

# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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# From the Editor . . .

Now that the convention is over, we can breathe and get back to work. Among the many things you will be hearing about that happened were, first the new staff of the *BEGONIAN*. We hope Charlotte Hoak, Louise Schwerdtfeger, Mrs. Jensen, and Ken Terry will help to make our magazine better than ever. Mrs. Hoak and Mrs. Jensen will dig up some contributors; Louise Schwerdtfeger will work on the correct name spelling, and Ken Terry will be responsible particularly for our event calendar. List your events ahead and we will see that he gets them to compile them for us.

More about these good folks as they begin to take over in our next issue. In this one we have some good things for you, a few repeats that have been asked for and many of you readers that are new will appreciate.

The *BEGONIAN* and its editor was presented with one of the nation's highest awards—by the Home Gardener's Advisory Board, for the greatest progress to be made in a magazine, make-up-wise, content and so on, during 1955. It was presented by L. R. Shep, West Coast Director. The award to the editor was a lovely Helebro's watch. I certainly cannot take credit for it entirely, for my staff during the last year has worked under great odds to make some changes for the betterment of the magazine.

We know the need of more Begonia material. You can help by getting it in. We are going to work on some of the old-timers who used to write for us! However, it must be said, not everyone has agreed on what has happened to date—editorial wise, that is. But I will still be governed by what you tell us, the board—so sing out! We are aware this is a thankless job and it is one that can give no one any great publicity or financial return, so we do it because we love it. Some of us are interested in our society and desire to make it grow and go—for the entire 48 states.

So we have determined to make some changes we think will be for the good. By the by, the three months lacking in the index will be out next month. We were not informed of the right starting date on it—hence the miss.

Some questions we want answered—Shall we scatter the ads throughout the magazine? Does it help better reading? Shall we throw out the editorial each month? Do you mind certain valuable articles from 5 or more years ago repeated?

And again a reminder—the editor likes letters and reads them, and they are important for encouragement and suggestions. Right? Right!

I am sorry not every branch report got in this issue, a few more will be in the next. Let's have them short and to the point. New policy—please note.

The convention was surely wonderful and I am sorry more of you did not get to it. The exhibits were beautiful and the work done by everyone was outstanding. Hats off to all of these good folks. We have a top staff guiding the Society this coming year. Let's support them in little ways by saying thanks, and helping them. They need support for then it's easy, and a pleasure to do the job.

as ever — G.L.

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## *The Begonian*

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# Window Culture . . .

## The Begonian

SEPTEMBER, 1955

—By *ELSA FORT, New Jersey*

When one looks at the map of the World, the first thought would be, "Why the Eastern Coast of the United States is further south and should be warmer than England which is so much nearer the North Pole," but the Gulf Stream must be considered in the effect it has upon the climate of England. However, Begonias usually are very accommodating in adapting themselves to various conditions of climate. In New Jersey we have many dark days when the sun does not shine, although we do not have the fogs of England. But the lack of sun in either case is identical in the growing of Begonias.

For a window without sun, if the temperature is rather cool, say about 58 to 68, any of the Rex Begonias will thrive and the colors in the leaves be more brilliant. Of course most fibrous Begonias require some sun for bloom, but the Rhizomatous varieties will bloom in a window with good light and no direct sunshine. *B. erythrophylla*, *B. erythrophylla helix*, *B.*

*crestabruchi* and *B. Bunchi* will do better without direct sunshine and, when they are just about ready to burst into bloom, move them to sunshine for brighter color. The Begonias bearing red leaves, such as *B. 'Joe ayden'*, *B. frutescans*, *B. Vedderi'*, *B. 'Dorothy Grant'* and other fibrous root red-leaved Begonias, will all have brighter leaves when grown in a north or northeast window.

When Begonias are grown in windows without direct sunlight, they require less water, so do not get as "leggy" as when given an abundance of water. Lack of sunshine is not always a cause of legginess, but an over-abundance of water. Seems the plant is trying to float when it is too wet and soggy at the root. When watering be sure to pour off all excess water in the saucer after the plant has had time to absorb needed moisture, and by all means do not overwater, rather underwater in an exposure without sunshine.

If it is possible, try to move the Begonias grown in a north exposure to get some sunshine once a week; give them a whole day in the sun, and in that way the leaves will not turn yellow.

If one has sufficient space in a sunny window to put in a table back of the sills, the colored leaved Begonias, together with the rhizomatous types, can be grown, thereby receiving filtered sunshine, leaving the front nearest to the window for the flowering types which require sunshine for perfect bloom, such as the cane and hirsute and semperflorens. Fortunately for us here in New Jersey many of the red-leaved Begonias are summer bloomers and give their perfection of bloom out of doors in the summer months, and are just growing curing the winter short days and still give their beauty of colored foliage. When one has beautiful colors in the foliage one is not so anxious to have the added glory of bloom.

Of course, if grown in a south or west

### Our Cover . . .

Winning a \$250 prize for its entry in the Nineteenth Agricultural District Flower Show for a garden unit featuring Begonias, the Santa Barbara Branch of the American Begonia Society received the acclaim of the judges in an award of merit for design. The exhibit was part of the annual Horse and Flower Show in Santa Barbara's Pershing Park from July 12 through 16.

The curved foreground of the Display was planted in pink semperflorens in a variety of shades and heights. A native Coast Live Oak in the right background, under which was placed a bird bath with Franciscan statuette, was balanced by a giant Strelitzia and gray-painted planter boxes on the other side. A chair and table and the gravel on the path were in pink

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# About Tuberous Begonia Secrets . . .

—By JACK SIGTHART, *Corona Del Mar, Calif.*

The spectacular modern race of tuberous Begonias, whose huge blooms bring such diversity of form and color to our summer gardens, is the sophisticated descendant of about half a dozen small-flowered species brought from high in the Andes mountains of Bolivia and Peru. It scarcely seems possible that the art of the hybridizer could have wrought such sweeping changes since 1868 (when the first recorded cross was made). But these gorgeous aristocrats, like their humble ancestors of the high Andean valleys, still have a liking for moist soil and air and a dislike for extremes of heat and cold. While tuberous Begonias are at their best in the so-called "fog belt" of the Pacific coast, they may, with a little ingenuity, be made to thrive almost anywhere in the United States, with the possible exception of the dry interior of the Southwest.

## STARTING THE TUBERS

When you buy it, the tuber is usually in its second year, which is the prime of life for a tuberous Begonia. The tuber is a flat, round, biscuit-shaped object, one and a half to three inches in diameter, covered with shaggy brown fiber.

If you buy your tubers when they first become available (usually in January) it will be necessary to store them for a few weeks. Spread them out in a cardboard box, punching a few holes in the cover for ventilation, and put them away in a cool dry place. (Avoid freezing temperatures, however.) When danger of frost is over, bring them into a warmer spot. When they show, by pinkness of buds around the old stem scar, that they are coming to life, it is time to put them in the starting medium.

At Cardoza Gardens we have found the most satisfactory starting medium to consist of equal parts of leaf mold and peat moss. Place the tubers in flats of this mixture, concave side up, barely covering them. Allow ample room for root development, putting no more than twelve small tubers, or six larger ones, in a single flat. Lay the flats in a warm, shady spot in the garden and keep them slightly moist. Cold

and soggy conditions are fatal to Begonia tubers.

## POTTING UP

Pot culture is usually preferred for tuberous Begonias, since it permits better control of growing conditions. The pots should be of generous size: an eight inch pan for a medium tuber, a nine inch pot for a larger tuber.

Soil for tuberous Begonias should be a loose, rich mixture, well drained and slightly on the acid side. Nearly every grower has his own pet formula. The following mixture has been used with good success at Cardoza Gardens for many years:

Two parts oak leaf mold.

One part sand.

One part well rotted manure.

It is a good idea to mix your soil and wet it down about the same time you start your tubers, so it will have a few weeks to season before planting.

Put plenty of crock (pieces of broken pots or bricks, coarse gravel, etc.) in the bottom of the pots — good drainage is essential.

The tubers are ready for potting when the sprouts reach three inches in height. As it becomes ready, scoop each tuber out of the flat, taking care to disturb the mat of roots as little as possible. Plant the tuber, together with the adhering mass of growing medium, so that it is covered with about half an inch of soil. The soil should fill the pot to about an inch of the top.

Until growth is well started and there is good development of roots, water very sparingly. Until such growth is established, the tuber is actually over-potted, and will suffer consequent damage if the whole mass of soil becomes water-logged. A good rule for the first couple of weeks is "Water the tuber, not the pot."

## VARIATIONS

If you have only two or three tubers, you may find it more convenient to start them directly in the pots in which they are to grow. Fill the pots with the usual potting mixture, scoop out a good sized picket and fill in with the starting medium.

In this set the tuber so that it is barely covered. Water very discreetly until growth is well started.

If the soil is properly prepared in advance, by digging in generous amounts of manure and leaf mold, it is quite possible, in favorable localities, to grow tuberous Begonias in the open ground. The tubers may be planted out after starting them in flats in the conventional manner; or, by setting them in pockets of the starting medium, they may be planted directly in the ground.

### GROWING ON

For large growth and ample bloom, tuberous Begonias must be well fed. The rather rich mixture in which they are planted contains enough nourishment to bring them through their first weeks of growth. However, when the flower buds begin to show color, they are ready for their first feeding. A standard liquid fertilizer is recommended, such as Liquinox, California Liquid Fertilizer, or Likwidgro. Dilute to the prescribed strength and thoroughly wet down each plant. The soil should be moist when fertilizer is applied. Water carefully the next time to avoid leaching our fertilizer. Repeat the application every two or three weeks during the growing season.

Ideal growing conditions for tuberous Begonias are temperatures of 60-70 degrees during the day and 50-60 degrees at night. Humidity should be high at all times. Somewhat higher temperatures may be tolerated during the day, but the plants must be allowed to cool off at night. During dry spells, and in dry climates, maintain humidity by wetting down the walks or other surrounding areas. While wind and drafty conditions are bad for tuberous Begonias, they demand good ventilation. Allow sufficient space so that adjacent plants will not touch when full grown.

Begonias are shade loving plants, of course. Broken shade, as in a lath house or under thin foliage, is preferable. Complete shade in mid-day, with early morning and late afternoon sun, will also serve. But day-long dense shadow will lead to lanky growth and sparse bloom.

For appearance' sake, and to avoid damage to the brittle stems, upright types of tuberous Begonias should be staked. To be sure that you don't hit the tuber, set the stake at least two inches from the stem.

### CULTURE OF BASKET TYPES

Unlike the upright types of tuberous Begonias, which produce only one or two

stems, the basket or hanging types grow from a large number of buds surrounding the crown of the tuber. Since these stuffers usually run rather large, particular care must be taken to give them ample pot room. At Cardoza Gardens they are grown in large wire baskets, which are stuffed with sphagnum and filled with the regular soil mixture. Further inland, solid redwood baskets or twelve-inch clay pans fitted with wire hangers may be found preferable.

Whatever method is followed, frequent and consistent fertilizing is required to produce good growth.

### SEEDLINGS

Seedling tuberous Begonias, which are available for a few weeks starting about May 15, offer a somewhat cheaper method of building up a stock of tubers. Under modern methods of selective breeding, these seedlings develop remarkably true to color and type. Seedlings bloom later than plants grown from tubers and often last later into the fall. By planting both tubers and seedlings one may have a somewhat longer season of bloom.

Culture of seedlings follows the procedure outlined above, except that, being already started, they are set directly into pots. During their growing season they develop tubers, which should be dug and stored in the usual manner.

### CARE OF TUBERS

As the days grow shorter and the year draws near the equinox, tuberous Begonias will begin to indicate that they are ready to wind up their affairs for the season. Growth will cease and bloom will be scant and small. Fertilize no more at this stage and cut down on water. Then as the leaves start to yellow and the stems break off and topple, withhold water completely and set the pots aside.

After a few weeks, when they have shed their tops, lift the tubers, rub off the adhering soil and old roots and lay them in the sun to dry. Two days is usually sufficient for the drying process, during which the tubers should be turned a couple of times. When they are thoroughly dry on the surface, store the tubers as described at the beginning of this article, in a ventilated cardboard box or, if you prefer, in a clean, dry flat. Check them occasionally during the winter and discard any showing signs of decay.

While tubers are at their best during their second and third seasons, they may,

with proper care, be brought into good growth and bloom for several more years.

### THE SECRET FORMULA

We have been growing tuberous Begonias successfully at Cardoza Gardens for about eighteen years. Sometimes, in good seasons, the display of lush growth and huge blossoms has been quite spectacular. Skeptics have occasionally implied that we were not telling the public all the facts about our procedure. We had, they hinted, some secret formula which we brewed at midnight and administered in the dark of the moon behind barred doors. Actually, all of the relevant facts are included in this article. There is a formula, perhaps, but it is not secret. Here it is:

### GET GOOD TUBERS; GROW THEM WELL; FERTILIZE THEM REGULARLY.

By "good tubers" I mean tubers grown from good stock by reputable growers who are specialists in this line. The desirable characteristics of tuberous Begonias have been built up by years of careful hybridization, but they may be nullified by a couple of generations of ignorant or hit-or-miss breeding. Top-grade tubers will cost you considerably more money than the scrubs; but if you want first-rate results, first-rate tubers are the only kind to get. Be sternly selective in building up your collection of tubers. If any plant shows undesirable characteristics — such as scrubby growth, weak stems, poor bloom, or excessive bud drop—harden your heart and heave the cripple out. No use saving it for another season, for it will only repeat its original dismal performance.

I have already pretty well indicated the conditions for growing Begonias well. Tuberous Begonias have been successfully grown under such diverse circumstances as the short summers of Minnesota, the dusty heat of Kansas, and the stony soil of Maine, on the very verge of the Atlantic. They may be grown, in other words, even though conditions are less than ideal, *if they are given good care*. Care they must have, in any case, and fairly constant care. They are plants for the conscientious gardener, not for the week-end horticulturist. Nor can you abandon them to their own devices, or to the ministrations of the neighbor's little boy, while you take your summer holiday.

I have also mentioned the necessity of fertilizing, but the matter of *regularity*

needs to be emphasized. Only by a regular program can you achieve the large and vigorous growth that distinguishes tuberous Begonias at their best. Don't think that you can skip the fertilizer one time and make up for it by a double dose next time. To arrive at this regularity with the least effort, I suggest that you set aside the *first* and *fifteenth* of the month as "fertilizer days."

### GET GOOD TUBERS; GROW THEM WELL; FERTILIZE THEM REGULARLY.

This is the formula. Here is no old wives' magic, no dried newts, no henbane. Nothing but hard work. But it gets results.

## Coming Events . . .

The Glendale Branch will present as the speaker at the regular meeting September 28th, Mr. H. L. Weitz of Ventura. His subject will be "Propagation of Begonias."

### CIRCUS DAY SEPTEMBER 11

3652 Olympiad Drive

Inglewood Branch is planning a special day of fun and food for every member and friend of the A.B.S. There will be breakfast consisting of waffles and that famous 'WASMA' sauce or sausage and eggs. Later in the afternoon there will be Barbecued Hamburgers for all. There will be a drawing of a big basket of canned food and a large plant table. Also games and plenty of time to sit around and chat. Tell all your friends and relatives and bring them out. If you can let us know that you are coming phone AX 3-0898, PL 6-2333 or PL 3-9027. This is for the benefit of the National Treasury so come out and have fun with us.

September 8—Inglewood will have as speaker, Paul Little of Pacific Guano. He will show a film and speak.

—Terry Olmsted, representative

All copy for the Begonian must be in the hands of the Editor by the 10th of month preceding publication.

# Beginners Only . . .

## SEMPERFLORENS

As difficulties in culture and growing of rare varieties of Begonias arise and discouragement reigns, more and more prevalent is the tendency to revert to propagating the 'always-flowering' old stand-bys—which is what 'semperflorens' means.

If you start the study of this one variety of Begonia, you will find vast material easily acquired and very pleasantly put to usage. It will be far less damaging to nerves acquired by overwhelming frustration when you attempt to assimilate the ponderous knowledge written about the sixteen hundred known species and variations of Begonias in general. Even trying to wade through such a deluge of material seems to inundate one until you are apt to surrender to its inevitable force and, feeling bogged down, resort to the idea—"Oh! What is the use!"

This is where amateurs fail. It is so easy to become discouraged. So this is my advice.—Choose one type of Begonia. Semperflorens are the easiest to grow. Learn all you can about just this one. Then put your acquired knowledge to work. Start by raising some from seed. Whenever you are out, locally or on a long trip, get the habit of seeking out greenhouses and leisurely search for entirely different specimens of semperflorens which you have not as yet collected. Sometimes, tucked away among the masses of lovely blooming plants, one catches your eye with a slight variation of leaf or flower.

The uses for semperflorens are many and interesting. Truly no kitchen windowsill should be without attractive pots of semperflorens to blend with the color scheme. In my breakfast room are soft delft blue three-inch jardinières in which are set the smaller clay pots of red and white flowered Begonias. Another person might use red or yellow jardinières.

Out-of-doors, in beautiful borders for the yard, flower beds, or among the evergreens bordering the house foundation, different colors in leaves and flowers can be grouped. At the Detroit Flower Show last year the Chrysler garden used a solid bed of semperflorens, low, compact plants set close together. Three thousand pink Begonias in the center were bordered by a single outline border of a thousand white Begonias, which drew acclaim from everyone as one

of the most attractive displays.

Why don't you try your hand at these kaleidoscopic lovelies first and graduate to the harder-to-grow species?

—Dorothy Pierson Barton

## HOW I START MY TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

It is best to start your bulbs when they show a little pink growth. If you don't have tuberous bulbs, you can obtain them from a great many nurseries and seed houses.

To start your bulbs, fill a flat of prepared soil. You can use peat or a mixture of peat and leaf mold.

A good mixture is 2 parts coarse leaf mold, 1 part decayed manure and garden soil. This latter is to give body to the mixture.

Make nest-like indentations in the soil and cover the bulbs with a half-inch of soil. It will depend on the size of the bulb as to how many you can place in a flat. You must allow room for roots to become 1 or 1½ inches long, at which time they will be ready to pot up.

Keep soil moderately moist inclining to the dry side until the young growths appear through the soil; then you can give them more water.

Some people start their bulbs in pots instead of boxes. This method has certain advantages, as when they are started they can be potted into their flowering pots without any intermediate transplanting. Against this method is the possibility that, should the bulbs be slow in coming into growth, the soil in the bottom of the pots might become soured and might cause you to lose your bulbs, so I prefer the box method.

No matter what the size of the plant growth, the bulbs should be well rooted. The roots should be grown to at least 1½ inches in length before you pot the bulbs.

Large bulbs should be put into 8-inch pots and medium sizes into 6-inch pots and smaller bulbs into 4-inch pots. The ones you place in 4-inch pots will have to be put into 6-inch pots later.

Hanging basket Begonia bulbs should be started in flats also, and when well-rooted, placed in 4-inch pots until of a size to place in the hanging containers.

—By Elsie Frey

# Oklahoma Begonia Growing . . .

—By ELVIN McDONALD

The gloxinias have bloomed for all they are worth, and I'm looking forward to some very unusual ones very soon. I have had them in bloom at almost all times of the year and find them to be easy to grow and truly the most beautiful things I've ever seen or grown. I have grown them from seeds and leaves and find both methods of propagation very easy. Have also grown some African violets from seeds, and although not many germinated out of the first batch, some of them will soon bloom. One definitely has DuPont foliage, but has not blossomed yet. Have other seeds of African violets planted, and although I grow my African violets in the house, I do have most of my seedlings in the greenhouse at this time. I have also crossed many of my gloxinias and African violets and am anxious to see how some of these crosses come out.

Right now my first Epiphyllum is almost ready to bloom. Although it is just a species, *E. strictum*, I am sure it is very pretty. I have several named "epys" and I am sure they will bloom next year. I find they do well in small pots, with ample humidity. I feed mine with liquid fertilizer from March until November. During the dead of winter I just water mine occasionally and let them rest.

I had four amaryllis bloom this year. However, next year I will have around a hundred of my own seedlings bloom as well as several kinds new to me, Dutch hybrids that a friend gave to me just recently. I put my Amaryllis outdoors just as soon as it is warm enough in the spring. I use a very humusy soil that will take up gallons of water and grows them very fast. Amaryllis from seed is a very fascinating experience and one that I find to be very worthwhile.

To grow Begonias from seeds, I turn pint jars on their sides, put in  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch of peat and vermiculite, mixed, and scatter the seed on this. Then the lid is placed on the jar and I can forget about them for about ten

days. Then I begin to look for seedlings. When they are well up I take the lid off for a few hours each day so they won't get so spindly. When they are large enough to handle I transplant them either to individual pots or to flats, depending upon the growth habits of the particular Begonia. I use the same method for gloxinias, African violets and other small-seeded plants.

I have had very few bugs in the greenhouse. The first year I had some trouble with plant lice and red spider. However with some good fumigations I was rid of them. The second year mice and slugs bothered me. I found no remedy for the slugs except to keep things a little dryer. The mice just needed some good poison, so now I am rid of both. I have had so few pests that I feel I have been very fortunate.

I have to keep a tarpaulin on the top and half of the south side of the greenhouse all the time—winter and summer—otherwise the sun would burn the Begonia leaves and ruin the gloxinias and other shade plants. I plan to shingle most of the top of the greenhouse before winter this year as I feel that would look better than tarp does.

I find that most of the Begonias going out of my greenhouse into our home stand up very well to the gas heated home and continue to grow and blossom very nicely. We have been a little surprised at this, for it is certainly not so with the geraniums. I do not start many outdoors plants in my greenhouse. I do have some lily seedlings in it, and we start tomato and pepper plants in the spring.

I think that of all the joys, growing gloxinias and Begonias from seed have been the two things that are so outstanding in my memory, and are the things I plan to continue to do, year after year. Most of my Begonia seeds come from the Seed Fund.

I now have a quart jar of peat turned on its side planted to Philippine fern spores, my first experience with such, and I am VERY anxious to see how they grow. So, you see, there is always something new awaiting me.

# Rex Begonias, Interesting . . .

—By J. J. LITTLEFIELD

Many Begonias are grown for their colorful flowers, others are grown for attractive unusually marked foliage. Rex Begonias are perhaps the showiest of the fancy leaf types. They do have dainty pale pink or white color blossoms, but its the different tones of silvery gray to soft mossy green colored foliage with additional markings woven into the main colors that makes them so unusual and different. One sometimes wonders if an artist has just finished trying out a combination of colors on each leaf.

Rex Begonias are rhizomatous rooted plants. They have root stocks with smaller roots growing out directly from the base of the upright trunk stem of the plants. Regular type of rex Begonias grow to about 12-inches tall, and present a wide range of colorful foliage plants. On the other hand there is a new type that has all the characteristics of rex Begonias but is taller, growing to about a foot and a half or two feet tall, and the leaves are large and serrated. This interesting group of branching rex Begonias was developed by Mrs. Perry Miller, of Whittier, who has been a member of the American Begonia Society for 12 years.

## STARTED AS A HOBBY

Mrs. Miller started growing several Begonias as a hobby, liked the rex Begonias and soon became a collector. Like some plant collectors who grow favorite plants successfully and win prizes at the flower shows when exhibiting them, it became an old story. She still liked Rex Begonias but wanted something different from their usual habit of growth. She crossed the low rex rhizomatous type Begonia with the India specie Begonia which is a spotted leaf type. These are more versatile than the rex Begonia type because they fit more landscape planting effects. When planted in the ground, the soil must be porous with generous amount of leaf mold added. They can be tucked in among ferns, in between azaleas, in front of fuchsias, and grown as individual pot plant specimens.

Mrs. Miller grows her plants in pots

and displays them in the lath house, on benches, display stands, and banks some of them around the entrances of two doors which lead out from the rear of the house. She grows some of the plants and starts cuttings in a fluorescent tube lath house. The lath house was built of discarded fluorescent tubes. This type of lath house furnishes subdued light, plants grow faster, and cuttings root quicker.

## PLANT REQUIREMENTS

Perhaps the reason why more gardeners don't grow Rex Begonias or the new Rex branching type is because the plant culture requirements are slightly different from most other types of Begonias. Rex's won't tolerate wind exposure. Plant them in wind sheltered area of garden or patio. Keep potted plants out of windy section of porch or patio and out of sun. However, they will stand a bit of east morning sun. They don't like wet feet. Potted plants should be off solid flooring or wood, to allow excess water to drain away freely. Set the pots on broken crocks or pea gravel, but not on shavings or sawdust. Water them when necessary, but do not keep them continually damp. Too much dampness and poor air circulation encourages fungus. Fungus indication shows the leaves have mildew spots on them and shortly the leaves wilt. At first sign of fungus, get rid of the plants and soil.

The secret to successful culture of Rex Begonias is to have them in the shaded area of garden, patio or porch where they get free circulation of air. Hose the foliage (rinse leaves) daily, when weather is hot. Soil medium should be leaf mold or mixture of soil, but more leaf mold than soil.

Only way you can use Rex Begonias as indoor house plants is if you'll put the plants outdoors daily for an airing.

Grow some Rex Begonias and perhaps you too, will be delighted in having some handsomely colored foliage plants. The American Begonia Society, an international organization, has many branch clubs in a number of Southern California communities. These clubs meet once a month. Their

purpose is to disseminate helpful culture information on Begonias and other related shade garden plants. Consult your local newspaper for meeting notices of the branch clubs. You are welcome to visit these meetings!

Gardening is a fascinating hobby. To pick up some additional gardening facts, tune in KXLA Fridays, 1:3 p.m., and KTTV, channel 11, on Sundays at 12:30 p.m.

## "Old Timers"

No one can speak or think of the hybrids of the Rosecroft Gardens without a moment's pause to pay respect to Alfred D. Robinson. Mr. Robinson worked with Begonias in California from 1905 to 1952 and originated over one hundred new ones for our enjoyment. He was a gentleman and a scholar and received world-wide recognition as an authority on cultivation and propagation of Begonias. Truly he was the dean of propagators.

Mr. Robinson's greatest contribution is in the field of '*rubras*' or canes. From *coccinea* seed he created and introduced more than twenty varieties named mostly for girls. They ranged in size from dwarf 'Jinnie May' up through the medium sized, as 'Bennett Rubra' and 'Elithe', to the tall growing 'Mrs. Schinkle', 'Mrs. W. D. Harney' and the 'Shastas'. The color range is from pure white to a brilliant red.

From *albo-picta* four excellent growers were produced, but 'Annie Laurie' proved to be outstanding, hardy and a prolific bloomer, and was later used in the *dichroa* crosses.

The seedlings from '*Lucerna*' were real beauties, many new in both color and form. Over twenty were created, named mostly for Alpine lakes, using Mr. Robinson's words, "to keep the family feeling and facilitate identification." In this group are found many of the dark leaved, gloriously colored ones, as 'Alzasco' and 'Codelargo' and many with unusual and interesting leaf forms, as 'Interlaken'.

Mr. Robinson made a worthwhile contribution in the rhizomatous group with 'Marian' and 'Scharstar' (*Scharffiana x heracleifolia*). In the hirsute group his 'Undemille' is really one in a million, and the Rosecroft 'prunifolias, both white and pink, are a credit to any garden. The prunifolias

are the children of the venerable old mother, 'Viandi', who has given us so many beautiful children.

'Richard Robinson' and 'Pink MacBeth' are real additions to the low growing, front border type, though we could wish 'Richard Robinson' to be more hardy.

'Frutescans', which Mr. Robinson grew from German seed, is unexcelled when it comes to adjusting itself to any situation. It makes an excellent hanging basket, or border plant, or it can be successfully staked for a medium grower.

To Mr. Robinson we owe thanks for many of our most beautiful rexes. He had an eye for pattern, color and texture, and he worked toward that end, as shown by 'Hilda', 'Autumn', 'Sea Nymph', 'Moonbeam' and many others. His outstanding rex crosses were with *cathayana*, and two of these, 'Kathleyana' and 'Alfreana', excel in every respect.

In 1938 Annie Robinson, wife of Alfred D. Robinson, introduced the *dichroa* blood into the canes. The idea was to bring the brilliant orange of *dichroa* up out of the glass house. The first cross with 'Annie Laurie' brought us the 'Di-anna' group—the smallest of the *dichroa* crosses. Next came the *dichroa* cross with 'Erna'. Some of these 'Di-ernas' reach a height of four or five feet, but the cross with *dichroa* and 'Shasta' seemed most successful. Even this was not up to expectations, as in no case were the flowers a pure orange. Even so, the public was impressed, and the demand became so great for this new strain, that Begonias from all three of the above groups were on the market before they were named, and thus our confusion. Some are taller, some more red, some more hardy, and in many cases it is even impossible to say whether they are children of 'Annie Laurie', 'Erna', or 'Shasta', but they are all lovely free bloomers. They all show the *dichroa* parentage in the prominence of leaf veins on the under surface and also in the orange cast in the flowers.

Mrs. Robinson also created distinctive hybrids in the tuberous field, introducing the 'Rosecroft Strain' by crossing '*ricinifolia*' with *micranthera fimbriata*.

All in all, the Rosecroft Gardens under the Robinson tutelage gave us some of our best in every class, tuberous, rhizomatous, and fibrous. While there are many fine new Begonias on the market, it is my hope that the good old ones will be carried on and give future Begonia enthusiasts the pleasure they have given me.

# Tuberous Begonias for Corsages . . .

With the many social activities going on the year around—dances, dinners, graduations, weddings, and vacations—enthusiasm grows keener with excitement as the event approaches; and for the girls and women the final, wonderful touch is usually the corsage.

The tropical beauty of hybrid tuberous Begonias in exquisite shades of yellow, orange, red, pink, and white ranges in size from the small *Loydii* (hanging basket Begonia) to the large, fringed *fimbriata* types resembling large carnations, all of which are ideal for corsages. With the delightfully versatile array of shades and forms to choose, you may style your corsage to match or harmonize with your formal or sportswear costumes.

Mrs. Mary Hazel Drummond, national Past-President of the American Begonia Society and author of the book "Styling Corsages with Garden Flowers" (Macmillan), recommends the following concerning tuberous Begonia corsages:

To retain the freshness of the blooms, cut in the early morning. Cover with a piece of tissue or thin layer of cotton, sprinkle generously with cold water, and place in the shade out of draft for two hours or more. Tuberous Begonias absorb water through the petals. The water in the tissue or cotton counteracts the escape of the moisture from the petals and keeps the blossoms fresh.

For the prom or dance a dainty hair-piece styled with one small bloom and a few of the *Loydii* will delight the heart of the co-ed. Equally smart for her to wear would be two or three blooms at the waist-line fashioned with a velvet or taffeta bow with two long streamers, and on each one pin a small bloom.

Angelic charm will be evident in the formal wedding by the bride choosing pure white tuberous Begonias for her bouquet. The beauty of the bridal procession will be enhanced by the bride's attendants carrying blooms in harmonious shades blending with the color of their dresses. The "suit and corsage" bride may choose tuberous Begonia blossoms in a shade to match or blend with her suit and compliment it with a bow.

For vacations, the tuberous Begonia corsage, strictly tailored, will see you through two or three days and perhaps four, with a

little attention and care on your part. Remember, before retiring, to cover the bloom with tissue or cotton and sprinkle with cold water. If it should have a bow that is not water repellent, remove it.

To make the corsage, it is necessary to have thirty and twenty-six gauge wire, florist's tape and ribbon. Camellia or Ivy leaves may be used as they will support the blooms and assist in keeping them fresh. Cut the tuberous Begonia stem, leaving it one-inch long, and hold the blossom gently upside down in the palm of your hand. Pierce petals with the fine wire by inserting across the base of the bloom. The wire should go in one side and out the opposite side. Then bend the wires down parallel with the one-inch stem and twist them together, forming one wire. Wrap the wire with florist's tape, stretching slightly to make a smooth finish. If the blooms are large, use the twenty-six gauge wire. Wire and tape each blossom and leaf of the corsage separately; then wire them together and cover with tape again.

Bows should be in a color to harmonize or match your blossoms. A five-eighth inch width ribbon is appropriate for the larger blooms and a half-inch for the smaller ones. With a little practice the art of styling corsages can be mastered and you will find a keen pleasure in using the tuberous Begonias.

## Our Cover . . .

—Continued from Page 195

shades which were repeated in the Begonia blossoms throughout the display.

Prominent in the display were Begonias X Joe Hayden, X Mrs. Fred D. Scripps, X Catalina, multiflora rosea, picta rosea, X Fred Brown, and a variety of Rex Begonias, interspersed with ferns and other shade-loving plants.

Branch show chairman, Mrs. Barbara Philip, was assisted in her work by Messrs. Fred G. Sivear, William L. Wegener, Seth C. Langdon, Ben Ramirez, Hubert Jolly, and Ed McCaffrey, with Mmes. Ethel Arnold, Jessie Ayersman, Clara Jennison, Erika Weber, and Messrs. and Mmes. Fred Allen and Otto Schwerdtfeger.

A regular schedule of hosts and hostesses made up of branch members served during the five and one-half days of the show.

# 1955 Co High

The Lucky Thiebens bein  
their cash award, havin  
sweepstakes with a point  
points. Cal Trowbridge  
honors.

Begoni  
speaker

Reading from left to rig  
ing President Joe Taylor  
er of the Begonia Society  
man, Past President J  
and Master of Cerem  
Quintana.

Two outsta  
ties pause  
photograph  
President T  
Sacramento  
Show Chair  
Branch.

Johnny Thieben with h  
wife and daughter Kay  
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outstanding collection of  
Thieben entered 53 diff

From left  
Hub City,  
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Pictu  
DR. ROBERT L. BORLA

# vention lights

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an editor and Convention  
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onies Frank

inding Begonia personali-  
for a quickie by our  
er: our retiring 1st Vice-  
Mrs. J. R. Williams from  
) and Mr. Bert Slatter,  
rman from the Inglewood

his charming  
standing in  
won with his  
f plants. Mr.  
erent classes.

to right: Joe Ogden of  
winner of the Effie Chap-  
for the most outstanding  
egonia in the Show; Kay  
with Leatherman trophy  
est juvenile entry; Cal  
el Flower Show Chairman  
nated the awards.

ires by  
AND of Inglewood Branch



# Begonia History . . . PART I

*Editor's Note—One of those unusual parts of the convention was the nomenclature room headed by Mrs. Leatherman and her staff. This was the information that she compiled and I thought you would like it for your reference. It certainly shows the progress of Begonias over the years and the varieties as they were developed. Sylvia did a tedious job well done in this listing.*

1837—MANICATA  
Mexican Species.

1884—MANICATA AUREO-MACULATA  
Lemoine—Italy.

1903—MANICATA CRISPA  
F. Saunders & Sons—Italy.

1925—MANICATA AUREO-MACULATA  
CRISPA. Origin obscure  
San Gabriel Valley Branch

1841—INGRAMI. England.  
Developed by T. Ingram (nitida x  
fuchsoides)  
Hollywood Branch.

1847—RICINIFOLIA. England.  
(heracleifolia x nelumbiifolia)  
Redondo Area Branch.

1849—ERYTHROPHYLLA. Germany.  
Developed by Warscewics.  
(manicata x hydrocotylifolia)  
Ventura Branch

1849—ERYTHROPHYLLA. Germany  
BUNCHI  
Originated by Lloyd C. Bunch  
(Mutant of erythrophylla)  
ERYTHROPHYLLA HELIX  
(Mutant of erythrophylla)  
Long Beach Parent Branch.

1852—PHYLLOMANIACA (JESSIE)  
Germany.  
Introduced by von Martius.  
(heracleifolia x incarnata)

1905—TEMPLINI  
Introduced by H. G. Wolfgang.  
(Mutant of phyllomaniaca)  
Hub City Branch.

1855—VERSCHAFFELTI. Switzerland.  
Developed by Dr. Regel.  
(manicata x caroliniaefolia)  
Inglewood Branch.

1930—MEDORA  
Introduced by Mrs. Eva Kenworthy  
Gray (chance seedling)  
El Monte Community Branch

1930's—RICHARD ROBINSON  
Developed by A. D. Robinson  
(macbethi seedling)  
Eva Kenworthy Gray Branch.

1887—THURSTONI  
Developed by Mr. C. Thurston.  
(metallica x sanguines)  
Foothill Branch.

1890—CREDNERI. Germany.  
Developed by Haage & Schmidt.  
(scharffi x metallica)  
Glendale Branch.

1895—SUNDERBRUCHI  
(ricinifolia x heracleifolia)  
Orange County Branch.

1905—ALLERYI. France.  
Developed by Allery Aubert.  
(metallica x gigantea)  
Los Angeles Branch.

1922—PRUNIFOLIA  
Developed by A. D. Robinson  
(viaude seedling).  
La Mesa Branch.

1922—NEELY GADDIS  
Developed by Mrs. Eva Kenworthy  
Gray. (viaude seedling).  
San Diego Branch.

1922—HOUGHTONI  
(presumed scharffi seedling).  
Foothill Branch.

1923—NELLY BLY  
Developed by Mrs. Eva Kenworthy  
Gray (cyprea seedling)  
Glendale Branch.

1926—SUPERBA-AZELLA  
SUPERBA-KENZIE  
SUPERBA-MENTONE  
Developed by Mrs. Eva Kenworthy  
Gray (aconitifolia x lucerna)  
La Mesa Branch

1928—MRS. W. A. WALLOW  
Chance seedling: Mr. W. A. Wallow  
Glendale Branch.

1928—DOROTHY GRANT  
Developed by William Grant  
(Thurstoni seedling).  
San Diego Branch.

1932—DRURYI

Developed by Miss Constance Bower  
(cyprea x sanguinea)  
Alfred D. Robinson Branch.

1934—MRS. FRED SCRIPPS

(chance seedling of Mrs. Scripps)  
Hub City Branch.

1935—LOMA ALTA

Developed by Mrs. E. M. Fewkes.  
(scharffuana seedling)  
La Mesa Branch.

1937—PALOMAR

Developed by Miss Constance Bower  
(incana x ricinifolia)  
Alfred D. Robinson Branch.

1937—RAMOLA

Developed by Miss Constance Bower  
(incana x ricinifolia)  
Alfred D. Robinson Branch

1937—BRAEMAR

Origin unknown. Presumed to be  
(sanguinea x scharffi)  
Hollywood Branch.

1938—CRESTABRUCHI

Developed by Mrs. Helen Lewis.  
(manicata crispa x sunderbruchii)  
Riverside Branch.

---

REX-CULTORUM

B. REX-HYBRIDS AND B. EVAN-  
IANA DISCOLOR-REX.

1876—ABEL CARRIERE. France.

Developed by Svahn.  
(rex-hybrid x evansiana)  
El Monte Branch.

1928—DAWN

Developed by Chauncy Vedder.  
(Abel Carriere seedling)  
San Gabriel Valley Branch.

1935—VAN X #1

VAN X #2

Developed by Roy Berry.  
(rex-hybrid x evansiana).  
El Monte Community Branch.

1939—INGLEWOOD

Developed by Leslie Woodriff  
(sunderbruchii v manicata)  
Inglewood Branch.

1945—LADY CLARE

Developed by Mrs. Winona Jenson  
(scharffiana x luxurians)  
Whittier Branch.

1947—JOE HAYDEN

Developed by Rudolph Ziesenhenn  
(Reichenheimi x Mazae)  
Orange County Branch.

1950—RICKY MINTER

Developed by Mrs. Marie Turner  
(manicata crispa x Mazae)  
Riverside Branch.

1953—BOW-ARRIOLA

(Boweri x dark C42)

BOW-CHANCEE

Developed by Mrs. Della MacLana-  
han. (Boweri seedling)  
Los Angeles Branch.

1954—BOW-JOE

Developed by Mrs. Della MacLana-  
han. (Boweri x Joe Hayden)  
Los Angeles Branch.

1954—TEBALHIA

Developed by Mrs. Della MacLana-  
han (Ricky Minter x C42)  
Los Angeles Branch.

---

MINIATURE FORMS

B. DREGEI

B. MACBETHI x R. C. AUTUMN

B. WELTONIENSIS

1931—BUTTERFLY

(weltoniensis x r. c. autumn)

1931—TOY

(dregei x r. c. autumn)  
Developed by Roy Berry

1935—TAPESTRY

Developed by Mrs. Helen Lewis  
(machethi x r. c. autumn)  
El Monte Community Branch.

---

TUBEROUS-ROOTED BEGONIAS  
SUBGROUPS OF B. TUBERHYBRIDA

PICOTEE:

Ruffled Type

PENDULA (syn. Lloydii)

Drizzling type.

MULTIFLORA

CAMELLIAEFLORA

Camellia type

FIMBRIATA PLENA

Carnation type.

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B. TUBERHYBRIDA

Double Crested Form

Developed by Helen R. Bauman

Presented by Palos Verdes

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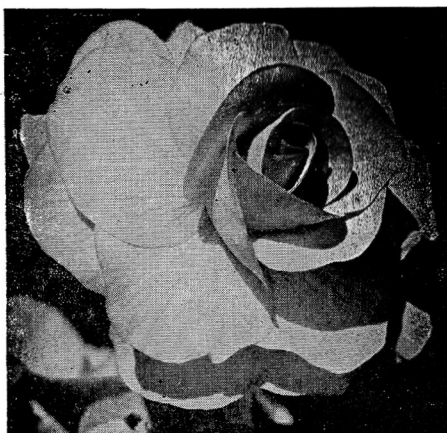
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This Society shall be conducted on a non-profit basis, and its purpose shall be to stimulate interest in begonias and shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of begonias and related plants; to gather and publish information in regard to the kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and other shade-loving plants; and to issue a bulletin which shall be mailed to all members in good standing.

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# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

New seeds are available as follows: *B. deliciosa*. Medium growth, bushy; leaves deeply lobed, dark olive-green, gray spotted, red beneath. Flowers are large soft-pink. Pictured in the Krauss book on Begonias. *B. Macbethii*. African species. One of the so-called "maple leaf" Begonias. Generally referred to as semi-tuberous, small leaves with lobes deeply cut. Flowers white, *B. Diana*. *Dichroa* derivative. About three feet tall, erect; leaves ovate-pointed, bright green, heavily silver spotted. Flowers in pendulous clusters, pink or salmon pink. *B. Sunderbruchii*. Brightly colored leaves with blendings of dark green, emerald and bronzy green. Popular house plant but grown outdoors in mild climates. The above four packets for \$1.00.

A few months ago we offered a collection of unnamed Begonias. The response was surprising and proves that all Begonia lovers are not collectors. We have had interesting results from our own plants grown from some of these seeds, especially the *semperflorens* from India. Some have dark crinkly foliage and delicate rose pink blooms. The growth is low, branched and compact. Of the *coccinea* from India one in particular is outstanding because of the beautiful spotted, ruffled-margined leaves. Perhaps someone else would like to have these interesting Begonias so we offer them again; namely, *semperflorens red*, *semperflorens pink*, *coccinea India*, and *Philippine Begonia*. The collection for \$1.00.

We have had the good fortune of obtaining a group of outstanding aloes (succulent plant of the lily family). These are popular plants seen growing in botanical gardens and other collections: 1. *Aloe distans*. Two spiked. 2. *Aloe sessilifolia*. With stalkless leaves. 3. *Aloe Strausii*. 4. *Aloe Fosteri*. The above four for \$1.00.

From Hawaii we have received two varieties of exotic ginger. *Alpinia nutans* (shell ginger) and *Alpinia mutica* (orchid ginger). Another highly ornamental tropical in this collection is *Aristolochia* or Dutchman's pipe, a handsome vine grown for its beautiful foliage and grotesque yellowish-brown flowers. Still another tropical vine is called *Antigonon leptopus* or coral vine,

showy, tendril climbing vine, widely grown in warm regions. Beautiful specimens of this vine may be seen growing across wide verandas on houses in San Antonio, Texas. In summer they are covered with great wreaths of coral flowers. It is of the easiest culture in poor soil. The above four tropicals, \$1.00.

To continue with the fern spores, we have the following available; easy to grow in wide mouth jar in well rotted, damp leaf mold to which a small amount of soil sulphur has been added. Do not disturb during germination. 1. *Pteris albolineata*. Variegated pteris. 2. *Pteris serrulata*. 3. *Scolopendrum christum*, crested hart's tongue. 4. *Athyrium felix-semina*, lady fern. 5. *Cyrtomium rochfordianum*, holly fern. 6. *Crested pteris*. 7. *Polystichum capense*. 8. *Molle*, lady fern. Eight packets for \$2.00 or any four for \$1.00.

Mrs. Florence Gee  
Seed Fund Administrator  
4316 Berryman Avenue  
Los Angeles 66, California

## Window Culture...

—Continued from Page 195

window, more moisture is required, but in many instances this may be overcome with the use of a larger pot or glazed pots with good drainage facilities.

Most all Begonias resent too much water around the roots and too much wind over the tops. A window should not be opened on them on a very windy day, especially if the buds are being formed, and that is the time to carefully water, using room temperature water, rain water if possible; and bud setting time is the best time to study the habits of Begonias.

Begonias are the most versatile, adaptable house plants one can possess, and amply repay one for the effort spent to bring out their real glory of beauty, whether on foliage or bloom.

*In answer to a query from England about window-gardening with Begonias*  
—Editor

# OUR BRANCHES REPORT . . .

## WM. PENN BRANCH

William Penn Branch, A.B.S., invites all Begonia lovers to a party at the home of Mrs. George Earl De Coursey, Mill Rd., Paoli, Pa., on Tuesday, September 13, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Box lunch at \$1.00 will be available if reservations are received by Sept. 9. Mrs. Joy Logee Martin will be the principal speaker. She will have choice Begonias from the Logee Greenhouses for sale.

William Penn Branch, A.B.S. met with Mrs. A. McKnight Sykes, in Wayne, Pa., July 19, 1955, with six members and one guest present.

It was voted to buy a Begonia for Miss Mary Griffith, who is hospitalized with a broken arm.

The greater part of the business session was taken up by discussion of practical details of the Begonia Party on September 9th. There will be a sale of plants contributed by the members, in addition to the rarer kinds from the Logee Greenhouses. Mrs. Joy Logee Martin will be the principal speaker. The Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch will stage demonstration of some aspect of Begonia culture.

Mrs. Elsa Fort, Eastern Representative of A.B.S., was the honor guest of the day. She spoke briefly on the work of the Society and the various Branches she has visited.

The program was a review of the characteristics to be noted in identifying an unknown plant as a Begonia.

Meeting adjourned for cool drinks, such a boon on a hot day.

May T. Drew,  
Representative Director.

## SEATTLE BRANCH

Seattle's FIRST Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show was a great success not only financially but it was very well attended even though the weather was a bit damp the first day! Seattle Branch of the A.B.S. and Seattle Park Dept. co-sponsored the event.

Saturday, July 30, the Show opened promptly at 2 p.m. with Mrs. P. L. Bardon, of Bellingham, Wash., newly elected President of the Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs cutting the ribbon.

Around 4 p.m. Seattle's Seafair King Neptune VI, George Kachlein, Jr. and his Prime Minister attended the show. The King being a Begonia enthusiast, too, had a special courtesy exhibit of his Tuberous Begonias in the show. It was a great thrill for me to talk to him as he paused to examine the Award table.

Fifteen firms placed advertisements in the 16-page program book, as well as many of them put in individual floor exhibits in the Fieldhouse auditorium. Culture information on Tuberous Begonias, Rex, Fuchsias, African Violets, Gloxinias, Ferns, Smithianthas and Streptocarpus were written by different club members specializing in them for the program book.

One of our own members, Charles H. Tusler, won Sweepstakes for the most blue ribbons in Div. 1 and 2. He also won a Silver Tray for Best Tuberous Begonia in show grown by an amateur; ABS certificate award for blue ribbon plant in Div. 1 and 2 Tuberhybrida and a \$15.00 cash award for Best Tuberhybrida in show, donated by one of our Commercial members, Westover Greenhouse.

Show Chairman, Mr. H. W. Barragar, (and Pres. elect) came away with a prize for Best Hanging Basket as well as the \$10.00 second prize for Best Tuberhybrida in show, and his daughter, Dorothy, won Sweepstakes in Junior Division in Horticulture and Flower Arrangements.

Mrs. Reeve Deiro, Club President, won Sweepstakes in "Other Shade Plants," his specialty being Ferns.

Mrs. Inger Hyem (also a member) won Sweepstakes in Flower Arrangements.

Mr. David F. Jones (member) won a prize for the Best Fuchsia plant grown by an amateur.

Mr. George Trevarrow won Third Prize of \$5.00 for Best Tuberhybrida in Show.

Mrs. Louise MacPherson, won a cup for the Best African Violet grown by an amateur. Mrs. MacPherson, who is a member of the Seattle Saintpaulia Society also won Sweepstakes in that club's show this spring!

The East Side Begonia Club, Puget Sound Fuchsia Society and the Seattle Park Department, our co-sponsor put in beautiful floor plots showing ways of using Fuchsias, Begonias and other shade-loving plants.

All-in-all the show was well received and

many expressed the hope that we would 'have another one next year!

Mrs. Jack C. Williams, publicity

#### PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

The Philobegonia Branch of the A.B.S. met at the summer home of Mrs. Wm. Browning on the Bohemia River in Maryland for their July meeting. It was a three day weekend invitation to the members of the Philobegonia Branch—with swimming twice a day under the careful guidance of our hostess who was formerly an athletic instructor in one of our High Schools here in the East, not to mention the true relaxation one could experience sitting on the greensward looking out to where the Bohemia River meets Chesapeake Bay.

Regardless of the three-day vacation the regular meeting was held as usual on Friday after being served a refreshing lunch

by our hostess. Our trip to Mrs. Helen Krauss's home at the Shore on September 16th was discussed and also our trip to the Paoli home of Mrs. DeCoursey when the Wm. Penn Branch holds its Begonia Show in September was discussed. Meeting was then adjourned—with some of the members leaving to go home and bidding farewell to the members who were staying another day. On the way back I could not help but think how fortunate the Philobegonia Branch is in having Mrs. Browning for a member—not only because we value her for the support she gives and interest she exhibits in the Philobegonia group—but also that she offers our members such a lovely visit at such a beautiful spot on the Maryland shores. Her meeting is always a high spot of our summer.

—Sally E. DeCou,  
National Representative

## From the President . . .

### TO ALL MEMBERS:

Another major event of the American Begonia Society is now history. I am speaking of our 23rd Annual Convention and Flower Show which was another success of our Society. Elsewhere in this issue of the *BEGONIAN* you will find articles and pictures giving details, and I wish here to say to all who took part in any measure, thank you, from myself, and I am sure—from each member of our Society.

With the finish of our Annual Convention and Flower Show we start on a New Year, so may I say "A Happy Begonia New Year" to each of you and may your Branch, your gardening and your personal plans be most successful.

You know, speaking of New Year—it is customary to make resolutions, so why don't we each of us make a resolution to sign up all the new members we can—it is not so hard to do, really. Those neighbors that have been admiring your beautiful plants and asking so many questions, the folks who moved in that run down neglected place across the street and are busy trying to beautify it, the people who are so thankful when you give them a bouquet are all good prospects. Don't just invite them to a meeting when they can make it, set a date and you take them. Be sure to introduce them to other members. Explain, prior to the start of the meeting, the operation of your Branch, how the plant sale is conducted, about the Begonia study classes, the garden visits and any other interesting activities—but DON'T do the explaining during the program, it bothers the speaker, your guests, and those around you.

It is a fact that signing up a new member sets off a chain reaction. The new member is a new subscriber to the *BEGONIAN* and the more subscribers we have, the more advertisers we can get because of increased circulation, and the greater our circulation of the *BEGONIAN*, the more members we get, so lets all resolve to get new members and help our Society to grow. Be Begonia minded ALL the time—become known by all friends and acquaintances as that *Begonia Fan*.

Let it be known that you are a Begonia enthusiast and belong to one of the world's recognized Horticultural Societies, the American Begonia Society.

Our Society is an organization of people interested in growing Begonias and related shade plants and the more people who become members, the larger and more better known the Society becomes, so lets all go to work on signing new members and watch us grow!

JOE TAYLOR, President

# BOARD MEETING REPORT . . .

Meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society called to order at 7:50 p.m. July 25, 1955 in Los Angeles City Hall by President Koebig.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Vice-President Browne, Aims & Purposes read by President-elect Taylor.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Treasurer's report read and approved, balance in General Fund \$84.03. Treasurer reported receiving \$25.00 from Long Beach Parent Branch for last year's debt.

President-elect Taylor reported a net of \$163.32 for rummage sale and \$5.02 from party nite. A.B.S. signs sent to all Branches.

Membership Secretary MacLanahan reported 69 re-newing members, 48 new members, \$270.40 remitted to Treasurer.

Librarian Sault reported books on loan 5, books sold 3, Begonians sold 5. \$6.33 to Treasurer.

Slide Librarian Anderson reported speakers list being revised. \$4.70 in fund.

Seed Fund Administrator Gee reported income for month \$49.00, expenses \$5.00, remitted to Treasurer \$44.00.

Flower Show Chairman Trowbridge reported all trophies returned and some need buffing. Moved by C. Trowbridge, seconded by Browne that necessary repairs and buffing of trophies be done if it does not exceed \$5.00. Carried.

Seed Fund Administrator requested \$10.00 for month of July. Moved by S. Sault, seconded by Ogden that request be granted. Carried.

In absence of Editor Lloyd, report read by Secretary. Lloyd gave reason for short issue in July and gave plans for Begonian booth at convention.

## OLD BUSINESS:

President Koebig appointed Past-President Walton, Emma Wiltse and Lucy Sault to audit books.

Perry Olmsted gave report on stationery 2,000 envelopes and letterheads were donated. He can get 10,000 Begonian envelopes for \$65.00, 10,000 large letterheads and 10,000 envelopes for \_\_\_\_\_. Moved by MacLanahan, seconded by S. Sault that Olmsted be authorized to purchase 10,000 letterheads and envelopes. Carried.

Moved by Browne, seconded by Ogden that we purchase 10,000 large envelopes for membership chairman. Carried.

## NEW BUSINESS:

President Koebig appointed following

balloting committee: Fred Browne, Joe Ogden and Perry Olmsted.

MacLanahan stated that very few new memberships came from ad in Popular Gardening Magazine. Moved by Browne, seconded by C. Trowbridge that we discontinue ad. Carried.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. to meet August 13th at 2:00 p.m., Redondo High School Cafeteria.

Respectfully submitted.

Arline Stoddard,

National Secretary

## AUDITOR'S REPORT . . .

Board of Directors,  
American Begonia Society  
1954 - 1955 Audit

Gentlemen:

The books of the Treasurer, Librarian, Slide Librarian, Advertising Manager, Seed Fund, and Membership Secretary have been audited and found to be correct, with a few minor exceptions, for which correct balances were established.

Auditing Committee.

W. E. WALTON, *Chairman*

LUCY A. SAULT

EMMA WILTSE

August 9, 1955

Board of Directors,  
American Begonia Society  
Gentlemen:

Following is the report of your Auditing Committee upon auditing books of the Business Manager:

Balance, accounts receivable,  
Aug. 31, 1954.....\$ 89.00  
Advertising sales ..... 1563.65

Total accounts receivable.....\$1652.65

Less discounts

Agency commissions .....\$35.46

Cash discounts ..... 6.38

\$41.84 41.84

Accounts receivable

less discounts .....\$1610.81

Cash remitted to Treasurer ..... 1371.41

Accounts receivable Aug. 3, 1955 \$ 239.40

The books are correct.

Auditing Committee,

W. E. WALTON, *Chairman*

LUCY A. SAULT

EMMA WILTSE

# BRANCH MEETING DATES

(Visitors always welcome at these meetings)

## AMERICAN BEGONIA HYBRIDIZER'S BRANCH

Called Meetings Quarterly  
Mrs. Daisy L. Walker, Secy.-Treas.  
2425-A Silver Lake Blvd., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

## BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy.  
Kent, England

## CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

1st Friday, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, 10:00 a.m.  
Lounge, Florida Power Co.  
Winter Park, Florida  
Mrs. Lou Mankamyer  
20 Pershing Place, Orlando, Florida

## DALLAS COUNTY BRANCH, TEXAS

1st Thursday, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, 7:00 p.m.  
Member's Residences  
Mrs. Hal M. Mosekey, Cor. Secy.  
5544 Hillis Ave., Dallas 6, Texas

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley  
Mr. Stuart C. Smith, Secy.  
3147 Standley Blvd., Lafayette, California

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

Mr. and Mrs. J. Brummall's Garden, 6023 North  
Putney, South San Gabriel  
Mrs. Virginia Brandon, Secy.  
3012 W. Norwood Pl., Alhambra, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m.  
La Verne Recreational Building, College Park,  
2nd and D Streets, La Verne, Calif.  
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.  
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, California

## FORT ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, 2:30 p.m.  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.  
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, New Jersey

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 North Central  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coe, Cor. Secy.  
1420 El Rito, Glendale 8, California

## GRAY EYA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, Sept. 19, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Tillie Genter, Cor. Secy.  
7356 Eads Ave., La Jolla, California

## GRAYS HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, 8:00 p.m.  
Hoquiam Public Library, or Messingale and  
Roseneau Music Store, Aberdeen, Washington  
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.  
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Washington

## GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, 10:30 a.m.  
Home of Members  
Box Lunch 12:30, Program following  
Mrs. W. Ernest Jones, Secy.  
Welsh & Dresher Rds., Willow Grove, Penn.

## HAMSHIRE, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Tuesday of each month  
Mrs. Peter De Young, Hamshire, Texas

## HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH

3rd Friday, Sept. 16, Oct. 21. Members homes  
Ruth Anderson, Secy.  
Underwood, Iowa

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
Mrs. Helen Ehret Murphy, Secy.  
715 N. Genesee St., Los Angeles 46

## HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, 10:00 a.m.  
Garden Center, Herman Park  
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.  
12600 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Texas

## HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, Sept. 21, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.  
August and Sept. Meetings in Members homes  
Mrs. L. R. Kellogg, Secy.  
1120 E. 71st St., Long Beach, Calif.

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, 8:00 p.m.  
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, California  
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.  
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, California

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, 7:45 p.m.  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, California  
Mrs. Pearl Parker, Secy.  
726 West 81st St., Los Angeles 44, Calif.

## LA MESA BRANCH

2nd Monday, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
V.F.W. Hall at Imperial & Lincoln, Lemon Grove  
Mrs. Ida Barker, Secy.  
7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

## LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, Sept. 13, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Fox Home at 2255 Elm Ave.  
Mrs. Alice Waldow, Secy.  
2175 Cedar Ave., Long Beach 5, California

## LOS ANGELES BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Sept. 28. Homes of Members.  
Mrs. Mildred Dunham, Secy.  
914 Howard St., Venice, Calif.

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. R. L. Wilkenson, Secy.  
5764 Robertson Ave., Baton Rouge, La.

## MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Vivian J. Ennemoser, Secy.  
1275 N. W. 54th St., Miami 42, Florida

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m.  
In Members' Homes (Summer Months)  
Mrs. Lucille Taylor, Secy.  
6130 Chestnut, Kansas City, Missouri

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Sept. 17. Homes of Members.  
Mrs. Lester H. Fox, Secy.  
170 Marsh Hill Road, Dracut, Mass.

## OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, 12:30 p.m.  
Members Homes  
Mrs. Selma Braun, Secy.  
37 Broad St., Apt. 4-D, Toms River, New Jersey

## ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Grange Hall  
1 block South Center of Garden Grove, Calif.  
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.  
604 South Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, 8:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy.  
515 E. Centro St., South Pasadena, California

## PHIOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Sept. 9, Oct. 14. Members homes  
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.  
3311 Fremont St., Camden, New Jersey

## PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, Sept. 23, 8:00 p.m.  
Journal Building Auditorium, Front & Yamhill Sts.  
Mrs. Altmatt, Secy.  
1104 S. E. 148th, Portland, Oregon

## RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Sept. 27, 7:30 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.

## REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each month  
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, California  
Mrs. Ella Cunningham, Secy.  
2208 Vanderbilt Lane, Redondo Beach, Calif.

## RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.  
Irene Springer, Secy.  
3608 Rossmuir, Riverside, Calif.

POSTMASTER:  
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Los Angeles 54, Calif.

#### ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.  
4802 Sierra Vista, San Diego 3, Calif.

#### SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, 7:00 p.m.  
Mrs. C. E. Crouch, Secy.  
2209 Murietta Way, Sacramento, California

#### SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Sept. 26  
Hard of Hearing Hall, Herbert & University  
Mrs. Lillian Lausted, Secy.  
1504 Blaine Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.

#### SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, 8:00 p.m.  
Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
Mrs. Edward O'Brien, Secy.  
234 Gates St., San Francisco 10, California

#### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, 8:00 p.m.  
Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
Arcadia, California  
Mrs. Dorothy DeHart, Secy.  
5329 N. Rosemead Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif.

#### SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.  
Seth C. Langdon, Secy.  
1419 Quinientos, Santa Barbara, California

#### SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, 7:45 p.m.  
Trinity Parish House, 609 Eighth Avenue, Seattle  
Mrs. Wm. Stankman, Secy.  
4116 15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.

#### SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.  
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.  
Mrs. Wilma Renshaw, Secy.  
560 So. Coronado St., Ventura, California

#### SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Tuesday of each month  
Mrs. A. L. Romeiser, Secy.  
1104 South Ninth St., Salina, Kansas

#### SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, 8:00 p.m.  
Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
Bob Oliver, Corr. Secy.  
333 Redbud Lane, Hayward, California

#### TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.  
South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

#### TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday night of month in members homes.  
Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy.  
2822 8th St., Port Arthur, Texas

#### WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, Sept. 14, Oct. 12, 11:00 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Joseph Rock, Corr. Secy.  
Maplewood Ave., Wilkinsburg, Pa.

#### WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, Sept. 1, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 W. Floral Dr.  
Mrs. Alice E. Rose, Secy.  
13926 E. Close St., Whittier, Calif.

#### WILLIAM PENN BRANCH, PA.

3rd Tuesday, Sept. 20, Oct. 18, 2:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members, Wallingford, Pa.  
Mrs. Joseph B. Townsend, Jr., Secy.  
Baltimore Pike, Wawa, Pa.

## YOUR GREENHOUSE CONSULTANTS

We invite our good friends in The Begonia Society to drop in and talk greenhouses at any time. And don't forget that we have a complete line of supplies, including GE Soil Cable—ideal for seed flats.

### SEE OUR PERMANENT DISPLAY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GREENHOUSE MANUFACTURERS

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