

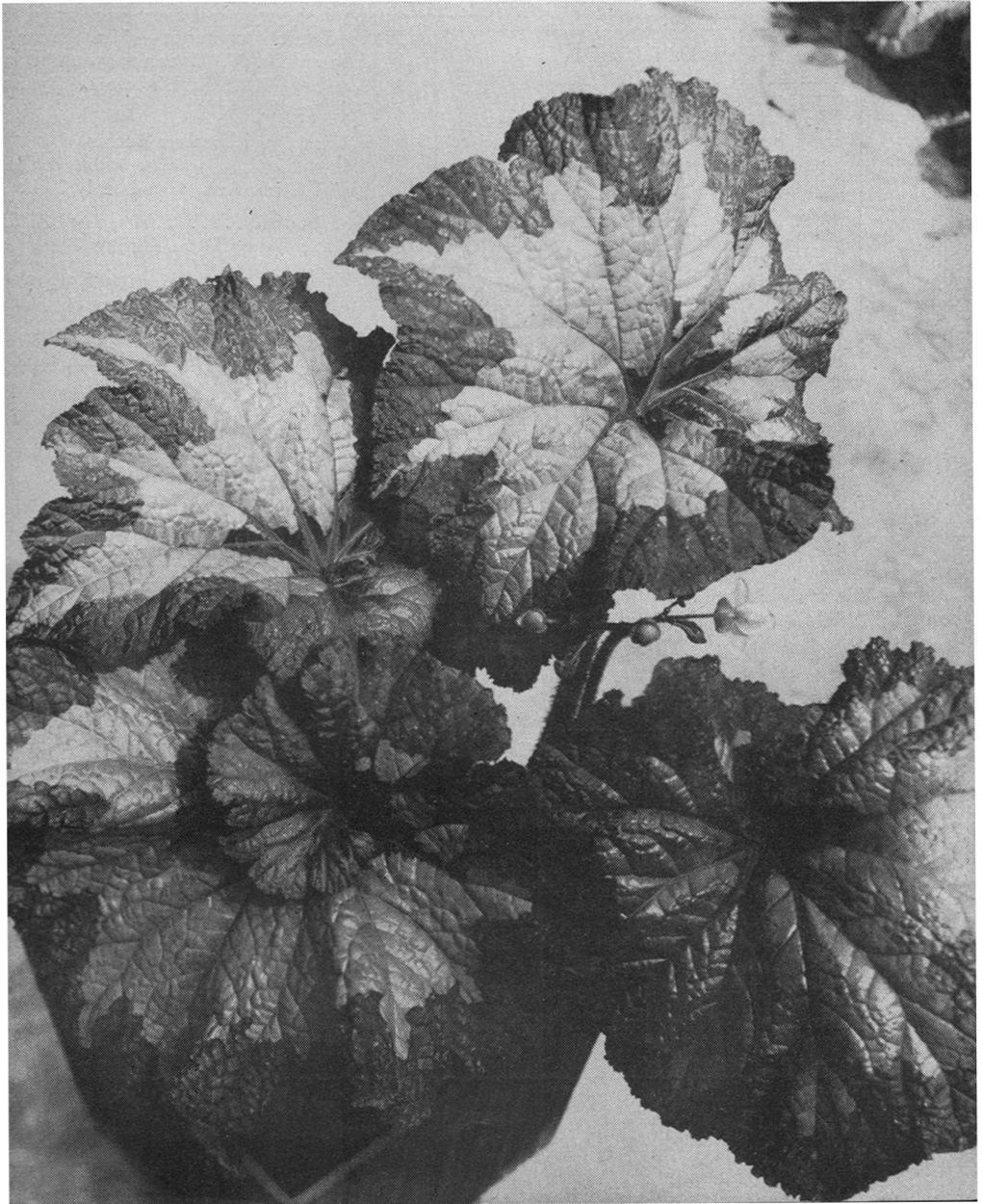
# *The Begonian*

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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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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# Tuberous Begonias From Seed

Good results may be obtained from home propagation of tuberous begonias by seed if certain factors of plant growth are considered. Begonia seed, like seed of other ornamentals, is dependent upon the proper degree of temperature, moisture, aeration of soil, and light, if good germination is to be obtained.

To assure high viability of seed, it is in most cases desirable to obtain the best seed possible from a begonia specialist. The time of sowing is not critical as long as good conditions for growth are provided, although December and January are the usual months for sowing.

Temperature is one of the most critical factors in obtaining good germination. Begonias germinate best at a temperature range of 65°-75° F. We provide the necessary heat through the use of electric soil heating cables installed in the bench where the seed is to be germinated. The thermostat is set at 70° F. and is checked with a recording thermometer for a period of two days to make certain there is no variation from day to night.

Preparation of the soil or medium in which the seed is to be planted is the next consideration. We have found a mixture of equal parts of Canadian peat, oak leaf mold and Perlite\* to be an ideal soil mixture for our conditions. The peat is retentive of moisture and breaks down very slowly, the leaf mold is spongy and provides a source of nutrients for the young roots, and the perlite provides good aeration and drainage. Care is taken to avoid breaking the leaf mold and perlite into too small particles. The mixture should pass through a one-quarter inch mesh but should not be much finer.

The ideal container for germinating seed is a 10-inch bulb pan or seed pan made of porous clay. We have obtained consistently better germination in these containers than in wooden flats. This is probably due to better aeration in the clay containers. An inch of pea gravel or broken pottery is provided in the bottom of the container. Above that is a one inch to two inch layer of the coarse soil mixture described previously, and on top of that is a layer one-eighth inch thick of the same mixture finely screened. The mixture is tamped lightly to level it and then is sub-irrigated by setting the container into a shallow pan of water until the entire mixture is moist.

\*An aluminum silicate compound.

Soil sterilization is almost a necessity these days. Sterilization can easily be accomplished by steaming the container of soil in a pressure cooker at 15 pounds pressure for 20 minutes or steaming at 180° F. for 30 minutes in any other container. If steaming is not practical, the soil fumigant, methyl bromide, is very effective provided that the soil is well aired for a period of 48 hours before sowing seed.

Seed may be sown directly on the soil surface as soon as sterilizing has been accomplished. Because of its small size, the seed should not be covered with any of the soil mixture. A sheet of glass may be placed over the seed container to insure a high humidity and this is usually covered by a sheet of paper until germination occurs. As soon as the first leaves are evident the paper should be removed but the glass retained. It is important at this point to keep the seedlings out of direct sunlight since this would cause an extremely high temperature under the glass.

Within 10 days, most of the seedlings should have germinated. Ventilation is provided by lifting the glass partly off the seed pan during the daytime and replacing it at night. Under most conditions no additional watering is necessary from the time seeds are sown until the tenth day. If, however, the soil surface appears dry at any time the container should be subirrigated as described above. By the end of the fourth week the glass cover should be removed completely to avoid stretching of the seedlings.

Transplanting of the seedlings may be done whenever they are of a size convenient to handle. The same soil mixture is used as for sowing seed and a coarse mixture is preferred because it provides better aeration. Seedlings should be transplanted one or two inches apart to avoid crowding.

Disease control is not a major problem in growing Begonias from seed providing that soil and containers have been sterilized prior to planting. If damping off should occur, spraying with a fungicide at weekly intervals coupled with good management of temperature and ventilation should give control.

Ordinarily if leaf mold is used in the seeding mixture no fertilizer is necessary until the seedlings have become established in the transplant flat. At that time, or even previously if growth is slow, they benefit from the application of a liquid fertilizer. We have

*(Continued on Page 42)*

# Rex Begonia Culture . . .

The growing of rex begonias is becoming more and more popular. A well grown plant is admired by all. There are no set rules for growing plants. Some people have their own rules they follow with very good success. If you are successfully growing rex begonias, do not change your growing conditions just because someone else grows his plants differently. The following culture directions are the way we grow our rex begonias. One must take into consideration the environment of the plant. People living in locations with high humidity can grow these plants easier. The drier the air, the more difficult it is to grow these plants. They do not resent heat—rather it is the dry atmosphere. We are located in a district where it gets hot in the summer and the humidity gets very low. We use foggers that produce a fine mist, like a billowing ocean fog. This mist with the heat produces very high humidity.

Rex begonias do not like their roots standing in water. They must be kept moist; therefore a very porous soil is essential. We use oak leaf mold for growing our plants. When watering, the water drains right through and there is no danger of them getting too much water. In fact, one cannot over-water a plant grown in this material if there is good drainage. To have good drainage, place a piece of crockery over the drainage hole in the bottom of the pot, and on top of this place several more pieces.

Many people make a mistake in over-potting their rex begonias. A rex begonia likes to be root bound to a certain extent. When you receive a plant that has been growing in a 3-inch pot, pot this in a 3-inch pot and let the plant have a chance to re-establish itself and have a solid mass of roots. It is then time to shift it to a 4-inch pot. Grow the plant on in the 4-inch pot until it has a solid mass of roots and then shift to a 5-inch pot. One continues this shifting process. Some varieties grow more rapidly than other and develop into very large plants. Varieties, as the miniatures, are slower growers and the plant is of more compact growth, so these require smaller pots. We have found the heavier the leaf texture, the easier the plant is to grow. The varieties with very soft leaves are always more difficult to grow and they can be very temperamental.

Rex begonias are successfully grown in the same environment as African violets. However, one must be very cautious if you grow these plants close together. The cyclamen mite

that is so prevalent on African violets will attack the rex begonias. One very seldom saves a rex begonia that is infested with cyclamen mite.

Locations for your rex begonias will vary. In mild climates, they are grown out-of-doors in a sheltered shady spot the year around. They are grown as house plants, in windows where they receive good light, and in hot houses. The coloring of the rex begonias will be much better if no sun is allowed to shine on them, but they do want good light.

Feeding of rex begonias is essential to have healthy, colorful plants. Liquid fertilizers, the ones with fish meal included, are very good. Use in one-half the strength recommended by the manufacturer and feed every two to three weeks. It is wiser to use fertilizers weak and feed oftener. Once a month use liquid blood meal, one teaspoon to a gallon of water. Make into a paste (as flour paste) and gradually add the water. Blood meal will help to develop color on the plants.

Plants are like people and they, too, need a rest. A plant produces a lot of beauty and then is entitled to a rest. A rex begonia will let you know when it desires a rest by dropping its leaves. During this period keep them just barely damp, but do not allow them to dry out. Be sure there is good drainage. Soon new growth will show and your plant again will become a prized possession. Never feed a plant when it is resting. Sudden changes will many times cause a rex begonia to rest, as moving from one growing location to another, where there is a drastic change, as moving from out-of-doors to the inside of the house.

Many people think that gas heat kills plants. The heat derived from gas does not kill the plants—rather it is the dry air that kills the plant. Aluminum window trays or flat containers, as glass dishes, with a layer of pea gravel or sponge rock are ideal for growing plants. Keeping this material damp and spraying with a fine spray of water among the plants will provide humidity. The bottles with the sprayer top that window cleaner comes in, after thoroughly washed, are good to use to spray the water around the plants. Atomizers also are used. Never spray a plant late in the day, as leaves that are left wet during the night may rot. Do not allow plants to stand in water. There is no set rule as to a perfect schedule for watering your plants. The spraying to keep the humidity up does not water your plants. When the soil is dry, a plant

# Begonias and Orchids: *Companions*

"Are there many varieties of orchids that can be grown in the same greenhouses with begonias?"

This is a question to which we always answer an emphatic "yes," and then take the questioner on a tour of the Jungle House to see all the exotic and unusual varieties of orchids growing happily together. Many of these unusual varieties resemble birds or insects, and sometimes their nicknames indicate this fact.

Most everyone is familiar with the Cattleya orchid, commonly used in corsages, but have you seen the lovely white moth orchids (Phalaenopsis), the delicate pink sprays of flying bird orchids (*Oncidium ornithorhynchum*), and the sparkling yellow skirts of the dancing doll orchids (*Oncidium varicosum*)?

There are more than 16,000 varieties of these botanical orchids, and their flowers range in size from a match head to a dinner plate. It is possible to grow a great many of them in a small greenhouse—because in a greenhouse you have control of the weather, and can maintain the proper temperature, light and humidity, the three most important factors in greenhouse gardening.

## LIGHT

It is important to place a greenhouse where it can receive at least a half a day's filtered sun. The sun rays can be controlled by painting the glass with whiting, or by shading with lath sections.

## TEMPERATURE

A minimum temperature of 58-60 degrees can be maintained by thermostatically controlled gas or electric heaters. Electric heat is

a dry heat and when using electric heaters the green house floor should be watered down at night.

Open flame greenhouse heaters, controlled by by-pass thermostats, put carbon dioxide, which is beneficial to plant life, into the air. Open gas flame also is a moist heat, which the plants appreciate.

## HUMIDITY

If you want to do your greenhouse gardening in the "pushbutton" manner, it is possible to use an automatic unit which will open and close the ventilators and turn off and on a given humidity system. Humidity can also be maintained by dampening down gravel on the floor of the house and watering between the pots.

With the right growing conditions, and the use of a little common sense, orchids are the easiest plants in the world to grow. They are even kind to beginners. If you give them too little or too much light, the color of the leaves will let you know it. If you give them too much water (and most beginners are inclined to be "hose happy"), the roots will start to turn brown in protest, usually in time to correct your culture.

When the humidity in the greenhouse is high, the plants can stand a higher temperature and the potting material does not dry out so fast.

A good rule to follow concerning both potting and watering, is, *always put newly potted plants in a shadier spot in the greenhouse. Keep humidity high around them and spray the leaves lightly, but don't do any watering till some new roots appear.* The exceptions to this rule are the cypripedium and phalaenopsis. DOROTHY FRICKER

needs a thorough watering. Due to rex begonias being so heavily root bound, one can not water them thoroughly by pouring water on the soil on top of the pot. Place the plants in a container of water and let the water raise to the top of the soil.

Repotting rex begonias is necessary if the soil has become poor, or there is poor drainage. Do not repot a plant when it is resting as one usually loses it if repotted at this time. After good new growth has started, it is a good time to repot, being careful not to pack the soil and having the rhizomes resting on top of the soil. Rhizomes that are too heavily covered usually will rot. Always just barely

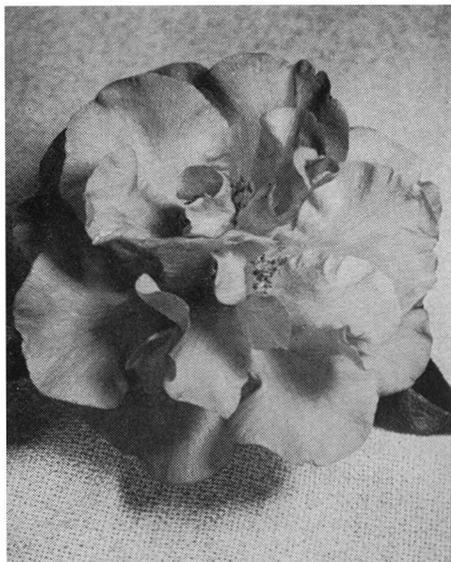
press the soil around rex begonias.

Potting mix: To each gallon of oak leaf mold add one teaspoon of blood meal, one teaspoon of superphosphate, one teaspoon of soil sulphur and one fourth cup of coarse sponge rock. Mix thoroughly together. Have the mix on the dry side. Using this wet, there is a tendency of it packing.

As I stated before, there is more than one way to grow a plant successfully. Environment, etc., will slightly vary the procedure. This is the culture we use to grow our plants. We hope in some way it will help you to grow your rex begonias.

SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN

# Camellia Reticulata . . .



*Camellia reticulata* "Moutancha" is a large to very large, bright-pink peony flowered variety. The double flower has wavy, crinkled, crepe-like petals which are white veined, appearing stripped white on inner petals. This camellia is of medium growth habit. Photo courtesy Descanso Gardens.

In the plant world, a Reticulata Camellia has been known since 1820 when the variety "Captain Rawes" was discovered in China and transported to England. One plant of this variety was imported and planted at the University of California at Berkeley in the early 1900s. This plant grew and did so well that a high fence had to be erected around it to keep people from taking flowers and cuttings. Being unable to procure graft wood from this plant, I shipped two small plants in from England to Southern California in 1936. After camellia lovers saw the gorgeous flowers from these plants, the search was on for more *C. reticulatas*.

Dr. Walter E. Lammerts, then of Descanso Gardens in La Canada, in his studies of the subject ran onto an article in the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society which mentioned the fact that Yunnan, China, was famous for numerous varieties of beautiful Camellias. Hoping to get a lead on new varieties, letters were sent to various U.S. consuls, newspaper correspondents, military per-

sonnel and botanists connected with Asiatic plant collections. Among those contacted was Dr. E. D. Merrill, botanist of the Arnold Arboretum. He suggested contacting Dr. Hsu Hsen Hu at the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology, Peiping, China.

Early in July of 1947, Dr. Lammerts heard from Dr. Hu that Yunnan Province was famous for its numerous varieties of *Camellia reticulata*. He suggested that Dr. Lammerts contact Professor T. T. Yu of Kunming, China, to procure the plants for him. After months of waiting for an answer to his letter to Dr. Yu, a reply came on January 15, 1948. It stated that all the cultivated Camellias in Yunnan were *C. reticulatas* with flowers five or more inches in diameter.

At once letters of credit were sent to the Bank of China in Kunming for the total cost of the plants plus air express to Shanghai. On March 10, 1948, word was received from Pan American in Shanghai that the plants had arrived there safely and were being flown to San Francisco on the next flight. Dr. and Mrs. Lammerts drove to San Francisco to meet the plane, and after much delay in customs and quarantine, the plants were on their way to Descanso Gardens in La Canada.

In all, fifteen new *Camellia reticulatas* were added to the beauty of Descanso Gardens and made available to all in Southern California and then to all the rest of the free world. These plants, along with our 50,000 other plants, make the largest ornamental Camellia planting in America.

Some of the choicest of these plants which are now called THE YUNNAN RETICULATAS are:

*Crimson Robe*—a vivid bright red mass of curled petals five and a half to six inches in diameter. The petals are of an exceptionally heavy texture and the stamens are in an unusually large golden-yellow cluster.

*Butterfly Wings*—a loose hemisphere of longish light-pink petals with stamens intermixed in the center. It has been measured to nine inches in diameter.

*Chang's Temple*—a variegated semi-double deep pink and white peony form flower of great beauty. The flower builds up to three and a half inches in height and about five inches across.

*Lion Head*—a heavy and much fluted variety of rich pink and white that tends to take irregular shapes. It has a large group of central

# The 'Belgium Begonia' *Descanso Camellia Show*

In the first part of October, I got two begonia plants from our mid-west greenhouse. The grower said they are called the "Belgium Begonia"—a cross of *B. 'Marjorie Gibbs'* and a double red tuberous. It is cane type, fibrous rooted. It is a beautiful plant with deep red double blossom three inches across. I would like to find out more about it and its growing requirements.

This begonia grows quite tall, perhaps some over 14". It branches well and has many leaves. The leaves, shaped like a tuberous begonia, though quite rounded on the end, are deep green and rather smooth on top. These leaves are not as hairy as tuberous begonia leaves. My plant has four definite branchings from the base of the plant, and each has a bloom stalk. The bloom stalk and the bloom grow on a continuous bract like *B. 'Marjorie Gibbs,'* but each has three blossom sections. The section is composed of a large fully double male blossom which has no signs of pistils or yellow in the center, and the two fully double female blossoms with stamens, one on each side of the male blossom. A leaf forms on each branching of male and female blossom, and from there comes another bloom stalk of three blossoms.

The bloom stem has a flush of pinkish red on it and the bracts are red on the edges and greenish where they are attached to the plant.

I have kept my plants at 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, growing them under natural light—in the east window in the morning sun and in west window in the afternoon. This begonia propagates from cuttings, but I wonder if it will also grow from a leaf as can Christmas begonias. Under house conditions, this plant is subject to powdery mildew. I grow my plants in both natural daylight and under lights in the basement.

MRS. M. L. RIGHTER, Mason City, Iowa

stamens which assume varying combinations among the central petals.

*Willow Wand*—a vivid orchid-tinted semi-double of five inches in diameter with long and narrow leaves.

*Purple Gown*—a deep purple-red variety that is splotched or spotted with white and is the most formal of the group with petals regularly spaced. It has the best growth habit of the *Reticulatas* and is fairly compact.

"Professor Tsai," "Noble Pearl," "Queen of Tali," "Confucius," "Moutancha" (in picture) and "Pagoda" are other good *C. reticulatas*.

MARK J. ANTHONY, Asst. Supt.  
Descanso Gardens

## *Descanso Camellia Show*

Camellia growers from throughout the United States are expected to fly or bring their blooms for showing in the Second Annual Descanso Gardens Camellia Festival, which will be staged at La Canada, California, from February 25 through March 11, 1956.

The opening days of the Festival on Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26 will be marked by the competitive Camellia Cut Flower Show, which is to be sponsored by the Los Angeles Camellia Council.

This two-day judging of Camellias will be held outdoors under canopies on the same principle as the Boston Festival of Arts and the Laguna Festival of Arts, according to Alton B. Parker of Temple City, California, the show chairman.

Adding to the national significance of the opening weekend of Descanso Gardens Camellia Festival will be the presence of delegates to the Pacific Coast Convention of the American Camellia Society. The delegates will attend the annual Temple City Camellia Parade on the morning of February 25.

At 1 o'clock that afternoon they will open their first of two days of sessions at Descanso Gardens, located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada. Descanso Gardens has the largest ornamental collection of camellias in the world, numbering in excess of 48,000 bushes, according to Superintendent John Threlkeld. Descanso Gardens is a facility of the Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

Ralph S. Peer, president of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, announced that his Council is made up of the following: The Los Angeles Camellia Society; Temple City Camellia Society; Pacific Camellia Society of Glendale; and the Southern California Camellia Society of Pasadena.

Assisting President Peer of the Los Angeles Camellia Council in the Descanso Gardens February 26-26 Camellia show will be Dr. Cecil Eschelmann, first vice president, from the Los Angeles Camellia Society; Lawrence W. Bryant, second vice president, from Temple City Camellia Society; and John R. Robinson, secretary-treasurer from the Pacific Camellia Society.

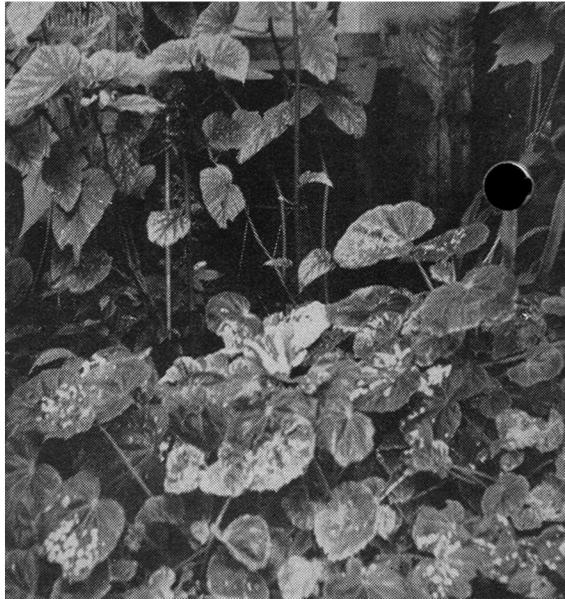
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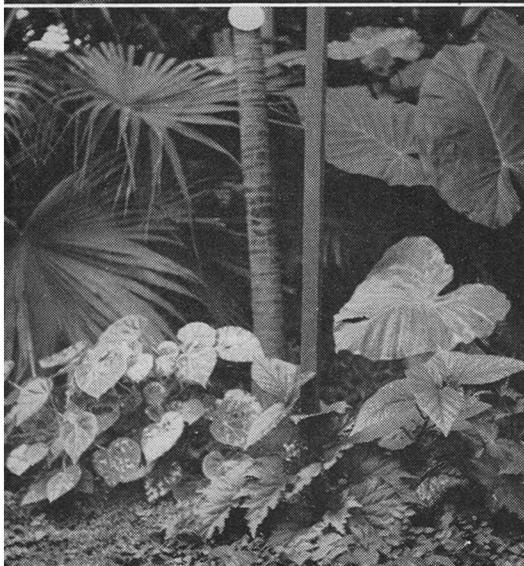
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TOP: *University of Innsbruck, Austria. Cane and rhizomatous begonias.*

CENTER: *Rome Municipal Gardens. Rex begonias. Superintendent and 12-year apprentice.*

BOTTOM: *Conservatory, Palace of Schoenbrunn, Vienna. LEFT: Palms, elephant ears and begonias. RIGHT: Palms and creeping fig. Note size of rex begonias.*



# Begonias in Europe . . .

The Conservatory at the palace of Schoenbrunn in Vienna is old-fashioned and ornate with a high dome. Inside, pathways wander and there are mass-plantings spotted here and there that are charming. At one point an elderly gentleman was painting a spot planted with Elatior hybrid begonias, bordered with pots of gloxinias, all in full bloom. Another nook held only dozens of *agapanthus africanus*, backed by large ferns. A third spot held many varieties of orchids, again all in bloom, some attached to trees and others buried under moss. I guess they change these plantings from day to day as the flowers fade. Benches around the outside of this big chamber held ferns, creepers, and some very good rex begonias. In the middle of the area, enormous palms towered, and 40 feet up, inside the dome, two cat-walks, one above the other, dripped philodendrons, *cissus discolor*, *vitis omeriana* and other vines.

In Rome we visited the municipal gardens, for which we had to make an appointment and then talk our way past a policeman at the gate. It is here that all the plants are grown for all the parks and avenues and public places of Rome. Acres of chrysanthemums, cannas, oleanders, coleus and the usual bedding plants were here. A young man who spoke my species of French took us around; he couldn't have been more than 18, but said he had worked there for twelve years. There were several "working" greenhouses, one full of rather ordinary rex begonias, and several full of bedding begonias. One house held orchids. That was about all they had under glass. Here, of course, the emphasis was on quantity.

The pictures of rhizomatous and cane begonias I took in the greenhouse of the University of Innsbruck in Austria. This house is a tall, angular structure, set in a very complete rock garden of Alpine plants. There were three sections, as I remember; one for succulents, one for potted shade plants and the middle section was more or less naturalized with tropical plants at the ground level. We were shown around by a young girl in American blue jeans—a student, I expect—who seemed to be more or less in charge. She was very gracious, and obviously knew her plants, but we were handicapped in our conversation by lack of a mutual language. The ground planting consisted of the usual palms and tropical trees and shrubs, including bananas in bloom, which I had never seen before.

Begonias were massed at the path edges. The largest begonia in the pictures that I sent you may be *B. 'Immense'* . . . on the other hand I have one similar to it which is one of Mrs. Shippy's hybrids. In another picture, the low one is the variegated *manicata*, I believe. In the third picture, down in the right-hand corner is a tag, which you can probably read with a magnifier; I can't, as I only have the contact print here. If you want to know for sure, Mr. Ziesenhenné could identify them for you. In the pot-plant section there were a number of creeping plants that were new to me, including about six varieties of *transcantia*, a charming *ruellia* and some unusual creeping figs. Here they had a number of begonias *Sutherlandi* well in bloom perhaps they were working with them in an attempt to develop yellow or orange flowered begonias.

The picture on your July cover is an old one of mine which was also on the cover of the issue of Jan. 1952. This was taken in 1951 in the patio of the Posada Belem in Antigua, Guatemala, and was the handsomest begonia I ever have seen.

MARJORIE WIHTOL

—B—

## *Begonia Kellermani*

In 1949, with seed obtained through the Begonia Seed Fund, I became acquainted with several begonias that formerly were unknown to me. One of these was *B. Kellermani*. As time went on, I learned that it had been discovered in Guatemala in 1919 and was the possessor of distinctive foliage. The peltate leaves are round, usually deeply cupped, light green with a frosty look due to the scurfy white covering suggestive of felt. I first planted it in a wall pocket where it did very well, since it likes good drainage (can stand drouth better than wet roots), and makes a lovely cascade. The new growth comes up erect then droops over the edge of the container and the ends turn back up. At this point, some of the older leaves turn yellow and drop off and it begins to show signs of maturity. Tiny little buds form at the leaf axils of the ends of the fibrous stems. The most subtle charm of this plant, *B. Kellermani*, is its white inflorescence which are similar to those of *B. incana*. It blooms pro-

(Continued on Page 42)

# A Comparison in Rexes . . .

Rex begonias are often the beginner's trial area, in which they first try their skill in the art of hybridizing. So it was with Mrs. Mary Gillingwaters. As her experience in the field of hybridizing iris proved worthwhile, she enjoyed the challenge confronting her.

It was in 1951 that Mrs. Gillingwaters crossed the rex, *B. 'Adrien Schmidt'* on an unnamed Susie Zug rex creation. The results varied in many respects, as to size, coloring and stamina. She pricked many of the resultant seedlings out of the original seed pan and transplanted them periodically.

Many of them grew to be huge specimens, while one of them refused to grow large. It received the same care as the others, being shifted into a size larger pot as the others needed shifting. This begonia soon showed its reluctance to keep pace (in size) with the others and has proven to be a very good semi-miniature rex begonia. It is registered with the Nomenclature Department of the American Begonia Society and is number 114.

This is *Begonia 'Pequena.'* The entire leaf surface is silver with the center zone being more sparsely silver over a deep rosy-lavender. The outer zone has a lavender flushed-silver surface. The margin is serrate, sparsely ciliate and measures approximately 3 x 5 inches on a plant 8" high and 12" across.

This fine begonia was shown at the Annual Begonia Show in Redondo Beach in 1955 and won a blue ribbon and the A.B.S. Cultural Certificate in its Class. *Begonia 'Pequena'* is not widely distributed to date.

*Begonia 'Vigorosa'* enjoys the same parents as *Begonia 'Pequena,'* as it came from the same seed pod. The comparison is remarkable, and should be viewed by all begonia growers, anticipating activity in the hybridizing field. (See illustration.) This begonia is number 71 and is registered with the Nomenclature Department of the American Begonia Society.

*B. 'Vigorosa'* has large spiral leaves, approximately 9 x 12 inches on a plant 18" high and 24" across, which leaves are heavily silvered between the veins, with dark green areas surrounding the veins. The veins are light green. These leaves are silver and green only, not flushed. It holds its leaves remarkably well in the winter. This begonia was the Best Rex in the Annual Begonia Show of the American Begonia Society in 1953 and has taken many blue ribbons in many shows since that time.

The distribution is very good on this begonia because Mary has had many, many

visitors to her garden, from far away places. She always gives them plants to take with them if they will care for them properly. So we find *B. 'Vigorosa'* growing well in Kansas, Missouri, Texas and Oklahoma, as well as in the gardens of many begonia lovers in many parts of California who have had the privilege of visiting her garden and leaving with plants or leaf cuttings. She does not ship these plants, but this method has proven to be a wider distributor than if she were selling the plants.

Mrs. Gillingwaters raises her show specimen begonias in an area *not* conducive to better-begonia-growing. Although others are able to have their rexes "survive" in similar conditions, her rexes are handsome specimens—at any time of the year. She often loads (literally) her specimen plants in her car and takes them to the different Branches to help support a show and *her begonias do not collapse.* This proves they are not forced, as in many cases, such plants collapse completely at the Shows.

The summer finds her rexes at their best—naturally—but winter does not find them wrecks.

DOROTHY S. BEHREND'S

—B—

## FRONT COVER

*Begonia 'Mt. Baldy'*

*B. 'Mt. Baldy,'* a new rex hybrid registered in June 1954 with the A.B.S. by Mary Gillingwaters, has as parents *B. 'Pink Lady,'* female, and *B. 'Fire Flush,'* male. *B. 'Fire Flush'* will not set seed, but when used as a male parent, it carries many of its better qualities to its offspring which are not so temperamental as the parent. The stems and backs of leaf and bloom stem are covered with soft red hair. The leaf of this rex is 10" x 12" and if grown under proper light, the center zone is whitish metallic green, while the outside zone is bright apple green. The spiral leaf, with depressed, medium green veins which give a quilted effect, holds on very well during the winter.

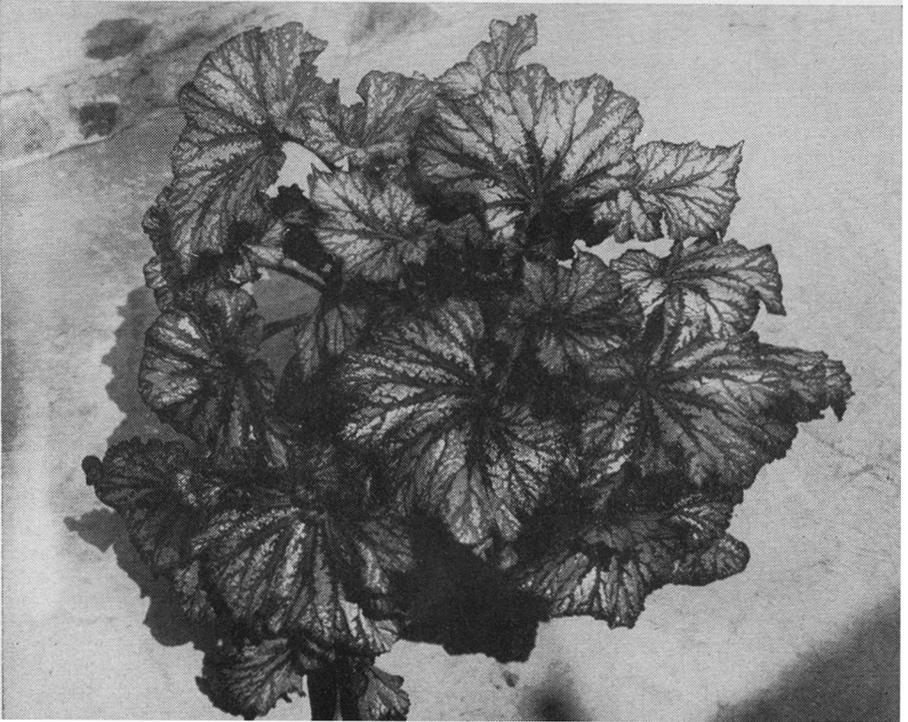
—B—

The line drawings for "New Semperfloren Hybrids," *The Begonian*, Nov. 1955, page 250, were done by Jean Cramer.

## PICTURE RIGHT

TOP: *B. 'Pequena,'* BOTTOM: *B. 'Vigorosa.'*

The cut of the pictures *B. 'Pequena'* and *B. 'Vigorosa'* was loaned through the courtesy of Mary Gillingwaters. Rosendo Rivera photographed the rex specimens.



# *Liriope muscari*---Lily Turf



Photo courtesy Oakhurst Gardens

Most of our garden plants are very limited in their usefulness in that they have definite preferences as to soil, exposure, water, etc., so that when we have a plant on hand we have to place it in a certain well selected situation and perhaps in a prepared compost in order to succeed. For that reason, it is refreshing when one runs across a genus of plants that will ask for very little and give a lot of pleasure. The members of the genus *Liriope* fall in this category.

This group of plants is native to China and Japan, and seems to succeed anywhere and under any conditions except the extreme cold sections of the country. But even there, they are valuable as pot plants. As a group they are considered to be shade loving plants, but they will do equally as well in the sun. They are considered to be moisture loving plants, but will succeed in dry spots. They will lend themselves to edgings, borders, beds and pots. They are superb foliage plants and still have attractive flowers. Such plants should be very popular, but they are quite rare in our gardens. Don't ask me why, I could not tell you.

There are only a few species and varieties in the genus, but each one is distinct and has individual use. Take, for instance, *L. graminifolia*, the grass *Liriope*. This has light green, thin grassy foliage up to a foot high when

well established, and left alone for a few years, it will cover wide areas with its tufts of growth, spreading by means of stolens. Planted six inches apart each way in a bed it will make a solid ground cover within a year. In the southern states, it is used as a substitute for lawn grass where there is too much shade for grass to grow. It makes a good turf if cut twice a year and can be walked upon. Of course it will do the same in a sunny situation, but there would be no point in planting it in the sun since we can use grass there. The flower stems are stiff and straight, a foot high and light lavender in color. The upper half of the stem is closely covered with small star shaped flowers. It may be dug up and transplanted any time of the year which also holds true with the other members of the genus.

The next species has darker green foliage with shorter and more spreading blades, but does not spread too fast. This one is *L. spicata*. It is ideal for edgings and borders in small masses. It grows about six inches high and can be walked on without cutting. The flower is a deeper color and seeds freely, showing the small black berries to good advantage.

*L. muscari* has the most attractive flower. In July, the whole plant is covered with tall spikes of purplish flowers which look just like Grape Hyacinths. It stays colorful for a whole month. Most of the cultivated forms (and there are many forms) have created flowers that are not perfect, and for that reason they furnish more than their share of color but never set seed. Because this plant has very wide and deep green foliage, and because it makes very attractive clumps, it is generally grown as individual specimen plants, or, if planted in a row sufficient space is left between plants so as to display the full beauty of each individual plant. The root system of *Liriope* is very similar to that of the Day Lily (*Hemerocallis*) and has very short rhizomes and lots of swellings or tubercles on the ends of the roots. This species seems to have more of these nodules than the other species. It can not be propagated from these nodules. This plant is eminently suited for pot culture. The foliage spreads out to fall over the rim of the pot and the flowers standing upright in the center make a lovely picture. There is a variegated form of this, that is quite ornamental. The habit of the plant is the same as the type, but the leaves are striated alternately with green and gold. This one is best in the shade since the sun has a tendency to fade the yellow color and during the summer it might

even scorch the foliage. The flowers in this form are normal.

For sheer delight and usefulness my vote goes to *L. grandiflora*. This is very different in every way from the previously mentioned species. Its foliage is deep green, shiny on the upper surface and ribbed underneath. It has so much substance that even though the leaves grow to a height of three feet they are held up gracefully and never break down either of their own weight or through wind action. It is extremely useful to those of you who make flower arrangements and are looking for material to furnish height to the picture. A little pull on the leaf will detach it from the very base revealing a blade with some graceful arch and usually a half twist. Furthermore, it can be manipulated to assume any curve desired. The leaf has so much substance it will hold its color and form for over a week without being placed in water. Planted in a pot, or individually in the garden, it will make a graceful fountain of foliage three feet tall and three feet across, in time. This one blooms in August, and even though the flower stems are only half the height of the leaves, they are not hidden since they push out through the side of the clump and show their delicate orchid color all around the plant.

J. N. GIRIDLIAN

—B—

## *Begonia* 'Hattie Worden'

"The plant of *B. 'Hattie Worden'* is an exceptionally beautiful plant for the type. The leaves have the thick texture of *B. sanguinea* and much of the same coloring. A deep olive green on the surface and a very deep red on the back. The stems and petioles are the same deep red and the leaves are nearly always cupped, so one has a beautiful display of color at all times. The entire plant is sparsely white hairy. The flowers are larger than the species. Male flowers are pure white on red stems, and they have a few scattered red hairs on the backs of the petals. The female flowers are white, the hairs either lacking entirely or very few. The flowers appear at the tips of the arching branches and make quite a large cluster. It blooms for me during the fall and winter. It makes an exceptionally good plant for growing in the ground. I don't believe it will grow to more than three feet."

Excerpt from a letter to Jean Kerlin from Mrs. Marie Minter, Encinitas, Calif.—Ed.

—B—

Material for March issue must be in editor's hands by February 5.

## Are You a Gambler?

To grow any plants from seeds takes time, patience and good seeds. If you can get all that material together, you have a good combination which will give you lots of fun. I also know that if *just one* of the three items is missing, you are in for a disappointment. Gardeners are also gamblers, for they never give up, and like gamblers hope that the next time their luck will change. So does the gardener who will try and try, each time hoping he will be lucky with his seeds. How do I know? I have planted seeds from almost every country in the world, so I know how it feels to be either lucky or disappointed.

With spring coming, we start looking for seeds of new varieties of begonias we could add to our collection. I always get more pleasure growing all my plants from seeds. I have often been asked how I plant or sow my seeds. I have tried several different ways, but I have found that straight peat moss works best for me. Sprinkle the seed on the *moist* peat. *Never cover* seeds of begonias or fern spores with the peat, but cover the container with glass to keep up the humidity. If the pots should get dry, stand the pot in water to absorb some moisture—not too much as the moss should be kept moist not wet. If seed is fresh, it should start germinating in about ten days to three weeks, with a month's elapsed time at the most. If seed is of a rare species, plant in individual pots and that way you can keep it for about six months or more if the germinating period is unknown.

Did I say gardeners are gamblers? Fresh seed will germinate readily and will keep growing. If seed is too old, it will germinate, but that's *all*—the plants will not have enough vitality to keep growing. So don't blame yourself if that happens to you. Neither do you blame the seeds if you were not careful to plant when the seed was received, nor do you blame them if you were not careful and let the seedlings dry out or left them standing in the sun. (You see, I've done it myself.)

To avoid such mistakes and complete loss, keep a few seeds of the variety sown in reserve. Never keep seedling too wet as you are running a chance of having fungus take over. I know there are several products on the market that would or are supposed to clear any trace of fungus if it appears. Why take the chance? It's easier to see to it that fungus does not appear. Your plants will be much healthier with the extra care you give them at this stage of development.

MARIE TURNER

# Fuchsias---Through the Seasons

I have been growing fuchsias for about 15 years in the San Gabriel Valley, and have, I think, learned a little about them in the hot dry valley. A big mistake a person can make is to buy a new variety grown on the coast where it is cool and damp, and take this new fuchsia out in the valley, plant it, and expect it to do as well as the old established ones. When I get a new plant, I cut it all up into cuttings, not over 4" long and with four buds. I plant these cuttings in Sponge Rock, which I think in the valley is best because it drains well and the cuttings do not dampoff in it. I make these cuttings of a new variety so the next plant formed will become acclimated to our drier conditions.

Now let us ramble back in season. Have you mulched your plants yet? It is a very good idea to cover your fuchsias with straw, manure or shavings. Weeds do no harm as they will rot down before spring and make good humus and fertilizer while protecting your plants against frost this winter. If we have a good frost, it will help you prune your plants. All you will then have to do is shape up the plant in March and cut, out dead wood. You know a heavy pruning is the only way to get lots of new growth which produces lots of flowers.

Another thing you can do in the fall, if you have a hot house with a bit of empty space in it, is to prune your plants which have good healthy, heavy foliage. Do not prune as far back as in March. This is usually done the last of August or the first of September. Do not water too heavily for two or three weeks, then feed with a good fish emulsion. This is all the fuchsias will need and by January they will be full of buds and bloom. Don't try this if you do not have a good place protected by glass and heated if the temperature gets too low. Now watch out for pests, for it is damp and humid and the white fly and aphid like to go to work. Chlordane will hold down the white fly. A good oil spray takes care of aphid, but do not spray too often as oil sprays may burn.

Lots of people take hard wood cuttings in the fall. Take cuttings about 3" or 4" long, dip in hormone powder, and plant about 1" apart in sponge rock. I have used clean builders' sand, but most sand out here has too much alkali in it, so I have quit using it.

If we have dry winters, water once in a while, not too often, as we don't want any more soft growth than is necessarily unavoidable. The mulch will hold the moisture. I

don't advise doing any cleaning up until spring as all old dead leaves, weeds and whatever is around do protect plants from frost. The last of February or first of March, you can get the wheelbarrow out and pick up the heavy stuff and prune your plants back to a good shape by cutting to about 2" from the main stem. You can cultivate around the plants, but not too deeply. You will break a few roots while working the compost into the soil, but they soon heal and send out new feeders.

March is a good month to replant, prune and shape your plants. Cut off the tips of the roots and they will send out new feeders. Put in new soil, but don't plant in fertilizer or too rich compost. If you do, you will get all growth and no blooms.

I used to use green sphagnum moss in the slat baskets, but it would dry out so quickly. Now I cut four pieces of tar paper and put them in the basket with the gravel side out and the cracks in the corners for drainage. Don't make your baskets too small as your plants grow quite rapidly, filling the baskets with roots. I don't like clay baskets as they are always dry. Wire baskets lined with tar paper are satisfactory.

When you make your mixture for planting, don't forget a bit of peat moss, for it holds moisture. Now I am not going to advise a mixture, for each locality calls for different ingredients. There are so many different mixes, but if you are having good luck, stay with it. I have changed a few times to my own regret.

You don't have to do any fertilizing until June, then use a liquid. I change the fertilizer each time so no necessary food will be left out.

April and May is the time to buy your new plants. Look around the neighborhood and see what fuchsias are doing the best. These varieties then are the best to plant. You can buy new plants, but do get them from your local nursery unless you want to be discouraged. I have watched the "imports" for years. You can get most of them to grow in a fashion. After two or three years of taking cuttings and growing them on, the plants become settled.

I was told a long time ago that one could make a tree fuchsia out of just a few kinds. One year I had a few thousand plants coming on, from which I sorted out the best straight stalks of the vigorous growers. I then had about two dozen varieties of fine tree fuchsias.

VooDoo, Streamliner, Blue Mulan, Blue Adonis, Purple Sage, and Lady Ann are vari-

# Begonias at the Turn of the Century

I have been asked what begonias were popular at the turn of the century. There is a surprising number of the so-called old begonias which were popular in our California gardens then. Many of our nurseries carried them and they were much used as choice pot plants, for plant-stands, and conservatories.

I happen to have before me one of Mrs. Shepherd's early catalogs. In the nineties, she was a well-known grower and hybridizer. She was favorably known both at home and abroad. In 1897, her descriptive catalog (she spelled it catalogue) of California flowers was quite extensive and offered many plants, seeds, bulbs, palms, and cacti. In her famous nursery at "Ventura-by-the-Sea," California, she did a large business.

She speaks of her grand new begonias in most glowing colors, extolling their brilliant leaves and magnificent flowers. They were of the Otto Hacker and President Gaulin type, only they were greatly superior in every way. This is how she describes them: "All have large oblong leaves and immense panicles of very large flowers in shades of pink, and red; in habit they are tree-like, strong and robust, sending up a great number of canes to the height of six or eight feet. The foliage is a yellowish or bronzy green, exquisitely beautiful in texture, and has a shining silken lustre. The difference between the various plants consists in size and shape of leaves, and the brilliant colors with which they are, at various times, tinged or illuminated; they change in the different stages of growth. The shades of color are bronzy red, terra cotta, old rose, delicate pink, wine color, copper, yellow feathered green, and other blendings are indescribable. The underside of the leaves is a rich

eties of fuchsias which grow vigorously in this area. These have to be pinched very often. Sometimes I don't get around to pinch often enough, so I pinch a little heavy and save the tips, for they root very fast and grow faster in the spring. I put soft cuttings in straight peat with no hormone being used.

Now let's talk about the summer season—it is getting hotter. Don't be afraid to turn a fine mist on the fuchsias in the middle of the day. It washes off the dust and smog, and raises the humidity in the lath house or under the trees. Keep the plants out of draughts. Watch out for pests now, for the warm weather surely brings aphids and white fly. Keep pinching back now. The more you

wine color, claret, terra cotta, and in some varieties they are charmingly flushed with these lovely colors. Though giants in size there is not the least suggestion of coarseness about them. The leaves measure frequently 15 inches in length by 7½ across. The young foliage is often spotted with silver." The finest ones were offered under the following names: "Enchantress, Beauty, Atala, Brilliant, Autumn Leaf, Daphne, Jupiter, Heart's Delight, Flammarion, Ianthe, Ernani, Her Royal Highness, and Fair Rosamond."

Mrs. Shepherd's seedlings from *B. 'Pink rubra'* were giants among the so-called "Bamboo Begonias." How well I remember their immense panicles of bloom, and their strong rich foliage!

While her nursery was full of beautiful and rare plants, begonias were her great specialty, and she grew all varieties; both old and new were welcomed and given room. Thirty-six of the varieties we are still growing were in her large collection. *B. 'Argentea-guttata'*, *B. 'Paul Bruant'*, *B. 'Manicata aureo-maculata'*, *B. 'compta'*, *B. 'Otto Hacker'*, *B. 'Thurstoni'*, *B. 'Smithii'*, *B. 'President Carnot'*, *B. 'Gilsoni'*, *B. 'zebrina'*, *B. 'Odorata alba'*, *B. 'odorata rosea'*, *B. 'Weltoniensis'*, *B. 'Jessie'*, and *B. 'Verschafelti'* were some of her favorites. She was one of the first, also, to specialize with the *semperflorens* group. She imported and grew Lemoine's *B. 'Rosea gigantea'* and describes its virtues in most glowing terms.

When I came to Southern California in 1906, I had a chance to visit Mrs. Shepherd and I bought and grew many of her beautiful begonias. Before the cold spell of 1913, I had a *B. 'Marjorie Daw'* which reached the ceiling.

CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

pinch, the bushier your plants become and the more blooms you have.

Your fuchsias, having been planted in good soil mix, now need to be fed with Fish Emulsion and then in about six weeks use another liquid fertilizer. Don't forget to keep well watered. Be sure the plants have drainage. There are a few plants that do not take quite so much water, but you will find out as you go along by watching your plants. Now your plants should be in bud and soon you will have masses of bloom. Pinch again after they bloom and they will bud up again.

Thanks for this little chat with you as we ramble through the four seasons with our fuchsias.

BERT WELCH

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

We are happy to tell you we have something entirely new to offer you this month, namely: No. 1. *B. CAFFRA*. These seeds come from a direct contact in South Africa who collected them while on a fishing trip in N.E. Transvaal. The plant was sent to Pretoria for identification and is described as resembling a *semperflorens* with off-white to pink flowers. Grows to about 14 inches high and so far as we know is new to A.B.S. members. 50c per small packet. No. 2. *B. GERMAN REX*. Ornamental leaved. Finest mixed. Direct from Germany. 50c per small packet. Due to the limited supply and expense involved in importing these seeds, we can offer only one packet to each customer. No. 3. *B. STITCHED LEAF*. Resembles *B. Mazae* with dark green markings like stitches at the margin. 50c per packet.

*Collection No. 1.* (1) *B. MRS. W. S. KIMBALL*. Tall, showy plant with green leaves on red stems. New foliage, silver dotted and as lovely as a young plant can be. Later foliage is pure green, serrated, wavy and outlined in red. Large pink flowers hang in clusters from leaf axils. Profuse bloomers and flowers are fragrant. Pictured in the Buxton book on begonias. (2) *B. FLEECE-ALBA*. Upright rhizomatous. New leaves are pure white and heavily fleeced. As the foliage grows they are more sparsely covered with felt, with more green appearing. Flowers are large and pure white on tall stems. On mature plants there are as many as 150 blooms in each cluster. Mature leaves are 7"-15" and pointed. Sturdy grower. A hybrid by Florence Knock, Minn. (3) *B. VITIFOLIA*. Brazilian species. Tall grower with strong green stems streaked with white. The large glossy leaves suggest a grape leaf and veins on underside are rusty brown and hairy. Flowers are small white. Winter bloomer. (4) *B. IMMENSE*. A seedling of *B. Ricinifolia*. (5) *B. DICHROA*. Beautiful but not easy to grow. Low and drooping and leaves dark green silver-spotted, four to five inches long. The flowers are brilliant scarlet. A color not often seen in begonias and are of a waxy texture. (6) *B. RUBRA*. Cane type with pink and red flowers. The above collection \$1.25.

*Collection No. 2.* Recently the following seeds have come in from India. (1) *B. ARGYROSTIGMA*. Tree begonia. Brazil. Tall, erect; stems cane-like, leaves long ovate, pointed, silver-spotted. Flowers large, soft and pink. (2) *B. EPIPSILA*. Brazil. Fibrous, procumbent, hybrid. Leaves glossy green above

and dark red beneath. Flowers white. Makes a nice basket. (3) *B. PICTA*. Tuberos. India. Pictured in the Krauss book on begonias. Tubers are small and dormant in winter. In late spring, come leaves 5" across in glorious colors, greenish yellow, marked with maroon. Flowers are pale pink held above the leaves. New tubers form on thread-like stems from old tubers. (4) *B. WILD BEGONIA*. India. Under surface of leaves deep red. Seeds of this begonia were collected from the jungles in India. Should prove very interesting to members who like something new and different. In addition to the above we offer two varieties of the Heterosis strain, or F1 hybrids. *Red tausendschon*. Dwarf. Free flowering dark scarlet. *Rose tausendschon*. Dwarf, bright rose flowers. Both of these varieties are of neat compact growth and are used as bedding plants or grown in pots. The above 6 packets for \$1.50.

*Other genera.* We have received from South Africa seeds of the beautiful *Protea*. These shrubs are widely grown outdoors in mild climates but make a beautiful greenhouse subject. Mere words cannot describe their beauty. Flowers are contained in colored bracts sometimes with woolly tips. Seeds are rare and difficult to get. (1) *P. MELLIFERA*. "The sugar bush." Pink on white heads. (2) *P. NERIFOLIA*. Similar to above but red with dark beards. (3) *P. SUSANNAE*. Reddish heads. In addition to the above we have fresh seeds of (4) *MANIHOT DULCIS*. Sweet cassava. Brazil. It is of the *Euphorbiaceae* family. A shrubby herb three to nine feet tall, leaves 3-7 parted, flowers pinkish in clusters. A nice plant for contrast in tropical gardens. Oh yes, more seed of the lovely *VRIESIA* have just come in. *Vriesia glutinosa* and *V. rostrum-agulae* mixed. They have soft lettuce-like leaves and flower scapes resembling the feathers of a tropical bird. Require indoor care. Entire collection of other genera \$1.25.

Begonia close-out sale still in effect. 10 packets for \$1.00.

Please note: All seed offered this month are freshly collected from 1955 crop. We have spent a great deal of time and effort in compiling this list for you and all seed are the best obtainable anywhere.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE  
Seed Fund Administrator

4316 Berryman Avenue  
Los Angeles 66, California

## Information Please

Q. How can the begonia 'John R.' and related begonias best be propagated? Newark, N.J.

A. *B. 'John R.'* belongs to the rhizomatous group of begonias, the majority of which can be propagated from leaf, leaf portions, rhizome tip or portions of the rhizome. Rhizome portions should be cut in lengths containing two or more nodes and should be set horizontally with the node above the medium in the propagating bed. It is well to dip all cuts of propagating material in plant hormone, sulphur or powdered charcoal before placing in the beds.

Q. When is the best time to plant tuberous begonia seed and will tuberous seedlings bloom the first year?

A. With bottom heat, tuberous seed may be planted as early as December but most growers find that planting the seed in February and not later than March will give excellent results. If seed has been planted during the month of February, the seedlings should be ready for planting out in May and should bloom in July. The bloom will be at its best in August and September.

Q. Do the tuberous begonias grow larger and better if flower buds are pinched off the first year? M. S., Jamestown, Pa.

A. Since tuberous begonia seedlings generally bloom the first year, there seems no point in pinching off the flower buds and losing a year's enjoyment of your plants. Let the begonias go through their natural growing cycle.

Q. Does the size of the tuber indicate the size or quality of the tuberous begonia flower?

A. We are told by tuberous begonia producers that the size of the tuber has little to do with the size and quality of the flower. Larger tubers will produce larger plants and therefore more flowers.

Q. When should I plant my tubers?

A. Never plant begonia tubers until they have sprouted. Tubers will sprout in the spring, but they will sprout earlier if placed in a warm dark location.

Q. How can I tell the difference between *B. 'Brocade'* and *B. 'Silver Star'*?

A. There is an excellent picture of *B. 'Brocade'* on the cover of April, 1955, issue of *The Begonian*. *B. 'Silver Star'* belongs to the star group of rhizomatous and its leaf shape similar to *B. 'Sunderbruchi'* deeply lobed. A description of *B. 'Silver Star'* is on page 83 of the same April issue and a fine illustration on page 201, October, 1946, *The Begonian*.

Q. Why do the edges of my rex begonias get dry? D. D., Yanter, Conn.

A. Usually the lack of humidity in the surrounding air will cause the rex leaves to dry around the edges. Of course a rex begonia, like any other plant, sheds its leaves at intervals. If it is the young leaves that are drying, then check the humidity and protect the plants from drafts.

Q. My problem baby is now *B. Boweri*. I started it from a leaf, but it is frail and seems unhappy. What can I do for it? Mrs. M. S., Jamestown, Pa.

A. If your *B. Boweri* is still small and unhappy, it is probably over-potted. Give it protection by placing a glass or jar over it until it takes hold. Then pot it in a fern-pot with rich loose soil. *B. Boweri*, being a miniature rhizomatous begonia, likes to be potted shallow and given a chance, will creep and spread over the soil.

Q.—Where are the begonias of the nineteenth century that were grown as houseplants? H. M. V., Long Island, N. Y.

A.—Would suggest that you read *Begonias for American Homes* by Helen K. Krauss. More than fifty species and early hybrids are described by Mrs. Krauss, all of which are still on the market. Send for begonia price lists of nurseries specializing in begonias and be surprised.

LOUISE SCHWERTPFEGER

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*Hanging Basket (Pendula fl. pl.)*  
*"Santa" Varieties*

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## Begonia Kellermani

(Continued From Page 33)

fusely and is the only begonia I have with a lovely and elusive fragrance. Toward late afternoon, this exotic odor is practically unnoticeable, but having once enjoyed the experience, you look forward to it.

Last winter I found that it is not able to stand cold weather. Several begonias on a plant stand with it were unaffected by a temperature of 26° such as *B. scharffiana*, *B. 'Nelly Bly'*, *B. 'Marguerita'*, *B. Thurstoni*, and the ever faithful *B. digswelliana*. Now I take it into the house or the tube-house at the first hint of cold. It does very well in the house as it seems to enjoy being grown on the dry side.

I consider *B. Kellermani* one of the most satisfactory of the species. It takes very little special care inside or out except for cold weather. It was planted in a rich soil mixture and although it has taken first prize at two of the National Flower Shows for Begonias, and the Effie Chapman cup in 1954, it has had very little liquid fertilizer and not applied systematically.

Since this plant is over five years old and I have raised it from a seed I recommend it as a good winter-time house plant of high ranking qualities. It wears well and is self-perpetuating from seed as well as easily propagated from cuttings.

WILMA BLOUGH  
San Gabriel Valley Branch

A.B.S. PINS as gifts to your officers. Write to Fred Browne, 817 Novelda Rd., Alhambra, California.

### AFRICAN VIOLETS LEAVES — PLANTS

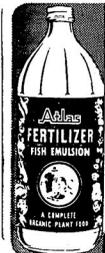
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## Begonias From Seed

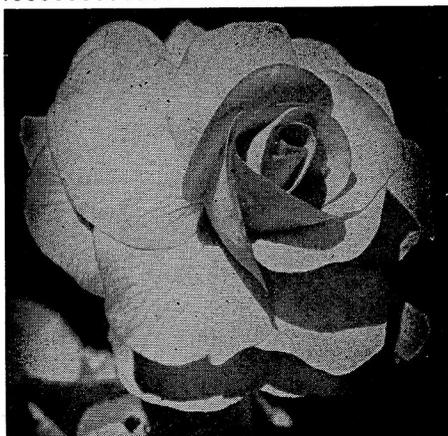
(Continued From Page 27)

obtained best results with a high analysis (15-30-15) soluble fertilizer applied at the rate of one ounce per two gallons of water on 10-day intervals.

Some studies have been made with the use of pressurized carbon dioxide in the greenhouse. The results have not been very promising for two reasons: First, the lack of CO<sub>2</sub> in greenhouses in California is seldom a limiting factor of growth because the mild climate permits good ventilation, resulting in a rapid exchange of air. Secondly, even in areas where additional CO<sub>2</sub> might result in increased growth, the cost of application is greater than the value of the additional growth obtained.

Most of the improvement program is due to selection and hybridizing which are carried on constantly by begonia specialists. There is little doubt that we have better begonias to work with now than in past years. A little attention to a few of the fundamentals of plant growth mentioned previously will make possible the production of better plants.

HOWARD C. BROWN  
Head of Ornamental Horticulture Dept.  
California State Polytechnic College  
San Luis Obispo, Calif.



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# In Memoriam

It is with deep regret we report the passing of John Samuel Williams, known affectionately to his many friends as "Jack." He was a life member of the Long Beach Parent Chapter and past national president of the A.B.S. (1938-39). We will miss his wise counsels, but will cherish his memory and try to emulate his many virtues. We pray that God's richest blessings may rest on Mrs. Williams.

It is with deep regret the El Monte Branch reports the passing of our member and our hospitality chairman, Mrs. Bessie Beckett.

Bess, as she was known to her many friends, died suddenly December 20, 1955, at her home, 2612 W. Shorb St., Alhambra, Calif. She has left a living memorial, "Her Garden."

## CALENDAR

- Feb. 12-Mar. 4—Azalea and Camellia Show, Garfield and Lincoln Park Conservatories, Chicago, Ill.
- Feb. 22—San Gabriel Valley Branch, Fuschias and Other Shade Plants, illustrated with colored slides by Mabel Corwin.
- Feb. 24—Redondo Beach Branch, "Tropicana-U.S.A." by Gordon Baker Lloyd.
- Feb. 25-Mar. 11—National Camellia Growers at Second Annual Descanso Gardens Festival, La Canada, Calif.
- Mar. 8—El Monte Branch, "Begonias and Ferns," illustrated with colored slides, by Sylvia Leatherman.

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# To All Members . . .

The Awards Committee needs to establish a list of BEGONIA HYBRIDS for the purpose of reference material in giving the ROBINSON MEMORIAL Medal award. This Medal can only be won by a hybrid or cultivar.

The Committee has no reference material from shows or any records of plants. The only information we have been able to gather came from old copies of *The Begonian*, and from what I could learn personally on my visits to the Branches and members. If you have records of plants exhibited in shows, the Committee will appreciate having copies of your lists and also what ribbons the plants won.

One of the duties of the Awards Committee this year will be to choose a Begonia to be awarded the Robinson Medal.

The Committee is working on rules by which this begonia may be chosen, but they also need a list from which to choose the plants to be considered. In getting this list from all members possible, a cross comparison can be made to establish the popularity and distribution of many hybrid begonias, thus giving the Committee valuable information.

If all members will kindly list the Hybrid or Cultivar begonias which they grow, be it one or many, we will appreciate your cooperation and you may be helping some hard working hybridizer to win this coveted medal on one of his or her pet plants.

A similar letter has been sent to all Branches and we hope for a prompt reply, but ALL MEMBERS are also invited to send nominations of begonias with information as to how well they grow in their location, to the Awards chairman, for consideration by the Committee.

*Please*—Help the Awards Committee to establish a record on these begonias; once started it can be added to each year. When test gardens are established, it will not be difficult to evaluate the new begonias.

I know you have received a request for a list of your begonias from Mrs. Leatherman and I hope you cooperate with her, but the list the Awards Committee needs has nothing to do with hers.

*Note:* A hybrid begonia is a cross between two species, while a Cultivar begonia may be a cross between two hybrids or a hybrid and a species.

Hoping to hear from you as soon as you can make your list,

Very sincerely your begonia friend,

MRS. EDNA L. KORTS, *Chairman*  
Awards Committee

# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## DALLAS COUNTY

The following officers were elected: Mrs. L. P. Hensley, pres.; Mrs. Dorothy Bearden, v. pres.; Mrs. Ruth Cook, sec'y; Mrs. S. A. Day, treas.; Mr. W. M. Swanner, Branch director; Mrs. M. F. Scribner, historian and librarian; and Mrs. R. B. White, parliamentarian.

—B—

## EL MONTE

In January, Mr. Pat Burke of the California Spray Chemical Co., showed a film on "Growing of Beautiful Bulbs."

"Begonias and Ferns," illustrated with colored slides, will be discussed at the March meeting by Sylvia Leatherman, who will give a running commentary and cultural tips. Bob Mattucket will be the projectionist.

—B—

## GLENDALE

The "Boys" served refreshments at the post-Christmas meeting where three members, experts in their field, spoke on: latest advice out on bromeliads by Jean Kerlin; begonias by Roy Norris; and what to do with your fuchsias at this time of the year by Roy Joyce. The members donated a sum of money to the Brentwood Veterans Project.

The following officers were installed by Edna Korts, national past president of A.B.S.: Mr. Frank Coe, pres.; Mr. Bert Williams, v. pres.; Mrs. Howard Jenson, rec. sec'y; Mrs. Frank Coe, cor. sec'y; Mr. Clarence Hall, nat'l director; and Mr. and Mrs. David Winans, members repres.

—B—

## HAWKEYE STATE

Discussed the Hiemalis and Cheimantha begonia varieties. Where may they be purchased? Twelve *Begonias* of back issues have been added to our library. We identified some of Sadie Hemmingsen's begonias—thrifty plants raised from cuttings since we first organized. Reports were given on the rooted cuttings sent to us by the Glendale branch.

The following officers were elected for 1956: Edna B. Fowler, pres.; Maxine Tiarks, v. pres.; Alice Casson, sec'y-treas.; and Ruth F. Anderson, cor. sec'y.

—B—

## HUB CITY

The new officers for 1956 are: Lester Kellogg, pres.; Tom E. Witt, v. pres.; Mrs. Irene Marsh, treas.; Mrs. Edna Kellogg, sec'y; and Joe E. Ogden, nat'l director.

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY

Tables were beautifully decorated in the Christmas theme for the annual Christmas dinner and installation of officers held at Hospitality House, Fortuna. After dinner, there was an exchange of gifts and the following officers were installed: Essie Randall, Eureka, pres.; Christene Kemp, Fortuna, v. pres.; and Marguerite Smith, Ferndale, sec'y and treas. Violet Wooden, Fortuna, and Kate Phillips, Hydesville, are directors.

—B—

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

At the December meeting, officers for the coming year were installed by one of our charter members, Mr. Paul Walker. Lovely plants in bright holiday wrappings were exchanged by members at the Christmas party. Each guest also received a beautiful plant.

—B—

## ORANGE COUNTY

After a jitney pot-luck dinner, Joe Taylor, national A.B.S. president, installed the executive officers of this branch. (Ed.: Who are they?)

The plant forum table not only displays beautiful plants, but also gives valuable information on the plant under discussion by relating its background, culture and even treatment, if it is sick.

May all your begonias be healthy, beautiful, prize winning plants.

—B—

## PHIOBEGONIA

The members elected for the new year of 1956 are: Mrs. Elsa Fort, pres.; Mrs. Alfred Bailey, v. pres.; Mrs. Robert York, sec'y and treas.; Mrs. William Browning, historian; Mrs. Curtis Paschall, chaplain; Mrs. Edwin Stiles, nat'l rep.; Mrs. Ralph DeCou, flower show chairman; and Mrs. J. Perry Long, program chairman.

—B—

## REDONDO BEACH

The sixth annual Christmas party featured a turkey dinner after which the members sang Christmas carols and placed toys and gifts, for needy and ill children, under the tree.

Mrs. Arleen Stoddard, secretary for the National A.B.S., very capably and with quiet dignity installed the following officers for 1956: Mrs. Emma Wiltse, pres.; Mr. Floyd Buell, v. pres.; Opal Ahern, sec'y; Mrs. Thora

Prince, treas.; and Mrs. Lucille Terry, nat'l rep.

Mr. Joe Littlefield was the speaker at the January meeting.

"Tropicana-U.S.A.," an all new show by Gordon Baker Lloyd, will be illustrated by a full scale tropical garden scene erected on the stage at the March meeting. Stories and information on tropical foliage will be presented.

—B—

## RIVERSIDE

The officers elected for 1956 are: Mr. Roland A. Maddox, pres.; Mr. William S. Allen, vice-pres.; Mr. R. H. Terrill, nat. rep.; Mrs. Edna Trausch, treas.; Mrs. Olive Thaller, sec.; and Mrs. Ona Wardell, publicity director.

—B—

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

A plant round table was conducted by begonia experts Wilma Blough and Mary Gillingwaters being interviewed by Merilyn Jewett as the amateur with a result of much valuable cultural information being given to the members. Mary Gillingwaters gave a lesson on the manicatas and the understanding of the name development. The *B. manicata*, from Mexico in 1837, is a rhizomatous begonia with smooth green leaves. There is a collar of coarse red hair on the leaf stem just under the leaf. *B. manicata aureo-maculata* is a variety with yellow blotched leaves. Aureo means gold, maculata, spots; therefore the formation of the descriptive name is not a puzzle. Crispa means crested leaf edges. Then from the name *B. manicata aureo-maculata crispa* we expect a manicata with gold spots on crested leaves. The crispa varieties are harder to grow.

—B—

## SEATTLE

As the club's seventh year draws to a close, Mrs. Paul Deiro states as she turns the gavel over to the new president, Bill Barrager:

1. As a garden club, we have been brought closer together by working in a common interest—gardening.

2. By working together, we are achieving and realizing the aims and purposes upon which the foundation of the Seattle Branch of the A.B.S. is built, namely to create interest in begonias of all types as well as other plants of the sheltered garden and to give willingly and freely of our knowledge and experience in realization of such.

3. Because of these attributes, we were able to plan, prepare and present a flower show of which any garden club would be justly proud. Upon these rests the success of future shows of our club.

## SMOKEY VALLEY

Members grew lovely tuberous begonias this year. Some are raising begonias by artificial light now.

—B—

### B. REX 'THRUSH'

In an article written by Elsa Fort of New Jersey, she credited *B. 'Thrush'* as one of my seedlings. This rex is a seedling of Elsa Frey of Santa Barbara.

SUSIE ZUG, San Dimas, Calif.

—B—

If you like fried eggs for breakfast, have friend wife save the shells for you. Put the shells in a jar with enough water to cover them and let them set until they let you know that they are there. Dilute the solution: 3 parts water to 1 part smell. Soak your ferns once a month with the diluted solution. Watch the results, as ferns like a LITTLE lime occasionally.

JACK MACLANAHAN

## Samuel C. Sault

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# Branch Meeting Dates . . .

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### HYBRIDIZERS BRANCH

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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, 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, 7:00 p.m.  
Members' Residences  
Mrs. Ruth Cook  
923 S. Edgefield, Dallas 8, Texas

## EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.  
Willard School, Telegraph at Ward,  
Berkeley, California  
Mr. Stuart C. Smith, Secy.  
3147 Stanley Blvd., Lafayette, Calif.

## EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

2nd Thrsday  
Lions Clubhouse, 225 W. Garvey Blvd.  
Monterey Park, Calif.  
William Edwards, Cor. Secy.  
1886 San Pasqual, Pasadena, Calif.

## FOOTHILL BRANCH

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

## FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 2:30 p.m.  
Miss Lola Price, Secy.  
628 Beech Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J.

## GLENDALE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Afternoon Club, 400 N. Central  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coe, Cor. Secy.  
28904 Cliffside Dr., Malibu, Calif.

## GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.  
Community House, La Jolla  
Mrs. Charles Calloway  
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

## GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

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

## GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. W. Ernest Jones, Secy.  
Welsh & Dresher Rds. Willow Grove, Pa.

## HAMSHIRE, TEXAS BRANCH

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

## HAWKEYE STATE BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes  
Ruth Anderson, Secy.  
Underwood, Iowa

## HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

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

## HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

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

## HUB CITY BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Mrs. L. R. Kellogg, Secy.  
1120 E. 71st St., Long Beach 5, Calif.

## HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

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

## INGLEWOOD BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.  
Inglewood Women's Club  
325 North Hillcrest, Inglewood, Calif.  
Mrs. Hattie Bradford, Secy.  
1825 W. 73rd St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.

## LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Mrs. Alice Waldow, Secy.  
2175 Cedar Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.

## LOS ANGELES BRANCH

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

## LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

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

## MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Simpson Memorial Garden Center  
Mrs. Vivian J. Ennemoser, Secy.  
1295 N. W. 54th St., Miami 42, Florida

## MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.  
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

## NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

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

## OCEAN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 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, 7:30 p.m.  
Grange Hall, 1 block south of center  
of Garden Grove, California  
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.  
604 South Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

## PASADENA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
Homes of Members  
Mrs. Alva Graham, Secy.  
515 El Centro St., South Pasadena, Calif.

## PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes  
Mrs. Robert York, Secy.  
3311 Fremont St., Camden, New Jersey

**PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH**  
 4th Friday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Journal Building Auditorium,  
 Front and Yamhill Sts.  
 Mrs. Altermatt, Secy.  
 1104 S. E. 148th, Portland, Oregon

**RAYTOWN, MISSOURI BRANCH**  
 4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Mildred Schorr, Secy.-Treas.

**REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH**  
 4th Friday each month  
 2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.  
 Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.  
 1304 Poinsettia Ave.  
 Manhattan Beach, Calif.

**RIVERSIDE BRANCH**  
 2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Shamel Park, 3650 Arlington,  
 Riverside, California  
 Irene Springer, Secy.  
 3608 Rossmuir, Riverside, Calif.

**ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH**  
 3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m.  
 Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Merrel H. Taylor, Secy.  
 4285 Sierra Vista, San Diego 3, Calif.

**SACRAMENTO BRANCH**  
 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
 Mrs. Gordon Long, Secy.  
 5416 Dana Way, Sacramento, Calif.

**SAN DIEGO BRANCH**  
 4th Monday  
 Hard of Hearing Hall,  
 Herbert & University  
 Mrs. Lillian Lausted, Secy.  
 1504 Blaine Ave., San Diego 3, Calif.

**SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH**  
 1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.  
 Mrs. Louise Allmacher  
 1963 45th Ave., San Francisco, Calif.

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH**  
 4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Masonic Temple, 506 S. Santa Anita Ave.  
 Arcadia, California  
 Mrs. Marilyn Jewett, Secy.  
 461 E. Mariposa St., Altadena, Calif.

**SAN MIGUEL BRANCH**  
 2nd Monday  
 V.F.W. Hall at Imperial and Lincoln,  
 Lemon Grove, Calif.  
 Ida M. Barker, Secy.  
 7591 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

**SANTA BARBARA BRANCH**  
 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Girl Scout Clubhouse,  
 1838 San Andres St.  
 Seth C. Langdon, Secy.  
 1419 Quinientos, Santa Barbara, Calif.

**SEATTLE BRANCH**  
 3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.  
 Trinity Parish House, 609 Eighth Ave.  
 Mrs. Wm. Stankman, Secy.  
 4116 15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.

**SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.**  
 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main,  
 Ventura, Calif.  
 Mrs. Wilma Renshaw, Secy.  
 560 So. Coronado St., Ventura, Calif.

**SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH**  
 3rd Thursday of each month  
 Mrs. A. L. Romeiser, Secy.  
 1104 South Ninth St., Salina, Kansas

**SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BR.**  
 3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.  
 Cafeteria, High School, Hayward, Calif.  
 Theodore Vierra  
 341 Redbud Lane, Hayward, Calif.

**TALL CORN STATE BRANCH**  
 Mrs. Edna Monson, Secy.  
 South Taylor, Mason City, Iowa

**TEXAS STATE BRANCH**  
 1st Tuesday night in members' homes  
 Mrs. Leoma Caudle, Secy.  
 2822 8th St., Port Arthur, Texas

**TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH**  
 4th Friday  
 Miss Isabelle Sievert, Secy.  
 3912 Ave. "S," Galveston, Texas

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH**  
 2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.  
 Homes of Members  
 Mrs. Joseph Rock, Cor. Secy.  
 Maplewood Ave., Wilkinsburg, Pa.

**WHITTIER BRANCH**  
 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
 Palm Park Community Center,  
 1643 Floral Drive  
 Mrs. Edna M. Hill, Secy.  
 8408 S. Madison Ave., Whittier, Calif.

**WILLIAM PENN BRANCH**  
 3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.  
 Homes of Members, Wallingford, Pa.  
 Mrs. Ernest C. Drew, Secy.-Treas.  
 635 Moreno Rd., Narbeth, Pa.

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