

THE BEGONIAN INDEX

FOR APRIL, 1954 THROUGH FEBRUARY, 1955

NOTE. The index this year has been compiled by the staff in a little different manner to make reading and finding material a little more simple. It has been divided into several classifications to make research more practical. Numbers refer to pages. Business of the branches and the A.B.S. has not been indexed due to the ease of looking into each month for reports. — These four pages may be removed from your Begonian and filed with your past issues.

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From the Editor's Files . . .

From a talk reported by LOUISE CRAMER—

Mr. Ziesenhenné, who formerly operated several fishing boats, decided he wanted to go into a business where he could be home with his family. He expanded his hobby into his present hillside Begonia and Cyclamen nursery. The lath house of his nursery is a riot of magnificent color—all queenly Tuberous Begonias. The salmons and oranges are most predominate and they are parents of most hybrids. One of the most beautiful baskets, a burst of orange flowers, one of his own hybrids called Mimi, has eight single and seven double flowers on a stem.

A soil mix of leaf mold, peat moss, garden soil and cow manure makes the best growing medium. Included in this mix should be bone meal and super phosphate. According to Mr. Ziesenhenné, the growing medium should contain all the necessary food so the plant will need no care except judicious watering. Feeding during growth often causes leaf curl and tuber rot.

The praises of cow manure as an inexpensive and fine fertilizer is not minimized by this grower who uses it extensively because cow manure affords a buffer action against the alkali of soils and water. The commercial fertilizers may tend to break down the humus and if not used properly may damage a plant by burning or stunting. In processing steer manure, valuable hormones, organics and bacteria are destroyed by the heat used in drying.

If you want a large plant, grow in a large pot, jumping two inches in size as you transplant. The secret is to water thoroughly, let the top dry out and then flood the pot again. The chief pests are leaf eater which can be controlled by dusts or sprays which should be kept off the flowers, and mildew which may best be controlled by Greenol, Orthorix, or fuscine, the dye used to color the water around aircraft safety rafts. The tuber should be watered even after flowers are gone because food is being made and stored. Water should not be withheld to cause the leaves to fall as the tuber will go dormant when it is ready.

When the Tuberous Begonia has shed its leaves and dropped its stem, remove the pot and replace with Cyclamen, the "Alpine Violet," a hard-to-beat hardy winter grower in the shade garden. This plant is not "a house lover" because the house is too hot and dry. Even in the second year of growth of the Cyclamen there have been as many as 40 flowers to a pot. A tip—never allow the pot to completely dry out.

The Tuberous Begonia which was replaced by the Winter Cyclamen should be allowed to remain in its pot of soil until next growing season so the large mass of roots will not be destroyed as new root systems break from the end of the old. The vigor of the tuber is then maintained so there is much less chance of loss.

More Specimen Plants seen at our 1954 Convention — Photos Courtesy G. W. Motschman:
Vir-Bob B. Mazae

