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BEGONIA
MANICATA
AT
CASA CONTENTA
GUATEMALA

Plant of
Senora Morales



Photo by
Marjorie Wihtol



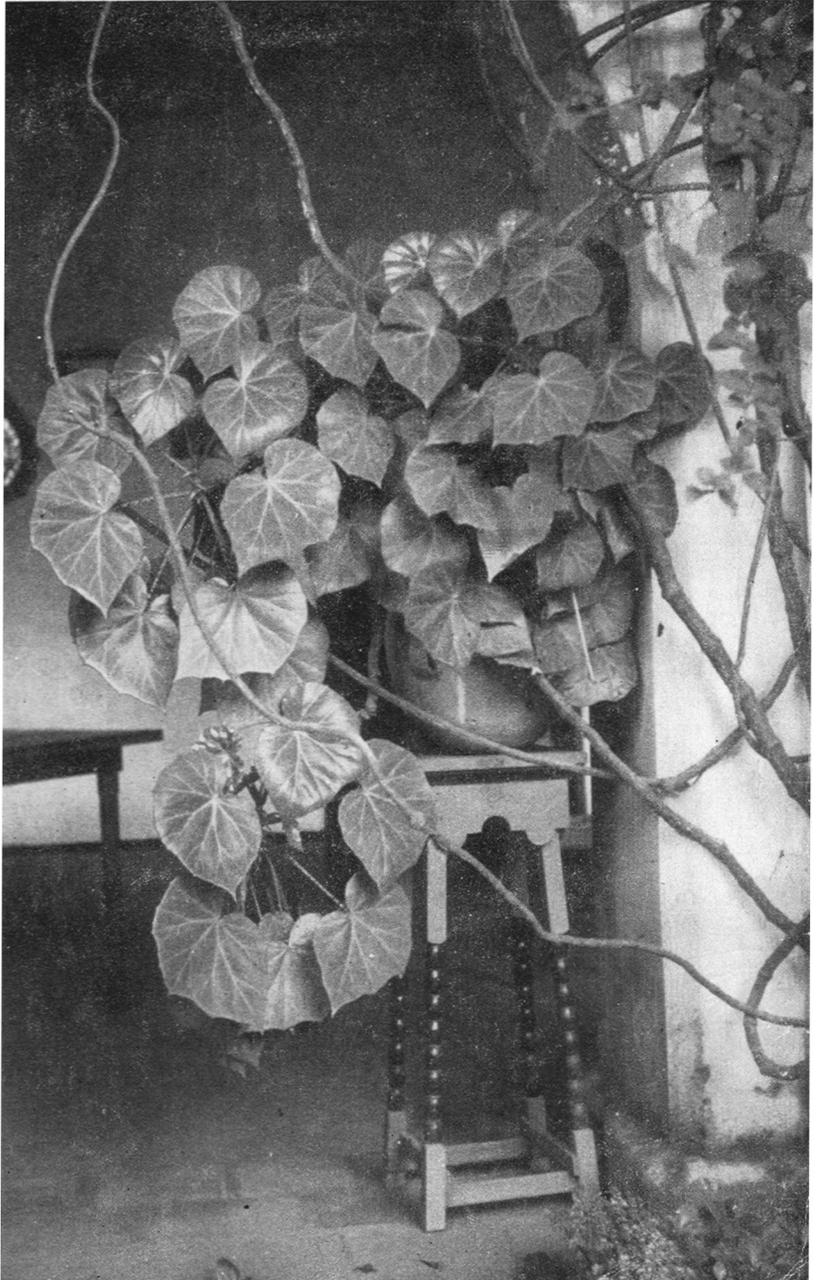
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VOL. XIX
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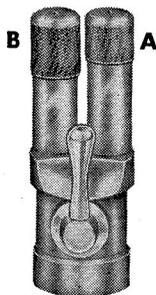
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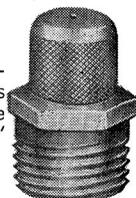


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A shady corner at Casa Contenta

Casa Contenta, Guatemala

Photography of Marjorie Wihtol, Red Bank, N.J.

Mrs. Karl Wihtol, of Red Bank, New Jersey, writes of her recent trip to Guatemala:

"To these eastern eyes, all these plants were enormous. The unidentified specimen pictured is the variety most frequently seen there."

(Our cover shows *Begonia manicata*, the original green-leaved species, per Rudolf Ziesenhenné. Note the hairy collars on leaf-stems.)

"There is another begonia which is ubiquitous in Guatemala. I was told it was "*pictata*" or "*illustrata*", but can find no mention of the plant in my reference books. It is rhizomatous and has a medium-sized leatherish brown

leaf with green speckles. The plant grows like *Feastii*, neither up nor down.

"I expected to find begonias in the wild down there but did not, though I understand at least one species grows high on the volcanoes. Besides the varieties pictured, the only ones I saw were a few leggy *coccineas* and 'Catalinas'. The jungle had many giant air-plants, some with long red blooms, which I saw from the train window; most of them appeared to be on dead trees. The only orchid I saw was a rather dismal brownish-yellow one that blooms upside-down, shoving its buds down through the fiber, but leaving its

Turn to Page 6

The BEGONIAN

January—

*Winter's icy fingers hypnotize our
greenery
Till in trance it stands as unfamiliar
scenery.*



**From the photograph, Mr. Ziesenhene was unable to identify this begonia.
It may be a hybrid.**

foliage on top. I think I glimpsed a staghorn fern high on a tree; it was at least five feet wide."

Mrs. Wihtol took some excellent color transparencies of "some of the hundreds of tuberous begonias grown by Señora Morales at her Casa Contenta in Panajachel. She buys them every year from Vetterle & Reinelt and grows them magnificently in full sun, with added lime and no drainage." Señora Morales uses what appear to be heavy hand-made clay bowls, 10 or 12 inches deep and wide for many of her specimen plants and grouped them in the deep window sills of her lovely modern home.

Panajachel is in the Sierra Madre of Guatemala, close to the magnificent

Lake Atitlan, which has an altitude of 5098 feet, and the Sierra volcanic peaks range to over 12,000 feet.

Note the amazingly faithful tile reproduction of the famous painting of Don Pedro de Alvarado which hangs in the City Hall of Guatemala City. (Alvarado was the alert and clever lieutenant of Cortez who conquered Guatemala for Spain, and commenced its modern history.)

There are several species described as found in Guatemala, but most of them are not commonly in cultivation at least under the same name. However, many collectors are familiar with one

— *B. Kellermani*, with white - scurfy foliage, deeply cupped.

Growing Begonias from Seed

A.B.S. INSTRUCTION SHEET

The following instructions are being enclosed with the free begonia seed now sent to our new members to welcome them into the A.B.S. and the intriguing experience of growing begonias.

BEGONIA SEED

The seed of begonias is extremely fine and a very small amount is used when planting. The seed should be sown sparingly and evenly to assure space for the individual seedlings. It is so minute that it should never be covered with soil or pressed into the medium. It requires constant moisture through both the germination and the growing periods.

GERMINATION

The period of germination varies according to the type of begonia. Under normal conditions, *semperflorens* and tuberous germinate in from 5 to 10 days; fibrous and rhizomatous in from 5 to 15 days depending upon the species or variety; *rexes* take longer, from 7 to 21 days.

Constant moisture and little variation in temperature is essential. Bottom heat is not necessary if the temperature can be kept between 60 to 75 degrees.

Begonia seeds have been known to germinate long after the normal period of germination has passed, so keep the container undisturbed, under proper growing conditions until there is no hope whatever.

PLANTING TIME

Tuberous begonia seed should be planted in January, February or early March as they have a definite growing cycle.

Semperflorens can be planted at any time of the year.

Hardy fibrous and rhizomatous can be planted during any month but the slower growing types only if favorable conditions can be provided for the young seedlings during the cold of winter. Otherwise plant the seed in the late fall, winter or early spring so that the young plants can become established during the summer.

Rex begonias are of the slow growing rhizomatous type and should be planted accordingly.

SOWING MEDIUM

A reliable medium which contains food for the seedlings, tends to hold moisture and keeps porous is essential. A recommended mixture is 1 part well-decomposed leafmold, 1 part ground sphagnum moss or finely sifted peat moss, and 1 part washed sharp sand, thoroughly mixed and sifted through a one-quarter screen.

Sterilize the medium by baking in an oven for two hours at 180 degrees Fahrenheit. A great deal of heat is not necessary, only enough to kill all weed seed and pests. The medium can be moistened before or after sterilizing, preferably before, but must be reasonably moist and cool before sowing the seed. Use rainwater, bottled water or water saved from refrigerator defrosting for moisture when preparing the soil.

SANITATION

Utmost care should be used in keeping everything sanitary. A clean work area, scrubbed containers, boiled utensils, washed hands and sterilized medium will prevent contamination.

CONTAINERS

Any of the following containers may be used successfully:

Containers with good drainage that

require bottom watering such as a shallow flat or pan, a low clay pot as used for ferns or bulbs.

Containers that absorb moisture as a porous brick set in a pan of water; a wick-fed pot; a clay pot set in wet sand; a large clay pot with a small porous pot, whose drainage hole has been sealed to retain water, placed in the center.

Closed containers without drainage, casserole with glass cover; glass ice-box dishes with close fitted lids or sealed bottle (large mouthed preferred).

Open containers should have even tops in order to keep them closely covered with a pane of glass to retain the moisture.

PREPARATION

Only about one and a half to two inches of medium is necessary for growing the seed. Deep containers can be partially filled with coarse sand or other porous substances. Place the medium in the container leaving about one and a half inch space at the top. Level off without packing. Cover the surface smoothly with about one-eighth inch of finely sifted peat moss or ground Sphagnum Moss, that has been moistened. Wooden containers and clay pots should be thoroughly soaked before using.

SOWING

The seed is sown directly on the surface of the moss. An easy method is to place the seed on a sheet of smooth paper that has had a crease made at one side, hold the paper with creased side down and tip slightly over the container and the seed should slowly roll from the paper. By moving the paper around over the container, the seed should be evenly distributed. DO NOT cover the seed or press down into the medium.

CARE OF SEEDS

After sowing, cover open containers with a pane of glass; if brick is used, cover with a bell jar; fit lids on closed containers and seal bottles or jars.

Set the container in a warm room away from strong light until germination occurs then place where it will receive plenty of light but no direct sunshine. Turn the container occasionally for even growth.

It is extremely important that the soil mixture NEVER becomes dry or too wet. Use rain water, bottled water or defrosting water that has had the chill removed. Top watering will encourage damping-off and is not necessary.

For bottom watering, set the container in a shallow pan of water until moisture is evident on the surface. When using containers that rely on ab-

sorption, see that the reservoirs are kept filled. Closed containers should be checked about every two to three weeks and, if moisture is needed, add a FEW DROPS around the sides. Sealed containers need not be opened until time for transplanting.

It containers are placed in the greenhouse, they should be in a location where rain or water will not flood them.

THE SEEDLINGS

The seedlings must never be allowed to become too wet or too dry. As soon as they have developed the third leaf they should be carefully pricked out and planted about an inch apart in shallow, unfertilized, sterile medium similar to the sowing medium. Tuberosus and semperflorens set two inches apart. They should be kept covered with glass the first few days after transplanting then gradually given more air as they grow. (Place a wooden wedge under the glass). They should be given as much light as possible without direct sunshine. Use bottom watering until they are established.

Most begonias should again be transplanted into a growing mixture of leaf-mold and sand and placed 25 to a flat. When the roots have been established and the seedlings are putting on new growth, they can safely be given mild fertilizer. When they begin to fill the flat, they can be potted up according to their size in a regular potting mixture.

Rex seedlings should be kept protected until after their second transplanting and will require a longer time to become established than other types.

Begonia seedlings of the thick-leaved or of the hirsute types will require less watering than the thin-leaved begonias. *These instructions have been prepared by Louise Schwerdtfeger.*

SPECIAL OFFER FOR NEW MEMBERS

All NEW (first time) members will receive with membership cards:

THREE cultural bulletins covering Rex, Fibrous and Tuberosus Begonias.

A packet of easy-to-grow begonia seed with complete instructions.

AND a subscription for 12 issues of The Begonian. ALL only \$2.50!

MAKE MEMBERS
OF YOUR FRIENDS TODAY!

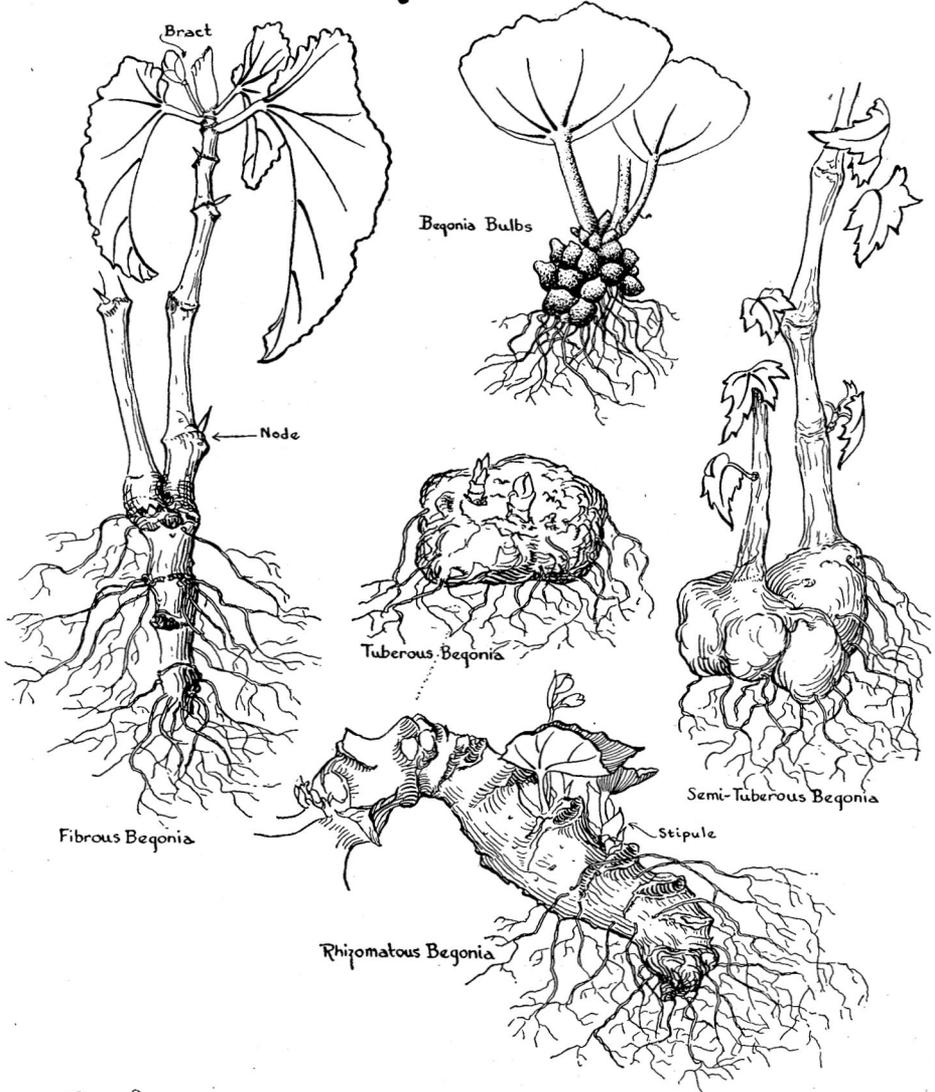
Begonia 'E. O. Orpet'

(Cross between glaucophylla and Mazae)
NEW lovely traller — much hardier and easier to grow than glaucophylla. Leaves are brownish-green above, red below.
\$1.00 ea. at Santa Barbara. Postage extra.

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

Begonia Groups



Sally Bancroft '48

Beginners' Corner

By Sally Bancroft, Solana Beach, Calif.

With approximately 200 species begonias known to exist in the world today and with cross hybridizing between begonia groups, learning to identify our begonias requires intricate study.

Roughly, begonias are classified into five general groups. The only true bulb

known today is *B. socotrana*. Being from very hot regions, it is essentially a greenhouse subject. Much hybridizing has been done to give us two groups of begonias, one known as the *B. 'cheimantha'* group or Christmas-flowering begonias and the other as the *B. 'hiem-*

alis' group or the winter-flowering tuberous begonias.

The tuberous begonias are known to most of us. The species usually has a very small tuber but the hybrids grown in the garden today with their lovely double flowers have tubers measuring from one and a half inches to four or five inches, depending on the age of the tuber.

The semi-tuberous begonia is not a true tuber in the sense that it cannot be dried and stored until another day. Plants of the semi-tuberous variety do go partially dormant during the winter but in most cases this means that the leaves drop or perhaps a stem breaks off close to the surface but there is always evidence that the plant is still alive. Comes warmer weather and the plant comes to life.

Rhizomatous begonias have rather a succulent stem. They range in size from the small pencil like stem on *B. Boweri* to the thick stems of *B. 'ricinifolia'*. Some stand erect and upright; some root as they creep along; while others are prostrate, trailing around a pot. The illustration is of a small rhizome of *B. 'erythrophylla'*. As a general rule, they all show depressed areas on the stem, called leaf scars. Some of the rhizomatous begonias branch, while others only start new growth from the base of the plant. Only one begonia I know today will break itself into separate divisions and that is *B. Schulziana*.

Fibrous begonias have stems that are either woody or succulent, but not swollen at the base, from which come masses of fine roots. The illustration is of a young cutting of *B. 'Coralline Lucerne'*. Fibrous begonias range from the tall cane varieties with their different-shaped leaves, to the prostrate growers. There is a very wide choice

in this particular group as to leaf size, shape, coloring, blooming periods and suitability for different purposes. Some stand a good deal of sun, while others require some shade. Some are more or less ever-blooming, while others are more suitable for background fill-ins.

Each begonia has its individual name, either specific or varietal. Botanists and horticulturists have found it useful to employ names for groups of begonias which, we must remember, are general rather than specific. For simplifying study, these groups often are subdivided. Thus 'Rex' begonias are rhizomatous but are usually classed as a group by themselves to distinguish them from the other rhizomatous begonias. As new begonias are found in different countries, some other forms are given new group names. Such is true of the tuberous-rhizomatous begonia species from India. This is neither a true tuber nor a true rhizome but has qualifications that place it in both fields. It goes completely dormant like a tuber but creeps and grows like a rhizome.

For the amateur, though, the five groups listed here will cover most of the begonias being grown today.

The three-winged seed pod of the female flower is the most notable characteristic of the begonia family. However, with a few varietal forms there is an exception to this general rule. *B. Manni* would be one exception.

Stipules, another characteristic, are the almost transparent leaf-like sheaths that cover new leaf growth. These stipules dry, turn brown and sometimes drop from the plant. This same type of growth is called a "bract" on the flowering parts of the plant.

Begonia leaves vary extremely in form, size and color, but grow alternately from the stem.

Your Editor

We are especially proud to present to our readers the excellent drawings of Dorothy S. Behrends and Sally Bancroft which commenced in the December issue. Their detailed and exacting work has been donated to us and I'm sure they would appreciate hearing from the membership if you enjoy them: Miss Sally Bancroft, P.O. Box 195, Solana Beach, Calif. Mrs. Dorothy Behrends, 1633 Golden Gate Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif. P.S. Mrs. Behrends also handles those elegant little signs proclaiming your membership in the A.B.S.—only two for a quarter (25c).

Received today a pressed blossom of one of those Nielsen *hiemalis* which Mrs. George W. W. Barton wrote about

in the July issue — three and three-fourths inches across. Mrs. Barton sent it and says it came from a plant in a ten inch pot and that these pots were a veritable mass of red, pink, white or rose bloom. Also, Mr. Nielsen has transferred his stock of *Baardse hiemalis* to Mr. Vogt of Sturgis, Michigan, from whom they may now be purchased.

BRANCHES

Your National Library is attempting to secure and maintain complete files on ALL Begonia material. Therefore, your Librarian would appreciate it if you would put the Library on your mailing list for all bulletins you mimeograph or print for your branch members. These are worthwhile reading matter and should be made available to the central files for future reference. THANK YOU!



Armchair Explorers

Many of you are getting anxious for the new seed list. It is finally ready for you and you will find herein the complete list of all seeds on hand at this time. It is grouped into collections ranging from 25c to \$2.00 per collection, depending upon the cost of the seeds. This is your own Seed Fund and I only try to manage it for you, so please feel free to report your successes and failures. Save all good kinds of Begonia seeds and send in to exchange for other seeds, or we will buy seeds from you; named kinds are preferred. The mixed seeds you have been sending in we can only give away to new Branches but they are welcome nevertheless, as they help to get new members started in growing from seed. I cannot guarantee that all the seeds will grow for you, but anytime you are not satisfied, do write and I will make it right! Money made on the seeds is saved up to send off with seed collectors and to purchase new seed for you. Continually I am on the search for new seed collectors, and if you know of any foreign addresses where you think there might be a chance of getting seeds for our members, please send the address to your skipper.

One of our members, Wm. Brooks, of Redondo, Calif., is expected back now from an exploring trip to Mexico and he is to bring us seeds and tubers of Mexican begonias. A nurseryman in San Diego leaves now for Costa Rica to establish a plant and seed nursery there; he will supply us with seeds as soon as they are available. I hope soon to have more to report from these sources. From an Armchair Explorer in Oakland came this note; "I am leaving on a world trip and shall be pleased to go as an emissary of your Seed Fund and will be alert to find addresses of seed collectors and to help in any way I can. And I shall send you a story for the Begonian. Sincerely, George B. Furniss, 375 Staten Ave., Oakland 10, Calif." Isn't this exciting?

Christmas brought many books to our house: for me a precious old set of 8 volumes — E. J. Lowe's Fern Books, completely filled from cover to cover with fern prints in full color, a priceless set of books and secured for me



By Mary Lou

A Begonia species is a plant form of the genus *Begonia* and family *Begoniaceae*, as found in its natural habitat.

Species can have natural variations.

A hybrid is a cross between two species, a species and a hybrid, or between two hybrids.

Self-pollinated seed of a species should come true, with little or no variation in the seedlings.

Self-pollinated seed of a hybrid will usually give a great many variations.

Cross-pollinated seed of two species should give almost no variation in the first generation seedlings and should create an entirely new type of plant combining some of the characteristics of each parent.

Cross-pollinated seed, using a hybrid for a parent, will give a variation of seedlings and only the outstanding ones with different characteristics should be saved.

Begonias can be identified by their individual characteristics.

Although begonias have been discovered in the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world, they are not a jungle plant.

Begonias are at their best when grown under conditions similar to that of their natural habitat.

Begonias that have been found in high mountainous regions are best grown when kept on the dry side.

The hybrid B. 'Crestabruchi' resents water on its leaves.

by our A.B.S. Librarian, Mrs. Gladys Nolan. We had a merry Christmas and hope you did too.

Send in your seed orders early so you won't be disappointed. We will get them mailed out to you as speedily as Maud can package the seeds.

Best wishes to all, from

Your Skipper, Florence Carrell

214 No. Yale St., Fullerton, Calif.

P.S.—Marie Minter and I had hoped to give you short descriptions of the Begonia seeds, but there wasn't time, nor room for it in this issue. We are trying to work up something along this line for a spring issue. In the meantime, look up the names in one of the Begonia books. Write Mrs. Nolan for a list of the books she has for sale.

Seed Fund Collections for 1952

\$1.00
TUBEROUS COLLECTION #1
Andersoni
Josephi—
Josephi, small leaf
picta
Pearcei
ovatifolia
micranthera fimbriata
micranthera ventura

\$1.00
TUBEROUS COLLECTION #2
gracilis var. *diversifolia* #1
gracilis var. *diversifolia* #2
'Wild Rose'
Sutherlandi
Martiana
Evansiana
Evansiana alba
'*crispa*' & mixed

\$1.50
RHIZOMATOUS #3
'Immense'
'Mrs. Townsend'
nelumbifolia
Popenoei
'*ricinifolia*'
Schulziana
'*Sunderbrucki*'
'Fisher's *ricinifolia*'
'*Sylvan Star*'
'*Vershaeffeltiana*'

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hydrocotylifolia hybrids
'*heracleicotyle major*'
Mexican #C42
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rubro-venia
rupicola
acida
rex hybrids
tenuifolia

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Barkeri
Cathcartii
Griffithii
laciniata lutea
lutea
megaptera
India Rex type
Panama species
Bhotan species
conchaeifolia

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'Manda's Woolly Bear'
nitida
hirtella
Schmidtiana
'India Species'
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subvillosa
nitida rosea
Johnstoni

\$1.50
FIBROUS COLLECTION #7
Dregei
acutangularis
compta
zebrina
'*digswelliana*'
double red *semperflorens*
'*Joe Hayden*'
'*Cuba species*'
Mexican species #1494

\$2.00
FIBROUS COLLECTION #8
'*Calla Lily-red*'
dominicalis
epipsila
incana
Kellermanii
'*Mrs. Kimball*'
Scharffiana
ulmifolia
vitifolia
Roezli

\$2.00
FIBROUS COLLECTION #9
circumlobata
foliosa
natalensis
incarnata Sandersi
'*rosea gigantea*'
glabra
Mazae
'*Limminghei*'
metallica
'*Calla Lily-pink*'

\$2.00
FIBROUS COLLECTION #10
chivatoa
gigantea
tomentosa
dichotoma
sikkimensis
sikkimensis variegata
sikkimensis giganteum
xanthina
Ludwigii
venosa

Turn to next page

\$2.00
BRAZIL BEGONIA
COLLECTION #11

alto da serra
cucullata
luxurians
macrocarpa
cantareira
Brazil *semperflorens*
Brazil species

25c
COLOMBIA BEGONIAS #12
Mixed species—1 pkt.

50c
PHILIPPINE BEGONIAS #13
De Espejo
Hairy light green leaf
Pink flowers
White flowers
Cane type
Mixed species

50c
SEMPERFLORENS TYPES #14
Tall white
Dwarf white
Dark red flowers and foliage
India *semperflorens*
Colombia *semperflorens*
Costa Rica *semperflorens*

GESNERIAS 25c per packet
6 for \$1.00

Gloxinias—purple, white edge
deep red
small blue slipper
large pink slipper
large purple slipper
E. C. Smith hybrids
large blue slipper
Princess Elizabeth
White
Mixed

Gesneria umbellata
Gesneria cardinalis
Aeschynanthus mixed
Streptocarpus mixed
Rechsteineria macropoda
Chirita Kurzii
Chirita pumila
Hybrid *Saintpaulias* 50c
Sinningia Reginae 50c
Corytholoma Douglasii
var. *Leopoldi* 50c

FERN SPORES 25c or
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Bird's nest
12 kinds Philippine ferns
4 kinds Staghorn ferns
2 kinds Colombia ferns
5 kinds *adiantum*s
Tree ferns
Flowering fern—Louisiana
Mixed Mexico ferns
Polypodium species
Scolopendrium

Blue Colombia fern
Crested holly fern
Mixed ferns

ODD SEEDS — 25c per packet

Cyathodes
Coleus
Kalanchoe hybrids
Agave species
Tibouchina Sellowiana
Tibouchina grandiflora
Pleiostachya proimosa
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Guzmania monostachys
(bromeliad)
Gloriosa Plantii
(climbing lily)
Ipomoea tuberosa
(wood rose)
Amaryllis — India 50c



Q+A=Success

by Research Dept.

Rt. 1, 505 Hermes, Encinitas, Calif.

Question: I only have a chance once in awhile to get out to the woods in Minnesota to gather leaf mold. Heretofore, we've dug down until we came to the light "fluffy" soil. This year, however, I sent someone else after leaf mold and they brought back soil with twigs and leaves in it. I don't like it as well to plant in and I'm wondering if the plants will do all right.

Answer: Soils, of course, vary from the various trees. Out here I buy most of my leaf mold from local nurseries. Each delivery seems to vary. Sometimes I'm able to get lots of that "fluffy" type of soil in the bag and other times the leaves haven't decomposed enough to make good mold. However, I use it as it comes. The leaves and twigs in the soil do not seem to harm anything but rather create drainage channels that help to aerate the pots, making for faster drainage. I run into trouble once in awhile. Sometimes the soil contains too many leaves and not sufficient soil for good growth. I shake the leaves out in that case and renew the top soil. I have found, in certain instances, that too much of the mold will pack down in the pots, making a heavy soil that retains water too long. In watering overhead with sprinklers, this pot will not dry out sufficiently, and the next time the lath house is watered, the plant becomes saturated and I have a sick plant on my hands. Once in a great while I get hold of some leaf mold that seems to be greasy or something. This leaf mold refuses to take up any water at all. Frankly, for my

methods of growing plants, I like a very loose soil, and if the leaf mold has from a third to a half leaves in it, I have better luck. All leaf mold differs, though, and perhaps in your case it takes two or more winters to break down the leaves from the trees sufficiently. Every section of the country seems to have different preferences and different ideas of what makes a good leaf mold, but more begonias have been lost through over-saturation than anything else. So if your soil does pack rather hard, then I would try to incorporate more leaves in it.

Question: I have tried sand in soil mixtures, but the sand around here seems to pack rather hard, almost like cement. I don't think that is very good for begonias.

Answer: Neither do I. Sand is used mostly to retain moisture longer in the pot and to create a loose soil. Apparently your sand isn't the type we know out here as builder's sand. If something on that order is needed in your soil, why not try the larger forms of vermiculite or even pea-size gravel? Gravel serves the same purpose as sand and will help to retain the moisture. You wouldn't have to use as much of it, of course, — just enough to create fast drainage.

Question: I'm having trouble propagating *B. imperialis* from leaves. I don't want to cut up the rhizomes for new plants.

Answer: (From a member of the

Correspondence Club) *B. imperialis* leaves should be taken from the plant when the plant is dry. Do not have the sand more than moist. If it gets too much moisture, it explodes the stems and if the air is too dry, it dries up. Invert a jar over the leaf, with a label under one corner to supply needed air. (There is a second method that might be used. I used to root Rex leaves by filling a jar with about an inch of sand which was damp, inserting the leaf, putting a top on the jar and placing it in a window that was warm most of the day.)

Question: You might like to make a note in your files that the seed sent out as *Cathcartii* two years ago by the seed fund is very likely *B. barbata*. This is very similar to *B. Cathcartii* and grows in the same general part of the world. As Mrs. Carrell noted in her column, this seed required 18 months to germinate and the plants are still small.

Answer: Thank you very much for this information. I got some germination of the seed, but lost the entire planting the first transplanting from the jars. As this seems to be such a slow grower, it might be wise to keep the seedlings growing in their jars much longer than you would ordinarily. I shall try seeds again as soon as they are available. And this time I shall not discard the jar at the end of the year. I appreciate hearing from anyone who discovers something new regarding my favorite pastime.

Library Notes

Here we are with a New Year and it is a pleasure to offer new material to the membership who have used the library for some time and would like a new perspective, having read all the books which we have had to offer in the past.

New acquisitions added to the library during the last few months and already in circulation are the following:

ALL ABOUT AFRICAN VIOLETS, by Montague Free.

ENJOY YOUR HOUSE PLANTS, by Dorothy Jenkins and Helen Van Pelt Wilson.

CAMELLIAS ILLUSTRATED, Oregon Camellia Society and edited by

Morrie L. Sharp.

WEST AUSTRALIAN WILD FLOWERS, C. A. Gardner, a beautifully illustrated (in color) volume which was offered to the membership for sale last fall and is now acquired for circulation.

The following exchange publications are also bound and obtainable on loan:

THE CACTUS JOURNAL—publication of the Cactus and Succulent Society—bound volumes for 1950 and 1951.

PLANT LIFE, Volume 7, 1951.

Send in your post card request and enjoy these fine publications which have been added to your library for your reading pleasure.

Gladys C. Nolan, Librarian.

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E. H. THOMAS

461 Bridge Road Walnut Creek, Calif.



Begonia Lillian Sloan

By Marie Minter, Encinitas, Calif.

On a recent trip to different nurseries in search of new begonias, I found this particular lovely hairy fibrous. It was a new cross created by Jack Lighthart of Cardoza Gardens.

I'm very fond of this particular class of begonias because they not only make excellent pot plants but make such nice bushy plants when grown in the ground. And in the fall, when the tuberous have only a few scattered blossoms, the hairy fibrous burst forth with myriads of bloom, which continues the

blooming season in my garden well into the winter.

B. 'Lillian Sloan' has a very dark green, ovate shape leaf that ends in a long point. The leaf is about 5" x 9". The veins on the surface are so depressed it causes the leaf to bulge between the veins. At night, under lights, the leaf looks like someone had carved the pattern into the leaf surface, much as one would carve a pattern onto a block of wood.

The under surfaces of the leaves vary.

They are a lighter green than the surface, but some have only deep red veins, while others on the same plant have the deep red flush between the veins, extending almost to the edge of the leaf, leaving a border of green.

The entire plant is white hairy, even to the new stipules. The stems are green with a band of deep red at the

nodes. Petioles are green tinged with red as they near the base of the leaf. At the present time, new growth seems to be starting from each node, giving an indication that the plant will be well branched. I have hopes, from observing my own plant, that this particular cross will be useful for basket work. Only time will tell the tale.

Cardoza Gardens

By Jack Lighthart

Lillian (Mrs. H. Cardoza) Sloan arrived in California in 1913 by way of Danvers, Massachusetts. In the early Twenties, she and her husband settled on the South Coast at Corona del Mar, then a tentative sort of town such as only a realtor could love.

Cardoza Gardens was a venture born of the sad days of the Depression. Selling town lots (Mr. Sloan's business) was at a stand-still. In the desperation of the moment, Mrs. Sloan remembered some interesting plants called "rex begonias" that she had had rather good luck with in her home garden. Perhaps people would be interested in buying them. So she built a lath house on the lot adjoining her husband's real estate office on the Coast Highway and launched herself in the begonia business. In time the Depression faded, but Cardoza Gardens remained and flourished.

Under the skilled tutelage of Alfred D. Robinson and Frank Reinelt, she grew begonias and other shade plants effectively and well. In Cardoza Gardens she managed to combine the intimate quality of a New England garden with

the flamboyant display of tuberous begonias for which she soon became noted. Nowhere on the coast, it seemed, did tubers grow quite so lush and vigorous as in Mrs. Sloan's lath houses. Her rexes were famous also—back in that happy era when municipal water was derived from wells instead of the salt-flats of the Colorado River. A sport of 'Rajah' propagated by her—and appropriately named 'Cardoza Gardens'—has become a favorite garden variety.

Cardoza Gardens has long been a port of call for cruising garden clubs and horticultural societies. Many an incipient member of the American Begonia Society has made his fatal first purchase while under the spell of the place.

Today Mrs. Sloan no longer wrestles with nine-inch pots nor personally mixes her begonia soil, as she did in earlier days; but from her kitchen window she still keeps a careful eye on all that goes on in the gardens, which still retain their intimate charm and produce about the best tuberous begonias you are likely to see in these parts.

('s' truth!—Editor)



Just a few words at the beginning of this New Year 1952 to tell you how happy I am to have been appointed your new Chairman of Round Robins. Indeed I will do my best to carry on this work that Frances Downing has so faithfully done in the many years she was Chairman.

I wish all the Directors of A.B.S. Robins would contact me right away

so that we may become acquainted; also send me a copy of membership of all Robins you direct.

Any A.B.S. member, old or new, who wishes to join one or more of our Round Robins, please send me your name and address with the name of the Robins in which you are the most interested and whether you wish to join the beginners or the advanced group. I am sure that you will enjoy our Robins and learn many things about your beloved begonias and shade plants.

May 1952 bring you added enjoyment among your flowers, is the New Year's wish of your new Round Robin Chairman.

Mrs. Sophia Baker
2733 S. E. 35th Place
Portland 2, Oregon

Begonia Lucerna

By Louise Schwerdtfeger

Back Cover Illustration

There is no doubt but that the lovely, tall-growing, cane-type, begonia 'Lucerna' is one of the most popular of all begonias, for not only is it a "must" for every begonia grower's collection but it can be found in practically every nursery and be seen growing in the gardens of many a flower-grower. Its popularity perhaps has been gained because of the fact that it is easily grown, not difficult to propagate and that its huge clusters of large red flowers amid its attractive foliage make it desirable. The begonia in full bloom is beautiful; tall and stately, it fits into any garden. Here in California the B. 'Lucerna' is commonly used in landscaping and one is apt to find it the only begonia in many a garden, happily growing among other flowers and shrubs. It seems to be a favorite plant to have growing near the entrance of the home, trained beneath the picture windows, or trellised by the garden wall.

B. 'Lucerna' is one begonia that is easy to grow and demands no special care. It will thrive in most any type of garden soil. It will take full sun if planted among shrubs or other plants that protect and help to keep its roots moist. Although its flowers will not be quite as brilliant as in a sunny location, it will grow nicely in the shade.

The original B. 'Lucerna' was developed in Switzerland in 1903. It is a hybrid of *B. coccinea* and *B. Teuscheri*. *B. coccinea* the mother parent, is a species from Brazil, tall and strong with bright green long, ovate leaves, a good bloomer with brilliant large clusters of coral-red, almost scarlet-tinged, flowers. The whole cluster is the same color even to the stems. *B. Teuscheri*, the pollen-parent, is a species that came from Malaya, also a tall grower and robust, with strong branches; although not a good bloomer, it has lovely foliage. Its flowers are pink. Both parents are cane-type begonias and the B. 'Lucerna' seems to have inherited all of the best characteristics of both parents, for it is tall (ten to fifteen feet), strong branched, erect and robust. Its foliage is handsomely colored and it produces huge clusters of brilliant red, large flowers on strong stems. Not only does its habit of growth make it a desirable plant but its blooming period extends over a greater length of time than that of most begonias.

B. 'Lucerna' has a great many children, for the early begonia grower found that seed of this hybrid gave them a wide variation in the seedlings. Although these early offspring vary in color of flower or form of foliage, none came up to the parent in beauty of bloom or habit of growth. A few took their characteristics from the grandmother and others favored the grandfather. We find a wide variation in the color of their flowers: rose-pink, crimson, pink, pale-pink, coppery-red, and so on, and in their foliage the variations read: less-spotted, more bronze, toothed, ruffled, more margined. Their habit of growth differs from the parent in that many do not grow as tall or are less branched, or more drooping. The form of their inflorescences does not compare with that of the parent, for we find the clusters smaller, on shorter or arching stems. Many of the named offspring are so similar that only an expert can identify the plants; a few were never widely distributed and some have been lost.

Within the last few years, hybridists have been working with B. 'Lucerna' as a parent and now we have the lovely hanging hybrid B. 'Lulandi' (*B. Sutherlandi* X B. 'Lucerna') of Mr. Woodriff's and can read about B. 'Ethel Irene' of Mexico and patiently wait until Mr. Harrison can send it across the border. Because of all its desirable characteristics, B. 'Lucerna' stands as a challenge to all begonia hybridists. Unlimited possibilities dwell in the use of B. 'Lucerna' as one parent and some begonia species for the other. In choosing only the best and most outstanding of the resulting derivatives, the work should produce some interesting hybrids. To self-pollenate would only give variations in the seedlings such as the early grower experienced.

The B. 'Lucerna' pictured was a cutting four years ago and has been grown, carefully cultured and trained, by Mrs. Jay Ayersman of Santa Barbara, Calif. Growing in the patio just beyond the dining-room window, in an Eastern exposure, against the pale-yellow stucco wall, it is a picture in every sense of the word, happily living up to its reputation as a favorite among begonias.

Branch Ideas

Fanning the Flame

Mrs. Florence Carrell quotes the following from a letter to her by Mr. Gilbert Harlow, president of the Men's Garden Club of Schenectady, N.Y.:

"You may be interested in a little project I launched this spring. I decided there were far too many local gardeners who had never grown tuberous begonias. Therefore, I turned my 16 x 24 foot greenhouse into a nursery and grew several thousand begonias from seed. I had wonderful luck with both English seed from Blackmore and Langdon and American seed from Vetterle and Reinelt. I gave everyone as many plants as he could use and the results are still coming in. I expect to make Schenectady a sort of California outpost when it comes to growing begonias. I find I have a great deal to learn about hybridizing. So far my own seedlings from crosses of my own have not been outstanding. After visiting Capitola this summer and seeing the magnificent specimens Mr. Reinelt uses for parent plants, I shall probably be content to let him do most of the seed production. My natural curiosity, though, will keep me trying. One tip I picked up from an orchidist is to plant only a few seed of each cross and hold on to the others until I see the results of the cross. Begonia seeds seem to germinate more easily after being stored a few months, so storing them will do no harm. I plan to use medical capsules as suggested by someone in *The Begonian*."—H. Gilbert Harlow.

NEW OFFICERS

Heart of America: Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. George Knouff.

Redondo: President, Mr. Emri Stoddard; Vice-president, Mr. Carl Marshall; Secretary, Mrs. Arline Stoddard; Treasurer, Mrs. Lucy Saulte; National Director, Mr. Harry Marshall.

San Francisco: President, Mr. Robert Gromm; Vice-president, Mr. Don Thomas; Secretary, Mrs. Anne Mitchell; Treasurer, Mrs. Hyacinth Smith; Directors, Mrs. Beth Sackman, Mrs. Irene Shepard; National Director, Carl F. Meyer.

Southern Alameda County: President, Peter N. Guerich; Vice-president, Dr. L. T. Peery; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Harvey Manning; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss; Treasurer, Mrs. Helen Fouche; National Director, Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss.

Western Pennsylvania: President, Mrs. John J. Brockmyer; Vice-president, Mrs. Warren T. Barton; Secretary, Mrs. Walter H. Kirch; Treasurer, Mrs. Clarence Eckert.

Whittier: Secretary, Carolyn Spitz.

Mrs. Kay Kilderry, National Director of the Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch reported that at their 14th birthday luncheon at the home of Mrs. Frank H. Mather, a number of guests invited were members of a newly formed African Violet and Begonia Society and our branch wanted them to know the advantages of becoming a branch of A.B.S. and to acquaint them with *The Begonian* and other begonia publications.

Harry Swager, prominent member of the Southern Alameda Co. Branch, delivered a talk on Fibrous Begonias at a recent meeting of the Tracy Garden Club. Mr. Swager happened to be in Tracy on personal business and the local Club took this opportunity of inviting him to speak. His experience in raising Begonias enabled him to give a very interesting and instructive talk which he delivered in a most informal manner. The members were very much impressed by the possibilities of raising many varieties of Begonias in their locality. This increased interest might lead to formation of a branch in this Valley town.

—Mrs. Lillian Ashe

Mrs. Edna Korts reported that the Glendale Branch Garden Visitation which was jointly sponsored by that branch and the Glendale Fuchsia Society, has produced excellent results. Seventy-seven persons signed her guest book alone, many of them strangers to begonias. Seeing is believing to many people. Glendale showed them.

SLIDE LIBRARY

Vice-president R.H. Terrell, of Riverside, reported the following good news at the last board meeting:

San Francisco branch donated 15 slides and promised 25 more when copied.

East Bay Branch offered 25 slides for copying.

Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch plans to donate about 100 slides of begonias originated in the San Diego area as a memorial to Mrs. Gray.

All this in addition to the gift reported last month of 57 slides in a file by New England Branch!

A little more and we will have a landslide of slides. As reported last month, all such donations will be maintained as units under the name of the donor.

Branches desiring slides for programs should apply to Mr. R. H. Terrell, 6848 Leland Ave., Riverside, Calif.

Gleanings

From a talk by Rudolf Ziesenhenné at the San Gabriel Branch, Sept. meeting

Reported By R. H. Terrell

If you are now growing begonias successfully, do not change your methods every time you hear someone talk on how to grow begonias. Their methods might not succeed under your conditions. Since conditions vary, methods must also.

WATER

The most common cause of failure with begonias is overwatering. Most begonias cannot endure wet feet. Be sure that the soil is thoroughly wet, that the plant has good drainage, then allow the soil to dry before watering again.

In growing small plants, watering is very important. Water regularly, since small plants—seedlings—die with one day neglect, or, if the plant lives, it remains poor the rest of its life.

When planting in a new clay pot, soak the pot first until it is full of moisture, or the pot will pull water rapidly from the soil, which will shrink and draw away from the pot and thus leave a space for water to drain away between the pot and the soil ball, instead of wetting the soil.

SOIL

Soil is most important. It should not dry too rapidly. Peatmoss in the planting mixture (about one-fourth) helps to absorb and retain moisture. It is best that the mixture contain some uncomposted leaf material for aeration and to prevent packing.

Commercially grown plants are usually grown in composted soil and are fed regularly.

Amateur home growers usually plant in rich soil and replant when checked growth shows need of food.

When you get a plant from a commercial grower, repot at once in your own regular soil mixture so that it can be treated the same as your other plants.

In replanting begonias which need a larger pot, do not merely shift into the next pot size but use double the size from which taken. The larger pot will retain moisture better, allow more space for root growth, contain more food, therefore you will not need to disturb the plant so often by repotting.

FOOD

Do not feed new plants until they are well rooted.

Keep established plants well fed for show or they cannot look their best.

A plant which needs feeding will drop its lower leaves. A well fed plant will retain its leaves.

One of the commonest mistakes is to feed a plant which is not doing well. If it has root trouble it will not grow. Knock out of the pot and examine roots. If there are no white tips on the roots it cannot take up food. If there are white tips, repot in new soil and a larger pot and wait until it shows signs of new growth before feeding.

We often pinch the tips of plants to cause them to branch, but pinching prevents blooming. Root-bound plants do not branch. Repot plants and they will branch while continuing to bloom. When you pinch, repot also and thus you will give double reason for branching.

Containers compared: Clay pots—Water evaporates from surface and humidifies the air, but this can be done otherwise. The evaporation cools the soil and slows growth.

Tin cans—Growth is better than in clay pots since there is less evaporation and loss of heat. When planting in cans, put drainage holes in the sides of cans instead of the bottom so they will remain open. Roots against the tin may burn in hot weather if the sun strikes the can.

Wooden boxes—these are best for containers. Since there is no evaporation from the surface, there is no loss of heat to check growth. Wood keeps moist inside next to the roots, so shields them from drying out and burning.

In the summer the glass house is too hot, but most begonias thrive in the garden. Rex do well in deep shade, having deep colors. The cane types and tuberous want some sun. They will grow too tall and lank in full shade.

In staking plants, keep the stakes hidden as much as possible. With branching plants, use several small stakes to keep the plant symmetrical.

Don't change labels for every visitor. They may know less about the right name than you do. Plants of the same variety grown under different conditions appear different. If you are not sure of a plant's name do not label it. Be sure first, or label with a question mark after its probable name, and do not pass a questionable name on with a plant to another owner.

—Reported by Virginia J. Humphrey.

WATER

Keep show plants well watered.

Composted soil needs water.

All lath house plants do not need water at the same time. Some are active and some are not.

SOIL

In the Long Beach area, leaf mold and peat were used for the soil mixture and with the sulphur water, the plants did not thrive. A less acid soil was needed.

Amateur growers use leafmold and manure. Commercial growers use a composted soil and commercial fertilizer and feed the pots, while amateur growers advance the plant to a larger pot.

Transplanting to the next size larger pot is the European idea. Americans pot plants in large pots or flat them. Advance a begonia from a 4 inch pot to a 7 or 8 inch pot for show plant and the leaves will sprout all around.

Transplant begonia seedlings in the same soil mix they were started in.

CONTAINERS

Grow begonias in gallon cans and they grow larger than in pots.

Wooden boxes are better as you don't have to water so often. Pots give off water and humidify the air, but it is better to have cheese-cloth hanging and dampen that to humidify the air.

PROPAGATION

You can easily keep a large begonia three to five years after it is grown. Slice off a well-rooted cane cutting

after maturity, so when the larger plant dies, you will have another one growing.

Make cuttings now from old plants.

If a plant is sick, wash all soil from roots carefully; if root tips are mostly brown, trim off all the brown ones and re-root in a sand box like any other cutting.

LOCATION

All amateurs want a glasshouse or a lath house. In summer we cuss a glasshouse—too hot. In winter we cuss a lath house—too cold.

However, 'Calla' begonias do better out in the garden because they are often watered too much in the lath house. Cane types like much water and SUN. Hairy types like lots of morning sun.

DISEASE

The mite, red spider and mildew and other diseases attack begonias. Copper spray is good for mildew. Spray everything on the place when you get out your spray gun, including the healthy plants, and Ortho's Extrax is good for insect control.

NAMES

Don't worry too much about begonia names. Enjoy your begonias. Have a lot of fun.

SHOWS

Dorothy Powell Photos

Pasadena: The magnificent 1952 Fall Flower Show is history now and leaves many pleasant memories. The management had fine compliments for the good volunteer work at the A.B.S. booth where many members maintained a constant vigil, answering questions about our Society and the plants during the week-long show.

Pasadena Branch, whose attractive display is pictured here, won a blue ribbon and \$40.00. Most of the begonias came from the gardens of George and Verna Johnson and the ferns from Mr.

and Mrs. Jack Cheney and Mr. Edwin C. Rockwell. Mr. William Jonson, of Destruxol Corporation, furnished a truck for hauling the great quantities of material. Mrs. Ethel Rollo, Chairman, and her entire committee are greatly to be congratulated.



In addition to the garden scene, the specimen plants illustrated were arranged to educate visitors on the wide range of Begonias.

Margaret C. Gruenbaum: Received the Award of Merit from the Trevoze Horticultural Society for our display of begonias in their Fall Show.—*Kay Kilderry.*

Turn to page 21

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE A. B. S.

In the past several months, my visits to the various branches have given me a clearer insight into our National Society as it is today. I cannot help but pass along to you the enthusiasm and determination with which a lot of the branches are going about their affairs. Whether it be the furthering of the branch welfare or of our fascinating hobby, the efforts put forth by some of you are gratifying to say the least.

We are on the threshold of a new year. I believe we, as a Society, can find much strength in our organization by your continued loyal support. Tell your friends of your branch activity and what the A.B.S. means to you; lend them your copy of the *Begonian*. Your job will be easier now because of the new, "package deal", for new members, just passed by the National Board. This plan will give all new members a package of seed from the seed fund with simple planting instructions, plus the three cultural bulletins, a letter of greeting from your National President and, of course, the A.B.S. membership card. The members of the National Board feel this will be a little extra added incentive to help you bring new members into the A.B.S. We hope in this way you can assist your branch and its officers toward a larger and more enthusiastic membership, or to form a

new one and, in so doing, help yourself to new found friendships.

The suggestions are starting to roll in. How about yours? One I particularly want to mention came from Mrs. Florence Talbot of the Portland Branch. Again this year, as last, they are working on a delegate fund. By that I mean a delegate to the National Convention in San Francisco, come this next Labor Day. What a grand way to have your branch represented at the National Convention. Maybe your branch will not be able to foot the whole bill, but a share of it. Sounds like a good idea; give it some thought. I, personally, would like to shake the hand of a delegate from each of our forty-eight branches at our next convention.

There is no time like now to start your Convention fund, so start now. You have plenty of time to pick your delegate. Might be a good idea to let your representative be the person who, between now and convention time, brings in the most new members. Just an idea, kick it around and see what you think of it.

The old tenth of the month deadline is crowding me again, so until we meet again next month, same time, same place, keep your chin up and work hard and you will never, never go wrong.

President Cal

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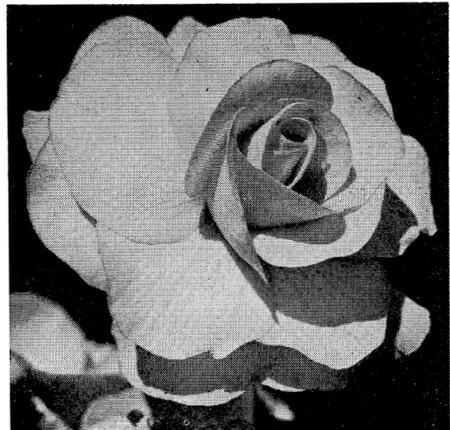
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Calendar of Coming Events

(Visitors are always welcome!)

February 21st

Southern Alameda County Branch: Pat Antonelli, the great tuberous begonia grower, will be our guest at our Sixth Anniversary meeting.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

SHOWS . . . Cont. from Page 19.

Southern Alameda County: SIXTH ANNUAL begonia and shade plant show in August was very successful. Each year improves over the past. Tuberous begonias were featured this year, so it was a very colorful show too. Sweepstakes trophy was won by Mr. Peter Borree. Mr. William Hughes won the Bayliss Trophy for the best tuberous begonia display in the show. Mr. Hughes also won a named hanging begonia donated by Antonelli Brothers for the best hanging begonia in the show. There were cash awards given for first and second best display, and 14 different plant classifications. — *Helen F. Fouche.*

Theodosia Burr Shepherd: Won second prize at the Ventura County Fair to the Fuchsia Society's first prize. Therefore, when the two groups met at a joint pot luck dinner out-of-doors at Camp Comfort, there was a great deal of good natured fun.

Texas State: Entered flowers in the South Texas State Fair, in Beaumont, where we won second prize. Some 231,857 people attended the fair.—*Mrs. H. F. Sikes.*

Antonelli Brothers

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1952 Convention

By Carl F. Meyer, General Manager

On October 21st, the delegates of the seven northern California branches elected Convention officers. Mrs. Hyacinth Smith was elected Treasurer and a Secretary will be named shortly.

Immediately, methods of financing and organizing were put into operation. The San Francisco Branch started the ball rolling by presenting "Linda Lou", a gorgeous baby doll with a fabulous wardrobe designed and made by Miss Marjorie May (one of the original San Francisco Branch members), complete with traveling case, to be donated to a contributor. Miss May's loyalty and faith in the A.B.S. and her enthusiasm for the 1952 Convention is symbolic of the cooperative determination of all the Societies' memberships.

The hosting of the '52 Convention and Flower Show will be something new to our Branches and will be a challenge to them as well, after their

many years as guests of past conventions. That they are equal to the task has been demonstrated in the last few weeks by the enthusiasm in programs and in selection of officers who will be geared to the program.

You will be hearing more of these plans in the future. This part of California is located in the heart of the Begonia world, so you can look forward to a remarkable show. As convention plans unfold, all of you must start to plan for your annual summer vacation in San Francisco and enjoy with us the attractions and charm of the City by the Golden Gate.

Circle your calendar now and collar your boss later.

And to you Begoniaites in Florida and Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Missouri, Texas and Canada—and all the rest of the A.B.S.—let's ring out with "California, Here We Come".

BRANCH MEETING DATES AND PLACES

BELLFLOWER BRANCH

1st Monday, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
I.O.O.F. Hall, Ardmore and Palm Sts.
Audrey Adams, Secy.

6139 Graywood Ave., Bellflower, Calif.

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, Jan. 4, Feb. 1
member's Homes
Mr. Ted Wolf, Secy.-Treas.

Rt. 19, Box 3700, Orlando, Fla.

DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m.
member's Residences

Mrs. Russell B. White, Secy.-Treas.
919 N. Clinton St., Dallas 11, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 10, 7:45 p.m.
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward,
Berkeley

C. F. Jensen, Secy.

3720 Cerrito Ave., Richmond, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Jan. 17, 8:00 p.m.

Christian Church Fellowship Hall,
304 E. Valley

Mrs. Gladys Adams, Cor. Secy.

11215 E. Elliott Ave., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

1st Friday, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 8:00 p.m.

Woman's Club Hse., 1003 Azusa Ave., Azusa

Gertrude M. Cooper, Cor. Secy.

340 W. Electric, Glendora, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, Jan. 5, Feb. 2

Mrs. Marion R. Thompson, Secy.

129 White Horse Pike, Magnolia, N.J.

GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Jan. 23, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central

Mrs. D. H. Bradley, Cor. Secy.

1301 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 8, Calif.

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Community House, La Jolla

Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.

7356 Eads, St., La Jolla, Calif.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 8, 10:30 a.m.

Home of Members

Box Lunch 12:30, Program following

Mrs. Ernest Jones, Secy.

R.F.D., Willow Grove, Pa.

HEART OF AMERICA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Member's Residences

Mr. George Knouf, Secy. Treas.

2912 Delevan, Kansas City, Kans.

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.

Mrs. Florence F. Flynn, Cor. Secy.

1319 N. Ogden Dr., Los Angeles 46, Calif.

HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Roosevelt High School Cafe

1200 E. Olive, Compton, Calif.

Mrs. Dorothy Sarson, Secy.

1108 E. Glencoe Ave., Compton 1, Calif.

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 14, 8:00 p.m.

Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.

Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.

P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Jan. 10, 8:00 p.m.

325 N. Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.

Virginia Smith, Secy.

1419 W. 104th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Porter Park, University & La Mesa Blvd.

Mrs. G. W. McManus, Secy.

7313 Princeton Ave., La Mesa, Calif.

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.

2255 Elm St., Long Beach, Calif.

Mrs. W. Cox, Secy.

3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Jan. 22, 8:00 p.m.

Simpson Memorial Garden Center

Miss Elizabeth S. Hall, Secy.

2572 Trapp Ave., Miami 35, Fla.

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 15, 12:30 p.m.

Amer. Legion Bldg., Linwood & Paseo,
Kansas City, Mo.

Mrs. Mona Ayers, Secy.

6655 Bellefontaine, Kansas City, Mo.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.

170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

NEW YORK SUBURBAN BRANCH

Mrs. Dorothy F. Michaelson, Secy.-Treas.

P.O. Box 818, Denville, N.J.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Houghton Park Club House

Harding & Atlantic, N. Long Beach

Mrs. Alberta Logue, Secy.

6050 Atlantic, Long Beach 5, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

1st Thursday, Jan. 3, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.

Farm Bureau Hall, 353 S. Main St., Orange

Mrs. W. L. Everett, Secy.-Treas.

Rt. 2, Box 146, Orange, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

3rd Monday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Casita del Arroyo, 127 S. Arroyo Blvd.,

Mrs. Harold Benson, Secy.-Treas.

3180 No. Crestford Dr., Altadena, Calif.

PETALUMA BRANCH

3rd Friday, Jan. 18, 8:00 p.m.

McKinley Rec. Center, Wash. & Vallejo Sts.

Mrs. Hazel Chappell, Secy.

222 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

Mrs. Earl Wurster

Rt. 25, Riverton, N.J.

PORTLAND OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, Jan. 25, 8:00 p.m.

Journal Bldg. Aud., Front & Yamhill Sts.

Mrs. George Venner, Secy.

7604 S. E. Tolman, Portland 6, Oregon

REDONDO BEACH AREA

4th Friday, Jan. 25, 8:00 p.m.

2308 Rockefeller

Redondo Beach, Calif.

Mrs. Arline Stoddard, Secy.

522 S. Guadalupe Ave., Redondo Beach, Cal.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Member's Residence

Mrs. Zena L. Twomley, Secy.

7154 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

4th Friday, Jan. 25, 10:00 a.m.

Homes of Members

Mrs. J. J. Howarth, Secy.

4319 Del Mar Ave., San Diego 7, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Jan. 15, 8:00 p.m.

Garden Center, McKinley Park

Mrs. W. J. Holley, Secy.

2914 V St., Sacramento, Calif.

SALEM, OREGON BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Jan. 1, Feb. 5

The Chapel, 685 Winter St., Salem

Mrs. Dan Scharf, Secy.

3460 N. Lancaster Dr., Salem, Ore.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Jan. 28

Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & Unvsty.

Mrs. Thomas Hofmann, Secy.

2327 33rd St., San Diego 4, Calif.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Homes of Members

Mrs. Nel Schoenbrom, Secy.

18635 Calvert St., Reseda, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Jan. 2, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.

1641 Taraval St.

Mrs. Anne Mitchell, Secy.

2370 18th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Jan. 23, 8:00 p.m.

Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.,

Arcadia, Calif.

Mrs. Hazel Snowden, Secy.

5956 N. Encinta Ave., Temple City, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH
2nd Thursday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.
Mrs. Ada Schaefer, Secy.
1107 W. Michelmorena St., Sta Barbara, Cal.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BRANCH
1st Tuesday, Jan. 1, Feb. 5, 8:00 p.m.
V. P. W. Hall, 311 Pacific Ave.
Miss Hazelle E. Oxley, Secy.
428 Davis St., Santa Cruz, Calif.

SANTA MONICA BAY BRANCH
2nd Friday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7th St. Entrance,
Santa Monica
Mrs. Edith King, Secy.
2627 Corinth Ave., Los Angeles 64, Calif.

SANTA PAULA BRANCH
4th Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m.
Steckel Park
Mrs. Beryl Ernsberger, Secy.
621 Santa Paula St., Santa Paula, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH
3rd Tuesday, Jan. 15
Members' Homes
Mrs. James Fariss, Secy.
17721 Rothell Way, Seattle 55, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH
1st Tuesday, Jan. 1, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Balleitt C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura
Mr. Orville A. Rogers, Secy.
126 S. Pacific Ave., Ventura, Calif.

SO. ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH
3rd Thursday, Jan. 17, 8:00 p.m.
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.
Mrs. Dorothy Bayliss, Cor. Secy.
26706 Monte Vista Dr., Hayward, Calif.

SOUTHGATE BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.
South Gate Municipal Aud., 4900 Southern
Mrs. Juanita Pilchard, Secy.
11150 Duquesne Ave., Lynwood, Calif.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH
4th Friday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. Fred M. Owens, Secy.-Treas.
1312 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH
2nd Wednesday, Jan. 9, 11:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Walter H. Kirch, Secy.
Cherryview Rd., Glenshaw, Pa.

WESTERN RESERVE BRANCH, CLEV., O.
4th Wednesday, Jan. 23, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, 10013 Detroit St.
Cleveland, Ohio
Mrs. Edward Lobser, Cor. Secy.
25912 Westlake Rd., Bay Village, Ohio

WHITTIER BRANCH
4th Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Union High School, Room 19
Lindley Ave. Entrance, Whittier, Calif.
Carolyn Spitz, Secy.
7721 Vanport Ave., Whittier, Calif.

CONDENSED MINUTES—Regular meeting National Board, American Begonia Society, held in the City Hall, Los Angeles, Calif., Nov. 26th, 1951.

Present for the meeting: Messrs. Trowbridge, Haskell, Moore, Spaulding, Small, Terrell; Mesdames Korts, Nolan, Spaulding, Powell, Schwerdtfeger, Slocum, Hartwell.

Branch Representation: Hollywood, Southgate, Inglewood, Redondo Beach Area, Hub City, San Gabriel Valley, Glendale, Santa Monica, Whittier, Riverside, Parent Branch and North Long Beach, Pasadena.

Meeting opened at 7:45 with President Trowbridge in the Chair. Salute to the Flag and Statement of Aims and Purposes of the Society. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved as read.

Past President Moore stated he had secured the \$2000.00 bond on the Treasurer, as authorized at the last meeting, at a premium of \$5.00.

Membership Chairman, unable to be present but sent in report—read by Mrs. Korts. Editor—nothing to report except what appears in the magazine. Stated the Begonian would be late in December due to a change in printers and the adjustment necessary. Publicity Director Mrs. Powell reported she was working on some special publicity to be used to stimulate interest in Branch societies'

meetings and create more interest in begonias. Asked that Branch Societies please send in names and addresses of their local papers so she can get this before the public.

Public Relations Director Mrs. Schwerdtfeger submitted for approval the amended Constitution and By-Laws of the Bellflower Branch. SO ORDERED. Also reported new Branch at Grays Harbor, Wash. Found their Constitution and By-laws in order and moved full acceptance of the Branch. SO ORDERED. Reported Mrs. Sophia Baker of Portland "Chairman of Round Robins."

Librarian Mrs. Nolan listed two new books for circulation "Camellias Illustrated" by Morris L. Sharp and "Enjoy your House Plants" by D. Jenkins and H.V. Wilson.

Vice President Terrell, of Riverside, reported he had visited 8 society meetings since last report; 25 branches visited this summer. See other pages for Slide Library report.

President Trowbridge called attention to ticket books he had on hand and asked Representative Directors to contact him after the meeting to learn the particulars. It is all for the benefit of the Annual Convention and Lower Show for 1952.

President Trowbridge again asked that Branches send the name and addresses of their new officers promptly after elections. Mrs. Schwerdtfeger is compiling the information. Send the information to either the Editor or direct to Mrs. Schwerdtfeger.

President Trowbridge stated that instead of new members just receiving a membership card, they would from this time on receive the three cultural bulletins, a package of begonia seed with instructions for planting, and a letter of Greeting from the President outlining the advantages and privileges that will be theirs when they join our Society. SO ORDERED.

Check for \$10.00 received from Sacramento Branch to be added to the Advertising Fund; advertising campaign to start around the first of the year.

Discussion entered into concerning publication of Roster of the A.B.S. Society. At the conclusion, and after statement from the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Human, of the Southgate Branch moved. "That the proposition be tabled for the time being, and that the thanks of the Board be extended to Mrs. Nolan for her tedious and painstaking work in preparing the text for this Roster, and that the information be kept for future consideration."

Secretary instructed to write "thank you" letters to Fred Shultz of Inglewood Branch, and Mrs. Maude Nichols for the work done at the Educational Booth at the recent Brookside Flower Show. Also congratulations to the Pasadena Branch on their blue ribbon award at Brookside beside the \$40.00 cash award.

All Branches represented at the meeting gave good reports. Next meeting, January 28th. Respectfully submitted, Gonda Hartwell, Secy.

WHY A BRANCH?

It was through the interest, energy and enthusiasm of our president, E. Weaver, that a group of flower loving Port Arthur people came together to organize a branch of the American Begonia Society. The branch was organized with 29 charter members.

Since that time, February 1950, the interest in begonias and shade plants has grown in momentum and size like a snow ball.

The group has been like one large family, visiting among members, sharing ideas, experiences, plants, seeds, bulbs, and what have you. As a result all members have more flowers than we had ever hoped to have.—Mrs. H. F. Sikes, Texas State Branch.

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See Page 16

Begonia Lucerna
PLANT OF MRS. J. AYERSMAN

R. H. Terrell Photo