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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be to promote
interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants;
to encourage the introduction and development of
new types of these plants to standardize the no-
menclature of begonias; to gather and publish in-
formation 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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★ ★ ★
Views expressed in this magazine are not
necessarily those of the Editor, the Society, or
its officers.

TRY HYBRIDIZING

By ALVA G. GRAHAM

Think of the thousands of dollars being spent to produce a white zinnia! A blue rose seems to be a wishful attempt of so many rosarians, one after another, for some years. And how about a blue-flowered begonia? The idea seems to be to produce something different, something that Nature has not provided, prodigal as she is.

Thinking of Nature, we have noticed that even her originations are changing from time to time. New plants discovered in the wild show that they are part like one flower and part like another growing nearby. And planting the seeds, if they can be found, show that this new one is a hybrid, one of Nature's own changelings and not traceable to any meddling by man. It was the birds or the bees or perhaps the wind that upset the normal course of heredity and produced a new member of the floral clan.

It is the joy of getting something different that activates our hybridizers, even after they find that they must plant thousands of seeds in the hope of finding even one plant that is different enough to be considered a new specimen. Many of the little plants are pretty or interesting and worth growing, but they should remain "seedlings" without a name of their own. The latest copy of the International Code (which is a sort of horticulturist's Bible) says that the "practice of designating an improved selection of a cultivar as a strain or equivalent term is not adopted in this Code. Any such selection showing sufficient differences from the parent cultivar to render it worthy of a name is to be regarded as a distinct cultivar."

But with all the warnings there are many of us who like to try our hand at hybridizing, and begonias are one of the easiest plants to work on. The mechanics of hybridizing are much easier shown than explained

by words, simple as the process is. But here it is in words.

Begonias have both male and female flowers on the same plant, and often in the same cluster. The female flower is easily identified as its four or five petals grow on the conspicuous ovary, which usually has three wings, one larger than the others. In the center of the flower is the pistil with its tube to carry the pollen down to the ovary. When the flower has been open two or three days, the end of the pistil becomes shiny and sticky when you test it gently with your finger tip. This is the time to find a male flower with ripe stamens in its center. A light touch of the stamens will show whether the yellow powder is ready to come off. If it is, detach the flower carefully and brush the ripe pollen across the sticky pistil of the female flower you have ready for it. Then tie a little cellophane or paper sack around the fertilized flower to prevent wandering bees from getting to it and upsetting your plans. Also, it is a good idea to make the cross both ways on the blooming plants as one may prove a better mother than the other. And don't forget to make a note of your crosses.

In selecting plants for hybridizing avoid using crosses that have been used by others — a waste of time and energy! And another little tip: If the pollen becomes ripe before there is a female flower to use it on, pick the male blossom and put it in an airtight container in the refrigerator. It will keep for a number of days, and often can be used several times before it dries up. And just perhaps your friend has a begonia you don't have and will let you try its pollen on one of your pets. There are many possibilities, so go ahead and try your luck!

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Perfectiflora' — grown by Mrs. S. Keith of North Hill, Pennsylvania.

Photo by HERTHA A. BENJAMIN,
New York, N.Y.

BEGONIA UNDULATA SCHOTT AND ITS PROGENY

By ROBERT L. SHATZER
A.B.S. Research Director

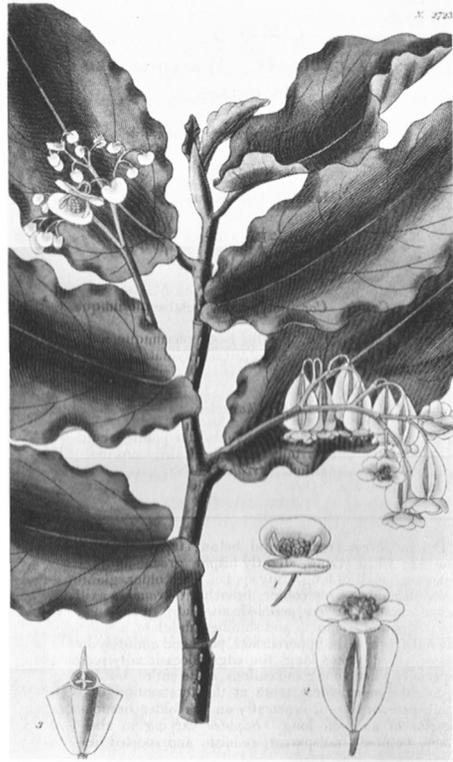
Reviewing the past articles from this department, it appears that several of the older cultivated species are often confused with their hybrid derivatives and seedlings. *B. undulata* Schott and its progeny is no exception. You will remember this species as one of several long believed to be one of the parents of *B. limmingheiana* when that species was still considered of hybrid origin.

B. undulata (un-dew-LAY-tah) has been cultivated for many years since introduction into Vienna in 1827. It had been discovered the year previously by Mr. Otto in Brazil. The name given by Heinrich Wilhelm Schott, which means "ruffled", is certainly appropriate for this attractive fibrous-rooted, cane-stemmed species. For some years during the beginning of this century it was marketed in California under the descriptive synonym *B. alba perfecta*. The exact origin of this name is unknown.

A tall-growing begonia of compact habit, its free-branching and bushy appearance makes it a valuable addition to pot plant collections and a desirable plant for landscape gardeners. It withstands dry weather well, but does drop its leaves in cooler seasons.

The cane-stems are woody in the lower sections and often reach one inch in thickness. The typical, small white spots on the green surface are sprinkled along the smooth stem between the alternate, short nodes. Close examination of the white dots discloses a few sparse hairs on the tender new growth.

Shiny, clear, bright-green leaves on short, grooved petioles are accented with lighter veins and a sharp point. The middle vein is slightly off center. The grayer-green tone of the underside is easily seen between the ruffled



Begonia undulata Schott as pictured in *Botanical Magazine*, plate 2723, March, 1827.

flutes of the undulate margin. These closely set leaves are bronze-toned and red-edged as they emerge from a pair of contrastingly pale stipules. Leaves unfold to a length of 3 to 5 inches but 1½ to 2 inches in width.

Many small white blossoms appear in short, pendulous axillary clusters. Pale-green peduncles are approximately two inches long. The more prominent male flowers begin as ivory-tinted buds as a result of the pale yellow stamens shining through the fragile petals. These two outer, heart-shaped petals open to reveal the nar-

rower two inside. The pistillate (female) has five rounded petals surrounding three pairs of short, yellow stigma backed by the equally three-winged ovary of greenish-white. The drying bracts are persistent.

Surprisingly few hybrid derivatives of this handsome species have appeared over the years. Charles Chevalier mentions a B. 'Undulata' produced in 1885 by Laing (or Robert). This appears to have been a multiflora tuberous variety, however.

The oldest derivative perhaps still cultivated today is B. 'Kewensis' (kew-EHN-sis). This chance seedling arose at the famed English gardens for which it is named around 1894 or 1895. Both Bessie Buxton and Helen Krauss wrote about this early variety. However, the first author believed it to be of a taller habit than the species while the second author observed it as smaller. Both agreed that it lacks the compactness and vigor of the species and carries longer, lighter green

leaves, less ruffled, but possessing the characteristic red marginal edge.

Apparently this rather undistinctive seedling was in cultivation in this country in 1948, but does not appear on current catalogue listings. Perhaps it is still grown in England.

The most popular relative in this family, B. 'Perfectiflora', is a distinctive plant of uncertain origin. It was grown on the West Coast in pre-A.B.S. days as *B. alba perfecta grandiflora* but somewhere in the East it was christened with the shorter name by which it is known today. Both names refer to the striking flowers.

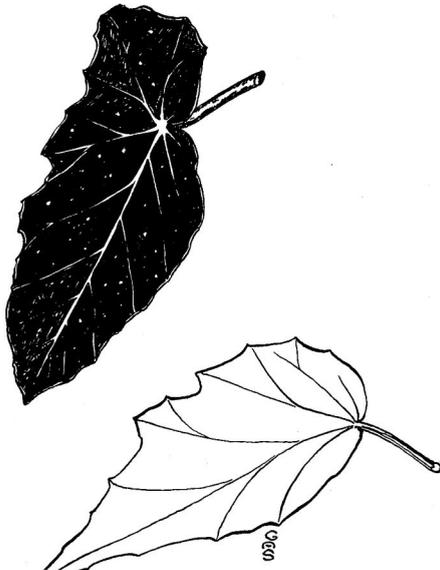
B. 'Perfectiflora' is of smaller and more delicate habit. Branches and stalks are smaller and less stout than in the species. The lax growth will form a low, shrub-like plant in exterior ground beds or create a spectacular effect as a hanging basket or pedestal subject. Internodes are short with a significant red flush at the joints.

Shield-shaped leaves differ in their softer, less-shiny, green surface and much duller under surface. The smaller 2½ by 1½ inch blade is broader at the top than the species. Again a significant red edge appears not only on the leaves but also on the thin, spotted stipules.

B. undulata's prominent male flower factor is reversed in the hybrid with the outstandingly attractive female blossoms of B. 'Perfectiflora'. The obvious pistillate (female) flowers are displayed in smaller clusters but are backed by white ovaries and held by white peduncles and pedicels. Again the distinctive rosy-glow is evident on the three-winged ovary and on the flat bracts, and there is even a pale tinge on the outside of the flower petals. Male blossoms cannot compete with these glistening white beauties.

Another hybrid of questionable origin, B. 'Decorus', appeared in American catalogues as early as 1931. This similar but less attractive form has never been widely cultivated.

(Continued on Page 162)



Detail of leaves: upper shaded sketch of Begonia 'Decorus' showing young leaf with faint silver-grey spots; lower line drawing of Begonia 'Perfectiflora' showing grooved petiole and leaf shape. Sketches by G. A. Sausaman from live specimens from the begonia collection of Mrs. Edna Stewart, Tarentum, Pennsylvania.

BEGONIAS IN GLASGOW

By E. W. CURTIS

Curator, Botanic Gardens, Glasgow

The Glasgow Botanic Gardens were originally founded in 1817 by a private organization, but since 1891 they have been under the control of the City. Throughout their history, however, they have had close ties with the University.

There is an extensive area of glass-houses in the gardens. Those open to the public consist of a very large circular house, or winter garden, and a range of eleven smaller houses. One section of the latter is devoted entirely to begonias but begonias also play an important part in the conservatory where the aim is to provide a colorful display of flowers throughout the year. Some of the more popular floriferous begonias are grown for this purpose. The *cheimantha* (Lorraine) and *himalis* begonias are the dominant flowers there in November and December, and the tuberous hybrids together with *B. x 'Weltoniensis'* and *B. 'Corbeille de Feu'* provide summer flowering. The latter, with its small leaves, attractive flowers, and dense upright habit of about three feet, provides a good background for other flowering plants on display.

In the house devoted entirely to begonias the main emphasis is on the species. The house is approximately square in shape and some of the larger kinds such as *B. convolvulacea*, *luxurians*, and 'President Carnot' are planted out in corner beds and grown as climbers. In the center is a circular staging twenty feet in diameter and on this the plants form a large pyramid rising to a height of over six feet with *B. haageana*, *coccinea*, 'Argentea-Guttata', etc. The path separates this from an outer staging of smaller plants. Underneath, at ground level, is planted a collection of *B. rex* cultivars which look very fine during the summer months.

While the larger kinds may be dramatic and lend much to the character of the house as a whole, the smaller

ones are often very attractive and have a charm of the own. Some such as *B. aridicaulis* are very free-growing in pots while others often grow better in small teak baskets or on a piece of tree fern, as for example *B. herbacea*. Among the less common dwarfs is *B. ficicola*, a West African species so named as "fig-loving" from having first been discovered growing on a *Ficus*. This has plain green peltate leaves up to five inches long and a bullate texture rather like *B. masoniana*. The flowers are bright yellow with a hint of orange on the back of the petals. Another dwarf West African species with yellow flowers is *B. quadrialata*; again the leaves are peltate but in this case they are almost glabrous. It came to us as a wild collecting from Cameroun.

Many species have been received in recent years in exchanges with other botanic gardens having noteworthy collections, especially Kew and Brussels. We have also been very fortunate to have had valuable donations of begonias, among other plants, from Mr. L. Maurice Mason, who has introduced large numbers of tropical plants to British gardens, including, of course, the popular *B. masoniana* which Irmscher has named after him.

In Glasgow we are particularly interested in displaying plants in an informative way. We have, for example, an exhibit titled "What's in a Name?" in which is included a small group of begonias used to illustrate the meanings of plant names. We also like to be able to illustrate something of plant breeding; a specimen of *Begonia* 'Gloire de Lorraine' alongside its parents *B. socotrana* and *B. dregei*, for example. We should also like to show the parents of the tuberous hybrids, but there are very few of these Andean species available in Britain at present.

A northern industrial city is not ideal for begonia growing and in Glasgow we find that the November fogs usually take their toll of leaves. The principal sufferers are the small leaved

(Continued on Page 161)

BEGONIAS IN STRAWBERRY JARS

By W. GRANT MCGREGOR
Ottawa, Canada

Semperflorens begonias are excellent plants for strawberry jars — those attractive pots with holes in the sides as well as the top. The pair of pots I use are thirteen inches in height with a six-inch opening at the top. Various sizes are available. They are useful either outside or indoors. For the gardener with little space, they create handsome focal points and lend much to a patio. I use mine on each side of the front entrance.

Two major considerations are important. First is to select suitable varieties of plants. Secondly, I had many failures until I started using a special technique to overcome the watering problem.

Varieties may be planted in various ways by either mixing them or arranging them systematically. My jars require nine plants each, with one in the center and four on each level. I prefer to use medium-sized types and not more than three varieties. The variety should grow large enough to cover the jar. A larger type may be used in the center. *B. 'Sleeping Beauty'*, *'Blushing Baby'*, *'Jewelite'*, *'Cinderella'*, and *'Matador'* are some varieties I have found successful. Better results are noted with seedlings than with cuttings. I believe the cuttings are more likely to have virus and other diseases. Plants should be small so that they are easily planted through the holes.

My jars are unglazed, and outdoors they tend to dry out quickly. When jars are not planted properly, the water tends to run out the top openings and never reaches the plants on the lower section. Even distribution of moisture can be obtained by setting up a core of gravel or stones as the contents of the jar are assembled.

The potting mixture may be that normally used for semperflorens plants indoors. Approximately equal

parts of loam, peat moss, and sand should be satisfactory. For outdoor planting, a heavier loam with more clay will not dry out so easily.



Begonia semperflorens grown in a strawberry jar. Plants and photo by W. Grant McGregor.

When all the materials are assembled, the jars are prepared by placing pieces of crockery or stones over the bottom to insure drainage. Soil is then filled up to about the level of the first holes. At this point the core of stones is started. I use a small six-ounce frozen fruit-juice can after removing both the top and bottom of the can. This is set in the center and filled with stones and then soil is filled in around it. At this time plants are placed in with their roots spread out and more soil is added. The can is raised gently, leaving the core. This operation is continued until all plants are in place and the jar is filled. It is important that the soil is firmed as it is added so that no pockets are formed and the core remains in place to insure even distribution of moisture.

SUMMER FLOWER SHOWS FOR UNITED KINGDOM

By ALVA G. GRAHAM

The National Begonia Society of England will be busy during this summer of 1966. Most of the general flower shows of the United Kingdom will have classes for begonias, and in as many as possible of these the Begonia Society will have special exhibits. Their own Annual Show will be held in conjunction with the City of Birmingham Show during the first week in September. They announce that the schedule of entries will be similar to the 1965 list.

Earlier in the year, on the 26th and 27th of July, the London Show will be held along with the Fortnightly Show of the Royal Horticultural Society. Novice classes are expected to be introduced for the first time. The "Dowson Cup", the "Blackmore and Langdon Challenge Cup", and probably another will spur competition. There will be classes for the Rex, cane, and multiflora begonias, but as usual the tuberous doubles will be the main attraction.

The famous nursery of Blackmore and Langdon at Bath will be visited by a delegation of N.B.S. members on the 27th of August. Mr. S. C. Langdon, of this firm, was scheduled to give a talk on Begonias on April 4, and a large attendance was expected.

The Scottish Begonia Society will hold its annual show at Ayr on August 16, 17 and 18. This is where the Begonia Champion of Great Britain is decided. The 1966 champion will win a prize of close to \$100. Last year's champion was Mr. W. Simpson, and he also won the cup for the best flower in the show, a 'Red Admiral'.

A report of the Saintpaulia and Houseplant Show held last October shows that there were more entries in the class for three begonias than in any other except the Saintpaulias. Since this society rules that a houseplant is one which is decorative
(Continued on Page 153)

BEGONIA IDENTIFICATION

So you want some begonias identified? How do you go about it?

I — the Identification Garden Director — live in California, so when you live half way across the country, or all the way, you can imagine what happens in transit to leaves and cuttings placed in envelopes.

First of all, put a number on the begonia you wish to have identified, and a corresponding number on the leaf or cutting you are sending to be identified. Send a sample of an average leaf — not a young leaf or an old leaf.

When you are sending one or two specimens, they may be placed in a cellophane bag and then placed in a heavy brown envelope, and sent first class air mail. Most post offices hand-cancel the brown envelopes, so they are not as likely to be crushed by cancelling machines.

If you are sending more than two specimens, you will, naturally, send them in a carton, air mail. When you want them to be returned, you will also include return postage.

I donate my time and money to help begonia hobbyists. I have more begonias than I know what to do with — so I do not want to keep any that are sent to me. The A.B.S. Board agreed to accept any that I am burdened with because persons fail to send return postage.

Many thanks to persons attempting to identify the rhizomatous begonia that produces bulbils. But — *Begonia evansiana* is not a rhizomatous begonia. It is a tuberous. As of this writing, the begonia has not been identified. I hope to see the begonia some day. It sounds interesting.

DOROTHY S. BEHRENS

Identification Garden Director

DONATIONS PLEASE

Donations are needed from members and Branches, for trophies and the judges' luncheon, and they will be appreciated. Send your donation to the Show Treasurer, Mr. W. C. Cocks, 417 Calle Mayor, Redondo Beach, Calif. 90261, and designate which fund it goes into.

BEGONIAS IN AUGUST

By ELDA HARING

In our northeastern area, early August is a good time to go over specimen plants of begonias, with the object of encouraging them to become shapelier and more bushy.

One of my favorites is 'Medora', which is listed as a "miniature trout-leaf begonia". In my opinion, only the leaves of this plant are miniature. A well grown specimen will attain a height of thirty to thirty-six inches, and will be fifteen inches across — hardly a "miniature" plant. In her book *All About Begonias*, Bernice Brilmayer states that this is a slender, cane-stemmed variety, with leaves triangular, lance-shaped, glossy green spotted with silver.

I like to have a few specimen begonia plants on hand for fall flower shows and for display in those windows of the house that are large enough to display them.

My begonias are re-potted to the next larger size pot in August if an examination of the root systems shows that the plants are ready for shifting. At the same time I take five-inch cuttings from the ends of the branches. Taking these cuttings not only encourages much side growth but forces new shoots at pot level. The cuttings have the bottom two leaves removed and the tip leaves pinched off, and are then placed in pots, aluminum leaf pans, or flats containing vermiculite alone or a combination of one-third each of milled sphagnum moss, vermiculite, and perlite, a combination I use for rooting all my begonia cuttings, including the calla lily begonias, which are rather temperamental.

Pans are set in windows in strong light but no sun, under fluorescent lights, or in the shaded greenhouse, or they may be placed in the shade out-of-doors, provided the spot chosen is not exposed to hot sun or drying winds. They should be watched to see that the rooting medium is kept moist.

Cuttings usually develop roots about one-half inch in length within three

weeks, and can then be planted in two-inch pots. Three cuttings can be planted together into a four-inch pot if desired. At this time I pinch out the top leaf formation of each cutting to force the cutting to branch for a prettier plant.

For potting mix I use two-thirds garden loam, one-third builder's sand, one-third peat moss, with one-quarter cup of bone meal to each quart of mix. If it is not possible to make up your own mix, the new peat-lite mixes are excellent for begonias and may be purchased under various names: Jiffy-Mix, Starter-Mix, etc. Packaged potting mixes are satisfactory, but a cup of vermiculite should be added to each quart to make the mix more moisture-retentive.

About six weeks after potting, start feeding with Rapid Gro or Plant Marvel.

UNITED KINGDOM . . .

(Continued from Page 152)

throughout the entire year, all the entries were of course of 'species', which to the Britisher means any begonia other than tuberous. R. W. Gilbert, of London, says, "It is a notable fact that begonia 'species' are very much an up-and-coming house-plant. I wouldn't be without them either in the house or greenhouse."

F. J. Martin, secretary-treasurer of the N.B.S. reports that he has recently received a catalogue from the well known Thomas Butcher, nurseryman of Crydon, Surrey, which listed both seeds and plants of a wide range of begonias. Among these were many B. Rex, multiflora, and new double semperflorens from the U.S.A., along with a few semps with variegated foliage, the first he has seen offered in the U.K.

The really big Flower Show of this year is already history. This was the Chelsea Show of the Royal Horticultural Society, which was held in May, from the 24th to the 27th. There were many begonias shown at this time, mostly 'species' in various exhibits, and semperflorens entered by the growers of Germany who specialize in these bedding plants.

27th **A. B. S. Convention**

September 3

Los Angeles State and County Arboretum •

Convention Program

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 —

Set up displays afternoon and evening.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 —

All entries must be in by 9 a.m.

Judging from 10 till noon.

Judges' luncheon at noon.

Show open to the public from 2 to 6 p.m.

Annual business meeting: 2:30 p.m. in the Seminar Room.

Convention banquet: 7 p.m. in the Elks Hall in Arcadia.

Master of Ceremonies: Richard Stallings, Past President of Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch, Ventura.

Installing Officer: Ralph Corwin, Rosemead.

Speaker: Ora Pate Stewart, author and humorist, Garden Grove.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 —

Show open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Seminar on begonias: 2 to 4 p.m.

Speakers: Giles Waines, Floraculture Department, U.C.L.A.

Chester Nave, hybridizer.

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, authority on begonias.

Ruby M. Budd, hybridizer and authority on growing under lights.

Coffee Hour: 4 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 —

Show open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Annual and Begonia Show

4, and 5, 1966

301 North Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, California

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- Flower Show Co-Chairman—Everett Wright
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- Plant Sale—Walter J. Barnett
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- Coffee Hour—Mrs. Vera Naumann
346 N. Leland Ave., West Covina 91790
- Banquet Tickets—Mrs. Pearl Parker
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- Membership—Mrs. Daisy Austin
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- Picture Division—Mrs. Mable Ragel
344 W. Truslow St. Fullerton 92633

For Those Who Cannot Attend

Although you cannot be with us, the colored pictures of your beautiful begonias can enthral us with their beauty. If you have participated in booth display with your begonias and pictures have been taken, send them. We have a division for these also.

This year, California members living outside the 100-mile radius from Los Angeles can compete in the new picture division. Look again in the July issue of *The Begonian*. The Show Schedule is there.

CORRECTION: Rule 22 as given on page 134 of the July issue of *The Begonian* should be corrected — refer to page 103 of the June issue.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND FLIGHT

No. 1 — *B. Rex hybrids* —

Australia. From a friend who has been specializing and doing a great deal of work to produce the best and most beautiful rex begonias. The plants that produced the seed we offer are described as having large, ruffled leaves, with red as the predominating color. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — *B. 'Glorie de Sceaux'* —

(*B. socotrana* x *B. subpeltata*) Not properly a cheimantha, because of its different parentage; but it is similar in appearance and requires the same culture. It has large rose flowers over iridescent dark bronzy leaves. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. Cane type* —

Scented. Fast-growing, silver-spotted leaves, and pink, heavily scented flowers. Choice. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4 — *B. deliciosa* —

Borneo. Syn. Bhotan species. Upright, branched, with an untypical rhizome-like stem just beneath the soil surface. Large gray spots on olive-drab, deeply slashed leaves. Surprisingly large and beautiful soft pink flowers. Many fresh, hand-pollinated seeds. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. Brazil sp.* —

Small, branching, succulent plant, cane stem 12-24 inches tall. Saxatile or epiphytic with leaves about four inches wide, shiny green above, slightly pubescent underneath, reddish with green borders. Many pink flowers. Some of the last seed sent from Brazil and collected at the Argentine border. \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 6 — *B. 'Limmingheiana'* —

Climing plant with pointed, shiny green leaves on many cascading stems. Coral-red flowers in close clusters in winter. Provide warmth, good light, rich soil, and plenty of moisture. Beautiful as wall pocket or basket. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7 — *B. fernando-costae* —

Attractive begonia with fleshy-green, cupped, roundish leaves; inconspicuous hairs; white flowers. Has a

tendency to trail. Likes moisture. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 8 — *B. egregia* —

Upright plant with long, tapering, pointed, pebbly green leaves drooping from both sides of the stem. Flowers are like tiny pink-tipped hearts. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9 — *B. Orange rubra* —

Brazil type. Brilliant orange-red cane stem with masses of pendant flowers and colorful seed pods. Grows in full sun. We have information that beautiful plants were produced from seed offered a short time ago. 50 cents per pkt.

No. 10 — *B. subvillosa* syn. *B. molecaulis* —

Cane type. Likes filtered sunlight. 25 cents per pkt.

No. 11 — *B. mixed* —

From a friend in Florida who grows beautiful rhizomatous type begonia. 25 cents per pkt.

★ ★ ★

Seeds listed below are semperflorens F_1 type from Denmark. We hope you will try them for masses of color in your garden—used as border plants or in pots.

B. 'Laila' —

F_1 hybrid semperflorens. Salmon-red. This is a color which has never before been seen in semperflorens begonias. The growth is low and compact; very large flowers, late bloomer. 50 cents per pkt.

B. 'Rosalia' —

A beautiful, warm-pink rose color. Low and compact, very uniform and rich-flowering. Will replace some of the other less colorful varieties. 50 cents per pkt.

B. Sheila —

Luminous scarlet-red, entirely uniform, free from non-blooming male plants. Low and compact. 50 cents per pkt.

B. 'Linda' —

Low-growing, rich-booming, flowers salmon-rose. Hardy plant that will produce a profusion of flowers. 50 cents per pkt.

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Aneimia phyllitis —

Fern collected from forest at Iguacu Falls, Brazil. Terrestrial on steep banks. Plants about twelve to eighteen inches tall. Special branches carry the spores as erect flower-like spikes. 35 cents per pkt.

Fern —

Small type from dense forest in canyon below Iguacu Falls. 35 cents per pkt.

Fern —

Miniature. Hard frond type growing on trees on a river bank above Iguacu Falls on the Brazil-Argentine border. Part shade. 35 cents per pkt.

Zygocactus —

Hybrids. Colors ranging from pure white to brilliant red. Some of the best produced from plants belonging to Dr. Celso Jungacira, Brazil. 50 cents per pkt.

Impatiens-balsam —

Seed is from Australia, labeled 'Impatiens-balsam'. Impatiens and balsam are two distinctly different plants; therefore we do not know which of the two this seed will produce. 25 cents per pkt.

FREE SEED

B. evansiana pink, *B. schmidtiana*, *B. leptotricha* —

Please send postage if seed from the regular list is not requested.

Comment: In *The Begonian* for July we offered several varieties of bromeliads but we did not have time to include any suggestions for growing, so we offer you the following:

Bromeliads are among the most adaptable house plants because they hold water between the leaves and don't suffer from dry indoor conditions. They will grow in light or shade and are highly decorative even when not in flower. When mature, a flower spike of unusual shape and color arises from the center of the plant and may last for several months.

Bromeliads may be grown in osunda fiber, tree fern, or bark. All will grow in a mixture of leaf-mold, sharp sand, and peat. Keep the centers of the plants filled with water, spray fol-

iage occasionally, and water the roots at least once a week. Feed once a month with liquid fish or orchid fertilizer.

Bromeliad seed should be sown on any of the mediums mentioned above and should not be covered with the planting medium. The seed should then be kept warm and moist and in a safe place away from snails and slugs. Daily watering of seedlings is essential, and plenty of light is needed to prevent the plants from becoming "leggy".

MRS. FLORENCE GEE

Seed Fund Administrator

234 Birch Street

Roseville, California 95678

BUXTON BRANCH SHOW

On Saturday, September 17, the Bessie Raymond Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society will be host for a combined begonia show, lecture, tea, and sale.

The event will be held at the Waltham Field Station at the University of Massachusetts, which is accessible from Route 128, and will be open to anyone interested.

NORTH LONG BEACH SHOW

The North Long Beach Branch of the American Begonia Society will present its fourth annual Begonia and Shade Plant Show at Machinist Hall, 728 Elm Street, Long Beach, California.

The show will be open on Friday, August 5, from 2 to 10 p.m., and on Saturday, August 6, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admittance of 25 cents entitles visitor to free coffee.

Joe Littlefield, popular lecturer and garden consultant, will be master of ceremonies.

Show entries will be taken Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m.

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THE EFFORTS OF A HYBRIDIZER

By ROBERT L. SHATZER
A.B.S. Research Director

In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a hybridization program is being conducted in an effort to produce new begonias which will be ideal for culture in the home. This program, being carried on by Mrs. A. Burgos, is an attempt to produce a single or double semperflorens begonia with yellow, orange, or blue flowers which are more than two inches across with the plant being truly miniature in habit. Mrs. Burgos desires plants that will live comfortably in three-inch pots with plant growth not exceeding a foot in height.

A second phase of her program is to develop a miniature type cane begonia with either double flowers or yellow blooms. The ultimate goal of this woman's hybridization dreams is to create a semperflorens or cane stem which will be hardy in the cooler climates of this country similar to her own area.

Recently I asked Mrs. Burgos what type of parent stock she was using to carry out her plan. She answered, "I used the choicest single semperflorens and the doubles of all kinds and colors, especially those with the darker-green leaves. As to the canes, they are only true species and my own hybrids and cultivars."

Mrs. Burgos is calling her present results her "Angel Series" plants and for her own use has dubbed some of them under such names as 'Blonde Angel', 'Blushing Angel', and 'Christmas Wreath Angel'.

Though Mrs. Burgos insists she is a beginner at "this delightful hobby" with not nearly as much knowledge of chromosomes and genetics as she would like, she devotes much time to studying the characteristics, habits, structure, and puzzling history and developments of her favorite begonias.

Mrs. Burgos wrote in her report to me, "Hybridizing is an art, a brand

new scientific art, expanding and progressing rapidly, especially in the commercial field for the ever-increasing and demanding customers who always are seeking something new. But hybridizing is a fascinating hobby, too, for those who like to create and experiment."

Mrs. Burgos says that her experiences have taught her that her "Angels" are not yet ready to submit to the public eye as they require more development and improvement. She is searching for a "breathtaking beauty that is needed to captivate in a second the admiration of everyone who sees it."

This Philadelphia grower, hybridizer, and lover of begonias sums up in a valuable thought a message that should be remembered by all who are working in this field. "Hybridizing, either as an art or as a hobby, soon teaches us that it can never be done alone. To accomplish something takes three: one to create, one to perform, and one to appreciate."

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ROUND ROBIN NEWS

No summer slump in ABS robins! More proposals for flights: a new flight for Australian and New Zealand members and a flight on botanical classification and nomenclature. Both will be fun — and there is much work for a serious study group. Also suggested are an all-Florida robin and specialty robins on rexes alone, fuchsias, and columneas.

Tuberous Begonias from Seed: Eleanor Fariss of Seattle has found that tuberous begonia seed needs bottom heat, light soil, darkness, and a glass covering for a few days. She uses a heating pad, puts seed in a shallow pot of sifted soil mix, a pan under the pot and on top of the pad; then covers the pot with a sheet of glass and the whole with a sheet of paper extending over the pad. She did this for three years, till she had so many seedlings she could not take care of them.

Seed planted in January will bloom the following summer. Flowers and tubers will not be large but, if held over, will increase in size the next summer.

Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania, grew tuberous begonias from seed last year. Since the first blooms appeared late in August, she left them to grow on, in three-inch or four-inch pots on a bench. When tops fell over, she removed them and left the pots. In April, she noticed that they were beginning to grow, watered them, and placed the pots on a heating cable. By the end of May, some were in seven-inch or eight-inch pots.

Some seedlings in a flat had tops twisted in late fall, and the small tubers were put in a pan. "I mean *small*," Edna said, "more like a swollen stem end. The other day I found them and put them to root, and one is up, so guess even though small they will still keep." Edna uses peat and vermiculite for tuberous begonia rooting and gets huge root systems. She uses her regular begonia mix for potting.

Lillian Bergeron of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, also uses her regular be-

gonia mix for tuberous begonias: a mixture of much leaf mold, plus brown peat, coarse river sand, a good bit of sheep manure (or a small amount of dehydrated cow manure), and some perlite or vermiculite. She uses fish fertilizer, one-half recommended strength, more often. Plants grow like weeds. Hers were blooming beautifully in the ground in May.

Hybridizing: Flight 33, newest hybridizing specialty, is listing technical terms and needed phases of study. Members are interested in dominant traits, causes of sterility, which begonias will cross with which — and the importance of meticulous records.

Elaine Wilkerson of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has about 1,000 rhizomatous seedlings now, about that many semps, and hopes to have something new in semps to offer soon. Other members are pursuing development of specific traits in their own hybridizing projects.

In Flight 29, the first hybridizing group, Barbara Walker of Bloomington, Indiana, is experimenting with calla-semp crosses, with some interesting results. She finds that making crosses outdoors in summer is more successful, and covers blossoms with cheesecloth till seed sets. Jo Burgos of Philadelphia is trying for some unusual semp colors and trying a bridging technique between canes and tuberous begonias, crossing each on a third type and then crossing these seedlings. She is anxiously watching three batches of precious seedlings.

Setting Seed: In Flight 14, Jane Neal of Worthing, England, noted that her African species set seeds well and the seed has germinated well. Mac MacIntyre of Liverpool, England, said *B. lubbersi* made a fine seed parent for him. He finds that seed ripens about eight weeks from pollination.

In Flight 15, Winifred Smith of Hillsboro, Oregon, found that *B. 'Silver Pustulata' (pustulata argentea)* holds seed pods well. She has transplanted her 'Iron Cross' x 'Silver Pustulata' seedlings; some have silver

markings and some are plain so far, but all have ruffled leaves edged with tiny hairs.

Inheritance: A leaf cutting of B. 'Ricky Minter' gave two quite different plants for Elaine Wilkerson. One was like the parent, but the other was like *mazae*, a grandparent.

Quest for Identity: Could B. 'Rambo' and B. 'Ramo' be the same begonia? Or related?

Seed Vitality: Esther Latting, Warner, New Hampshire, adds to reports on long-term vitality of seeds. She was astonished to find some very old seed germinated while others would not keep one year. One package of sepp seed, two years old, "came up like moss". It was an ordinary package, not even kept in the refrigerator. And John Scott of Niddrie, Australia, asks more information on how long begonia seed may be kept.

B. *versicolor*: Dora Lee Dorsey of Tampa, Florida, rooted *B. versicolor* easily in vermiculite in a plastic bag. She grows it on a greenhouse bench with no terrarium, in sphagnum or vermiculite, with light feeding.

B. 'Orange Rubra': Geraldine Daly of Coventry, Rhode Island, says 'Orange Rubra' cuttings are in bloom from the time they are rooted in her greenhouse. She cannot keep enough to satisfy customers.

B. *evansiana*: Mrs. Allan Elrod of Vienna, Missouri, dug some *evansiana* tubers from the garden last fall, because they are at their best just at frost time. She kept the tubers in her basement, started them early in the house, and they were almost ready to bloom by the end of April.

Pot Size: Begonias have a small root system, Daisy Austin of Anaheim, California, points out. In the ground, many begonias become much larger than when they are pot-grown. However, the roots do not go deeply, but spread — though not much farther than the widest leaf spread. A good gauge is one-third the total height for the pot, two-thirds for the plant.

Grafting: Robbie Totino of Mount

Lake Terrace, Washington, is still experimenting with grafting cane begonias. He has spread the bug to Lynnie Milam of Tampa, Florida, who also is making a try. Francis Michelson of Miami tried grafting rhizomatous begonias a few years ago without success and supposes the trouble was with the fibers in the cambium layers. Grant McGregor of Ottawa, Canada, also has tried in the past without luck. Len Harris of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, thinks Robbie is doomed to failure because begonias are too succulent. He reports that the Royal Horticulture Society experimented with a number of non-exogeneous plants during World War II and concluded that grafting was impossible — but advances in plant culture are being made.

Ideas: Laura Bucholdt of Minneapolis puts fish emulsion in the water in her humidifier for plants. Mildred Ryder of Galax, Virginia, wrapped her newly-bought rex in plastic (no leaves touching), with an air hole, to keep it as near greenhouse conditions as possible till adjusted to the transfer. Lulu Robin of Hazelhurst, Mississippi, uses electric chicken brooders to give controlled heat for starting achimenes tubers. She is the originator of A. 'Crimson Glory' and 'Adele de la Haute'.

MRS. CARRIE KAREGEANNES,
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In Memoriam

Hugh Dixon, of Paramount, California, passed away June 17.

Soon after the Long Beach Parent Chapter of the A.B.S. was organized in 1932, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Nixon joined the society and became ardent workers. Because of health, both were unable to attend meetings the past few years. Mrs. Dixon died a few years ago, but Hugh Dixon was still interested and was still a member.

Roy Tessier, of Long Beach, California, passed away March 31.

He was a charter member of the North Long Beach Branch of the American Begonia Society. He was also a member of the Long Beach Branch of the California National Fuchsia Society. His wife, Ruby Tessier, has also been active in both organizations.

GLASGOW . . .

(Continued from Page 150)

kinds such as *B. fuchsoides*, but many of the cane types such as *B. 'Argentea-Guttata'* are also sometimes defoliated. The dull winter days add further problems and very careful watering is most important, for plants take a long time to dry out under these conditions and too frequent watering can be fatal. We do, however, have the advantage of a very pure water supply which comes to us from Loch Lathrine in the Scottish Highlands.



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UNDULATA . . .

(Continued from Page 149)

The stems and stalks are longer than either of the others described. However, they are weak and drooping. The leaves are smooth and less attractively waved along the margins or between the veins. A. D. Robinson pointed out the individual characteristics as scented, white flowers bearing a brown color over the seed portion of the female blossom. This scented white flower suggests perhaps *B. 'Odorata'* or *B. nitida* as possible male parents.

The 1951 *Begonian* mentioned a hybrid, *B. 'Decorus'* X *B. 'E. Orrell'*, as growing in Vermont, but no other record of its existence or present name has been located.

Strangely, no other hybrids seem to have been introduced until 1950 when two came into the Begonia world. Jerome Hunter of Rosecroft in San Diego, California, crossed *B. dichroa* with *B. undulata* and his resulting hybrid was dubbed *B. 'Dutchman's Breeches'*. It was introduced in 1953 and registered the following year. This large-growing and pink-flowering hybrid was well described and illustrated by Dorothy Behrends in the August, 1954, *Begonian*.

Also in 1950 Rudolf Ziesenhenné produced a similar pink-flowering hybrid by making the identical cross. This bushy plant was named *B. 'Dicalata'* but has been mistakenly listed as "*Dicalata*", "*Diculata*", and "*Decalata*".

Both of these recent hybrids are still among collections in the West but they have not yet become easy to locate in the East.

The value of fine foliage and bloom can soon be recognized by growers cultivating this species or its equally appreciated progeny. Everyone surely must have at least one member of this family in his collection of *Begonias*.

CALENDAR

- AUGUST 5-6 — NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH: Begonia and Shade Plant Show, Machinist Hall, Long Beach, California.
- AUGUST 6-7 — WESTCHESTER BRANCH: Shade Plant Show, Westchester Woman's Club, Los Angeles. (Details in July issue.)
- AUGUST 10 — INGLEWOOD BRANCH: Everett Wright, A.B.S. President - Elect, will speak on "Growing Under Lights". Malcolm Rich will tell his personal experiences on propagating Rex begonias.
- AUGUST 12 — SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH: Guest speaker will be Joe Littlefield. He will talk and show slides on "Garden-minded Christchurch in New Zealand, plus Hints on Begonias".
- AUGUST 12-14 — ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH: No meeting. Dahlia and Shade Plant Show, Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California. Admission 75 cents. (Details in July issue.)
- AUGUST 20—FOOTHILL BRANCH: Potluck dinner at 6 p.m. at home of Arnold and Betty Jo Miller, 868 Sunkist, West Covina, California. Bring your own service. At 7:30 p.m. Betty Jo Miller will speak on ferns.
- AUGUST 21 — REDONDO AREA BRANCH: Barbecue dinner at the home of Alice and John Martin, 4692 West 141st Street, Hawthorne, Calif. \$1.00.
- AUGUST 26 — REDONDO AREA BRANCH: Pot-luck dinner and "Little Begonia Show" at regular meeting place.
- AUGUST 26-27-28 — San Francisco County Fair-Flower Show. See July issue for details.
- AUGUST 27-28 — RHODE ISLAND BRANCH: Annual Begonia and Other Shade Plant Show, Daly's Gardens, Nooseneck Hill Road, Coventry, Rhode Island.
- SEPTEMBER 17 — BESSIE RAYMOND BUXTON BRANCH: Begonia Show, lecture, and sale, at University of Massachusetts.

Patronize Our Advertisers

REPORT OF A. B. S. BOARD MEETING

JUNE 27, 1966 — The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of The American Begonia Society was called to order by Pres. M. Perz at 7:35 p.m., in South Gate Auditorium, South Gate, Calif.

Past Pres. M. Corwin led in the pledge of allegiance to the American Flag.

Pres.-elect, E. Wright, read the aims and purposes of the ABS. He also reported all trophies, donated by The ABS for the Eastern Regional Convention, are finished and on their way.

Past Pres. M. Corwin displayed two plants of one of Belva Kuslers new hybrids. Mrs. Kusler has offered cuttings of these plants to Mrs. Corwin, for the ABS show if she will start them for the plant table. All proceeds for the benefit of the Soc. Mrs. Corwin has agreed to do this. This new hybrid will be introduced at the show in Sept., and has been named Jill Adair, in honor of Mrs. Kuslers daughter.

Secretary, E. Keaster called the roll with 22 officers, Chm. and Representatives reporting. Minutes were approved as corrected.

Treasurer H. Burkett, reported a balance of \$1,055.74.

Adv. Mgr. Anne Rose reported \$99.95 accounts received and \$57.30 accounts receivable.

Through the Research Directors report it was disclosed that Mr. Zisenhenne has sent 300 plants, at his own expense, to the Eastern Universities doing research on Begonias. Mr. Zisenhenne had been asked to send one dozen plants and send the bill to ABS.

Awards Chm. M. Lee, again asked if the A. D. Robinson Award could be given retroactive for a year in the past when it was not awarded to anyone? A report is to be prepared for the next meeting stating why the award was not given and the date.

Pres. Perz reported there are only four Begonia pins left.

Motion by P. Benell, seconded by M. Lee for Pres. to purchase an additional 24 pins. Carried.

Any officer having ABS property in his possession is to make an immediate inventory and send copies to President and Business Manager.

It was reported that Mr. & Mrs. Joyce have the copies of the lectures given in the past Judges Class. These lectures were

given by very qualified people, and will be made available to all branches wishing to purchase them.

Motion by B. Slatter, that was tabled last month was brought forth and it was approved to transfer the Life Membership of Mr. Neels to Mrs. Neels.

The offer of a member to make 50 slides of specimen plants for the slide library was accepted. The ABS to pay cost of slides and developing.

Branch representatives are requested to have their branch write to Sunset Magazine complimenting them on the Begonia article and pictures in the July issue.

Branches reporting were: Foothill-Glendale-Inglewood-North Long Beach-Orange Co.-Riverside-San Gabriel Valley-Whittier and El Monte.

Inglewood Branch is donating a trophy honoring Mr. Neels.

Mr. Neff is still in the hospital recovering from surgery.

Mr. Naumann is recuperating from a brief setback.

Judges Chm. S. Leatherman made her report, also giving the financial secretaries report.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned 9:35 p.m.

EVELYN KEASTER,
Secretary

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