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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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Begonias

By VICTOR H. RIES

Extension Floriculturist, Ohio State University

THE BEGONIAS are one of the important groups of plants for house and garden use. There are more than a thousand wild species found in the warm countries throughout the world, the greatest number of them growing in Mexico, Central and South America, Asia and South Africa. Many of these have been introduced into cultivation, the first being introduced in 1777 from Jamaica. The large number of wild species, together with the ease which they hybridize, has produced a large group of plants. It would not be difficult to get together a collection of a hundred to two hundred species and varieties.

If you are looking for an interesting plant hobby, why not take up begonias? They have such a variety of form, of foliage, habits of flowering, that you will have great variety.

Although here in Ohio begonias are used essentially as house plants, a few such as the tuberous-rooted begonias and some of the semperflorens type are used in our gardens during the summer. One species is hardy. In cooler sections of the country and in European countries, there is a far more extensive use of them in gardens.

It is interesting to note that in the begonia, the flowers are unisexual, that is, the pistillate flowers are separate and different from the staminate flowers, although both of them are borne on the same plant.

Since the majority of begonias are woodland flowers, we naturally expect to grow them under woodland conditions, that is in soil that is well drained with ample humus in it. They do not want too strong sunlight, but a more or less shaded location. Since they come from tropical countries, we must give them a relatively warm temperature for best growth. Most begonias grow the year around. However, the tuberous types are summer blooming and winter resting. The bulbous begonias are the reverse, being winter blooming and more or less summer resting. These are the lovely ones the florists sell at Christmas.

SOIL FOR BEGONIAS

A good begonia soil should consist of about equal parts garden loam, leaf mold (either as peat moss or rotted leaves), and sand. A complete commercial fertilizer may be mixed with this at rate of a 3-inch flower pot to a bushel

of soil mixture. Apply this same fertilizer every 4 to 6 weeks from March until November. Use $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon to a 4-inch pot, less to smaller and more to larger pots.

PROPAGATION

Propagation is relatively easy. Those with definite stems are easily propagated by stem cuttings rooted in sand as you would any other cuttings. The large leaved types are propagated from leaf cuttings. This is done by either laying the entire leaf, as of the rex begonia, on a bed of sand pinning it down with toothpicks, or cutting the leaf into triangular sections, each with one of the main veins. It is a slow process, taking several months, but it works. Most of the begonias may be grown from seed. The seed is very fine, is dusted on top of a seedbed of sphagnum moss and covered with glass until it starts to germinate. Only really good gardeners can expect to grow begonias from seed.

CARE OF BEGONIAS

Begonias may be grown in any warm room, in any light window. However, during the summer, unshaded south and west windows may be too light for them. Because of their large amount of leaf surface they may require watering every day. Keep the soil moist but not muddy.

During the summer, some prefer to keep them indoors away from the south or west sun and water them regularly; which may be once a day. Others prefer to plant the begonias in their pots out-of-doors on the north side of the house or in the shade of a tree, shrub or evergreen. Under these conditions, they will not need watering quite as often, but will respond to regular watering. With their large leaves, they should be kept out of strong winds, if possible. Wind will scorch the margins of the leaves.

Since the begonias are tender plants, they should be taken indoors in September before any danger of frost.

TYPES OF BEGONIAS

1. *Semi-tuberous or bulbous begonias.* These are the showy winter flowering begonias sold by the florists. They are difficult to grow even in a greenhouse but are gorgeous when in

bloom. Originally represented by *B. "Gloire de Lorraine,"* the varieties grown today are *B. "Marjorie Gibbs"* and *B. "Lady Mac."* Although these may sometimes be kept alive all summer, it is even more difficult to get them to bloom the following winter in the home. So just enjoy them while they bloom and then throw them out.

2. *Tuberous-rooted begonias.* The large flowered summer blooming begonias belong in this group. They grow and bloom during the summer and are dormant during the winter. The dormant tubers may be purchased during the late winter or early spring and potted into 3 or 4-inch pots indoors in April. Do not water too heavily until they start to grow. Many prefer to purchase seedlings in 3-inch pots from the tuberous begonia specialists. These are purchased in late May or early June when it is safe to plant them out-of-doors. Plant this type of begonia in a location that is free from strong winds and where they get at least afternoon shade. They will even grow with full shade. After the first frost in the fall, dig the tuberous rooted begonias, cut off the tops and store as you would gladiolus bulbs. Sometimes you can keep them in good enough condition to use over again next year, but most gardeners find it more satisfactory to buy new ones each spring.

There are a number of different types of tuberous-rooted begonias, both single and double flowered. They come in white, pink, red, salmon and orange. There are also trailing varieties for hanging baskets.

The hardy begonia (*Begonia evansiana*) can be grown out-of-doors in Ohio gardens. Plant in a shaded location, in a soil that is at least half leaf mold, mulch heavily with six inches or more of leaves over winter. It is propagated by the little bulblets found in the axils of the leaves and the fork of the flower stems during late August and September. Plant these in a pot of soil in a cold frame for the winter. Each one of these will give a blooming plant the following summer.

A few of the house varieties of begonias, such as *B. dregei* and *B. sutherlandi*, belong to this group. They do not go quite as dormant during the winter.

3. *The rhizomatous begonias.* The rex begonia and its many named varieties, together with other begonias with heavy creeping stems, and usually large decorative leaves belong in this group. They are sometimes called the "Picture Leaf Begonias."

Some of the outstanding varieties and species in this group are: *Begonia rex* and its varieties,

Descanso's Old Fashioned Roses

THREE varieties of old fashioned roses today were cited as outstanding examples of color from the ancient world which may be seen daily until the end of June. The famed Red Gallica rose is particularly interesting because of its historical significance. The beautiful Red Gallicas at Descanso date back as far as 1200 B.C., when they were grown and cherished by the Persians.

The Romans and the Greeks grew great quantities of the *Rosa Centifolia*, or the Cabbage Rose, before 270 B.C. This *Centifolia*, which may be seen now at Descanso, was used by Cleopatra to cover the floor with a six-inch depth of petals for her feast with Mark Antony.

Another old fashioned rose is the Damask Rose, or *Rosa Damascena*, which displays huge, semi-double brilliant rose carmen flowers, up to four inches in diameter. The *Rosa Damascena* is said to be a native of Syria and was brought to France by the Crusaders, and thence to England.

These lovely roses in the historical garden greet one before the entrance to the shady, woodland paths lined with dancing fuchsias and begonias against the evergreen background of camellias and azaleas.

B. "Louise Closson," B. "Count Erdoedy," B. "Charles Schmidt," B. "Adrian Schmidt," B. rajah B. heracleifolia, B. "Ricinifolia," B. "Feasti," B. "Speculata."

These large leaf begonias are usually propagated by leaf cuttings.

4. *Fibrous-rooted begonias.* All the rest of the begonias belong in this group. Some like begonia *semperflorens* and its varieties are plain leaved, are grown mainly for their bloom. Others are fancy leaved and are grown as much for their foliage as for their bloom. The following are the more common of the many species and varieties in this group.

Begonia semperflorens and its varieties and hybrids, *B. "Christmas Cheer," B. "Luminosa," B. "Carmen," B. "Gloire de Chatelaine," B. "Calla" and B. "Erfordi."*

Other flowering begonias, B. haageana, B. "Argentea-guttata," B. "Thurstoni," B. "Lucerna," B. metallica, B. coccinea, B. "Pres. Carnot."

REFERENCE BOOKS IN THE A.B.S. LIBRARY

Begonias by Bessie A. Buxton, published by Orange-Judd Company.

Begonias for American Homes and Gardens by Helen H. Krauss, Macmillan Co.

Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

BROMELIADS are plants that belong to the family *Bromeliaceae*, which is composed of several rather diverse genera. They are among the few really exotic flowering plants that we have. Most all of them are stemless and have their stiff leaves growing in a rosette. Many of them reach quite a large size and are often seen outside in succulent gardens in California.

For this reason some bromeliads might be confused with the family *Agavaceae* (yuccas, century plants, etc.) and the aloe group of the lily family. Bromeliads can be readily identified as they always have a mealiness on the leaves that is lacking in the agaves and never have the soft, succulent foliage that characterizes the aloes.

Most everyone is familiar with the fact that the pineapple is a bromeliad and only a few less know that Spanish moss is one. Outside in Southern California, in addition to the sun-loving succulent garden genera *Dyckia* and *Bromelia*, *Billbergia nutans* is seen in shade gardens all over. There are other attractive species and hybrids of billbergia that are occasionally seen in gardens and windows. Other bromeliads are aechmea, tillandsia, vriesia, cryptanthus, neoregelia, and guzmania. Some are grown for their beautiful foliage and others for their exceptional flowers.

The usual method of propagation is by division or cuttings which are potted in the same well drained mix that their parents are grown in. But for a really interesting experience try growing a few bromeliads from seed.

This month the Seed Fund is offering bromeliad seed obtained by Mrs. Gee from the

Bromeliad Society. Included are the easier seeds of billbergia and aechmea which will bloom within two or three years of planting and the slower growing vriesia and tillandsia which require from five to seven years to reach maturity.

A common complaint by people who have tried to raise bromeliad seed is that the seed germinates well but that they were unable to grow them on. This fault, as a seed raiser knows, is not confined to bromeliads alone. Many plants, including some begonias, will germinate strongly but not survive. The fault lies in the fact that conditions for germination are not the same as those required for growth.

In order to germinate a seed needs moisture and heat of a certain degree, depending on the species of seed. But if the conditions above ground are not suitable for growth they will perish after they are up. The fault is often lack of humidity, for small plants, even cactus, usually require more humidity than they do as adults.

Bromeliad seed seems to do quite well when grown by the gallon jar method the same as begonia seeds as long as sufficient heat is supplied. The sealed jar holds the moisture so that even in a dry room the seedlings do not want for humidity.

There is a lot to be learned yet about hybridizing and growing bromeliads from seed. I would appreciate hearing of the experiences of any of you who have done either.

DON HORTON

683 Congress St., Costa Mesa, Calif.

Sowing Rex Begonia Seeds

THE FISHER METHOD

1. Sift leaf mold through window screen, dampen.
2. Place about 1½ inches in container. Use either:
 - a. wide mouth jar on its side
 - b. casserole
 - c. ice box dish
3. Sift peat moss, dampen. Place approx. ¼ inch layer over leaf mold.
4. Mixture must be damp, not wet.
5. Scatter seeds on surface, sparingly.
6. Cover container tightly. Place in shady

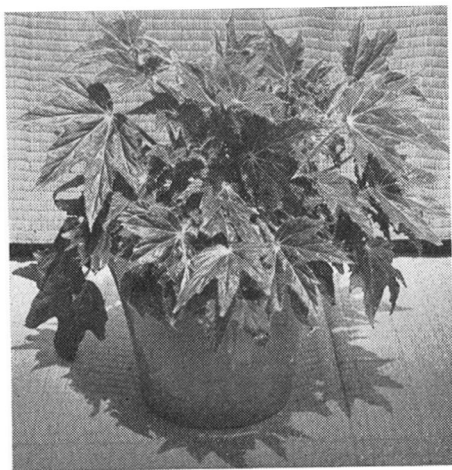
position where temperature ranges around 65 to 75 degrees (on top of water heater or gas refrigerator). Germination is faster if temperature is never allowed to drop below 70 degrees. Keep container covered tightly so moisture may not escape.

7. Transplant seedlings any time after two or three true leaves appear and move in groups. A small flat is good for this purpose, so it may easily be watered by placing it in a pan containing 1½ inches of lukewarm water.

(Continued on Page 188)

Begonia Cathy Lou

BEGONIA "Cathy Lou," a cultivar of Marie Turner, was named after my youngest daughter when she was five years old. The begonia, now three years old, has a twelve inch diameter, making it an ideal semi-miniature plant for the window gardener. The five pointed, small, star-shaped leaves are dark green, bronzy spotted. These leaves end in a sharp, long point and each lobe is serrated and heavy white eyelashes edge the whole leaf. From a chartreuse sinus radiate veins of the same color. On the faintly mulberry red under surface of the leaf, the prominent veins are



depressed through the center looking as if they had been grooved with a pencil. These veins are white bearded. A pale green collar of hair is at the junction of the petiole and leaf. Heavy white hair is on the red speckled petiole.

The leaves come out so thickly from the rhizome that none of the root structure (the rootlets creeping over the rhizome) is seen in the abundance of leaves. Panicles of delicate pink flowers crown the plant in the spring. The plant is of easy culture in soil which goes with YOUR climatic conditions.

J. L. C.

—B—

As we celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the A.B.S., there are fifty branches listed in the Branch Directory as published in *The Begonian*, June, 1957.

Shopping Around

MANY people turn to indoor gardening due to certain ailments, or because they want a hobby or just like green things to cheer their rooms. Much of the outdoor garden equipment is too heavy and messy for inside the home.

To help with a few of these problems, in shopping around, I have discovered bright aluminum pots to dress up African violets, begonias and companion plants.

Another helper is a well-balanced attractive watering can made by old world craftsmen. It has a slip-on extension to reach anywhere. The large holes in the spout water quickly without digging into the soil. A colorful translucent polyethylene sprayer, non-corrosive and unbreakable, sprays a cloud of fine water-fog mist with easy, untiring one hand operation. It also sprays insecticides, fungicides, all household and garden sprays with its positive pump action.

The 2½" plastic pot offered in the June *Begonian*, is now made in 3" size. For further information on these helpers write Louise Cramer.

PEAT: LIGHT OR DARK?

Usually the darker grades of peat have a lower (50%-75%) organic matter content than the lighter colored peat (85%-100%). This is due to decomposition of the organic matter turning it black and powdery, thus making the peat inferior as a soil conditioner. The muck, or muck and low grade peat found above the better grade in the peat bogs is sold for humus and unknowing gardeners, thinking it is good because it is black, readily buy it. This stems from the old idea that black dirt or woods soil is the best in the world while actually it may be lacking in many essential minerals and the food value spent.

J. L. C.

—B—

To keep the soil from washing away from the roots of potted plants, cover the soil in the pot with either pea gravel or volcanic rock. This also helps retain moisture.

J. L. C.

—B—

For every soil and climatic situation there is some flower that will thrive. Many gardeners try to grow unsuitable plants and end with a meager floral display if any. Sometimes merely moving a plant from the east to west side of the house will revitalize it.

Old Faithfuls

By NANCY SHAUB TIMMS

THE MEMBERS of the William Penn Branch of the A.B.S. recently took a pole of their begonias to select the most prolific and floriferous. The following twelve were those selected. All of these begonias are of easy culture and recommended for the novice to try. They are most satisfactory, and are easily obtainable, and require no special care or situations which can not be easily met in our heated homes in the East.

1—*Semperflorens* (wax begonia), a fibrous type, small plant, with bright leaves green or bronze according to variety. The flowers are white, pink or red, single or double. This plant will take much sun, is an incessant bloomer and is easy to propagate.

2—*Begonia schmidtiana*, from Brazil, is a species of the *semperflorens* type. This plant is quite small, low growing, and bushy. The leaves are rather hairy, pale green marked with red; ovate and toothed; with a lighter color at the margin. There are many small pinkish-white flowers.

3—*Begonia* "Tearose," originated by Leslie Woodriff in 1938, is a fibrous rooted seedling of *B. "Odorata Alba."* This is a small to medium plant with glossy green leaves. It is free flowering, the flowers being bright pink and fragrant.

4—*Begonia* "Di-anna" is a fibrous rooted cane type originated by Mrs. A. D. Robinson of California in 1938. This is a cross of *B. dichroa* and *B. "Annie Laurie"* and grows to about three feet. The bright green leaves are silver spotted and ovate pointed. The salmon orange flowers hang in pendulous clusters. The plant is a moderate grower, upright and bushy.

5—*B. "Di-erna,"* also a fibrous rooted cane type, was originated by Robinson of California. This is a cross between *B. dichroa* and *B. rubra*. This is a rather sprawling plant of medium height. The ovate leaves are plain. This plant flowers more freely than *B. "Di-anna"* and has flowers of deeper color.

6—*Begonia* "Pinafore," a fibrous rooted cane type, is a seedling of *B. "Elaine."* This is a small, low growing plant. The slate green leaves are long, pointed and even on the edges, spotted above and beet red below. It is a prolific bloomer bearing bright salmon flowers which last a long time.

7—*Begonia* "Rubaiyat," a fibrous rooted cane type, was originated by Mrs. A. H. Gere.

Only one parent of this cross is known, and that is *B. dichroa*. This is a medium large plant growing to four feet or more. The leaves are smooth green with occasional spots. The new young leaves are thin and a bronze green with a rosy red underneath. The flowers are large clusters of salmon pink. This is a very vigorous and bushy grower.

8—*Begonia* "Lucerna" is a fibrous rooted cane type, a cross between *B. rubra* and *B. teuschneri*. *B. "Lucerna"* grows very tall. The green leaves are silver spotted above with deep pink underneath. This color varies according to the position and age of the leaf. The flowers are pendulous clusters of coral pink and appear when the plant is very young. This plant is extremely easy to propagate and is a sturdy grower.

9—*Begonia* "Otto Hacker," a fibrous rooted cane type, is related to *B. coccinea*, but its exact parentage is unknown. This, too, is a very large plant. The large leaves are oblong with a yellowish bronze cast and a silky sheen with immense panicles of very large flowers shading from pink to red.

10—*Begonia* "Preussen" is a fibrous rooted cane type grown from seed imported from Germany. An intermediate size plant with dainty, ovate, toothed, olive green leaves, silver spotted when young. This plant bears quantities of large pink blooms nine to ten months of the year.

11—*Begonia* "Decker's Select" is a fibrous rooted of unknown parentage discovered in a California nursery in 1919. (ED.: Known as *B. "Decker's Improved B. robusta var. rubra"*). This is a very decorative plant, being tall and bushy with the stems branching from the base. The small ovate pointed leaves are glossy, toothed and dark green with an occasional flush of red. The red buds turn pink as they open.

12—*Begonia boweri*, a rhizomatous species, is a miniature being only about four inches in height and a rather new introduction. The leaves are pale green splotted with brown and edged with white hairs. It has pale flowers.

This very short list covers plants from the miniature *B. boweri* at four inches to *B. "Lucerna"* at eight feet, with flowers single or double, white, pink or red. Some of these plants do well in north windows, some need more sun. There is certainly a begonia for every given situation.

Begonias Are Easy to Grow

By MRS. MARIE LEONARD, Tampa Fla.

OUR CLIMATE is very mild and we have very little cold in the winter. Most fibrous and rex begonias are dormant then to a certain degree. A rise in daytime temperature to 80° F. and above and nights of from 60° to 70° F. bring the plants into lusty growth.

I have a 12' x 15' corrugated heavy plastic greenhouse built so I can open it all the way around. First I used it for African violets, but found gesnerias didn't like to live in it. Begonias love it here. I have close to a thousand rexes and hundreds of fibrous rooted begonias, each loved and petted. On the north side of the house where little sun hits, I have a graduated plant stand which holds about 300 four or five inch pots of begonias. In the back of the house there is a slathouse with enough benches for 500 to 600 more plants. Under these benches are beds of 1/2 builders' sand and 1/2 German peat which are used for propagating. The begonia leaf stem is planted right up to the leaf. Kept moist, one or more plants of potting size are grown from a leaf stem in two months.

I advise gardeners just beginning to grow rex begonias to buy plants in the four inch clay pot. A practical way to provide humidity is to turn a small cereal or fruit saucer upside down in a salad plate or other shallow container which is kept filled with water up to, but not over the saucer. I then put the begonia pot on the base provided by the saucer, above but not touched by the water level in the large container. The plant with its "automatic humidifier" I place in strong light, not direct sunlight, in a location without drafts. Dry air or artificial heat will not damage the begonia as long as it has humidity.

The rex begonias are tested for water need by pressing the surface of the growing medium firmly with a forefinger. As long as it feels moist and bits cling to your finger, DON'T WATER the plant. Water with water of normal room temperature only when the plant does not meet this test. Usually half a cupful is sufficient for a plant in a four inch pot, but water only until the water begins to run through the hole in the bottom of the pot.

Every ten days to two weeks I feed the rex begonias half strength manufacturers recommended solution of fish emulsion after watering. To prevent disease and insects, I dust the plants every two weeks with a mixture of 3

parts dusting sulfur and 1 part 5% chlordane.

When roots show through the bottom of the hole of the pot, it's repotting time. I transplant from a 4" to a 6" pot which has been soaked for 2 days in a solution of one cup of household bleach to each gallon of water. I even do this with new pots. My potting mixture is three parts of pulverized peat, one part leaf mold, one-half part of heavy organic material such as sludge or aged animal compost. To each gallon of this mixture is added 3 tablespoons of bonemeal. This is sterilized with either commercial materials or by thoroughly wetting and baking in an oven at 200° F. for an hour. Over a half inch of drainage material in the pot the potting medium is added and the begonia is lightly potted, not packed.

Begonia enthusiasts whose collections outgrow their indoor gardens will find that the plants do well outdoors in sheltered locations under large trees or in the protection offered by planting close to the patio, house or other walls. During the summer the plants will actually do better if the pots are taken outdoors and planted up to the flange in soil in the shade. While begonias survive most Florida cold in such locations, they can be carried indoors again during the colder months or when the rain is excessive.

If you have "tired" looking begonia leaves in winter, do not worry. Usually the plant is trying to go into dormancy for a much needed rest. Encourage dormancy by applying no water except wetting the outside of the pot occasionally. Given the right care and environment, rex begonias are not difficult to grow. Plants are living things and like children or pets, they respond magnificently to loving care.

—B—

Ornamental Fig

ONE OF the most complete collections of ornamental fig trees in Southern California is now being grown at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum in Arcadia. The collection now has 59 identified and several unidentified species. Planted on the south slope of the Tallac Knoll section of the Arboretum are fig trees, fig shrubs, and fig vines all with potential value for landscaping. Few people realize that figs are extensively used as indoor

Mysterious Begonias

By SYLVIA LEATHERMAN

Research Director

A REGISTERED letter arrived today from Prof. Luigi Sani, Italy, and upon opening it I was very thrilled to find ten generous packages of begonia seeds. The seed fund will offer these seeds and I am sure the plants obtained from them will be found interesting, especially two species that have been confused heretofore. Some of these seeds will be sent to A.B.S. Test Gardens and to Mr. Encke, director of the Palmengarten, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. By distributing them in this manner we may, eventually, clear up some of the tangled mystery.

Checking through lists of begonias, obtained from people in several countries, I found these begonias, some under synonyms, and being of a curious nature I inquired about them. Some are under the impression they are one and the same species, others think they are distinctly different species.

If you will get your *Begonian*, May 1957, and turn to page 108, you will find an article and photo of *Begonia platanifolia* (article heading is misspelled). There are seeds of this begonia and the other seeds are of *B. palmata*. After checking I find this in all probability is correctly *B. aconitifolia* syn. *B. faureana*.

From a letter received from Mr. Encke the following quote is taken. "*Begonia platanifolia*, to my knowledge, as grown in European gardens is by all means a *B. aconitifolia* and easy to distinguish by the silver markings on the leaves. Stems are completely without hair. I have not, as yet, seen the original *B. platanifolia* anywhere." Translation by Fred Kopping.

From *Begonias for American Homes and Gardens*, Krauss: "*Begonia aconitifolia* (A. de Candolle)—syn. *B. faureana*. Discovered in Brazil by Riedel, but not introduced in Europe until 1892. Tall—to five feet or more, erect, few-branched; stems swollen at their bases; leaves palmately lobed, each lobe coarsely and irregularly toothed, green with silver splashes; flowers large, white or delicately pink-tinged; in few-flowered, short-stemmed clusters. (Sometimes erroneously named *B. palmata* or *B. r. c. clementina*)."

From *Les Begonias* by Charles Chevalier we have the following: "*Begonia platanifolia* Grah. (Bot. Mag. t. 3591). Introduced

from Brazil in 1834 to the Botanic Garden of Berlin.

"Frutescent plant, little or not branched, high to 60 cm. to 1.5 m. (25-60") or more. Stalks erect, large roundish, weakly swollen at the joints, thick at the base, ashy green, glabrous and marked by a ring where the stipules are inserted; internodes usually long. Leaves quite large 20-25 x 12-17 co. (8-10 x 5-7"), distique, ovate-reniform, deeply 5-6 lobed with unequal lobes, more or less ovate acuminate, faintly dentate and ciliate, soft, velvety shaded dark green above, paler green tinted with purple red underneath, principally on the raised veins, hairy on both faces. Petiole short 5-6 cm. (2"), round, thick, hairy, reddish tinted green. Stipules large, ovate-acuminate, falling.

"Flowers rare, flesh white, in dichotomous cymes, few-flowered, often male. Male flowers with two ovate-acuminate petals; stamens numerous. Blooms in December. This species quickly loses its leaves and seldom makes a beautiful plant. It must be renewed often by tip cuttings, made in October-November, the time when it enters a period of more active life. Its time of relative rest is usually in summer. It needs a hot house.

"*Begonia platanifolia* appears somewhat polymorphic. There have been noted in horticultural magazines various forms differing only in coloration of the leaves, often more or less glaucous or more or less bathed in silver.

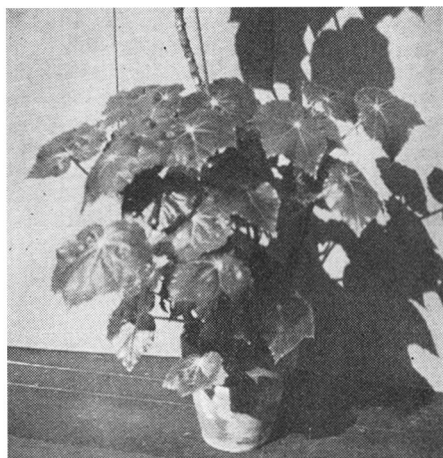
"It is likewise to *Begonia platanifolia* that it is necessary to attribute:

"*Begonia faureana* Linden (Ill. Hort. 1895, pl. col. p. 152), introduced from Brazil by Linden in 1892. The habit, the general characters, are those of *B. platanifolia*. It differs from it notably in its less strong, greener stalks, with shorter internodes; the leaves are lighter, often spotted or dotted with silver gray, more deeply pedate-lobed, with the lobes more irregular, obtuse and longer, of a more lengthened oval more regular at the base, less finely denticulate, glabrous as is also the petiole which is large. Inflorescences several-flowered. Flowers, white, medium 5 x 3 cm. (2" x 1"), the males with two almost round petals, with numerous stamens in a mass, the female
(Continued on Page 188)

African Violet Culture

MRS. J. W. JENSEN of Bellflower is a well known lecturer and grower of begonias and African violets. With her, it is again a situation where a hobby collection grew to such size that it became a commercial enterprise. She has one of her very hardy and attractive begonias, *B. "Lady Clare,"* in Kew Gardens. It was on this begonia hybrid development that she did work for an M.A. degree. Her newest cultivar, *B. "Sir Mac"* (*B. "Joe Hayden"* crossed with *B. "Paul Bruant"*), has a showy, velvety, green star-shaped leaf with a dark red backing. This two and one-half foot branching fibrous begonia is a continuous bloomer with white to pale pink tinged flowers. While this begonia is new to some, Mrs. Jensen feels it takes seven years for a begonia plant to show its merits.

The hybridizing adventure carried itself into



Begonia "Sir Mac"

the much demanded and popular house plants, African violets. Do not be misled into thinking the name indicates the plant comes from Africa because from China comes the species *tongwensis*, which lends to the hybrids the thickened leaves and stems; and lots of blossoms, sometimes 3 to 4 blossom stems to each leaf axil. From India comes the species *obliquarialis*, which gives the quilted leaves and darker centered flowers. The flowers of this species are larger and pale blue. *Grotei* produces the vining or climbing violet, while *manguensis* adds the shining leaves with directional hair and miniatureness of some varieties. To her credit, Mrs. Jensen has produced a cup

winning, ornamental leaved rose bicolor miniature African violet, "Good News," in the 3" to 5" class. From the same seed pod came another miniature with ornamental leaf backed with white, "Glad Tidings," which is in the 3" to 4" class. Another interesting cross is "Bernadette" with light blue, double flowers on dark textured leaf with hair which looks as if it has just been combed.

For successful growing of African violets, Mrs. Jensen feels there should be no secrets. Her favorite potting mix for begonias is also that used for African violets, which have the same tolerances. It is combined of oak leaf mold forced through a 1/4" builders' screen. This leaf mold is thoroughly wet to steam sterilize in an oven for 1 1/2 to 2 hours until the center of the mass reaches 200° F. This sterilizing kills nematodes and harmful fungi. To 3 parts of the cooled, sterilized leaf mold is added: 1/2 part sponge Rok; 1 1/2 parts Black Orgo (low in nitrogen, but helps to retain water), 1/4 part Kellogg's Nitro Humus and a 2" pot of bone meal. This is thoroughly mixed and 2 small pieces of charcoal are put into each small pot with the prepared mix. She does not use peat moss because of its tendency to hold and build up a concentration of undesirable mineral salts. For those growers who use Colorado River water, Mrs. Jensen recommends redwood leaf mold as it gives a more acid reaction to combat alkaline salts.

The Jensen potting mix provides sufficient food for the African violet until the plant is large enough to bloom. The buds form as new center leaves are developed. She says, "Never force an African violet plant." When buds begin to show, feeding of a 10-5-5 liquid fertilizer is used. About 6 to 8 weeks before a show where a specimen plant is to be exhibited, she changes to a 4-10-8 fertilizer.

The controversial African violet watering problem—whether from the top or bottom—she answers with, WATER FROM THE TOP because the main roots are in the bottom of the pot and the blossom roots are on the surface.

Desirable light for good growth and bloom is 50% diffused daylight. The plastic wire screen is preferred by her instead of painted glass for a greenhouse roof.

Propagation of good plants is produced from healthy offsets or by putting down (in the light of the moon, she avers) the leaves

(Continued on Page 190)

Cane Begonia Study

By CATHERINE M. SHEEHAN, New England

WITH a large collection of cane begonias, Mrs. Fox said that cane type begonias could also be hirsute, but for this discussion we would just think of the long cane type and the interesting way in which they sometimes grow.

Begonia coccinea was an early discovery about 1775. It was rediscovered in Brazil about 1841. The flowers are pink. In 1841, people began to call them "Rubras," but there was one from Java already called *B. rubra*, which had smooth long ovate leaves with one basal lobe, sometimes with a red margin and flowers pink to coral red in clusters.

From Brazil, *Begonia corallina* was introduced into France. *B. "Corallina de Lucerna"* is a product of Switzerland, 1903. The original species is said to have square shoulders instead of round ones. The individual flowers are large deep pink, in clusters. This is a very tall grower. *B. "Lucerna"* is a tall grower with olive green leaves. Flowers are in drooping clusters.

Begonia "Elaine" is a beautiful begonia having long, narrow, ruffled, olive green, silver spotted leaves which are deep red underneath. It was produced by William Grant, San Diego, 1929. It needs heat to grow best.

Begonia "Orrell," a *B. "Lucerna"* seedling, is one of Mrs. Fox's favorites because of its fresh green leaves and cherry red winter blooms. It was named for Mrs. Orrell Fleetwood.

Begonia "Alzasco" is a tall, erect cane with short stems and branches. The leaves are stiff, blackish green, deep red underneath which when light shows through, seems to make the spots on the leaves pink. The deep pink flowers are a lovely contrast.

Begonia "Interlaken" has very pointed, cress green leaves. The prominent lobe makes this plant very interesting. Blooms are deep pink.

Begonia "Constance" has bronzy green leaves and pendulous dark pink flowers.

Begonia "Helen A. King," hybrid of *B. "Lucerna"* has a triangular shaped bronzy green leaf, red underneath. Pink flowers are held tightly to the stem, making a handsome plant.

Begonia "Maybelle E." has very heavily spotted leaves, but it is not as good a bloomer as its child, *B. "Sara Belle."*

Begonia "Sara Belle" has long, narrow, light green, wavy edged leaves and pink flowers on red stems. It does well in sun which colors the leaves and flowers.

Begonia "Rosie Murphiski" is a small, slow

A Note on the Wooden Flowers of El Fortin

By BERNICE G. SCHUBERT¹

IN THE March 1957 number of *The Begonian*, p. 56, Mrs. Grace C. Constable wrote a short article on The Wooden Flowers of El Fortin. Although I had recently visited El Fortin during a botanical trip in southern Mexico I had not seen these curious "flowers." With the help of Dr. Faustino Miranda of the Instituto Nacional de Biología, Mexico, I have found several references to these curiosities which, as I had suspected, are not floral in structure. They are, rather, scars left on a host plant when mistletoes are pulled away. They are known through Mexico and parts of Central America. The mistletoe is usually a species of the genus *Psittacanthus*, called *matapalo*, which is parasitic on oaks and other trees. The scars left by it are called *flores de palo* or *flores de madera*. Other genera of the family, such as *Phoradendron*, also may form such structures, but those left by *Psittacanthus calyculatus* are best known. These odd structures are often polished and waxed or shellacked as Mrs. Constable noted, and sometimes they are even painted with silver or gold paint. Some of them may be found in tourist shops. They have been noted in botanical literature for a long time. The earliest reference which I have seen is in Engler and Prantl, *Die natuerlichen Pflanzenfamilien* III, 1. 161. 1894. Standley notes the phenomenon in his *Trees and Shrubs of Mexico* (Contrib. U.S. Nat. Herb. XXIII. 2. 22. 1922). It is also noted in Standley, *Flora of Costa Rica* in Field Mus. Nat. Hist. Bot. Ser. XVIII. 2. 407. 1937, and discussed at some length in Standley and Steyermark, *Flora of Guatemala in Fieldiana: Botany*, XXIV. 4. 78, 79. 1946.

¹Botanist, Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U.S.D.A.

grower with dark metallic, silver spotted, red edged leaves. It has pink flowers but it is a shy bloomer here.

Begonia "Helena" has a satin texture to its leaves when young. The flowers are white. It is a hybrid from San Diego, 1928.

Begonia aconitifolia x *B. "Lucerna"* gave Mrs. Gray the superba Strain such as *B. "Superba Kenzii," B. "Superba Azella," B. "Superba Kathi"* and others. Mrs. Swisher used a seed pod of Mrs. Gray's *Begonia "Superba Kenzii"* and named the resulting plants for her grandchildren.

The 25th Annual A.B.S. Convention and Begonia Show

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS — EVERYONE — COME

PLUMMER PARK, 7377 SANTA MONICA BLVD., LOS ANGELES

A.B.S. Member Registration, 50 cents; Public Admission, 50 cents

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, August 30th

Great Hall will be open from 12 noon to 10 P.M. to receive competitive plants.

Saturday, August 31st

8:00 A.M. Registration of delegates and members begins.

8:00 A.M. Great Hall will be open until 9:30 to receive competitive plants. All plants must be in place by 9:30 A.M. as judging will begin promptly at 10.

9:30 A.M. Show closed to all exhibitors.

10:00 A.M. Judging of competitive show begins.

2:00 P.M. Begonia Show open to members and general public.

2:00 P.M. Annual business meeting in Long Hall under the direction of Mr. Cal Trowbridge, National President.

6:30 P.M. Annual Banquet to be held in Fiesta Hall at Plummer Park. Invocation will be by Dr. Rodney McQuary, Pastor of the Malibu Presbyterian Church. Mr. George Leslie Kuthie of the San Francisco Branch will be Master of Ceremonies.

8:00 P.M. Introduction of distinguished guests.

8:00 P.M. Beginning of evening meeting.

Introduction of National President, Cal Trowbridge.

Introduction of General Convention Manager, Frank Coe.

Installation of Incoming National Officers, Mr. Clarence A. Hall, installing officer.

Convention Address, Dick Lane, star of radio, television and motion pictures.

Presentation of Show awards by Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle, Chairman of the Awards Committee.

Sunday, September 1st

9:30 A.M. Registration of Delegates and Members continues.

10:00 A.M. Show open to general public.

6:00 P.M. Adjournment of Convention and Show.

1957 Convention to Mark Silver Anniversary of A.B.S.

By CAL TROWBRIDGE, *President A.B.S.*

TWENTY-FIVE years ago a small group of begonia enthusiasts headed by our founder, Herbert P. Dyckman, met in his home in Long Beach to discuss the formation of a Begonia Society. From that small beginning the American Begonia Society has grown to be one of the most prominent horticultural groups in the country today. Little did Mr. Dyckman realize that this humble beginning would one day grow into an organization of hundreds throughout these United States.

During the many years that followed that first meeting, the Society has had its ups and downs, its lean years and its productive ones.

As we look ahead, we can predict a bright future for this Society because of the mounting interest throughout the world in the raising of begonias. Various botanical gardens have included in their programs the growing and testing of new varieties of begonias. New members are continually joining the American Begonia Society indicating continued interest in this royal hobby of ours. As we approach the Silver Anniversary of our Society, we can look to the future with the hope and confidence of each new day that the work started with begonias so long ago will continue.

We approach the convention this year with

the same enthusiasm we had last year due, of course, to the fine facilities we will again enjoy for our various activities. This year, as was the case last year, the local branches are pitching in again to make the visit of our out of town guests a memorable one.

Members of the Glendale Branch who did such a bang up job with the banquet will handle that activity again. The banquet tickets are in the mail. Mr. Clarence Hall is in charge of that detail this year. Banquet tickets may be purchased directly from him or from your local branch secretary. Mr. Hall's home address is 17153 Sunburst, Northridge, Calif. The price of the ticket is \$2.75 each. May we urge you to mail your reservations in early.

Mrs. Edna Korts and Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle will be in charge of the competitive show, being ably assisted by other members of the Society.

When it comes to excitement, we always look forward to the Seed Fund Booth. Last year's effort was a huge success. Each branch participated by bringing in a flat or more of plants. This year we are asking each branch to do the same thing. Mrs. Florence Gee, our Seed Fund Administrator, is in charge of this department.

Always a point of interest at our A.B.S. Conventions is the Nomenclature room. This year Mr. John Thieben and Sylvia Leatherman are teaming up to give us all a big surprise. They both promise this will be the best yet.

For those of you who insist on getting hungry at a convention, our snack bar will again be in very capable hands. Mrs. John Fahey of the San Gabriel Valley Branch will be in charge. Remember the good lunches we had last year, she promises to make them better this year.

Sounds exciting, doesn't it? Of course the rest now is up to you, the members of our Society. This Convention is for you, so plan to attend it. We, the members of the board, extend a warm personal invitation to each one of you, so we will see you all this coming Labor Day weekend.

—B—

Miniature Greenhouse

Miniature Greenhouse suggested by Alva Graham: Cover an old lamp shade frame with polyethylene, stapling the material to the wire frame. This is ideal to help a small potted plant become established.

New England Greenhouse

By CATHERINE M. SHEEHAN

THE GREENHOUSE of Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, the A.B.S. Northeastern (New York to Canada) Public Relations chairman, is connected to the sunporch of her home. The heat to this greenhouse is thermostatically controlled from the house furnace. The roof vent is automatically controlled and lower vent is hand operated. The day temperature is kept at 65° F. to 70° F. while the night temperature drops to 55° F. Humidity ranges from 60% to 95%. Adjustable wooden slat shades filter the sunlight in summer. Spraying is done with plain water as much as possible.

In the greenhouse are *Begonia* "Joe Hayden" and many of its hybrids which are favorites of Mrs. Kingsbury. A beautiful tall *B. luxurians* and *B. "Mrs. Fred D. Scripps"* set off the corner. Surrounding these are such begonias as *B. "Braemar," B. "Pinafore," B. "Ricky Minter,"* a beautiful *B. manicata aureo-maculata* and many others. Interspersed among the begonias are fancy leaved geraniums, *Maranta makoyana* and several other maranta varieties. *Aphelandra louisae*, a lovely columnnea variety with white blossoms, and tradescantia varieties are in hanging pots. At the head of the stairs leading from the greenhouse to the sun porch, stands a four foot acanthus now in bloom.

The sun parlor has many rex begonias and various exotics. Several large philodendron plants stand near the French doors leading to the patio. Saintpaulias and gloxinias are arranged in a wide gravel lined shelf in the dining room windows. More violets are on a violet stand in the upper sitting room. This plant lover also likes cut flowers in various rooms, usually small arrangements that add a touch of beauty.

—B—

Azaleas, spring companion plants of the camellia, are affected by the same problems. The flower blight caused by a fungus is exhibited on azaleas by elongated white splotches on the bloom. This disease is spread by rain splashing the spore from flower to flower, devastating a whole planting. It is stopped by warmer, dry weather or by the application of a fungicide.

Aphis, red spider, cyclamen mite, leaf roller and white fly are the pests of azaleas. These are controlled with an insecticide combination of malathion-diieldrin.

Houseplants of Cactus, Succulent Types

By VICTOR H. RIES

Extension Floriculturist, Ohio State University

THE POINSETTIA has become one of the symbols of Christmas to many, but unfortunately efforts to grow them in our homes are all too seldom successful. Those purchased from the florists at Christmas have an equally disastrous end—bare stems with no leaves. Possibly a glance at its background will give us a better idea of its requirements. The poinsettia has the scientific name *Euphorbia pulcherrima*. It is found growing wild in moist, shaded places of tropical Mexico and Central America and consequently prefers a warm, humid atmosphere during its growing season.

Euphorbias or spurges are a large genus of plants with a wide variety of forms. All in all, there are between 700 and 1,000 species scattered through the temperate as well as tropic zones of the world. Many euphorbias are succulent and resemble cacti. Many of them are desert plants. Many of them have a milky juice. The juice of some is poisonous to touch. Snow-on-the-Mountain has this effect on some people.

Hardy spurges that can be grown in Ohio gardens include Flowering Spurge (*E. corollata*), Cushion Spurge (*E. epithymoides*) and Cypress Spurge (*E. cyparissias*). The Mole plant (*E. lathyris*) is an evergreen biennial that is occasionally found in Ohio gardens.

Annuals that often self-sow are Snow-on-the-Mountain (*E. marginata*) and annual Poinsettia (*E. heterophylla*). House plants include the Crown of Thorns (*E. splendens*).

The spurge flowers are relatively inconspicuous but are surrounded by bright colored bracts. The bracts may be white, yellow, pink or red, but few have ever noticed the tiny green and yellow flowers in the center of the mass of bright colored bracts. Poinsettias may be red, pink or white.

The poinsettia is propagated from cuttings taken from early spring until early summer, depending on the size of plant and size of bloom desired. They are difficult to root, so most people buy their first poinsettia and then try to keep it alive from year to year.

Drying Off. After the poinsettia plant drops its leaves, which usually is in January or February, remove one-half of the top-growth of the plant, stop watering and place the pot in a warm cellar. Water the pot every 2 or 3 weeks; just enough to prevent the wood from shriveling.

Starting New Growth. In late April or early May remove the plant and discard the old soil. Repot in the same pot in fresh soil. The soil mixture should consist of three parts good garden loam, one part well rotted manure, and one part sand. Water the soil after repotting and keep in well lighted room until early June. If the manure is not available, use rotted leaves or peat moss. Mix a level teaspoon of commercial fertilizer with each 6" pot of soil.

Outdoor culture. Plunge the pot to the top outdoors in the garden in early June. Be certain to place in full sun and with ample room so that no crowding from other plants is possible. The branches may have their tips removed up until early July to make them branch and give more but smaller flowers.

After the plant starts growing, fertilize every 3 to 4 weeks with either a liquid chemical fertilizer or a regular commercial fertilizer. Use 1 level teaspoon to a 6" pot, less to a smaller, more to a larger pot.

Fall and winter treatment. In early September before temperature drops below 60° lift the pot and bring into the house. Place in a location where there is the maximum light and the night temperature remains near 60° F. Water the plant daily but do not allow the soil to become water-logged. Sudden changes in temperature, like drafts, chilling, open windows or gas from stoves or gas logs in fireplace, or irregular watering are all detrimental to good growth. Poinsettias are far more sensitive to irregular watering than most other plants. Any of these forms of mistreatment may cause the plant to drop its lower leaves.

Failure to bloom. The poinsettia is a short-day plant that will not bloom when the days are long. Keeping the plants near an electric light at night may lengthen the day sufficiently to prevent their blooming.

Pests. Mealy bugs (white cottony insects) may be controlled by applying rubbing alcohol on the pests. Make a brush by rolling a little cotton on the end of a stick and then moisten it in alcohol. Touch each mealy bug with the alcohol, being careful not to get too much alcohol on the plants.

NIGHT BLOOMING CEREUS is a name given to several different kinds of cactus which bloom at night, which accounts for the variation sometimes noticed in the plants that different

people have. Although the scientific name is not too important, the one most commonly grown is *Hylocereus undatus*, a native of Tropical America. The other two most common ones are *Selenicereus pteranthus* and *Nyctocereus serpentinus*. Both of these are natives of Mexico. There are other wild species of all three of these genera which may be encountered in cultivation. It is extremely difficult for the layman to distinguish between these different forms of Night Blooming Cereus so you had better be satisfied with calling them by just their common name.

Although some forms of Night Blooming Cereus are more or less trailing, other forms are climbing, and in their native habitat they will be found clinging to the trunks of trees, rocky cliffs or even buildings. Like all other forms of cactus, they will grow with a maximum of care. If properly grown, relatively small plants should have at least one bloom. It is not uncommon to have large plants in 12-inch pots or tubs with 15 to 25 flowers.

Watering is relatively simple since they will only be watered about once a week except during the period when they are in bud and in bloom when they can be kept moist as other plants.

They can be kept in a cool sunny window during the winter and put out-of-doors in partial shade during the summer.

Potting. The use of gravel or broken pots in the bottom of the pot is not necessary, if watering is done carefully. Its main value is for greenhouse culture, where everything is watered with a hose. When potting, set the plants the same depth in the soil at which they were growing before. Deep planting may rot the base of the plant. Always leave a quarter-inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ " between the top of the soil and the top of the pot for watering. They may be potted in any good garden soil. They do not need a very large pot and will probably need repotting not more than every two years at the most. Always mix fertilizers with soil when potting, using a teaspoon of a 4-12-8 complete fertilizer to a 6-inch pot of soil. A half teaspoon to a 6-inch pot and 1 teaspoon to a 10-inch pot may be given as the buds form.

Pests. *White cottony masses* on the leaves and stems are insects—mealy bugs. Spray three times at intervals of ten days with Malathion. Mix according to instructions on bottle.

Scale insects. Small brown scales on plants. Use same control as for mealy bugs.

Propagation. Cuttings of stems 3 to 8 inches long may be rooted in sand or even in soil.

These new plants should bloom by time they are 2 years old.

THE CHRISTMAS or crab cactus, although easily grown as a house plant, is all too seldom satisfactory because of a lack of knowledge of its culture. Surprisingly few gardeners realize it is a native of Brazil, where it grows on trees, similar to many orchids. This does not mean it is a parasite like the mistletoe, for it merely uses the branches of trees as a place to grow, none of its nourishment being obtained from the tree. Despite this habit it is usually grown in soil like other terrestrial plants.

For those who may be interested in checking the Christmas Cactus in some encyclopedia, its scientific name is *Zygocactus truncatus*, although many catalogs list it as *Epiphyllum truncatum*. According to Bailey's Cyclopedia of Horticulture, the various varieties of Christmas Cactus are probably hybrids, possibly between different species of zygocactus, epiphyllum or with some other closely related genus of cactus such as cactus.

Culture. Like all the other kinds of cacti and succulent plants, the Christmas Cactus will grow in any good garden soil that is not a heavy clay, but a soil made up of equal parts soil, sand, and peat (or leafmold) will be better. Being more or less air plants or epiphytes as the botanist calls them, they do not need large pots. In fact, will probably do better in relatively small pots. Like all plants of this group, they are used to long periods of drought. Give the plant very little water until the buds start to appear. The time will vary according to the variety, some being fall blooming, some Christmas, and some early spring blooming. After blooming, ease up on the watering. Set the plant out-of-doors for the summer and forget it. Some even place the pots on their sides so the plant will not get any great amount of water. In September before danger of frost, bring the plant indoors and give it a small amount of water not oftener than once a week. Although most cacti and succulents require full sunlight, the Christmas Cactus will thrive with much less sun.

Fertilization. Again like all so-called air plants, the Christmas Cactus requires but little fertilizer. Mix a level teaspoonful of a 4-12-4 complete fertilizer to a 6-inch pot of soil when potting. A quarter teaspoon to a 4-inch pot may be given as the buds form.

Pests. The most common pest is the mealy bug, a white cottony insect which once established multiplies quickly. There are usually one or two somewhere on your plants. Wash the plant regularly once a month with a

sponge or soft brush will keep them down. Once started a drop of rubbing alcohol applied with a very small brush or bit of cotton on a toothpick will kill those contacted. However, you usually miss the babies who soon grow up. So repeat every two weeks until no mealy bugs are left.

Propagation. Pieces of so-called leaves (actually the stems) consisting of one or more sections may be rooted in sand or sandy soil. This may be done at any time.

Christmas Cactus may be grafted to make tree forms on stems a foot or more in height. This is done by inserting a section of the stem into the split end of a stalk of the Barbados gooseberry (*Pereskia*) or almost any other upright slender stemmed cacti. Hold in place with a tack or thorn.

—B—

In Memoriam

Mr. William Atherton, who was treasurer of the New England Branch for over ten years, died at the age of 83. He was a quiet gentleman with an almost perfect attendance over all the years at all begonia meetings until three years ago. He was one of the original Round Robin members and carried on his membership until of late. He took many prizes for his fine *Begonia cathayana* plants. Cacti and many other unusual plants which he liked to hybridize, filled his glassed porch. He was employed at the Charlestown Five Cent Savings Bank and also taught piano because he enjoyed young people.

†

Mrs. Lena Hyden, past president and active member in the Miami Branch, succumbed to lockjaw following an insect bite on her foot. The bite was received while working in her lush garden. It is thought that the insect had been feeding on something infected with tetanus germs—possibly sheep manure used as fertilizer. She was very active in garden clubs and other Miami clubs. She was an accredited flower show judge. We will miss our Lena.

—B—

Growing Tips

To water your shade garden carefully, give special attention to your potted plants and be sure you water them until the entire root ball is saturated, then promote humidity on these hot days by spraying with a fine mist at least once a day all around and over your plants to keep the foliage from drying out

Arboretum Begonia Glasshouse Fund

*for Glasshouse for Begonias at the
Los Angeles County and State Arboretum*

THE FUND is growing slowly but surely. This past month we have received individual donations from as far away as New York City and Alabama. Keep up the good work.

Several branches have prospects for raising funds—pot lucks, special plant sales, candy sales, etc. WHAT IS YOUR BRANCH DOING for this FUND??

Building this glasshouse is something that we can not do over night, but if we all help it can be done and it is something that will benefit all members of the A.B.S. wherever they live.

Send all donations to Howard Small, Chr.,
3310 E. California St., Pasadena 10, Calif.

—B—

COPY DEADLINE

All copy for *The Begonian* must be received by the editor not later than the first of the month preceding date of publication.

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and the leaves from drooping. Feed, but lightly, and water both before and after the fertilization. Be sure your plants are turned regularly and kept pinched and/or tied and staked in preparation for the coming Convention and Show. *Glendale Branch News*

Malathion was acclaimed as the best all around spray for the San Francisco area, being effective in the control of aphids, mealy bugs, earwigs and lawn moths. All reports indicate Mildex does clean up badly mildewed plants and that it does not leave a visible residue on the foliage.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

NEW BEGONIA

## 'IRON CROSS'

*A rhizomatous beauty from Malaya, large, Nile green, puckered leaves with bold, palmate pattern in brown-red.*

**\$7.50 postpaid**

**JULIUS ROEHRS CO.**

R U T H E R F O R D , N . J .



# At Home at the Flower Show

By NANCY SHAUB TIMMS

TO THE thousands of visitors at the Philadelphia Flower Show the dining room with the large picture window of southeast exposure filled with begonias was a delight beyond measure! The William Penn Branch under the chairmanship of Mrs. George Earl DeCoursey staged a charming and livable room using members' plants, furniture and accessories.

The decorating committee planned a pleasing composition of wood tones, pinks and reds which blended and complemented the colorful begonias. Gray walls were a perfect foil for the pink rug and small 18th century chest and table. The chest was flanked by a pair of Chippendale chairs with dark needlepoint seats. This texture was repeated in a picture of pink and red fruits and flowers on a blue background done in needlepoint and beadwork hanging over the chest.

The colors in this picture were picked up in a flower arrangement of pink roses, snapdragons carnations and dark begonia leaves, in a silver footed pink glass container placed on the chest and on either side were 18th century silver candlesticks. A silver container also was used for a fruit arrangement with begonia leaves on the dining room table, relating all of the colors, textures and tones directly to the focal point, the very handsome, large plant window. On one wall was a tiny 18th century table with a specimen begonia and a charming picture of a young girl with flesh tones and pink predominating, hanging above the table.

The entire color scheme, the furniture and accessories were placed so as to draw the eye to a large nine foot picture window filling one wall. Words cannot do this window justice. It was carefully planned by the horticultural committee to present a wide variety of begonias; begonias upright and trailing; begonias of large and small leaf; begonias with both light and dark foliage; and begonias of different textures. Each plant was truly a handsome specimen, in prime condition, and of show caliber, with enough plants bursting with bloom so that this committee could be completely selective about placing these plants in a most advantageous position to enhance the overall design.

A hanging basket of *Begonia* "Marjorie

Daw" was in the upper left hand corner over a tall *B. scharffi*, which was faced down with two trailing *B. scharffi*, the lowest being on a handsome antique Chinese porcelain stand on the floor in front of the window. The window sill was low and fitted with a custom made metal tray painted the same gray of the walls and filled with pebbles to hold all of the other plants such as Schwisher hybrid begonia, *B. "Viau-Scharff,"* and *B. leptotricha*. An extremely handsome *B. "Limminghei"* was given a prominent place almost midway in the window and was displayed on an ornate plant stand which elevated it so as to show the plant in all its beauty and add height and depth to the window. In direct contrast to this large specimen, *B. scandens albo* and *B. "Tea Rose"* nestled at the base of the plant holder and fell over the edge of the tray breaking the long horizontal line of the window. The design was followed with *B. olbia* carrying the eye up to a grouping of *B. "Ricky Minter"* with large, handsome dark strong leaves, and ending with very floriferous tall plants of *B. "Joe Hayden"* and *B. "Sunderbuchi"* backed by *B. "Prunifolia."* This dark foliage was accentuated by a very large basket of *B. foliosa* on a wrought iron stand placed just below the window sill height. *B. foliosa* with its tiny, busy, shiny leaves could well hold this prominent position because of the tremendous size of the basket and the horticultural perfection of the specimen.

*Begonia* "Digswelliana" and *B. "Mrs. Fred D. Scripps"* were used at the right hand side of the window ending with *B. "Sarabelle,"* which had been raised to give height to make a pleasing composition, underfaced with *B. schmidiana* to soften the harsh wall line.

Blooms throughout the entire window varied from the white of the *Begonia leptotricha* to the pale pinks and on to the deeper reds.

The room was a "believable" room, and the collection of plant material was one that any begonia enthusiast would be proud to own. The Philadelphia Flower Show is the largest flower show in the east and the exhibits must remain in top condition for the entire week of the show. Much care and thought to the selection of the varieties really suitable to the particular situation resulted in an exhibition that was of definite educational value.

# Workshop on Begonias

By LOUISE CRAMER

*Before you begin to read the following, may I suggest that you bring in a blooming begonia and sit down at a table with your plant and a book containing a Botanical Family Key.*

IT IS fun to grow the species begonias as they are more of a challenge to one's horticultural ability. If we study the area of the species' habitat, the climatic conditions and soil, and try to simulate these conditions in pot or ground culture, then the chances of having a happy transplant is greatly increased.

A *species* is a distinct kind of plant which when interbred reproduces in its offspring the same specific characteristics. These specific plants are usually found in a characteristic native habitat, but not growing with other species of the same genus. In the family *Begoniaceae*, we have a group of structurally related species. In the genus *Begonia*, the petals are all free, while in genus *Symbegonia* the petals of the pistillate flowers are grown together. In this same family is *Hillebrandia*, the genus with a partly superior ovary, and *Begoniella*. The last three genera are rare.

How do you know that the plant in front of you is a member of the family *Begoniaceae*?

From the blooms the plant will be classified as a flowering plant (Phanerogram or Sper-

matophyte), those producing real flowers and seed. If you have grown a begonia from seed, you observed that the seed sends up two tiny seed leaves, thus putting it in the class of *dicotyledons*. Looking at the pistillate flower (female), we find it has an *inferior ovary* which means that the seed carrying portion is underneath the flower. Determine this by cutting through the ovary with a sharp finger nail revealing usually three partitions which are filled with tiny ovules (seeds). Observe the cut section under a lens. Thus the plant is an *Angiosperm*, that is the seeds are enclosed in an ovary.

On further examination of the flower we find that there is a *calyx* (the external leafy part of the flower, contrasted with the inner showy portion or corolla) and a *corolla* (petals collectively), present, thus the plant is in the subclass *Polpetalae*. The stamens are numerous and are inserted with the petals and sepals which are in one series. The styles are free. The stigmas may be twisted or branched. From observation of the two types of flowers, we find there are male and female flowers (the perianth of the two sexes being unlike) on the same plant thus making the

(Continued on Page 190)

## Begonia Species

Cover Picture Photo by BILL GIVENS

ONLY a small part of the collection of species begonias of Marie Turner, representative of stem type (rhizomatous, tuberous, fibrous) and leaf shape and texture of over a thousand known species from all parts of the world.

TOP ROW: *olbia* (Brazil), velvety, bronze leaf; Brazilian species, rough green, palmate leaf with bronze-red veins; *sceptrum* (Brazil), white splotched, digitate leaf; *heracleifolia* (Mexico), dark green star; *manicata crispa* (Mexico), upright, crested "lettuce."

SECOND ROW: *vitifolia* (Brazil), green grape leaf; *macdougalli* (Mexico), compound leaf; *longipes* var. *petiolata* (Colombia), light green leaf; *fernando costae* (Africa), soft, white hairy bright green leaves and heavy rhizome; *strigillosa* or *daedalea* (Mexico), chocolate splotched leaves.

THIRD ROW: *semperflorens* (Himalayan species), only white flower visible; *dayi* (Mexico), shiny, succulent, chocolate veined leaf; *scandens* (Central America), small, shiny, pale green leaved trailer; *nelumbiifolia* (Mexico), green peltate leaf.

FOURTH ROW: *hemsleyana* (China), medium green, serrated, compound leaf; *rubro-venia* (India), long, pointed, light green leaf; just back of *rubro venia*, *schompetala rosea* (Brazil), small, serrated, light green leaves; *sanguinea* (Brazil) looks like *epipsila*, but it has more prominent vein pattern on leaf surface; *peltata*, red veined\* (Philippines); *sutherlandi*, just in front to right of above, (Africa), dainty tuberous, light green leaves with red veins and stems; *hydrocotylifolia* (Mexico), compact, small rhizomes with small round leaves.

\*There is a hybrid *B. "Red Veined Peltata"* (*B. peltata* x *B. "Riciniifolia"*).

# Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

**No. 1. B. platanifolia**—See story by Sylvia Leatherman. Price 50c per packet.

**No. 2. B. aconitifolia** (palmata) — See story. Price 50c per packet. **No. 3. B. sanguinea**—Brazil. Medium growth, having many reddish stems arising from the base. Leaves broad-ovate, leathery, glossy olive green above, scarlet beneath; flowers small white in long inflorescence. Price 25c per packet. **No. 4. B. scabrida**—Venezuela. A fine species easily grown. Tall, bushy with rough-hairy bright green leaves. Large cymes of small white, pearl-like flowers. 25c per packet. **No. 5. B. martiana**—Similar to *B. gracilis*. Flowers are large rose-pink. 25c per packet. **No. 6. B. nelumbifolia**—Mexico. Sometimes known as water-lily begonia. Large, rhizomatous, leaves roundish, peltate, not unlike a water lily pad. Flowers are white or pink tinged in tall, erect cymes. This begonia is grown outdoors for foundation planting where climate is suitable. 25c per packet. **No. 7. B. picta**—Low growing; leaves broad-ovate; pointed, green, mottled with brighter green and metallic bronze. Flowers clear pink. Very ornamental. Price 25c per packet. **No. 8. B. Ricini-folia**—(*B. heracleifolia* x *B. peponifolia*). Large; rhizomatous, leaves large bronzy green. Flowers numerous, pink in tall erect panicles. 25c per packet.

We have received seed of several varieties of begonias from Brazil but are not able to list them all at this time as information on some varieties is not available. We hope to have sufficient information soon and will offer them at a later date. Brazil begonias: **No. 1. B. undulata** — Tall, cane type, branches spreading; leaves ovate-oblong, pointed, light green, margins undulate; flowers numerous white in short clusters. 25c per packet. **No. 2. B. manicata**—Medium, rhizomatous. Rhizomes stout and twisting, leaves ovate fleshy, smooth, green, margins toothed and ciliate; collar of coarse red hairs at top of leaf stalk; tall panicles of many soft pink flowers. 25c per packet. **No. 3. B. princeps**. May have some affinity to *Fernando Coastae* 2365 although the leaves are more glabrous. Choice. 25c per packet. **No. 4. B. hookeriana**. Brazil. Branching plant with sharply pointed, semi-heart shaped

leaves of dark green to rust color depending on the light. The surface is smooth and the underside has a dusty appearance due to tomentum. 25c per packet.

Collection of choice begonias. **No. 1. B. Bow-Chancee**—a hybrid. Chance *B. boweri* seedling. Small, rhizomatous and lovely. Foliage is green with brown veins, flowers are white to pink. **No. 2. B. Bow-Nigra**—A hybrid (*B. boweri* x *B. heracleifolia nigricans*). Small, rhizomatous, foliage dark green with lighter green veins. Flowers are pink, however, the color of the blooms depends on growing conditions. We have had many requests for small growing begonias and hope you will take advantage of this offer. Seeds are scarce and will not be available again this season. Also a much desired and requested begonia is **No. 3. B. dichroa**—Brazil. Low, spreading plant, leaves ovate-pointed, glossy green, sometimes silver spotted; flowers large, orange in dense clusters close to stem. Requires greenhouse care for full development. Choice collection 3 packets for \$1.00 or 35c per single packet. Fresh seed of another interesting begonia; namely **Costa Rican hybrid** (Costa Rica species x *B. semperflorens*). Glorified *semperflorens* type having large pink blooms. Practically everblooming. 25c per packet. **B. rex hybrids**—Seeds from a famous grower who specializes in rex type begonias. Spirals and many color combinations included in this mixture. See cultural directions, page 173. 50c per packet.

**Greenhouse plants. Gesneriad chirita**—Easily grown from seed or from leaves. The seedlings first appear with one leaf, afterwards other leaves appear in pairs. The plant is inclined to grow tall but the top can be cut off and rooted and will bloom shortly thereafter. The flowers are a lovely pale lavender and come in circles at leaf axil. The main stem of this plant ends at the top of the soil and roots extend down like a swamp cypress. Can be grown in lath-house in mild climates. Something different to grow. **Stephanotis floribunda** (Vine). Madagascar jasmine. Considered one of the best greenhouse specimen

plants. Flowers are waxy white and fragrant, in umbel-like clusters in leaf axils. Foliage is thick and leathery in appearance. **Saintpaulia**—African violets mixed. Gesneriaceae family. Seed from a collection of plants in all colors, including singles and doubles and with a good variation of leaf pattern. Above may be purchased 3 packets for \$1.00 or 50c per single packet for the gesneriads and 25c per single packet for the stephanotis.

We will be at the seed fund booth at the A.B.S. convention and flower show in August and will have your favorite begonias on sale. The booth will be open for business on **Saturday morning, August 31, at 10:00 A.M.** and will feature two named varieties of pink double semperflorens with dark foliage. Also, will have **B. "Leslie Lynne"** and many choice rex begonias. Will see you then.

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

## SOWING REX BEGONIA SEEDS

(Continued From Page 173)

This is watering by absorption and does not disturb the roots.

8. Each transplanting will be the time to use coarser leaf mold.

9. In transplanting the begonias from the flat, separate each one and plant in 2 or 2½ inch pots, after they become sufficiently established.

10. Sink the pots in flat containing dampened peat moss or dampened shavings, to insure against them becoming "dried out." It is fatal to seedlings to become "dried out."

11. Rex begonias like a growing medium of coarse leaf mold and a small amount of crushed charcoal and bone meal, after they have been moved from the seedling flat.

The following bromeliads are available at 25c per packet. Just a few bromeliad seeds can be acquired at one time, therefore in order to have enough to fill requests packets will be small. Don Horton has complete story about these fascinating plants. See current issue of *The Begonian*. No. 1. **Billbergia pyramidalis-teresopolis**, Brazil. No. 2. **Achmea bracteata**. No. 3. **Bromeliad elegance**. No. 4. **Tillandsia stricta**. No. 5. **Vriesia-rostum aguilae**. No. 6. **Dyckia rarisola**.

12. Fertilize with a weak fertilizer in liquid form, *when the plant is growing*. Never fertilize a plant in a dry condition or a dormant plant. Rex begonias rest in the winter.

—B—

## MYSTERIOUS BEGONIAS

(Continued From Page 177)

smaller, less numerous, with five almost equal petals, tinted and veined with purplish pink; ovary small, purplish, styles spread out on a thick foot. Blooms in December.

"Many forms of it are recognized, distinguished by coloring more or less dark, soft green, dotted with white, bronze tint with metallic lights, etc. (Ill. Hort. 1895, pl. col. p. 298)."

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# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## ELSA FORT

Had a dessert at the home of Lucia Jackson. After the meeting, members drew numbers for the potted seedlings and plants on display in the patio. Our newest member distributed beautiful semps from a large terrarium.

—B—

## GLENDALE

Following a potluck dinner, Frank Simerly, staff member of the L.A. State and County Arboretum showed slides of the rare plants making their home there and had some of these on display. We were most fortunate to have him with us as he offered the home gardener many new ideas in plants for our use.

—B—

## MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM

Our branch has been invited to stage a begonia exhibition at the Doylestown Flower Show, Sept. 19 and 20. At our meeting at the home of Elsa Fort, plans were made for this show, which will keep us busy through to September.

—B—

## LONG BEACH

Mr. Frank Simerly of the L.A. County and State Arboretum was our featured speaker. He presented a very interesting program on the aims, purposes and future of the Arboretum. The History of the Parent Branch of the American Begonia Society is now in the library of the Arboretum.

—B—

## NEW ENGLAND

Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. I. Merry plans were discussed for the future begonia show. Mrs. Alvord explained the definitions of begonia inflorescence. Each was illustrated on a blackboard and she then passed blossoms from Mrs. Merry's plants to illustrate the points under discussion.

A round table discussion on hirsute or hairy begonias gave each member a chance to tell of his or her experience growing this type of begonia. Several members brought their best hirsute begonias to add to the large group arranged by Mrs. Merry. We enjoyed looking over the many fine begonias and other house-

plants which were grown by the Merrys on their porch and in their greenhouse.

—B—

## RIVERSIDE

The August meeting will be a jitney pot luck dinner in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Symons, 1859 Linden St (continuation of 5th) off Kansas Ave., Riverside. A demonstration of Flower Arrangements will be given by Jean Symons. All Branch members are invited.

THIS IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE "GLASS-HOUSE OF BEGONIAS."

—B—

## SACRAMENTO

Mrs. Edna Korts, past president of the A.B.S., brought new double semperflorens to show and spoke on begonias. Pictures of Bellingrath Gardens, Mobile, Ala., taken at different seasons of the year were shown.

"Grandma's Flower Garden," a display by this branch, won first place at the Sacramento County Fair.

The film "Alongmobiles' Trail" was the colored, sound film presented at the regular meeting following a potluck dinner. Two bus trips are planned: one to several outstanding fuchsia gardens and the other to Santa Cruz.

—B—

## SAN FRANCISCO

Mr. Frank Reinelt, of the firm of Vetterle and Reinelt of Capitola, Calif., told us what to expect in the way of new tuberous begonias, showing some of his outstanding colored slides. There is surely no one more qualified to speak on this subject, as it was Frank Reinelt who took, some fifteen years ago (or maybe it was more), the small tuberous begonias with limited form and color and transformed them, by careful, selective hybridizing into the big blooms of varied color hues and forms that we know and grow today. We invited the East Bay and Southern Alameda County branches to join us at this meeting.

—B—

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

A branch flower show tea was held in the garden of Mrs. Margaret Barbour. Mrs. Mabel Corwin won the sweepstakes trophy. The

judges, Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman and Mrs. Edna Korts, discussed the plants and told how to get them ready for competition in the national A.B.S. Flower Show.

A Pre-Convention Flower Show with invitations extended to all branches to exhibit, was held at the regular July meeting. A.B.S. certificates and a sweepstakes trophy were awarded.

—B—

## SMOKEY VALLEY

"Summer's Begonia Garden" typifying a garden and patio scene was the setting for the second annual Smokey Valley Begonia Show. It was held June 21, 1957, at the First Presbyterian Church, Salina, Kan. The show was opened for public competition. There were 11 divisions and 28 classes including begonias, African violets and plants grown without sun. Mr. Elvin McDonald, associate editor of *Flower and Garden* magazine, judged the show. Prizes were awarded to the five highest score winners: Mrs. Arnold Romeiser, Mr. Arnold Romeiser, Mrs. John Irving, Mrs. H. Vaupel and Mrs. Perry Fuller tied for four place, and Mrs. A. C. Brodine.

—B—

## WILLIAM PENN

In spite of a long and terrific heat wave almost 75% of the entire membership were present at the meeting at the home of Mrs. H. Rowland Timms, Wallingford, Pa. Plans were made for the Third Begonia Party to be held in September at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George E. DeCoursey, Paoli, Pa. This is always a gala affair with a flower show, display booths, plants for sale, box luncheon and a lecture on begonias. We hope that all who are interested in begonias will attend.

The program after the business meeting dealt with the summer care of begonias and horticultural practices of the various members.

—B—

## African Violet Culture

(Continued From Page 178)

from the second bottom row. Mrs. Jensen's favorite propagating medium is equal parts of vermiculite and sponge Rok. She also uses 1 part Organo and 1 part sponge Rok, but this medium must be watched to prevent over watering.

Rotolind she finds is the best pest control for the West Coast conditions and water. This is used regularly every six weeks.

Mrs. Jensen interviewed by J. L. C. before she spoke to San Gabriel Valley Branch.

## Workshop on Begonias

(Continued from Page 186)

plant *monocious*. The ovary is usually three winged; sometimes equal, sometimes one much enlarged. This is not true in all cases as sometimes it appears to be round and without wings, or it may have four or five wings. The petals and sepals range greatly in size shape, color, number and pubescence.

Leaves are quite variable in form; round, ovate-acuminate more or less unequal sided, entire or lobed, toothed or peltate. The leaf may be dull or shiny; glabrous (smooth) or pubescent (hairy). The leaf may have veins radiating from the sinus, a central midrib with parallel veins, or be netted. The leaves are usually alternate, but there are exceptions when they are opposite. If your plant comes under this classification, it is a BEGONIA.

The begonia can further be classified as succulent herbs or undershrubs. We do not realize the shrub type when grown in pots. As an example, a Himalayan species *sempervirens* growing in the ground at the Arboretum has a basal stem of 1½", heavily branched, making it a large shrub. The stem may be a rhizome which creeps along or under the soil, or it may rise vertically after a short creep. A *rhizome* is any rootlike stem which sends up leafy shoots from the upper surface and roots down from the under surface. A plant with this type of stem is called *rhizomatous*. The base of the stem may enlarge into a tuber or semi-tuber—tuberous class. It may also have a bulb formation. The fibrous types have a pith like center which is stringy and the stems of these enlarge each year with the wood increasing each year by the addition of a new layer. All begonias are fibrous rooted.

## Calendar

Aug. 14—Riverside Branch, "Flower Arrangements" by Jean Symons. *Itney Pot Luck* at 1859 Linden St., Riverside. PROCEEDS FOR ARBORETUM GLASSHOUSE FOR BEGONIAS.

Aug. 23—Redondo Area Branch—Mark Anthony, Asst. Supt. Descanso Gardens, "Camellias at Descanso Gardens."

August 28, Glendale—"Nutrition for Acid Loving Plants" by Lew Waterman from Kellogg Nitro-Humus Co.

Aug. 31-Sept. 1—National Convention and Flower Show, Plummer Park, Los Angeles, Calif.



## Minutes, National Board June 24

Meeting called to order at 7:50 P.M. by president Cal Trowbridge. Vice-president Browne led Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; Aims and Purposes of Society read by President-Elect Coe.

Secretary's and treasurer's reports read and approved.

### REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND CHRM.

President-Elect Coe reported that San Gabriel Valley Branch would take charge of the Snack Bar at Convention. \$64.75 received from the regional meeting at San Diego.

Vice-President Browne sold one pin re-mitting \$3.32 to treasurer.

Vice-President Graham has typed two-thirds of Glossary to date.

Membership Secretary Walton reported 44 new members, 88 renewing members. Begonians mailed 1964.

Research Director Leatherman stated that she thought we should have awards for the outstanding Cultivars for 1957. Moved by Fred Browne, seconded by Bill Walton that this question be submitted to a committee to decide and report at the next Board meeting. Carried. President appointed Mrs. Arbuckle, Mrs. Leatherman and Mr. Slatter on the committee.

Seed Fund Administrator Gee reported income \$115.93, expense \$13.92. Remitted to treasurer \$102.01.

Mrs. Arbuckle, Chairman of Awards, requested permission to purchase a plaque for the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award. Moved by Edna Korts, seconded by Fred Browne, that Mrs. Arbuckle be given permission to purchase the Eva Kenworthy Gray plaque. Carried.

President Trowbridge stated that it was almost impossible to get any information,

from Branches requesting Certificates of Award, after the Awards were presented. Moved by Edna Korts, seconded by Ethel Arbuckle that the Board adopt a plan of getting the information from Branches that request Certificates of Award, of what and who wins the certificate, before they are sent by the A.B.S. Carried.

Moved by Bill Walton seconded by Frank Coe, that two sets of Certificates of Award be made up at the present time. Carried.

Librarian Sault reported 1 book sold, 1 book loaned, 100 Begonians sent to Orange County Flower Show. Balance on hand \$67.95. Mrs. Sault requested permission to exchange magazines with the American Rose Society. Permission granted.

Branch reports were given.

### NEW BUSINESS

President Trowbridge reported that Mrs. Cramer had consented to put out the July and August issues of The Begonian. Mr. Trowbridge introduced Mrs. Adelaide Brest and recommended her as the new Editor. Moved by Fred Browne, seconded by Alva Graham that we accept the recommendation of the president and approve the appointment of Mrs. Brest as Editor. Carried.

Mr. Trowbridge stated that we needed a Sweepstakes Trophy for the person winning the most points at the Flower Show. Moved by Fred Browne, seconded by Mrs. Graham, that the Awards Committee be authorized to order a Sweepstakes Trophy, to be presented at Convention and to be appropriately engraved.

There being no further business the meeting closed to meet again July 22nd.

Respectfully submitted,

Arline Stoddard, Secretary

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Daily

12-8:30 p.m.

ex. Mo. & Tu.

12-9 p.m.

ex. Friday