

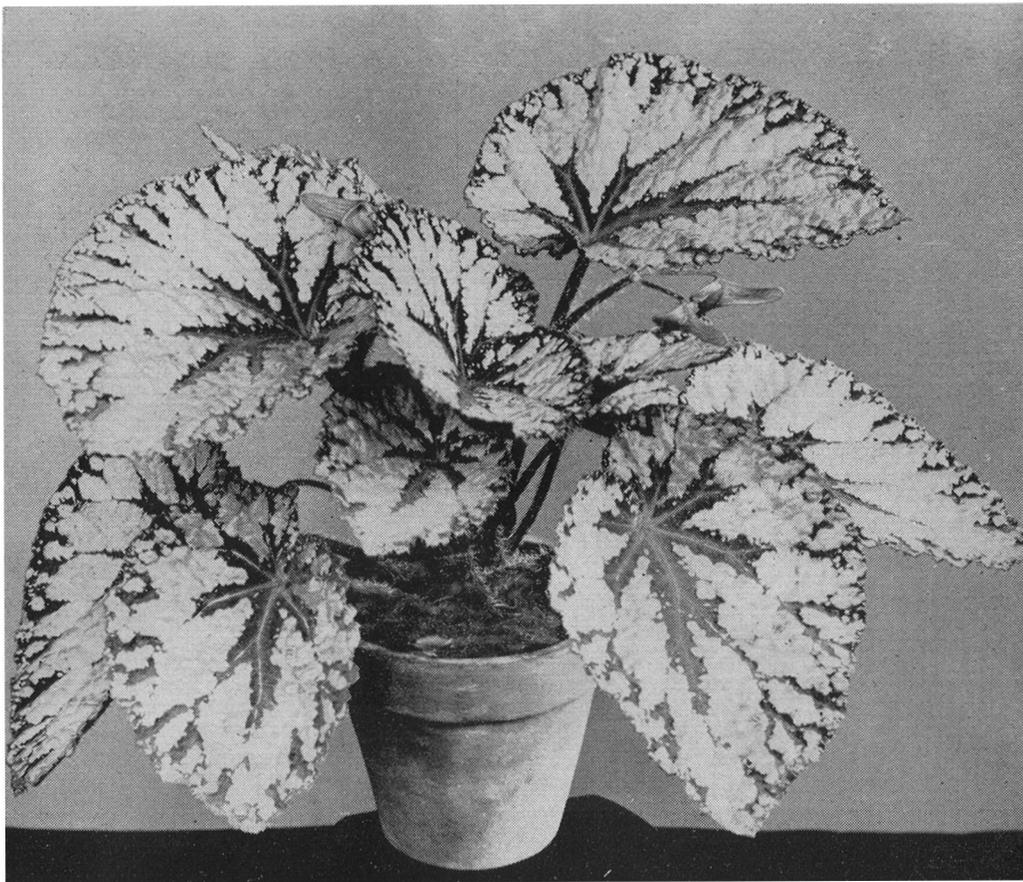
The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

APRIL, 1958

PRICE 25 CENTS

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 4



Begonia Rex of Germany

Editor.....Adelaide Brest, 3207 W. 186th St., Torrance Calif.
Advertising Manager.....John Thieben, 6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

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General Offices, Dues, Address Changes or Magazines:

Bill Walton, Membership Secretary, 1415 Acacia, Torrance, Calif.

Annual Subscription, \$2.50. Branch members pay dues to branch.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Torrance, California, under the act of March 3, 1879.

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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APPOINTED OFFICERS

- Editor.Mrs. Adelaide Brest
3207 W. 186th St., Torrance, Calif.
- Eastern Editor.Mrs. George E. DeCoursey
Box 791, Paoli, Pa.
- National Board Meets 4th Monday, 7:30-10 P.M., Echo Park Clubhouse, 1632 Bellevue Ave.

- Membership Secretary. . . W. E. (Bill) Walton
1415 Acacia St., Torrance, Calif.
- Advertising Manager.John Thieben
6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.
- Nomenclature.Mrs. Edna L. Korts
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Begonia Rex of Germany

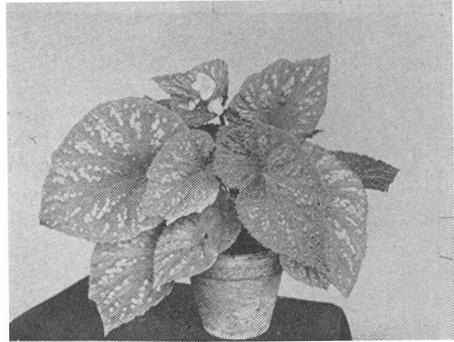
CORRESPONDING, from what I can gather, is an easier way to travel, beyond certain points. Our make believe journey has been very enlightening. Letters and printed material from *Deutscher Saatgut-Handelsbetrieb* (German Seed Commerce Center), Erfurt, Germany, provides information that begonias are grown in abundance in this area. Quote: "The observations gathered in our trial-grounds as well as in the prescribed tests at the state-station of variety-control, assure the sale of seeds true to name. The success realized at the big exhibition of the inland and abroad, also e.g. on the occasion of the garden-shows of the Federal German Republic at Kassel and Cologne, found their expression in conferring on us of gold and silver medals as well as of other testimonials."

Begonia Rex seeds, along with other begonia seeds, have been received by the Research Department with a request the seeds be grown and reports be made on our findings. They in turn ask for seeds of four begonias. Two packets of Begonia Rex have been sent, one packet was given to me by Mrs. Elsie Frey, Santa Barbara for this purpose and one packet of my *B. Rex* hybrids.

The two pictures were received of two of their *Begonia* "Rex" seedlings. It is going to be interesting to grow the seeds and perhaps you too would be interested in growing some of these seeds. Florence Gee has made arrangements to obtain some of the seeds for the Seed Fund. Watch for the offering in the near future.

We thank Mr. Lindner, General Manager, and Mr. Sicora, Division Manager of the firm *Deutsche Saatgut-Handelszentrale* for the pictures, letters and materials sent. I also thank Mrs. Dorris Gifford for her extensive translation of the materials received and Mrs. Elsie Frey for the *B. "Rex"* seeds.

SYLVIA B. LEATHERMAN,
Research Director



German Seedling

Golden Gardens Honors Coes

MARY COE is a quiet, mild-mannered, unassuming woman with a soul dedicated to the service of Garden Therapy. She is well known in District 2-A as the leader and crusader of the Brentwood Hospital project. To meet Mary, you'd probably not guess her dynamic personality, but when she starts out to accomplish something there is nothing short of a catastrophe that can stop her.

Perhaps Mary's greatest asset is a sympathetic and understanding husband who encourages her in each activity, lending full physical, moral and financial support. Such loyalty, and such happiness as exists between these two is an inspiration to all. Together they attended our convention at Monterey, gathering ideas and generously sharing their own—for of such are garden club members assembled. It is our hope that they will be with us again at Coronado to bring displays of their achievements in bringing hope to the servicemen suffering from shell-shock and battle fatigue. Sometimes we may forget these casualties of war—but never will they be forgotten by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coe, 28904 Cliffside Drive, Malibu.

(Ed.: This article about our president and his lovely wife is reprinted from the January, 1958, edition of *Golden Gardens*, publication of California Garden Clubs, Inc.)

Begonia Species Clarified

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

DR. E. IRMSCHER, dean of begonia research, who resides in Stuttgart-Hoenheim, Germany, in a recent publication clears up the identity of several begonias originally described by the Italian botanist, G. Raddi, in 1820. In the paper entitled "Ueber Raddis Brazilianische Begonien Und Einige Verwandte Arten, Sowie Beschreibung Von Zwei Neuen Arten" (Concerning Raddis' Brazilian Begonias and a Related Species, as Well as Describing Two New Species), which was published last year by the Institute of Botany, University of Florence, Firenze, Italy, in *Webbia*, Volume XII, number 2, pp. 443-512.

In the botanical study of plants the specimen first found is usually the plant from which the description of a new species is drawn. The new name belongs to this one plant only, called the type specimen. When other plants are found, they are given the same name if they fit the description very closely. Unfortunately sometimes the type specimen is an unusual or odd plant of this species and not typical of all its brothers. As a result of this students often do not have a clear picture of the species. Quite often in the past botanists have classified begonias without having access to the type specimen and have misinterpreted the written description and applied it to the wrong plant.

Dr. Irmscher has made a thorough study of Raddis' original material and has standards (group but not type) descriptions of the plants *Begonia digitata* Raddi and *B. luxurians* Raddi and has presented pictures of the type specimens. These plants are distinct species.

Dr. Irmscher also describes a new variety of *B. digitata* called *refescens*, which has dense, long, fine, wooly, red hairs on the stems, leaf nerves and petioles.

Begonia maculata is also clearly described.

Dr. Irmscher further describes *B. angularis* Raddi. This plant has been grown

in the United States as *B. acutangula* and *B. acutangularis*.

Descriptions of *B. pulchella* Raddi, *B. angulata* Vell as well as the one above are given in a key showing the differences between these three plants.

B. arborescens Raddi, *B. bidentata* Raddi, *B. sanguines* Raddi and *B. reniformis* Dryander are also described.

A new species, *B. spinibarbis*, is described by Dr. Irmscher and a key is given of the position of three begonias in Section Bradea, which Dr. Irmscher established in 1953.

The last species described is *Begonia mollicaulis*, a new designation for a plant grown for many years in Europe and America and called *B. subvillosa* Kl. in error.

Dr. Irmscher's work is a valuable contribution to clear up the confusion about some of the Brazilian begonias.

—B—

Minutes, National Board, Feb. 24

The meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order by President-Elect Bert Slatter, presiding in the absence of President Coe, at 7:35 p.m. on February 24, 1958. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Past President Cal Trowbridge. Mr. Trowbridge then read "The Aims and Purposes of the Society."

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved with a minor correction.

Report was given by Treasurer Charles Lovejoy, approved by the Board.

Mrs. Adelaide Brest, Begonian Editor, gave a comprehensive report on Editorial activities. The new Eastern Editor, Mrs. DeCoursey has sent several articles for publication, also some picture layouts. Mrs. DeCoursey will report on the exhibits of the A.B.S. in the Boston, Philadelphia and New York shows.

Advertising Manager John Thieben gave his report of 56 inches of advertising for February. Nothing particular to report as chairman of the Identification Gardens.

Past President Cal Trowbridge reported as Chairman of the committee appointed to work out a system for reporting finances of the Research Department. The committee recommended that reports be made to the board every two or three months and that altho the funds are retained by the Research Chairman, same be shown on the Treasurer's books. The committee recommended that the same procedure be followed by the Library

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Enemies of Begonias

By MRS. M. D. HALLOWAY

KEEPING plants healthy means providing them with the very best cultural conditions and warding off their more important enemies, pests and diseases. Control of these depends primarily on recognizing the pests and the symptoms of the diseases as they occur—first you must ask yourself, "What is it?" "What do I do about it?" "When do I do it?" When you have come to a decision you will find that each requires its individual treatment. I have listed the enemies, what damage they do and the method of controlling some of those most frequently met with in growing begonias.

ENEMY	DAMAGE	CONTROL
Mealybugs	White cottony bugs in leaf axils	Try DX Aero spray or touch each one with swab dipped in alcohol
Mites	An indoor pest—new leaves are crumpled and brittle; fall off when touched	Dust with powdered sulphur or Pomogreen. Keep plants in shade during treatment—solate new plants. Treat soil with Kapsulate
Thrips, blue or black, in or on the soil	Silvery leaves or brown areas on stems or on under sides of mature leaves	Spray with Lindane or lemon oil
Aphids	Green, yellow, brown or white lice on foliage or stems	DX Aero spray
Leaf nematodes—tiny worm feeds on leaf tissue	Brown blotches on foliage	Keep plants separated, avoid handling, submerge plant in hot water, 115-118 degrees for three minutes
Black vine weevil	Roots of tuberous begonias eaten by grubs	Treat soils with chlordane
Botrytis blight	Gray mold—in moist green-houses	Avoid syringing, remove infected parts
Oedema	Swellings on leaves from over-watering	Do not water too much in cloudy weather

Plants that have been badly injured by pests or disease should be discarded before they infest or infect others. Remember, too, that fresh and moist air are really essential for healthy plants.

ED. NOTE: Mrs. Halloway is fortunate enough to have escaped so far powdery mildew and scales. Powdery mildew, which was a serious nuisance two or three years ago, now appears irregularly; it is characterized by areas covered with gray mildew which leaves a thin grown area on the leaves after it is wiped off or sprayed; never touch another plant after handling mildew without washing your hands; the cure is spraying several times with Mildex and isolating the plants. Scales are unattractive flat insects which appear without warning; wipe each leaf off gently or scrape off each scale, repeating this process every few days for ten days to get all the hatching pests.

M. W. DeC.

Calendar

April 10—Inglewood President's Dinner, Rudolf Ziesenhenné, "Begonia Ailments." Special plant table (reservation \$1.65).

William Penn Visits Valley Greenhouses

By FANNY McILVAIN

THE WILLIAM Penn Branch paid a most interesting visit to the Valley Greenhouses run by Mrs. Frederick Ballard; Mrs. Ballard is a graduate of the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women at Ambler where she specialized in house plants. Of her three greenhouses two contain some begonias and in the house Mrs. Ballard keeps those which she values or which need individual care.

We started in the larger of the greenhouses with Mrs. Ballard's equipment for starting seeds and cutting. This part of the greenhouse has just been put into running order after Christmas when the sun around Philadelphia begins to shine for longer hours each day and give more heat. On a bench is a cable winding back and forth across the bench for about seven feet; over the first four feet is an enclosed frame in which the cuttings are started. The temperature of this house is kept at 60 degrees but the temperature of the cutting frame is kept near seventy. The temperature is maintained by an inexpensive thermostat. The cuttings root very much faster in this controlled temperature and some difficult ones succeed here that have failed in the greenhouse; we saw two nice rooted cuttings of Elsie Frey which has proved difficult to start. Adjacent to the cutting frame is a similar one for pots of seeds. Mrs. Ballard pointed out that after the cuttings have rooted satisfactorily they are potted in small pots and left in the frame until they recover from the shock of being moved. The rooting medium used is Pelonex, a form of Perlite, which may be bought in this vicinity in the five and ten cent stores; it is hoped that by next spring some hardware and feed stores will stock it.

We were interested in what Mrs. Ballard used for fertilizing. Like some of us she had tried a number of preparations designed especially for house plants and has found Hyponex the most satisfactory;

she does not fertilize in November and December but in January starts feeding her plants whenever there has been some sunny days. If there have been overcast and dark days she waits to feed until the sun is out again; for the greenhouse make a solution of a tablespoon of Hyponex to a gallon of water, dissolving the Hyponex in a little boiling water before adding enough water to make a gallon. For plants growing in the house half the strength of the solution.

The different size cables that Mrs. Ballard uses in the greenhouse under the rooting frames and the smaller one which may be mounted on a board and used under any plant material in the house may be purchased from the Grow Quick Sales, 340 Huron St., Chicago 10, Ill. The milled spagnum which she uses for begonia seeds may be bought there too.

Lovely as many of the plants were the outstanding one for me were the basket plants in the greenhouses and a superbly grown *B. luxurians* on the sun porch. It stood eighteen to twenty-four inches high and had several side branches which gave it a truly luxuriant appearance; the first one I've ever seen that was really ornamental. The basket plants were grown in Black Magic surrounded by spagnum moss; *B. cuban* species with holly like leaves is generally a miniature here but this plant overflowed a twelve inch basket and was covered with bloom; equally handsome and successful were *B. "Florbunda Rosea"* and *B. "Ivy-Ever."*

On the way home I bought spagnum moss and Black Magic, Hyponex and Pelonex; right away my order goes for some assorted electric cables for my next project is to try to grow some begonias from seed. We are all very grateful to Mrs. Ballard for so generously sharing her know-how with us and for giving us so much of her time on our fascinating trip around a most rewarding greenhouse.

Fannie McIlvain *per* Marian DeCoursey

The Amateur Gardener

WE HAVE learned that our soil must be loose and friable to enable our plants to perform at their best and for food and water to reach the roots.

We speak of the soil conditions as ACID, NEUTRAL, or ALKALINE but there are many degrees of variation between these three conditions. The majority of plants perform best in neutral soil, that is, neither too acid or too alkaline.

There are three chemicals that are important factors in aiding us to have a good nutritious soil without expending too much effort or money on our garden. They are sulphur, iron and magnesium sulphate, which is just common Epsom's Salts.

Sulphur is an important factor in changing soil from alkaline to neutral as well as to the acid side, and it becomes a factor to the soil, turning through a gradual chemical process into a form of gypsum highly beneficial in character. Sulphur also perpetuates itself in the soil structure and its presence there is a definite factor to repel fungus. The only precaution which must be observed in using sulphur is to imbed it at least four inches below the surface of the ground, because if it happens to be scattered too close to the surface and a warm temperature develops, sulphur fumes may release themselves and cause a scorching of the lower structure of plants growing in that area. Where sulphur is properly imbedded in the soil it does no injury and becomes a part of a perfect soil structure highly beneficial to plant life. If no plant life is growing in the soil, you can scatter a good proportion of soil sulphur, intermingling it freely with the soil, in the ratio of two to two and one-half pounds per one hundred square feet at one application. If the soil is highly alkaline, you may have to make a second application through the season. Where plants are growing, be careful not to destroy the fiber roots but rather dig a shallow trench around the edge of these roots, some four inches deep, and scatter the soil sulphur

into this trench, mulching it into the soil and again being particular not to let any remain too close to the surface.

Iron, of course, is all-important to plant life if plants are to attain their full beauty of bloom and fine green foliage. Soils containing an excess of lime usually contain iron also, but the iron is not available to plant life because it becomes instantly absorbed by the calcium lime structure. The presence of excess lime in the soil quickly renders unavailable any iron which may be applied in non-soluble form. Therefore, it is necessary to apply iron in suitable amounts directly to the plant in the form of a DISSOLVED solution that is quickly available.

Iron Copperous Ferrous, (a .50c package may be obtained from a drug store which will be sufficient to last a long time) dissolved in the proportion of about two ounces in three gallons of water and poured liberally around the base of the plants is a method which renders it quickly available to plants.

The third chemical highly beneficial to plants is the use of Epsom's Salts sprayed or sprinkled on the foliage, plant and blooms, in the proportion of four ounces to three gallons of water. This will give you the finest possible correction of mottled or yellowing of the leaves. The foliage absorbs the salts readily and it is at the same time the greatest regulator you can use. Again if you want to combine this treatment with your spraying operation, you can use the salts by mixing it into your diluted spray material or just scatter it on the ground and water in well.

The regular use of the above chemicals about twice each year, will save you many dollars that you may now be paying for fertilizers.

Next month we will talk about the plants which require neutral or acid soils.

April is the month to "weed and feed," but feed sparingly if the weather is very cold. Give your lawn a mixture

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Meet Mrs. DeCoursey

MARION DECOURSEY was city-bred, but when she married and moved to the country, she got a virulent case of flower-growing fever which resulted in attempts to grow everything she saw or read about. With this experience behind her she later moved to a smaller home with more interesting terrain, where she practiced what she had learned; resigning herself to growing her favorites together with those plants suitable to their habitat.

About this time she became a member of the Philobegonia branch and learned that this plant was one of her favorites, especially since it gave her the opportunity to garden during the winter months. She found that the group, which had been growing begonias for several years, was enthusiastically willing to share information and "slips" with a new member. After several years of commuting to meetings of Philobegonia, some twenty-five miles, Mrs. DeCoursey, together with Mrs. Ernest Drew, formed the William Penn branch, and Mrs. DeCoursey served as president of the group for two years. Every second year the begonia party at her home is a highlight of the branch activities.

The William Penn branch has been active locally in exhibiting in flower shows, large and small—their displays always arouse interest and result in new friends for the begonia. Mrs. DeCoursey has helped design many of these exhibits with outstanding success.

Now let us hear from Mrs. DeCoursey herself: "Helping Mrs. Brest in getting news to *The Begonian* is an entirely new activity to me, but I feel sure that as the ABS members in the east learn how anxious *The Begonian* is to hear from and how anxious I am to help them in any possible way to get their opinions and experiences into print I am sure that I will hear from many. The realization that information wanted by eastern growers must be supplied by the more experienced growers and collectors in this part of the country, is growing. Conditions vary so radically in different parts of the country that I hope everyone will be willing to share their begonia experiences, both successes and failures. I would like to help make *The Begonian* a truly national picture of begonia collecting and growing. Please help me, without it, I cannot perform this task."

Happy Birthday

WE CANNOT let the month of April pass without sending a greeting to our founder, Herbert P. Dyckman, familiarly known as "Pop" to his many friends, who scores another year April 11. He conceived the idea of a "begonia society" and convinced that begonias were so beautiful and of so many varieties that they deserved recognition, infused others with his enthusiasm.

This all began at a dahlia show at the Long Beach auditorium in 1931. Rex begonias of Mr. Dyckman and Fred Riedman were displayed and attracted much attention. At that time, several people became acquainted and were invited to a meeting to form the society. Present at that historic meeting were many who became well known for their

efforts in the organization: Paul Walker, Roy Berry, Carl Fischer, Clayton Kelly, R. G. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. McGaughey, Mr. and Mrs. Wylie. These nine, together with Mr. and Mrs. Dyckman, were the founders of ABS, then known as the California Begonia society. The enthusiasm of this small group, transmitted to others, has grown and multiplied, reached out to all parts of the United States and several countries, and has resulted in the recognition of the begonia as a truly unique plant in the horticultural world.

Thus has been brought about, through your personal dream, Mr. Dyckman, an expanding organization, dedicated to the idea that begonias have something of beauty to add to the life of every individual.

Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

THERE are few plants that are faster growing or more fascinating to raise than vines. Most vines reach great lengths but there are others that remain small enough to be grown as a houseplant. Following is a cultural listing of several kinds that can be raised from seed.

Gloriosa: Among the more spectacular of all flowers are the glory lilies. There are several species of which the ones usually seen are *G. superba* and *G. rothschildiana*. They both have spidery flowers about six inches in diameter in yellow and scarlet. The major difference between the two is that *superba* has crisped petals while the *rothschildiana* does not.

The Seed Fund this month is listing seed of both of these species as well as *G. plantii* which is a shorter vine and has flowers similar to but half the size as those of *rothschildiana*. It is a delightful and easy plant and well worth growing. There are several other species and hybrid glory lilies available but seldom by seed, only as tubers.

Glory lilies and their near relative *Littonia modesta* are very easy to raise from seed but with this caution—they are very slow in germinating. Seeds will sometimes take several months to germinate and seldom will any seedlings appear in less than six weeks. The first year's growth will produce tiny tubers about two inches long. Replant the next season and blooms will appear either that year or the year following.

The glory lilies climb by the ends of the leaf blades which have been modified into a tendril that will curl around a wire or a string.

Aristolochia: The dutchman's pipe has an interesting relative that bears one of the most curious flowers imaginable. *Aristolochia elegans*, the calico flower, reaches a height of six to eight feet in its first year from seed. In the fall it has drooping fluted blooms that are three inches in diameter and mottled with purple-brown.

The seed is slow in germinating but when fresh it is very sure. The plant climbs by twining around its support in the manner of a stringbean. The heart-shaped leaves are very susceptible to red spider and are very sensitive to spraying so be careful not to use too strong a spray concentration on them if an infestation occurs.

Maurandia: Quick to germinate and easy to grow insure the popularity of the maurandias or climber foxgloves. These and the closely related *Antirrhinum maurandioides* are among the few climbing members of the snapdragon family. They climb by the unique method of grasping the support by their leaf petioles. The flowers are violet colored and about the size and shape of a foxglove blossom.

Sow the seed of any of these vines in a mixture of peatmoss, leafmold, and spongerok. Transplant *Maurandias* and *Aristolochias* into six inch pots when they are two or three inches high. Put three or four plants to a pot to make a thicker growth and better showing.

—B—

The Amateur Gardener

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of one-half quick acting fertilizer, such as sulphate of ammonia and one-half of a slower acting fertilizer, such as Mel-organite, which may be repeated in May and September. Do not cut your lawn too short, especially in hot climates. Remember that the roots of your lawn are only as long as the length which you leave above the ground. Set your lawn mower so that the grass will be from one and one-half to two inches high. You will find that your lawn will require less care and will become much thicker if you do not cut it too short. Do not be in a hurry to trim such tender plants as fuchsias, geraniums, etc., if you live where Jack Frost still visits you in April.

RUTHANNE WILLIAMS

Begonia Attention

By MRS. HOWARD L. WITHEE

IN MY short experience of 16 months having the beautiful Rex Begonia as houseplants I have made a few discoveries that do work out very nicely for me in the care of them, for in summer the care required is indeed more than in winter in some respects, for the elements do play an important role if we did but think about it.

In summer, here in Rhode Island, the weather is most capricious, one day mild and no wind, next day hot and windy, next day rain maybe which may be an easy one or be very much wind driven, or again it may be hot and foggy, or foggy and chilly. Then we do have sudden thunder-showers sometimes laden with pelting rain, wind, and hail that pounce down upon us without warning, and we also have prolonged spells of various types of weather.

After weathering all these goings on, comes fall, and for instance here on the hill of Coventry Centre, it may be cold but no frost will develop because of a breeze, but down in the lower lands only two miles distant at my Mother's, there will be a frost blackening everything. These frosts will occur sometimes as late as early June and as early as mid-September. So you see why the extremes of our weather greatly influence the care of our begonias and their response. Because of this weather pattern "Semps" and the Tuberous Begonias are the only ones used outside, and then the latter has to have protection especially.

I find that the Rex does not do as well if the air is hot and dry even by nature, the soil dries out too rapidly and so will the leaves especially if a wind is blowing the hot air about. On this type of day I have to water my plants twice, THOROUGHLY. On other days, as cool or rainy ones, certain size pots would only require watering once but the small pots with youngsters or the extra large Rex plants would need a checking even after being watered thoroughly once.

All of my begonia received either filtered sun, lots of the brightest light or eastern sun this past summer and here in Little Rhody it was the hottest summer on record.

During cold rainy weather I water my plants as they require it, so long as the soil feels damp to the touch I refrain from watering but when I do water, when the soil is somewhat crumbly on the top, I water thoroughly, never just the top soil, summer or winter.

In the fall and winter I find the number of times of watering decreases somewhat with most of the Rexes with the exception of the small young plants, for being in small pots and of course fast drying leaf-mold, they dry out fast anytime. With the coming of cold weather my windows are closed, except for opening them 4-5 times a day to completely change the air, thus the drying out process is slower in comparison to summer and here the amount of watering has to be studied, not as a whole but as to the type and size of begonia I find, too, some leafmold mixtures dry out faster than others, hence more or less of a constant vigil as some Rexes do require more water than others and too, even tho' the soil may feel damp to the touch of these water requiring Rexes they DO NEED water, B, "Fireflush," B, "Fairy," B, "Kathlyana" and B, "Black Knight" are my thirsties.

Any day in fall and winter that is bright and sunny, and there is no cold wind to make drafts the windows facing south and south-west I open at the top a few inches and leave them so until the sun is about ready to leave. For an added boost in winter I will put the plants that are in less sunny windows into the direct sun for a while, and the result is a better colored and heavier leafed plant. Begonias do require sun, fresh air, humidity and adequate moisture, especially Rexes, to do their beautiful best.

Growing Begonias From Seed

By LOUISE SCHWERTFEGER

BEGONIA SEED

THE SEED of begonias is extremely fine and a very small amount is used when planting. The seed should be sown sparingly and evenly to assure space for the individual seedlings. It is so minute that it should never be covered with soil or pressed into the medium. It requires constant moisture through both the germination and the growing periods.

GERMINATION

The period of germination varies according to the type of begonia. Under normal conditions, *semperflorens* and tuberous germinate in from 5-10 days; fibrous and rhizomatous in from 5-15 days depending upon the species or variety; *rexes* take longer, from 7-21 days.

Constant moisture and little variation in temperature are essential. Bottom heat is not necessary if the temperature can be kept between 60 to 75 degrees.

Begonia seeds have been known to germinate long after the normal period of germination has passed, so keep the container undisturbed, under proper growing conditions until there is no hope whatever.

PLANTING TIME

Tuberous begonia seed should be planted in January, February or early March as they have a definite growing cycle.

Semperflorens can be planted at any time of year.

Hardy fibrous or rhizomatous can be planted during any month but the slower growing types only if favorable conditions can be provided for the young seedlings during the cold of winter. Otherwise plant the seed in the late fall, winter or early spring so that the young plants can become established during the summer.

Rex begonias are of the slow growing

rhizomatous and should be planted accordingly.

SOWING MEDIUM

A reliable medium which contains food for the seedlings, tends to hold moisture, and is porous, is essential. A recommended mixture is 1 part well-decomposed leafmold, 1 part ground sphagnum moss or finely sifted peat moss, and 1 part washed sharp sand, thoroughly mixed and sifted through a 1/4 inch screen.

Sterilize the medium by baking in an oven for two hours at 180° F. A great deal of heat is not necessary, only enough to kill all foreign matter. The medium can be moistened before or after sterilizing, preferably before, but must be reasonably moist and cool before sowing the seed. Use rainwater, bottle water or water saved from refrigerator defrosting for moisture when preparing the soil.

SANITATION

Utmost care should be used in keeping everything sanitary. A clean work area, scrubbed containers, boiled utensils, washed hands and sterilizing the medium will prevent contamination.

CONTAINERS

Any of the following containers may be used successfully:

Containers with good drainage that require bottom watering such as a shallow flat or pan, a low clay pot as used for ferns or bulbs.

Containers that absorb moisture as a porous brick set in a pan of water, a wick-fed pot, a clay pot set in wet sand, a large clay pot with a small porous pot, whose drainage hole has been sealed to retain water, placed in the center.

Closed containers without drainage, casserole with glass cover, glass ice-box dishes with closed fitted lids or sealed bottle (large mouth preferred).

Containers should have even tops in

order to keep them closely covered with a pane of glass to retain the moisture.

PREPARATION

Only about 1½ to 2 inches of medium is necessary for growing the seed. Deep containers can be partially filled with coarse sand or other porous substances. Place the medium in the container leaving about 1½ inches space at the top. Level off without packing. Cover the surface smoothly with about ⅛ inch of finely sifted peat moss or ground sphagnum moss that has been moistened. Wooden containers and clay pots should be thoroughly soaked before using.

SOWING

The seed is sown directly on the surface of the moss. An easy method is to place the seed on a sheet of smooth paper that has had a crease made on one side, hold the paper with creased side down and tip slightly over the container and the seed should slowly roll from the paper. By moving the paper around over the container the seed should be evenly distributed. DO NOT cover the seed or press down into the medium.

CARE OF SEEDS

After sowing, cover open containers with a pane of glass; if brick is used, with a Ball jar; closed containers fitted with lids, and bottles or jars sealed.

Set the container in a warm room away from strong light until germination has taken place then place where it will receive plenty of light but no direct sunshine. Turn the container occasionally for even growth.

It is extremely important that the soil mixture NEVER becomes dry or too wet. Use rain water, bottle water or defrosting water that has had the chill removed. Top watering will encourage damping-off and is not necessary.

For bottom watering set the container in a shallow pan of water until moisture is evident on the surface. When using containers that rely on absorption, see that the reservoirs are kept filled. Closed containers should be checked about every

two or three weeks and if moisture is needed add a FEW DROPS around the sides. Sealed containers need not be opened until time for transplanting.

If containers are placed in the greenhouse they should be in a location where rain or water will not flood them.

THE SEEDLINGS

The seedlings must never be allowed to become too wet or too dry. As soon as they have developed the third leaf they should be carefully pricked out and planted about an inch apart in shallow, unfertilized, sterile medium similar to the sowing medium. Tuberous and semperflorens set two inches apart. They should be kept covered with glass the first few days after transplanting, then gradually given more air as they grow. (Place a wooden wedge under the glass.) They should be given as much light as possible without direct sunshine. Use bottom watering until they are established.

Most begonias should again be transplanted into a growing mixture of leaf-mold and sand and placed 25 to a flat. When the roots have been established and the seedlings putting on new growth they can safely be given mild fertilizer. When they begin to fill the flat they can be potted up according to their size in a regular potting mixture.

Rex seedlings should be kept protected until after their second transplanting and will require a longer time to become established than other types.

—B—

In Memoriam

Treasure Island Branch of Galveston, Texas, sends sad news of the passing of Mrs. F. E. Cheesborough. She was the organizer of this branch, and held office as president of the group for two years. In addition to her activities in garden groups, Mrs. Cheesborough was founder of Galveston's Parent-Teacher Association, and had received considerable recognition as an artist. Always a faithful member, she will be sorely missed by this group.

The Tuberous Begonia in England

By W. WILLETTS, F.R.H.S.

SOME ASPECTS OF ITS CULTIVATION

THOSE who admire the cultivator of the tuberous begonia should have no hesitation in growing a few of these delightful subjects for their own enjoyment. All one needs is a greenhouse, a few hints and a rich enthusiasm. This enthusiasm is, perhaps, the real key to success; worry and failures begin when this wanes. It is not easy, in a greenhouse of average size, to achieve the bold effects such as are to be seen in houses of large extent. Nevertheless, by restricting the selection of the plants to the choicer varieties, which, as a rule, have been thoroughly tested in a specialists nursery, a small number of these interesting subjects can be collected into a relatively small house.

The successful culture of the begonia depends to a great extent in a correct beginning. The cheapest but perhaps the most troublesome method of growing a collection of begonias is to raise them from a reliable strain of seed. But, although very delightful effects can be produced in this manner, named tubers, the other alternative, must take preference over them to form and beauty of colour. The initial outlay of these tubers, however, is very costly, and is a deterrent to many would-be growers. Nevertheless, when it is taken into account the amount of cuttings which can be taken and rooted from these plants during their growing season, the grower will soon realize and agree that it is money well spent.

STARTING THE TUBERS

For greenhouse and exhibition work the best time to start the tubers is in February or early March, but this should be deferred to a little later in the season unless a temperature of 60 degrees F. can be maintained. Perhaps the best type of receptacle to use is the standard-sized seed tray, but, at the same time, the use of pots should never be overlooked, especially as this is an ideal method of

isolating tubers from one another in the advent of disease. And pots certainly lessen the risk of root disturbance when the tubers are ready to be moved on. Whatever type of receptacle is used, however, it must be clean and well drained. The compost for starting the tubers into growth varies from grower to grower. Some use a mixture of equal parts peat and silver sand, some rely on a compost with loam as its base (John Innes compost, etc.,) while others regard Vermiculite as being the answer to ideal propagation. But, although these mixtures have each in their turn produced excellent results for the users, perhaps the safest one for the amateur to use is the one containing a percentage of loam. Peat and sand and Vermiculite, good as they are, having no growing properties whatsoever, and the grower must always be prepared to move the tubers into a growing medium as soon as roots have formed. The John Innes compost can be used with every confidence but for those who prefer to make up their own compost at home one consisting of 3 parts clean loam, 1 part moist peat, $\frac{1}{2}$ part silver sand and a little crushed charcoal to keep the compost sweet will give very good results. Plant the tubers just below the surface of the soil and firm the soil well around each one. Moisten the soil with tepid water if at all dry and then place the receptacles in a temperature of 60 degrees. Cover the trays or pots with paper to prevent the soil from drying out too rapidly and water very sparingly until growth is formed. The paper coverings should, of course, be removed at this stage. Where signs of infection are noticed during propagation, a grey mould usually forms on the surface of the soil above the affected tuber, the diseased parts should be pared away with a sharp knife and the wound dusted with flowers of sulphur. In the interests of the other tubers, especially if they are in trays, all infected tubers

should be isolated. And do please sterilize the knife by dipping it into surgical spirits before and after each cutting operation. When root action is healthy and top growth is growing away, it is time to move the plants into the first pot.

THE FIRST POTTING

This is a crucial stage in the life of the begonia and every effort should be taken to see that it is done carefully and correctly. Perhaps the first essential is to see that the pots are sound and thoroughly clean, this cleanliness also applying to the crocks which are to be used as drainage material. The size of the pot must be determined by the size of the tuber and the amount of root action it has made, a fairly large tuber being potted into a 5-inch pot, and a smaller one into a 4 inch. It is as well to note here that as some tubers do not root as readily as others (reds usually being the forwardest) extra care should be taken to see that underdeveloped tubers are not disturbed when removing the active ones. For this and subsequent pottings an excellent compost consists of 6 parts stiffish loam which has been passed through a $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch sieve, one part moist peat and one part crumbly cow manure. To each barrow-load of this mixture should be added one 5-inch pot of rough bonemeal, one 5-inch pot of rough charcoal and a light dressing of well-weathered soot. To keep the compost thoroughly open (a waterlogged soil is fatal to begonias) some sharp grit should be incorporated.

The compost should be prepared a few weeks before it is required for use, and it must be thoroughly blended by turning it over at least three times before it is put into service. Having determined the size of the pots see that they are well provided with drainage material, one large piece of broken pot being sufficient for the smaller pot and an extra layer of finer pieces for a larger pot. Immediately over the crocks place a $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch layer of rough pieces of loam in order to prevent the finer portions of the main compost from being washed down and impeding the free passage of water. A handful of

compost then slightly beaten down will make it ready to receive the plant. For this initial potting it is best to leave this layer of soil slightly domed so that the roots can be spread evenly out. Make certain that the soil in the propagating tray is thoroughly moist before making any attempt to remove the tubers, which, needless to say, should be lifted very carefully so that none of the fragile roots are broken in the process. As each tuber is removed place it on the compost in the prepared pot, and in a central position, bearing in mind that the stem of the plant should not be buried any deeper than it was in the starting tray. Now gradually fill up with the compost, using the potting stick very carefully as the work proceeds, until the pot is full to within half an inch from the top. When potted correctly the compost should be evenly firm from the bottom of the pot to the top. Water very sparingly and, as always when watering newly potted plants, use the coarse rose on the can to avoid washing the surface soil away from the crown of the tuber. Stand the plants pot thick and shade from direct sunlight until the plants have become thoroughly established in their new environment. As the Spring advances and the sun gains power, it will be necessary to provide some method of shading for the plants. Different methods are adapted by growers. Some resort to the use of common whiting, others mix a little flour with the whiting to make it more adhesive in wet weather, and others readily adapt the common practice of fitting roller blinds. The latter can, of course be drawn up and down as required. Failing these methods, however, sheets of polythene fixed to the insides of the roofing bars will act as a deterrent against all but the very strongest sunlight.

(To Be Continued in May)

—B—

COPY DEADLINE

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

Book Review

By STANLEY SPAULDING, *Technical Consultant*

THE U.C. SYSTEM FOR PRODUCING HEALTHY CONTAINER - GROWN PLANTS. Edited by Kenneth P. Baker, Professor of Plant Pathology, and Plant Pathologist in the Experiment Station, Los Angeles.

This is Manual 23 of the University of California, Division of Agricultural Sciences. It is distributed by the California Agricultural Experiment Station Extension Service for \$1.00 to cover only a portion of the production cost.

The publication is in the form of a 422 page book with a strong paper cover. The message is delivered through simple language in large, easy-to-read print. To aid the reader in gaining visual concepts, each section is illustrated by photographs plus clever diagrams.

Not a single grower is forgotten in this work. It is directed to the amateur hobbyist together with the commercial people at all levels of nursery production. Not a single kind of plant is excluded from the UC system of plant growth. This means you can adapt a standard procedure under which cactus, ferns, tropicals, begonias, and all kinds of plants are grown to optimum quality.

Upon reading the manual you will see that recipes and formulae are eliminated. In fact, different kinds of composts or leaf molds are not required or recommended. Watering and fertilizing are simplified, and the probability of plant injury from zealous hands is reduced. The technique is based on an understanding of the scientific basis of plant growth. Here is one of the purposes of the manual. The other is a positive, unified plan of action to install the UC system in your operation.

Section 17 reveals actual grower experience with the methods. These persons have found a half-way approach to the problem of little use. Some of them adjusted their growing methods to those given in the manual around 1944. Research was then at the stage of field trial.

To follow the same program in your own growing either for hobby or commercial use, obtain a copy of Manual 23 by a \$1.00 check or money order payable to the "Regents of the University of California." Send it with your order to Agricultural Publications, 22 Giannini Hall, University of California, Berkeley 4, California.

—B—

South Africa Transplanted

PLANTINGS of exotic flowers now are greeting visitors in the South African section of the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum at Arcadia.

Arboretum Chief Horticulturist Don Woolley says the annuals and the perennials constitute a spectacular sight in this section, which is located near the tour loading area.

Visitors to the Arboretum are assured of seeing a gay colored vista of South African Daisies. This display is comprised of Euryops, Dimorphothecas, Gazanias, Felicias and Ursinias. The view is to be compared to wildflower scenes on California deserts.

Also to be enjoyed are flowering bulbs, ground covers, succulents, shrubs and trees all native to South Africa.

Five species of *Strelitzia*, the "Bird of Paradise," official flower of the City of Los Angeles, are growing in the South African section. One of them, *Strelitzia reginae*, is in bloom. Another species, *Strelitzia parvifolia* var. *juncea* will be coming into bloom soon.

The South African section is in the charge of Dan Cassidy. Most of the plants and flowers in the South African section were introduced through exchange of seeds with botanic gardens in South Africa.

Arboretum naturalists, on jeep train tours, will provide special and interesting details concerning the South African section, now at its peak of attraction.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1 B. Heterosis Tausendschon—white—Germany. This little begonia seems to be the number one novelty in Europe—It is pure white and of the true Tausendschon (thousand wonders) type, which means that its dwarf, compact plants are covered with thousands of graceful blossoms. Flowers are large and glistening and will not burn in the sun, this plant will make a nice addition combined with the red and pink variety of this type. This is an all new plant and seeds have never been offered in this country. Price—.35c per pkt.

No. 2 B. Rex—Germany. Fresh seed from one of the best growers on the European continent. Last year at our National begonia show, these plants attracted a great deal of attention—mere words can not describe their beauty and we hope to have a detailed description in another section of The Begonian. .50c per pkt.

No. 3. ovatifolia—India—Small; leaves small toothed; flowers white or rose pink. .35c per pkt.

No. 4 B. gigantea—India—Medium to two feet or more, many stemmed, leaves ovate-pointed, green, toothed; flowers white or pale pink in closely bunched terminal clusters. Unusual. The terminal leaf and flower clusters suggests the outline of a bird resting on a plant stem. (Krauss) .35c per pkt.

No. 5 B. echinosepala—Brazil—Erect, bushy plant having ovate-pointed dark green leaves with darker veins. Flowers large, soft pink, pink bearded with out. .25c per pkt.

No. 6 B. Sunderbruchi—A friend in beautiful, sunny Arizona sent seed of this beautiful plant to the seed fund. Makes a nice house plant but can be grown outdoors the entire year where climate permits. .25c per pkt.

No. 7 B. digswelliana. Low, bushy; leaves small, fleshy, irregular, glossy light green; flowers small, light pink. .25c per pkt.

Recently we received large amounts of the following semperflorens from Europe:

No. 1 B. semperflorens Winter Romance—Carmine, green foliage. Miniature.

No. 2 B. semperflorens—Loveliness—Flesh pink, green foliage.

No. 3 B. semperflorens—Crimson Bedder—Scarlet crimson, bronze foliage.

No. 4 B. semperflorens—Saga—Extra dwarf and dense growth, red flowers.

No. 5 B. semperflorens—Fairy queen—10 inches tall.

No. 6 semperflorens—Albert Martin—Intermediate growth, red flowers.

No. 7 B. semperflorens—gracilis Prima Donna—Medium rose pink, green foliage.

No. 8 B. semperflorens—Dainty Maid—Tom Thumb—Buds deep pink, opening pure white edged pink; very free flowering and compact, leaves lustrous green edged bronzed; makes a nice pot plant.

No. 9 B. semperflorens—Frosty—Formerly listed as B. Karin. (Novelty) Dark foliage, pure white flowers, four inches high. Quite distinct.

No. 10 B. semperflorens—mixed—A friend in England sent these seed and as indicated, they are a mixture of several English semperflorens.

All semperflorens are .25c per pkt. These charming plants make nice gifts when grown in pots and when several are planted in a six inch pot you will have beautiful plants in a very short time or try growing a few for your plant sale or flower show. Colorful and easy to grow.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

No. 1 Alloplectus vittatus—(E Peru) Beautiful, erect, fleshy plant with showy, ovate, quilted, crenate leaves bronzy moss-green with silvery feathering along the mid-rib, and covered with white hairs; red purple beneath; clusters of yellow flowers having orange-red calyx, and red bracts. .25c per pkt.

No. 2 Columnea sanguinea—(West Inles) Densely hairy looking like "Alloplectus" emerald green leaves, blotched red beneath; small, furry, pale yellow flowers. .25c per pkt.

No. 3 Zebrina discolor—Commelinaceae—Glossy coppery and Nile green, large foliage overlaid and edged with metallic purple and splashed rusty red, two narrow silver bands down the long

thin leaf, purple beneath; purple flowers. .25c per pkt.

No. 4 *Columnea gloriosa superba*—(Costa Rica) Epiphytic trailer with small, oblong leaves covered with red-brown hairs, large fiery red flowers with open, yellow throat. Good basket plant. 25c per pkt.

No. 5 *Episcia dianthiflora*—Many of these seed just came from France—See February The Begonian for description. .25c per pkt.

No. 6 *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*—(Mexico to Brazil) 'Queen of the Night'—The best of the night blooming epiphyllums. Huge, white, fragrant flowers. .25c per pkt.

No. 7 *Gloriosa rothschildiana*—Climbing lily with tuberous roots, lanceolate leaves prolonged into tendrils; striking flowers with broad, recurved petals crimson-scarlet, yellow toward the base. Not hardy out doors in cold climates. .25c per pkt.

No. 8 *Gloriosa superba*—(India and Ceylon) Tall, vining plant. Flowers are smaller with narrow but crisped petals, first green, then yellow, changing to orange-red. .25c per pkt.

No. 9 *Gloriosa virescens*—(planti, simplex) Dwarf form of the above. Petals are broader, not crisped; flowers are yellow when grown in the shade, while in the sunlight, they turn orange. .25c per pkt.

No. 10 *Aristolochia elegans*—'Calico Flower'—Graceful climber with kidney-shaped leaves and flowers a yellowish, inflated tube of rich purplish brown inside with white markings. .25c per pkt.

No. 11 *Crossandra infundibuliformis*—Attractive and valuable pot plant with glossy, Gardenia-like foliage and flower spikes of clear salmon florets. Sow seed in warm greenhouse. 4 seed for .25c.

No. 12 *Achimenes*—Mixed—Brilliantly colored, trumpet like flowers in velvety tones of red, violet, and white. .25c per pkt. Culture the same as gloxinia.

No. 13 *Streptocarpus mixed*—From Europe and include colors of dahlia purple, Persian rose, peony purple, pastel violet, dark violet and spirea red. .25c per pkt.

We have been wondering if there is enough interest in growing water lilies from seed. We are in contact with some one in Japan who will supply seed and

cultural instructions for growing and we will be happy to get them if there is sufficient interest to warrant it. Your opinion would be appreciated. Complimentary seed—Three varieties of kangaroo paw seed that you may have without cost. Send postage if other seed are not requested.

OTHER GENERA

No. 1 *Calla rehmanni*—(Natal) Dwarf. Flowers are deep pink and foliage bright green with white spots. .25c per pkt.

No. 2 *Calla elliotiana*—(Transvaal) Yellow calla growing from a flat rhizome—bright green leaves with white spots. Flowers are tubular about six inches long and bright yellow. .25c per pkt.

No. 3 *Rohdea japonica*—(China-Japan) A fine foliage plant highly prized as a house plant. Flowers are inconspicuous and are followed by closely packed berries which turn red in the fall and stay fresh for several months. .25c per pkt.

No. 4 *Canna coccinea*—(West Indies) Tuberous rhizome, slender stalks with large oblong pointed leaves, flowers are scarlet with yellow spotted lip. .25c per pkt.

No. 5 *Cassia Artemisioides*—"Wormwood Senna"—Medium shrub covered with silky grey pubescence; needle like leaves, flowers yellow. Likes sun, good drainage and very little water after established. .25c per pkt.

N.Z. fern spores as listed in February, The Begonian, still available.

Wanted—Begonia, shade plant or seed of other genera—will buy or exchange.

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

BEGONIAS, FUCHSIAS & A COMPLETE
SELECTION OF ALL PLANTS
FOR THE SHELTERED GARDEN

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We Use, Recommend and Sell
BLUE WHALE

Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

ELSA FORT

The Elsa Fort branch met at the home of Mrs. DeVere Thompson for the last meeting, where dessert was served. More seeds were distributed to some of the members which we hope will become nice plants for the begonia party to be held Sept. 20 at the home of Mrs. Mildred Tait. It will include a flower show, plant sale, lunch and lecture. Party chairman is Mrs. Marion Thompson; sales chairman, Mrs. Arianna Paynter, staying chairman, Mrs. Mildred Tait; invitations, Mrs. Elizabeth Johnston. We will be glad to welcome anyone who may be in our vicinity at that time.

It was voted to form a special fund which will be used in various "sunshine" activities. A report on B. "Dancing Girl" was given by Mrs. Arianna Paynter, to conclude the afternoon's activities.

—B—

GLENDALE

Our speaker last month was Mr. Matt J. Artner of Swift & Company. Mr. Artner showed slides and told us about soil preparation for our gardens. He also gave us information about how to control the insects that seem to love our gardens, even better than we do. The plant table had a nice selection of begonias and ferns. Mrs. Korts talked on the spring culture for begonias and companion plants.

We are starting plans for our regular Spring Festival in May, be sure to keep the date (May 28th) open so that you can help make the Festival, our main financial effort of the year, a success.

—B—

INGLEWOOD

Program at the meeting was a talk on "Chelated Materials" by that well known "Doc" Cha-Kem-Co, of the R. L. Chacon Chemical Company. The Study Club met Tuesday, March 18th, at the home

of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Sault, 26938 Dapplegray Lane, Rolling Hills.

ANNUAL PRESIDENTS DINNER—Inglewood Women's Club, April 10th. A gala show, fine plants, and a grand speaker, Rudolph Zieshenne, will speak on plant ailments. Get your reservations in early. Donation \$1.65.

—B—

LONG BEACH

The Parent branch had as guest speaker at their February meeting, Bert Slatter. Mr. Slatter, past president of the Inglewood branch and president-elect of the National Board, geared his talk to gardening hints, especially as concerns begonias, for this time of the year.

—B—

MISSOURI

The Missouri branch met as usual for lunch at 12:30, for members of the society and visitors. The new president, Mrs. Helen Ware, presided. The society is planning an interesting program through which it hopes to revive interest in those who have dropped their membership in the group. Donations from this group have been made to Cerebral Palsy and Heart Funds for children.

—B—

LOS ANGELES

Members of this branch met at the home of Mrs. Laura Crandall on Feb. 27 for a potluck lunch. This was followed by a talk on Camellias and Azaleas by Mrs. Crandall and Mrs. Florence Gee, Seed Fund chairman told us about B. "Ricky Minter". There was also a plant sale.

—B—

PHILOBEGONIA

The meeting of the Philabegonia Branch met at the home of Mrs. Robert York of Camden, with an attendance of 12 and one guest.

Our study at this meeting was on flowers given by Ruth Allen our program chairman. One of the main things we learned was that a flower is an aggregation of modified leaves, on an axis bearing one or more carpels or one or more stamens, or both, which may or may not be surrounded by sepals and petals.

The Philadelphia show will be held on March 10 thru March 15, and we expect to place begonias along with other exhibits.

—B—

REDONDO AREA

The program began with a jitney Pot Luck.

The speaker for the evening was Mr. Watterman who represents the California Spray Co. Makers of ortho sprays and dusts. There was also a color film on some phases of gardening.

—B—

SACRAMENTO

Tuesday, Feb. 18, the Sacramento branch celebrated their 10th birthday at a dinner planned by Ann Huss, Mary Smith, Esther Long, and Mae Sullivan. Instead of a program, Herb Fitch planned a bingo game with lovely prizes, contributed by participating families—white- elephantwise. The branch plans to enter the county fair again this year, and has advised members to pick out plants now for this event and begin grooming them.

—B—

SAN FRANCISCO

Mr. George Kuthe, our Program Chairman, gave us another enjoyable evening at our March meeting, held at Forest Lodge, Wednesday, March 5th. Our own Hyacinth Smith passed along to the members some sound pointers drawn from her vast experience in growing begonias. She was followed by Dr. Charles Phillips, who is a recognized expert on azaleas. His address was divided into two parts; the first portion devoted to a talk on azaleas, with some prime specimens on display; the second portion centered about "The High

Country", with some prize slides on wild-flowers.

—B—

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

The Southern Alameda County Branch of the American Begonia Society celebrated its 12th Birthday Anniversary at the regular meeting on February 20, 1958, at the Strobridge School, 21400 Bedford Drive, Hayward, California.

President Mr. E. L. Kappler welcomed guests and friends.

John Paul Edwards, the well known speaker, was the guest speaker for the evening. After showing colored slides of beautiful begonias and some other shade loving plants he gave a very interesting talk on the care and planting of begonias. He stressed the fact that today it is unnecessary to have mildew on tuberous begonias.

Officers for 1958 are: Edward L. Kappler, 520 Superior Ave., San Leandro, president; Mrs. Helen Fouche, 1214 Sandelin, San Leandro, vice-president; Mrs. Ruby Rogers, 559 Arden Rd., Newark, rec. secretary; Mrs. Chester Bartlow, 553 Arden Rd., Newark, corr. secretary; William Simon, 417 Lloyd St., San Leandro, treasurer; Mrs. Floyd Slutter, 1073 Hampton Rd., Hayward, director.

—B—

TEXAS STATE

The Texas State Branch held its February meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Weaver, and Officers for the year 1958 were elected as follows: Mr. E. Weaver Pres., Mrs. W. N. Foster Vice Pres., Mrs. R. J. Wilson Secretary, Mr. E. Hudson Director, Mrs. Nanie McAdams treasurer.

Refreshments were served and everyone had a pleasant evening. Each year at the time Officers are elected the branch presents some person who is interested in growing shade plants a one year membership to the American Begonia Society and membership to the Branch. For the year 1958 the Branch selected Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Hickson, 2310 Dale, Port Arthur, Texas, as its sponsored member. Welcome to our Branch and happy growing.

Minutes

(Continued From Page 76)

Chairman. Motion made and carried that the Report of the Committee be accepted.

Membership Chairman Walton reported that 79 new members had been secured during the past month, also 102 renewals.

Mrs. Leatherman reported on the activities of the Research Dept.

Mrs. Gee, Seed Fund Chairman, could not be present at the meeting but had sent her report to the Treasurer showing \$90.00 turned over to the treasury for the month.

Nomenclature Chairman, Mrs. Korts, gave a short report on her department and submitted for approval a long distance telephone bill for calls relative to the Department. Motion made and carried that the bill be paid. Mrs. Korts also read a letter from Dr. Geo. H. M. Lawrence thanking the A.B.S. for the \$25.00 check sent to Bailey's Horatorium in his behalf.

Pres. Elect Slatter reporter that Pres. Coe had been notified by the City Hall that we could no longer occupy City Hall room no. 1305 for our Board Meetings on the 4th Monday of each month. As there was no other room in the City Hall available for the 4th Monday motion was made and carried that our March Board meeting be held in the Echo Park Recreation center room available on the 4th Monday of the month, as published in the March Begonian. At that time discussion will be had as to whether we continue to hold Board Meetings in the Recreation center, or change the meeting night to the 4th Friday of each month when our old room, no 1305 in the City Hall, would be available.

Mr. Hall, Public Relations Chairman, could not attend the Board meeting but his report was read by Mr. Walton. Mr. Hall's report stated that the requested auditing of the Convention books for 1957 showed everything to be in order.

Mr. Walton read a letter from the present publisher of The Begonian giving a price of \$8.50 per 100 copies for additional copies of The Begonian, should they be needed.

Pres. Elect Slatter brought up the item carried over from January relative to printing a membership roster in one issue of The Begonian. After some discussion as to the advisability of making public a list of the general membership, no definite action was taken.

Mrs. Lucy Sault, National Librarian, gave her report and stated that the new

book "Exotics" is now available. Those interested in this book may order thru her department.

Pres. Elect Slatter stated that Pres. Coe had two appointments to the Board that he asked be confirmed: Mrs. Irma Brown as secretary and Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger as Chairman of the Judging School. Motions made and carried that appointments be confirmed.

Branches reporting: Glendale, Inglewood, Long Beach Parent Branch, Pasadena, Redondo, Riverside and West Valley Branch.

Pres. Elect Slatter advised the Board that the meetings had been lasting too long, that he had had several complaints from Board members about the lateness of adjournment and suggested that we make it a point to adjourn as near 10 o'clock as possible so that members coming from distant branches could get home earlier.

Mr. Walton brought up the question of names to whom complimentary copies of The Begonian are being mailed and asked that all departments check their lists carefully as he felt some were being sent without practical benefit to the Society. Motion made and carried that Dr. George H. M. Lawrence be added to the complimentary list.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Irma Jane Brown, Secretary

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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
Irma Jane Brown, Cor. Sec.
3628 Revere Ave.,
Los Angeles 39, 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 Belsler, Cor. Secy.
Welsh and Veree 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. B. A. Russell, Secy.
5926 Jackwood, Houston 36, 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.
Mima A. Rich, Secy.
2022 W. 84th Place, Los Angeles 47, Cal.

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, 1 p.m.
World War Memorial Bldg.
Linwood and Paseo
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. Lionel Evans, Secy.
10381 Orangewood, Garden Grove, 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. Ralph DeCou, Secy.
107 Potter St., Haddonfield, 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.
Mrs. Pearl Riggles, Secy.
2042 Kathy Way
Torrance, 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. Leslie H. Watkins, Secy.
3070 Land Park Dr.
Sacramento 18, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday
Hard of Hearing Hall,
Herbert & University
Mrs. Leah Jones, Secy.
120 Upas 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. Rudolf Ziesenhenn, Secy.
1130 Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Green Lake Field House
7201 Green Lake Way
Mrs. Arthur Martin, Secy.
8539 Latona Ave., Seattle 15, 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.

SMOKY 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.
Mrs. Chester Bartlow, Cor. Secy.,
553 Arden St., Newark, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

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

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Homes of Members, Ft. Worth, Texas
Mrs. Joe X. Schad, Secy.
Rte. 1, Box 17, Saginaw, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday night in members' homes
E. Weaver, Secy.,
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

TREASURE ISLAND BRANCH

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

WEST VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Orcutt Playground Clubhouse
21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park, Calif.

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. Pearl Benell, Secy.
10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

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

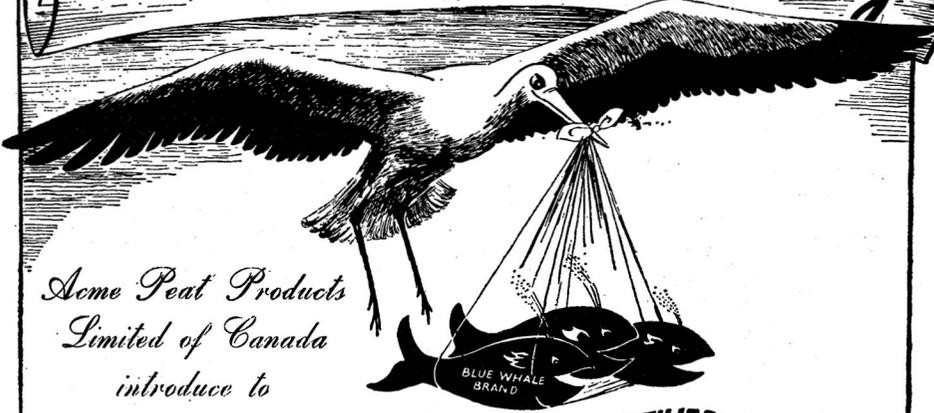
(Ed.: If your Branch has elected new officers, will you send in any changes so that this record may be kept current? Please include FULL address of your secretary. Thank you.)

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