

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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Advertising Manager.....John Thieben, 6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: to promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants; to encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants; to standardize the nomenclature of begonias; to gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants; to issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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Photo by Bob Mattuket

B. Crestabruchi x B. Crestabruchi

BEGONIA "Crestabruchi" (*B. manicata crispata* x *B. "Sunderbruchi"*) a hybrid of Mrs. Helen Lewis was introduced in 1938.

The original *B. "Crestabruchi"* was temperamental for most growers and considered difficult to grow. The plant pictured varies a little from the original introduction and in all probability is a result of a seedling, *B. "Crestabruchi"* being self pollinated. The variation is very slight and can only be detected by close observation.

I have grown both side by side and where the *B. "Crestabruchi"* has been slow to fill out and care must be taken in watering as certain times of the year the leaves will rot quickly. *B. "Crestabruchi"* x *B. "Crestabruchi"* has grown rapidly and does not have too much tendency to decay. However, this does not mean during dark days and winter months one can water the foliage late in the day.

Like other rhizomatous begonias to obtain a specimen plant the rhizomes should be kept on top of the soil. This

can be readily accomplished if one will train the plant as it grows. Cut pieces of wire and shape them like hair pins. Placing these wires over the rhizome and gradually and gently working the rhizome on top of the soil they can be anchored in place. Side rhizomes can be trained to provide a full plant.

Begonia "Crestabruchi" is one of the showy plants of the begonia family and always draws attention. Many have dubbed it the "Lettuce Leaf Begonia." The glossy-green leaves are broad-ovate and the edges of the leaves curl and twist and therefore are heavily ruffled. The blooming season is late winter through spring and the flowers are pink, in clusters, on tall stems. After blooming it has a resting period and during this period keep it damp. Do not repot until new growth shows which is usually along about June. It propagates easily from leaf-stem cuttings and from rhizome cuttings. It also can be propagated from leaf wedge cuttings but this is slower.

I Want to Remember Christmas; the Cover

By MARY HAZEL DRUMMOND

I WANT to remember . . . the warm, almost trembling "thank you" of the little old man when I open my purse and drop a coin in his hand.

I want to remember . . . the mistletoe hung in the doorway and the squeals of delight when a kiss is quickly planted on a cheek.

I want to remember . . . the warm glow of the fireplace mingled with the fragrances of pines, fruits and candies.

I want to remember . . . my country and give thanks for the bountiful gifts and offer a prayer for lasting peace.

I want to remember . . . the never-to-be-forgotten joy of the child's face as he looks at his first Christmas tree.

I want to remember . . . the flickering beauty of my neighbors' Christmas decorations.

I want to remember . . . as I kneel in church on Christmas morning the true meaning of the Christ Child.

☆

Our Christmas 1957 cover is a Madonna and Child arrangement for a console table or mantelpiece. Featured in the background are branches of fir and plastic snow, creating a Christmas-like scene. Altar candle set in red glass containers are placed at the left.

—B—

Clean-up is the order of the day. Spent blossoms and dried leaves should be removed to the garbage can, as otherwise they serve as shelters for all sorts of insects and disease. A good insecticide such as "Volck" also can be applied now, with much benefit in killing mealy bugs and other hard-to-kill insects. The early rains have just about finished our tuberous begonias, and they should be left to dry off now and taken up as soon as most of the leaves have died back. A final spraying with Mildex should help to keep mildew under control next year.

Biblical Plants

PLANTS obtained from the Holy Land are now thriving in the Biblical section of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia under the special care of gardener Norman Aronson, it was disclosed today in a report of growth progress by Arboretum Superintendent George Spalding.

"We are pleased that so many of our plants of the Bible are doing so well in our Biblical section, and elsewhere throughout the Arboretum," Spalding said. "We have about 150 Biblical plants on Tallac Knoll, which is the highest point in the Arboretum."

Spalding said that the exchange of seeds and plants with Israel and other Holy Land countries is becoming more difficult because of internal conditions there.

The Biblical section at the Arboretum is growing in patronage from Bible and Botany scholars. Visitors may walk to the Biblical section, or they may pass through it on the jeep-train guided tours.

Among the Biblical plants at the Arboretum are: *Zizyphus spinacrista*, known as the "Crown of Thorns" bush; *Cedrus lebanii*, the true Cedar of Lebanon; *Ficus sycamorus*, the Sycamore mentioned in Luke 19-4; *Ceratonia siliqua*, known as St. John's Bread, or carob.

Other biblical plants are *Cupressus sempervirens*, known in the Bible as gopher wood; *Cyperus papyrus*, the Egyptian bulrush used in hiding Moses as a baby; *Oleo europaea*, the Biblical olive tree of Jerusalem; *Pinus halepensis*, the Aleppo Pine, mentioned in the Bible as firwood; *Atriplex halimus*, the salt bush now being checked along with the Cistus bush at the Arboretum for fire resistance.

Newly arrived from Palestine is *Narcissus tazetta*, called daffodil in the Bible, whose bulbs should bloom next Spring.

The Arboretum, located at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, is now open to the public, without charge. Information may be obtained by writing, or by calling Hillcrest 6-5247.

Hybridizing and Sowing Rexes

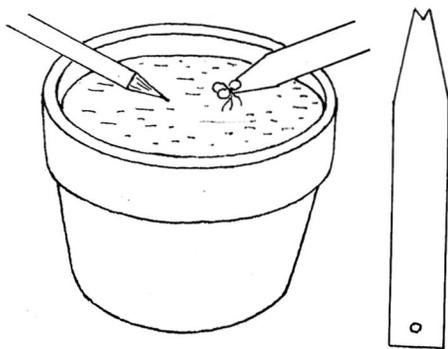
By DR. GIAN LUIGI SANI, Italy

THE BEGONIA rexes that are cultivars in general are the varieties that are hybridized. It is a known fact that the true way to reproduce the characters can be obtained only by the leaf cutting of the mother plant. In many cases when an amateur grows these beautiful plants he does not care to keep the same identity. It is possible he would be interested in numerous plants with characters more or less different. In these cases we revert to propagation by seed, which is the way to obtain new varieties.

The seeds ripen and are planted in January and February, in a pot well drained, in which there is a layer of straw that has been raked across a brush and made very fine. Compress this together, adding fine seed soil on top. Tap the bottom of the pot on the bench to settle the soil. The seeds are very fine and are distributed very regular when mixed with three parts of sand. Do not cover the seeds with soil, because to cover them would suffocate the germination. The pot should be covered with a pane of glass and put in a hothouse, or where there is at least 18° to 20° C. (about 65° F.). The necessary providing of water is supplied by immersion of the pot in tepid water 15° to 16° C. (about 60° F.) so as not to move the delicate seed. The glass pane should be dried often to avoid damaging drips. Practice keeping the pot elevated from the bench by setting on an inverted pot. It would be good to sulphur the lower pot often to avoid the growth of mold, very damaging in this delicate period.

When the seedlings have two leaves, transplant to a soil that has equal parts of the seed soil mixture and a fine forest soil. This operation requires much care and much patience because the tiny seedlings are so delicate. Utilize in this case to planting with a fine stick of wood, with a knife cut the tip in a V shape, and one tube of sharpened cane. Use the indentation to lift the plants and with the pointed

cane make the place in the soil to receive the plant. Plant them a distance of 3-4 cm. (1 to 1½ in.) apart.



To insure the formation of seed occurring in artificial reproduction is easy to do, the plant being monoecious. In other words, it has male and female on the same inflorescence. It is vastly easier in hybridizing to effect with practice this kind of operation. It is best to remove the male flowers before they open. Place small cellophane envelopes over the female flowers. These are easy to recognize because of the ovary, an organ swelled up with three characteristics found just behind the flower petals. When the female flowers are completely open, the pollenization takes place. Place on the stigma the pollen procured from male flowers from other varieties. The operation is easy and can be done with a tiny brush. It is also easy to remove the male flower and rub the two flowers together. Then put the sacks back on the female flowers until the petals have fallen, which shows that fertilization has taken place. The seeds are ready when the ovary is almost ready to fall. To make it easier, take the seed pod off before it falls. The separated ovary is dried in the shade. After that remove the seeds and save them in a dry place. The seed should be sowed immediately, but if they are reaped

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Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

Gloxinias

GLOXINIAS grow from a scaly rhizome, have stems a foot or more in height, and bear blue, hairy, campanula-like flowers. They don't sound like the gloxinias you're familiar with, do they? You're right, because the gloxinias that are familiar to most of us are not gloxinias at all, but *sinningias*.

One of original species of *sinningias* was mistakenly listed as a *gloxinia* and by the time it was straightened out the name was so firmly planted in the growers' minds that it has persisted to this day. This article is actually about *sinningias*, so to add to the confusion, after this point when I speak of gloxinias I mean the florist's gloxinia, *sinningia*.

Gloxinias are extremely easy to raise from fresh seed. You plant them the same as you would begonia seed. It always appears that twice as many plants come up than were seeds planted. This occurs because virtually every seed does germinate and that they are so tiny (about the same size as begonia seed) that you do not realize just how many there were.

Like tuberous begonias, gloxinias flower the first season, sometimes as soon as four months after sowing. Now is an excellent time to plant seed as they will come into bloom next spring, but they can be planted any time of year. The first season's bloom will usually bring from two to four blossoms. As the tubers increase in size succeeding seasons will see more and more blooms. If you like you can propagate especially good varieties by leaf cuttings in the same manner as their cousins, African violets.

I start all of my gloxinia seeds in gallon jars, as I do my begonia seeds, and transplant them when they have developed their first pair of true leaves, putting 60 or 70 into a flat. I use a leafmold, peat, and sponge rock mixture the same as for



Flowers of *Sinningia eumorphia*, a species "gloxinia."

begonias. Putting them so close together in the flat does not make for well-shaped plants, because they tend to get leggy, but it conserves a great deal of space.

As they bloom only the very best are selected and the rest are disposed of. Leaf cuttings can be taken of any outstanding ones that I want to propagate and, if desired, the blossoms can be hybridized and the seed gathered right in the flat.

When the tubers mature the desired ones are then potted up individually to grow the next year, and the rest can be given away or put on the plant table as they are still very good varieties. Any poor ones can be pulled out and destroyed immediately after they bloom.

If you only have a very few seed, or if you have a lot of room, you can pot up your seedlings individually, or plant fewer in flats and raise good-looking specimen plants the first year. Even with only two or three blossoms open some of these new giant flowered hybrids make quite a show.

The seed sources of gloxinias are many. Our own Seed Fund usually has a number to offer. There are two types of florist's gloxinias, the familiar large bowl shaped flowers, and the smaller slipper shaped blossoms. Some of these slippers have

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The Amateur Gardener

The Amateur Gardener and His Family Needs—

YOUR garden should be planned so that you will have space for the activities which your family enjoy most. Decide your own way of living—how you want to use the outdoor part of your home. In general, your planning should provide for some open lawn, shade where it is needed, a place for outdoor living and the utility areas. It should be a simple plan if you are to save labor in maintenance. We are all full of energy in the Spring, and gardening in the Spring is fun, however when the hot weather comes it is a different story. Maintenance can be kept at a minimum in the summer in several different ways. Extensive use of ground covers such as ivy geraniums, myrtle, ajuuga and hypericum planted in open areas will keep maintenance at a minimum. The wise use of evergreens and perennials will provide color and beauty in your garden with a minimum of labor. Avoid using too many annuals which require much more labor to maintain.

The original cost of perennials is, of course, greater than the cost of annuals. But consider how the perennials multiply year after year, and their longer life span which gives so much satisfaction over the years. Then consider the money spent in buying and the labor of planting new annuals each year which must also be

removed when their blooming period is ended.

Many Perennials —

There are many, many perennials from which to choose. The lowly geranium which blooms all summer and requires so little care may be used to good advantage in the sunny part of your garden. There are also varieties that do well in partial shade. Effective color schemes are easily managed with the wide range of varieties and color in geraniums which are available. One color scheme which is very effective is the planting of salmon colored geraniums, blue aster Frikarti or blue plumbago together.

Timely Tips for December—

This is a good month to prune evergreen shrubs. Cut out the heavy center canes and cut back some branches: put a dab of tree-seal on each cut which is one half inch or more in diameter. This keeps out insects and idisease. In shaping your shrubs be sure that you do not spoil their natural beauty and habit of growth. Round or symetrically trimmed shrubs do not add the beauty and naturalness for which we would strive in our gardens. Do not prune the spring flowering shrubs at this time. Wait until just after their blossoming period.

Spray Shrubs & Christmas Decorations—

December is also a good month to spray your shrubs and roses with a summer-oil or lime-sulphur spray. Spray after a good rain or use an artificial spray of water on your shrubs before using the oil or lime-sulphur. Never spray with an oil spray on a hot day or when a strong wind is blowing. Unless you have fruit trees in your garden you should avoid using the heavy winter-oil sprays. This is also a good month to plant trees, shrubs, and roses.

If you are fortunate enough to own a
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

INGLEWOOD
BRANCH

National Board, American Begonia Society, met in City Hall, Los Angeles, California, October 28, 1957, with President Coe presiding. Meeting called to order at 7:40 P.M. Salute to the Flag and Aims and Purposes of the Society read. On motion Secretary's minutes for September dispensed with.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Vice President Alvord reporting results of questionnaire distributed to Eastern Branches, favored raise in dues, favored more Begonia Articles in Begonian.

REPORTS

Treasurer's report read and approved, requested Convention bills be presented. Requested clarification of manner of carrying Department Head accounts on the books. On motion, committee was appointed to meet with Treasurer. Mr. Hall and Mr. Walton appointed. Received letter from Sacramento Branch requesting contribution of \$25.00 be turned over to National Board for their use and not Convention expenses. Treasurer directed to reply their request had been complied with.

Vice President Graham reported Begonias planted for Convention thriving; sold one Begonia pin, \$3.00 turned over to Treasurer.

Membership Secretary reported 63 new members, 94 renewing, 1,896 Begonians mailed. Requested disposition of 2 courtesy subscriptions. On motion, Mr. Mason of England to continue to receive magazine, value of continuing sending Begonian to India to be reported on at next meeting. On motion, Life membership Bonds to be transferred to Treasurer for safe keeping.

Editor reported satisfactory working agreement had been reached with printer and Begonian will be mailed by first of month. On motion, suggestion of Editor to reprint articles by Alice Clark on Begonias approved. Articles to be selected by Mr. Thieben, submitted to Alice Clark for editing and published in Begonian in 1958. Editor commented on lack of advertising in Begonian and asked for copy for December issue.

President Coe appointed Mr. Clarence Hall Public Relations Director.

Librarian reported books loaned, 3; books sold, 3; Begonians sold, 12; new books for sale through library.

Research Director read letters from Brazil, England, Germany, Italy and one from Pennsylvania. Reported receipt of seed from Brazil and Germany, leaves and cuttings from Penn. for identification. Motion to send magazine to Brazil approved.

Chairman of Identification Gardens received 58 leaves and cuttings from New York for identification.

Seed Fund Chairman reported income for month of September \$70.00, expenses \$10.00, turned over to Treasurer \$60.00.

Chairman of Speakers Bureau discussed revised Speakers List and means of financing, tabled until next meeting for further study.

Historian reported material for Year Book coming in.

OLD BUSINESS

On motion, membership in Los Angeles State and County Arboretum renewed. Brochures of Buxton Check List of Begonias ready to be mailed. Letter received from Mr. Lawrence of American Horticultural Council re individuals to receive copy of book. Mr. Lawrence to be

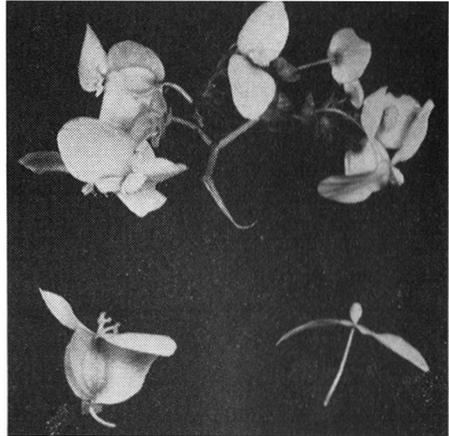
Rex Begonias

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in summer, it is more convenient to wait to sow them in January or February.

The photos and article are from "Giardina Fiorito," permission granted by author. We appreciate Dr. Sani's contributions and we thank him for his help and co-operation. We also thank Terry Olmsted for her translation.

SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN
Research Director



This is how the Begonia Rex presents its flowers (and almost all of the other begonias too). Above in a cluster are both male and female flowers together. Lower right, isolated, a male flower. Lower left, a female flower. The last is recognized easily because it has a large ovary behind the petals, that is three lobed.

in California in Jan. 1958 and requesting representatives of A.B.S. meet with him. Mrs. Leatherman, Mrs. Korts and Mr. Trowbridge appointed.

NEW BUSINESS

Method of soliciting funds for A.B.S. sponsored glasshouse for the L.A. State and County Arboretum discussed, tabled until next meeting for further study. President appointed Mr. Thieben Advertising Manager, appointment unanimously approved. Branch Directors reporting: El Monte, Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Chapter, Los Angeles, Pasadena, Redondo Area, Riverside, San Gabriel, Ventura.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mabel Anderson Secretary pro tem

Bromeliads Add Interest to Any Garden

By ROSANNA HORTON

SEVENTY-FIVE members and guests of the Orange County Branch watched closely as Mrs. Dorothy Behrends brought out handfuls of rare and spectacular relatives of the pineapple—bromeliads—at a recent meeting in Garden Grove Grange Hall.

Mrs. Behrends brought with her from her home in Encinitas, California, several cardboard boxes of the plants, colored slides of their brilliant blooms, and an infectious enthusiasm for "something different."

From the high mountains of Peru come *Puyas*, notable for structures in the bloom on which birds can perch. The Huntington Library grounds boast a giant that reaches 14 feet across and 10 feet high with numerous chartreuse blooms.

Smaller, and useful for growing on slopes, is the *Puya alpestris*, which has blooms in the decorator color of teal blue. They require that water be withheld at the dormant period, wintertime in Peru, which is our summertime.

In contrast to the sun-loving *Puyas* are the *Billbergias*, which in their native habitat nestle in tree trunks and prefer shade. Their flower heads droop down from rosettes of foliage. The *Billbergias* includes the species *nutans*, which is found growing outside in the shade, and has pink bracts, green petals with blue edges, and gold anthers.

Efforts to get more decorator colors in the foliage and blooms, and differing forms have been made by hybridists Theodore Mead of Florida, Mr. Atkinson of Encinitas, and Charles Cass of San Diego. Mead succeeded in developing a hybrid that will throw up blooms at any season of the year.

Aechmea has an upright flower head, which lasts for several months, and one species, *caudata*, has yellow and red flowers. When this is blooming in the patio, Mrs. Behrends finds it impossible

to interest her guests in any other plants.

Neoregelia includes the painted fingernail, which name comes from the fact that its foot-long green leaves have a speck of red at the tip.

Another startling red occurs in the *Bromelia*, which turns red at the base of the leaves just before the bloom appears.

Tillandsia samples from Mrs. Behrends' cardboard boxes had foliage which was skinny and grey. Flowers develop like a cock's comb with carmine bracts and purple petals. She recommended that these types of bromeliads be placed above eye level, much as they might appear in the upper trunk of trees. She warned that importing them from Mexico is difficult and time-consuming because plants must be fumigated, and many do not survive.

Many species of bromeliads have "vases" where rosettes of leaves join, and water remains. The blossoms fall off and decay in the vases, and provide nourishment to the plant. These plants are epiphytes, their sustenance coming not from the roots, but from minerals dissolved in water in the vase. The vases should be kept filled.

Bromeliads do not like hot dry winds. In the winter the danger from frost is increased because of their peculiar structure. The water in their vases might freeze and kill the plant. The plants should be tipped on their sides so ice cannot settle at the bottom.

Lou Scalley, president, presided over the meeting.

RARE—EXOTIC FISH TAIL FERN

Microsorium punctatum forma cristatum
syn. *Polypodium integrifolia*
4-in. Pots \$2.50 ea. F.O.B.

Leatherman's Gardens

2637 N. Lee Ave.

El Monte, Calif.

Library Notes

Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

HAVE you planned your gift for that gardener in your family? Your Library has on hand a number of books that would be good Christmas gifts for him or her. We have a few copies of "Gardening In The Shade," a truly good book. The Krauss book on begonias has always been popular with our members—clearly written and understandable. And then there is "Exotics," a well illustrated and interesting book. The publishers of "Exotics" have announced a new and revised edition, just off the press. We will have more details on this in the next issue of the *Begonian*.

We regret to announce that Bessie Buxton's "Begonias And How To Grow Them" is now out of print, and we can no longer fill orders for them. Your Library is making every effort to locate copies at book stores. If any of our Members should know of a book store or garden supply house that has copies on hand, we would appreciate knowing the name and address of the parties who have them.

There seems to be a misunderstanding about the cost of Buxton's "Check List of Begonias." The basic price is \$6.00. If the book is purchased in California, it is necessary to add 24 cents sales tax. The postage and insurance average 20 cents per copy, making the total \$6.44. We do not have to pay sales tax on out-of-state orders, so the amount required on these orders is \$6.20.

And now our shipping department wants to know in what condition your packages reach you. Is the paper torn, string broken, shipping tag torn? The only way we can find the answers is from you, our patrons. Will you please spend two cents for a post card, and take about two minutes of your time to let us know the answers. This is the only way we can better the service. Thank you.

Your Librarian,
Lucy A. Sault,
26938 Dapplegray Lane,
Rolling Hills, Calif.

Miss Constance D. Bower was the recipient of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award for 1957 in recognition of her outstanding work with begonias. She is the third recipient of the award given by the American Begonia Society. The first being the late Mrs. Bessie Buxton and the second being Miss Charlotte Hoak.

Miss Bower, a native daughter, was born in San Diego and received her education in the schools of that city. For a period of years she was private secretary to the chief editorial writer for the Scripps-Howard newspapers. Along with these duties she developed an interest in begonias and spent many relaxing hours working with them. She became a member of a small study group who were also begonia hobbyists. Two Begonia Round Robins brought added interest and many warm friends, among them Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Buxton.

Because of her success in raising these plants Miss Bower established a nursery in the rear of her home, later adding a mail order business and her mimeographed catalog brought a ready response from begonia enthusiasts. She found time to contribute articles to the California Garden Magazine.

The business grew to such proportions that she resigned her secretarial position and devoted all her time to the nursery. Her garden was the mecca for her many friends and patrons. At the right under protective lath grew many ferns, the center was devoted to cacti, many of them very rare specimens. On the left grew hybrid begonias in great profusion.

As a hybridist Miss Bower was very successful and her beautiful begonias were in great demand. Because of other interests she has given up hybridizing, however a record has been kept of her introductions with dates and crosses. But her contribution to the begonia world is not measured in words but by the beautiful hybrids she introduced.

E. G. ARBUCKLE

A Gardener's Christmas

By KENNETH TERRY

WISHING a gardener who seems to have all of the plants that he is interested in a Merry Christmas is more often than not a hefty problem in the Holiday season.

The answer seems to be in garden "gadgets." These novel tools may be purchased from any price from 35c up to whatever you choose to pay. A handy tool for the man who likes to use a nozzle to water his lawn and wash his driveway at the same time, is a squeeze handle nozzle, the stream a mist or a forceful stream varying with the pressure of the grip. Adjustable, too. About \$1.50. To the person who works his shoulders into an ache with a "Flit Pump" type of sprayer, there are hose operated models from \$1.98 up. Also double duty sprayers with nozzles for both insecticides or liquid fertilizers.

There are pressure "bombs" for many purposes, for weed killing, even one with an extension nozzle for spot weeding in dichondra lawns, all kinds of insecticide sprayers for out or inside, and some that politely say "no" to intruding dogs without hurting their feelings, or their owners'. All between \$1.50 and \$2.00,

How about a soil testing kit? There are simple Ph testing kits for acid or alkali testing, or complete kits for testing for all of the major plant food elements. \$1.50, \$3.00 and up.

Pruning tools almost always find a home with the hobby gardener. Many of them are somewhat novel, such as a small pruning saw that folds like a jackknife.

From six inch blades to over a foot long. Pruning shears from large loppers for heavy branches down to little lady's sizes and cut flower shears.

Books are always in order. The amateur is always searching for knowledge. Books on his favorite plant, or general gardening. One well known publishing firm offers a complete line of books at prices away below their value to the gardener, and written especially for the conditions on the Pacific Coast. Very reasonably priced. Contact the Librarian of the American Begonia Society for some book suggestions.

As Christmas time is not too late to plant bulbs in many places, package deals of bulbs make excellent stocking stuffers. Each year sees more of packaging of bulbs for home use. This way the producer may be sure that his bulbs are packed so that they will live when the gardener gets them. The most recent of these is packaged lily bulbs, packed in peat moss, with a picture of the flower on the front. Ranunculuses, Anemones, Gladioli, and many others are packed in individual packages.

For the rose lover, there is the new package that may be planted with the plant. Camellias are oft times in bloom for the holiday, and when put into holiday wraps, are one of the nicest gifts under the tree.

Say, fellow gardener, maybe your friend would like a subscription to *The Begonian*.

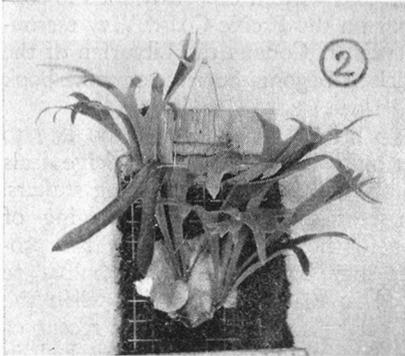
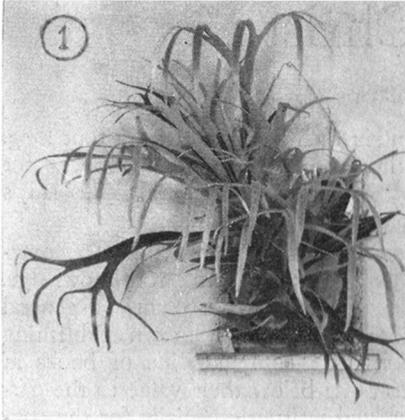
President's Message

THIS is the holiday season and all of us are thinking of our old friends; also some of the new ones. With this thought in mind the ABS Board wishes to extend to all of you—both new friends and old—our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

You might look around in your garden,

find a nice begonia, and send it to a friend. Who knows? That friend might get started with this impetus, and we would have another enthusiastic member.

Personally, I want to thank each of you for your help and support, and tender the wish that we may all have more "fun" with our plants.



1. *P. alcicorne* var. *majus*; 2. *P. billi*

We are indebted to Alvin F. Koenig, an ardent fern enthusiast of Pacific Beach, California, for the privilege of choosing four pictures from several of his large collection of *Platycerium* species. Most of the plants shown are around two years old. A foot rule indicates the size of the two specimens above. Those on the facing page are each mounted on a board twelve inches wide. Photos by R. B. Axt.

Platycerium

PLANT GEMS
OF ANCIENT HERITAGE

By FRANK QUINTANA
Reprinted From California Garden

A GOODLY part of the joy of gardening derives from the happy palaver between gardeners. A gardener is probably happiest, when in the hope of arousing a similar enthusiasm in his audience, he launches into an expository monologue about a particular plant interest. And that, My Dear Children, is why Garden Magazines were born!

The gardener turned author is probably UNhappiest when faced with the proposition of addressing himself to "What's New in the Garden" for the thirty-seventh time. Just for a switch, then, let's look at a couple of antiquities.

Nurserymen friends have reported that there appears to be a resurgence of interest in ferns. This intelligence has prompted me to stump for a family of ancients which fits the circumstances nicely. I believe that the most bizarre and fascinating of the ferns are the *Platycerium*, the so-called "staghorn" ferns. The bo-

tanical name, derived from the Greek, is compounded of *platy*, meaning horn. It is ideally descriptive for the reason that the plants exhibit fronds which are promptly reminiscent of antlers. Because of their unusual appearance and their unique habit of epiphytic growth, these ferns may be depended upon to excite comment and conversation on the part of all visitors to the garden where they are grown.

The *Platycerium* comprise a small group of plants of rather widely scattered habitat throughout the sub-tropical and tropical regions of the world. Some are found in temperate Australia, others in the Malay archipelago, and the Philippines, in Africa, and one species is found in the South American Andes. The genus is readily recognized, made distinct by the repeatedly forked character of the fertile fronds.

Having introduced this term "fertile fronds," it should be pointed out immediately that the plants produce BOTH fertile and infertile fronds, each type of a distinctly different, but harmonious architecture. The fertile fronds are antler-like, and carry the spore in splotches, usually on the underside of the leaf extremity. The barren or

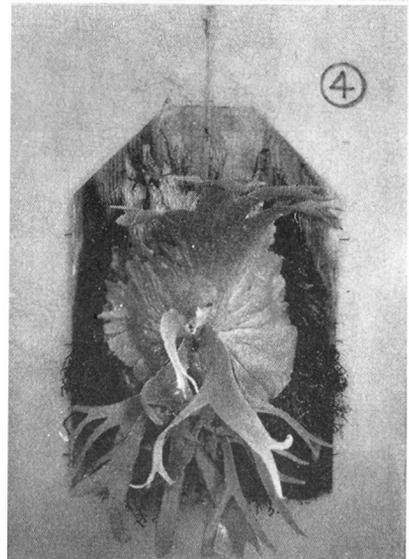
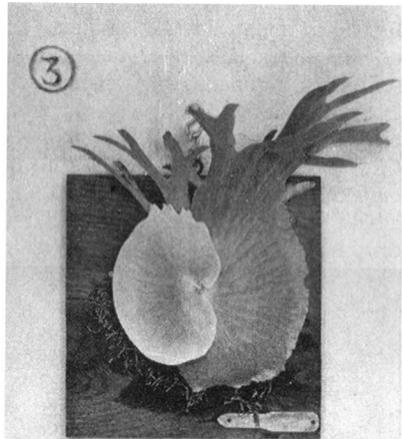
infertile fronds tend to a rounded, shield-like shape, and usually grow in rather symmetrical, opposite pairs, pressed back flatly convex against the growing media, and conforming to the container shape. These persistent barren fronds or scales gradually fade from their original green, becoming brown and imbricate. They protect a mass of stems and roots, and collect a composting debris which helps to nourish the plant. From a point where these leaves intersect, somewhat tangentially, the fertile fronds arise and arch out.

Alfred Hottes, a person whose patent charm made it seem iconoclastic to fractionate his conversational ramblings into fact or fancy, explained to me that the *Platycterium* were something of "a missing link" in the evolution of ferns. He went on to say that when fern spore is sown today, there first develops a flat shield-like body which is called a thalli or gametophyte. From this primary green body, the true fern arises and develops. Therefore, the thalli disappears and is not seen again till the sowing of the next generation of spore. Hottes maintained that the *Platycterium*, in hanging on to the flat shield-like barren frond, so reminiscent of the thalli, did represent a transition between older fern forms and present day subjects. He felt, therefore, that these odd ferns had a heritage of great antiquity.

In the support of this contention, Elise Hoffman of the University of Vienna reported the identification of fossilized spore of the *Platycterium* in sandstone of the Cretaceous period, which would indicate that this plant family has been with us for about a hundred million years. Willy-nilly, staghorn ferns have held the interest of botanists for more than two and a half centuries. In 1705, Plukenet reported a sterile African plant with the designation, *Neuroplatyceros aethiopicus*.

CULTURE

Altogether there are about seventeen or eighteen species of staghorns. Authorities usually call them glasshouse plants, but most of the common varieties are satisfactory lathhouse subjects along the coastal belt of Southern California. These also may be grown in a protected patio area or integrated in a partially shaded garden area. The staghorn ferns are epiphytic in nature, so they need no soil. They prefer a mixture of sphagnum moss and rough peat fiber, or sphagnum alone. Shredded fir bark and sphagnum would make an ideal medium. They are especially effective when planted in the crotch of a tree, or in wall baskets. When grown in a regular wire hanging basket, these ferns (especially *P. alcicorne*) will throw



3. *P. coronarium*; 4. *P. willenckii*

roots throughout the growing medium, and in time, will develop a solid ball of plants completely surrounding the container, displaying antlers which arch out in every direction. The effect is nothing short of remarkable. In more humid locations, as in Hawaii, the plants are often merely nailed to a tree with a backing of moss to start them off. The old barren fronds soon build up a compost in which the fern grows quite happily.

The *Platyterium* will tolerate strong light, but prefers it filtered. Some authorities recommend drying out to the point of wilting before watering, but it would be better to maintain an adequate supply of moisture at all times. Fertilizing with soluble fish, or other prepared concentrates (Folium, Soluble Vigoro, Liquinox, etc.) at regular intervals is appreciated by the plant. It is probably wisest to use at *half* the strength recommended on the label. Two or three times a year one enthusiast I know places clods of dairy manure in staghorn baskets, and reports satisfactory results.

PROPAGATION

Platyterium maybe propagated by division of young plants produced from the adventitious buds on their roots (sucker growths). *P. grande* is one species which does not produce off-sets, and must be propagated by means of spores. This method is agonizingly slow. Asexual propagation involves cutting out (a sharp kitchen knife is the best tool) a set of antlers together with a goodly portion of barren fronds. Taking a circle of at least four inches in diameter, and several layers thick, will insure a sufficient root system. This amputation may be placed directly in the container in which it is to grow.

Platyterium spore is handled much the same as any other fern spore. A simple method is to sow it on a layer of wet (not moist, WET) sphagnum moss contained in a commercial-size mayonnaise jar. Once sown, the lid should be screwed tightly on the jar, and the whole business placed in a warm greenhouse. Leave it alone until the plantlets are big enough to handle. The larger they are, the better

the chance of success at the critical time of transplanting. Patience, please! The first stages may take as long as two years.

If you enjoy being utterly scientific, plant the spore in a nutrient solution where the ferns will develop faster than in soil or moss. Nutrient solution:

Ammonium Nitrate.....0.5 gr.
Monobasic Potassium Phosphate...0.2 gr.
Magnesium Sulfate.....0.2 gr.
Calcium Chloride.....0.1 gr.
Ferric Chloride.....TRACE
(40 drops of 1% solution)

Distilled water to make.....1000 cc.

A half pint of this solution is placed in a pint jar. A cap is made of *non*absorbent cotton, the glass top is placed over it lightly, and the jar is sterilized, as for canning. When finished and cool, sow the spore from the tip of a small knife which has been sterilized by passing through a flame. Cover tightly, label and put away in a warm, shady location. When ferns are large enough to be transplanted, remove from the jar with a hooked wire, and plant in sphagnum.

In connection with planting spore, I feel moved to tell a story. Once, when Mrs. Calloway's *P. grande* was "fruiting," I requested some spore. She advised me, before harvesting it in quantity, to wait until a small amount held in my palm would "wiggle." Seeing the startled disbelief in my expression, though I swear I tried to hide it, she assured me, rather coldly, that this intelligence had been given to her by some university horticulturists. With the zeal of an agnostic, I made periodic pilgrimages to the plant, hopelessly scratching small samples of spore into my palm, and sourly observing no trace of a wiggle. Finally, to my total amazement (and joy), there came a day when the brown powder did indeed leap about in my hand. I harvested it, planted it, and it yielded.

Later I came upon the explanation. The spore cases are constructed rather like a fiddlehead, and as the spore ripens, a strain is developed along the outside edge of the curved case. Nature, in her craftiness, planned that the case should rupture violently (on a microscopic scale) thus

casting the spore out as far as possible. In the warmth of my palm, the cases ruptured, and thus appeared to move about, demonstrating that the spore was ripe.

DESCRIPTIONS

To describe some of the species in a more general way, the following text has been adapted from *The Book of Choice Ferns* by George Schneider, a three volume reference work of perhaps greater rarity than some of the plants it describes. *P. alpicorne* (al-sick-corny)

This is the commonest of the species, owing probably to its easy culture, rapid growth, and facile propagation. According to Lowe, the plant was introduced into Kew Gardens in 1808. Its barren fronds are rounded and flatly convex, with edges slightly waved, and spreading lobes that are downy when young. The fertile fronds, 2 to 3 feet long, grow in clusters of somewhat upright habit along part of their length and then become pendant. They are twice or three times forked, and of a thick leathery texture, green above and downy underneath. The spore is disposed in the last forks and at their bases, in irregular patches.

P. alpicorne var. *majus* (larger)

In this variety the foliage is much larger and the plant shows a more robust habit. The fertile fronds have broader lobes, held on a stiff flat stalk, from which they droop elegantly, although the frond as a whole is erect. The barren fronds are roundish, convex and overlapping.

P. stemmaria (syn. *aethiopicum*)

This species is a native of Western Africa, the Guinea Coast and Angola. Its basal leaves (barren fronds) are stalkless, rounded and convex, undulated and downy when young. The fertile fronds are of a pendant habit and twice divided: the disc and first division are broader than most other kinds and the spore occurs in a triangular patch surrounding the sinus between the two horn-like projections. The under surface is covered with a thin white cottony down. The fertile fronds occur in clusters, and are an average of 2-3 feet in length.

P. grande

This is a magnificent species, native of northern Australia, Singapore and the Philippines. The barren fronds, which may grow to a size of six feet across, are rounding, ascending, and have their upper edges divided into a number of broad blunted segments. They are of a light green coloration, covered with a woolly substance when young, but free of any trace of it when fully developed. The fertile fronds will extend to a length of four to five feet, are of a pendant nature, bearing a repeatedly forked division toward the extremities. These are usually produced in pairs, and are provided with a wedge-shaped disc which becomes covered with the spore. The further extremities remain barren.

HYBRIDS

Staghorn ferns occupied the attention of two San Diego County practical hybridists, Marshall Gresham of Encinitas and the late Charles Cass of Pacific Beach. These gentlemen not only collected various species, but made attempts at hybridizing. Gresham sowed spore of *P. billi* and *P. alpicorne* var. *majus* together, and from the combination obtained several plants that are not at all typical of either species. The cultivar resulting from this action displays the green upper and under surface characteristic of *P. billi*, but the more robust growth and heavier texture of *P. a.* var. *majus*. The lobes have fine sharp points rather than the bluntish lobes usually exhibited by *P. a.* var. *majus*.

To the best of my present knowledge, no records are available regarding the parentage of the Cass crosses. Some of his plants appear to be quite different from other members of the family. The fronds have a heavy leathery texture, are generally erect and thickly clustered, broadly widened at the area where the blunt lobes develop. The lobes are twice-divided, and are handsomely pendant, while the general character of the leaf is erect. The plant suggests a cross between *P. stemmaria* and *P. alpicorne* var. *majus*. It is completely indifferent to winters

(Continued on Page 283)

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1 *B. longibarbata* Brade—Brazil—Beautiful herbaceous plant of medium height with transverse egg shaped, angular-lobed leaves; base heart-shaped, margins scalloped, toothed with marginal hairs. Leaves are green and slightly hairy above, purplish below; flower stems are 5-11 inches high. Flowers are white to pink. 35 cents per packet.

No. 2 *B. superba*-Azella—Tall, vigorous, leaves deeply lobed, green, splashed with silver, toothed and red at the margins; flowers large, clear pink. 25 cents per packet.

No. 3 *B. olbia*—Brazil—Low, bushy; leaves ovate, brownish green with black-green veins, sparsely white hairy, red beneath; flowers large white. A beautiful but difficult begonia. 25 cents per packet.

No. 4 *B. metallica*—Brazilian species—Medium, bushy, hairy; glossy olive-green leaves with metallic purple veins above, red-veined beneath; flowers large, light pink, bright pink-bearded without, clusters large and showy. 25 cents per packet.

No. 5 *B. Hydrocotylifolia*—Pennywort or miniature type. Dark green glossy, leaves on short petioles. Flowers light pink. 25 cents per packet.

No. 6 *B. Aconitifolia*—Brazil—Tall, erect, few-branched; leaves palmately lobed, each lobe irregularly toothed, green with silver splashes, flowers large, white or delicately pinked-tinged. 25 cents per packet.

No. 7 *B. platanifolia*—See story in August The Begonian. 25 cents per packet.

No. 8 *B. sanguinea*—Brazil—Favorite begonia having many reddish stems arising from the base. Leaves broad-ovate, leathery, glossy olive green above, scarlet beneath; flowers small, white in long inflorescence. 25 cents per packet.

No. 9 *B. Richmondensis*—Here is an extra special begonia belonging to a distinct little group, which includes ***B. Digswelliana***, and ***B. Lady Waterlow***. An outstanding bedding or basket plant, floriferous and hardy. 25 cents per packet.

No. 10 *B. Cane type mixed*—A friend in The Phillipine Islands sent

these seed to the seed fund and you will be pleasantly surprised at the beautiful begonias that can be grown from a package of seed. We have one or two that are heavily spotted giving the appearance of being frosted. 25 cents per packet.

The following paragraph was taken from a letter written by a member in New York, we thought you might like to see what other amateur growers are accomplishing. "The rex begonia seeds you sent me in the summer, have been most prolific, at one time I had 87 plants. I've given away many plants, but I still have about 40 left. One absolutely precious plant from seed, is *B. Cyprea* which started to bloom when it was a mere 3-4 inch high, and hasn't stopped. It has a beautiful bushy shape—always looks lush and prosperous. I had decided to specialize in begonias, but a neighbor—a *Saintpaulia* fan—had been egging me on to join her interest too. One day I mentioned your seed to her and she informed me that "you can't grow *A.V.* from seed, that did it! I just had to try them. The results—a week ago, she came and picked up 50 of the choicest plants and I still have about 75 left." The above remarks makes all the work of the seed fund worth while.

We have *semperflorens* seed from Italy via Sylvia Leatherman that are not listed in any of the literature available to the seed fund. **No. 1. *B. semperflorens Emmeline***, **No. 2. *B. semperflorens Laigne***, **No. 3. *B. semperflorens unnamed***. This summer we grew many *semperflorens* in our garden and have collected seed from some of the choicest varieties for you. Living in a mild climate has its compensations; our plants are still a mass of blooms. **No. 4. *B. semperflorens Lucifer***, flowers are very large, salmon, foliage is almost black. **No. 5. *B. semperflorens Salmon Queen***, gorgeous plant with salmon-red flowers, low, compact growth and dark foliage. All *semperflorens* are 25c per packet.

No. 6. *B. semperflorens Sparkler*—Our favorite *semperflorens*—Large flowers of brilliant orange-salmon with each petal base a contrasting creamy white. Intermediate growth. **No. 7. *B. semperflorens***

Carmen—Dwarf, compact growth with rich bronze foliage and light pink flowers.

B. Tuberous mixed—Seed are just collected from hand pollinated blooms—a wide variety of colors and mostly camellia type. We have a large quantity of seed and hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to try your hand at growing these beautiful plants. 25c per packet.

Greenhouse plants—**Campula fragilis**, a plant that will be found indispensable for hanging purposes, has many light porcelain-blue saucer-like flowers—can be grown under lath. 25c per packet.

No. 2. Gloxinia tigrina, England—Glorious mixture of spotted flowers in many shades. 25c per packet.

No. 3. Peperoma maculosa, England. Interesting plant with ornamental foliage, bright shining green, marbled white; upright growth. 35c per packet.

No. 4. Saintpaulia Ionantha (African violet), forming dainty rosette leaves, the flowers are similar to large violets with bright yellow stamens; delightful subject for a warm house; 2-3 inches high. 35c per packet.

No. 5. Alloplectus capitatus—A friend in France sent these seed. Gesneriaceae family, grown for its colored foliage and rather showy tubular flowers which form in leaf axils. 25c per packet.

Other Genera—**No. 1. Aristolochia elegans**, calico flower. Related to Dutchman's pipe, it is easy to grow as a greenhouse plant or will grow out doors in mild climates. Flowers are brown-veined and four inches in diameter. 25c per packet. **No. 2. Cypella herberti**—Bulbous plant related to the tigridia and blooms the first year from seed. Flowers are gold and brown. 25c per packet.

No. 3. Mimosa pudica—Sensitive plant, perennial with rose-purple or lavender flowers. 25c per packet.

Choice fern spores—**No. 1. Pellaea hastata**. This is an evergreen fern with a glaucous (bluish) tint in the green. Fronds grow to about a foot in height and are triangular, in almost an ivy-leaf shape. It grows best in a fairly warm greenhouse and is truly a beautiful fern.

No. 2. Lomaria gibba—This is a handsome fern, having deeply pinnatifid fronds from one to three feet in height

and up to six inches across, arising from a short stout stem. In vigorous growing plants the sturdiness of the stem gives it a tree-like shape. It will do well in a cool house, making a lovely table decoration.

No. 3. Blechnum brasiliensis—A distinct species for the tropical fernery. The fronds are lanceolate in form, growing to a height of about four feet under favorable conditions. As the plant attains age the stems will often reach a height of two feet. New fronds are pink gradually becoming green.

No. 4. Elaphoglossum crinitum — A very singular and dissimilar fern, distinct from all others, and perhaps the most extraordinary fern in cultivation—The fronds are very thick and simple, the edges surrounded with black hair, and the upper surface is also covered with hair. Fronds are from 15 to 20 inches long, width from 6 to 12 inches; color is dull green. The above—35c per packet.

NOTE—The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund does not have a license to sell live material—only seed. In order to forestall other queries, it is impossible to compound a list of seed other than that offered monthly in *The Begonian*.

Correction—Nov. '57, Item No. 5 should read: "**B. Pearci**—Tuberous species, low growing, leaves broad-ovate, pointed, velvet-like dark green with light green veins; flowers yellow.

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
4316 Berryman Ave.
Los Angeles 66, Calif.

GREETINGS
AND
BEST WISHES
FOR A
HAPPY
HOLIDAY SEASON
REDONDO AREA
BRANCH

Gloxinia

(Continued from Page 270)

erroneously been called stroxinias, but such is not believed to be the case.

The *sinningia* species are slipper shaped and in years past patient hybridizers worked at breeding the slipper shape out and obtaining the symetrical bowl-shaped flowers.

A soil mixture that is suitable for begonias is good for gloxinias. It is very important that they be well drained for if not the tubers may rot. They like a growing climate similar to that required by African violets. That is to say a fairly high humidity and a minimum night temperature of 55° F.

HIMALAYAN PLANTS AND SEEDS

Begonia, Lilium, Gloriosa, Curcuma, Gerbera, Gesnera, Orchids, etc.

NATIVE FLOWER SEEDS

Collections From \$1 to \$5 — Catalogue Free

G. GHOSE & CO., Townend, Darjeeling, India

GOOD WISHES FOR A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR
GLENDALE BRANCH

Amateur Gardener

(Continued from Page 271)

three tiered compote or have three compotes of graduated size, a most beautiful Christmas arrangement may be made with very little effort.

Stack the compotes and fill the two bottom ones with small gilded cones, pods, nuts and fruits; tuck in a few small sprigs of evergreen in each compote. In the smallest or top compote place a large gilded pine cone.

Christmas Day—

This is indeed a festive day, but it is also a sacred day. The Christ, whose birthday we celebrate, gave us two great commandments, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and all thy soul," and "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self." So with all the confusion and work of preparing for a festive day, do not forget the Christ whose birthday we celebrate.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

RUTHANNE WILLIAMS

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

EL MONTE COMMUNITY
BRANCH OF THE A.B.S.

in rose form and ruffled novelty

New
for 1957
Striking
Advances



TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Exact quality in color and form, from the prize-winning Pacific strain originated by Frank Reinelt. The very finest obtainable!

Choice tubers now being shipped

1957 COLOR CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE—WRITE FOR IT TODAY!

VETTERLE & REINELT Dept. B Capitola, California

Platycerium . . .

(Continued from Page 279)

in Pacific Beach, where two splendid lathhouse specimens are grown by Edwin Moore.

There is some real argument among local collectors as to whether the above-mentioned plants are really hybrids. Hybridization with ferns is a chancy business at best, depending upon the union of sexual parts of mature thalli of two different ferns. This implies being close enough, being of exactly similar age and development and being under the precise conditions necessary to permit a greater than normal movement of the archegonia (sperm cell). It would seem that the odds are against successful hybridization. In support of the claim, however, Vernon Young, writing in the *Gardener's Chronicle* of November 1935, makes mention of "natural hybridization" in a straightforward way, and without qualification. "In some cases," he says, "the sperm which unites with the egg may come from a different plant, since the prothallia (of different ferns) often grow in groups in desirable moist places."

AVAILABILITY

Comparatively speaking, staghorns are uncommon plants. *P. alcicorne* has a general circulation among seriously interested gardeners, and is usually available at better nurseries. It is sometimes sold under the synonym *bifurcatum*. Less frequently, *P. grande* is seen, and sometimes *P. stemmaria* and *P. alcicorne* var. *majus* occur in collections of enthusiastic amateurs. Other fern species may be found in glass houses, and may also be ordered by mail from A. B. Ctuler Nursery, Miami, Fla.; Julius Roehrs Co., of Rutherford, N.J.; Alberts & Merkel Bros. Nursery in Jacksonville, Fla., and from Rudolf Ziesenhenné, of Santa Barbara, Calif. Locally, *P. alcicorne*, *P. grande* and some others are on sale at a few special nurseries in San Diego County.

REFERENCES

Lowe, *Ferns, British and Exotic*;

Crestabruchi . . .

(Continued from Page 267)

It also can be propagated from leaf wedge cuttings but this is slower and more difficult.

B. "Crestabruchi" or *B. Crestabruchi* x *B. "Crestabruchi"* is a spectacular plant and a begonia to add interest to a collection.

Perhaps it would be wise to straighten out a few questions that have been coming in from members. One of the questions asked by so many of the members pertains to begonias grown from seeds and why they are so unlike. A begonia species self pollinated will result in all of the begonias grown from these seeds being exact duplicates of the parent begonia species. A cultivar (hybrid) self pollinated will in turn result in variations of the seed cultivar parent. In many cases the variation is so pronounced one can not label these plants with the name of the cultivar begonia parent. To keep nomenclature from becoming more confused it would be wise to label these plants with the parent cultivar begonia name and add a notation from seed or name x name. As: *B. "Credneri"* x *B. "Credneri."* If all of the members growing these seeds will endeavor to keep these plants labeled in this manner we will avoid confusion and keep nomenclature straight. One obtains good plants from these seeds and it is exciting to see what can be obtained and this is healthy anticipation but let us all keep our records straight. Just because your pet dog or cat is not a thoroughbred does not mean you do not love him as much as a full blooded pedigree, but you still can not say he is not a mongrel. So it is with begonias. SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN

Research Director

Schneider, *The Book of Choice Ferns*; Nicholson, *Dictionary of Gardening*; Hooker, *Species Filicum*; Copeland, *Genera Filicum*; Beddome, *Ferns of British-India*; Britten, *European Ferns*; Bailey, *Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*.

Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

ELSA FORT

The Elsa Fort Branch met at the home of Mrs. Albert Roberts for dessert. Plans were made for two parties—the annual Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Elsa Fort on Dec. 7 will have Mrs. Caroline Smith as co-hostess. There will be a gift exchange. The second party is a Begonia party, to be held Sept. 20, 1958, at the home of Mrs. Mildren Tait. It will include a flower show, plant sale, lunch, and lecture.

—B—

GLENDALE

Last month we numbered our News Letters, with a prize given to the one whose number was drawn. This idea seemed to meet with your approval and the Executive Board decided to try it again. You must be in attendance at the meeting and have your News Letter with you in order to win the prize, so be sure to come and BRING YOUR LETTER.

The December meeting will be held on Dec. 11, not Dec. 25.

—B—

MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM

For their eighteenth birthday celebration the Margaret C. Gruenbaum Branch met at the farm of Mrs. Frank Oehrle, Hatboro, Pa. A covered dish luncheon was enjoyed by the eight members and four guests who were present.

—B—

LONG BEACH

A talk on "Arrangements," by Alberta Logue, President of Long Beach Branch, was the program for the last meeting. J. Paul Walker and Mrs. Walker, old time members of ABS were present. News that Mrs. J. S. Williams, one of the pioneer editors of the Begonian was improving in health, was received. "Pop" Dyckman has made a trip to Long Beach from his home in Twenty Nine Palms,

and his health, too, is improved. Harry Miller, another old and active member, has departed by train for a midwest vacation. A plant sale and refreshments completed the evening.

—B—

PHILOBEGONIA

At a luncheon meeting at the home of Mrs. Anne Holfstetter "Dancing Girl," a chance seedling, was studied. "Clove," an original plant from cutting, having no female flowers, and an "unknown" plant were also discussed.

A report of the meeting held with the William Penn Branch, and of a day trip for field study was also given.

—B—

REDONDO BEACH AREA

"Orchids" was the subject of Lee Borchart at the last meeting.

Twenty out of 20 is the score. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hoelzel entered 20 birds at the Los Angeles County Fair. All 20 entries won ribbons. Not only that, but the Hoelzels brought home a silver platter, five gold medals and a special award certificate.

Aunt Dinah had nothing on Lucy Sault lately. Mrs. Sault has had several quilting parties at her home lately. The object—to finish a quilt that our lady members have been making for the coming bazaar.

All of our membership was saddened to learn of the death of Lillian Peters. Lillian was a long time member and former treasurer of our branch.

—B—

SACRAMENTO

Program for the last meeting was furnished by Albert E. Wilson, Stanford graduate in botany, and author of "How Does Your Garden Grow" and "Gardeners All in California." Who spoke on "Year Long Associates for the Begonia Gardener."

SAN FRANCISCO

William Maitland, who is in charge of the Conservatory in Golden Gate Park, talked to us on the year-round program of plant displays in the Conservatory and what it takes to get the plants in shape. His talk was particularly timely inasmuch as he told us what they are doing now with the tuberous begonias in order to prepare them for next year's bloom.

Installation Dinner for new officers was held November 13th at Forest Lodge. Harold Gaetjen was installing officer and program chairman. Ed Pynchon was chairman for the evening.

—B—

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

The San Gabriel Valley Branch of ABS enjoyed a program of sound movies given by Miss Lue Hale of Vancouver, B.C. Miss Hale represented the Blue Whale Products, and the picture titled "The World at Our Feet," featured time-lapse photography. Blue Whale is a complete soil conditioner, a new product which was enthusiastically introduced by the speaker. Miss Hale will be in this area until February and may be reached through the nurseryman's Coop, Woodruff and Temple City Blvd., Temple City.

—B—

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

The branch has enjoyed a year filled with excellent programs arranged by Jacques Dekker, program chairman. Speakers have been Frank Reinelt in February and Pat Antonelli in November, along with others. San Francisco and East Bay Branches were invited to both these meetings.

Members held two patio-potluck meetings; joined with members of a local branch of American Fuchsia Society on a grand fuchsia tour; took second prize for an outside Shade Garden Exhibit at the California Spring Garden Show and a first prize at the Alameda County Fair; took in \$136 from a rummage sale.

A good number of new books were added to the Branch library; it has remembered its sick members with a potted

plant; it contributed \$35 to the National Director's convention expense; it donated \$100 to the Cobalt 60 Cancer Fund at Eden Hospital, where our beloved Mrs. Gwen Guerich died on Sept. 2; it will pay \$1.50 towards each member, the wife or husband, for the Christmas turkey dinner which will include installation of new officers.

—B—

VENTURA

Joe Littlefield, famous Southern California speaker of radio, television, and writer, was the speaker at our last meeting. "Annual Plants for Shade Garden and Spring Bloom" was the topic, and, as usual, he did his subject justice.

In the past months we have held "Open Gardens." These proved so successful that many of our members became enthused and have started regenerating their own yards—preparatory to the tour next year. This project has a boost from the weather in Ventura, for here almost anything in the garden, properly cared for, thrives.

At the Ventura County Fair our members, under the leadership of Harry Meyers, this Branch walked away with the Sweepstake prize (\$175) for the entry in the Shade Garden.

Along with this award for our Branch our members showed what they could do in small individual displays. Receiving first prize in Formal Gardens were Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Osborn. Shade Garden first went to the William Temples; second, Mrs. John Dent; third, Harry Meyer. General Garden first award was captured by Mrs. Ann Meyer; second, Mr. and Mrs. George Harlock. The William Temples won the succulent first, and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Lemon took second. Along with these displays the members had enough top plant material to capture the Miniature Garden awards. Individual awards to Mrs. T. C. Osborn, 1st, Shade Garden, and 3rd in succulent, Mrs. Alma Harlock. The individual competition on the various categories were taken by several of our members who took home blue ribbons as prizes for their hard work.

Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy.
Kent, England

CENTRAL FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Leo Spengler, Cor. Secy.
15 West Preston Ave., Orlando, Fla.

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
Mrs. E. H. Ellerbusch, Secy.
1051 Ordway, Berkeley 6, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Daisy Morrow, Cor. Secy.
2821 N. Musgrove Ave., El Monte, Calif.

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Community Bldg.
2039 Third St., La Verne
Mrs. C. W. Hall, Cor. Secy.
358 E. Arrow Hwy., Upland, Calif.

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:30 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
Mrs. Cleo Price, Cor. Sec.
377 Myrtle, Glendale 3, 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. Adolph Belser, Cor. Secy.
Welsh and Verree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

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. J. C. Jenks
6807 DeLongpre Ave.
Los Angeles 28, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, Herman Park
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12601 Broken Bough, Houston 24, Texas

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.

LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, members' homes
Mrs. Chester Terry, Secy.
5511 Richmond Ave., Dallas, Texas

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
1925 Maine Ave., Long Beach 6, Calif.
Mrs. Rosa Cox, Sec.
3592 Lewis Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

LOS ANGELES BRANCH

4th Wednesday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Margaret Fenn, Secy.
2103A Warfield, Redondo Beach, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

First Friday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Thos. O. Day, Secy.
4065 Hollywood St., Baton Rouge, La.

MIAMI, FLORIDA BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
Mrs. Ray Rosengren, Secy.
5530 N.W. 21 Ave., Miami, Fla.

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. Anna Peck, Secy.
23 So. Gateway, Toms River, N.J.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall
Century and Taft Streets
Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Maybelle Woods, Secy.
604 South Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on call.
Homes of Members
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.
40 N. San Rafael, Pasadena 2, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Charles J. Allen, Sec.
Woodside Lane, Riverton, N.J.

PORTLAND, OREGON BRANCH

4th Friday, 8:00 p.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. Helen Parrott, Secy.
3955 S.E. Kelly, Portland 2, 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
Mrs. Ethel Prior, Sec.
4345 5th St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Harlie Brown
3233 Tennyson, San Diego 6, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Mrs. Gordon Long, Secy.
5416 Dana Way, Sacramento, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday
Hard of Hearing Hall,
Herbert & University
Mrs. Maurice P. Mitchell, Secy.
2329 Bancroft St., San Diego 4, 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. E. F. Slavik, Sec.
300 Hacienda Dr., Arcadia, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday
Youth Center, 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.
Mrs. Maria Sanchez, Secy.
1753 Glen Oaks Dr., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Green Lake Field House
7201 Green Lake Way
Mrs. Carl Starks, Secy.
6116 Greenwood, Seattle 3, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BR.

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Bartlett C.H., 902 E. Main,
Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Oakley Murphy, Secy.
119 E. Simpson, Ventura, Calif.

SMOKEY VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday of each month
John C. Irving, Cor. Secy.
1940 Simmons, Salina, Kan.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BR.

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.
21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.
Mae Bolyard, Cor. Secy.
2425 Thornton Ave., Newark, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

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

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 3220 Botanic Dr.,
Fort Worth, Texas
Mrs. Joe X. Schad, Sec.

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday night in members' homes
Mrs. William Demland, Secy.
2400 19th St., Port Arthur, Texas

TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH

4th Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Harold Renshaw, Secy.
2521 37th St., Galveston, Texas

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Albert S. Lash, Cor. Secy.
1228 Oklahoma Ave., Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center,
1643 Floral Drive
Mrs. Rebecca Olson
714 N. Palm Ave., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m.
Homes of Members
Mrs. Ernest C. Drew, Sec.
Box 331, Narberth, Pa.

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