

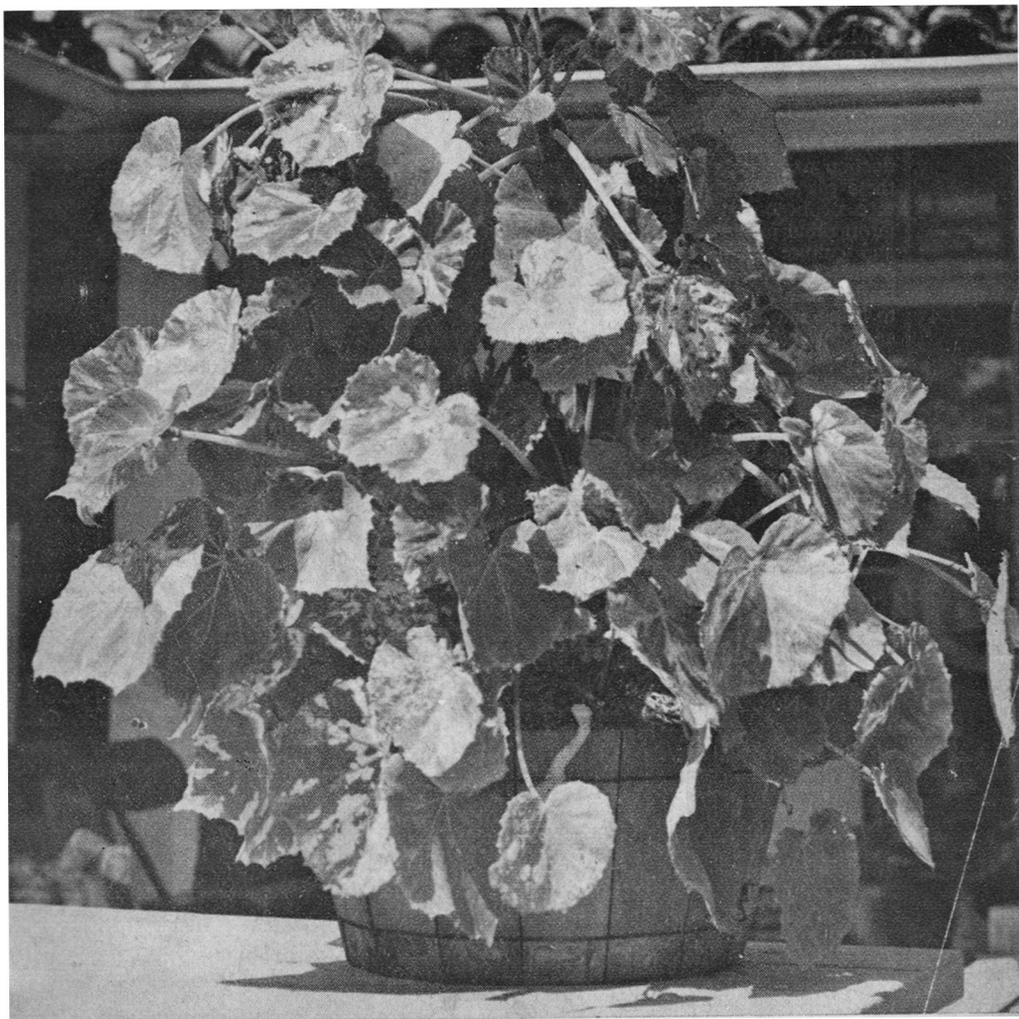
The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

FEBRUARY, 1960

PRICE 25 CENTS

VOLUME XXVII, NUMBER 2



Editor N. Trumond Peterson, 1641 W. 125th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.
Advertising Manager John Thieben, 6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

Copyright 1959 by the American Begonia Society, Inc.—Affiliated with The American Horticultural Society, The American Horticultural Council, and The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

General Offices, Dues, Address Changes or Magazines:
George Schlanert, Membership Secretary, 6525 W. 89th St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.
Annual Subscription, \$2.50. Branch members pay dues to branch. Foreign rate, including Canada \$3.00. Air mail rate within U.S. \$4.50.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office of Los Angeles 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.

ELECTED OFFICERS

- President Clarence Hall
17153 Sunburst St., Northridge, Calif.
Past President . . . Albert J. (Bert) Slatter
4600 Sixth Ave., Los Angeles 43, Calif.
Secretary Irma Jane Brown
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.
Treasurer Miss W. Leoti Fisher
4416 Downing Ave., Baldwin Park, Calif.
Vice-Pres., 1 yr. Herbert Fitch
1125 54th St., Sacramento 19, Calif.
Vice-Pres., 2 yrs. . . . Mrs. Nancy Alvard
48 W. Norton Rd., Quincy 69, Mass.
Vice-Pres., 3 yrs. . . . Mrs. Edna L. Korts
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

APPOINTED OFFICERS

- Editor N. Trumond Peterson
1641 W. 125th St., Los Angeles 47, Calif.
Eastern Editor . . . Mrs. Bernice Brilmayer
c/o D.C.S. & S. Inc.
530 Fifth Ave., New York 36, N.Y.
Membership Secretary . . . George Schlanert
6525 W. 89th St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.
Advertising Manager . . . John Thieben
6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

National Board meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave.

- Awards Committee . . Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass
265 N. Walnut Dr., Ventura, Calif.
Historian Mrs. Lloyd Jackson
2042 N. Cahuenga Blvd.,
Hollywood 28, Calif.
Identification Garden . . . John Thieben
6409 Will Rogers St., Los Angeles 45, Calif.
Librarian Mrs. Lucy A. Sault
26938 Dapplegray Lane,
Rolling Hills, Calif.
Nomenclature Director . Mrs. Alva Graham
258 Pearl St., Pasadena, Calif.
Parliamentarian Roy Joyce
1435 Coronado Ter., Los Angeles 26, Calif.
Research and Test Gardens
Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman
2637 N. Lee Ave., South El Monte, Calif.
Round Robin Chairman . Mrs. Herbert E. Hurley
11 Woodland Road, Lexington, Mass.
School of Judging . . . Mrs. Edna L. Korts
3628 Revere Ave., Los Angeles 39, Calif.
Seed Fund Mrs. Florence Gee
4316 Berryman Ave., Los Angeles 66, Calif.
Slide Librarian . . . Mrs. Maybelle Woods
604 S. Helena St., Anaheim, Calif.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Public Relations Director Mrs. Ethel Arbuckle
5932 Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.
Northwestern Chairman . Mrs. David Talbot
6209 Riverside Drive, Vancouver, Wash.
Eastern Chairman Mrs. Elsa Fort
6123 Cedar Ave., Merchantville, N.J.
Southern Chairman E. Weaver
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas
No. California Chairman
Mrs. John H. Smith (Hyacinth)
2479 29th Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.
Northeastern Chairman
Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury
225 Lee Street, Brookline, Mass.

These Are My Pets

by VIRGINIA I. WITHEE

Begonia 'Iron Cross' propagates so easily—rarely does a wedge die off. In three months after setting, we have a cluster of fast growing plantlets. They grow into such beautiful plants after they are large enough to separate, and that is not a long time if they are taken from the rooting medium and put into pure leafmold. What root systems they develop in all stages!

B. 'Templini' roots especially well in perlite. Since I had a beautiful plant given to me by a very special gal, my one ambition is to keep it beautiful. However, I could not resist trying a few cuttings. So far, this begonia has been very happy. I don't know whether or not I have followed the correct method, but I keep it in bright light and it gets all the south and southwest sun possible. Its saucer sets in a pan of water. I keep it damp (not wet) at all times. The temperature averages seventy degrees. I do not spray the foliage because I believe the pan of water beneath it, the other plants evaporating near it, and a steaming teakettle in the next room all provide enough humidity. It seems to enjoy a cocktail now and then of weak tea—and not the table kind. Several leaves measure five inches by eight inches, and the plant is twenty by twenty four inches, the foliage being dense.

I now have eight varieties of B. 'Calla' and I am in my glory propagating them. They are so vigorous and sturdy that the separations or cuttings hardly drop a leaf. I have raised the old fashioned Calla begonia and two or three others for years, but I am making as complete a collection of these begonias as possible—there are not too many.

I wonder if someone would advise me about variety 'Shasta Sunset'. I understand it is a Calla begonia. And where does variety 'New Hampshire' belong? I find it listed as a Calla begonia in the Seed Fund and in a catalog as a regular semp, not as a Calla.

One of my choice other-than-rex begonias is 'Kenwothyii'. It is certainly one

that is intriguing in color and style. It seems to enjoy the southeast window, a temperature of about seventy degrees, and being kept moist. So far, no leaves have dropped. For soil it has leafmold, sandy compost, old rotted cow manure, and bone-meal. It is growing into a lush, well-shaped plant. My mother has one that is a beauty and it receives sun all day.

I want to add *B. paulensis* to my special collection soon.

Now I must tell you about two very special rexes, 'Perle de Paris' and 'Fire Flush'.

'Perle de Paris' is one of the most beautiful and sometimes one of the most temperamental rexes. With her flouncing skirts of silvery-bluish-jade, bordered with peppered silver and enhanced by a somewhat crinkled edge, this beauty adorns my mother's living room. It is superb, indeed, with dense foliage thirty-two inches across and thirty-five inches down. Yet there are times when this variety is a bit temperamental, especially if there is a long humid spell, but we can only excuse her for she can be so perfectly gorgeous. This variety propagates easily.

'Fire Flush' is another specimen that my mother has. The foliage is dense, measuring thirty-four inches across and thirty-six inches down. It is, without doubt, the most beautiful 'Fire Flush'—if not the most beautiful rex begonia—that I have ever seen.

This variety requires some sun and very bright light at all times, so that it will not have ungraceful, long petioles topped by a thin leaf. It requires more water than any other rex I have ever raised. It can be damp but still droop. After a thorough watering, up come the leaves as nice as can be.

'Fire Flush' is easy to propagate but often the wedges will dry after a time. Let them be and plantlets will appear in due time. This variety is a heavy feeder, demanding a rich, porous soil. It basks in proper humidity.

(Continued on Page 39)

Jamaica's Botanical Wonderland

By CHARLES MARDEN FITCH

Traveling to foreign lands is inherently exciting, but any trip is enhanced by an understanding of a country's natural flora and fauna. During a recent trip to Jamaica's fabulous Hope Gardens, my entire perception and appreciation of the island was increased by visiting this wonderful spot.

In Hope Gardens, at Kingston, nestled among Jamaica's rolling mountains, thrives a wonderfully diverse collection of fascinating tropical plants. Native flora is featured in the garden, but botanical rarities from all corners of the earth will also be seen growing with the Jamaican palms, orchids, flowering vines and unusual hardwoods.

Most of us are familiar with the coleus, a very colorful non-hardy foliage plant often used for annual bedding, or as a bright house plant. Never have I seen more striking coleus "bushes" than the huge, brilliant multi-colored specimens growing throughout Hope Gardens, It is not unusual to see leaves almost a foot long and a foot across. The size of the

coleus plants often reaches four feet in height and as much in width!

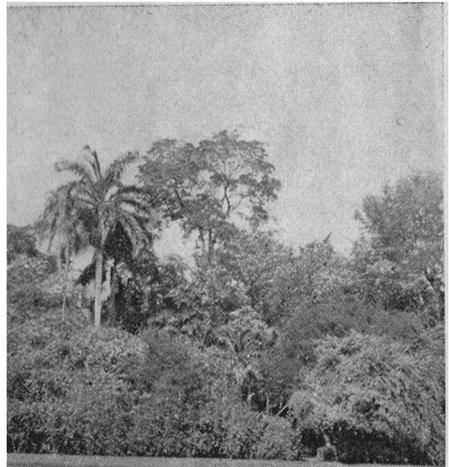
The constant humidity, sunlight, tropical temperature, and frequent short showers encourage a spectacular growth in all the plants on the island. Hope Garden's administrators have taken intelligent advantage of these climatic features by planting elaborate outdoor settings devoted to different plant groupings. Epidendrum reed-stem orchids grow like weeds. They climb, almost like vines, up into the rough barked palms. A great tangle of these orchids in bloom presents a spectacle hard to duplicate in any northern greenhouse.

There are fine opportunities for ornithologists at Hope Gardens. Brightly colored, often pleasantly scented fruits and blooms attract myriads of beautiful tropical birds. Fascinating insects also frequent the gardens, and do their part in pollinating the intricate exotic flowers.

Several open-sided lath houses shelter pools where delicate pastel water-lilies grow against a background of papyrus



Throughout Hope Gardens are beautiful palm trees. Around the base of each tree coleus bloom in many brilliant colors. —Photos by C. M. Fitch.



A royal palm, its cement-like trunk gleaming in the sun, towers over lush jungle growth. A bougainvillea vine, introduced from Brazil, climbs over the shrubs in the foreground.

(*Cyperus papyrus*), African river grasses, and other aquatic vegetation.

The shelter that especially pleased me contained some of the Gardens' most beautiful orchid specimens. In the late winter when I visited the Garden, almost every plant was in flower or bud. A Phalaenopsis Doris hybrid blooming in the shade of the lath looked exactly like the huge white moth it is often named for. ("Moth Orchid" is the common name for the genus Phalaenopsis.)

Brilliant Cattleyas, intricate botanical orchids, and tall, vividly colored Dendrobiums were among the finest orchids I have seen anywhere. How I longed to bring some back for my own orchid collection! Orchids grown at Hope Gardens are not only species. For years the gardeners at "Hope" have been carrying out various hybridizing programs which seek to create new beauties through careful breeding. Several cluster type Cattleyas in bloom during my visit were striking proof of success in this direction!

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*), originally from southern Mexico, were featured in several areas of the garden. Blooms in all shades, from white through deep red, covered the huge plants. It is hard to associate these fabulous tropical specimens with the plants sold in northern countries during Christmas, so different are they in size. In fact, the Poinsettias and coleus were not the only plants whose size surprised me.

Such familiar house plants as pothos (*Scindapsus aurens*), agave, various philodendrons, and vandacious orchids all attain maximum mature size on the tropical island of Jamaica. If the gold speckled pothos now growing along my window ledge were to attain even half the leaf size common to its sisters at Hope Gardens, I would have difficulty entering the room! *Philodendron hastatum* develops into mammoth specimens, even larger than those found in the older gardens of semi-tropical Florida.

Studying the year round outdoor habitat of plants often helps us to understand the basic requirements of their home and greenhouse culture. The amazing adaptability of plant life is evident to anyone from a colder climate who visits Hope



A huge specimen of *Euphorbia Pulcherrima* or Poinsettia, growing in Hope Gardens.

Gardens. Even though the familiar dish-garden agave or living room philodendron may never reach the gigantic size it does in the tropics, it will still thrive if given conditions compensatingly equal to its natural home.

Hope Gardens is an outstanding example of what can be done botanically in a tropical country. Anyone who visits Jamaica should, for his own pleasure, devote a day to appreciating the beautiful wonders and fascinations of these spectacular gardens. A never-to-be-forgotten esthetic pleasure will be experienced.



If you would know the splendors
Of nature's wonderland,
But can't take off to travel
To countries lush and grand,
Just start to grow begonias
With faith to guide your hand.



COVER PICTURE

Begonia Manicata aureo-maculata.

—Photo courtesy of John Thieben.

THE SCHARFFIANA SECTION OF THE HIRSUTE GROUP

By MAY TAFT DREW

This is the last of a series of programs given by Mrs. Drew to the William Penn Branch of the American Begonia Society.

By way of review, let me say first that I follow Mrs. Krauss's stipulation that her Hirsute Group does not include all begonias with hairy leaves, but only those with bearded flowers and ovaries. Then let me again present the four principal background species.

(1) *B. scharffi* is rosy in general appearance, though the silky hairs that cover all its vegetative parts are white. Generally it is erect and its many branches rarely develop to any length. The long-ovate, pointed leaves show a characteristic vein pattern.

(2) *B. metallica* gets its name from the shiny upper surfaces of the angular leaves that show a vein pattern of many minor branchlets. Its many slender, upright stems are green with red patches at the nodes.

(3) *B. echinosepala*, as recently revealed to us by Dr. Irmscher, differs by having almost no hairs, except on the delicate white flowers. It is small, slender, branching, and bears very small, pointed leaves, clear green and noticeably notched.

(4) *B. scharffiana* has soft textured leaves, convex, roundish, with overlapping basal lobes. Their dark colors, green above, maroon below, make them so nearly opaque as to obscure any vein pattern. Very large stipules and a sprawling habit are two other features to remember in considering possible hybrids of this species.

The descendents of *B. scharffiana* are many, various, and badly confused with respect to names. All share one characteristic: hairiness in all parts, a trait that will be assumed in all later descriptions.

I shall begin this list of individual cultivars with two that I cannot show you. The first is *B. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps'*, a tall and handsome chance seedling which is assumed to be a cross of *B. scharffiana* and

B. luxurians, the species that suggests a palm rather than a begonia. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps' really resembles *B. scharffi* more than *B. scharffiana* in stance and leaf color. It is the leaf shape that points to *B. luxurians*, though the lobes are fewer and rounder and less deeply cut and the frill of rudimentary leaves at the sinus is reduced to one or two leaflets.

Some years ago, Mrs. Jensen of Bellflower, California, succeeded in repeating the putative cross and produced a plant very like 'Mrs. Fred Scripps', but smaller. This has been registered as *B. 'Lady Clare'*. Both are said to be free-flowering (white with pink hairs), though neither bloomed for me.

Another cultivar that looks like *B. scharffi* is *B. 'Duchartrei'*, recorded as *B. echinosepala* x *B. scharffiana*. Not having grown this plant, I have to rely on "the literature". It is pictured on the cover of THE BEGONIAN for July, 1952. In comment (p. 147) Mrs. Winter writes, "The leaves are shaped like *scharffi*, only more pointed, light green above and below, only the veins red. The flowers are white with pink hairs, large, on long stems". There is a form with pink flowers, and a seedling with smaller, darker leaves, known as 'Grant's Duchartrei'.

Mr. A. D. Robinson made a backcross with *B. scharffiana* on *B. 'Duchartrei'* and called it *B. 'Duscharff'*. With me, its habit of growth is more like its male parent. Leaf shape is halfway between, but the basal lobes overlap. In color it suggests *B. scharffi*, but is lighter. The new leaves, as they unfold, show a paler tint of the lovely pink that delights us who love *B. scharffi*. My plant of 'Duscharff' has not bloomed. The flowers are described as "small, white, red hairy without".

One of the problems in nomenclature that abound in this section met me in a plant that turned out to be *B. 'Loma Alta'*. In contrast to the kinds just described,

this is unmistakably a child of *B. scharffiana*, male parent unknown. Its leaves have the same rounded oval shape, with overlapping basal lobes. They have the same opacity, but are much lighter in color, olive green above, medium red below. At first glance, they seem hairless above, but closer observation shows many short, white hairs, both above and below. Its manner of growth is quite different, for its stout, red stems grow very tall and rarely develop branches of any size. Thus it tends to be lanky and awkward. However, Mrs. Leatherman says that early and repeated pinching can form a bushy plant.

My present plant is too small to bloom. Mrs. Krauss says, "flowers many, small, white, or pink tinged". My interest here lies in the fact that I once raised a duplicate of this from seed of *B. 'Viascharff'*, set in open pollination. Its flowers were fairly large, pink tinged, with pink hairs.

My next subject is so well known, and so easily grown, that it hardly needs description: my favorite begonia, 'Viaudi'. Being a child of *B. Duchartrei* x *B. pictaviensis*, synonym for *B. 'Credneri'*, it combines at least three and perhaps four of the basic species of this group, which may account for the variety of its fine hybrids. Its stout, red stems branch more strongly than most of its kin. Its leaves are narrower and have more substance. They are slightly shiny and sparsely hairy above, and dark green, while the reverse is dark red in youth, only flushed in age. The lobes do not overlap, except when first unfolding. The petioles are noticeably short and lose their redness as they mature.

Like *B. scharffi*, this plant blooms at intervals throughout the year. The large male flowers have a few stiff, pink hairs on the reverse of the petals. The female flowers are lovely; five wavy, white petals open wide like apple blossoms, so the few hairs on the outside are hardly seen. The ovaries are almost spherical, pink hairy, with almost equal wings shaping characteristic ogee curves.

Beside 'Viaudi' grows a mystery begonia, like it, but easily distinguished. The story is that four years ago I cut up a large specimen of 'Viaudi', keeping

eight or ten cuttings. After a few months, one of these cuttings was obviously not uniform with the rest, in that its leaves were almost white with fine silky hairs. In maturity, this mystery is a darker plant than 'Viaudi' because its stems, petioles, and the reverse of its leaves are all deep maroon. Its leaves are larger, thicker, and much more hairy. Their lobes overlap. Its stipules are noticeably larger. In blooming habit and character of flowers it resembles 'Viaudi', except for its larger size. Its female flowers have two interesting rings of pistils, one within and above the other. The individual pistils are forked and spiralled in the normal pattern. This sounds like *B. 'Viascharff'*. Indeed, it may be that someone gave me a cutting thereof and that I confused it with the group of 'Viaudi' slips. I would like to call it a sport.

Of all the fine offspring of *B. 'Viaudi'*, the one called *B. 'Neeley Gaddis'* has been the most maddening for me in terms of correct naming. From three reputable dealers I have bought three totally different plants under this name, all with flowers bearing pink hairs. I have read all I could find about 'Neeley Gaddis' and puzzled over the variety of the descriptions. Finally, I held to the clue on which all agree: the little leaf on the inflorescence. (N.B. 'Viaudi' has that character, too.) Painfully, 'Neeley' turns out to be the plant I bought long ago as *B. 'Prunifolia'* and trustingly gave away as such.

I have yet to find a specimen of Mrs. Gray's original form with white bearded flowers. Mine is not so vigorous a plant as its only known parent, though the dark red, green-flecked stems are sturdy. They form few short branches, perhaps because of the heavy bloom in summer and fall. The leaves are roundish, abruptly pointed, very puffed between veins, and tend to be convex when mature. They first appear as red plush rosettes, but open to be dark green above, with a red dot at the sinus, and very plum-colored below—by no means the "tomato-red" that Mrs. Krauss indicates. From July through October, the plant is laden with huge clusters of flowers on long arching stems. When grown

(Continued on Page 42)

Nomenclature -- *The Naming of Plants*

By DR. W. C. DRUMMOND

In growing plants in our gardens, one thing which is often neglected is naming and labeling them.

There are many advantages in having the correct names on our plants. It is a great help in culture, it has educational value, it helps in the study of the plants' history, it tells where they are native, if they are hybrids, who produced them, and the names of their parents. Knowing the names, we can learn their characteristics, as blooming time, color of flowers, hardness, size of mature plants, dormancy periods, kinds of soil needed, and whether they are annuals or perennials. Having the names, we can correspond with people in distant places and with botanists.

To know the correct names of our plants and having them labeled gives our gardens a point of distinction and assures us the satisfaction of being able to converse intelligently with fellow gardeners.

Before entering into the subject of nomenclature, that is, the naming of plants, let it be understood that to go into this subject of nomenclature along with taxonomy, the classification of plants, completely as it should be told, would mean the writing of a large book. The idea behind this article is to name and call attention to some of the benefits of having our plants properly labeled, to explain a little about how plants are named, and a few words about the changing of plant names.

When our present system of naming plants was adopted in the mid-eighteenth century, Latin was the written language of the scholars. Although Latin has diminished in use and in importance, its use in the scientific naming of plants has been retained. The scientific name is the same in all countries, but the common name is quite variable from place to place. All the better books use the scientific name; some mention the common names.

It was in 1753 that Carl von Linnaeus (1707-1778) gave us the binominal system in his *Species Plantarum*. Before

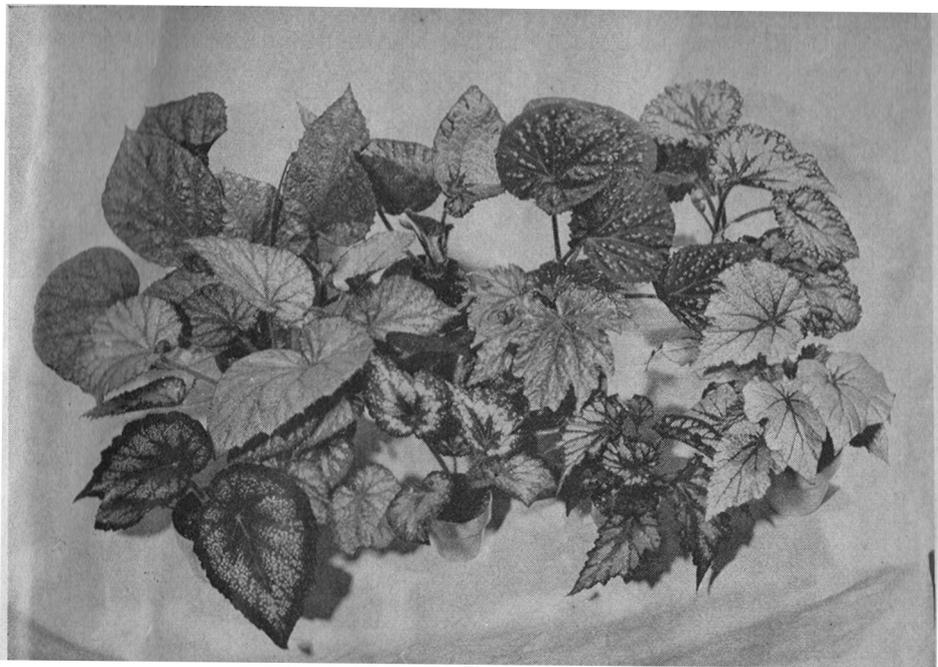
that momentous event, plants carried a single name followed by a descriptive name.

Today, all plants carry two names, the first is the generic name, the name of the genus to which the plant belongs. This is followed by the species name, and following the species name is the name of the party who first named the plant. An example would be *Adiantum pedatum*, Linn, 1753. The common names of this fern are the Five Finger Fern, or the Northern Maiden Fern. Now let us take an example where the name has been changed. *Cyrtomium falcatum* (Linn.) Presl 1836, is commonly called the Holly Fern. In this last case (L.) or (Linn.) means Linnaeus. He was the first man to name this fern and he called it *Polystichum falcatum* in 1753, but its generic name was later corrected and placed in the genus *Cyrtomium* by Presl in 1836. Where plants have had their names changed as in the case just sighted, the first name given the plant is known as the basynym.

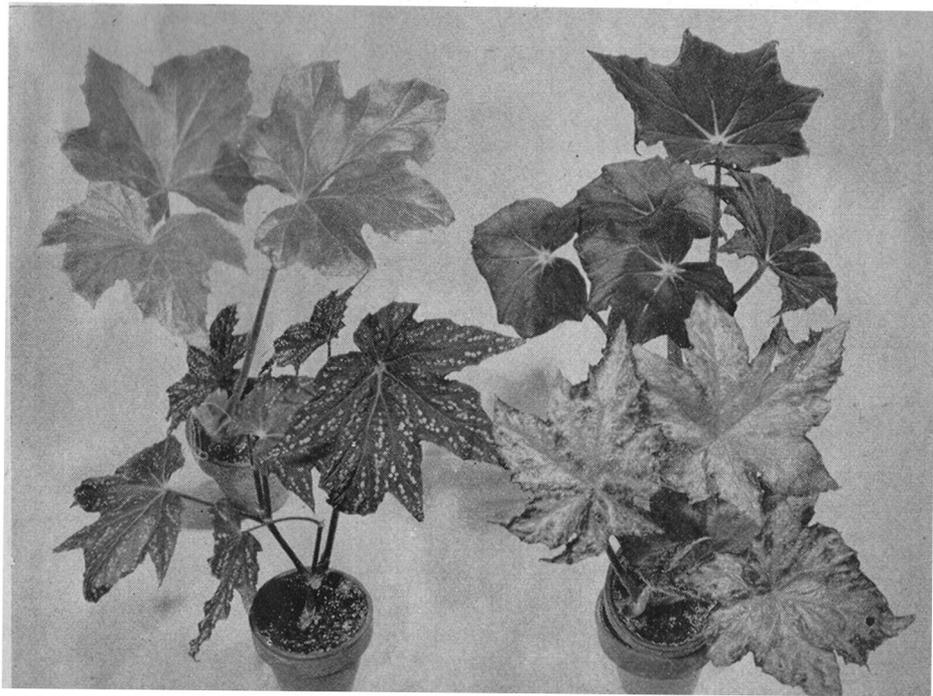
Today all names given plants to be recognized must conform with the INTERNATIONAL CODE OF NOMENCLATURE FOR CULTIVATED PLANTS, 1958. The congress consists of a meeting of the world's foremost scientists on nomenclature and taxonomy to correct and formulate laws regarding the naming of all plants. The last meeting was 1958.

In the advancement and correction of fern names, Presl in 1836 gave us his TENTAMEN PTERIDOGRAPHIAE. Up to this time the generic name and classification of all ferns were based on the nature of their soral characters only. This early classification system was called the Swartzian Classification after Swartz' SYNOPSIS FILICUM, 1806. Swartz based his classifications on the sori, spore cases, of the ferns. In Presl's TENTAMEN PTERIDOGRAPHIAE, the classification was not based alone on the sori or spore cases alone, but on the venation, the veins,

(Continued on Page 43)



A collection of rex begonias. In the rear are unnamed seedlings. Front row: Black Night, Cardoza Gardens, Helen Teupel, Silver Sweet.
—Photo by KARI BERGGRAY



Rear: Joe Hayden, Verschaffeltii. Front: Silver Star, Deliciosa.

—Photo by KARI BERGGRAY

BEGONIA NAMED FOR MRS. HELEN KRAUSS

By RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

Dr. E. Imscher of Stuttgart, Germany, in a new begonia publication "Begoniaceenstudien" (Begoniaceae Studies) which appears in "Botanische Jahrbücher für Systematik, Pflanzengeschichte und Pflanzengeographie", volume 78, pages 171-194, Stuttgart, 1959, includes a description of *Begonia Kraussiantha* Imscher which he named in honor of Mrs. Helen K. Krauss, author of "Begonias for American Homes and Gardens". This book was published in 1947 by The MacMillan Company, New York. At present it is out of print. Copies may sometimes be found in second hand book stores.

The new Mexican begonia is discussed on pages 183-185 and a photo of the type specimen appears on plate 8 number 2. It had been distributed under the name *Begonia Schultziana* Urb. but it differs from that species. It is true that *Begonias Schultziana* and *Kraussiantha* have similarly shaped leaves, but the hairs on *Schultziana* are long and far apart while those of the latter are very short and thickly set. *Kraussiantha* has flowers which have only two petals in each flower while those of *Schultziana* have four petals in the male flowers and five in the female flowers. *Kraussiantha* is also one of a number of begonias generally grown as "Rockery Begonia from Mexico".

Begonia Kraussiantha Imsch. is a small, rhizomatous begonia which spends the winter dormant and leafless. It is outstanding for its very angular leaf with shallow lobes and large-toothed margin. The entire plant is covered with short, white hairs, giving the plant a frosty appearance. In the fall the plant sends up

long, slender stems with a few large, ($1\frac{3}{4}$ inches), two-petaled, white flowers.

Pages 172-176 present an article discussing the flower cymes and racemes with secondary shoots of *Begonia Lauterbachii* Warburg.

Pages 177-180 contain a discussion and clarification of *Begonia stigmosa* Lindly, *squarrosa* Liebmann and a new *begonia boquetensis* Imscher.

Pages 181-183 clarify the identity of *Begonia acida* Velloz and a new species of *begonia subacida* Imscher.

Begonias Vareschii Imscher, *Fellereriana* Imscher, and *Gebrtii* Imscher are new American species described on pages 185, 187, 188, and 189.

Begonia Schubertiana Imscher, appearing on pages 186-187, is a new species from Argentina named for Dr. Bernice G. Schubert, Plant Introduction Section, New Crops Research Branch, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland. Dr. Schubert is a corroborator with Dr. Lyman B. Smith, Curator, Division of Phanerogams of the United States National Museum, Washington, D.C. Dr. Schubert and Dr. Smith have written many begonia papers dealing with Mexico, Central America and South America in which some fifty new begonia species are named.

Two begonias from Asia are discussed on pages 189-193 and a new species *Begonia foveolata* Imscher is described.

In all, nine new begonia species are described in this interesting paper.

SPOONIT

FLOWER FOOD

Send Post Card for Information and Sample

PLANTSMITH

Box 818

Palo Alto 2, Calif.

BEGONIAS, FUCHSIAS, TROPICALS HOUSE PLANTS

The Best of Everything for Your Garden

FIFTH AVE. NURSERY
AND GREENHOUSE

2510 W. Manchester, Inglewood, Calif.
Don & Ron Stanley PLeasant 1-0874

GOLDEN BIRD TROPICALS

Route 1, Richfield Road, Yorba Linda, California

Unusual Plants for Pots
also Begonias and Gesneriads

Free Descriptive List on Request
Mail Order Only

BEGONIA REX FROM SEED

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

An interesting collection of *Begonia Rex* can be cultivated easily from seed, but to get the best results, some points need to be given careful attention.

The seed should be sown in a temperature of sixty degrees during the months of January and February. The ideal sowing compost consists of equal parts of loam, leafmold, and sand, the mixture being passed through a fine mesh before putting it into clean pans drained to one-third of their depth with broken pot.

Water the pans thoroughly and let them stand for a few hours to allow surplus water to drain away. When the surface of the soil is just moist—never sodden—use the pot leveler to make it firm and of an even texture. Sow the seed, taking extra care to see that it is distributed as thinly as possible, because the seed is exceedingly small.

Throughout the germination period, keep the pans at a uniform temperature. This is best accomplished by placing them in a propagating frame or, where this is not available, in a container which is large enough to take the seed pan and allow for sufficient room so that a sheet of glass may be placed on top. Remove the glass and wipe away the condensation each day.

The space between the seed pan and the outer container should be filled with damp sphagnum moss, peat usually being too crumbly and awkward to replace in position when disturbing the seed pan to supply water.

In watering, place the pan in tepid water to a depth of one inch below the rim and let it remain until the surface of the soil is just moist.

Many growers are concerned about the formation of moss, which threatens to endanger the tiny seedlings by strangulation. This formation is usually the result of too much surface water and can be avoided if the drainage is made good from the start. Another cause is the frequent overhead use of the syringe in lieu of watering by the immersion method. Much of the moss can be removed by the careful manipulation of a pair of tweezers, but quite a few seedlings will be sacrificed during the process.

Seedlings are usually transplanted in the cotyledon stage, a not so easy problem for the amateur at his first attempt, but the seedlings can be left to a later stage unless the initial sowing was too congested. When transplanting, a match stick with a V-shaped notch at one end will be found to be the most useful tool for lifting and transferring the seedlings. Only much practice will make a grower adept at handling such tiny bits of plant life. They should be pricked out two inches apart in a compost slightly coarser but similar to that used in the initial sowing, watered very carefully to avoid washing out the seedlings, and kept close and shaded from the sun for a time, air finally being given in gradually increasing quantities.

When the foliage is nearly touching, transfer the plants to 3½ inch pots of any good *begonia* compost. They will usually remain in this sized pot for the first year of their life, so see that the compost is kept thoroughly open by the addition of some grit, to insure that the plants will be maintained in healthy growth.

2 TRULY UNIQUE TOURS—

ESPECIALLY FOR GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS
FEATURING EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE HOMES AND GARDENS
MEXICO—FOR MARDI GRAS (FEBRUARY, 1960)
HAWAII—FOR EASTER (APRIL, 1960)

For information write: HELEN GOODMAN, 1929 Cerro Gordo St.
Los Angeles 39, California
Phone: NORmandy 15035

Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1 *B. hispida* var. *cuculifera*—

Brazil. Leaves soft downy, pale green, maple-shaped, with numerous adventitious leaflets. White flowers. Bushy habit; however, the plant that produced these seeds is about five feet tall and is owned by a grower in Santa Barbara, California, who has gone to much work to set and collect seed carefully. Care should be taken in planting as seeds are extremely fine. You may be sure that they are from the true *B. bis. cuculifera* and will give perfect germination. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 2 *B. Cinderalla* (*semperflorens*)—

An entirely new type of fibrous rooted begonia. Flowers are bright rose-pink, each with a large, attractive, golden yellow center. This type has been available before only from cuttings and about half as described, the balance being perfectly good plants that can be used as bedding subjects or in pots. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 3 *B. heracleifolia pyramidalis* x *B. reichenheimi*—

A cross by John Cole, Johannesburg, South Africa. He describes the plant as being rhizomatous, compact, with dark leaves, and quite handsome. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 4 *B. mazae*—

Mexico. There appears to be considerable variation in the coloring of the small, heart-shaped leaves. Seeds offered are from a plant having deep, rich green leaves with velvety texture. Small, rhizomatous. Flowers are numerous and pink. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 5 *B. 'Ricky Minter'*—

A hybrid. Huge, oval, pointed, dark leaves, intensely ruffled. Lofty sprays of rosy-pink blooms. Fast growing rhizomatous begonia that quickly makes a show plant. Seeds furnished by a greenhouse in Seattle, Washington. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 6 *B. 'Bow-Nigra'*—(*B. Boweri* x *h. nigricans*)—

Star type, having dark, bronzy leaf with

dark green markings. Small, rhizomatous, with pink flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 7 *B. 'Tea Rose'*—

Seedling of *B. odorata alba*. Similar to *B. oadi* in habit except that flowers are smaller, brighter pink, and fragrant. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 8 *B. metallica*—

Brazil. Erect to two feet or more; bushy, hairy; leaves ovate-pointed, coarsely toothed, glossy olive-green with metallic purple veins above, red veined beneath. Flowers large, light pink, bright pink bearded without; clusters large and showy. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 9 *B. 'Winter Romance'*—

Resembles *semperflorens*. This type is quite distinctive. Flowers profusely throughout winter and is an excellent plant for bedding purposes. Reddish pink flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10 *B. 'Orange rubra'*—

Cane type with large clusters of orange flowers. Leaves sometimes silver-spotted. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11 *B. gracilis* pink and white

Low growing *semperflorens* with shiny leaves and flat, open type flowers. Good border plant. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 12 *B. Tuberhybrida*—

Double yellow flowers. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 13 *B. Tuberhybrida*—

Mixed colors. 25 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

Sinningia pusilla

Brazil. Miniature rosette only two inches high; little, oval, puckered leaves olive-green with brown veins; hugging the ground, slender stem bearing a quarter-inch attractive tubular flower with five spreading lobes, orchid-colored with darker veins and lemon-yellow throat. Although tuberous, it is practically evergreen, blooming continuously for two years before resting. Likes adequate light and water and, most important for bloom,

good humidity. To bloom well in the normally low humidity of the home, the plant should have a glass or plastic container inverted over the pot.

Seeds are very fine and germinate well if ample time is allowed. They usually bloom within three to four months from time of germination. Plants are new and rather scarce. They lose their attractiveness when seen in quantity. Growers usually display two or three at a time in one-inch pots, regardless of the number of plants they have. 50 cents per pkt.

The A.B.S. Seed Fund enjoys a happy relationship with a number of societies and horticultural groups around the country, and these organizations have been helpful in locating seeds that would be otherwise impossible to find. *S. pusilla* seeds were furnished by a member of the Gloxinia Society.

Saintpaulia ionantha—

'Blue Queen' (Benary). A distinct progress in Saintpaulias, having large, deep marine-blue blooms that will not turn pale even under very bright light or strong heat. The dark foliage forms flat rosettes under a surprising abundance of blossoms. Seedlings will flower in six months after germination. 50 cents per pkt.

Sinningia gigantea togrina—

A variety shawing many attractive designs, spotted over all. Flower size four to five inches. 25 cents per pkt.

Aeschynanthus lobbianus—

Gesneriaceae. Epiphytic trailer with two small, elliptic, fleshy, dark green leaves. Tubular, two-lipped flowers with hairy calyx cup soot-red, glistening like silk, the downy corolla fiery red, creamy-yellow in throat and only twice as long as calyx. 35 cents per pkt.

Streptocarpus rexii—

South Africa. 'Cape Primrose'. Small fibrous rooted, stemless plant, with long, narrow, quilted and pubescent leaves in a rosette hugging the ground, and with several flower stalks bearing trumpets of pale lavender lined with purple in the throat. 25 cents per pkt.

Ficus diversifolia (lutescens)—

'Mistletoe fig'. Small, obovate, hard leaves two inches long, dark green with brown specks above, pale beneath. Lib-

erally bearing small yellowish fruit lined with gray. 25 cents per pkt.

Rohdea japonica—Liliaceae—

Extremely durable and beautiful plant with thick rhizome; basal rosette of oblanceolate, arching, channeled or plaited, thick, leathery leaves, densely arranged somewhat in two ranks, matte green. Whit flowers aroid-like. Fruit red berries in large clusters. Four seeds for 25 cents.

OTHER GENERA

Anemone hupenensis—

Japanese anemone. One of the most popular garden perennials and widely grown in open borders. Comes in several colors. 25 cents per pkt.

Aquilegia—Columbine—

Queen of flowers. Choice cut flowers, borne on strong wiry stems in profusion during spring and early summer. Long spurs, choice colors, semi-shade. 25 cents per pkt.

Anigonozanthos flavida—

Kangaroo paw. Rare Australian plant with stems and flowers covered with yellow wool. The odd flowers are shaped like a kangaroo paw. 25 cents per pkt.

Lantana—

Pink and cream shades. Popular ornamental plant grown out-doors in mild climates in practically any type of soil. Used as greenhouse plants elsewhere. 25 cents per pkt.

Lagerstroemia speciosa—

Shrub or small tree with showy flowers in pink, red, and purple. Easily grown from seed and will bloom the first year. 25 cents per pkt.

Sutera grandiflora—

South Africa. Phlox for the semi-shade garden. 25 cents per pkt.

Pancratium martimum—

Lily with globe-shaped bulb which tapers into a neck, from which arise bluish-green twisted leaves about two feet long. Large, white, fragrant flowers in clusters. Easily grown from seed. 25 cents per pkt.

Hymenocallis (Ismene) Amaryllidaceae—

Bulbous plant with strap-shaped leaves; umbels of large, fragrant, white flowers;

crown funnel-shaped, lobes fringed. 25 cents per pkt.

Acacia-koa-Hawaii—

This native Hawaiian tree attains great height in cooler climates. In warmer regions, its growth is somewhat restricted, but it still retains its picturesque quality. True leaves on young plants are compound, with many small leaflets; on older plants they become sickle-shaped. Flowers are small creamy balls of stamens, clustered. Useful as a bonsai plant. Seeds are hard and should be soaked several hours before planting. 25 cents per.

Schlumbergera gaertneri—

'Easter cactus'. Stiff, spreading branches of long flattened joints, dull green with purplish crenate margins; a few bristles at apex. Star-like regular flowers dark scarlet in March and April. 25 cents per pkt.

FREE SEED

B. 'Calla Queen'—

Flowers bright scarlet. Leaves top out white, suggesting miniature calla lilies. Seeds were brought from Germany by a friend who visited there a short time ago, but due to technicality we can not offer them for sale.

Also in seed fund files are many seeds of easy-to-grow begonias. New members who are learning to grow plants from seeds may like to try some of these. If so, we will be happy to send them out to anyone who would like to try them. Available are *B. leptotricha*, *B. schmidtiana*, and several good semperflorens unknown to us. Please send postage if other seeds are not requested.

Comment from a seed fund patron who lives in Missouri:

"I write you so often I feel we are old friends and want to tell you I am having so much fun with the seed from the seed fund. I have given away many of the seedlings due to lack of room. I just can't keep them all and they are appreciated by those who receive them. I work in a cleaning shop and my boss has installed a shelf for me to show off my seedlings. Naturally they have attracted much attention from the people who pass by each day. I change the plants often so there will always be something new and different."

MRS. FLORENCE GEE
Seed Fund Administrator
4316 Berryman Avenue
Los Angeles 66, California

**Knott's Berry Farm
& Ghost Town**

BUENA PARK, CALIF.

(From L.A. take Santa Ana Freeway to Buena Park, then South 2 miles.)

In Our Nursery at the South End
of the Large Berry Market . . .

FUCHSIAS

BEGONIAS

FERNS

SHADE PLANTS

SUPPLIES

STAY FOR DINNER

Chicken Dinners - Snack Bars - Steak House

12-8:30 p.m. Daily 12-8:30 p.m.

ex. Mo. & Tu. 12-9 p.m. ex. Friday

Buxton Check List of Begonias

The Buxton Check List of Begonias is a "must" for hybridizers to check on previously registered names, and is a valuable reference book for identification and origin.

Send check or money order for \$6.00 (in California add 24 cents sales tax) to:

MRS. LUCY A. SAULT, Librarian
26938 DAPPLEGRAY LANE
ROLLING HILLS, CALIF.

THE EFFECT OF PHOTOPERIODISM

By ROBERT M. SENIOR

In the French magazine *Revue Horticole* for the year 1957 is an article titled "The Effect of Photoperiodism on The Development of Begonia Tubercles", referring to an experiment with begonia tubercles. As I have never found any reference to this in an American magazine, a summary might be interesting to those who are raising begonia tubers from seed.

Briefly, the experiment was to determine the effect, on very small tubercles, of giving them eight hours of daylight, then during the balance of each twenty-four hours covering them with black opaque polyvinal cloth.

Two lots of begonias were used in the experiment, each lot containing about 2400 begonias. One lot was planted in the ordinary way without any special treatment and served as the "control" for purposes of comparison; the other lot received the treatment of the protective covering. These were all planted about the middle of August, and arranged in groups of red, pink, and carmine bearing flowers.

Each day when the polyvinal was lifted, the plants were found to be drenched with moisture, due, of course, to the impermeability of the cloth. Rather surprisingly, it was discovered that they had much smaller leaves than those of the control lot. Even twenty-four days after the experiment ended, the plants treated seemed smaller than those of the untreated lot.

At the end of October, all of the tubercles were lifted, cleaned, separated according to size, and weighed. A table was worked out, and a comparison of the treated tubercles with those of the control showed a remarkable difference. For example, in the treated lot there were 825 tubercles measuring 5 cm. and over, while in the control there were only 291.

The conclusion of the experiment stated: "The influence of this treatment consisting of diminishing the length of day cannot be refuted. It will be neces-

sary, next year, to determine the most propitious time to cover the treated plants, as well as to determine the ideal length of treatment."

MY PETS

(Continued from Page 27)

B. 'Ricky Minter' is lush and beautiful in a southwest window. Its big leaves, of course, use a lot of water and keep me reminded that this variety appreciates being damp.

B. 'Fuscomaculata' likes the southwest exposure, too, but prefers to be kept rather dry and allowed to droop as it wishes, as the petioles naturally become lax.

B. 'Erythrophylla helix' enjoys a lot of sun, which makes the back of the leaves beautifully red and the spirals enchanting. It is a heavy feeder and should be kept damp.

B. 'Kellermanni' seems to prosper when exposed to southeast sun. It should be damp, but allowed to dry out occasionally. This one will have pink edges.

B. 'Ricinifolia' is also a heavy feeder and requires dampness.

B. 'Pinafore', gorgeous with all its blooms, is a heavy bloomer, but even if the blooms were not lovely, the foliage would make up for it. This is a lovely cane.

B. 'Skeezar' is lush and large. I find that it should be allowed to dry out somewhat and should never be kept wet, especially if the rhizomes are below the soil level.

*Palos
Verdes*

**Begonia
Farm**

4024 Pacific Coast Hi-way, Waleria, Calif.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS
AND SHADE PLANTS

FUCHSIAS — CAMELLIAS — FERNS

OPEN DAILY — CLOSED MONDAY

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop

1½ Miles E. of Redondo Beach

Hi-Way 101

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

An interesting and informative news letter, issued by the San Francisco Branch and aptly called THE SAN FRANCISCO BEGONIAN, reminds me that it is time to sow tuberous begonia seed.

It is generally accepted that the first of the new year is the right time to sow these seeds for blooming plants this year. You still have time to do so, but don't wait any longer. Those who haven't tried growing these colorful mimics of the begonia family from seed should try it, by all means. Buy some mixed seed, sow them, and you are in for the greatest thrill of your life.

Seeing the first signs of growth, transplanting and shifting in the various stages, and finally experiencing the thrill of seeing your own plants in exotic bloom is really an elixir. Then, if you want to know what it is like to be a millionaire, grow enough so that you can be real choosy. Rogue them, discarding those that do not come up to your expectations, and if you believe that these beauties should be able to hold up their own heads, then discard those that would do otherwise. This is the millionaire treatment. When the plants mature, you will have tubers of only selected plants for next year. What luxury to be able to discard tuberous begonias as you see fit!

For those who would like to become judges or would like to learn the requirements of judging begonias, fuchsias, and allied shade plants, I thoroughly recommend attending the new Shade Plant Judging Class, jointly sponsored by the American Begonia Society and the California National Fuchsia Society. If you complete the course of eight or more lectures and pass the final examinations, you can become an accredited judge.

Meetings will be held at the South Gate

Auditorium, in the same room used by the A.B.S. for our National Board meetings. The first meeting will be on February 12, Lincoln's birthday. Mrs. Muriel L. Merrell, chairman of the Judges' Council of Southern California, will give the first lecture.

The curtain rises at 8 p.m. promptly. Better get there by 7:30, be on time, and chin a little with old friends and fellow students.

Payment of \$1.00 is required for each lecture, which covers the lecturer's fee and finances the course. You will receive a mimeographed copy of each lecture, to be retained for your personal use and for the final exams.

For those who have no ambitions to become judges, but would like to learn more about shade plants, then this is still a very attractive and interesting project. Attend personally if you can, but if unable to do so, then write to Mrs. Korts, A.B.S. Vice-President, send her your dollar, and she will see to it that you get a copy of the lecture and any others that you may send your dollar for. It is highly recommended to Round-Robin members, and to any one not able to attend personally. It's well worth while.

"Till next month, happy gardening. I am reminded how fortunate we are to be able to share this most fascinating hobby, by what Faith Forsythe says: "In the study of soil and growth you evolve a wisdom that can never be got out of a book. Much of the unrest and unhappiness in the world today, especially among young people, is a symptom of something lacking in their lives, and that something is the joy and satisfaction that comes from working with your hands to make something grow."

CLARENCE HALL
President

SHADE PLANT JUDGING CLASSES START

Lectures in the Shade Plant Judging Class, sponsored by the American Begonia Society and the California National Fuchsia Society, will be given on the second and fourth Fridays of each month through June, at the South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Avenue, South Gate, California. Registrations for attendance will begin at 7:30 p.m. and the lectures will start promptly at 8 p.m.

The first lecture will be February 12. Mrs. Muriel L. Merrell, of Hollywood, California, will deliver the keynote lecture on the subject, "The Five Keys To Decision".

The second lecture, on February 26, will be given by Kenneth Terry, of Redondo Beach, California.

Muriel L. Merrell, F.R.H.S., is chairman of the Judges' Council of Southern California for the California Garden Clubs, Inc., Southern California flower show evaluator for awards issued by the National Council of State Garden Clubs, a nationally accredited amateur flower show judge under N.C.S.G.C. and C.G.C.I., and an accredited instructor of horticulture for the state of California under the National Council of State Garden Clubs flower show school system. She is also a specialist lecturer on international flower arrangement, European, Oriental, Mexican, Hawaiian, and American.

Kenneth Terry is well known to all amateur gardeners on the Pacific coast. He

is a horticulturist of recognized authority, as well as a prolific writer, lecturer, and teacher of horticultural subjects. He has been active in the California Nurserymen's Association for many years, and is a past-president of the California National Fuchsia Society.

AUTHORS—WHERE FROM?

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, of Santa Barbara, California, and Dr. W. C. Drummond, of Los Angeles, California, represent our western writers in this issue.

Virginia I. Withee, of Coventry Centre, Rhode Island, May Taft Drew, of Narberth, Pennsylvania, Charles Marden Fitch, of Mamaroneck, New York, and Robert M. Senior, of Cincinnati, Ohio, give us ideas from the eastern part of the country.

W. Willetts writes from England.

HOUSE PLANTS

Over 600 varieties including the fabulous Leopard Plant, exotic Alocasias, regal Stag Horn Ferns, Begonias, a fragrant African Violet, etc., are offered in our **NEW, WELL ILLUSTRATED CATALOG** (25c per copy). Complete cultural instructions also make this a valuable reference.

BARRINGTON GREENHOUSES
Dept. B85 Barrington, N.J.



AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY'S INSIGNIA PIN
for Begonia Society Members

PRICE IS REDUCED TO \$3.00 (DUE TO CUT IN JEWELRY TAX)

SEND YOUR ORDER TO:

MRS. EDNA KORTS
3626 REVERE AVENUE
LOS ANGELES 39, CALIF.

SCHARFFIANA SECTION

(Continued from Page 31)

out-of-doors, the flowers are covered with pink hairs; when brought into the house, the hairs are white. This may be the cause of the prevailing confusion.

Having learned that my 'Prunifolia' was misnamed, I hastened to try for more accurate identification. The plant I now have under that name is only six months old and may be too young to have developed its true character. Its stems are rather slender, red with white flecks, the petioles red. Its leaves are ovate, tapering to a point. The edges are serrulate. Above, its color is olive green, with a rosy dot at the sinus. Below, some leaves are dark red, others only flushed; only the veins are red, certainly not so plum-colored as its name suggests. The stipules are small, pointed, and thin. It has not yet bloomed. The flowers are said to be "borne in huge pendant clusters" white bearded in Mr. Robinson's original form. There is also a form with pink hairs. There is almost nothing in print to help identify B. 'Prunifolia'.

Another puzzler came to me as B. 'Loma Alta', which it obviously is not. Elsa Fort knows it as B. 'Morgana', which is equally unlikely. Perhaps someone reading this description will come to my rescue.

My three year old plant is large and strong, well covered with leaves. All parts except the flowers are covered with short, soft, white hairs. The stout, dark red stems turn woody quite early. The petioles, neither very long nor very short, show the same color. The leaves are similar to those of *B. scharffi* in shape, a long oval, tapering to a point, but the basal lobes overlap at all ages, like *B. scharffiana*. They are firm in texture, concave above, like a scoop, not like a round cup. The edges are unequally crenate and markedly wavy. Above, the green is very deep and seems to absorb light. Below, the color is purplish red, with redder veins. The stipules are small in proportion, light green, soon dry, but persistent. The peduncles are long, dark red, arching

under the weight of wide spreading cymes, the earliest of which was too large to be covered by my two hands.

The terminal floret seems to be suppressed early, or never formed, a character common to the Hirsute Group. The flowers are white, flushed pink, and ornamented by brilliant cerise hairs on the outside of the petals and on the ovaries. The males have the usual two large, rounded petals, and two narrow ones. Many fail to open, but those which do open expand a full two inches. The female flowers, with five pointed petals, suggest those of B. 'Viaudi'.

During most of the year this is not an attractive plant, for it has the same sullen look as B. 'Alleryi', but come summer when it is covered with masses of brilliant color, it is an eye-stopper. In THE BEGONIAN, 1943, p. 217, Alice Clark says of B. 'Rufida': "Strawberry-red hairs on the flowers look too hot to touch". On the strength of that comment, I am calling my plant B. 'Rufida' until someone gives me a better authenticated name.

One more problem arises from my own doubts. Two qualified growers have supplied the same plant as B. 'Vesperia', whose synonym is 'Improved Margaritae'. My plant bears no resemblance to 'Improved Margaritae'. Judge for yourself. Many slender, little branched stems rise from the soil, light green, sometimes red at the nodes. Petioles are green, reddish near the leaf, making a red dot at the sinus. Leaves are small, slightly puffed between veins, narrowly oval, tapering to a long, almost tail-like point, with edges sharply and unequally notched. They are light green above, also green below, with dark red veins in a pattern like *B. metallica*. The flowers are small, with light pink hairs in small clusters. It is not a heavy bloomer. You will remember that B. 'Margaritae' is tall and dark, with quite differently shaped leaves, very shiny, and with bright cerise flowers.

Mrs. Krause lists another seedling of B. 'Viaudi', a backcross by *B. scharffiana*, called 'Irene'. I have not been able to find this, perhaps because, as the research department states, "It is unusually difficult to propagate". (THE BEGONIAN, 19-

51, p. 237). It is said to be much like *scharffiana*, but with less round, longer leaves.

A number of new hybrids of *B. scharffiana* have appeared in the past ten or twelve years. The only one I now have is *B. 'Alto Scharff'*, bred by Leslie Woodriff, using the pollen of *B. scharffiana* on what he calls *B. alto da serra* and Rudolf Ziesenhenné calls *B. laeteviridea*. It is amazing that a plant so strong and easily grown could come from two such difficult ones. My specimen differs somewhat from Mrs. Minter's two descriptions in THE BEGONIAN for 1951, but this is Philadelphia, not Southern California. Its leaves, on short petioles, resemble those of its seed parent in softness of texture and shape, but are wider and proportionately shorter. In color, too, they are similar, though mine is less red below. As the stems grow, they droop, an asset for those who value basket plants. The many branches are very short and set close together, so the plant is always well covered. Mine has never bloomed. Mrs. Minter says the flowers are white, tinted pink, with a red line around the edges of the petals. She does not mention hairs.

I think that the dwarf 'Mrs. Fred Scripps' that did so well for me until I gave it away as being too large may have been *B. 'Lady Clare'*. I also had *B. 'd'Arctagon'*, a handsome plant, but too much like *B. 'Braemar'* to keep both. Other registrations from this Group that I would like to see are 'Eloise', 'Frances Downing', 'Alta Maiden', and 'San Miguel', especially the last, so attractively pictured and described in THE BEGONIAN for March, 1958.

ARAGRO FISH CONCENTRATE

ESPECIALLY GOOD ON
SHADE PLANTS

NO BURNING OR ODOR

Recommended and Sold

by

JENSEN'S GARDENS

9515 E. FLOWER AVENUE
BELLFLOWER, CALIF.

We feature African Violets and Begonias

NOMENCLATURE

(Continued from Page 32)

found in leafy parts of the fronds. He also used the vascular bundles found in the stipe or leaf stalk to make determinations of fern names. This was a big step forward.

The nomenclature of ferns was gradually improved by W. J. Hooker, GENERA FILICUM, 1838; and again by Hooker and Baker, SYNOPSIS FILICUM, 1865; J. Smith, HISTORY FILICUM, 1875; C. C. Christensen, INDEX FILICUM, 1906; F. O. Bower, THE FERNS, 3 volumes, 1923-28; and E. B. Copeland, THE ORIENTAL GENERA OF POLYPODIACEAE, 1923; and later by his GENERA FILICUM, 1947; Holttum, FERNS OF MALAYA, 1954; HEREDITY, 1957, By L. H. Snyder and P. R. David; INTERNATIONAL CODE OF NOMENCLATURE FOR CULTIVATED PLANTS, 1958. Address Dr. Donald Wyman, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain 30, Massachusetts.

Today the scientist studies the plant's genetics (heredity) along with the plant's form or outline, called morphology, the plant's internal structure, and its mode of reproduction. In the case of ferns, the kind and arrangement of the spore cases, the sori, spoken of as the soral characters, are still a factor in distinguishing the species. Ferns are also distinguished by their scales, their color, size, and location, by the nature of their growth, whether they have a creeping rhizome or root stock, whether they are in a tuft, called caespitose, are creeping, or are treelike, called arborescent.

Any of these variations may cause changing of the generic name, sometimes the specific or species name. For us to stand still and ignore these new names because of long usage of old names, when the correct name is brought forward, only means to stop progress in plant science. Today all these old names no longer used are placed in synonymy, with the result that some plants having as many as twenty synonyms.

For more pleasure in gardening and a greater knowledge of growing plants, label them correctly.

Leaves From Our Begonia Branches

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

The Dallas County Branch invited the Lone Star Branch for a Christmas party on December 17, at the home of Mrs. L. P. Henslee.

After a joint installation of officers, with Mrs. Ruth Cook as president of the Dallas County Branch, and Mrs. Dorothy Thomas as president of the Lone Star Branch, the exchange of presents was enjoyed by everyone.

ELSA FORT

We enjoyed our annual Christmas dinner party in a holiday atmosphere created by hostesses Elvira Roberts and Mildred Tait. Though our meeting was early in the month, our Merry Christmas greetings had the same warmth and spirit that builds up toward December 25.

After a delicious dinner, during which gifts were opened, there was no doubt that each person was pleased with her "Pollyanna", some of which were beautiful begonias.

LONG BEACH

Installation of officers for 1960 was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Paul Walker. A grill supper was served in a warm and cozy patio.

Officers are: M. O. McKelvey, president; Lucille Bailey, vice-president; Blanche Ashby, secretary; Vera Ohlson, treasurer; and Winefred D. Caseley, national representative.

MISSOURI

At our meeting on December 15, officers were elected: Mrs. Helen Ware, president; Mrs. Mary Woods, vice-president; Miss Mona Ayers, secretary; Mrs. Lucas, treasurer; Mrs. Anna Hyatt, representative.

RHODE ISLAND

Our December meeting was at the home of Mrs. Earle Harrington, our vice-president, in Providence. We voted to hold a Second Begonia and House-plant Show next September. For a winter project, each member will grow on two varieties

of Episcias, and later in the winter, will start growing on Hiemalis from cuttings for the September show.

Ten varieties and species of begonias are being studied each winter meeting.

SAN FRANCISCO

Our Christmas party and pot-luck dinner was held on Wednesday, December 2, with Ed Pynchon in charge of overall arrangements.

Margo Corbelli, Alice Gold, and Toby Craven supplied our gay table decorations, and music was taken care of by Jim Miller and Irvin Kramer. Louise Allmacher, Lillian Kaser, Hyacinth Smith, Josephine Martin, Mrs. Sweet, and Mr. and Mrs. Wormington arranged the menu, roasted the hams and turkey, and provided desserts and coffee.

Then Santa arrived with gifts for all. Golly! Were the children, both big and small, ever excited!

SEATTLE

On December 11, the Seattle Branch held its Christmas banquet, which was followed by an excellent and entertaining program. It wasn't until late in the preparation of this program that the men found that the women of the club had out-manuevered them. Nearly all numbers, solos, quartets, recitations, and skits were performed by men. The men vow that next year they will do the planning and the women will perform.

Everybody had a wonderful time. Fifty-one attended.

The new president, Mrs. Dorothy C. Williams, presided over the banquet. She also exhibited a Certificate of Honor that was presented to the Seattle Branch by the Men's Garden Club of Seattle, for having presented the outstanding flower show in Seattle during 1959.

An A.B.S. insignia pin was given to H. H. Warrick, outgoing president.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY

Our Christmas dinner and party was held December 19 at the Broadmoor

Congregational Church Hall, in San Leandro. A talented group of young people from Castro Valley entertained with songs, dancing, and accordion music.

Installation of recently elected officers was conducted by Vincent Peck. Gifts were exchanged and door prizes were awarded.

VENTURA

Our Christmas pot-luck dinner was managed by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Lemons of Moorpark. A program of entertainment followed the dinner.

Mrs. Walter Knecht presided at the installation of new officers. Installed were: Mrs. Louise Seaton, president; Mrs. Theo Osborne, vice-president; Mrs. Ted Lemons, secretary; Mrs. Clyde Snodgrass, treasurer; Mrs. Dewey Hobart, membership chairman; Mrs. Harry Meyers, national representative.

WILLIAM PENN

At our meeting in November we were guests of Mrs. John Woodall and Mrs. Marie Schaffer in their lovely old home in Jenkintown.

As several of our members had attended the lecture by Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman, Research Director of the A.B.S., given at Philadelphia, their impressions of the lecture were discussed. Mrs. Anna Oderle gave a talk on potting soils.

Marie Schaffer surprised us by showing us rooted Evansiana. When a bouquet she received in September showed signs of root rot, she put a few healthy stems in a fresh container of water, where they not only rooted but produced small plants growing from the nodes of each stalk. She intends to plant a few in a pot in the house and leave the rest in water to await results. Her experiment is an inspiration to all of us.

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

RAINBOW NURSERY

1635 W. Florence Ave.
PLeasant 3-6121 Los Angeles 44, Calif.

CALENDAR

Feb. 9—San Gabriel Valley Branch annual banquet at 7 p.m. Banquet room, Henry's Santa Anita Restaurant, 125 W. Huntington Drive, Arcadia. Prime rib dinner \$2.75 per plate. Make reservations with Mabel Corwin, 4825 Willard Avenue, Rosemead, not later than February 3. Neil Campbell will show colored slides of his recent trip around the world.

Feb. 9—West Valley Branch will meet 7:30 p.m. at Surina's Camellia Gardens, 16054 Parthenia Street, Sepulveda, California. Mr. Surina will explain how to grow camellias. Coffee and cake will be served. Come and bring your friends.

March 4-5-6-7—Long Beach Parent Chapter will have booth display of begonias and ferns in Hobby Show at Long Beach Auditorium. Doors open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Visitors welcome.

NEW CROP

Rex Begonia Hybrid Seed
\$1.00 per packet

RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

ILLUSTRATED CATALOG 25c

... listing 200 varieties of Begonias, 350 Geraniums, 300 odd plants plus Herbs and Perennials.

Price List Free on Request
MERRY GARDENS, Camden, Maine

BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS

NEW catalogue with color, 25c

LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES

(Est. 1892)

Danielson, Connecticut

Branch Meeting Dates . . .

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

F. J. Bedson, Secy., Kent, England

BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. D. L. Comiskey, Secy.
Valley Farm, Dover, Mass.

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

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. Jane Scalzo, Secy.
1126 Keeler Ave., Berkeley 8, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Miss Lenore Schroeder, Secy.
1828 So. 7th St., Alhambra, 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
Mabel Anderson
5226 Strohm Ave., North Hollywood

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

3rd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Community House, La Jolla
Mrs. Charles Calloway
1311 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla, Calif.

GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Hoquiam Public Library or
Messingale and Rosenear Music Store
Aberdeen, Washington
Mrs. Jessie B. Hoyt, Secy.
1013 Harding Road, Aberdeen, Wash.

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

4th Tuesday 10:30 a.m. Homes of Members
Mrs. Adolph Belser Cor. Secy.
Welsh and Veree Rd., Philadelphia, Pa.

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.
Mrs. W. J. Como, Secy.
Box 220 E. RR No. 1, Dickinson, 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, Calif.

LONE STAR BRANCH

3rd Monday, Members' Homes
Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy.
2621 N. Fitzhugh Ave., Dallas 4, Texas

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Linden Hall
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Florence Haag, Secy.
1025 Temple Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Leslie C. White, Secy.
3013 Addison 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
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Hattie Taylor, Secy.
P.O. Box 25, Raytown, Mo.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Mel Westerdahl, Secy.
16422 Heim Ave., Orange, 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. Edwin Stiles, Secy.
6737 Harvey Ave., Merchantville, N.J.

REDONDO BEACH AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month
2308 Rockefeller, Redondo Beach, Calif.
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.
1304 Poinsettia, Manhattan Beach, Calif.

RHODE ISLAND BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members
Miss Ruth Harrington, Secy.
372 Lloyd Ave., Providence, R.I.

RIVERSIDE BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Shamel Park
3650 Arlington, Riverside, Calif.
Mrs. Ethel Prior, Secy.
4345 5th St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 10:30 a.m., Homes of Members
 Mrs. Chet Van Dusen, Secy.
 4135 Merritt Blvd., La Mesa, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
 Mrs. Dora Hale, Secy.
 Route 2, Box 1350, Florin, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Hard of Hearing Hall
 Herbert and University
 Mrs. Phyllis Kansky, Secy.
 4543 36th St., San Diego 16, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
 Forest Lodge, 266 Laguna Honda Blvd.
 Mrs. Forrest Lee Jordan, Secy.
 95 Ravenwood Dr., San Francisco, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.,
 Los Angeles State & County Arboretum
 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
 Mrs. Carl Neuman, Secy.
 652 W. Bennett St., Glendora, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
 Mrs. Ruth Brook, Secy.
 7151 Central Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Girl Scout Clubhouse, 1838 San Andres St.
 Mary Wegener, Secy.
 1611 Olive St., Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
 Meeting locations will vary; call the secretary at
 SUNet 3-7122.
 Mrs. Hazel M. Starks, Secy.
 6116 Greenwood Ave., Seattle 3, Wash.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Alice Bartlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
 Mrs. Ted Lemmon, Secy.
 P.O. Box 678, Moorpark, Calif.

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday of each Month
 Mrs. Robert Nease, Secy.
 410 South Phillips, Salina, Kansas

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
 Strowbridge School Multi-Purpose Rm.
 21400 Bedford Dr., Hayward, Calif.
 Mrs. Chester Bartlow, Cor. Secy.
 37075 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.
 Scott Hall, Ft. Worth, Texas
 Mrs. James O. Burdick, Sr., Secy.
 3211 Azle Ave., Fort Worth 6, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes
 Mrs. W. N. Foster, P.O. Box 964, Groves, Texas

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Westchester Women's
 Club,
 8020 Alverstone St.,
 Los Angeles, Calif.

WEST VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Orcutt Playground
 Clubhouse
 21816 Lanark St., Canoga Park, Calif.
 Mrs. J. H. Holley, Secy.
 22126 Gault St., Canoga Park, Calif.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members
 Mrs. Walter M. Cowles, Secy.
 1139 Mellon St., Pittsburgh 6, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
 Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive
 Anne L. Rose, Secy.
 1255 Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., Homes of Members
 Mrs. Ernest Drew, Secy.
 635 Moreno Rd., Narberth, Pa.

BRANCH SECRETARIES

Notify Editor promptly of changes in this listing.

CONTENTS

These Are My Pets	27
Jamaica's Botanical Wonderland	28
The Scharffiana Section of the Hirsute Group	30
Nomenclature — The Naming of Plants	32
Begonia Named for Helen Krauss	34
Clayton M. Kelley Seed Fund Flight	36
Begonia Rex From Seed	35
The Effect of Photoperiodism	39

POSTMASTER:
Return Postage
Guaranteed
6525 W. 89th St.
Los Angeles 45, Calif.

GREEN MOUNTAIN GARDENS
P.O. Box 667-B
CALISTOGA, CALIFORNIA

See the magnificent display—

AMERICAN HYBRID TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

—in all their forms and colors

Growing on the terraced slopes of our redwood forest
A breath-taking sight to behold during the months of
July, August, September, October, and November.
Valley hardened tubers available - January through April

Write for free color brochure

The Gardens are located in beautiful Knights Valley
5½ miles north of Calistoga, California, on Highway 128
Open daily—Closed Thursday

New Originations in Rose Form and Ruffled



TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

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

Choice tubers now being shipped.

Vetterle & Reinelt

Dept. B Capitola, California

1960 COLOR CATALOG NOW AVAILABLE