful Begonia, to worship at His shrine,*

*Drawing closer to each other, guided by His love divine—Ruthanne Williams.*

SAN GABRIEL—Offers a full evening January 24th, celebrating its 12th birthday with dinner at 7:00 p. m., installation of officers, and, as a real treat—our speaker—none other than Alfred C. Hottes of La Jolla on "Let's Remember the Home Grounds." Mr. Hottes, the author of many De La Mare garden books, is an outstanding and entertaining speaker and all are invited to attend. Please make dinner reservations in advance.

—*Clarence W. Johnston*

SANTA BARBARA—Our November meeting was primarily a Pet Show—of favorite begonias. 8 or 9 members brought from two to five pets, gave their pedigrees, habits, tolerances, etc. While there were more fibrous-rooted varieties than others, yet the rexes were present and were interesting. Richard Broder's very dark leaved seedling rex was outstanding. He named this *Lady Margaret* for his mother, Mrs. Raymond E. Broder.

The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Mrs. Ethel Arnold; vice-president, Roy G. Pierce; secretary, Mrs. Alice Manley; treasurer, Mrs. Elsie Frey.

The Begonia Study group will next meet in March.—*Roy G. Pierce.*

SHEPHERD—New officers elected: President, Mr. Robert Renshaw; vice-president, Mrs. Clyde Snodgrass; secretary, Mr. Orville A. Rogers; treasurer, Mrs. N. D. McCollim; and national director, Mr. Ted Lemmon.

## Branch Meeting Dates and Places

### BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Jan. 1, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.  
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.  
Audrey Adams, Secretary,  
6139 Graywood Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

### EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Ward Street  
C. F. Jensen, Sec.  
3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.

### EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Jan. 18, 8:00 p.m.  
Christian Ch. Fellowship Hall, 304 E. Valley  
Mrs. Gladys Adams, Cor. Sec.  
11215 E. Elliott Ave., El Monte, Calif.

### FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Jan. 5, Feb. 2, 8:00 p.m.  
Woman's Club House, 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa  
Mrs. Mabel Goheen, Secretary  
360 W. Sierra Madre Ave., Glendora, Calif.

### FORT. ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, Jan. 6, Feb. 3  
Mrs. Marion R. Thompson, Secretary  
129 White Horse Pike, Magnolia, N. J.

### GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Jan. 24, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central Ave.  
Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Secretary  
1432 E. Wilson, Glendale 6, Calif.

### GRAY. EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, LaJolla  
Thillie Center, Corres. Secy.  
7356 Eads St., LaJolla, Calif.

### GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 23, 10:30 a.m.  
Home of Members  
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following  
Mrs. Ernest Jones, Sec.  
R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

### HEART OF AMERICA

2nd Tuesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Members' Residences  
Mr. Homer Meek, Secy-Treas.  
1306 N. 28th, Kansas City, Kans.

### HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:00 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Walter J. Butt, Cor. Secy.  
861 So. Harvard, Los Angeles 5, Calif.

### HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Roosevelt High School Cafe  
1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.  
Mrs. Mildred Ogden, Secy.  
114 East Olive St., Compton 3, Calif.

### HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 8, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.  
Miss Margaret Smith  
P. O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

### INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 11, 8:00 p.m.  
325 No. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Minna Slatter, Secy.  
4600 6th Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

### I.A MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 8, 8:00 p.m.  
Porter Park  
Mrs. G. W. McManus  
Rt. 1, Box 1070, La Mesa, Calif.

### LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
2255 Elm St., Long Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Mary Congdon, Treas.  
1500 East 4th St., Long Beach, Calif.

### MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Sec.  
2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

### MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 16, 8:00 p.m.  
Member's Residence  
Mrs. Mona Ayers, Sec.  
6655 Bellfontaine, Kansas City, Mo.

### NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. H. H. Buxton, Sec.  
114 Central St., Peabody, Mass.

### NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Sec.-Treas.: Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson  
P. O. Box 818, Denville, N. J.

### NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Houghton Park Club House  
Harding & Atlantic, No. Long Beach  
F. John Nachbor, Secy.  
6217 Butler Ave., Long Beach 5, Calif.

### ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Farm Bureau Hall, 353 So. Main St., Orange  
Sec.-Treas., Mrs. W. L. Everett, R. 2, Box 146  
Orange, Calif.

### PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Casita del Arroya, 177 S. Arroyo Blvd., Pasa.  
Mrs. Harold Benson, Sec.-Treas.  
360 N. Fair Oaks, Pasadena 3, Calif.

### PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Jan. 19, 8:00 p.m.  
McKinley Rec. Center, Washington & Vallejo Sts.  
J. Earl Wilson, Secretary  
111 Hill Blvd., Petaluma, Calif.

### PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

Mrs. Lillian Watts, Sec.  
405 Cotswald Lane, Wynnwood, Pa.

### REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, Jan. 26, 8:00 p.m.  
Community Hall, 1620 Pier Avenue  
Redondo Beach, Calif.  
Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Sec.  
522 So. Guadalupe Ave. Redondo Beach, Calif.

### RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Jan. 10, 8:00 p.m.  
Member's Residence  
Mrs. Zena L. Twonley, Sec.  
7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

### ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 23, 8:00 p.m.  
3030 Homer Street, San Diego 6, Calif.  
Mrs. Edyth Sherwood, c/o Mrs. Leta Wescott  
1767 Sunset Cliffs Blvd., San Diego 7, Calif.

### SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 16, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, McKinley Park  
Mr. J. C. Roberts, Secretary  
293 40th St., Sacramento, Calif.

### SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Thursday, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Salem Y.M.C.A.  
Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secretary  
2750 Lancaster Dr., Salem, Oregon

### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 23  
Lions' Club, 3927 Utah St.  
Mrs. D. M. McDaniel, Sec.  
1059 Meade Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Garden Center, 11134 Weddington, No. Hillywd.  
Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secretary  
7961 Balboa Blvd., Van Nuys, Calif.

### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.  
603 Taraval St.  
Sec., Mrs. Wm. Meyer  
1422 27th Ave., San Francisco 22, Calif.

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Jan. 24, 8:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Av., Arcadia  
Mrs. Dorothy deHart, Sec.  
509 So. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif.

### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Rm. 5, Com. Center, 914 Santa Barbara St.  
Santa Barbara, California  
Roy C. Pierce, Secy.  
914 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

### SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.  
225 - 26th St. (upstairs), Santa Monica, Calif.  
Mrs. J. R. Hall, Secretary  
933 17th St., Santa Monica, Calif.

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**SANTA PAULA BRANCH**

4th Thursday, Jan. 25, 6:30 p.m.  
Steckel Park  
Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger, 621 Santa Paula St.  
Santa Paula, California

**SEATTLE BRANCH**

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 16  
Member's Homes  
Mrs. Thomas Myers, Secy.  
6057-31, N. E., Seattle 5, Washington

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH**

1st Tuesday, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C. H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mr. Orville A. Rogers, Secy.  
126 So. Pacific Ave., Ventura, Calif.

**SO. ALAMEDA CO. BRANCH**

3rd Thursday, Jan. 18, 8:00 p.m.  
Faculty Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Mrs. Harvey Manning, Cor. Secy.  
21455 E. 14th St., Hayward, Calif.

**SOUTHGATE BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
South Gate Municipal Auditorium  
Mr. Ray Venable, Secy.  
8624 Garden View Ave., Southgate, Calif.

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**

4th Friday, Jan. 26  
Mr. E. Weaver, Pres.  
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**

2nd Tuesday, Jan. 9, 11:00 a.m.  
Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Park,  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Mrs. John C. Schmucker, Sec.-Treas.  
Box 233, Brownsville, Pa.

**WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEVELAND, O.**

4th Wednesday, Jan. 24, 8:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Sec.  
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

**WHITTIER BRANCH**

4th Tuesday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Union High School, Room 15  
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.  
Mrs. Gretchen Bauchop, Secy.  
9741 S. Santa Fe Springs Rd., Whittier, Calif.

**QUESTION-ANSWER, cont. from page 11**

we try to grow, our experiments with different methods and growing mediums and various and sundry matters concerning begonias in general. Personalities are ruled out. The letters should be on the subject which is our hobby—growing begonias from seed and our luck with them.

When you receive the group of letters you are asked to write a letter, place it with the group of letters and mail it to the next person on the list. This will cost from 6c to 12c, depending on the weight of the packet. All correspondence must be mailed first class and should be in strong envelopes. If you are unable to obtain manila envelopes, a band of Scotch tape around both ends of the envelope and one around the center will strengthen the envelope so that it will reach the next party in good condition. Upon the return of the group of letters you remove your letter and write a new one.

The letters should come to you three or four times a year depending on the mileage covered. You are allowed to keep the letters four days and when you mail them to the next party, you also mail a penny post card to the director saying the letters have been mailed on, and to whom. In each packet of letters there is a mailing list. Be sure this is enclosed.

Due to three changes of address this past year there has been some confusion with my mail but I am assured that my troubles are over. Address your requests to Research Department, Route 1, 505 Hermes Street, Encinitas, California.

There is another service of the Research Department which is your privilege to use. If you have any questions which are bothering you, you may write in to the Research Department and I will try to find the answers. I do request that you enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope for your reply. The address is the same. Research Department, Route 1, 505 Hermes Street, Encinitas, California.

**CONDENSED MINUTES** meeting National Board, American Begonia Society, held in the City Hall, Los Angeles, Nov. 27th, 1950.

Present for the meeting: Messrs. Moore, Trowbridge, Lorenz, Spaulding, Sherer, Small, Mesdames Korts, Nolan, MacLanahan, Schwerdtfeger, Hartwell. Branches represented: Riverside, Pasadena, San Gabriel Valley, Glendale, Hollywood, Inglewood, Santa Monica, Santa Barbara.

Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims & Purposes of the Society.

On motion reading of Oct. Minutes omitted—previously published.

Reports of Editor, Membership Fees, Treasurer, Business Mgr. read and on motion accepted as read.

Public Relations Director reported fine progress. President announced appointment of Jack MacLanahan as Chairman Slide Library. No report ready at this time but at next meeting will have a full report ready.

Librarian's report showed some very interesting material being added to our library and also that members were finding the reference books and pamphlets very helpful. Following is a partial report of additional material.

Books purchased for resale: 25 copies THE TUBEROUS BEGONIA, A. G. Langdon; 6 copies HOW TO INCREASE PLANTS, A. C. Hottes.

New material for circulation: Bound copy of CAMELIA RESEARCH—published by the Southern Calif. Camellia Society and received as exchange material; two monographs on BEGONIAS by Lyman B. Smith & Bernice Schubert, i.e. REVISION DE LAS ESPECIES ARGENTINAS DEL GENERO BEGONIA, & REVISION DE LAS ESPECIES BOLIVIANAS DEL GENERO BEGONIA.

Dr. Smith, Associate Curator of the U. S. Herbarium, Smithsonian Institute, U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., has agreed to forward his Begonia papers in future to the library of the A.B.S. in exchange for the Begonian.

Ten courtesy copies of the Begonian sent out in November to Garden Clubs and societies affiliated with the American Horticultural Society.

Flower Show. Chairman announced meeting dates for Hobby Show at Shrine Auditorium; International Flower Show; Spring Flower Show at Brookside Park, Pasadena and urged members to get their plants in readiness to enter.

No report yet from Horticultural Council meeting. Watch your Begonian for report.

Public Relations offered to make up a roster, giving names, addresses and official titles if the Branches would send her the results of their elections. And to make it possible for Mrs. Korts to send our notices for the National meetings, she must have the names and addresses of the Representative Directors of each branch. Please see that she gets this information.

**BRANCH REPORTS**

Many interesting and helpful programs were reported by branch members; good speakers available and good slide programs coming up.

Branches cordially invited visitors and stressed group visiting among the branches—a good way to make new friends and create beneficial exchange of begonia lore, and besides that, it is a lot of fun.

No National Board meeting in December. Jan. 22nd, 1951, next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gonda Hartwell, Sec.

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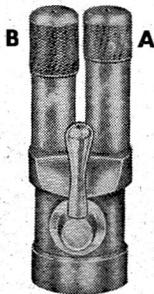
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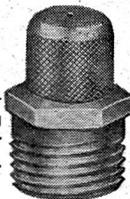


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