

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

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

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Growing Cane Type Begonias

By EDNA KORTS

UNTIL the past few years, I had always considered the cane type begonias delicate. I presume one reason was because so many are crossed with *B. dichroa* and my luck with it was not good. My conclusions are that "luck" is not the way to grow begonias. Get a good healthy plant, give it good soil, plenty of light and water, and feed regularly and nine times out of ten it will grow.

A few years ago when visiting my friend Louise Schwerdtfeger at Santa Barbara I fell in love with her beautiful cane begonias that had great clusters of flowers on them. Louise persuaded me to try some, and when trying to find a place in my yard that they liked, I located some where they have a south exposure with only lath for shade (and the lath are not very close together). They are along the south wall of a house, in a bed bordered by a cement side walk which I keep damp on hot days in summer. Three plants in my group stand out because they have been in bloom now for many months, and as of today, Dec 1, 1958, they are still full of flowers. Since we live on the edge of San Fernando Valley and our temperature here recently went as low as 38°, I think it remarkable they are still blooming. These plants are *dichroa* hybrids.

To quote Mr. Robinson's last catalogue, "*B. Di-anna*,"—a Rosecroft introduction. Seedling of *B. dichroa* on *B. 'Annie Laurie'*, a *rosea picta* seedling, this is a medium grower and constant bloomer." It really is.

One of my plants is supposed to be *B. "Di-erna"*, but I must confess I can see no difference between it and *B. "Di-anna"*. Both have bloomed orange colored flowers, very plentifully, and are

still in bloom. They make a rather bushy plant, with many canes.

A very nice plant is *B. "Diclata"*, which is *B. dichroa* x *B. undulata* and came from Rudolf Ziesenhenné's garden. This has pink flowers, and also has been in bloom for many months. Another nice plant has grown beautifully for several years but refused to bloom until this year. It has salmon colored flowers. I do not know its name, or if it is a named plant.

This past year when on a visit to San Diego I brought home a plant of a *B. "Limminghei"* x *B. dichroa*. At the garden where I obtained it I was told the plant had been called L & D but this was changed to *B. "Ellen Dee"*. This is a hybrid released by Woodriff and has not been registered, but is a beautiful basket plant and produced great clusters of orange colored flowers similar to the flowers that grow on *B. dichroa*.

Another very nice cane type begonia, with an apricot colored flower, is *B. "Pink Wave"* from the garden of Susie Zug. It can be grown upright by staking carefully, but also will make a beautiful basket plant. It blooms prolifically and the edges of the leaves are wavy, in this trait it is similar to *B. "Diclata"*.

Some plants of the type I have mentioned were on exhibit at our 1958 Convention Show. They were shown by John Thieben and were wonderful. You may not (or perhaps you may) grow them just as well, however the point I want to make is this, you *can* grow them very nicely and they make very beautiful and satisfactory yard displays.

There are many other varieties of the cane begonias and I hope to get some more this next year. How about you?

Only Fifty Begonias

By MARION W. DE COURSEY

The beautiful picture on this month's cover of B. scharffi, drooping type, was taken by Anita M. E. Bolling of Bryn Mawr, Pa., who not only takes begonia pictures but writes of them as well.

—ED. NOTE

ONE OF the drawbacks about raising begonias in the house instead of a greenhouse devoted to these plants is that around Philadelphia you must choose early in September the plants that can be accommodated on your window sills. My husband is not begonia minded, not even plant minded, and, I think, just accepts the plants that I grow and tend as one of the curious things that men put up with when they marry a woman; so there are a few window sills in the house which I am careful not to burden with begonias, no matter how beautiful, the picture window in the living room, the windows in his rooms and the cellar windows. All other windows are full and thanks be that begonias will flourish in all exposures.

My first choice is a very large bushy begonia for the north kitchen window which looks out on the path to the front door; frankly my kitchen is not a beauty spot all day and every day and an old plant of *B. "Mrs. Fred D. Scripps"* gives me the wanted privacy.

The east window in the kitchen I reserve for starting slips. Small glass bottles and pots of starting soil fill that space; the south window is next to the breakfast table and I try to keep plants here that will frame the window with cheery color for all the dreary mid-winter mornings: *B. "Rubaiyat," B. "Di-erna," B. "It,"* and *B. "Thrush"* are prodigal with their blossoms and enjoy the sunshine. These plants in the kitchen do so well that even without a coal stove with

a kettle simmering all day on it I feel that there is enough extra moisture in the room to make it a very good place to keep your favorite plants.

My big plant of *B. "Rubaiyat"* is now so big that it is planted in a nail keg and needs a window to itself; since it ranks high among my favorites it has one of the two south windows in the living room all to itself. This lavish use of precious space allows me to turn the plant from time to time and keep it shapely. One of the difficulties about grouping plants closely for the winter months is that they adapt themselves to the light allowed them and only too often look misshapen when wanted to stand by themselves. It is a great temptation to me to put other plants around *B. "Rubaiyat"* but so far "*Rudaiyat*" wins.

The other south window faces the door to the room so the plants here are grouped to make a pleasant impression as you come in; *B. "Mrs. Wallow"* is handsome and distinguished looking against one side of the window frame and is balanced by a very slim plant of *B. "Grey Feather."* Between them this year will be *B. "Richmondensis," B. "Pinafore"* and *B. "Beatrice Haddrell."* *B. "Richmondensis"* is one of my favorites, its ease of culture, free bloom and rich coloring have made it supplant *B. "Tea Rose"* in my collection. It is also very easy to start from cuttings and is easy to shape. How hard it is to give up a variety which you have grown with pleasure because something a little finer has come along. Limited space is a hard master.

Our east living room window is our bird feeding window so plants cannot obstruct the view. Every now and then a plant grows abnormally tall and thin; those are what I want for this situation.

This year it looks as though *B. "Templini"* and *B. nitida* will fill the bill; neither could be called well grown and I shall keep them skinny until next spring when they will be pruned for more healthy growth.

Now that our family has grown and married the dining room gets little use and I can cram begonias in front of its four windows. This allows me to keep a lot of good plants, new plants and some old standbys that are useful if the William Penn Branch wishes to enter some flower show. After killing off a good many *B. goegoensis* I discovered that it would grow happily in a west window on a glass topped table which overhangs a hot water radiator. *B. goegoensis*, *B. bartonea* and *B. scharffiana* all seem to like this arrangement and I have had *goegoensis* and *scharffiana* survive two winters there; unfortunately after *B. bartonea* did well on this table for several months it folded up and died as soon as I put it out of doors. I spread newspapers from the table top to the window sill so the table is warmed underneath but no hot air reaches the foliage. *B. "Paul Bruant"* (surely one of the most beautiful of begonias), *B. gigantea rosea* and *B. "Digswelliana"* hold the paper steady on the window sill. Near the back of the table I keep my hanging *scharffi* on a high stand; I find that it is easier to avoid overwatering *scharffi* if it stands by itself. My second west window has *B. coccinea* on a stand with *B. "Rickey Minter"* and *B. Mexican* species under it; my old fashioned plant table is strong enough and large enough to take a big rhizomatous plant, so its tin tray is reserved for *B. "Verschaffeltiana"*. Both the north windows are full of hirsute begonias: here these begonias bloom in the autumn so they can get along with very little sun while the north light gives their foliage a very dark color and a most lovely sheen. *B. "Joe Hayden,"* not a hirsute and a spring bloomer, lives here with a handsome *B. "Prunifolia,"* a big "Alto Scharff," "Lillian Sloan," "Viaude," "Nellie Bly," and a few lovely but unnamed hairies; in front of these plants are two garden seats which in winter

hold very big plants of *B. "Bunchi"* and "Feasti."

Little by little as my children got homes of their own the begonias crept upstairs. I swore that I did not care enough about any vegetation to carry them up and down stairs twice a year but if it is a choice between changing your mind and discarding plants that have been given to you, or collected with joy after a long hunt, raised by you and hovered over for six months what real choice is there? I carry the pots up and down stairs and, when we have guests, carry all the plants which normally crowd the guest room window sills into my room for the duration. The one window in the hall looks to the north and the enormously heavy open fish tank with a marble base is a fixture here; this is the very successful home of *B. "Iron Cross."* For two winters this lovely and fascinatingly marked begonia has flourished in the fish tank and I wouldn't disturb this arrangement for anything. I had an anxious moment this spring when I put "Iron Cross" outside for the summer but the slat house suits it; it lost its delicate yellow-green, developing a dull reddish green.

In my bathroom window are some of my favorite small begonias. I have never seen a large, well grown *B. dichroa* so I am not sure whether this species is always a moderate grower or whether mine grown in the house is a small plant; mine is in a ten inch hanging basket and I have thought that the moisture present in a bathroom combined with the sun from a southern exposure has helped me keep this delicate and difficult plant into its third year. It is a fine, bushy plant and in August every tip ended in a most brilliant cluster of orange flowers. When I first put it out I hung it on the southern edge of the slat house but found that the foliage is very susceptible to sunburn; since I have moved it into a more shady spot it has recovered well. I was told that this species is hard to grow so I love it for two reasons; it represents a certain success to me and it is so beautiful. A six inch pot of *B. boweri* is

(Continued on Page 19)

Seeds, Seedlings and Hybrids

By DON HORTON

Humidity

It is always truthfully said that house plants, such as begonias, ferns, and African Violets, require a high humidity to grow to perfection. So that we can know how to supply our plants with any needed additional humidity a discussion of what humidity is and how it affects plants should prove most helpful.

Humidity is the amount of moisture in the air. In theory it can range from 0 to 100 per cent. Actually, it will range from 10 to 15 per cent in arid sections to 100 per cent during a rain or heavy fog. For human comfort the range is between 40 and 70 per cent, but our more tropical plants prefer the upper end of that range.

Plants lose water through the pores (stomata) in their leaves in a process known as transpiration. Reduced to its simplest terms this loss of water, which is in vapor form, is the flow of a high concentration of gas to a lower concentration. Therefore, the drier the air is outside the leaf, the faster the water loss will be. Much more water will flow through the leaf when the relative humidity is 30 than when it is 80.

To reduce this water loss, the stomata have guard cells that at least partially close the pores reducing the moisture flow. Wilting, for example, causes the stomata to close.

Under extremely dry conditions the leaves will transpire more water than the roots can pick up. Related to this is the reason for removing leaves or halves of leaves when a plant is transplanted. The leaf transpiring surface has been reduced to adjust it to the damaged root system which is not able to pick up as much water as before.

In nature, plants have by evolutionary selection adapted themselves to the at-

mospheric conditions in which they live. In arid climates plants have reduced their transpiring surface by reducing the size and/or number of leaves. Cactus, for example, has done away with leaves entirely and has let enlarged stems take over the function of leaves with vastly reduced number of stomata.

In the tropics, where rain is almost daily and hence atmospheric moisture is high, plants are able to develop large leaves with millions of stomata. Orchids adapted themselves to the point where they have no guard cells to slow down transpiration because in their natural climate there is always sufficient humidity.

When these plants are brought from their native climate into our homes for their best health they must be supplied with adequate humidity. A greenhouse is one answer, for it is an enclosed structure where the water transpiring from the plants and evaporating from the soil is not allowed to dissipate into the great outdoors as it does from plants growing in the garden.

Not everyone can have a greenhouse. A Wardian case is a small glass enclosed case in the house that some people grow orchids in. Many plants will succeed in the kitchen or (don't laugh) bathroom, because there is more water evaporating in these rooms than in any other.

Several plants together will help supply humidity to one another. Therefore, if you can, group your plants together.

Potted plants can be set in saucers or shallow pans of water, or in vermiculite that is kept wet. The pot should be on gravel or something to keep the bottom of the pot from touching the water lest the soil in the pot be kept too wet by not allowing it drain.

From the foregoing it can be seen that humidity is very important to houseplants and it is not difficult, but very necessary, to supply them with extra atmospheric moisture.

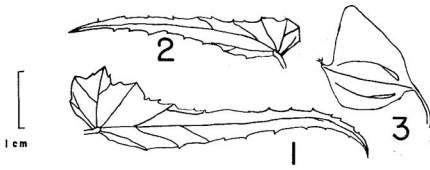
American Begonia Seed in England

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

IN EARLY January 1957 I received two packets of tuberous begonia seed from a hybridist residing in the United States. The seed was duly sown in two pans of light soil and placed in a propagating case in a temperature of 68°F. I was confronted with the task of finding greenhouse space for them. However, those plants which could not be accommodated in the houses were put into a cold frame, the tops of which had to be removed

Begonia Cuernavacensis Zies.

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE



Begonia cuernavacensis Zies.

IN MY study of the genus *Begonia* I am reviewing the begonias described in Arthur D. Houghton's doctoral thesis, "The Begonias of North America." This work was never published and therefore the new species described have no botanical standing. The monograph was finished in 1923 and some of the plants described have since been named by others. Also some of the names proposed have been affixed by other botanists to other begonias and cannot be used validly now.

Species 41 in the monograph, *B. rosei*, has been named *B. uruapensis* Sesse & Moc. var. *rosei* Smith and Schubert and published in Contr. Gray Herb. 154:26. 1945.

Species 80 *B. ekmani* has been published by Smith and Schubert in Contr. Gray Herb., Bo. 154, page 23. 1945.

Species 84 *B. cebodillensis* has been published by Stanley & Calderon in Lista Prelim. Pl. Salvad. page 156. 1925.

Species 125 *B. spicata* was published by Stanley & Calderon in Lista Prelim. Pl. Salvad. page 157. 1925. After careful study of the type specimen with the photograph of *B. plebja* Liebm., I am of the opinion that the two plants are the same.

Species 132 *B. standleyi* was named by Stanley and Calderon in Lista Prelim. Pl. Salvad. on page 157. 1925.

Plant 38. *B. cuneifolia* is the plant I wish now to describe. The name "cuneifolia" means wedge-leaf. The use of the begonia name, "*cuneatifolia*, Irmscher," precludes the use of the name "*cuneifolia*." I therefore propose that the fol-

lowing begonia be called "*cuernavacensis*" for the place where it was collected.

In order to have the description usable to begonia fanciers, you will note that the description is written in everyday language. To be botanically accepted, a Latin description is given also.

The only known plant collected was dried into a herbarium specimen. Therefore this plant is not now and has not been in cultivation to my knowledge.

Begonia cuernavacensis Zies., new species, herbaceous, entire plant bare; stem erect, round, 1 1/2 inches high, 1/12 inch in diameter, much branched, well clothed with leaves; inter joints shortest 1/2 inch, longest 1 3/4 inches; joints slightly swollen; stipules hang on a while, thin, strap-like-lance-like, tip coming to a point quickly, the margin unbroken, even, 1/8 inch long, 1/24 inch wide: leafstem round, 1/24 inch in diameter, 1/2 inch long: leaf (figure 1) feathery-palmately veined: very lancelike, narrow with both sides the same, curving like a sword toward the inside edge of the leaf, the tip very gradually running to a long point, base of the leaf very unequal, rounded, cut with three lobes which come to points quickly, the leaf edge regularly toothed in between which are occasionally found very small saw teeth, two inches long, almost 1/2 inch wide at the base of the leaf, main vein one running the length of the leaf and giving rise to little veins along it, at the base a vein runs out each of the three lobes: inflorescence is a stem coming out from above a leaf stem near the top of the stem and it has only a few flowers; flower stem 1/2 inch long; individual flower stem a little over 1/2 inch long; leaf on flower-stem remains, egg-shaped-lance-like, coming to a point quickly, almost 3/16 inch long and 1/24 inch wide; flowers male missing; female flower styles remaining, 3 on a raised base, two lobed, the papillae form a con-

tinuous band and make two turns as they run out on the arms, 1/16 inch long; capsule (figure 3) shaped like a turban, the base and tip come quickly to a point, 1/2 inch long, 1/4 inch wide, with three unequal wings, the largest sharply triangular, running down to the largest part near the flower end of the capsule 3/8 inch long, two smaller wings only 1/24 inch long along the edge of the capsule; seed pod three-celled, seed plate divided with seeds on both sides of each plate. (figure 2 is of a leaf higher up the plant).

C. C. Pringle *Plantae Mexicanae* 7059 indem. U. S. National Herbarium Sheet number 371986, on damp banks near Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. Nov. 15, 1895.

BEGONIA (section KNESEBECKIA (KLOTZSCH) A. DC.) cuernavacensis Zies., spec. nov., herba, perennis, glabra: caule erecto, valde ramos, a basi foliato; internodi superioribus brevioribus 1.5 cm., inferioribus longioribus 4.5 cm.; stipulis subsistentibus, papyraceis, lineari-lanceolatis, apice acutis, margine integris, 3 mm. longis, 1 mm. latis; petiolis teretibus, 1 mm. crassis, 1.5 cm. longis: foliis papyraceis, penni-palmati-nerviis; e basi oblique ovato anguste lineari-lanceolatis, leviter falcatis, apice sensim longe acuminate, basi valde inaequalateralibus, rotundatis margine exteriori, tri-lobatis, lobis acutis; margine remote dentatis hic illinc parce serratis: inflorescentia cymoso, pauciflora; pedunculis axillaribus ca. 1.2 cm. longis, pedicellis 1.5 cm. longis; bracteis persistentibus, ovatis-lanceolatis, acutis; flores feminei styles 3, 2 mm. longis, ramis 2, stigmatibus fascia papillosa basi continuabitis torta: capsula 15 mm. longa, 8 mm. lata, ovalis, basi acuta, apice acuta, inaequaliter triangularis; ala maxima acutitriangularis decurrente, 8 mm. longa, reliquis angustis 1 mm. longis; ovario 3-loculari; placentis bilamellatis undique ovuliferis.

—B—

Did you know that all species of *Eranthus chionodoxas* and *Galanthus* will thrive in the shade of Beech or evergreen trees, which is true of few bulbous plants?

On Cows 'n Pineapples

By DON HORTON

"DID YOU ever see a cow dig a hole?" was the rhetorical question asked by Jimmy Giridlian of Oakhurst Gardens in Arcadia, Calif., in his talk before the Orange County Branch at its August meeting.

To explain this query, Jimmy says he is a lazy gardener and that he likes to do things the easy, natural way. For example, he does not take the pains to dig the two foot square, three foot deep planting hole of the rose fanciers, along with their meticulous soil preparations involving leafmold, peatmoss, etc., with a cone of the soil mix in the bottom of the hole for the roots to spread out over.

The rosarians are then careful to plant the bed of the rose one inch out of the ground. Jimmy said that then in three or four months they call out the nurseryman to inquire why their rose is not doing well.

"No wonder," the nurseryman replies, "the bed is three inches underground."

The soil had settled, Jimmy explained, with the leafmold and peat decomposing, dropping the whole plant. Jimmy said he always dug a hole just big enough to get the roots in and filled it back up with soil and won first prize for his flowers with the best of them.

He doesn't believe in all the different concoctions of fertilizers that are sold, either, such as pansy fertilizer, sweetpea fertilizer, camellia fertilizer, etc. These add nothing permanent to the soil. If you must fertilize, use the old standby, steer manure.

And don't dig it in, he cautioned. Using his lazy way, leave it on the surface of the ground as nature intended.

"After all," he asked, "did you ever see a cow dig a hole?"

Because he loves to garden with a minimum of effort, he is very partial to the plants of the pineapple family, bromeliads. Here are the true lazy man's plants. They will grow in soil, in fir-bark, in *Osmunda* fiber, or lacking any

(Continued on Page 15)

Somerville Lands to Be Horticultural Center

MISS DORIS DUKE, president of the Duke Gardens Foundation, Inc., of Somerville, New Jersey, and Mr. Charles D. Webster, president of the Horticultural Society of New York, announce the signing of an agreement between the two groups which provides for development of part of the 2,300 acre Duke Farms area as a center for horticultural exhibits and research.

The area involved consists of 60 acres of natural woods, gardens and greenhouses, located within the Duke Farms property on the banks of the Raritan River, approximately two miles from the Somerville Circle and 35 miles from New York City.

Plans include exhibitions of rare plant materials under glass, demonstrations of new growing and breeding techniques and testing of plant materials. When completed, facilities will permit the Gardens to be used as an exhibition and meeting center for local, regional and national plant societies.

Completion of facilities and arranging for memberships will require about a year. At the end of that period the grounds will be open to the public.

Development of the Gardens will be under the direction of an Advisory Committee to the Foundation, composed of Miss Doris Duke, Mrs. W. Redmond Cross of Bernardsville, New Jersey, Mr. Henry F. du Pont of Winterthur, Delaware, Dr. Harold E. Anthony of Englewood, New Jersey, and Mr. Charles D. Webster of Islip, Long Island. The four latter-named committee members are also directors of the Horticultural Society of New York. It is anticipated that an additional advisory committee will soon be formed, whose membership will be composed of representative horticulturists in the New Jersey region.

In making the announcement, Mr. Charles D. Webster said:

"The Duke Gardens project represents the most important step in the 56-year history of the New York Horticultural Society.

"Horticulture has played an increasingly significant role in the great housing expansion which has taken place all over America in the post-World War II period. More and more people are brightening their homes and their lives by growing flowers, plants and vegetables. This horticultural boom has been accompanied by a growing desire on the part of millions of citizens to learn more about the practical and ornamental use of trees, shrubs, flowers, fruits and vegetables. In making possible this arrangement, Miss Doris Duke exhibits a keen awareness of this growing interest in horticulture.

"A classic example of how such a project can develop is that of the great Wisley Gardens at Surrey, England, operated in trust by the Royal Horticultural Society of England. Here in our own country, the fine Longwood Gardens at Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, created by the late Pierre S. du Pont and now operated for the benefit of the public, is another example.

"Several other horticultural centers and arboretums are being developed throughout the country with the help of private support. The Duke Gardens will be the only horticultural center of its kind in the entire metropolitan tri-state area. Our Society is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this project."

The Horticultural Society of New York, which was founded in 1902, has agreed to administer the project in behalf of the Duke Gardens Foundation, Inc., recently formed under the auspices of Doris Duke. Among the Society's stated purposes are that of collecting and diffusing information on all topics related to the care and culture of plants, fruits and vegetables, and to stimulate the love of horticulture in America.

Headquarters for the Horticultural Society of New York and Duke Gardens Foundation, Inc., will be at the Essex House, 157 West 58th Street, New York 19, N. Y.

Index, The Begonian, 1958

To facilitate its use, this index has been divided into three sections. The first is a "general" index, the second a list of 1958 contributors, and the last a special begonia section. They are printed so these four pages can be removed and filed with *The Begonian* for 1958. An asterisk (*) indicates an illustration.

General Index

A.B.S.

- Awards—155, 158, 229
- Board Meeting Minutes—4, 65, 76, 111, 131, 147, 186, 212, 234, 260, 288
- Branch Meeting Dates—46, 94, 166, 214, 262, 290
- Branch News
 - Bessie Raymond Buxton—285
 - East Bay—43, 161
 - El Monte—43
 - Elsa Fort—67, 90, 114, 161, 258
 - Eva Kenworthy Gray—181
 - Foothill—67, 181
 - Glendale—67, 90, 114, 181, 209, 235, 258, 285
 - Gruenbaum, Margaret C.—19, 115, 181, 235
 - Hollywood—67, 114, 139, 161, 181, 235, 259
 - Houston—181
 - Inglewood—19, 43, 67, 90, 114, 139, 161, 182, 235, 259, 285
 - Lone Star—182
 - Long Beach Parent Chapter—19, 43, 90, 285
 - Los Angeles—19, 67, 90
 - Louisiana Capital—139, 182
 - Missouri—19, 43, 90, 115, 139, 182, 209, 259, 285
 - New England—139, 161, 235
 - Orange—20, 43, 68, 178, 209
 - Philobegonia—20, 43, 68, 90, 115, 139, 161, 184, 285
 - Redondo Area—44, 68, 91, 209, 236
 - Rhode Island—116, 140, 259, 286
 - Riverside—44, 201*, 209
 - Sacramento—20, 44, 68, 91, 116, 140, 162, 172*, 210, 233, 236
 - San Diego—44
 - San Francisco—20, 68, 91, 116, 140, 259
 - San Gabriel—20, 68, 116, 141, 163, 184, 210, 236, 260, 286
 - San Miguel—185
 - Santa Barbara—69
 - Seattle—69, 184, 195*
 - Smoky Valley—69, 116, 148*, 185, 237
 - Southern Alameda—91, 117, 162, 211
 - Tarrant County—117, 185
 - Texas State—20, 91, 117
 - Theodosia Burr Shepherd—21
 - West Valley—163
 - Whittier—21, 117, 185, 237
 - William Penn—44, 211, 237
 - Calendar—23, 38, 66, 77, 111, 141, 163, 189, 206, 233, 244, 287
 - Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund—16, 39, 65, 88, 112, 136, 153, 176, 207, 232, 256, 282
 - Members Write—129
 - Convention and Show
 - Address—219
 - Banquet Ticket Chairman—179
 - Chairman Message—179
 - Chairmen Named—151
 - Chairman Thanks—228
 - Correction—180
 - Echoes—245
 - Flashes—228
 - Flower Show Schedule—156
 - Membership Secretary's Report—229
 - Point System - Judging—155
 - President's Invitation—180
 - Roster of Judges—228
 - Roster of Records—228
 - Schedule of Events—179
 - Show Chairman, Quote—228
 - Show - Rules, Regulations—158
 - Show - Special Awards—158
 - Snack Bar Thanks—245
 - Trophy Winners—229
 - Eastern P.R. Chairman—202

- Historian—5
- In Memoriam
 - Mrs. F. E. Cheesborough—84
 - Mrs. John Cheney—274
 - Herbert P. Dyckmann—123
 - Katherine Kilderry—274
 - Herman Weitz—141
 - Mrs. Jack (Flora) Williams—55
- Librarian—104, 255
- Mailbag—35
- Membership Secretary—29, 229
- Nomenclature—15, 277, 278, 279, 280
- Officers—159*
- Statement of Ownership—237
- The Begonian
 - Apologia—272
 - Editor's Report—245
 - Wins Award—131
 - Index, 1958—11, 12, 13, 14
- Amateur Gardener—8, 32, 79, 107, 159, 173
- An Experiment—199
- Aqua Pura—275
- Arboretum—33, 87, 199, 244

B

- Beginner's Suggestions—225
- Begonia
 - Attention—13
 - Crispula Brade—4*
 - Culture—250
 - Freude—247*
 - How to Water—230
 - It—174*
 - Kenworthyi—145*, 147
 - Kumwha—175*
 - Macrophylla—31*
 - Personality—225*
 - Purple Heart—169*
 - Quadreocularis—224*
 - Random Notes—246
 - Reiga—241*
 - Rex of Germany—75
 - San Miguel—56*
 - Smaragd—246*
 - Song—171
 - Special Index (1957)—11
 - Species Clarified—76
 - Van-Ex—124*
 - Vellozoana Brade—152*
- Begonias
 - And the People—219
 - As Houseplants—9
 - Begonias—109*
 - Brazilian—224*
 - Brazilian, Near Boston—130*
 - Registered—15
 - Registered, Not In Buxton—203*
 - Confused—171*
 - Exhibit in New York—51*
 - Growing from Seed—83
 - In Hawaii—37
 - In Integration—249
 - In Landscape—61
 - Not In Buxton List—203*
 - Out of Doors In Pa.—276
 - Red Semps—227*
 - Supplement to Buxton, 1958—277
 - Blooming Tuberos in Winter—10
 - Book Review—87
 - Botanical Orchids Challenge—252
 - Brazilian Begonias—217*, 224*
 - Buxton, 1958 Supplement—277
- C
 - California in New York—99*
 - California Gardening, Poem—128

Clayton M. Kelly, Adventurer—125*
Confused Begonias—171*

D

Demonstration Gardens—199
Descanso Gardens—42
Discard Old Friends?—188
Does Anthing Go?—33
Dr. Lawrence Addresses—52

E

Enemies of Begonias—77
Exotic Peperomia—59*
Experiment, Gibberellin—268

F

Fascinating House Plants—269
Fern's Place in Plant World—253
Flower Show Notes—28
From Seed Fund Contributor—177
From the Mailbag—35
Fuchsias—135
Fuchsia Show—138

G

Garden in Fallbrook—150
Garden of Year Winners—233
Garden Room—172*
Glasshouse for Begonias—244
Gloire de Lorraine—57*
Golden Gardens Honors Coes—75
Growing Begonias in Texas—196
Growing Begonias Under Lights—30

H

Happy Birthday—80
Have New Begonia Tub—56*
Hillebrandia sandwicensis—217*, 233
Historian—5
How to Water Begonias—230

I

Impressions—105
Index, 1957—11, 12, 13, 14
In Memory - Our Founder—123
In the Garden—123
Into Tenbyten—243
International Flower Show—28
It Can Be Done—201*

K

Knowing Ferns Better—273

L

Leafmold Preparation & Potting—54
Letter to Florence Gee—252

M

Mary Gillingwaters Honored—103*
Master Weaver, Poem—249
Meet Mrs. DeCoursey—80
Membership Secretary—29, 229
Members Write Seed Fund—129
Michigan Student's Project—132
Mother's Plants—198

N

Nature Note—233
New Hybrids—27
New York Flower Show—100
New York Show—231

O

Orange County Shade Plant Show—154

P

Philadelphia Flower Show—105
Plant Mixture—150
Pots I Use for Rex—31

R

Random Begonia Notes—246
Red Semperflorens—227*
Registered Begonias—15, 277, 278, 279, 280

S

Sacramento Scores—172*
San Miguel Begonia—56*
Seasonable Reprint from NBS—34
Seattle Begonia Show—195*
Seeds, Seedlings, Hybrids—5, 36, 55, 81, 103, 130, 149, 175*, 200, 226*, 248, 281
Six Primary Rules—3
Smoky Valley Flower Show—148*
South Africa Transplanted—87
Southland African Violets, Allies—29
Spreading Joy of Begonias—202
Spring Transfer—151
Squirrels Don't Eat—178

T

Teuschers Visit Santa Barbara—53*
The Tree, Poem—223
This Year, Begonias—105
Time to Think of Tuberous—3
Trip - Kenworthyi Habitat—267*
Tuberous Begonia in England—85, 101

V

Visit to Boston Show—106
Visualize, Poem—148

W

Welcome to New Editor—53
William Penn Visits Greenhouses—78
Winter Blooming Begonias—6

Contributors

Alvord, Nancy—249
Arbuckle, Ethel—229
Ballard, Ernesta Drinker—109*
Bamford, A. L.—129
Bauer, Pearl—5
Bauman, Jack—3
Berry, Roy—124*
Bispham, Eleanore—250
Brady, Trevel—275
Brest, Adelaide—125
Brilmayer, Bernice—28, 99, 174*
Buell, Margaret—56*
Carleton, Emma M.—15, 277
Carroll, Russell H.—272*
Cheatham, Fannie—37
Clark, Alice M.—6, 219
Coe, Frank—180
Cole, E. B.—195
Crouch, Mrs. Lottie—172
DeCou, Mrs. Ralph—150
DeCoursey, Marion W.—77, 100, 105, 198, 269
Dillaha, Ethel Mae—148

Drummond, Dr. W. C.—253, 273
Dunkle, M. B.—150
Fahey, John and Loa—245
Fitch, Herbert R.—10
Fort, Elsa—202, 243
Frey, C. Elmer, M.D.—177
Graham, Alva—277
Greer, Alice Mary—33
Griffith, J. P.—227*
Hall, Clarence—180
Halloway, Mrs. M. D.—77
Harlow, H. Gilbert—34
Haydon, Ellen Page—129
Horton, Don—5, 36, 55, 81, 103, 130, 149, 175*, 200, 226*, 248, 281
Horton, Rosanna—135, 252
Irving, John C.—148
Irving, Roger—249
Kane, Harold B.—59*
Keith, Frank H.—223
King, Alberta—272*

Kuhlmann, M.—224*
 Leatherman, Sylvia—75, 171*, 234
 Lehrle, Mrs. Anna—199
 MacDougall, T.—223*, 267*
 MacFarlane, Martha—128
 McDonald, Elvin—185
 Merry, Pene—130*
 Merry, Ruth Pierce—106, 147
 Morel, Dr. Georges—27
 Paschall, Mrs. H. Curtis—105, 202
 Sani, Dr. Gian Luigi—57*
 Sault, Lucy—104, 255
 Schwerdtfeger, Louise—83, 228
 Shuler, Mrs. J. Dale—30, 129
 Sitterley, Nancy Dare—132
 Slatter, Albert J. (Bert)—179, 219*, 228

Small, Howard A.—33
 Spaulding, Stanley—87
 Terrell, R. H.—201*
 Teupel Brothers—241*, 246*, 247*
 Teuscher, H.—4
 Tusler, C. H.—195
 Walton, W. E. (Bill)—29, 229
 Warrick, H. H.—195
 Wiggins, Hazel Aker—252
 Willetts, W. (F.R.H.S.)—85, 101, 230, 268
 Williams, Ruthanne—8, 32, 79, 107, 159, 173
 Wilson, Mrs. R. J.—196
 Withee, Mrs. Howard L.—9*, 31, 54, 82, 151, 188, 246
 Ziesenhenné, Margaret—61
 Zeisenhenné, Rudolf—76

Special Begonia Index

Abel Carrier—108*, 198
acetosa—15, 176, 282
acida—52, 106, 178
acutangula—76
acutangularis—76
 Adrien Schmidt—198
Alba picta—63
Alba scandens—106
 Albert Martin—88, 154
alnifolia—272
alto da serra—153
 Alzasco—15, 204
 Angel Wing—271
angularis—22, 63, 76, 133, 207
angulata—76
 Annabelle—271
 Annette Sue—106
 Arabelle—15, 190, 204
arborescens—76, 207
Argenteo-guttata—6
 Arthur Mallet—100, 210
 Ballet Girl—35
barkeri—175
 Bayern—63
 Bearded—151
 Beatrice Haddrell—106
 Beefsteak—23, 110
 Bertha von Lothringen—22
 Bert Slatter—221
 Bessie Buxton—271
bidentata—76
 Black Beauty—100
 Black Night—82
 Bow-Chancee—213, 238
boweri—27, 36, 55, 106, 110, 133, 175, 221, 271, 272, 276
boweri major—105, 115
 Bow-Nigra—247
bowringiana—16
bradei—207
 Braemar—22
 Brocade—106, 196
 Bunchi—23, 37, 52, 63, 106, 110, 247, 272
caffra—64, 207
 Calla Lily—30, 100, 108*, 236, 247
cantareira—176, 282
 Cardoza Gardens—151, 188
 Carmine—64
carolineaeifolia—52
 Catalina—6, 63
cathayana—235, 270
 Cheimanthia—271
Chiala rosea—276
 Christmas Candle—136
 Christmas Cheer—134, 153
 Cinderella Rose—282
circumlobata—64
 Cleopatra—100
coccinea—153, 256, 271
 Colonel Gale—175
compta—22, 63, 244
conchaefolia—23
 Connie Bower—15, 204
 Coral Rubra—37

Corallina de Lucerna—6, 37, 62, 182, 198
 Corbeille de feu—63
 Credneri—206
 Crestabruchi—271
 Crimson Bedder—88, 154
crispula—4*, 129, 176, 206
 Croftoni—271
 Crown Jewels—16
cuban species—78, 108*
culcitrafolia—285
 Cypraea—7, 16, 52, 62, 134, 136, 199
 Dainty Maid—88
 Dancing Girl—90
dayi—36
 Decimperia—27
decora—27
 De Lesseps—37
deliciosa—64, 133
 Dewdrop—105, 151
diadema—37, 198
 Diana Wynward—35
Di-anna—271, 272
dichotoma—133, 244
dichroa—15, 204, 271, 272
Di-erna—271, 272
digitata—76 d. *refescens*—76
Digswelliana—88, 271
dipetala—16
dominicalis—153
 Dorothy Grant—22, 63, 271
 Dream—268
dregei—57, 64, 109, 134, 272, 282
 Drosti—271
 Druryi—21, 198, 199
 Duchartrei—7
echinosepala—88, 282
egregia—234
 Ellen Dee—229
 Elsie M. Frey—78, 272
 Ember—18, 151
 Emerald Giant—285
 Emerald Jewell—15, 27, 203*
 Emily Clibran—109
 Emma Palmer—22
epipsila—207, 247
 Erici-Magni—206
Erythrophylla—23, 110, 271
 E. var *helix*—23, 254, 276
evansiana—64, 256, 270, 276
 Everest—35, 268
 Fairy—82, 151
 Fairy Queen—88, 154
 Faustine—205
 Feasti—23, 37, 198
 Fido—15, 204
 Fireball—39
 Fireflush—54, 82, 150, 151, 189
 Flamboyant—17
 Flamingo—16
 Fleecealba—16, 136
Floribunda rosea—6, 78, 271
foliosa—20, 106, 115, 133, 198, 282
 Forest of Vaux—39
francois—38
 Freude—247*
 Freddie—220
 Frieda Grant—62
froebeli—39, 256
 Frondosa—108*
 Frosty—88, 134, 154
fruticosa—106
fruticosoides—6, 63, 114
Fuscomaculata—226
gigantea—88
 Glorie de Lorraine—57*, 109
 Glorietta—229
 Glory of St. Albans—106
goegoensis—55, 106, 206
 Green Berry—271
 Green Pastures—106
 Gretchen—271
 Gretel—15, 203
 Grey Feather—244
 Grey Lady—276
 Gruga—136, 208
 Guinea's Wing—182, 272
 Gundt Busch—106
haageana—7, 62
 Hansel—15, 203
 Harmony—35, 268
 Helen Lewis—151
 Helen Teupel—151
heracleifolia—39
h.nigricans—176
 Hexe—136, 208
Hillebrandia sandwicensis—55
hirtella—64, 256
 Houghtoni—220
hugeli—271
 Illustrata—271
 Immense—272
imperialis—15, 27, 204, 235, 284
i. maculata—27
 I. Gruss an Erfurt—27
 I. Otto Forster—27
i. smaragdina—27
incana—61, 106, 244, 271
incarnata—6, 15, 63, 221, 271
incisa—39
 Indian Maid—64, 154
 Inglewood—232
insignis—7
 Interlaken—271
involutrata—62, 282
 Iron Cross—20, 42, 69, 92, 106, 118, 142, 153, 165, 190, 235, 256
 It—174*
 Ivy Ever—78
 Jasmine—35, 268
 Jean Pernet—153, 232
 Jessie—22
 Jinnie May—108*, 271
 Joe Hayden—16, 106, 110*, 112, 207, 271, 276
 J. Munson—35
 Kathe Teicher—112, 207

- Kathleyana—82, 151
 kellermani—112, 133, 198, 271,
 276
 kenworthyi—36, 55, 147*, 175,
 221, 225, 267*
 King Edward—54, 106, 151, 188,
 285
 Kumwha—36, 175, 221
laciniata flava—232
 Lady Mac—109
 Lady Waterlow—63
laetevirides—62
 Lavender Glory—171
 Lavender Glow—171
 Lecco—176, 198
 Leslie Lynn—106, 226
 Lillian Sloan—100
limninghei—220, 271
lindleyana—108*
 Lloyd—16
lobulata—7
 Loma Alta—7, 105, 115
longibarbata—64
 Loveliness—88, 154
lubbersi—256
 Lucerna—272, 276
 Lucerna x Coral Rubra—16
 Lucifer—207, 256
 Lugano—63
 Lulu Bower—15, 204
 Luwalter—272
luxurians—51, 52, 76, 78, 106,
 108*, 282, 285
 Mac Alice—27
 MacBethi—112
 Machu Pichu—7
macdougalli—175, 221
macrocarpa—276
 m. pubescens—153
macrophylla—31*
maculata—64, 76, 134, 256, 271
 Madame Queen—200, 226*, 229
 Manda's Woolly Bear—257, 272
manicata—23, 55, 106, 175, 182,
 271
m. aureo-maculata—105, 198, 272
m. a-m. crispa—115, 226, 256
 Maphil—110, 112
 Margaritacea—15, 198, 205, 247
 Marguerite—62
 Marian—272
 Marion Louise—106
 Marjorie Daw—272, 276
 Marjorie Gibbs—106, 109, 271
martinicensis—31
 May Drew—100
 Maytime—210
mazae—207, 225*, 272
 Medora—106
megaptera—16
 Melior—109, 271
 Melisse—15, 205
 Merry Christmas—54, 151
metallica—16, 21, 282
mexicana—27
Mexican sp.—272, 282
 Meximperia—27
 Mme de Lesseps—182
mollicaulis—76
 Morgana—7
 Mrs. Fred Scripps—62, 106, 220,
 244, 272
 Mrs. Frevert—189
 Mrs. Townsend—37
 Mrs. W. A. Wallow—22, 244,
 276
 Mrs. W. S. Kimball—16, 153
 Multiflora rosea—6, 63
 Neely Gaddis—7, 271
 Nelly Bly—7
 New Hampshire—198
nitida—7, 271 *n. rosea*—7, 176
 n. odorata—271
 Noordi—198
 Oadi—198, 272
odorata alba—7, 37
odorata rosea—37
olbia—196, 254
 Orange Dainty—108*
 Orange Rubra—247
 Organdy—112, 206
 Orrell—272
 Otto Alfred—221
 Our Indian—151
ovatifolia—88, 176
palmifolia—38
 Paul Bruant—220, 272
paulensis—106, 130, 206, 220
 Pearl Hume—188
 Pebble Lane—15, 204*
 Perfectiflora—63
 Perle Lorraine—22
phyllomaniaca—22, 52, 108*, 272
picta—136 *p. rosea*—272
 Pinafore—51
 Pink Cane—63
 Pink Monarch—35
 Pink Parade—106
 Pink Shasta—207
popenoei—39
 Pres. Carnot—106, 151, 198, 272
 Preussen—110, 272
 Prima Donna—88, 154
 Prince Hal—268
princeps—39, 256
 Princess Margaret—285
Prunifolia—7, 271
pulchella—76
 Purple Heart—171*
pustulata—15, 204
quadrelocularis—224*
 (see *egregia*—234)
 Rama—178
ramentacea—39
 Ramirez—62
 Rathel—232
 Red Compta—133
 Redwing—151
 Reichenheimi—36, 175, 178, 220
 Reiga—247*
reniformis—76
 Reseda—106
 Rex—15, 75*, 82, 88, 134, 136,
 244, 269, 272, 282
 Rhapsody—35
richardiana—232
 Richland—22
 Richmondensis—63, 276
Ricinifolia—37, 63, 64, 105, 110,
 115
 Ricky Minter—52, 90, 108*, 220
 Riverside Benny—103
roezlii—7, 272
 Rosabella—136, 208
 Rosanna—226
 Rosea Gigantea—7, 271
 Rose Queen—39
 Rossi—198, 272
rotundifolia—110
 Rover—15, 204
 Rubaiyat—272
 Rubena—151
rubra—271
 Rubra Odorata—271
rubra x Rubra Odorata—16
rubropilosa—207
rubro-venia—64, 100
 Rufida—62
 Sachsen—110, 272
 Saga—88, 154
sahicifolia—39
 Salmon Queen—64
 Samson—175
sanguinea—64, 76, 108*, 199, 247
 San Miguel—15, 56*, 203
 Sarabelle—108*
scabrada—64, 196, 244
 Scandinavia—153
scharffi—7, 106, 110, 198, 271,
 272, 276
scharffiana—7, 15, 56
 Scharstar—23
schmidtiana—31, 39, 106, 108*,
 134, 257, 272
sessilifolia—282
 Shasta Sunset—39
 Silver Jewell—15, 27, 204*
silver pustulata—27, 235
 Silver Star—108*, 196
 Sir Percy—15, 204
 Skeezer—106
 Sleeping Beauty—130
 Smaragd—246*
socratana—57, 109, 270
 South Park—244
 Sparkler—64, 154
 Speculata—15, 108*, 204
spinibarbis—76
 Stilleto—232
 Stitched Leaf—30, 108*, 136, 232
 Stuttgart—16
subpeltata—7
subvillosa—76, 108*, 271
 Sunderbruchi—16, 23, 30, 88,
 105, 106, 110, 115, 207, 271
 Sunray—35
 Superba—64, 256
 Tamo—272
 Tausendschoen—88
 T. red—112, 130, 207
 T. B. Toop—35, 268
 Tea Rose—272, 276
 Templini—22, 106, 198, 272
 1031—63
 Thrush—271
 Thwaitesi—282
 Thurstoni—21, 63, 100, 106, 133,
 198, 220
 Tingley Mallet—108*
 Trout—6
 242-S—63
ulmifolia—196
undulata—256
 Van-Ex—124*
 Veitch's Carmine—51, 276
vellosa—153*, 207, 256
 Venice—15, 203
venosa—15, 39, 56, 61, 272, 276
 Verde Grande—106, 236
 Verschaffelti—23, 37
 Vespera—62
 Viaudi—7, 272
 Viau-Scharff—272
 Virbob—229
vitifolia—7, 282
 Wayne Parker—35
 Weltoniensis—109, 272
 Winter Jewel—271
 Winter Romance—88, 154
xanthina—130
 Zebrina—22, 63
 Zee Bowman—108*
 Zuensis—67, 206, 221

In England

(Continued From Page 7)

and on until the middle of June when they were finally potted into 6½ inch pots. From this stage onward the plants, like Topsy, just "grewed and grewed," and very soon I was beginning to wonder how I should cope with the ever increasing foliage.

I think that the greatest mistake I made was in allowing so many stems to develop from the start instead of taking most of them as cuttings direct from the tubers. Finally, and much against my will, I had to reduce the stems to two and three per plant. As the time approached for giving the plants a little feed, the end of July, I received a supply of fish emulsion fertilizer from a firm in California and, although this was my first venture with a feed of this type, I had no hesitation in giving it a trial. And, following the second or third application, given at intervals of 10 days, I noticed a marked improvement in my plants. Perhaps one of the most encouraging signs was the delightful sheen the foliage developed.

And so to the flowering stage, and here I hasten to add that during my gardening career of 38 years (I started at the tender age of 8 years) I had never seen such a display of seedling begonias as good as these. The small blooms of the previous year were now transformed into blooms of exhibition size, some even measuring more than 8½ inches across on plants carrying four and five blooms at a time. The fullness of these blooms also was outstanding, but perhaps the most encouraging factor of all was the way in which the flower stems supported these heavy blooms without unduly letting the head hang forward and downward. In just a few instances, usually with the large reds. I did have to place "parrot supports" in position.

Perhaps the only real disappointment I suffered concerned the few picotees, which, although very nice and well respected by all who saw them, were very narrow-petaled and this gave them a

On Cows 'n Pineapples

(Continued From Page 9)

of these, tie a string around one and hang it up.

Bromeliads and orchids have a lot in common; some of each are plants that grow in trees (none are parasites) and some grow in the ground. But unlike orchids, the tree dwelling bromeliads are perfectly happy in the soil and vice versa. Also, unlike orchids, bromeliads are beautiful plants in and out of flower.

The commonest bromeliad found in our gardens is the *Billbergia*. The species that is familiar to most of us is *Billbergia nutans*. When discussing *Billbergias* most people do not realize that there are many different species, most of which are much prettier and just as easy to grow as *B. nutans*.

Ninety per cent of all the different kinds of bromeliads are perfectly hardy outside here in Southern California, and most, but not all, want shade, liking conditions similar to those preferred by begonias.

They take their nourishment from deposits that collect in the water which stays in their leaves. They do not take water in through their roots as do most plants, and this is one reason why they can survive being literally nailed to a tree trunk. The important thing is to keep that hollow center filled with water.

In price, bromeliads compare with orchids costing anywhere from fifty cents to fifty dollars, with the average running from five to seven.

sparse look. However, I believe that many raisers are troubled with this as regards the true picotee, so we shall have to wait and see if this fault rights itself in the near future. The cuttings which I rooted from this batch of seedlings look exceedingly well at the present time and I sincerely hope to give these a thorough test next season. The main tubers are in the final stage of drying off and I am keeping my fingers crossed in the hope that they will survive in the storing trays.

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

B. rex hybrids—Seed are produced by crossing German and American rex begonias, the results are beautiful plants with magnificent coloring. These seed are far superior to anything we have offered on seed fund thus far, however the supply is VERY limited and no more available at present. Need we say more? Small pkts. \$1.00.

B. German rex—Direct from Germany and highly ornamental having only the choicest color combinations in mixture. It has been suggested by a member living in Ohio that German rex need a great deal of light to bring out their best colors. She is growing hers under fluorescent lights and the result is terrific. A sunny window can be used to good advantage also. Price 50c per pkt.

B. Tuberous—camellia type. Collected by a friend in Anchorage, Alaska. Plants were grown out doors in pots and altho' the season is short and cool, the plants produced huge flowers of all the popular colors. 25c per pkt.

B. pendula mixed—(Lloydii) Double flowers more than two inches across, in shades of scarlet, rose, salmon and white. Its hanging habit with great masses of blooms, makes it a favorite plant for hanging in the greenhouse, patio or lath-house. They should be protected against wind and hot sun. Price 25c per pkt.

B. Calla Lily mixed—Three types of this popular begonia in this mixture—B. Shasta Sunset, B. Calla Queen and B. New Hampshire. Habit of growth is low, bushy, succulent and branched; slightly blotched with glistening white, more white appears toward the terminals, and terminals are all white, suggesting a miniature calla lily. Flowers range in color from light pink to dark scarlet. Not many seed available. Price 35c per pkt.

B. semperflorens F1 hybrid—Andy, New, extra dwarf, uniform about six inches high, luminous pink. 25c per pkt.

B. semperflorens F1 hybrid—Pandy, new companion to last mentioned. Six inches high, luminous red. 25c per pkt. Sweet little plants for the window sill gardener or start them now for bedding plants next spring. Due to their hybrid origin these plants have more vigor which makes them easy to grow and more tolerant of sun; absolute uniform-

ity of color and habit making them ideal for almost any use in the garden.

B. Jack Horner—Double camellia type semperflorens with dark foliage; suitable for growing in pots and baskets. grown out doors in California as a bedding plant. This too is a hybrid and not all plants will produce flowers but the percentage of doubles will be large enough to justify growing. 35c per pkt.

B. sutherlandii—African species, semi-tuberous. Basket type with yellow flowers and bright green, sometimes red petioled leaves. 25c per pkt.

B. macrocarpa syn. B. alto de serra—Distinctive variety with velvetlike, olive-green leaves red flushed beneath. Flowers white—may be used as a basket plant. 25c per pkt.

B. Zuensis—a hybrid introduced by Mrs. Zug in 1956 (B. paulensis X B. Credneri). Described by Edna Korts in Sept. The Begonian. We have not had time to test seed and can not guarantee that germination will be perfect but a few plants may be grown from a pkt. of seed. 25c per pkt. Choice plant.

From San Diego, California, we have received seed of some of the best of the cane type begonias. This is a rare opportunity to acquire the cane types that have disappeared from cultivation in some sections of the country. See story by Edna Korts elsewhere in The Begonian.

B. decorus—B. undulata hybrid. Leaves ovate-pointed, green, slightly undulate. Flowers white in small pendulous clusters. 25c per pkt.

B. Rose—Medium, vigorous grower having light green, ovate-pointed, cupped leaves, flowers bright rose. Floriferous and distinctive. 25c per pkt.

B. subvillosa syn. B. Scotch luxurians—Low growing, soft-hairy; leaves ovate, velvety light green with large white flowers. 25c per pkt.

B. Di-shasta—B. dichroa hybrid—Leaves green sometimes silver—spotted, red beneath; flowers large, scarlet. 25c per pkt.

B. Delight—Sister to the above. 25c per pkt.

B. Mrs. Schinkle (B. coccinea seedling)—Small, branched, orchid-pink flowers. 25c per pkt.

B. Dielytra Jr.—Small growing, silver-spotted leaves; flowers blush pink. 25c per pkt.

B. Corinthian Pink—Medium growth, flowers delicate pink. 25c per pkt.

B. Pink Wave Zug—Good, hardy and vigorous, medium growth, pink flowers. 25c per pkt.

Also available—**B. Ellen Dee**.

Our neighbor has tested the seed listed below—with results.

B. Iron Cross—germination slow and approximately eight plants from pkt. of seed; **B. rex hybrids**, germination good; **B. froebeli** slow and difficult, germination fair; **B. luxurians** perfect germination also **Hillebrandia sandwicensis**; **B. Lucifer**, **B. bradei** Irmscher, and **Tetranema mexicana** germination was good; **Peperomia maculosa** fair; **Norfolk Pine**—two seed produced two plants.

The above plants are growing under ideal conditions with 65-70 degrees heat from below and ample light and air circulation above. Plastic containers with tight fitting covers are used; planting medium consists of milled sphagnum and sterilized leaf mold. When plants appear the covers are removed a little to let in air and light and when large enough covers are removed entirely.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Gloxinera crosses—Gesneriaceae—Intergeneric hybrid—We have no information on plants that were used for cross. 25c per pkt.

Streptocarpus—pink flowers—25c per pkt. Choice.

Smithiantha mixed — Gesneriaceae—Many colors and combinations. 25c per pkt.

Klugia notioniana—Gesneriad from Ceylon. 25c per pkt.

Crossandra infundibuliformis—(India) Shrubby plant with glossy, ovate leaves; showy salmon-red tubular flowers. Good greenhouse plant. 5 seed for 25c.

OTHER GENERA

Disocactus eichzamii — Cactaceae — Flowers purplish-red resembling the bloom of the honeysuckle. Fruit is a small berry the size of a grape. 25c per pkt.

Passiflora mollissima—Flowers large pink, fruit egg-shaped, yellow with orange pulp, pomegranate flavor. Nice vine for greenhouse where climate does

not permit growing out doors—5 seed for 25c.

Coleus mixed—Few plants have more colorful foliage, or more interesting variegations. Popular as a bedding or greenhouse plants and make perfect companions for begonias and other shade loving plants. 25c per pkt.

Golden kowhai—N. Z. Handsome, profusely flowering shrub of the pea family. Leaves arranged feather fashion with an odd one at the top, flowers pea-like, usually in showy clusters. This shrub is small enough to be grown in doors but makes a beautiful plant grown out doors in tropical climates. 25c per pkt.

Aristolochia elegans—"Calico Flower." Graceful climber with kidney-shaped leaves and flowers yellowish, inflated tube, inside a rich purplish-brown with white markings. 25c per pkt.

Phormium tenax-purpureum — N. Z. Bronze flax. Striking plant of the lily family. Seed of the bronze variety that is so popular in California as a landscape subject. Can be grown in large containers and makes an interesting contrast with other tropicals. Easily grown from seed. 25c per pkt.

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

—B—

Did you know that the Poinsettia was named for our Ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett, who served more than a hundred years ago? He took a fancy to a brilliant tropical leaf plant known as the "Painted Leaf" or "Mexican Fire Plant." Returning to his South Carolina home, he brought cuttings, grew the plant as a hobby, and brought it to the attention of American botanists. Thus was the scarlet-leaved poinsettia introduced to the United States, and was destined to become symbolic of Christmas. The flaming red bracts for which the plant is grown are not flowers, but leaves.

—B—

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

Minutes, National Board, Nov. 24

The regular monthly meeting of the National Board, A. B. S. was called to order by President Slater at 7:55 p. m. November 24, 1958.

"Aims and Purposes" of the Society were read by Pres.-Elect. Lovejoy.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer Pearl Parker presented her report for the month; report filed for audit.

Vice Pres. Alva Graham reported that she had completed the Supplemental Check List on Begonia names.

Pres.-Elect Lovejoy asked that a committee be appointed to meet with him and an insurance representative to go over the Society's insurance policies with the idea of combining some of the policies and thus save some money for the Society.

Membership Secy. Walton reported 52 new and 142 renewing members for the month with total receipts of \$362.00. Motion made by Mr. Walton, seconded by Mrs. Bauer, that information concerning the Buxton Check List be sent to Flower & Garden and the Flower Grower magazines, stating that the Check List can be purchased only from the American Begonia Society. Motion carried. Since our ad contract in Flower Grower will expire with the December issue motion was made and carried that we continue our ad in that publication, for another six consecutive issues and take advantage of the six months discount rate.

Mrs. Parker reported that Begonia Editor Mrs. Brest and her husband had both been very ill and for this reason no report was presented but it was stated that Mr. Clyde Browne, the printer of The Begonian, is assisting Mrs. Brest with the magazine.

Business Manager Thieben was not present but his report was read by Pres.-Elect Lovejoy, showing \$94.57 collected and turned over to the Treasurer and a balance due on advertising of \$153.75.

Seed Fund Chairman Mrs. Gee not being present, her report was read by Treasurer Parker, showing \$97.76 turned over to the Treasurer.

National Librarian Mrs. Sault presented her report for the month showing books loaned and sold with \$34.58 turned over to the Treasurer.

Historian Mrs. Bauer reported she is sending a letter to all of the branches asking that they send her a report of their activities so that it may be included in the history book.

Nomenclature Chairman Mrs. Korts read a letter from Dr. H. R. Fletcher of the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh. Dr. Fletcher is Secretary of the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants, and in his letter authorized the American Begonia Society to act as the International Registration Authority for the Cultivar names of Begonia. Motion made by Pres.-Elect Lovejoy, seconded by Mr. Sault, that the A. B. S. accept the authorization. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Walton brought up the question of added expense for the mailing of The Begonian via Air Mail and to Foreign destinations. Moved by Mr. Walton, seconded by Mrs. Graham, that The Begonian Air Mail membership be listed as \$4.50 per year, Foreign Membership be \$3.00 per year. Motion carried.

Mr. Roy Joyce reported that he had been appointed as representative of that California National Fuchsia Society to propose a joint show by that Society and the American Begonia Society, to be held in the Pan Pacific Auditorium during June of 1959. Moved by Mrs. Bauer, seconded by Mr. Hall that a committee be appointed to look into the matter. Motion carried.

The meeting was then declared adjourned at 10:00 o'clock p.m.

Irma Jane Brown
Secretary

THE JOY OF BEING AN EDITOR

Getting out this magazine is no picnic.
If we print jokes, people say we are silly.
If we don't, they say we are too serious,
If we stick close to the office all day.
We ought to be out hunting material.
If we go out and try to hustle.
We ought to be on the job in the office.
If we don't print contributions,
We don't appreciate genius;
And if we do print them, the paper is
filled with junk!
If we edit the other fellow's write-up
we're too critical;
If we don't, we're asleep.
If we clip things from other papers,
We are too lazy to write them ourselves.
If we don't, we are stuck on our own stuff
Now, like as not, some guy will say
We swiped this from some other
magazine.
We did!

—B—

CALIFORNIA PLANT SECTION AT DESCANSO GARDENS

OPENING phases of the development of the new California Native Plant Section at Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens at La Canada are now under way with a committee of well known southland horticulturists serving in an advisory capacity.

A portion of the chaparral area of Descanso Gardens along the hillside has been cleared of undesirable underbrush and poison oak. The trees have been trimmed of deadwood and the canyon has been cleared for planting new native California plants. A new water supply is being connected to an existing system.

While serving as special adviser to the county engineer on the project, Theodore Payne of Glendale, well-known California native plant specialist, is contributing his services to the committee of which he is a member. He is donating bulbs for planting in the canyon area.

Purpose of the project is to bring about a better understanding and realization of the beauty and utility of California native plants by home owners, developers and students.

50 Begonias

(Continued From Page 5)

centered on the window sill on a stand; *boweri* is starting to creep over the edges of the pot and it makes a good focal point; below it on the sill are *B. rotundifolia*, *B. "Calla Lily,"* a miniature form of *B. "Joe Hayden"* which I call "Dark Beauty" though I am not at all sure that that is its correct name, *B. sutherlandi*, *B. schmidtiana* and *B. mazae*. These plants are a constant delight to me.

Already I have chosen forty-six and if I stopped now the care of my begonias for the next nine months would be quite easy but so many lovely ones still stand in the peat moss and I haven't even considered the hanging baskets. Last winter when I was short of room begonias that I simply couldn't give up had to be put somewhere so I invested in a dozen wire baskets of assorted sizes and have since grown successfully varieties which I had despaired of; *B. "Maphil,"* *B. "Manicata Aureo Maculata Crispa,"* *B. macrocarpa*, and *B. "Corbeille de Feu"* among others. My basket of *Manicata-a-m-c* is still not very big but its dozen or so leaves are unmarked with brown spots so it will have to hang in the sunny guest room; *B. "Corbeille de Feu"* also likes winter sun and can stand below *Manicata* with *Maphil* on a table behind them. Experience has taught me that it is not al-

INTERNATIONAL FLOWER SHOW ENTRY BLANKS AVAILABLE

PREMIUM schedule and entry blanks for the forty-second International Flower Show to be held in the New York Coliseum, March 7th to 14th, 1959, are now available.

Requests for premium schedules and entry blanks should be directed to the International Flower Show office, Essex House, 157 West 58th Street, New York 9, N. Y.

The show is sponsored by the Horticultural Society of New York, Inc., and the New York Florists' Club, Inc. Leading organizations in the horticulture field will again participate.

—B—

One who gardens with his hands is
a laborer;

One who gardens with his hands and
his brain is a craftsman;

But one who gardens with his hands
and his heart is an artist.

Anonymous

~~~~~  
together weakminded to bring in maybe twenty more plants than you have room for; some of mine may die, someone in the branch may want one I can spare and there is sure to be a plant sale somewhere near soon so I can go out now to the denuded slat house and rescue a few more that I cannot do without.

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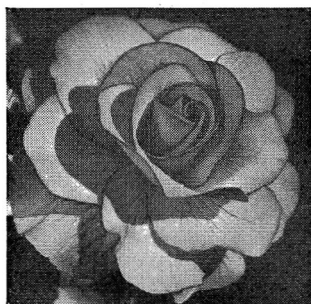
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# Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

## EAST BAY

The East Bay Branch has had some very interesting programs these last meetings. Mr. Pat Antonelli gave a very interesting talk and showed some of the new varieties of tuberous begonias. He presented the group with dozens of lovely blossoms. At the November meeting John Paul Edwards showed us some pictures from Guatamala, as well as giving us timely garden tips and telling us of the new insecticides.

The December meeting was a Christmas Party, beginning with a dinner, then gift exchange and musical entertainment. Election of officers and donation of dish gardens for the hospitals completed the program.

—B—

## EL MONTE

New officers are: Pres., Virginia C. Brandon; Secy and Treas., Leoti Fisher; Natl. Rep., Gladys Mattuket.

—B—

## GLENDALE

In lieu of the monthly board meeting, usually held in members' homes, the Board, in December, had a dinner at the Tick Tock Toluca Lake restaurant on Dec. 3. All members of the Branch were invited and all who attended had a most enjoyable time.

Since our regular meeting night fell on Christmas Eve, the Branch met on Dec. 10 at which time the following officers for 1959 were installed: President, Alfred Radcliffe, Burbank; Vice-president, Mrs. Norma Boyd, Glendale; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Cleo Price, Glendale; Corr. Secretary, Mrs. Mable Anderson, Glendale; Treasurer, Mrs. Mildred K. Radcliffe, Burbank; Nat'l Dir., Mrs. Leona H. Cooper, Woodland Hills; Members Representative and Jr. Past President, Mrs. Frances Cooley, Glendale.

We have been advised by the Descanso

Gardens that the fall blooms on the All-American Roses are especially fine this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Overton kindly consented to show the pictures taken on their recent South American trip. This was interesting and entertaining, something in the nature of a Christmas Party. It also was the meeting at which our new officers were installed.

—B—

## MARGARET C. GRUENBAUM

We met at the home of Mrs. Henry Schaffer, and our hostess gave an interesting program on "How to Keep Begonias Happy in the House During Winter." To us here in the east, with such a variety of heaters in our homes, this can be quite a problem.

Mr. Thomas Kilderry attended our meeting and presented each of us with one of his wife's begonias. Kay Kilderry passed away in October and we were pleased to have him as we miss Kay very much.

—B—

## INGLEWOOD

This month's meeting concludes a year of service by the present board. All have given a great deal of their time and talents in behalf of the Inglewood Branch. Some of the present board members have agreed to continue their fine work for another year. To them we all pledge our assistance.

—B—

## MISSOURI

The Missouri Branch met at the World War Two Memorial Bldg. on Nov. 18. We had about 20 present at the meeting. Old friends and visitors added to our numbers. We will have the same officers serving us in the coming year, including Mrs. Brashears, our nomenclature speaker who also writes about begonias.

## SACRAMENTO

Our Program Committee composed of Mel Newfield, Mary Smith, Frances Flannigan and Edna Watkins have planned a fine Christmas program for us. We had Linda Gates, a 10-year-old ventriloquist who has been performing before groups for some time, Linda Schultz, "the Bell Ringer" and a Junior Philharmonic String Quartet.

—B—

## SAN DIEGO

The San Diego Branch of the ABS has elected the following officials for the coming year:

President, Charles T. Williams; Vice-president, Mrs. Ida Barker; Secretary, Mrs. Phyllis Kansky, 4543 36th St., San Diego, 16; Treasurer, Mrs. Emma Engelbrecht; Nat'l Rep., Mrs. Martha Gilmore; Board Members, Mrs. Hazel Baker and Mrs. Berthe Adams.

—B—

## SAN FRANCISCO

Our annual Christmas party was held Wednesday night, Dec. 3, at Forest Lodge. We had some extra special entertainment and gifts were exchanged among the members.

Bert Slatter, our National President, was with us for our regular November meeting. He brought official greetings from the National Board, and also gave us an illuminating talk on the cycle of plant life.

Our installation banquet on Nov. 19 was a huge success. Fifty-two members and their wives gathered for a superb chicken dinner, followed by short talks by various members, the official installation ceremony, and a short period of dancing. Margo Corbelli handled her assignment as mistress of ceremonies with dash and aplomb. The following new officers were installed by Art Boissier, who lent a fine air of dignity to the proceedings: President, Les Kuthe; President-Elect, Orris Martin; Secretary, Elaine Jordan; Treasurer, Allen Sweet; Board Member, Wade Johnson; National Representative, Julian Berner.

—B—

## SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Officers for 1959 were elected at our Nov. 20 meeting, and installed at our Christmas dinner and party Dec. 17. Mr. E. L. Kappler, president; Helen Fouche, vice-president; William Simon, treasurer; Ruby Rogers, recording secretary; Mrs. Edith Slutter, national representative; and Mrs. Chester Bartlow, corresponding secretary, will serve for 1949.

Mr. John Paul Edwards was guest speaker at our Nov. meeting and gave a very interesting and informative talk on the insects, disease, and cure of many flowers.

Members and friends were pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. W. E. (Bill) Walton, National Membership Secretary, pay us a visit and we hope they will come to see us again soon.

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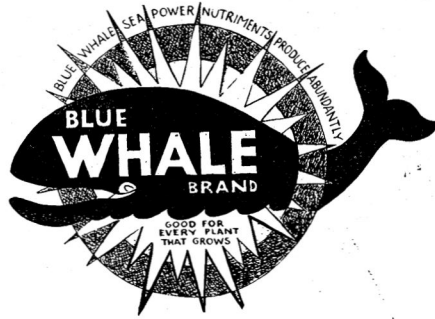
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## CONTENTS

|                                                   |                |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Growing Cane Type Begonias.....                   | 3              |
| Only Fifty Begonias .....                         | 4              |
| Seeds, Seedlings & Hybrids.....                   | 6              |
| American Begonia Seed in England.....             | 7              |
| On Cows 'n Pineapples.....                        | 9              |
| Begonia Cuernavacensis Zies.....                  | 8              |
| 1958 Index, <i>The Begonian</i> .....             | 11, 12, 13, 14 |
| Somerville Lands to Be Horticultural Center.....  | 10             |
| California Plant Section at Descanso Gardens..... | 18             |

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