The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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The Begonian

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

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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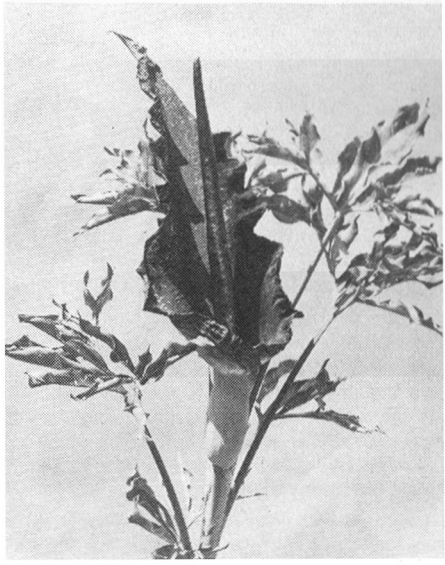
National Board Meets 4th Monday, 7:30 P.M., 13th Floor, Los Angeles City Hall

Bulbs for the Shade Garden

By J. N. GIRIDLIAN, Arcadia



Dragon Lily

THE SUBJECT of this article is a tuberous plant belonging to the Calla Lily family, and is variously known as *Arum dracunculus, Dracunculus vulgaris,* Carrion Lily, Black Calla Lily, Monarch of the East, etc. Its various and many names suggest its popularity among those who cherish this unusual and odd flowering plant.

The rootstock is a round tuber or sometimes egg-shaped according to how it is grown. If the tuber is planted in the conventional manner, it will become round and flattened a little. If planted in the proper manner, on end, it will become elongated because of the fact that the bulb will travel and bury itself deeper each year, growing from the lower end and rotting at the upper. A bulb that has been left undisturbed for several years will go down twelve to fourteen inches deep. The deeper the bulb goes, the taller the plant and larger the flower, so it is best to plant and leave it alone for as long as possible. I have seen plants that stood six feet tall with a three foot flower. Normally they are less than half that large.

The plant will grow equally well in dense shade or hot sun, with the difference being that in the shade it will have good leaves when in bloom, while in the sun, the leaves will have died by that time. The plant grows during the late winter, upright and stately, with the stem heavily spotted with purple dots and blotches. The leaves are usually six in number, palm-like and finely variegated silvery along the ribs. It blooms during May in California.

One fine Spring morning I was taking a walk through the garden, as is my custom, to see what miracles have happened during the night. I was thoroughly enjoying the song of the birds and the delicate fragrance of the flowers, when all of a sudden I was stopped by a terrible stench, one you never forget, the powerful odor of a dead cat. I began a search of the grounds and could not see anything, but I was sure there must be a body somewhere close since I could see and hear the flies buzzing around. Then I saw! The huge calla lily that looked more like a slice of liver than anything else, had a black spadix protruding out of it. A look at close proximity left no doubt of the source of the odor and I quickly backed out of there.

Nature is wonderful in its methods and adaptations to insure the continuation of the species. While in most cases the pleasant perfume of the flowers invites bees and butterflies to partake of the nectar of the flower and to pollenize it at the same time, this flower invites the green flies to do the same work. No fly would light on a rose for its fragrance, but would go miles to light on a piece of "ripe" liver, and here they find it in shape, color and odor. No wonder they come by the scores and hundreds until the vicinity of the plant sounds like a miniature bee swarm. The flies enter the lower tube of the flower which is constricted so that it is easy to enter but difficult to leave. In their struggle to find the source of the odor and to get out, they pollenize the flower. So many flies enter that they literally smother each other to death, and if you open the base of the flower the next day you will find it completely full of dead flies.

Why do people grow such a flower? It really is not as bad as it sounds, because ex-

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House Plants

By VICTOR H. RIES

Extension Floriculturist, Ohio State University

HOUSE plants, like babies and pets, require regular attention. Different plants have different requirements. Most plants need all the sunlight possible when grown in the home. Those marked * in the list of plants will grow satisfactorily when not in a sunny window.

The proper temperature is important. Most house plants do best at 70° or slightly above in daytime and not below 60° at night. This is especially true of African violets, begonias, ferns and poinsettias.

Summer care. Give your plants and yourself a rest during the summer by putting them outdoors. Plunge (bury) the pots to their tops in the ground. Except for cactus, succulents, coleus and a few others they will sun scald if put in full sun outdoors. Plant them so they have shade from noon on. Those marked * can be put in the full shade of a tree, shrub or building. Bring plants in before cool nights in September. It is a good idea to repot before putting them outdoors in June and fertilize before bringing them in in September.

Although red clay flower pots have been standard for years, there is no reason why glazed pots cannot be used. They will not require watering as often but on the other hand if over-watered will cause more damage. For the sake of appearance if nothing else, we usually pot our plants in relatively small pots. African violets will bloom best in small pots. Repot most plants once a year either when they are not making active growth or in June when you put them in the garden.

Soil for most house plants:

1 part leafmold or peat moss
2 parts soil, preferably garden loam
3 heaping tablespoons 4-12-8 or similar fertilizer to 1 bu. soil

Loose soil for ferns and begonias:

1 part leaf mold or peat moss
1 part sand
2 parts soil, preferably garden loam
3 heaping tablespoons 4-12-8 or similar fertilizer to 1 bu. soil. Always sift soil through ¼" sieve before using.

Watering. Water your plants regularly. Look at them every day; some will need watering, others will not. Except for cactus keep soil moist but not muddy. Even one day's drying out may set plant back by killing all the microscopic root hairs. Whether water is warm or cool makes no difference.

Fertilization. Do not fertilize plant during winter months when there is not enough sunshine to enable them to use the extra nutrients in the soil. Fertilize at least every two months March to October. Use a complete commercial fertilizer such as a 4-12-4, 4-12-8, 5-10-5, or a similar one. Use ¼ teaspoon to a 4" pot, less for a smaller, more for a larger. Bone meal contains no potash, which the plants require. Liquid manure contains no potash or phosphorous.

Plants you can grow in water as well as in soil. Put in a pinch of a complete commercial fertilizer once a month. If in a colored glass or opaque container, algae will not turn water green. Even if it does it is harmless.

Grape Ivy *(Cissus rhombifolia).* There are 2 or 3 different varieties.

English Ivy *(Hedera helix).* There are a number of different varieties.

Devil's Ivy *(Philodendron).* There are several varieties.

Silver Ivy—arum *(Pothos).*

Nephthytis.

Wandering Jew *(Tradescantia).* There are several varieties.

Chinese Evergreen *(Agloanema).*

Propagation. The following house plants may be propagated by division:

Boston Fern	Sansevieria
Baby's Tears	Succulents that sucker

The following house plants may be propagated by stem cuttings. These will root best if put in clean, sharp sand or a mixture of sand and peat moss.

Geraniums	Nightblooming Cereus
Christmas Cactus	Coleus
Begonia	Sedum
Vines	Rubber Plant

The following house plants may be propagated from leaf cuttings. These will usually take longer to root and produce a plant than stem cuttings. They should be rooted in the same manner.

Rex begonia	Sansevieria
African violet	Bryophyllum
Sedum	Peperomia
	Kalanchoe

The following house plants may be propagated by seed:

Primrose	Asparagus
Impatiens	Amaryllis
Coleus	Geranium
Begonia	(Scented varieties)

RECOMMENDED LISTS OF HOUSE PLANTS

*Those marked ** require less sunlight.*

Flowering Plants — Grown essentially for their bloom.

**African violet *(Saintpaulia)*	Amaryllis
	Geranium
Primrose *(Primula obconica)*	Impatiens *(Sultana)*
**Begonia	Fairy Primrose
Lily-of-the-Valley	*(Primula malacoides)*

Foliage Plants—Grown mainly for their foliage effect although many of these will bloom.

FERNS

*Holly Fern *(Cyrtomium)*
*Birdsnest Fern *(Aspidium)*
*Ballfern *(Davallia bullata)*
*Dwarf Boston Fern *(Nephrolepis var.)*
*Teddy, Jr. Fern *(Nephrolepis var.)*
Whitman Fern *(Nephrolepis var.)*
*Brake Fern *(Pteris)*

VINES

*Grape Ivy *(Cissus rhombifolia)*
*English Ivy *(Hedera helix)*
*Devil's Ivy *(Philodendrom)*
Silver Ivy-arm *(Pothos)*
*Nephthytis
*Wandering Jew *(Tradescantia)*
Asparagus *(Asparagus falcatum)*
*Self-branching English Ivy *(Hedera helix)*

SUCCULENTS AND CACTI

Aloe	Stonecrop *(Sedum)*
Gasteria	Bryophyllum
Haworthia	Kalanchoe
Euphorbia	Crassula
Echeveria	Cotyledon
Houseleek *(Sempervivum)*	Stapelia
	Agave

Fig marigold *(Mesembryanthemum)*
Christmas Cactus *(Zygocactus truncatus)*
Nightblooming Cereus *(Hylocereus)*
Cacti—Old Man, Rat Tail

OTHER FOLIAGE PLANTS

Billbergia
Tuftroot *(Dieffenbachia)*
Peperomia
Anthericum
Dracaena
Screwpine *(Pandanus)*
*Bowstring Hemp *(Sansevieria)*
*Rubber Plant *(Ficus elastica)*
*Rubber Plant *(Ficus nitida)*
Coleus
*Rex begonia
*Thurston Begonia *(Begonia "Thurstoni")*
*Begonia *(Begonia heracleifolia)*
*Begonia *(Begonia ricinifolia)*
Baby's Tears *(Helxine)*
*Chinese Evergreen *(Algaonema)*
*Mother of Thousands *(Saxifraga sarmentosa)*

COMMON HOUSE PLANT TROUBLES

White cottony masses on the leaves and stems are an insect, the mealy bug. None of the common sprays is effective. Either wash off with soft brush and soapsuds, or kill with alcohol applied with a bit of cotton on end of a toothpick or small paint brush. Go over plants 2 or 3 weeks later to get the babies you missed the first time. Dust plants with 3 or 5% DDT every 2 months.

Leaves grayish, or brownish. May be due to a tiny pest barely visible to the naked eye, red spider. It may be checked by washing off with water 2 or 3 times a week. Better still, dust the under surface of leaves with dusting sulfur.

Leaves and stems sticky. May be due to plant lice (aphis) on leaves or stem. Wash off, or spray with Black Leaf 40 or dust with rotenone. May also be due to presence of scale insects. If foliage can take it, scrub off with brush and soap suds. Otherwise spray with greenhouse Volck. Dust every 2 months with DDT.

Leaves turning yellow and drying up. May be due to improper watering, usually too little water. On the other hand, it may be due to keeping plants standing in water or soil too wet.

Plant tall and spindly. Not enough sunlight. Put in sunny window. May also be due to fertilizing too heavily during winter months.

Gardenia leaves yellow and sickly. May be due to soil not being sufficiently acid. Give ½ cup once a month of solution either alum or copperas (iron sulfate) using 1 tablespoon to 1 quart of water. Yellowing may also be caused by repotting after September 1.

Poinsettia leaves yellowing and dropping. Due either to chilling or lack of sufficient moisture in soil or lack of sufficient sunlight.

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Bonsai or Miniature Trees

By LOUISE CRAMER

THE MINIATURE scene, so magnetic that it projects one into the atmosphere, seeing and feeling what the artist has depicted, is the ancient Japanese art of Bonsai. It is an art creation from the heart—it breathes—it is living.

You, too, can learn of some of the simple techniques of growing miniature trees which will become the conversation piece of your shade garden or the center of interest on your coffee table. (These miniature trees belong outdoors, but may be moved in the house for one day's temporary display.) Within your own garden you can find the living plants which can be trained into these exotic and unusual bonsai trees showing the characteristics of an aged tree while only a few years old. The venerable old bonsai tree may be treasured by generations of a Japanese family. The pine on the COVER is over a century old.

The word Bonsai, if broken down to its component pronunciation, is *bon,* "bone," meaning tree in shallow pot, plus *sai,* "sigh," meaning growth, equals a tree growing in a shallow pot.

The trees used to make miniatures may be produced from seedlings, graftings, buddings, cuttings or by air rooting. Trees growing along

Bonsai on a stone, ishi-tsuki.

the seashore are blown in one direction by the breeze, giving the "wind-swept" effect. Those trees growing in the field are usually tall and stately giving the "tall standing" type; while some may be found clinging to the side of a mountain in a pendant form which gives the cascade style or Kengai. The subject for bonsai is not perfectly shaped, neither is it crooked nor pendant; it should be natural loooking. Suitable trees for dwarfing are any kind except the big trees and camellias which do not grow well in shallow containers. Desirable trees for this art are pine, juniper, spruce, elm, crepe myrtle, oak or ginkgo. Seed make much better trees, but they take so much time to grow and they go back to the wild form, so cuttings are generally used. The seven-year-old tree in a gallon can is generally considered the best size to be purchased from the nursery. The tree in the gallon container may have to be cut off and it will look sad, but the picture of a few years later must be visualized when it branches out into a beautiful form.

Remove the tree which is to be dwarfed from the gallon can, breaking off the soil down to the top of the roots. Now before breaking up the root ball, prune the tree into the shape decided by its form. Trim the lower branches first. Using wire (aluminum is the best, but copper wire doesn't show as it greens up with age) insert in the dirt ball and firmly wrap around the trunk and the main stems. Leave the wire on for three to six months and then remove the wire. Do not wrap so tightly that the wire cuts the bark. Do not put the wire on side shoots or on leaves as the will brown and look unsightly. Now you are ready to form the foundation of the tree. Slowly bend the lower branch into an open horizontal S curve and the top branch back and then forward in a corresponding curve. Trim back the tree in proportion and in such a manner that it can not be detected where trimmed when the new growth comes in. Cut back branches which hang down and use a small wire to wrap around and train the side branches. Now trim the small leaves away from the main branches to have an open tree and growth on the end portion of the branches. Now it is time to remove the dirt from the root ball and fit the wired and pruned tree into the growing container. This container should be chosen for size of tree and balance of design.

According to Frank Nagata of Alpine Bakai Nursery, Los Angeles, instructor in Bonsai, the best time to pot these trees is in February,

Windswept form or fuki-nagashi. Pictures, including the cover, courtesy of Frank Nagata, Alpine Bakai Nursery, Los Angeles.

March, April, October or November. In the growing container he uses a medium composed of 5 parts sandy loam, 1½ parts peat moss, 1½ parts leaf mold, 1 part coarse sand, and when dried, aerates the soil). Pine trees need more sand in the soil, while the maples ned more sand in the soil, while the maples use more peat. Setting the tree to the side of a suitable shallow container, this growing medium is firmly, but not hard packed around the flat, pruned earth ball. The surface roots which may be standing up are trimmed off. At first watering after repotting, water carefully with a watering can, letting the water sink in and then water again. After the surface hardens up, a garden hose may be used. Don't keep the plant wet all the time. Water thoroughly and then wait till the top gets dry. With good drainage the plant dries quicker and grows better. Never allow the dwarfed tree to dry out completely; this is certain death for it. In summer, growing under lath, the bonsai may need water twice a day, while in winter maybe only every two to four days.

In February or March, Nagata takes the dwarf tree out of the pot and loosens up the roots so that the tree will not become root bound. He trims the roots and changes the soil. Young trees he changes every year; older trees, every two or three years. The pines have big roots which must be cut off and in two to three weeks new, fine feeding roots grow from the heavy old roots which weren't doing much work.

The bonsai pines need to have new growth trimmed back every year from the middle of April to the middle of May. The second growth comes out with very short needles, three to four branching out after pruning. Elms and birch should be allowed to grow to five leaves and then be cut back to two leaves. Maple must be allowed to grow to five leaves as the basal leaves are not developed enough to cut back to two.

After the root pruning and repotting, the dwarf pine is kept out of the sun for two or three weeks and the needles sprayed with water so they will not dry out.

No fertilizer is applied for one month after potting. In the spring for growth, Nagata uses a nitrogen fertilizer composed of 5 parts blood meal, 2½ parts cottonseed meal and 2½ parts bone meal. In the fall more phosphate is needed for hardening the year's growth, so he increases the fertilizer proportions to five parts each. Mixing the dry ingredients, a pinch of fertilizer is scattered at the edge of the pot and watered in well. This fertilizing is done twice in the spring and twice in the winter. Spruce and junipers are fed every month. Flowering dwarfs need food all summer for new growth, while pines need less to keep the needles from growing too long.

The miniature tree must be grown outdoors in the shade, preferably under lath, receiving a half day of morning sun. Maple or beech trees with tender foliage can use sun in the spring to make leaves good and strong, but they need shading in the summer.

We usually think of the bonsai in the Moyogi style, the three elevations with the Japanese representation of Heaven, Man and Earth. New ideas creep in because one is tired of the old forms, but they must show the heart and character of the developer. Here is the challenge for displaying your character in the ancient Japanese art of Bonsai.

——B——

Arboretum President Honored

IN RECOGNITION of his outstanding research with plant life, Dr. Frits W. Went, Caltech faculty member and President of the Board of Trustees of the California Arboretum Foundation, Inc., received, Nov. 6, a doctorate from the Sorbonne in Paris, France.

Dr. Went is in charge of the Earhart Plant Research Laboratory at Caltech, where his fame has become widely known for plant hormone studies. He operates the laboratory in which the climate of any part of the world may be reproduced to aid in the study of the effect of climate on plants. This research includes the Southern California smog situation.

Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

AT LEAST here in California, the summer season is the best time of year to plant perennial seed. The plants can develop a good root system and some leaf growth to carry them through our comparatively mild winter. With the first warmth of spring, these plants can go into active growth to reward us with a maximum of bloom.

Another good reason for summer sowing is that you can have fresh seeds, whereas in spring sowing the seeds would have been produced the past summer. This is very important with some perennials such as delphinium, columbine, and *primula polyanthus,* which germinate very well when fresh and practically not at all when a year old.

A list of possible seeds to sow would consume the rest of this column, but a partial list, in addition to the ones mentioned above, would include carnation, dianthus, penstemon, gerbera, scabiosa, and such biennials as foxgloves, campanulas (there are perennial varieties too), fairy primrose, cineraria, and pansy.

Growing perennials from seeds is no different than growing annuals from seed except, as a rule, the grow more slowly and must be kept in the flat longer. Planting in summer necessitates closer attention to watering; generally it must be done daily.

The usual soil mix of equal parts of leafmold, peatmoss, and good loam, plus sand or Sponge Rok is adequate. If you have the necessary time, it is preferable to sow the seed rather thickly in a single row in the flat with about eight rows per flat of different kinds. Then, while the seedlings are still quite small with one or two true leaves, transplant into another flat spacing them well apart, the distance depending on the species.

If you may not have time to transplant them while small, sow the seeds thinly in flats, for you will have difficulty in transplanting large seedlings when they are growing closely together.

When they are large enough, the spaced plants can then be put directly into the ground in the garden—or into pots. This will be in either the fall or the spring depending on how fast they have grown. The ideal situation is that they can be set out in the fall so they can go right into full and rapid growth with the warmth of spring and will not be checked by a transplanting.

In planting perennial seed, do not overlook bulb seed, which, botanically speaking, is a perennial also. Seeds of many irids can be planted now. This does not include the genus *Iris,* which are planted either spring or fall depending on species. The spring flowering irids such as ixia, sparaxis, babiana, and freesia can be planted as seeds now and will bloom next Spring. It is better if these are not transplanted but sowed where they are to remain. However, transplanting is possible if they were sown thinly and a large ball of earth is moved with them.

The seed fund is offering seeds of colored freesias this month. Those of you who know only the old fashioned fragrant white freesias will be pleased with these new large flowered, almost as fragrant, blooms of yellow, blue, red, bronze, and violet. They are very easy to raise from seed.

——B——

Minutes, National Board May 27

The meeting of National Board of American Begonia Society was called to order at 7:45 P.M. by President Trowbridge and opened with reading of Aims and Purposes of Society by President-elect Coe and welcome by the president.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

COMMUNICATIONS: Letter of thanks from Mr. Butterfield for letter of sympathy sent by secretary. Resignation of Editor Louise Cramer and resignation of Vice President Kenneth Terry, due to conflicting work schedule. Letter from Dr. Lyman Smith accepting appointment as member of research committee.

OFFICERS AND CHAIRMAN REPORT:

President-elect Coe reported that next regional meeting would be June 23rd at Foster Park, Ventura. Pot-luck dinner, 1:30 P.M. The first Convention meeting to be June 3rd, 7:30 P.M., at Trowbridge home.

Vice-president Browne reported stationery sold $1.90, 1 pin $3.32, $5.22 remitted to treasurer.

Past president Taylor stated he could sell showcase for $5.00. Moved by Mrs. Kort, seconded by Mr. Walton we accept $5.00.

Membership secretary Walton reported new members 50, renewing members 81. Walton stated that Mr. Moore had obtained the contact envelopes for $11.00 so it would not be necessary to use the $55.00 requested at the last meeting.

Research Director Leatherman reported a balance of $21.51 in shipping fund. Has many flats of semperflorens ready for members to take to raise for Convention

Seed Fund Administrator Gee reported income $94.51. Expense $4.54 Remitted to treasurer $90.00.

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Plan to Attend Our Silver

Anniversary Convention

OUR 1957 Convention plans are in final stages as committees are preparing a royal welcome for our many "Begonia Friends." We hope your plans include a visit to our Convention this year as we are planning some outstanding features for this Silver Anniversary event.

Our Begonia Show again will be sponsored by the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Dept. Mr. Johnson, who heads this group, has again offered us the fine facilities of Plummer Park.

The competitive show will be staged similar to last year's show. Due to the limited space we can not have branch displays, but our usual fine specimen plants will be in evidence. We, the members of the National Board, are making an appeal to you, our fellow members, to get behind this show. This is YOUR CONVENTION and YOUR BEGONIA SHOW. It will be as nice as you help us make it. We have voted again not to have cash awards for the competitive show, however, the usual A.B.S. trophies and ribbons will be awarded.

All contributions from the branches to help defer expenses of the Convention this year should be made out to the American Begonia Society Convention Fund and sent to our convention treasurer, Mr. Charles Lovejoy, 827 Woodward Blvd., Pasadena 10, California.

If you are planning to drive to the convention, there are several fine motels within a few blocks of Plummer Park.

Those of you from out of state areas who are planning to attend the convention should write Mr. Clarence Hall for your banquet reservations. His address is 17153 Sunburst, Northridge, California.

The August issue of *The Begonian* will carry a complete list of events and time schedule.

CAL TROWBRIDGE

Fleecealba's Second Audition

By FLORENCE KNOCK

IN DECEMBER 1952, *Begonia* "Fleecealba" made its debut in *The Begonian.* Interest in this hybrid is continuing and a repeat audition has been requested.

Many avid begonia growers on the West Coast have made tremendous contributions to the *Begoniaceae* by continuous hybridizing. Some of us on the "fringe" have experienced the thrill of this type of growing, mostly through the inspiration received from our splendid, informative magazine, *The Begonian.* Perhaps more window gardeners would venture into this fascinating field if they realized that we amateurs have the tools with which to proceed. The delightful and gratifying experiences of hybridizing are not alone for the professional growers and the specialist. We would encourage many of our growers who call themselves "beginners" to try their hand at hybridizing.

Most begonias have the two types of blooms on the same plant—the pollen flowers and the pistle flowers. The step is easy. Remove the pollen flower and brush the dry pollen over the pistle after it has opened and is ready to receive the pollen. In some begonias the pistle blooms open later and it is necessary to save and store the pollen blooms in a small covered container placed in the refrigerator. The seed pod will soon reveal that it has received the pollen and the result will be viable seed. Later on one can make crosses for special purposes. That was my experience when I added *Begonia manda's woolly bear (B. leptotricha)* pollen to the pistle of a *B.* "Sunderbruchi" flower. The result was the white fleece-leaved *B.* "Fleecealba."

It might be interesting to begonia growers to know that the origination of the name *Begonia woolly bear* came about because a plant of it was found as a volunteer in one of the benches of W. A. Manda's New Jersey greenhouses. This and many other experiences are included in Bessie Buxton's begonia books. This volunteer grew among the orchids—noble

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Slate of Officers

BERT SLATTER—*President-Elect*

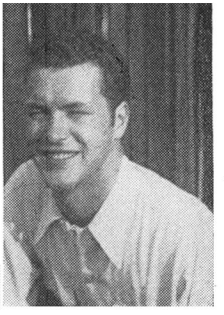
Bert Slatter is an active member of the Inglewood Branch, having served the society in various offices, and for the past year he has been president of the Branch. He is a begonia enthusiast, spending most of his spare time in his glasshouse and garden. His extensive knowledge of plant life and love of people bring him many garden friends.

NANCY F. ALVORD, *Vice-President*

A musician, Nancy F. Alvord turned to teaching figure skating when World War II prevented further study and concertizing in Europe. Successful production of National, North American, and the only American team to win the World Dance Championship kept her in this field for 12 years. Since then she has become a technical assistant in the microchemical laboratory at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Is currently serving her second year as president of the New England Branch.

CHARLES R. LOVEJOY—*Treasurer*

A member of the San Gabriel Valley Branch for three years. He served as Branch President last year and is currently Flower Show Chairman for that branch. He is active in all branch activities and is presently acting as Convention Treasurer for the National Convention and Flower Show at Plummer Park. Now employed by Ruchti Bros. Meat Packing Co., he has lived in California 17 years.



HERBERT FITCH—*Vice-President*

Herbert Fitch has been a member of the Sacramento Branch since 1952. He has served the Branch as secretary, '53; plant director, '54; president, '55; nat'l director, '56; and program director in '57. He also has served on the State Fair Exhibit Comm. from 1953 to 1957 and on the Sacramento County Fair Exhibit Comm. in 1956 and '57. Specializing in begonias, he has done considerable experimenting on winter blooming under artificial light. He grows ferns and all companion shade plants, experimenting with fertilizers and potting soils. Another hobby is photography. Employed as Industrial Power Engineer for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

MRS. WILLIAM SMITH—*Secretary*

Mrs. William Smith has lived in Ventura since 1925 and has been a member of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch for 15 years. Mrs. Smith has held several offices in the Branch including secretary, treasurer and membership secretary and is a very active worker for the Branch. Mrs. Smith also is a member of many other societies, among them the Fuchsia Society, San Buenaventura Women's Club, and the Gem and Mineral Society. Her civic activities include the Floriculture section of the Ventura County Fair and serving as inspector on both the City and County Election Boards. Member of the First Methodist Church of Ventura.

MABEL ANDERSON—*Secretary*

Mabel Anderson joined the Glendale Branch in 1951. She has served this Branch as corresponding secretary, '53; vice-president, '54; and president, 1955. She has been A.B.S. Slide Librarian the last three years.

A.B.S. Flower Show Rules and Regulations

1. All exhibits are, from the commencement to the close of the exhibition, in the charge of the Show Committee.

2. Competitive entries must be made according to divisions and classes; nonconformity will be subject to disqualification.

3. All competitive entries must be in place by 9:30 A.M. Saturday, August 31 and judging will commence at 10:00 A.M. All entries not in by 9:30 A.M. will be eligible only for non-competitive exhibition.

4. All entries will receive sealed entry cards at time of entering plants, allowing same to remain sealed until after judging.

5. Chairman of Judges Committee will assume complete charge at start of judging and no person will be allowed to interfere, to offer criticisms, or to distract the decisions of the judges. Only judges and their clerks will be permitted in show room at time of judging.

6. Any Chairman or members of committees engaged in the show preparation are permitted to exhibit and to compete under the same conditions, as any other exhibitor, with adherance to all show rules.

7. No entry may compete for more than one premium, nor may more than one entry be made in any class with the exception of DIVISION J.

8. All plants and flowers exhibited in competitive classes must have been grown by the exhibitor or been in his possession for 3 months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to flower arrangements.

9. Amateur Grower is one who grows plants for self-pleasure and by self-effort, and does not hold a commercial license. Any member of the family not falling into this category disqualifies the entire family as amateurs.

10. A commercial grower may enter any class for exhibition only and will not be eligible for ribbons in that class. However, plant will be judged for the President's Challenge Trophy for the Best Begonia in the Show.

11. All plants and flowers must be clearly and correctly named. Errors in naming will not disqualify, but judges will recognize correctness and clearness of names as telling in favor of an exhibit in close competition.

12. The management shall have the right to exclude inferior or diseased plants.

13. No plant may be removed from the Show except by official permission.

14. While the management will exercise due caution and care in safeguarding exhibits. it cannot assume responsibility for loss or injury.

15. Judges shall award premiums as in their opinion an entry merits. Whether a group of entries are in competition, or an entry is without competition, it will be in their discretion to award not only on the merits, or no award.

16. Trophy awards are limited to Amateur A.B.S. members only, with the exception of the President's Challenge Cup.

17. Sweepstakes Trophy will be awarded by the point system and will be awarded on total points on blue ribbons only in begonia divisions.

18. All trophies must remain on display for the duration of the flower show.

19. Individual entries in the competitive show are limited to A.B.S. members only.

20. Challenge trophies are to be returned to the A.B.S. Flower Show Chairman two weeks prior to the 1958 A.B.S. Flower Show.

21. Any member having any suggestions for or criticisms of this schedule, please do so in writing to the Awards Chairman.

Special Awards

The following Challenge Cups will be awarded:

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE TROPHY — To be awarded to the Best Begonia in the Show displayed by either amateur or commercial entrant. The large trophy was presented to the A.B.S. by Calvin E. Trowbridge.

PALOS VERDES BEGONIA FARM CHALLENGE TROPHY—Given for the outstanding Tuberous Begonia in the Show.

EFFIE CHAPMAN CUP—For the best Fibrous Begonia in the Show.

GONDA HARTWELL CUP—For the best Rex Begonia in the Show.

JOHN R. WILLIAMS CUP—For the best Rhizomatous Begonia in the Show.

REDONDO BAY AREA PERPETUAL TROPHY—For the best Semperflorens Begonia in the Show.

CONNIE LEIGH HENDRIX CUP—For the best amateur Flower Arrangement in the Show.

SYLVIA AND BUCK LEATHERMAN TROPHY—For the best juvenile entry by a child under 18 years of age who is related to an A.B.S. member.

GORDON BAKER LLOYD CHALLENGE CUP—For the best Seedling in the Show.

A.B.S. SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY—To the winner of the most points in the begonia divisions of the show.

THE NATIONAL BOARD EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY $25.00 AWARD—To promote knowledge of begonias. Open to all.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL MEDAL—To the hybrid begonia for 1952.

1957 FLOWER SI

Silver Anniversary of the

A.B.S. National Show, Plumm

DIVISION A—B. SEMPERFLORENS-CULTORUM

Class 1. Bedding Begonias, single flowered, green foliage.
2. Bedding Begonias, single flowered, dark foliage, *B.* "Carmen."
3. Bedding Begonias, double flowered, green foliage.
4. Bedding Begonias, double flowered, dark foliage, *B.* "Carmen Queen," *B.* "Pink Camellia."
5. Bedding Begonias, known as species, as Indian species, Mexican species.
6. Other bedding begonias, such as *B.* "Richmondensis" and *B.* "Catalina."
7. Hanging containers of Classes 1-2-3-4-5-6.
8. Wall pockets of Classes 1-2-3-4-5-6.

DIVISION B—FIBROUS BEGONIAS (COCCINEA GROUP)

Class 9. Tall (over 3') types.
10. Intermediate types (18" to 3').
11. Low Growing types to 18".
12. Hanging Baskets, scandent types.

DIVISION C—HAIRY FIBROUS BEGONIAS

13. Hairy Fibrous Begonias as *B.* "Richland."
14. Sparse Hairy Group as *B.* "Dorothy Grant."
15. Hanging baskets of 13 or 14.
16. Wall pockets of 13 or 14.

DIVISION D—RHIZOMATOUS BEGONIA GROUP

Class 17. Small leaved types as *B. boweri* and *B. imperialis.*
18. Medium leaved types (star) such as: *B.* "Glendale," *B.* "Silver Star."
19. Large leaved types (star).
20. Medium leaved types (entire) ovate.
21. Large leaved types (entire) ovate, without any marginal cutting.
22. Spiral or crested.
23. Distinctive, unusual or odd foliage such as: *B. acida, B.* "Versicolor," *B. pustulata.*
24. Hairy leaved rhizomatous.
25. Hanging baskets of Classes 17 to 24.
26. Wall pockets of Classes 17 to 24.

DIVISION E—BEGONIAS REX-CULTORUM

Class 27. Large-leaved types, such as: *B.* "Cardoza Gardens," *B.* "President Carnot" (now *B.* "President"), etc.
28. Medium-leaved types, such as: *B.* "Helen Lewis," *B.* "Glory of St. Albans," *B.* "Chretien," etc.
29. Small-leaved types, such as: *B.* "Silver Fleece," *B.* "Lucy Closson," *B.* "Dew Drop," etc.
30. Miniature types, distinguished from the small leaved types by their short stubby rhizomes and very small compact growth, such as *B.* "Annie Robinson," *B.* "Toy," *B.* "Butterfly," etc.
31. Miniature spiral types, such as: B."Berry's Brown Curl," *B.* "Berry's Gray Curl," *B.* "Cutie," etc.
32. Helix spiral types, su
edy," *B.* "Curly Closs
33. Upright and branchi
"Nigger Tree," *B.* "Sil
34. Wall pockets, one spe

DIVISION F—TUBEROUS ROO
TUBERHYBRIDA)

Class 35. Species, such as: *B. s*
B. macbethi, etc.
36. Hybrids, such as: *B.*
"Richard Robinson," e
37. All *B. socotrana* and d
38. Hanging baskets, one
39. Wall pockets, one spec

DIVISION G—TUBERHYBRIDA, O

Class 40. Single forms, flowers s
41. Multiflora and multi
many-flowered, both si
42. Camellia forms: flow
double.
43. Fimbriata plena, large
44. Crispa: large,
45. Cristata: large,
on each petal.
46. Rosebud: rose-like in
47. Picotee: irregular bor
into the dominant shac
48. Marmorata: camellia
blotched and spotted w
49. Ruffled camellia and r
fimbriata plena, large
50. Marginata: camellia
precise line of a differe
51. Pendula: (syn. lloyd
pended containers; fl
small.

DIVISION H—COLLECTIONS

Class 52. Collection of 3 begoni
53. Collection of 6 begoni

DIVISION I—BEGONIAS GROWN

To be classified acco
man, Classification C

DIVISION J—NEW BEGONIA IN

Class open to all m
Entries per exhibitor
dividually by point s
commendation, upon
New cultivar begonias
can not again be exhib

DIVISION K—JUNIOR
BERS, TO AGE 18)

HOW SCHEDULE

American Begonia Society

er Park, Los Angeles, California

h as: *B.* "Countess Louise Erdo-
," *B.* "Bronze King," etc.
types, such as: *B.* "Van-Ex," *B.*
ver Sweet," etc.
cimen plant of Classes 27 to 33.
TED VARIETIES (OTHER THAN

utherlandi, B. martiana, B. davisi,

"Lulandi," *B.* "Weltoniensis," *B.*
tc.
erivatives.
specimen plant, Classes 35 to 37.
imen plant, Classes 35 to 37.
NE SPECIMEN PLANT
uggestive of the wild rose.
flora alba; low bushy, compact;
ngle and double.
ers camellia-like, both single and

, double, carnation-like flowers.
eta[illegible]gins frilled.
, flowers with crestlike outgrowth

appearance.
der of a different color bleeding
le.
form with a rose background
white.
ovelty types as distinguished from
blooms.
form, petals edged with a thin,
nt color.
i): drooping type suitable for sus-
owers numerous, both large and

as—each of a different class.
as—each of a different class.
ON TOTEM POLES
rding to entries, by Show Chair-
rk and Chairman of the Judges.
RODUCTIONS
mbers, Amateur or Commercial.
nlimited. Each entry judged in-
core and awarded a certificate of
scoring a minimum of 85 points.
previously entered in this division
ited in this class.
RS [illegible]LDREN, OF A.B.S. MEM-

Class 54. Fibrous Begonia, one specimen plant.
55. Rhizomatous Begonia, one specimen plant.
56. Rex Begonia, one specimen plant.
57. Tuberous Begonia, one specimen plant.

DIVISION L—FERNS

Class 58. Mounted, large-leaved epiphytic, such as Platyceriums.
59. Hardy North American species, such as: *Woodwardia chamissoi, Blechnum spicant,* etc.
60. Hardy tropicals, such as: Pteris and Polystichum varieties.
61. Tender and Rare Tropicals, such as: Polypodium varieties.
62. Adiantum (Maiden Hair) varieties.
63. Hanging baskets, fine or heavy fronds.
64. Potted specimen, such as tree ferns.

DIVISION M—SAINTPAULIAS

Class 65. Single crown plants, general foliage, all colors.
66. Single crown plants, girl foliage, all colors.
67. Multiple crown plants, all foliages, all colors.

DIVISION N—FUCHSIAS

Class 68. Upright fuchsias.
69. Hanging varieties.

DIVISION O—OTHER SHADE PLANTS AND TROPICALS

Class 70. Coleus.
71. Philodendrons, large-leaved.
72. Philodendrons, medium-leaved.
73. Any other shade or tropical plant.

DIVISION P—FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS (AMATEURS ONLY)

Class 74. Low container, begonia flowers and foliage, other than tuberhybrida.
75. Tall container, begonia flowers and foliage, other than tuberhybrida.
76. Low container, tuberous begonias (tuberhybrida).
77. Begonias and other plant material, any type, low container.
78. Rex begonia foliage, with other foliage, no flowers.
79. Other shade or tropical plant material, not listed.
80. Corsages, tuberous begonias (tuberhybrida).
81. Corsages, begonia blossoms or foliage, other than tuberhybrida.
82. Corsages, all other varieties.

DIVISION S—TERRARIUMS AND PLANTERS

Class 83. Planted with begonias.
84. Planted with other house plants.

DIVISION T—EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Educational exhibit consisting of material assembled to promote increased knowledge and appreciation of begonias, such as: begonia seedlings, begonia illustrations, begonia literature, display of related begonias, begonia cultural techniques. Amateur or commercial persons will compete together.

Point System for Judging Begonias

FIBROUS AND RHIZOMATOUS SPECIMENS

Cultural perfection	50
Foliage	15
Difficulty of cultivation	15
Quantity and quality of flowers	15
Correct and suitable labeling	5
	100

REX BEGONIA SPECIMEN PLANT

Cultural perfection	40
Foliage	20
Distinctiveness	10
Size of plant	10
Difficulty of cultivation	15
Correct and suitable labeling	5
	100

TUBEROUS BEGONIA SPECIMEN PLANT

Size of bloom	10
Form	20
Color	20
Substance	20
Foliage	10
Stem	10
Distinction	10
	100

BEGONIA FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Color combination	25
Proportion and balance	25
Distinction and originality	20
Relation to receptacle	10
Condition	10
Suitable combination of material	10
	100

SEMPERFLORENS—SINGLE AND DOUBLE FLOWERED

Cultural perfection	25
Flowers	35
Foliage	20
Grooming	15
Correct and suitable label	5
	100

NEW BEGONIA CULTIVARS

Uniqueness	40
Foliage	
Color intensity	10
Texture	10
Form	10
Beauty of plant form	20
Flowers	10
	100

CORSAGE OF BEGONIA FLOWERS

Color combination	25
Proportion and balance	25
Suitability of occasion	10
Style and grace	25
Distinction and originality	15
	100

TOWARD WINNING SWEEPSTAKES TROPHY

First place.....3 points

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.

Down to Earth Growing of Begonias

"DOWN to Earth Growing of Begonias" was presented by Rowland A. Maddox to the San Gabriel Valley Branch. Mr. Maddox is senior entomology laboratory technician at the University of California Riverside Agricultural Experiment Station. He also has had charge of greenhouses and is a landscaper. An interesting experience he had during the war was the landscaping of a French fort in Africa with the help of two Arabs. There he used native plants, oleander and bulbous plants.

It is of interest to know a small part of the work of our state agriculture department. In Maddox's department, work is done on the insect pests such as thrip, and soft and armored scale. Test boxes are made of a wood frame which is covered with either screen or cloth. Into these isolation boxes various species of insects are placed with specific plants to study the damage to the plant and the growth habits of the insect. The insects are then subjected to tests of different spray material where the toxicity of the insecticide is studied with relation to the kill and length of time the spray material is effective. The plant is tested separately to find its reaction to an insecticide. Then effective control measures are determined in field tests. At this station, citrus, alfalfa, cotton and garden truck are used in the field test of an insecticide. Insects are smarter than people as they build up quickly an immunity to certain insecticides. One strain of fly has lived in a D.D.T. box for over a year.

Maddox, being raised on a farm and always working with plants, is an expert grower of begonias. Many of his specimen plants have won awards in flower shows. He favors the rex begonias with colorful leaves, particularly those with red or purple tones.

Most propagating of begonias Maddox does by cuttings. Basal cuttings he makes for the semperflorens; tip for fibrous. Eye cuttings are made when he is shaping an old begonia plant. Rex begonias he usually propagates from leaves, using the whole leaf because he feels it gives a stronger plant than leaf wedges. An inch stem is left on the rex leaf. This stem is then split in half lengthwise. The leaf is then inserted into moist vermiculite to a depth of one inch up from the base of the leaf, at a 60 degree angle. He does not use rooting hormone. Usually in from 40 to 60 days, depending on the plant, he is able to produce plantlets large enough to pot up.

The mother leaf with plantlets attached Maddox dips into a can of water to wash off the rooting medium so he can see were to separate the plantlets which now have inch long roots. The plantlets are potted up in 2" pots containing a growing medium composed of: 1 bushel leaf mold, 1 shovel peat, 1 shovel charcoal, 2 pounds bonemeal and trace elements used according to instructions given on the package. He doesn't sterilize this growing mixture which he uses on plants of all sizes.

In repotting, the whole plant ball is transplanted from a 2" to a 4" pot as soon as the roots show through the bottom of the smaller pot. The transplant is put into the new container so that it shows itself most effectively. When the begonia is in the six inch shallow pot, it stays for a longer period of time. It may finally end up into a ten inch pot. After the plant is three or four years old, it is not usually a good show plant, but it is good for propagation. Every year new plants should be propagated to replace the aging plant.

Feeding is necessary only about once a month as Maddox feels that most of the food is incorporated in the growing mix. To get ready for a show, feeding should be started three months before showing date using a good balanced liquid fertilizer at thirty day intervals. His plants are watered thoroughly in the morning and then he feeds a liquid fertilizer prepared according to directions given. One-half cup of the feeding solution is given to a 4" pot; 1 cup to a 6"; and 2 cups to the 10" pot.

To further prepare a begonia for exhibition, he protects it from insect mutilation by spraying with malathion which used according to directions does not burn the leaves. All bad leaves should be removed and the plant should be shaped. It should also be turned regularly to get equal growth.

Interview by LOUISE CRAMER

In an effort to choose the right plants for my soil, I sent samples of it to several authorities. Following are excerpts from the replies:

"Your rock samples, sent us in error, have been forwarded to the Bureau of Mines."

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

"We give up, what is it?"

KEW GARDENS, LONDON

"Have you tried crab grass?"

L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM

Can anyone give me instruction on growing plants in water? C.J.B.

Round Robin Notes . . .

I do hope all you fuchsia growers have had a better season than I have had. I have lost a great many and some varieties entirely. Everyone in district has same complaint. Goes back to the alkali water we are getting. Unless we get winter rains, I won't replace lost varieties. I have tried different fertilizers, adding iron sulphate ever so often. Addition of chieates did no good. Next year I'll differ soil mix, I think —use plenty of steer—one-third steer, one-third loam, one-third compost, peat and sand, using addition gypsum or sulphur. A local nurseryman doesn't advise use of peat, says it absorbs the salts and holds them indefinitely. Perhaps—but we do use lots of it here—the soil is light and needs lots of humus and conditioners. The soil mix in Nov. *Begonian* sounds interesting. I understand it uses no loam. Also, the new prepared mixes—Red Star has one using Vim—it sounds good, and is fine with a limited amount of planting. I have about 200 varieties. I have an idea of keeping only hardy ones, after this season.

I also find many of the new varieties on the weak side. I try from 10 to 20 every year, as many as I can get hold of. They should be tested more before releasing. The catalog decriptions sound promising, but plants may be disappointing, else so very much like another type. Take Gay Fandango, Potentate and Berkeley. I find Potentate very tolerant, and a consistent bloomer, large flowers.

I swear by "Swingtime" here, and find it popular in my little nursery. I have a 5' tree form, and it is showy. as well as in baskets, although it takes training to make a trailer. Another favorite is "Vagabond." It has huge flowers, leaves, and is just a large plant, a good basket. Of the '56 ones I have, "Carnival," "Paper Dolls," "Papa Bleus" (shy bloomer), "Desert Sunset" have come thru with leaves. "Georgana" and "Lillebet" of last year proved strong growers.

I was surprised the begonias and camellias came thru the summer so well. I thought the begonias would be first to go. The camellias (70 varieties) have budded well.

Who said people living close to the ocean needn't irrigate often? It's nearly an every day job, and every two weeks for avocado groves. The whole South is dry. We had a little over four inches rain all last winter. In the ten years or so we've been here, we had one wet winter—about seven or eight years ago.

ALICE ROBERTS, Encinitas, Calif.

From Our Readers

We have had all sorts of discouragements, but we are determined to carry on. The worst drouth here caused most of us to lose all of our lovely begonias, but God has smiled on us this year and up to now we have more rain than normal. Everything looks so lush and green. Bulbous plants and iris were never so lovely; roses are real masterpieces; and double oriental poppies are the largest I have grown in seven years.

As you can guess by our heat, we can not have our begonias out in the hot summer time. A few semperflorens can grow out, but our lovely rex and tuberous ones must come inside when it gets so terribly hot and dry here. We are experimentingy with rex begonias grown in San Antonio. We are planning to have a little show this fall. Many members have hothouses and can do much more than we without.

MRS. JAMES BURDICK, Ft. Worth, Texas

——B——

I am delighted to find a source of *nertera depressa.* In the summer of '52 I bought a small plant of it at a florist shop in the historic violin-town of Mittenwald in southern Germany. The rest of our trip was concerned largely with nertera, as we took it it into our hotel every night, gave it what hospitals call T.L.C. (tender, loving care), and on the return voyage, the captain of the Greek liner "Olympia" tended it on his bridge in the sun.

On one occasion, in Rapallo, Italy, the entire staff of a hotel bewilderedly helped me scrabble through their garbage as the chambermaid, unhorticulturally minded, had thrown it out. It was dying all along.

It's a charming tiny crawler, which would act here in New Jerse as a pot-plant and possibly as a small-scale annual ground cover. It looks like *helxine,* alias "baby's tears," which florists use as a soil-cover for pot-plants. When we got it, it was covered with tiny tomato-like fruits the size of smallish pearls. Since then I've hunted nertera, and failed with seed last year. So—I'd like to try again.

Just looked it up in Hortus II and found it's a madder and is likely quite ordinary for you Californians as you can use it there as a ground-cover. To over paraphrase an old saw: "One woman's orchid is another man's weed."

MRS. KARL WIHTOL, New Jersey

SINCE our high school library was low on reference material the PTA library committee decided among other things to hold a plant sale. This is a houseplant town so prices had to be low to affect a sale, but we cleared $7.30. One lady potted tiny cacti in tiny pots, sprinkling white sand on the top for a deserty effect. I sold a number of African violets including two double blues in pink china pots. They were so effective that I got a small tin of candy pink enamel and painted the rest of the cans and pots pink. It seems to be the most charming color as a foil for the lavender-purple-blue tones and the shade of green that African violets leaves have. For the begonias I used a gold paint, putting three or four shoots in one square can. The blooms shaded from pale pink pearl to deep coral, and looked good enough to eat in the gold cans. Had several bloodleaf plants which looked best in silver cans. I was amazed at what a difference the color of pot did for the plant.

Generally I try to arrange my two big windows so that blooms and colored leaves from the coleus and bloodleaf make a pleasing picture from outside or in, but this year they've been lucky to get a spot near the light. One picture happened—had two deep blue violets, which insisted on blooming—they sat near each other, and a begonia in the ledge behind which had grown leggy, leaned over and put a lovely coral red bloom right between the blues. So pretty. That was one begonia that didn't get pruned.

Last spring I got a bargain bundle of tuberous begonias, as had lost all mine the previous fall in an early freeze. Set them out not knowing what colors they would be, in the L of the house and porch, and set little clumps of dark blue lobelia in front and between the bulbs. It was an especially pretty small spot as the begonias were all dark red or white, and alternated almost as evenly as if I had known the colors. It was an arrangement I shall repeat.

Have one pot of baby begonias coming up and gave the other pot to a new neighbor who had never raised any houseplant from seed. She enjoys seeing those tiny round leaves getting bigger and bigger—these came up from seed I raised myself, the first I had ever saved. It pollinized itself, and could be a cross between *Begonia* manda's woolly bear *(B. leptotricha)* and a pink single wax begonia. Some of the leaves are already getting real dark.

MURRIELLE WILSON

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret we learn of the passing, after a long illness, of Mrs. H. M. Butterfield, wife of the American Begonia Society Nomenclature Director. The sympathy of all members of the Society is extended to Mr. Butterfield.

†

The San Francisco Branch announces with deep regret the sudden death of Ira L. Allyn, a past president of the Branch and long-time member. We will miss him greatly, as he was an interested and active member, even after he moved from San Francisco to Los Altos. Mr. Allyn also was president of the San Francisco Flower Show (which stages the annual Dahlia-Fuchsia-Begonia and Rose Show in the City Hall) from 1947 through 1953. He is survived by his widow, Christle, and three sons, who together are operating the firm started by their father.

——B——

Seattle Branch Show

To stimulate interest in begonias of all types, as well as other plants of the sheltered garden, and to give willingly and freely of our knowledge and experience in relation to such, that others may share in that common goal—greater beauty and happiness—through the cultivation of plants in gardens and homes, this branch presents for your pleasure its Third Annual Seafair Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show, co-sponsored by the Seattle Park Dept. and in conjunction with the annual show of the Puget Sound Fuchsia Society. Dates are August 3, 2 P.M. to 9 P.M., and August 4, 10 A.M. to 7 P.M. It will be held at the Loyal Heights Fieldhouse, 21st N.W. and W. 77th, and admission will be 25 cents.

Entries will be received Aug. 2, 7 to 9 P.M. and Aug. 3, 8 to 10 A.M. All amateurs and juniors are especially invited to enter—no entry fee. Professionals or commercials will compete in separate divisions.

The auditorium will be open from 9 to 10 A.M. to enable photographers to take unobstructed pictures of the displays. The plants to be exhibited are begonias—tuberous, rex, fibrous; fuchsias; ferns; vines; and house plants including gesneriads, African violets, gloxinias, achimens, smithianthas, episcias, columnea, and aeschynanthus.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1. B. crispula — China — species —rare. Collector's item requiring greenhouse care. Low growing, dark blue-green leaves. Likes warmth and dislikes drafts. Not easy to grow. Pkt. 50c. **No. 2. B. Fleecealba**—A hybrid by Florence Knock, Minnesota. See story. 25c per packet. **No. 3. B. Mrs. W .S. Kimball**—Handsome cane type plant with large soft pink, drooping flowers. 25c per packet.

Still available are seeds of choice begonias from Brazil. Germination was very good on all varieties and inasmuch as we do not like to carry seed over from month to month we offer the following while they are fresh. **No. 1. B. echinosepala-Regel.** Brazilian species. Tall, much branched and bushy. Leaves comparatively small and finely toothed. Flowers are medium sized and the white petals of the male have large hairs in the middle of the outer side. A picture of a herbarium specimen of this plant appears on the February issue of The Begonian. **No. 2. B. incisa**—Philippine species. Delicate and vinelike in appearance. Leaves are lacy and dark green with lighter veins. Flowers are white. **No. 3. B. cucullata.** Brazilian species. Medium smooth leaves. Stolens creep a small distance before ascending into erect stems which are purple at joints. Flowers are white and pink tinged in terminal clusters. **No. 4. B. diversas**—Brazilian species. Above 25c per packet. **No. 5. B. Sunderbruchi.** Rhizomatous. Popular begonia used as a house plant. Leaves are emerald and bronzy green with blendings of dark green. Flowers are pink on tall stems. 25c per packet.

Our Colombia semperflorens are blooming now and they are so colorful. One in particular is outstanding. The blooms are enormous and can actually be described as white with pink stripes. The centers are fairly large, fluffy and yellow. Other colors are shell pink, rose and dark red. The seed germinate quickly and there is still time to plant them and grow plants in open ground this summer. Mixed colors only. 25c per packet.

We have received from Switzerland seed of **No. 1. B. semperflorens Kathe Teicher**—rose. See story in April issue of The Begonian. **No. 2. B. semperflorens Bois de Vaux**—rose, small plant; green leaves flushed red at margins; rose flowers. Ideal plant for the "windowsill watcher." Due to the expense of importing these two varieties the price will be 50c per packet.

From Germany **No. 1. B. semperflorens Wintermarchen** (Winter Fairytale) green leaves; rose pink flowers. 25c per packet. From England **No. 2. B. semperflorens Loveliness.** We have this one growing in our garden and find it very satisfactory. Small growing with beautiful coral flowers. Ideal for border and pot culture. 25c per packet.

Seed of **Primula obconica, Cinerarias** (California super giants) and **Naegelia** should all be planted now for winter bloom in the greenhouse or garden. We have the finest seed grown of the above mentioned and are available to you at 25c per packet.

You may still purchase seed of Don Horton's streptocarpus hybrids at 25c per packet. See May issue of The Begonian.

Other genera. Ceratotheca triloba—Annual African foxglove. Handsome plant for the border. Grows to about four feet and will take partial shade. Flowers are gesneria like, lavender with purple markings. Seeds should be started in a warm protected place. Plants do exceptionally well near the seacoast and are valuable as cut flowers. 25c per packet. **No. 2. Maurandia barclaiana**—Mexico. Scrophulariaceae family. Showy plant for the shade garden. Has gloxinia - like velvety bluish - purple flowers. 25c per packet. **No. 3. Freesia**—Popular flowers of the iris family. Freesias are enjoying a new popularity today, due to the fine new seed strains which make it possible to grow good cut flowers from seed. Seed we offer are from Don Horton and are of the best available. Will bloom first year from seed which should be soaked twenty-

four hours before planting 25c per packet. **No. 4. Amaryllis**—Dutch hybrids. Mixed. These are from crosses we made from our own plants. Included are Daintiness (crimson rose) x Wyndham Hayward (dark oriental-red). Ludwig's Scarlet, Margaret Truman x Snow Queen. Seeds are fresh and should be planted immediately. Mixed only. 4 seed 25c. Choice and easy to grow. All Anigozanthus **(Kangaroo paw)** are available at 25c per packet. See story by Don Horton. **No. 5. Acokanthera venenata.** A very deserving shrub of the apocynaceae family. Greenhouse plant with whitish pink flowers. Considered rare. Seeds are large. 25c per packet.

Fern spores. No. 1. Scolopendrium macrosorum (hart's tongue). A graceful, evergreen species, growing in damp, shady locations. It is subject to great variety from spores. Macrosorum is one of the 65 or more identified forms of Scolopendrium Vulgare. **No. 2. Adiantum cuneatum var. grandiceps** (fishtail maidenhair). This Brazilian fern is easily cultivated by giving plenty of pot room, good drainage and a rich light soil. Do not let fronds become too wet, and they are too fragile to stand drip from overhead. The young fronds are pink, changing then to light green and finally to a very rich green as they mature. **No. 3. Athyrium Filix-foemina** (Lady Fern). A hardy deciduous British fern, which is easily cultivated, growing best in a shady, moist situation. Few common ferns are more generally admired, as it is elegant and very delicate in appearance. **No. 4. Adiantum gracillimum.** This is another variety of the Brazilian fern No. 2. It behaves as a deciduous fern when kept over winter without heat, but is evergreen when kept in a warm place. The frond is often naked for two-thirds of its length, and is somewhat wedge shaped. **No. 5. Platycerium bifurcatum,** alcicorne (stag's horn). Beautiful and useful for its effectiveness when mounted on slabs of fernwood, tree trunks or driftwood. Greenhouse culture in cold climates. In Southern California it is popularly grown under lath or in patios. Germination is very slow. **No. 6. Alsophila australis (tree fern.** This is a great beauty. Fronds are long and wide in a handsome crown at the top of the trunk. Grows outdoors in mild climates, elsewhere must be kept in greenhouses. It is known for its showy and feathery foliage. **No. 7. Platycerium grande** (broad horn). Native to East Indies. The sterile and fertile fronds are different, the sterile fronds forming a heavy shield-like backing for the fertile erect fronds. They are entirely covered with a stellate pubescence, giving the fern a rather woolly appearance. Spores are freshly collected from fronds. However germination is slow. 25c per packet for fern spores.

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

Calendar

July 3—San Francisco Branch—"What's New in Tuberous Begonias" — Frank Reinelt.

July 10—Riverside Branch—Joe Littlefield. Jitney Pot Luck Dinner, 3935 McKenzie St., Arlington, Calif. (near Riverside). PROCEEDS TO ARBORETUM GLASSHOUSE FOR BEGONIAS.

July 11—Orange County Branch—Begonia Show. Exhibits must be in place by 4:00 P.M. Jitney potluck, 6:30 P.M.

July 26—Redondo Beach Area—"Whoopee Party"—funds to go to National Convention Fund. To be held at 25338 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita, Calif., 8 P.M.

Aug. 3 and 4—Seattle Branch—Third Annual Seafair Begonia and Sheltered Garden Show, Loyal Heights Fieldhouse.

August 31 and September 1—National Convention and Show, Plummer Park, Los Angeles.

Caladium Notes

By FRANK M. JOYNER, Tampa, Fla.

THE FANCY leaved caladium is not of difficult culture. It is perhaps the brightest and most colorful of all of our house and garden plants. Given a slightly acid soil, about pH of 6, some fertilizer, a little protection from the noon day sun, and lots of water, and temperature above 60 degrees, they will thrive anywhere in the world.

They can be grown outside in summer anywhere the summers are of four months or more in duration.

They may be started inside early for a longer season. To do this, place the bulbs top side up in peat moss or vermiculate, dampened and kept damp in flats or boxes, in a warm place inside until the roots begin to appear. Then pot them up in any good soil and keep in a warm place; as the leaves begin to appear, give more light and water, then when it gets warm enough, they may be placed outside either in pots or directly in the ground. When the plants begin to go down in the fall, take the bulbs out of the soil, clean and dry for a few days, then pack the bulbs in some dry material and put away for the winter where they will not freeze.

The bulbs must never be refrigerated.

A good potting soil is made of one part peat, one part compost and one part good top soil.

If they are kept well watered after growth starts, and fed with soluble fertilizer at frequent intervals, they will continue to grow and be beautiful for five months or more.

CURING AND KEEPING YOUR BULBS

When the tops go down on your plants in the fall, if they are in pots, dry them off and store in the soil where they will keep warm during the winter; or if they are in the ground, or the pots would take up too much room.

Dig and carefully dry and clean the bulbs. This will take about two weeks as they should be really dry, being careful not to expose to frost or freezing while drying.

After they are dry and clean, pack them in a container, not too deep; cover them with some dry material such as sand, peat, or sawdust, or vermiculite. Store them where they will stay dry and not below 50 degrees.

Most bulbs that are lost are lost because of improper drying and too low a temperature. If your bulbs have been properly fed during the summer and are properly stored, they will keep perfectly.

In south Florida we do not have to dig as they will take care of themselves if the ground in which they are planted will drain.

How to Grow Plants

Under Artificial Light

THE INDOOR gardener with fluorescent light grows better plants because he is able to give them long hours of "sunshine" on dull, dark days. His plants are kept away from damp garden soil and lawns where plant insects and disease breed. He starts seeds early indoors, roots leaves and cuttings, enjoys blooming plants the year around! He brightens dark corners on dull winter days with colorful blooms and soft light that uses no more electricity than an ordinary lamp bulb. No sunshine is needed with fluorescent light! The indoor gardener's basement or his living room is his greenhouse.

LARGER, MORE COLORFUL BLOOMS

No skill or experience is needed. Your first attempt will give you larger, more colorful blooms! We have never heard of anyone who injured plants or failed to have better blooms with fluorescent light. When it glows on your plants at least as long as the day itself, it is better for your plants than a warm day outdoors. If the light is too close to the foliage, or if it is on too many hours each day, you will notice the loss of brilliant deep color long before any harm can be done. You will then raise the light to 8" or 12" above the foliage, or shorten the period of light.

It is impossible to say how much light will be best for your plants. You will soon see what conditions are best for you, which depends on the amount of daylight in the room (if any), temperature, humidity, feeding and watering. When you bring all of these things into balance, you will grow perfect plants. While you are experimenting, you will grow better plants!

THINGS TO KNOW

Daylight tubes are best for developing large, colorful blooms. Cool white tubes help rooting and root growth. Either may be purchased at your local store, if needed. Alternate your plants if you wish. Artificial light will bring them into bloom and give them better color, shape and form . . . then for a time, place them where you will enjoy them most!

Courtesy THE HOUSE PLANT CORNER
Oxford, Maryland

Fleecealbas

(Continued from page 153)

companionship indeed. Later, Mr. Robinson, of begonia fame, facetiously named it *B. woolly bear* and so that begonia was listed until we were informed by *The Begonian* that its true name is *B. leptotricha.*

Begonia "Fleecealba" received characteristics of both parent plants. From *B.* "Sunderbruchi" it inherited the upright rhizome and the three-parted, 14" flower stem. The one inch flowers are pure white, with the usual golden stamens. Each cluster on well grown, mature plants holds 100 and often more flowers. Truly a veritable bouquet all by itself. Here in Minneapolis it blooms in January and on for several months, choosing its blooming period from mother *B.* "Sunderbruchi."

The first two leaves on the seedlings come shiny and green; the third and succeeding leaves come covered with pure white fleece. As the leaves grow, the felt becomes more sparse and more like that of *B. woolly bear* and they have a firm, glossy texture under the fleece. The largest leaves are seven inches by five inches on mature plants. The seed from *B.* "Fleecealba" seems to be about 100% viable and propagation by seed couldn't be easier. *B.* "Fleecealba" is an unusually sturdy and easy plant to grow and its large clusters of flowers and its fleece foliage attract attention in any collection.

——B——

Dragon Lily . . .

(Continued From Page 147)

cept for the first day it blooms, it is an outstandingly ornamental plant, and the flower has its own brand of beauty and sculpture. At least it is very different from anything else in your garden and is a very good conversation subject. Since the purpose of the odor is to invite flies to pollenize the flower, the bad odor stops as soon as this work is accomplished so that after the first day, the flower may be cut and brought indoors without any offense.

Plant anywhere in the garden in any kind of soil. I have yet to find a place where they will not grow, except maybe in cold climates. It is rather tender, although I assume they will survive temperatures down to near zero if planted very deeply. In cold sections, it is best to dig up and store the bulb until after the frost is over. It may be grown in pots just as well. One thing to remember: if the whole plant collapses after blooming don't get all excited and send for a refund from your nurseryman because the plant died. That is the habit of the plant and it will surely come back another year to fill your garden with its fragrance(?).

House Plants

(Continued From Page 149)

African violet leaves wilting. Not due to rough edge of pot, but usually to over watering or if bottom watered from salts on edge of pot, cover edge of pot with scotchtape.

Christmas Cactus flower buds dropping. Often due to over watering.

Gardenia buds dropping off. This is normal during the winter. It happens in the best of homes and greenhouses.

Gloxinia dying down. It is their nature to rest during the winter. Put the pot in the cellar until spring.

Cyclamen leaves yellowing. May be too warm, may be too little water, may be too dry. Water every day but do not let plants stand in water. Cover pot with paper or foil to reduce evaporation.

Amaryllis doesn't bloom. Probably you did not give it good enough growing conditions last spring and summer to produce a flower bud for this winter. Nothing you can do about it now.

Flowers of African violet dropping off. Probably due to illuminating gas in the air. They are very sensitive to gas.

Flower buds of paper white Narcissus blasting. Often due to gas in the air.

These reference books are in the A.B.S. Library:

Greenhouse Gardening for Everyone, Ernest Chabot, Barrows Co.

All About House Plants, Montague Free, Doubleday Co.

Garden in Your Window, Jean Hershey, Prentice Hall.

Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

ELSA FORT

Met for a dessert where a flower show and a tea were discussed. A round table discussion of flowers in general was held.

——B——

HOLLYWOOD

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond J. Coup in celebration of their golden wedding anniversary were honored with a special gold anniversary cake at the Branch meeting in Plummer Park. They are charter members of the Inglewood Branch and were instrumental in founding the Hollywood Branch in 1941. They have for many years made a hobby of collecting begonias, and growing many from seeds and cuttings. They now have numerous fine specimens among their lathhouse plants.

——B——

ORANGE COUNTY

Rudolf Ziesenhenne, well known begonia grower and hybridizer from Santa Barbara, told us much about growing begonias.

Don't forget the Begonia Show, July 11.

——B——

REDONDO AREA

July 26 we will have a "Whoopee Party" at the home of the Eippers, 25338 Pennsylvania Ave., Lomita, Calif. All money made on the "Whoopee Party" is to be given to the National Flower Show Convention so you all come and help support our main show—our National Flower Show. Come on down and play a game that is real fun, "Whoopee."

——B——

RIVERSIDE

We invite all members of all Branches to participate in a Jitney Potluck dinner, July 10th in the garden of Maurice and Kay Elmore, 3935 McKenzie St., Arlington (near Riverside). The proceeds will go toward the "Glasshouse for Begonias." Joe Littlefield will be the speaker.

——B——

SACRAMENTO

Mr. Robert B. Deering, assistant professor, Landscape and Management at the University of California at Davis, has just returned from a year's sabatical leave which he spent in Holland, where he lectured on a Fulbright Grant at the Institute at Wagennigan and the Royal Horticultural College at Boskeep. He showed us colored slides of gardens, parks and buildings in Holland and Scandinavian countries.

——B——

SAN FRANCISCO

SPRAYING

The June program was a discussion of spraying by a speaker from the Department of Entomology of the University of California as well as a panel discussion led by Carl Meyer, with Arthur Boissier, Irving Kramer, and Hyacinth Smith assisting.

Conceding at the outset that spraying can be divided into two, or perhaps three main branches, insecticides, fungicides and possibly foliar feeding, to say that the subject of spraying is a complex one is an understatement. It has so many facets that the writer may be permitted to voice a few of his own ideas, without infringing on the thoughts of the speaker or the members of the panels.

Correct cultural practices will prevent or overcome many of the troubles that, once established, require spraying to combat. For instance, proper spacing of plants, which permits light and air to circulate among them, is no doubt a factor in preventing mildew. Over fertilizing with nitrogenous fertilizers also is known to be a cause of mildew. Too heavy watering of foliage, particularly late in the evening, is probably a contributing cause.

On the other hand, we hear so much these days about insecticides that are omnipotent killers, such as chlordane, Parathion, Malathion, and other organic phosphate compounds, that will kill everything in their way, including the gardener if he is careless. These insecticides leave a residual effect on the plants and on the soil below. What effect do these highly dangerous materials have on the living microorganism in the soil that are so extremely important to soil fertility? We do not know a great deal about the functions of these bacteria in relation to plant life. We do know that not all insects are harmful, by any means; it is probably the other way around; there are more beneficial ones than bad ones, and to apply

sprays that kill all life may be highly detrimental in the long run.

At any rate, this living world is the product of an intelligence far superior to that of wee man, and we have not yet learned the purpose of all these living things that we set about to destroy.

RHODODENDRONS

A joint meeting with the San Francisco Branch of the American Fuchsia Society, to hear Roy Hudson speak on "Rhododendrons" was a memorable occasion. Mr. Hudson is charged with growing rhododendrons in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and in no other place in the world do so many varieties, both species and hybrids, grow so well. The meeting was held during "Rhododen ron Week," and the selection of blooms at the meeting was really outstanding. Among numerous cultural methods, the following are selected as being of most value to growers. An acid soil is essential, and the soil must not contain free lime. Garden sulphur is used in keeping the soil acid. An ideal potting mixture is 50% pine needles and 50% vita peat, and the plants must be planted shallow so that the roots are near the surface. An annual mulching with pine needles will keep them happy. The spent blooms should be cut off so that seed pods will not form, otherwise the plants will not bloom well the following year. If the plants get too large, they should be pruned by cutting back one-third of the bush for each of three years, so it will continue to bloom each year. Fertilize lightly, as the annual mulching will keep them growing.

NATIONAL BOARD MEETING, MAY 27,

(Continued from 152)

Advertising Manager Stoddard reported $109.65 received for advertising. Balance due $143.66

Librarian Sault reported 3 books sold, 77 Begonians sold and 4 books on loan. Balance on hand $63.65. 24 Begonians sent to Institute of Botany, Switzerland.

Mr. Moore read changes in Bylaws of Philobegonia Branch. Moved by Moore, seconded by Mr. Walton that Amendments of Philobegonia Branch be accepted. Carried. He also read the new Constitution and Bylaws of Riverside Branch. Moved by Moore seconded by Mr. Browne that we accept the new Constitution and Bylaws of Riverside Branch. Carried.

Mrs. Korts, Chairman of Judges displayed new handbook of Judging put out by National Council of State Garden Clubs, which contains our scale of points for Judging begionas.

Slide Librarian Anderson reported a gift of slides from the New England Branch.

BRANCH REPORTS WERE GIVEN.

NEW BUSINESS.

Mr. Coe, Mr. Hall and Mr. Browne were appointed as a committee to call on Mrs. Cramer to see if she would reconsider her resignation as Editor.

President stated that he had overlooked the appointment of the nominating committee at the last meeting. Following the meeting Mrs. Korts, Mr. Walton and Mrs. Arbuckle were appointed. Mrs. Korts read the ballot which was not complete: president-elect. Mr. Bert Slatter, Inglewood Branch; vice president Mrs. Nancy Alvord, New England; and Mr. Herbert Fitch, Sacramento; treasurer, Mr. Charles Lovejoy, San Gabriel Valley Branch; Secretary, Mrs. Maude Smith, Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, and Mrs. Mable Anderson, Glendale Branch.

Mr. Terrell stated that to his knowledge, the new Constitution and Bylaws had never been accepted by the Board, Moved by Mr. Browne, seconded by Mr. Hall, we go on record as accepting the new Constitution and Bylaws retroactive to January 1st. Carried.

There being no futher business meeting closed at 10:00 P.M. to meet again June 24th.

Respectfully submitted,
Arline Stoddard, Secretary.

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