

The Begonian

DEVOTED TO THE SHELTERED GARDENS

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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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TUBEROUS BEGONIAS in DIFFICULT AREAS

By HOWARD SIEBOLD
Rye, New York

Most of the printed instructions on the care and growing of tuberous begonias originate on the Pacific Coast, England, or Belgium, where tuberous begonias are easy to grow. They may be more difficult to grow in other areas. Even so, they can be very rewarding with proper precautions. The important point is that you anticipate that they may not be quite as easy to grow as the printed literature might lead you to believe. Each spring many of the gardening magazines will carry an article or two describing how easy it is to grow tuberous begonias. This leaves the beginner very discouraged when he finds that in his area it is difficult to obtain the results so glowingly described in the printed instructions and in the magazine articles.

The amount of difficulty that you might anticipate will depend a great deal on the night time temperature. Where the night time temperature is not above 60 degrees, tuberous begonias will thrive and present very few problems. In areas where the temperature at night will be as high as 65 degrees, you should be prepared to encounter a moderate number of problems. These will appear as bud-droppings, mildew, and some stem rot. In areas where the night temperature is 70 degrees or above, these problems are sure to occur. They, quite possibly, will be rather distressing in their effect on the plants.

A large percentage of the continental United States will have all of the above temperature conditions at some time during the normal growing season. The northern and eastern portion of the country will have night temperatures of 60 degrees to 65 degrees probably during the months of June and September. During July and August these temperatures probably will be high enough to require considerable care in order to maintain the

effect on the plants.

Presuming that the tubers have been started indoors, they can be moved outdoors safely on the same date that it is safe to plant tomato plants. In large sections of the country this is Memorial Day. In this case the tubers would have been started in flats or pots six to eight weeks prior to this date.

In order to reduce the effects of night temperatures of 70 degrees or above, we would suggest that adequate ventilation be arranged when setting out the plants by proper spacing. This must be based somewhat on experience since the plant may cover more growing area in some locations than in others. As a rule for the beginner, we would suggest a distance between plants of at least one foot and in more difficult areas, eighteen inches would be recommended.

You will find in the difficult areas that, as soon as the blossom has been picked or has dropped, the leaf from which the stem originated will begin to turn brown. Once this change in the leaf has started, it is of little value to the plant and should be removed by cutting the leaf stem about one inch from the main stem of the plant. This portion remaining will drop off or can be removed about a week later. Attempting to break the leaf off at the main stem or to cut it close to the stem will leave a wound which will almost certainly be a source of trouble.

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COVER PICTURE

Leaf of Begonia 'Silver Queen' — 15½ inches long by 9 inches wide. Grown by Carlton L'Hommedieu, Technical Assistant at Farmingdale Agricultural and Technical Institute, Plantingfield Campus.

—Photo by Hertha A. Benjamin,
Bronx, N. Y.

TWO CANE BEGONIAS

By EDNA L. KORTS
Los Angeles, California

Many years ago — 1961 — some new begonias were created by Miss Connie Bower of San Diego, California. A few years latter, after reading Mrs. Alice Clark's article about them in *The Begonian* for December, 1948, I have had a great desire to grow them. They are canes, B. 'Lulu Bower' and B. 'Connie Bower'. But I had no luck in obtaining plants until a couple of years back when I received a small plant of B. 'Lulu Bower' from Mr. Ziesenhene.

Being very partial to cane begonias, I thought you might like to read about my pets. Here are two for comparison: one from San Diego and one from Santa Barbara.

My small plant of B. 'Lulu Bower' is of the registered plant #140. The cross was made by Connie Bower in 1941 in San Diego and two plants were named. The other plant is B. 'Connie Bower' but it is very scarce, so do not rush. The parent plants were *B. dichroa* and B. 'Alzasco', another

**Begonia
lubbersi**



**Begonia
'Lulu Bower'**

hybrid made in San Diego.

My plant was small, only about three inches tall and one stalk when it was given to me. The first year I held my breath every time I looked at the little plant, for fear something might have happened to make it drop leaves. But it grew and soon needed a larger growing space.

I am sure many of you have heard Mr. Ziesenhenné say, "Give a cane begonia plenty of room to grow." It had worked for me with other canes, so I gave 'Lulu' a five-inch pot and a place of honor in the glass house, lifting her above the other plants where she had more circulation of air.

At the present time, she is a lovely plant and has had one or more clusters of flowers all winter and, as you can see in the picture, she has several clusters now. There are four main stems with several side growths, and some of them have three clusters of flowers at a time, one old cluster that shows the white seed pod with the colored petals on the tip, one cluster that has both kinds of flowers, and one new cluster just growing. Of course, the color is rich, deep apricot like *B. dichroa*.

B. dichroa must have very dominant qualities, as so many crosses made with it have deep flame-colored flowers.

The foliage of this plant follows the pattern of *B. dichroa*, not *B. 'Alzascó'*. The old, mature leaves are rich green with spots hardly discernible, but the new growth is bronze-green with silver spots.

The plant is lovely. Hope you can find one.

* * *

The new begonia, *B. 'Helen Nicholson'*, is also a child of *B. dichroa* by *B. lubbersi*. This cross was made by Mrs. West of Santa Barbara. A small plant was given to me at the convention last fall and I have grown it into the one you see in the picture.

The foliage is a lovely green; new leaves are slightly bronze with silver spots, but as they mature the spots

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS FOR COLOR

By NORMAN WORD

Sacramento Branch, A.B.S.

Tuberous begonias will reward you with beautiful blossoms for a very small investment and for a minimum of effort.

Preparation of a growing area of one-third soil, one-third peat moss, and one-third leaf mold, and seedling plants planted after danger of frosts has passed will produce satisfying flowers from April to November. Protection from direct sunlight is necessary to avoid burning, and adequate watering will enable you to realize the simplicity of caring for these plants.

If you care to start with bulbs in January, to be put outdoors in March or April, it will be necessary to protect them from the cold until the bulbs have good growth.

Whether you grow bulbs or seedlings, tuberous begonias can furnish your garden with lots of color during the summer months.

almost disappear. The pattern of the leaves is *B. dichroa*, not *B. lubbersi*. The growth the plant made surprised me and makes me wonder just how large it might grow.

The flowers are rich apricot, which is a great departure from the greenish-white of *B. lubbersi*, but the size and shape are similar. This is a surprising plant to grow, as mine now has five stems from the root.

It is truly a wonderful cane. Why not try it? *It is on the market.*

COPY DEADLINE

All material for publication in THE BEGONIAN must be received by the Editor not later than the fifth of the month preceding month of publication.



Crown Prince Akihito stops to admire display staged by Japan Begonia Society in 1964 Flower Festival.

BEGONIAS FEATURE TOKYO FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Japan Begonia Society was one of the exhibitors in the annual Flower Festival held from April 7 through April 12 in Mitsukoshi Department Store, one of the largest department stores in Tokyo.

This society, established a few years ago, has a membership throughout the country and consists mostly of amateur growers. Most of them have greenhouses, because of the cold winters and sultry summers. They are seriously interested in learning and promoting a wider knowledge of begonia growing and classification.

The photographs of their show were made available for publication through the courtesy of Naoyuki Uemura, Vice-President of the Japan Begonia Society, which has been granted membership in the American Begonia Society.



Japan Begonia Society displayed many varieties of begonias in Tokyo's Flower Festival.

Part of 1963 display by Japan Begonia Society.



SO SAY THE EXPERTS

By RUTH PEASE

So say the experts — experts who have been lecturing for many years. Notes taken during these lectures have been transcribed into readable form. This is the third installment of the series which began in June.

FIBROUS BEGONIAS — GENERAL

Pinch back leggy fibrous begonia plants to force new growth and bushiness. This can be done on almost all fibrous begonias.

The hairy type fibrous begonias will stand some sun and wind, but do not put them near your cane begonias. The canes need a more protected area. Cane begonias have stems similar to bamboo, swollen at the joints. They need as much sunlight as fuchsias. They can be planted near lawns and sprinklers. If you fertilize with steer manure in August and September, at least a foot in each direction around your canes, your plants should be good until February. Use a sprinkling of bone meal for the lime and phosphorus needed and not found in the steer manure.

On a cane begonia that is growing well, you should not be able to see the stem. Leaves should be all over the plant. Your plant shows a need for fertilizer if it is bare on the bottom of its stems.

Around February, when new growth appears, prune your canes by taking the tips out and going down two or three nodes on a few canes at a time. In a few weeks, cut down two or three more nodes. Do this gradually until all woody parts are gone and new growth will start from the bottom of your plants. This will help to take out the old canes, while the tip pruning will force side shoots to develop quickly so that many stems fill the container. To make your canes bushy, jump them from three-inch to five-inch to eight-inch pots. However, do not repot them until new basal growth starts.

Use the node cuttings. Throw the tips away. By planting the node cuttings just below the soil, you will get bushy plants with basal growth.

Some cane begonias make excellent basket specimen plants.

When cutting back *semperflorens*, go down two breaks (wherever a new leaf comes out.) Here again, the tips do not make good cuttings. The node cuttings can be started in Sponge Rok. Semps should be pinched back for bushiness.

If semps or bedding begonias are put in an eight-inch container right away, they will fill it in no time. Let the container dry out on top and then flood it.

We are told not to worry about semps. They do better when they are not bothered too much — and this applies also to the Calla lily begonias.

FIBROUS BEGONIAS INDIVIDUAL PLANTS

Some hirsute begonias which will adapt themselves to dry house conditions:

B. scharffiana grows low, compact, and spreading. However, it is best in a basket.

B. scharffi grows to two feet or more, and is bushy.

B. metallica grows to two feet or more. It is bushy and hairy.

B. luxurians grows to six feet or more and has small white flowers.

B. zebrina grows three feet or more, has smooth branches, and is drooping or spreading. This begonia becomes quite full and large.

B. sanguinea is of medium height, smooth, loosely branched, and has glossy leaves.

It is always interesting to learn about the habit of growth of the individual begonias. For instance, we have been told that *B. convolvulacea* is a climbing plant as well as a basket plant, and that it should be well-sheltered; *B. bradei* makes an excellent hanging-container plant that is good in the lath-house; *B. 'Emma Palmer'* resembles *B. scharffi*.

Other begonias and their peculiarities:

B. 'Catalina' takes a considerable amount of sun and is good in baskets.

The bronze 'Catalina' is lovely in a basket, but too much shade makes the leaves green.

B. 'Mrs. Fred Scripps' can be in a windy place and will take quite a bit of sun.

B. pariles needs lath-filtered light. The leaves should not be too far apart. It wants some sun.

B. picta alba or *rosea* grows to five feet in height.

B. coccinea blooms red flowers in February. This begonia will hang nicely in a basket.

A natural habit of the coccinea type cane begonia is to have its first branch hang down, then the next branch will grow straight up. This is the way the plant grows.

B. 'Alto Schariff' var. 'Ramirez' is considered to be one of the better hairy fibrous begonias. It grows nicely in the lath-house. This plant and *B. mazaе* have their own little peculiarity — if you take tip cuttings, the rest of the stems will die. Cut the stems all the way back. Potassium permanganate will hold back the decay. Put stem cuttings of 'Ramirez' or *mazaе* in potting soil or they will be lost. The side shoots make the good plants, so bury the stems down through the side shoots for full plants. Cut back to about two nodes from the bottom for stem cuttings.

B. 'Richmondensis' should be pinched back for bushiness and grooming. This begonia is good in a pot, a wall pocket, or a basket. Start cutting it back about February.

One of the newer begonias, *B. 'J-11'*, is good in a basket.

The cane begonias are always lovely. *B. 'Helena'* has great clusters of white flowers, and needs a little more care than *B. 'Lucerna'*. *B. 'Sara-Belle'* is a pretty cane with spotted leaves and red flowers. *B. 'Jinnie Mae'* has bright red flowers. Both *B. 'Di-Anna'* and *B. 'Di-Erna'* have orange flowers.

Some especially attractive hairy fi-

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HARDY REXES

By VIRGINIA KENNEDY
Jenkintown, Pennsylvania

If you've ever dreamed of more growing space for your window-sill collection — and what gardener hasn't — but can't afford to build and maintain a greenhouse, lend an ear! For the price of several storm windows, cinder blocks, cement, soil heating cable, and shading material, I have grown begonias and their shade cousins out-of-doors the year around for approximately two and one-half years. Begonias and many house plants are much hardier than we think.

I live in a northern suburb of Philadelphia and grow my plants in two raised cold frames approximately 3 feet by 30 feet, and another 3 feet by 15 feet, built against the side of our house. Cinder blocks form the bases about two feet high, while the windows are mounted on an angle against the house wall. They were used as coldframes for many years until November, 1962, when I decided to add a soil heating cable and do a little experimenting.

The winter of 1962-63 found me with my first two experimental begonias, 'Fireflush' and 'Lord Palmerston'. The spring of 1963 dawned and so did my two experiments; they had lost all their leaves but their roots and/or rhizomes were very much alive and growing lustily by May.

This winter — 1963-64 — I had fibrous, rex, and tuberous begonias and many house plants competing for their lives and, at this writing (April, 1964), at least eighty per cent are still holding their lower leaves and even sending up new growth. Most large, upper leaves have succumbed to the cold. African violets and most episcias did not survive the venture. However, dianthiflora (episcia) has retained its full leaf pattern. Large areas of seedlings have appeared, apparently self-sown. Time will tell what they are.

My begonias in this experiment included 'Black Knight', 'Bow-Nigra',

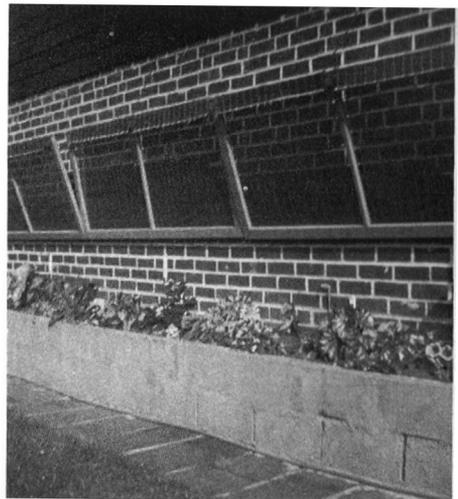
'cubensis', 'Crimson Glow', 'evansiana', 'Fuscomaculata', 'Fairy', 'Fireflush', 'Joe Hayden, Jr.', 'Helen Lewis', 'Helen Teupel', 'Her Majesty', 'Lord Palmerston', 'Lavender Glow', 'Merry Christmas', 'Pearli', 'Sunburst', 'Silver Sweet', 'Silver Fleece', and some whose names I do not know.

Among my house plants were Chinese evergreen, climbing fig, fittonia, geraniums, gloxinias, peperomias, rosary vine, rechteineria, temple bells, wandering jew, and air-plant.

I attribute my wintering-over success of the second winter to keeping the temperature range of the soil and air as even as possible. The average winter temperature range of Philadelphia and vicinity is from 10 degrees low to about 40 degrees high.

By shading the area and disconnecting the soil heating cable in the day time, high day temperatures are kept down in order to minimize the con-

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Begonias grow outdoors all year in this cold frame.

NEW BEGONIAS REGISTERED

By ALVA GRAHAM
A.B.S. Nomenclature Director

No. 198 — B. 'Dorothy Barton':

This is a medium sized cane that has many starts from the soil and the canes all branch, making a bushy plant. The leaves are 2½ inches by 8 inches, smooth, bright green with serrate, red-marked edges. The flowers, eight in a group, are clear pink with pink stems and bracts, but the ovaries are light green. The leaves and petals are ruffled on the edges and, with the delicate coloring, give the plant what Belva Kusler, the originator, calls a "feminine look". One of her earlier cultivars, B. 'Lenore Olivier', and *B. dregei* are the parents.



B. 'Rubud'



B. 'Rubud Giant'



B. 'Earl-ee-bee'

—Photos by Ruby Mae Budd

No. 199 — B. 'Victoria Kartack':

Seeded January 9, 1961, germinated January 21, budded May 7, and bloomed May 15 — this is the record of this cultivar which Belva Kusler obtained from crossing *B. sutherlandi* and *B. vellozoana*. And it has been blooming ever since. Besides being so precocious, it is a beautiful plant with 3-inch x 5-inch bronzy-green leaves, reddish on the back. The flowers are peach-pink, shading to yellowish. The leaves have the velvety texture of *vellozoana* and the petioles are slightly hairy. It throws up many canes from the base, and makes a good basket plant.

Both of these begonias may be obtained from Tropical Paradise Greenhouse, one of our advertisers.

No. 200 — B. 'Rubud':

This hairy fibrous cultivar is the result of a cross between *B. paulensis* and Marie Turner's B. 'Rola-Y', made by Ruby Mae Budd. The large puckered leaves have long white hairs on a dark green surface and a vivid red underside. The veins are deep and puckered. Many of the leaves are peltate, and some have a small leaf growing from the sinus on the upper

side. The margins are crenate with a red hairline. The plant is a strong grower.

No. 201 — B. 'Rubud Giant':

A much larger and very husky edition of B. 'Rubud'. The leaves are over 14 inches long and, Mrs. Budd says, still growing. It has not shown any of the adventitious leaves of the former but shows the same coloring and heavy texture.

No. 202 — B. 'Earl-ee-bee':

A star rhizomatous of medium size is this result of crossing *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans* with *B. purpurea*. The leaves are of heavy texture, velvet green flushed with red on the underside. They are 6 inches to 7 inches across and vary from six to eight lobes. The flowers are pink, in clusters from the leaf axils on stems seven inches long. Mrs. Budd, the originator, says this plant has a much sturdier leaf and is hardier than either of the parents.

AN OPEN LETTER

By PAUL P. LOWE
Homestead, Florida

During my recent trip to California, I met so many new people to whom I owe letters of thanks — for hospitality and for seeds, cuttings, and plants — that I would never get a letter written to each of you. Therefore, I am using this method of thanking you and reporting on the success of the trip.

I have never seen such beautiful begonias as you raise in California. People have asked me over and over, "Well, why can't we raise beautiful begonias in Florida?" We can, but we have to work harder at it.

As you know, begonias like a cool, humid atmosphere. We have the humidity but, unlike California where you have cool nights right through the heat of summer, when it gets hot here it stays hot twenty-four hours a day.

I have found that we can overcome this problem by proper aeration. I plant all my specimen plants in tree-fern baskets, which keep the roots aerated and cool because the water drains right through. In potting seedlings and rooted cuttings, I use about fifty per cent tree fiber in my potting mix during the summer months.

I think my method of packing the cuttings for the trip back to Florida may be of interest to some of you. I wrapped the individual cuttings in damp, not wet, sphagnum moss, and then I sealed them in plastic bags. I placed the bags upright in open cartons in the back seat of the car, making sure they were protected from the direct rays of sunlight through the windows. This helped to keep them from overheating in the sealed bags.

I was on the road five days and when I opened the bags the morning after arrival, the cuttings were just as fresh as they were when I packed them. I potted them immediately and have lost less than a dozen, so far.

I hope I will be successful with these new varieties — new to Florida, that is, because in the past we could get new varieties only by raising them from seed. Plants grown in greenhouses in the north and shipped here just couldn't take it.

Most of the plants I brought with me are doing well with the exception of a few that have succumbed to the combination of high humidity and heavy rainfall.

Many of you expressed an interest in crotons when the subject came up at the National Board meeting I attended. I have shipped a carton of croton wood for cuttings to Carl Naumann, to be rooted for the convention. If you are interested, you may get my address from the Membership Secretary and I shall be glad to send you croton wood cuttings. These can be shipped to you via parcel post without having to go through inspection.

Thanks again to all of you.

ROUND ROBIN NEWS

The Robin barometer of letters says that we are heading into the big show season of the year. Many members have already participated in early flower shows, but most of our shade plant exhibiting seems to concentrate in the summer months.

It is wonderful to read of shows put on by Branches of the American Begonia Society. Members of these Branches always see large volumes of shade plants. But, since about half of the A.B.S. membership lives in areas where there are no Branches, these members must be content with smaller shade plant exhibits and larger general flower shows. However, the Round Robin letters indicate that our widespread cultural interests and problems overlap so much that we can learn a lot in the Flights regardless of our plant specialties.

At the present time as this article is prepared on June 29, all of our Round Robin Flights are general interest types. A few requests have been received from members who would like to be on a Flight that specializes in some particular plant or in some phase of plant culture. These specialty Flights can be started at any time if we can get five or six members for them. Specialties such as shade plant propagation, seed production, hybridizing, growing from seed or spore, shade plant soil studies, mildew experiments, plant feeding experiments, etc. are all acceptable. Any specialty subject can keep a Flight going for years if the members retain their interest. We can open or close these Flights at any time, so don't hesitate to make your wishes known.

Now for some news items:

Flight #15 is now in action with Mrs. Ethel Shuler of Lexington, Ohio, as chairman. Flight #14, the professional international group, is still waiting for more members. Flight #16 is forming.

Please send in your requests at any

time. Don't wait until vacations are over. Participation in a single Flight takes very little of your time. You will enjoy trying out all of the cultural information that you get from your Round Robin friends.

This may seem like the wrong time to discuss loss of plants by flooding of rivers, but the travel time of the Flights plus the publication time takes us back into the spring months. Two members lost hundreds of their plants to deep water in their basements and greenhouses. Mrs. Mary Powers of Mahaffey, Pennsylvania, Flight #5, lives on a low-level island in the Susquehanna River. Her two greenhouses were flooded. Mrs. Ruth Washburn of Chippewa Lake, Ohio, Flight #8, lives near a river that flooded her basement this spring with five feet of water. Ruth said that never before had she seen such a mess. Both women lost so many of their plants that they were tempted to quit growing them. However, after reclaiming a few plants and getting more seed, they were off again. Perseverance is a wonderful quality and both of these women have it. We wish them luck in the future — and hope they can lift their plants a little higher next time.

Robert Dalgaard of Minneapolis, Minnesota, reported in Flight #8 that he was relatively new in the begonia world. He told how he splurged recently in buying a lot of seed from the Kelly Seed Fund. He and many others in the Round Robin program are very generous in their thanks to the A.B.S. for providing this channel for obtaining begonias and other shade plants. Many have also written of their pleasure in reading the descriptions and stories that Florence Gee writes about these seeds and spores. Some members write of cultural problems with seedlings, but most are successful and use the seedlings in Branch activities or in exchanging with friends.

If you would like to do this, join

a Robin and learn the many do's and don't of growing from seed. It is a wonderful part of a marvelous hobby.

Marjorie Hoelzel of Newport, Delaware, in Flight #5, mentioned the wonderful tolerance that her husband has for her plants. She grows them in almost every room in their house, without complaint from him. In other Flights it seems that the wives are the tolerant ones.

The most difficult situations seem to be where both husband and wife are plant hobbyists and both want the same growing space. Many pleasant compromises have been mentioned. Eventually, of course, they overflow the indoors and expand to the outside with one or more greenhouse areas.

Florence Bettis of Cottage Grove, Oregon, also in Flight #5, mentioned the pleasure she gets in growing and hybridizing tuberous begonias.

It doesn't always follow that members keep only the plants that fit the natural local outside environments. In general, it does seem to be more natural for tuberous begonias and fuchsias to be found in the cooler and more moist areas such as Florence has. The so call exotic plants seem to be most abundant in the more tropical areas. While the non-tuberous begonias, gesneriads, etc. seem to be most happy in the warmer climates, they do lend themselves to indoor culture in all cooler climates and are,

therefore, very popular over the whole world.

Mrs. Bettis also mentioned a begonia that gets leaves 21 inches across in her house. She has not been able to identify it. Its large leaves are deep red on the under side and the red seems to show through somewhat on the upper side. It is unusual for leaves to grow this large inside. The leaves are nearly rounded but have several sharp points. The flower stems are over two feet high and the flower clusters are over a foot across.

HERB WARRIC

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Seattle, Wash., 98115.

SO SAY THE EXPERTS . . .

(Continued from Page 168)

brous begonias are: B. 'Raythel', which makes a good basket plant; B. 'Zuebrae', a lovely plant with the light shining through it; B. *venosa*, which wants to be grown on the dry side, but should not be put out in the sun; B. 'Alto Scharff', which eventually occupies quite a bit of space.

Special care should be taken with begonias such as B. 'Medora'. It does not like too much wind. Watch the watering on B. *mazae*, and it will have a better chance of surviving.

B. *compta* has a reddish stem and is a good plant in the ground.

Four plants whose leaves look alike on the back are different in these respects: B. *metallica* is the species; B. 'Credneri' has a shinier and larger leaf than *metallica*; B. 'Thurstoni' has a rounder leaf; and B. 'Rogeri' looks like 'Credneri', but with no two leaves alike.

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REX HYBRID BEGONIA SEED
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Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund Flight

No. 1 — *B. boweri nigramarga* —

New species from Mexico. Small, dainty, rhizomatous, with white hairs bordering edges of leaves. Leaves have black markings similar to *B. boweri*. Creeps on top of soil in a shallow pot. Good basket or terrarium plant. Tests show all seedlings are like the true plant. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — *B. paulensis* —

Although this plant was discovered in Brazil several years ago, it is not common in cultivation and was first grown in this country by Louise Schwardtfefer from seed brought from Germany.

Leaves are medium green, shiny, and peltate; distinctly striking with their ivory-colored sinuses or eyes, from which radiate the main veins. The radial veins are joined by cross-veins which form a circle, giving an interesting spider-web effect. Each spider-web section is covered with short white hairs, but on the underside of the leaf the hairs are red, showing up distinctly on an apple-green background. The leaf petiole is light green, covered with pinkish hairs, and a small collar of red hairs appears at leaf petiole junctions.

Flowers are 1½ to 2 inches in diameter and are white inside.

This is a magnificent begonia that is easily grown from seed. The young plants require protection until they are ready for three-inch pots. Over-watering is dangerous. Keep seedlings in a humid, sheltered location, moist but not wet, with plenty of light — and look forward to plants that will fill ten-inch pots. The beautiful flowers, whose large petals are backed with long maroon hairs held high above the plant, will be the delight of all who see them. *B. paulensis* is a good feeder and prefers a cool house to the heated greenhouse. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. pilifera* —

Honduras. Mrs. Cullen, of Illinois,

has the following comment about this begonia:

"This plant is one of the most handsome I have had the opportunity to grow. True, it is not as fragile and delicate in appearance as some, but its sturdiness lends itself to our rather unfriendly indoors environment, its inflorescence is lovely, and it is fragrant as any spring blossom. I have found that a light hand with fertilizer produces a dark, leathery, more compact leaf, while the average amount of fertilizer seems to produce a longer petiole and a broader, thinner leaf. I happen to prefer the former.

"I think that this species could take its place with any of the thousands of dependable house plants for people who don't care to fuss a great deal and certainly it is more attractive than many."

Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — *B. sutherlandii* —

South Africa Slender. Stems and branches drooping, green or purplish-green. Leaves lance-shaped, toothed, bright green, sometimes red-petioled and red-veined. Flowers are yellow to orange. Graceful and a good hanging basket type. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. kellermanni* —

Guatemala. Deeply cupped green leaves, completely covered with sheer white felt. Large clusters of flowers in late winter or early spring. Easily grown from seed. An interesting begonia. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. socotrana* —

Low, spreading habit with stout, light green, succulent stems. Leaves are roundish, peltate with a cup-like depression in the center, thin and light green; margins crenate; flowers rose-pink in many-flowered inflorescences. This species is the ancestor of a large group of Christmas-flowering begonias known as *B. cheimanthia*, and the winter-flowering *B. heimalis* group.

B. socotrana forms at its base clusters of little bulblets which remain dormant throughout the greater part of the summer months. In late summer they start into new growth and the plants are then repotted. This operation gives opportunity to divide the bulb clusters and to increase the stock of new plants.

Several months ago we offered seed of *B. socotrana*, which is almost impossible to find. Mrs. Cullen, a member in Illinois, purchased seed and grew plants to produce seed for the Seed Fund. This begonia is seldom seen in cultivation but it has been invaluable to hybridists over the years. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. dregei* —

Growth semi-shrubby, 50-60 cm. high, with flat root-swellings. Stems erect, red-fleshy, petioles dark red with a groove, same as the stems, 4-7 cm. long. Leaves very asymmetric-cordate taper pointed, coarsely lobed, crenate, dentate, dark green, bare on top, glistening like silk with red veins, beneath light green, bare on both sides. Inflorescences apical, red-fleshy. Flowers small, white. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 8 — *B. manicata aureo-maculata* —

Medium. Rhizomes stout and twisting sometimes ascending; leaves ovate, fleshy, smooth, yellow-blotched; occasionally rose-red blotches appear. Tall panicles of many soft pink flowers. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — *B. heracleifolia* —

Mexico. Pink-flowered, robust star-leaf, rhizomatous. Petioles very long and covered with long, tangled thick hairs; leaves large, deeply lobed, bristly-hairy, and dark green. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — *B. macedougalli* x *B. sunderbruchi* —

A cross made by Freymoyer, in California. Seed could produce interesting plants. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11 — *B. 'Crestabruchi'* x *B. sunderbruchi* —

By Freymoyer. Many seeds avail-

able. Why not try for a true 'Crestabruchi' which is always so much in demand? 25 cents per pkt.

No. 12 — *B. cubensis* —

Also called 'Holly-leaf' begonia. Crisply cut, shiny leaves, darkest green. White flowers in winter. Branches nicely for baskets. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 13 — *B. ulmilifolia* —

Stems erect, grooved, light green; leaves rough-hairy to the touch, elm-like in shape, green. Flowers, white, numerous, in closely bunched clusters. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 14 — *B. 'Multiflora'* —

New introduction from New Zealand. 35 cents per pkt.

No. 15 — *B. 'Rosabella'* —

Semperflorens. Small-growing for borders or pots. Rose-pink flowers over a long period. 25 cents per pkt.

Correction —

No. 9 in The Begonian for June should be *B. 'Philippine Islands'*. Still many seeds available at 35 cents per pkt.

GREENHOUSE PLANTS

***Asparagus fern* —**

Basket with fragrant flowers and white berries. 25 cents per pkt.

***Asparagus fern* —**

Basket type with orange-colored berries. 25 cents per pkt.

We are growing both types of the above, and they make very good, airy plants for lath-house or greenhouse.

***Alsophila australis* —**

A noble tree fern that can be grown in the ground in mild climates or used as a pot plant or tub plant otherwise. Spreading crown when small, arching fronds finely divided, metallic green, on rough stalks covered with small, pale brown, hair-like scales. Requires a great deal of water. 25 cents per pkt.

OTHER GENERA

Manihot esculenta variegata

Also known as 'Cassava' or 'Tapioca plant'. Digitate, fresh green leaves in this form are beautifully variegated

yellow along the veins. Seeds are hard and should be soaked or filed lightly before planting. 25 cents per pkt.

Daubentonia —

Beautiful shrub with pea-like coral flowers in spring. Blooms the first year from seed, which should be soaked over night before planting. 25 cents per pkt.

SPECIAL NOTE:

We still have many seeds of mixed begonias which we are anxious for you to have. Other varieties have been added, so if you requested them last month, don't hesitate to ask again, as there must be at least twenty-five or more different begonias represented. It is our desire that every A.B.S. member try to grow begonias from seed, because we feel that there is nothing more rewarding than this fascinating pastime. There is no charge except postage if you do not request seed from the regular list. There is no limit on seed.

MRS. FLORENCE GEE,
Seed Fund Administrator,
234 Birch Street,
Roseville, California 95678.

DIFFICULT AREAS . . .

(Continued from Page 163)

Removal of the dying leaves permits better air circulation and removes any possible source of trouble if the leaf should begin to rot.

Mildew can be particularly troublesome in these difficult areas. There are many preparations that have been recommended for curing mildew. We find that these are of little help in these areas once the mildew has started. The best method of combatting mildew is to prevent it from starting. Good results can be obtained by dusting every week or ten days with dusting sulphur or one of the better known preventives. We have found that most of the rose dusting preparations which contain sulphur are very effective.

During the difficult months of July

and August a fine mist or spray can help to lower the temperature somewhat. The plants could be sprayed several times per day, lightly, with the last spray during the evening hours. If bud dropping is experienced during these months we would suggest the use of the fine spray or mist.

Stem rot is difficult to control in these difficult areas. When it occurs early in the season it may be removed with a sharp knife and the wound dusted with sulphur or charcoal. When it occurs late in the season it is better to cut off the stem below the rot in order to prevent it from entering the tuber. The plant may break new shoots and, if it does, it should be treated in the normal manner. The portion of stem remaining will separate from the tuber in a week or two. If new shoots do not break, the tuber must be watched carefully to avoid prolonged wetness which would cause the tuber to rot. After several weeks with no new shoots showing, it would be best to lift the tuber and dry it for storing. This tuber will not be as strong for the next season as it would with a normal growth, but it probably can be saved with care during the following season.

In analyzing problems, always bear in mind the type of environment that begonias prefer as a class. Originating in the Andes Mountains at elevations of 5,000 to 6,000 feet, they prefer cool nights and mild days. In this environment humidity is low but plenty of moisture is available from passing clouds. While this is the ideal environment, anything that you can do to simulate these conditions will increase your chances of success.

THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION

September 5-6-7

At Los Angeles Arboretum

Quibbling Along With

From J.W.S. of Scituate Center, Massachusetts:

"How does one get a lot of tuberous begonias to grow at a uniform rate? This year I started 1,000 Multi-Maxes on December 15. On May 4 some of these tubers have not even sprouted and others were sold six months ago. This is puzzling and quite maddening, as I try to run a definite schedule. All tubers were started the same day, in the same house, and the house temperature was kept at a minimum of 62 degrees, and the tubers had bottom heat of 75 degrees from a heat cable."

Dear J.W.S.: I cannot give you an answer to your question. I will pass along the little information I have and throw this question open to all members and ask them to send me any information they may have.

First I will advise readers that J.W.S. is a commercial grower and he is attempting to force the tubers to bloom for the Easter trade since they are greatly desired. Also, in his letter he made a statement which might account for much of his trouble: "This was a lot shipped in directly from Belgium. In lots of one thousand, one can get most anything — I find the most irritating feature of tuberous begonia forcing is the utter lack of regard in grading."

In the May *Begonian*, Herb Warwick mentioned comments in the Round Robin Flights that tuberous begonias were in bloom in the middle of March, and asked anyone with information on how this was done to write to me. I have received the following information from Mrs. Peter Karegannes of Springfield, Virginia:

"I have noticed a number of references in my recent reading to the possibility of having tuberous begonias

in bloom winter as well as summer with grow lamps. From my vague memory, it seems to me that some have mentioned buying tubers already timed for winter, and that another reference said that you could grow tuberous begonias from seed and, with proper warmth and number of hours of light, bring them into bloom at any season; but I don't find details on these methods.

"I have found two paragraphs I can give you: Dr. Sheldon Reed, Director of Dight Institute for Human Genetics, University of Minnesota, in the *Flower Grower*, September, 1962: "The greatest improvements in growth and flowering were found in geraniums and tuberous begonias. Last fall I cut the growing tips off the tuberous begonias that had completed their summer flowering out-of-doors. These were rooted in water and then potted in four-inch pots of good soil, with a little vermiculite around the roots. Once established, the plants were placed under Gro-Lux tubes and by February were a riot of color. The plants got too large, so the tops were cut off and are now being rooted. You can't imagine the pleasure you will get from sturdy, blooming tuberous begonias and geraniums in midwinter . . ."

Michael J. Kartuz wrote in *The New York Times*, December 2, 1962: "Tuberous begonias can be forced under artificial light. Tubers that show signs of sprouting are planted in a potting mixture containing liberal amounts of peat moss and sand or perlite. These begonias are grown very close to the tubes."

Members, please — if you can offer any assistance with this problem, direct the information to me. It will be appreciated.

More on tuberous begonias: I have answered queries during the months on how to cut a tuber properly to make more plants. General instructions are to wait until the tuber begins to show "pips" or sprouts and then to cut the tuber with a sharp knife, leaving at least one sprout per cutting; then dust the cut tuber with sulphur and dry it in the drying tray before potting.

There are a few authorities who have suggested that tubers be dried in warm air, even in the sun, before potting.

In the Bulletin of the National Begonia Society, from England, we note the success of the secretary, J. J. Martin, as follows: "This year I cut my tubers as soon as they were showing pips. This enabled me to make the cuts and return the tubers to the storage trays for a few weeks before starting them. This gave the cut surfaces time to dry off before being planted in the starting trays. To date all the cut tubers are growing away well without one loss."

Mr. Paul Warren of the Westchester Branch of the American Begonia Society, in his talk on growing tuberous begonias, told how he cut his tubers with tremendous success. He waited until the sprouts on his tubers were three to four inches tall and then he removed all but the two sturdiest sprouts — one on either side of the tuber — and cut the tuber in half. He dusted the cut tuber with sulphur and potted it immediately in the growing mix.

Mr. Warren brought four plants, representing two tubers cut in half. The amazing thing was that the plants looked almost identical in growth, coloring, and even the placement of the leaves.

Here we have two entirely different methods — both meeting with success.

Mrs. C. R. of Brooklyn, New York, asks:

"I am trying to find a particular begonia. It is a very small, double, red semperfloren called 'Bijou de Jardin'.

I had it once, but I lost it."

Dear Mrs. C. R.: I have been endeavoring to locate your begonia, but I do not find it listed for sale in any of the numerous catalogs I have, nor have I been able to locate it here locally. Therefore, I am asking any member who knows this semperfloren and where it might be obtained — either from a nursery or perhaps a slip from a garden — to write directly to Mrs. C. Raffa, 16 Sloan Place, Brooklyn, New York, 11223.

There have been several questions over the months regarding the potting of begonias to be kept in the house, and suggestions that someone should write an article giving step-by-step instructions on potting house plants. In Round Robin Flight #4, I found the following, written by Mrs. Virginia Withee of Coventry, Rhode Island:

"Once when I bought an 'Iron Cross' I discovered quite a lot of perlite had been mixed with the soil. I can't say I appreciated it, for it seemed all I did was water that plant. But, anyhow, when I repotted this 'Iron Cross' I found it had an extensive root system and demanded a large pot, both for depth and width. So I mixed one-half old rotted cow manure and one-half rich, sandy, composty soil, and added to this a handful of perlite and bone-meal, and planted it in a five-inch pot.

"It seems most happy. I hope it continues. It gets east and south-east sun. I water with tepid water while the sun is shining upon it and I water until it appears in the saucer. This business of just watering the top of the soil for me is no good — dry roots at the base of the plant are of no value. On a cloudy day when I water, I often set plants on newspapers to absorb any lingering water at the base of the pots.

"I like to cultivate my plants — stir the top-soil carefully — for aeration and to discourage molds. As one waters, soil will disappear and soil and manure break down, so, as I find plants that do not have an even top

soil, I add rich 'manury' soil and, of course, watering carries this nourishment to the roots.

"I use only clay pots. They help to keep plants right side up. Large-topped plastic pots are so light in weight there is no balance. Clay pots give aeration, too."

A good suggestion from Round Robin member George Barton of Deland, Florida:

"I have so many hanging basket type begonia plants — plants seem to be in bloom all the time. So easy to root cuttings—I cut about two inches with bloom—place several such cuttings in a plastic bag 8 inches x 10 inches filled with perlite about two inches in the bottom, then pin prick so water will run through—wire top of bag tight, leaving enough wire to use as a hanger, soak the whole thing good and hang under Gro-Lux lamp or a good light place — never let the perlite get dry. I place the bag in a pan of water until it is wet and when it is lifted and hung up, all the extra water will drain. I am never in a hurry to pot until I have a good root system. Most all the small blooms will stay and grow if you are careful not to knock them off."

Most instructions for rooting cuttings advise removing all the bloom, something I have always been careful to, do, with the idea that roots form more easily if the bloom does not have to be nourished. Perhaps Mr. Barton's plants are so sturdy this does not disturb them — you cannot argue with success. I thought his method seemed to be a simple one that would be easy to use.

L.C.F. of Brooklyn, New York, asks:

"Concerning Rex begonias — I have noticed a tendency in some of the plants for the leaves to curl downward. Also, in the newest growth of 'Merry Christmas' and 'Baby Rainbow' the brilliant red zone is lacking — it is mainly silvery. These are grown in a case containing four 48-watt fluorescent lamps, mixed daylight and natural white, which give considerable

light. Somehow, I have a feeling that the light intensity is at fault. The plants are about eighteen inches below the center of the lights. Do you have any information on foot-candles of light required for growth of Rexes?"

Dear L.C.F.: In the Gro-Lux instruction booklet they have this to say regarding foot-candles of light: "With the Gro-Lux lamps, the foot-candle measurement is no longer used to measure the amount of energy needed by plants for normal growth. To correctly measure the light energy used by plants, we use energy units of microwatts per square centimeter. This gives us a more significant reading because the foot-candle readings are dependent on what the human eye sees in the yellow-green wave lengths and not what the plants 'see', which is in the red and blue bands of the visible spectrum.

"The instruments used to measure microwatts per square centimeter consist of a thermopile and a sensitive galvanometer. However, a foot-candle meter without the visual response correction filter can be used to determine a relative value of energy produced by a Gro-Lux installation. For example, using the Weston Model 614 Phototronic foot-candle meter, without viscor filter, the value in foot-candles multiplied by 2.18 will give the energy level in microwatts per square centimeter at a particular point. This correction factor applies only to the Gro-Lux lamp.

"In an effort to indicate the plants that can be grown under different types of light intensities, two groups have been established. In the first group are those plants which are classified as low energy plants ranging in light intensities from 550 to 1,200 microwatts per square centimeter; in the second group are those plants which are classified as high energy plants ranging from 1,200 to 2,400 microwatts per square centimeter. There is some overlapping between the groups. In the low energy group are most of the

household plants, while in the high energy group are the florists' plants as well as the vegetable and fruit plants.

"Two rapid-start 40-watt Gro-Lux lamps used in a standard fixture with a 11.5-inch reflector and 3.5-inch lamp spacing twelve inches from plants give a reading of 775 microwatts per square centimeter. A general rule to follow in relation to the correct distance of the light source should be approximately six to eight inches when germinating seed and twelve to fifteen inches when growing plants. This, of course, depends on plant groups, whether they are low or high energy plants."

You did not state in your letter the length of time you left your lamps burning. This, too, plays a big part in plant reaction. This booklet tells us that there are short-day (10 to 13 hours per day) and long-day (14 to 18 hours per day) plants. Christmas begonias are listed as short-day, but the household plant begonia is listed as long-day. It is necessary that your plants have a resting period during each day. Plants manufacture their food during the light hours, but they assimilate it or digest it during the dark period. This booklet also states that the dark period should be about ten degrees cooler than the light period if this can be arranged, because the digesting process is aided by cool temperatures.

I believe you should grow your rexes under the Gro-Lux lamps rather than the fluorescent daylight and natural white. In my own tube-house I have found that the coloring of the rex is quite intensified under the Gro-Lux lamps. Regarding the coloring of your rex leaves — since you have very young plants, you will find that when the leaves first uncurl they are not as red as they will be when they have grown to full size — at least in some varieties. I note this particularly with my 'American Beauty' rex. When the leaves first appear, they are almost silver with a gradual deepening of color until they are vivid rose-red.

Mrs. M.H. of Newport, Delaware, asks:

"What is the proper culture for B. 'Marie B. Holley'? I'm beginning to wonder if it's going to pull through this winter, much less ever get any new ones started from it."

Dear Mrs. M. H.: Begonia 'Marie B. Holley' is listed in the list of semituberous 'maple-leaf' begonias as a hybrid with fresh, green, deeply cut, shiny leaves and porcelain-white flowers. It is sturdier than the species, but must be kept shapely by pruning and pinching.

Being semituberous, it will go partially dormant during the winter months. Most of the semituberous begonias lose all their leaves and some stems during the winter, and sometimes you are left with nothing but the small swollen stems at soil level.

I have grown *B. richardsiana* for several years. When grown in the lath-house it has gone completely dormant and I have thought that it was lost — only to have it come up anew the following spring. In the glass-house it loses a good portion of its leaves and looks pretty sickly during the winter, but it perks up in the spring. In reading several sources, I find that the hybrids have less dormancy than the species.

Since you stated in your letter that you have no trouble growing your plants during spring and summer weather, you are probably growing it under the proper conditions.

It is suggested by almost all authorities that slips be made from the semituberous begonia to insure having the plant for the following year. One authority states: "When your plant shows signs of getting ready to rest, tip cuttings are wise insurance. A 'heel' of semi-hard, woody stem taken with the leaf stem helps make sure that your cutting will root."

Another authority states: "Usually these varieties shed their leaves, only the lower and fleshy parts of the stems remaining alive. All of the remaining growth must be cut back be-

fore the new growth will start.”

I believe that, since you have had this plant three years, you are following the proper procedure, but I do feel that you should try to make cuttings as soon as the new growth is well filled in.

Oh, for the good old days!

So many of you miss the old days — the old plants — the old *Begonians* — the old friends. I believe that the older we become and the more we have shared, the more we miss the times that went before and, with the hustle of our modern world with scarcely time for a friendly nod, most of all we miss the serenity of days gone by.

I simply must share with you the following tale from a Round Robin Flight recently, written by Mary Woods of Independence, Missouri:

“Dear Bee: One time I sent a potted plant to National by air in an orange crate. It was ‘Fischer’s Ricinifolia’. It took two full days to have it inspected by the Department of Agriculture, packed, labeled, and to have seven yards of inspection labels attached. I forgot if I had to pay the Department of Agriculture man or not. He was wonderfully kind, considerate, and paintaking.

“I then carried the plant and my pre-school daughter (who will receive her B.A. degree from Wm. Jewell College in May) on a succession of buses, through five transfers, and put it on the airplane, which was due in the city in which the show was to be held just two hours before closing of entries. The Missouri Branch paid \$12.00 for transportation. The National Flower Show Chairman had the plane met as the plane touched down and it was in the National show.

“It was already the most outstanding plant in the Missouri Branch by contest, and what did it get — a yellow Honorable Mention ribbon and the nicest letter or appreciation from the Flower Show Chairman I ever got. *It was an experience of a lifetime, let me tell you!*”

“I still have ‘Fischer’s Ricinifolia’ from the same stock for sentimental reasons. I always keep the two best plants I have regardless of pressure to part with them. Every year I use the best leaf to start a new plant that I keep.

“The Missouri Branch voted to send a plant a year to the show. I don’t know if any more ever got there, but I told them I was not sending another until every other member in the Branch had sent theirs.”

Oh, for the good old days!

I promise if any member is as brave as Mary, we personally will see that her award is *not* a yellow Honorable Mention ribbon.

If you have any question regarding begonias, write to:

MRS. BEE OLSON
Research Director
13715 Cordary Avenue
Hawthorne, California

FLORAL DISPLAY IN SAN FRANCISCO

The annual San Francisco Flower Show will be held from Thursday, August 27, through Sunday, August 30, in the Hall of Flowers, Garden Center, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco.

This is San Francisco’s largest flower show and is staged by the members of sixteen flower societies, including the San Francisco Branch of the American Begonia Society.

Hours of the show will be: 7 to 10 p.m. on Thursday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. The admission charge will be 50 cents.

S P O O N I T

FLOWER FOOD

Send Post Card for Information and Sample

P L A N T S M I T H

BOX 818

PALO ALTO 2, CALIF.

(Continued from Page 169)

trast to cool night temperatures. Building a coldframe against a house wall helps to retain heat radiated by the sun on cold winter days, while shading serves a dual purpose since it is needed in summer, too. Luke-warm watering at the hottest time of the day is essential to conserve heat in winter.

During the summer months, shading is kept in place since one frame faces east and the other faces south. My watering schedule is inconsistent because rain water is utilized by tilting the window frames back against the house wall. A schedule of liquid fertilizing is followed bi-monthly.

My soil is ordinary garden loam with added peat moss and vermiculite. Since I do not grow my plants in pots, this medium seems satisfactory to all varieties, even starting leaves of the rexes. I just insert leaves under the mother plant — for later identification — and wait. In fact, this last winter many tiny starter plants did not lose a single leaf.

The bees and butterflies do their part in pollinating my begonias for the benefit of myself and the A.B.S. Seed Fund. Rex, semp, and tuberous begonia seeds have been tested and found fertile this spring. Wondering how begonia seeds will turn out is an adventure in itself.

As I'm away from 9 to 5 each weekday, I have found caring for my frames to be simplicity, itself. Aside from hose-watering occasionally and disconnecting the soil cable, there is no daily maintenance. My biggest problem now is finding more house wall on which to build another frame.

BEGONIAS — FUCHSIAS — FERNS
and other varieties of shade plants
(NO SHIPPING)

PATIO PLANTS

4036 Moore Street
(South of Washington Blvd.)
Venice, Los Angeles 66, Calif.

CALENDAR

August 6 — Whittier Branch: Kelsey Williams, from Plaza Nursery and Florist in Buena Park, will speak on: "Timely Garden Care and Bromeliads". He will answer questions on gardening problems.

August 6 — Westchester Branch: Guest speaker will be Louise Schwerdtferger.

August 8-9 — Westchester Branch Third Annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show.

August 9 — Orange County Branch: Pot-luck Sunday dinner at 1 p.m. at Orange County Fair Grounds, followed by discussion of plans for the Shade Plant and Dahlia Show.

August 13 — Orange County Branch: No regular meeting. Meet at the Fairground for work.

August 14 — San Gabriel Valley Branch: Kenneth Boulette, of National City, will speak on "Ferns in General", illustrating his talk with colored slides.

August 15-16 — Shade Plant and Dahlia Show, Orange County Fair Grounds.

August 18 — Missouri Branch: Luncheon 11 a.m. at Stephenson's Restaurant; Mrs. Ware to be hostess. Meeting at 1 p.m. Program: Chapter 5, Mrs. Wood, "Begonia Problems and Pests"; Pictures from National, Discussions: Preparing plants for the fall shows; wintering at home.

August 20—Long Beach Parent Chapter: Guest speaker will be a representative from the Ortho Division of California Chemical Co.

August 22-23 — North Long Beach Begonia and Shade Plant Show.

August 27-30 — San Francisco Flower Show, Golden Gate Park.

September 3 — Westchester Branch: Pot-luck dinner. Guest speaker will be Rudolf Ziesenhenne.

September 5-6-7 — A.B.S. Convention and Begonia and Shade Plant Show.

SEE YOU AT THE SHOW

A. B. S. SHOW TO HIGH-LIGHT CONVENTION

The thirty-second annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show presented by the American Begonia Society will be the outstanding event of the convention to be held September 5, 6, and 7, at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, California.

The show will be open to the public from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, September 5, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday and Monday, September 6 and 7. There will be no admission charge.

Entries by exhibitors must be in place by 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. The schedule and complete show rules were published in *The Begonian* last month.

Bert Slatter is Show Chairman.

SHOW IN WESTCHESTER

The third annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show will be staged by the Westchester Branch of the American Begonia Society on Saturday and Sunday, August 8 and 9, at the Westchester Women's Club, 8020 Alverstone Avenue, Los Angeles.

The educational exhibit will illustrate begonias of "Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow".

Hours of the show will be 1 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

ORANGE COUNTY SHOW

The Orange County Branch of the American Begonia Society will present its eleventh annual Shade Plant Show on Saturday and Sunday, August 15 and 16, in the Floral Building at the Orange County Fairgrounds, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, California.

The Orange County Dahlia Society will share the building.

Show hours will be 1 to 10 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

GALA BANQUET PLANNED

Jean Kerlin will be the mistress of ceremonies at the convention banquet scheduled for Saturday evening, September 5.

Frank Rich will be the featured speaker. Gordon Baker Lloyd will install the new officers for the coming year.

The place will be the Elks Hall, 27 Huntington Drive, Arcadia, California. There will be a "happy hour" beginning at 6 p.m. when friends can renew acquaintances, followed by the banquet at 7 p.m.

The price for the banquet will be \$3.25 per person. Tickets can be purchased from Branches or from Mrs. Pearl Parker, Ticket Chairman, 1114 West 158th Street, Apt. 4, Gardena, California; phone DA 3-1782 or AT 6-1637. The deadline for making reservations by purchasing tickets is August 29.

SHOW IN LONG BEACH

The North Long Beach Branch of the A.B.S. will sponsor its second annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show on Saturday and Sunday, August 22 and 23, at the Silverado Park Recreation Building, 31st Street and Santa Fe Avenue, in Long Beach.

The show will be open to the public from 2 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

There will be no admission fee.

ALL ABOUT BEGONIAS

All About Begonias, the book by Bernice Brilmayer, is now available for you to buy from your own library. The price is \$5.15 and you pay the postage.

The library is able to use the postal book rate for educational material — four cents for the first pound, one cent for each additional pound. When you are returning books, ask your postmaster about this rate.

—MURIEL PERZ,
A.B.S. Librarian.

REPORT OF NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

The regular meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order at 7:45 p.m., May 25, by the President, Mrs. Terry Olmsted. In the absence of the Secretary, Mrs. Peggy McGrath, who was vacationing in Hawaii, Mrs. Mabel Corwin, President-Elect, read the minutes of the previous meeting.

Twenty-three officers and representatives were present.

Earle Budd, Treasurer, gave a report on the treasury. Ruby Budd, Advertising Manager, reported receipts of \$23.75.

Mrs. Vera Naumann, Public Relations Director, displayed the charter for the new Eastside Branch.

President Terry Olmsted stated that she had received a bill for \$25.00 from the American Horticultural Society. Past President Carl Naumann moved that the question of membership be tabled. The motion carried.

Mr. Naumann also stated that Mrs. Margaret West, of Coleta, California, would set aside some of her seedling rexes for the convention if we wished, at a cost of 50 cents each for four-inch pos. It was suggested that the cost of these plants be taken from the \$700 in the show fund.

A suggestion that we give materials with each new membership during the convention to induce people to join was approved. Bert Slatter, Show Chairman, will take care of the arrangements.

BEE OLSON,
Secretary pro tem.

The June meeting of the National Board of the American Begonia Society was called to order by the President, Mrs. Terry Olmsted, at 7:45 p.m. on the 22nd.

Twenty-three officers and representatives answered roll call.

Mrs. Mabel Corwin, President-Elect, read a letter from the President of the Japan Begonia Society, who is interested in an exchange of information on begonias.

The Treasurer, Earle Budd, reported a balance on hand of \$249.49.

The Membership Secretary, Daisy Austin, reported 54 new members, 80 renewals, and 2272 *Begonians* distributed.

Ruby Budd, Advertising Manager, reported receipts of \$49.55 and accounts receivable of \$83.50.

Margaret Taylor, Awards Chairman, asked for permission to print a list of begonias eligible for the Merit Award. Mrs. Korts moved that the Awards Chairman be authorized to change the rules to include registered plants between five and ten years of age, instead of five years old only, a period of

one year. The motion carried.

A letter from the California National Fuchsia Society invited the American Begonia Society to put a display in its show in Long Beach on July 11 and 12. Ruby Budd suggested that we put in a table display. The letter was given to Bert Slatter, Show Chairman, for possible action.

Mrs. West, of Coleta, California, is raising 1500 begonias for the convention. The total price for her plants will be \$625.00 and she has asked for a 20 per cent deposit, or \$125.00. She will keep the plants until show time.

A motion by Mrs. Lee, that \$300.00 be withdrawn from the convention fund for operating expenses, was seconded and carried.

Pearl Benell, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave the following report of candidates for office:

President-Elect: None
Secretary: Peggy McGrath
Treasurer: Harold Burkett
Vice-President: Paul Lowe and Marjorie Hoelzel.

Daisy Austin, Membership Secretary, requested that zip code numbers be used on all mail. She requested Branches to see that all new memberships and renewals will include zip code numbers in addresses.

Representatives from these Branches reported: Glendale, Orange County, Long Beach Parent Chapter, North Long Beach, Riverside, Alfred D. Robinson, San Miguel, Westchester, and Whittier.

PEGGY MCGRATH,
Secretary

BETTER MAGAZINE PLANNED

Did you notice that this magazine is four pages larger than usual, containing a lot of interesting information about begonias and begonia growers from New York to Japan?

Wouldn't you enjoy receiving such a magazine every month? We'd like to send it to you.

Of course, we can't promise anything. We can't even promise to send you any magazine every month — the way our publication costs have been climbing.

We need your suggestions. What can we do to give you a better *Begonian* every month?

—Tru Peterson, *Editor*

THESE ARE YOUR CANDIDATES

The following are candidates for officers of the American Begonia Society. Elected officers will be installed at the convention banquet September 5.

President-Elect: Mrs. Joseph (Muriel) Perz, Long Beach, California.

Mrs. Perz is now A.B.S. Librarian. She is Vice-President of the North Long Branch and a Past President of the Orange County Branch. She has been a member of the A.B.S. about twenty-five years, and is a native Californian. She has a son, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Vice-President (3 years): Paul Lowe, Homestead, Florida.

Mr. Lowe is co-owner of Heinlein Nursery, and has grown begonias since 1958. He joined the Knickerbocker Branch in New York. Later he moved to Florida and is now a member of the Miami Branch.

Vice-President (3 years): Mrs. Miles (Marjorie) Hoelzel, Newport, Delaware.

Mrs. Miles has been a member of the A.B.S. since April, 1963. She has been active in the American Gloxinia Society, serving in various capacities including Recording Secretary. She has a son, thirteen years old.

Secretary: Mrs. Peggy McGrath, Whittier, California.

Incumbent. Mrs. McGrath has been a member of the Whittier Branch for many years, holding the office of Vice-President and many appointive offices. She was Treasurer for the California Fuchsia Society for 2½ years.

Treasurer: Harold (Hal) Burkett, Los Alamitos, California.

Mr. Burkett is a charter member of the North Long Beach Branch and has been Branch representative on the National Board. He is a certified public accountant and does income tax work.

Ballot for OFFICERS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| For PRESIDENT-ELECT: | Mrs. Joseph Perz | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For VICE-PRESIDENT: | Paul Lowe | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Mrs. Miles Hoelzel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For SECRETARY: | Mrs. Peggy McGrath | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| For TREASURER: | Harold Burkett | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Voting instructions — For Members

Make a cross in the space provided opposite the names of the candidates you wish to elect. Vote for one candidate for each office.

Cut ballot out of magazine and mail to:

**Mrs. Peggy McGrath, Secretary
1724 Solejar Drive
Whittier, California**

"Only ballots received by the Secretary seven days prior to the annual meeting (September 5) shall be counted." Ballots received after August 29, 1964, will not be counted.

Branch Directory

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BRITISH BRANCH

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

BUXTON, BESSIE RAYMOND BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Daniel L. Comiskey, Secy.
64 High Rock St., Needham, Mass., 02192

DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS BRANCH

3rd Monday, 10 a.m., Member's Homes
Mrs. George Wilkins, Secy.
3625 N. Fitzhugh St., Dallas, Texas

EAST BAY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:45 p.m., Willard School
Telegraph at Ward, Berkeley, California
Miss Dorothy F. Osburn, Secy.
5015 Cochrane Ave., Oakland 18, Calif.

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

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

FOOTHILL BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
La Verne Community Bldg.
2039 Third St., La Verne
Mrs. Isabel A. Hall, 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, 490 N. Central
Mrs. Katherine Alberti, Cor. Secy.
3322 Troy Drive, Hollywood, Calif., 90028

GRAY, EVA KENWORTHY BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:30 p.m. (except Dec. & Jan.)
Seacoast Hall, 3rd and E St., Encinitas, Calif.
Mrs. Alice E. Roberts, Secy.
523 Hermes Ave., Encinitas, Calif.

GRAY'S HARBOR BRANCH

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

GRUENBAUM, MARGARET BRANCH

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

HOLLYWOOD BRANCH

Meetings temporarily suspended.
Mrs. Georgina Barton, Secy.
2821 Herkimer St., Los Angeles 39, Calif.

HOUSTON, TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. Grant Herzog, Secy.
12601 Broken Bough, Memorial Station
Houston 24, Texas

HUMBOLDT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Amigos Club, Loleta, Calif.
Miss Margaret Smith, Secy.
P.O. Box 635, Ferndale, Calif.

INGLEWOOD BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:45 p.m., American Legion Hall
3208 West 85th St., Inglewood, Calif.
Mrs. Frances Jean, Secy.
8212 Reading Ave., Los Angeles 45, Calif.

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Library, Horticultural Society of N.Y.
157 West 58th St., New York
Luis Lopez, Corr. Secy.
421 East 64th St.
New York, N.Y. 10021

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Linden Hall
208 Linden Ave., Long Beach, Calif.
Mrs. Mabel Gage, Secy.
3214 Delmar Ave., Long Beach 7, Calif.

LOUISIANA CAPITAL BRANCH

1st Friday, Capitol Room
1701 Main St., Baton Rouge
Mrs. Elaine Wilkerson, Secy.
5764 Robertson Ave., Baton Rouge 5, 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, 11 a.m.
Member's Homes
Kansas City, Mo.
Miss Nina Austin, Secy.
1104 Askew St., Kansas City 27, Mo.

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

3rd Friday, 7:30 p.m.
3901 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach
Ruby Tessier, Secy.
3737 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, Calif.

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Garden Grove Grange Hall, Century and Taft Sts.
Garden Grove, Calif.
Maybelle L. Woods, Secy.
604 S. Helena St.,
Anaheim, California, 92805.

PASADENA BRANCH

Meetings on Call, Homes of Members
Col. C. M. Gale, Secy.
2176 N. Roosevelt Ave., Altadena, Calif.

PHILOBEGONIA BRANCH

2nd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Anne W. Stiles, Secy.
R.D. No. 2, Box 43B, E. Delaware Trail,
Medford, N. J.

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday each Month
Lincoln School Recreation Center
Ernest and Vail Sts., Redondo Beach, Calif.
Opal Murray Ahern, Secy.
1304 N. Poinsettia Ave., 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. Lillian Maddox, Secy.
7172 Mt. Vernon St., Riverside, Calif.

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

3rd Friday, 12 noon, Homes of Members
Constance D. Bower, Corr. Secy.
1609 W. Lewis St., San Diego 3, Calif.

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
Elmer A. Thomas, Secy.
913 Sonoma Way, Sacramento 22, Calif.

SAN DIEGO BRANCH

4th Monday, Barbour Hall
2717 University Ave., San Diego
Emma Engelbrecht, Secy.
4562 Kensington Dr., San Diego 16, Calif.

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Golden Gate Park
9th Ave. and Lincoln Way
Lilian A. Beach, Secy.
3006 Castro St., San Francisco 12, Calif.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Friday, 8:00 p.m.
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. William (Polly) Eilau, Secy.
469 West Norman St., Arcadia, Calif.

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon Grove, Calif.
Mrs. Lucille Williams, Secy.
1261 Concord St., El Cajon, Calif.

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta Del Sol
Elnora Schmidt, Secy.
3346 Calle Cita, Santa Barbara, Calif.

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:45 p.m.
Loyal Heights Field House,
21st Ave., N. W. and N. W. 77th St.
Mrs. Janice W. Barnette, Secy.
2735 N. E. 53rd St., Seattle, Wash., 98105.

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Alice Barlett, C.H., 902 E. Main, Ventura, Calif.
Mrs. Clermont Morris, Secy.
538 Jones St., Ventura, Calif.

SMOKY VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday of each Month
Mrs. Arthur Houlberg, Secy.
833 Sheridan St.
Salina, Kansas, 67401.

SOUTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Lorenzo Manor School
18250 Bengal Ave., Hayward, Calif.
Jack Dunaway, Secy.
1650 Plaza Dr., San Leandro, Calif.

TALL CORN STATE BRANCH

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

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m.
Members' Homes
Mrs. F. E. Mahler, Secy.
1815 Sixth Ave., Fort Worth, Texas

TEXAS STATE BRANCH

1st Tuesday Night in Members' Homes
E. Weaver,
1325 Thomas Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas

TEXASTAR BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Mrs. J. L. Linkenhoger, Secy.
11310 Holliday Way,
Houston, Texas, 77024

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club
8020 Alverston St., Los Angeles, Calif.
Mrs. Walter W. Pease, Jr., Secy.
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles 48, Calif.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Alex Nagy, Secy.
R. D. #1, Box 305P, Altermoor Dr.
Natrona Heights, Pa.

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center, 1643 Floral Drive
Mrs. Evelyn Shute, Cor. Secy.
15344 E. Leffingwell Rd., Whittier, Calif.

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

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



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