The BEGONIAN

SEPTEMBER, 1968 VOL. 35 • NO. 9

Monthly Publication of the American Begonia Society, Inc.

The BEGONIAN

Founded by Herbert P. Dyckman January, 1932

General offices,
dues, address changes, or magazines:
Pearl Benell, Membership Secretary
ship to 10331 S. Colima Road
Whittier, Calif. 90604

Subscription $4.00 per year. Foreign including Canada, $4.50. U.S. 1st Class $5.50. Foreign 1st Class including Canada, $6.50. U.S. Air Mail $6.50.

Entered as Second-class Matter at the Post Office at Whittier, California, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Editor.....Mrs. Mae Tagg
2123 W. West Ave., Fullerton, Calif. 92633
Eastern Editor.....Mrs. Hertha Benjamin
1927 University Ave., New York, N.Y. 10453
Southern Editor.....Mrs. Don Wagner
4338 Washington St., Baton Rouge, La. 70802
Northwestern Editor.....Mrs. Phyllis Wright
536 N. E. 98th St., Seattle, Wash. 98115
Contributing Editor.....Mrs. Elda Haring
120 Cutler Road, Greenwich, Conn. 06830
Advertising Manager.....Anne L. Rose
14036 E. Ramona Dr., Whittier, Calif. 90605

ELECTED OFFICERS

★ ★ ★

APPOINTED OFFICERS

APPOINTED OFFICERS (Continued)

★ ★ ★

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY, INC.

The purpose of this Society shall be: To stimulate and 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 Bengonias.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this, my year as your President is closing with a real whirlwind. Participation in Branch shows from this area is the usual prelude to the "big one." The plans for our A.B.S. Show and Convention are coming to a close.

By the time you are reading this, I hope to have more time to reflect on the activities of the year. The change most important to the entire A.B.S. was the increase in dues. Many other changes were made too. Although they are less noticeable, they are just as important to many of us, and we will all see the effects as time goes on.

I am proud of the Board of Directors. The members all worked hard for the good of the A.B.S. Personal feelings were less important than doing whatever was needed. Many of these fine people devoted many more hours, many more gray hairs, and much more personal expense than they could really afford.

I am proud of the members, too. For some reason the idea got started that only a select few of you are interested. I don't know how the idea got started, but you have proved otherwise all year. I am constantly amazed at the loyalty you have shown, the interest that was obvious (I still have a stack of letters to answer) and the help so willingly offered when it was needed. I'm still a stranger to a majority of you; so are the rest of the officers. In spite of this, you have shown your willingness to see the A.B.S. thrive.

You all have an excellent opportunity again. Now that a new year is starting there will be new ideas, new things to be done, and new help needed. None of us can get as much from "bench-warming" as we can from taking an active part in the game. Read the list of appointed officers on *The Begonian* flyleaf. Notice that where you live makes no difference. Where there is an interested member there has to be a job worth doing, and they will get together in time. When they do, the worker will reap the biggest reward.

Thank you all for your enthusiasm. It's catching, and is a boon to the health of the Society. You have a fine new President and should support him as you have supported me. With your help, he'll do a wonderful job. Without it, he will be nothing but a figurehead.

Chuck Tagg

COVER PICTURE

Fibrous Begonias with small leaves are ideal for miniature gardens and window sill plots. The three pictured on our cover are 1) *B. maculata* var. *albo-picta*; 2) B. 'Medora' (green form); and 3) B. 'Medora' (Spotted Medora). B. 'Medora' is the first in a series of "Begonias Galore . . ." by Elda Haring of Greenwich, Connecticut (see page 178).

Our cover drawing is by Alice M. Clark of San Diego, California and is a reprint from *The Begonian*, November, 1946. I spent a full day searching through my files and books to find a picture of this very lovely plant. Alice Clark's drawing was all I could find and what more could I ask? Thank you, Alice, for preserving the beauty of these Begonias in your drawing.

ATOMIC IRRADIATION OF BEGONIAS

By Belva Nelson Kusler, *Frederic, Wisconsin*

There has been much speculation by the lay public on the effects of atomic radiation upon plant material: seeds, tubers, and bulbs, as well as growing specimens. Many false claims are made by over-zealous dealers who promote sales and interest in their products by advertising fabulous new plants supposedly produced by radiation. However, there are legitimate new strains of plants, already distributed in various parts of the world, which have been improved by radiation, namely the following crop plants: white mustard, tobacco, beans, summer oil rape, fodder pea, navy beans, barley, peanuts, and oats.

Hereditary changes (mutations) may be produced in plants by high-energy radiation, the alteration occurring in any feature of a plant which is subject to hereditary control, including seeds, fruits, flowers, leaves and stems. Most mutations are detrimental, the hereditary alteration producing an inability to function biologically in a normal manner, causing effects such as tumor formation, growth reduction, and delayed flowering.

Mutations have been produced in several floricultural species – chrysanthemum, carnation, poinsettia, and coleus, and in the woody ornamental species–holly, boxwood, and pyracantha. These mutations have borne changes in color and size of flower, color of foliage, and plant stature.

On our return trip from the Eastern Regional Begonia Convention outside Pittsburgh (1966), we visited Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where I was told that the literature on atomic irradiation of plants contained no information on work done with Begonias. It seemed to me that the family *Begoniaceae,* with its great diversity of types and its long-time acceptance as a subject for house-culture, deserved some attention in this field. With the cooperation of an agency of the Atomic Energy Commission, we arranged to begin a project for this purpose.

Seeds vary in their sensitivity to radiation dosage. For instance, cabbage can tolerate two hundred times the dosage tolerated by onions and lilies, ten times as much as corn, four times that of tomato, twice that of flax. There are factors which influence sensitivity of seed to exposure, such as seed moisture, atmospheric pressure, and surrounding gas, to name a few. Tolerance of seed is determined through experiments with careful controls.

Atomic irrediation of a plant may result in both physiological and genetic damage. The physiological damage will make its appearance on the immediate generation treated, while the genetic damage generally will occur in ensuing generations. Only the latter effects will be transmitted to the offspring. In irradiating seed, the plants grown from it will be the R_1 plants. Self-pollinating these will give seeds called the R_2 generation, and the resulting plants will be R_2. They will in turn produce R_3 seeds and R_3 generation plants. "Selfing" (self-pollinating) brings recessive mutants together more quickly than crossing with other varieties.

Following is an opening report on my project to determine the effects of atomic radiation on Begonias. I hope to produce mutations with the possibility of a break-through in color

Photo by the author.

or form. With no previous record, to our knowledge, of work having been done on this classification of plants, there was no accurate guide as to dosages which could be tolerated without proving lethal.

Initially, we decided to directly irradiate plants, and to produce seeds on them by crossing as well as "selfing." The plants were so badly damaged in shipping to the laboratory (in spite of the ultimate in packaging) that they did not survive. There was not time remaining before winter weather to ship others for treatment and have them returned to me, so I submitted species seed for exposure.

I chose for this experiment the species, *B. leptotricha* (Wooly Bear). There were a number of reasons for this selection. It is vigorous, though small in stature. It is a prolific seed and pollen producer, blooming profusely all year, beginning when the plant is small. It is amenable to a wide range of growing conditions and is easily available.

The seed was divided into four portions, each of which was given a different dosage of radiation with Cesium 137—5, 10, 20, and 30 kiloroentgens. These were seeded at the same time, along with a control (an untreated portion of seed), and given standard daylight conditions for Begonia seedpans.

It would have been desirable to have counted the Begonia seeds planted, making each of the four irradiated groups equal in number, but due to the extreme smallness of the seeds it was not possible without special equipment. Had this been done, the percentage of germination could have been calculated. It would also have been preferable to have scattered the seeds sparsely so that each seedling would have received an equal opportunity for development, and impossibility with the crowding which occurred. Lack of space prevented using larger seed-pans.

Germination began in all pans on the eighth and ninth days. Four days later formation of roots was apparent in the non-irradiated seed (the control) and the 5 kr. By the twelfth day, they showed identical stages of development, many of them with roots. On the fifteenth day most of these seedlings had their cotyledons and looked healthy and green. The 10 kr. had a similar rate of development but with seedlings shorter and smaller, slightly more delicate in all respects, paler green, with a greater ratio of seeds "slower than the majority" than was present in the 5 kr. and untreated. On the fifteenth day the 20 kr. seedlings had produced no cotyledons, though roots were extending—delicate and sparse. Some of the hypocotyls were greening slightly though the seed shells remained on the growing tips. On the 30 kr. no cotyledons had emerged. They seemed very slightly slower than the 20 kr.

By the 23rd day the first leaves were forming on the non-irradiated (control) seedlings. The 5 kr. were equal in growth but the cotyledons showed damage. Their surface was irregularly pitted; they were stippled and dotted with brown. On the 10 kr. the growth was smaller than the above two groups, about two-thirds the size, with the same type of damage as on the 5 kr. though more pronounced. On the 20 kr. most seeds had germinated, with several of the seedlings having shed the seed shell from the cotyledon tips. The color was lacking in intensity of green. On the 30 kr. the hypocotyls were browning and losing their look of life, perhaps 50% already having expired. Some seeds were still germinating. There was no emergence of cotyledons.

By the 25th day, many of the 20 kr. had lost their look of life and were turning brown. On the 29th day, all seedlings of 20 kr. and 30 kr. had expired. Meanwhile the 5 kr. and 10 kr. seedlings were growing steadily with the new growth showing no damage

(Continued on Page 190)

Begonias Galore–
BEGONIA 'MEDORA'

By Elda Haring, *Greenwich, Connecticut*

Begonia 'Medora' is a small-leaved Begonia with green leaves liberally spotted with silver dots and lovely rose-pink flowers, sometimes described as a miniature "trout leaf" Begonia. As near as I can ascertain, it is a cross of unknown origin from Medora, Illinois. The *Check List* of the A.B.S. states that it was introduced by Eva Kenworthy Gray of California in 1926. I understand there is also a plain-leaved variety but I have not seen this one offered by growers in the Northeast.

When I first started to grow B. 'Medora', I thought it was most difficult. I kept it in a small pot thinking that the description of "miniature-leaved" meant that the plant is also miniature. It would grow, become very tall, lose its lower leaves and it failed to produce flowers. One year it lost all of its leaves and I was on the verge of tossing it out. However, when I have a failure with any plant, indoors or out, it becomes a challenge. When the plant was knocked out of its pot, I was amazed to see that it was badly rootbound. It was repotted to a five-inch pot, the top cut back to three inches above pot level and placed on a shelf at the south window in my cellar. It was kept barely moist and in about three weeks leaves began to form and the plant was placed under fluorescent lights. Here it continued to grow and as it grew, I pinched out the pointed new growth at the end of the branches. As long as new growth was appearing, it was fed every other week alternating Ortho-Gro with Plant Marvel. As many Begonias produce their flowers on the tip ends of their branches, when to stop pinching and let flowers develop is a moot question. When I decided that the plant had developed into a compact one, pinching was stopped and I was rewarded with large clusters in bloom in spring and early summer.

B. 'Medora' can take all possible sun in winter in the Northeast where I live. From April on, if in a south window, it should be lightly shaded by a filmy curtain, unless of course the window is shaded by trees.

If you have some hanging baskets, B. 'Medora' makes a fine basket plant, particularly if you start to train it while it is small. After the plant has developed into a rounded subject with many branches, plant it in the basket and let the branches continue to grow without pinching.

Most of my Begonias thrive in a mixture of potting soil which I use for many house plants—two parts garden loam, one part sand, one part peat moss with a four-inch flower pot of lime and one of superphosphate added to each bushel of the mix. B. 'Medora' grows most satisfactorily in this mix.

B. 'Medora' will develop into a very large specimen plant if it is repotted to the next size pot as soon as its roots have filled the existing pot. When no new shoots, leaves or flowers are showing, do not feed it and keep it a little on the dry side, but conversely do not permit the soil to dry out to the point where the plant will show signs of wilting. When new growth begins, a regular feeding program should begin. Usually mine grows vigorously until November and then rests. In February or March when new growth is well started, it is repotted if necessary and three weeks later, a feeding program is begun.

B. 'Medora' spends the summer quite happily outdoors in a spot sheltered from drying winds and in light shade. Attention must be paid to keep it well watered and fed while growing outside.

BEGONIA 'GLOIRE DE SCEAUX'

By HAZEL M. HARMON, *Ottawa, Kansas*

According to the *Check List of Begonias,* B. 'Gloire de Sceaux' was introduced in 1883, a hybrid of *B. socotrana* x *B. subpeltata.*

This plant is one of the loveliest old-timers. A friend of mine found this plant in a small greenhouse in the west part of Massachusetts, about four years ago, and she gave me a cutting.

I was told it was scarce and might be hard to grow. I was very careful with my propagation; but I have found it very easy, a fast grower and very lovely. To me, this plant just seems to have everything. It has rather large rose flowers and shiny bronze leaves. The leaves are oval, almost round, and slightly ruffled around the edge, are sprinkled with short red hairs, top and bottom. Bunches of flowers come out along the stem right above the leaf petiole. Then it will finish in terminal clusters of flowers. My older plant has five bunches of flowers, in bud and bloom. One bunch is on a short basal shoot; but oddly enough, one bunch of flowers is coming directly from the soil in the pot. That is different. I have had this happen only once before; B. 'Altrinham Pink' *(hiemalis)* sent a large bunch of flowers directly from the pot.

B. 'Gloire de Sceaux' blooms over a long period of time; each bunch seems to last longer than most Begonia blossoms. Then, added to this, the flowers are fragrant. Last week I decided to cut back one of my plants. The top would make a good cutting. I intended to discard the lower part of the stem because it had bloomed at every node; but I found it had a small leaf bud right along beside each old blossom stem. So here is another Begonia which sprouts leaf buds beside the flower buds. You can grow any number of cuttings from this plant, for it seems to make no difference how much you cut it, it will continue to grow good strong cuttings. Try this plant, you'll love it.

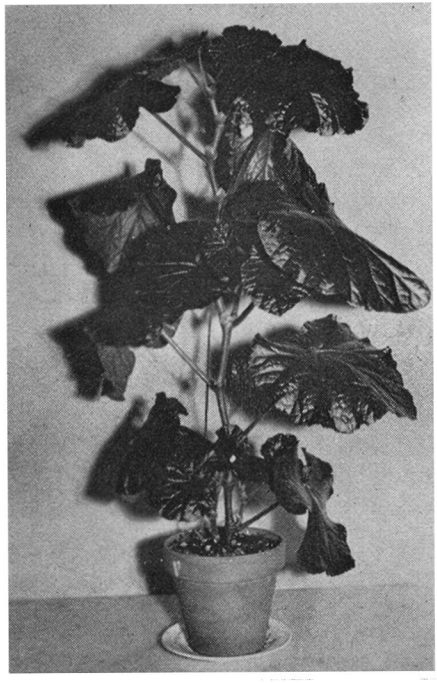

Photo by the author.

SOAKING MAY HASTEN GERMINATION

By JANE NEAL, *Worthing, Sussex, England*

"No seed is dead, it is only that we do not know how to waken it," says a botany text book.

The many and varied problems of seed germination have been receiving the close attention of a group of International Botanists. It has been long known that some seed will not germinate for periods of a year, or even longer, and has to be stratified or vernalised to obtain any results.

Stratifying means keeping the seed between layers of dry sand for months, and vernalising is keeping it at temperatures below freezing. We have all had the odd experience of the seed box, put outside to be thrown away, forgotten, and rediscovered many months later with a fine "take" of seeds. One discovery made is that much seed, in particular tropical seed, has a chemical coat, and until this is dissolved or washed away, the seed cannot germinate.

This very simple expedient is only nature's way of ensuring that the infant plant does not come into the world when there is not enough water to maintain it, a very necessary precaution in areas where rain is a very seasonal occurrence, as the monsoon areas. The result of complete or partial failure can be disaster, as recently was true in Bihar State, India. But the seed protected by this coat can lie and wait for the rain.

A method for applying this information to Begonia seed was born. A supply of clear plastic boxes, of the sort called luncheon boxes in England must be obtained. These boxes are approximately five by three by two inches, though they vary. Size matters little; the clear plastic with a tight fitting lid is the important part.

In the bottom, with a hot skewer, bore six or eight holes for drainage. Fill the box with any good seed compost, and FLOOD the dry compost. Puddle this with the fingers, and set aside for the excess water to drain away. When this has gone, a fine silt will be covering the surface of your box, and it will be VERY WET. Mix a pinch of fine silver sand with the seed to expedite sowing, and scatter it on the wet compost. Put the name and date on a label, put this into the box, and clap the lid on. Place it on bottom heat and out of direct sun, but not in complete darkness.

Seed sown in this manner can be left for many months without attention, but inspection is normally started at the end of the first week, and as soon as germination is apparent it comes out into more light, but still not direct sun. Direct or too much sun in these box conditions could cook the seedlings.

If at the end of two or three months there is still no sign of germination, carefully flood the box again by immersing it in warm water. As soon as the water appears on the surface, the box is lifted out and once again drained. This process has, on several occasions, produced a few seedlings.

Unfortunately there are some seeds that nothing appears to "wake." All who send seed by post (mail) should wrap it very carefully, in an envelope of thin foam rubber and then wrapped in aluminum foil or plastic wrap. A small box will afford additional protection from bruising.

The flooding method has in the past year, however, produced 80 per cent viable seed of that sowed, against a low of only one or two per cent in other years. Needless to say, all seed is now flooded.

LUCK OR WHAT?

By BEN MARCUS, *Brooklyn, New York*

I enjoyed Clarence Hall's article on soil, but some of the contents really struck home. His query as to why some plants will grow for X and not for Y made me think of so many observations that I've had on the subject. Is there a natural explanation, or is luck involved, or still further, do plants like and dislike us, or maybe the neighbors that we give them?

One of the members of the Knickerbocker Branch chided me when I said that I had no luck in growing certain plants, and he insisted that there has to be a natural explanation, even though I gave the plants all the best culture that the books advised. But, how can he be sure, and that goes for all the materialists that scream, "There has to be a natural explanation!"

Also in the Knicky Branch there is a lovely woman who runs away each year with blue ribbons on specimen after specimen. Her B. 'Brocade' was one of the loveliest I've ever seen. Yet, she will admit to the fact that she cannot grow a decent *rex*. She has a greenhouse, and yet *rexes* will not grow for her. Nor can she grow African violets. Ask anyone belonging to an African violet club, and they will assure you that those cute and beautiful plants are the easiest things to grow. Yet, this woman's daughter told me she touched hers and it died. A natural explanation?

I, too, cannot grow African violets, although I belong to the local club. I can bring home one, and within 48 hours I've seen every flower fall and every bud blast. I was told I must have done something wrong. Maybe, but in 48 hours?

I belong to a rex robin, and although I do not grow specimen plants, I do very well with *rexes* and callas. Aren't these the ones most Begonia growers say they find difficult to grow? Why do they like me? In one of the rounds of said robin, someone inserted an article from a magazine, telling of a professor of botany, I believe, who connected his plants to a vibrator. He found that when he thought destructive thoughts against his plants, they actually quivered It definitely registered on the vibrator. Even if he only thought of not liking the plants they would quiver. But, when his mind was blank or if he thought how nice the plants were, nothing happened. What is the natural explanation to that?

You will often hear of someone saying that certain plants are not wanted, as they definitely will not grow for him or her. Yet, as the woman in the Knickerbocker Branch can grow plants quite well.

If this professor hit on something, you will object to that saying that you love all plants, especially Begonias. Do you? We know so little of our unconscious mind that we know nothing of what goes on inside it. Maybe love is really the symbol of hate. This is not an accusation as we do not know, but it very well could be. One psychiatrist said that love and hate are one and the same but it is only according to how it manifests itself consciously.

I have no explanation that sometimes I get plants from nurseries or friends, and I put them outside in the summer, or isolate them on the window sill for a while, but keep them in the same rooting mix, and treat them in every way the books and experts advise, yet that one plant or type of plant will die. And I want to know why most everything else lives.

What could be easier than *semperflorens*? Yet the Geneva hybrids will not bloom for me, but the Cinderellas, callas, as well as most others do fine. Again, I ask do you have a natural explanation?

In conclusion, I want to say that I had a lot of Begonias that would not

(Continued on Page 191)

SOIL pH DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By Don Salmon
Millicent, South Australia

My plants had not been doing too well. I usually use plenty of oak leaf mold, usually considered acid, also peat, and a liberal handful of lime to the heap. Now I find I have been far too liberal.

I have often read of soil pH and of kits to test it. I bought one and tested my soil mixtures. My mix was a pH of 9, which is far too alkaline. Begonias and gloxinias like a pH of 5.5 to 6.5. My heap of leaves was neutral, so my adding lime was useless.

I had some gloxinia seed in my usual mix and also some in a mix recommended by the Gloxinia Society. Seed in my own mix germinated poorly. The soil, when tested, was neutral. The Gloxinia Society mix tested at a pH of 6, which was right for gloxinias, and germination in this mix was excellent.

"Sweet" or "sour" soil means alkaline or acid soil, and, as a thermometer measures temperature, the pH scale is the measurement of the degree of alkalinity or acidity. The pH scale is divided into fourteen points; halfway, 7 pH, is neutral, which means both conditions are balanced. Soils above 7 pH are alkaline; below 7 pH, acid. The relative acid or alkaline strengths change tenfold for each unit of pH. A solid of 5 pH is ten times more acid than one of 6 pH. One of 4 pH is 100 times more acid than one of 6 pH.

Plant starvation can occur from either too high or too low a pH. When plants do not respond to fertilizers, the cause could be the soil pH. A lime condition suits phosphate, nitrogen, and potassium fertilizers. Superphosphate and other fertilizers are available in nearly neutral soils. Lime increases alkalinity, and flowers of sulphur increase acidity.

(Continued on Page 190)

FERTILIZER

If you grow anything in soil, you already may have discovered that soil control is becoming more and more sophisticated. A trend to so-called high analysis plant foods, with formulations matching the needs of various plants or crops in specific soils, is reported to be gaining popularity. Whether you have a few houseplants, a garden or a large farm, this trend has significance to you.

Soil is a dynamic, life-giving substance in which tremendous activity takes place. Since most plant life uses nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash in large quantities, these major nutrients must be liberally replaced. J. D. Oatts, President of Hydroponic Chemical Company (see ad on page 194) says his company became aware of the rising demand for high analysis fertilizers several years ago and, after lengthy study and experimental use, now has ten high analysis plant foods on the market.

According to Mr. Oatts, a general purpose 20-20-20 formulation was the first addition to his firm's regular line of soluble fertilizers for liquid feeding of plants. Users are said to be enthusiastic. Commercial growers of chrysanthemums report more and larger blooms, sturdier stems and a shorter cycle of production. This results in increased profits. African violet growers have made many reports stating their satisfaction with the 20-20-20 formulation. These are examples of the wide variety of successes of this formulation, which is intended for many houseplants, garden flowers, vegetables, lawn grasses, shrubs and trees.

Nitrogen is the most valuable and soonest exhausted of the basic elements in the soil It stimulates vegetative growth and is essential to all plants. Lawns, trees and shrubs exhaust their supplies of nitrogen rapidly and need the high analysis feeding of 20-20-20, or even more nitrogen from the 30-10-10 plant food.

(Continued on Page 191)

A BEGONIA GARDEN

By IRVING H. GRAY

Burlington, Vermont

This article is reprinted from the Free Press dated November 15, 1929. A copy of this article with permission to reprint it in The Begonian *was sent to me by Rev. Gray's daughter, Mrs. Elsie Bean of Niantic, Connecticut.*

Editor

May I write again about my hobby? Since my last letter of a few months ago, we have added several varieties to our collection of Begonias; and some of our older plants have developed into remarkable specimens.

B. sunderbruchi, sometimes called Star Begonia or Castor Bean Begonia, now has 38 matured leaves with stems about eighteen inches long and some of the leaves are fourteen inches in width. The stems are thickly set with hairs but the deeply notched leaves are smooth. In color they are green with bronze markings. B. 'Corallina de Lucerna' is of a very different type. There are but two stalks, one of which stands over five feet in height. The entire plant is smooth in texture. The upper surface of the leaves is green, dotted with white and the under side is red. Some of the leaves measure a full foot in length. This particular specimen has not yet produced any blossoms, but other plants of the same type have been in constant bloom for several months, bearing large pendant trusses of beautiful shades of pink.

B. 'Erdody' (*rex*) is still a small plant but it gives splendid promise. The ruffled leaves on the upper side are in three shades of green and the under side is red with green zone, thickly traversed with red veins. The lobes of the leaves are spiral, making many convolutions about the stems which are densely covered with red hairs. There are B. 'Crimson Glow', the entire plant being suffused with red, B. 'Emerald Giant' with its zone of pea green set off by margins of

(Continued on Page 190)

MAILING BEGONIAS

If you have never mailed Begonias or any other type of plant material, we suggest that you call your County Office of the Department of Agriculture in order to learn the legal regulations concerning this venture. Package them carefully so that they will be useable when they arrive. Remember, "mush" doesn't grow.

Editor

Do you have a special, successful way of mailing Begonia cuttings or plants? A.B.S. members have been comparing notes on shipping.

Amelia Matheson of Miami lays cuttings, especially the tender ones like Begonias and Sultana, side by side on a half sheet of newspaper and rolls it up, leaving a bit of the tip extending. Then she rolls this wet roll into a dry sheet of newspaper in the same way, finishing by putting the roll into a plastic bag. The paper keeps them from moving around. When shipping plants with a ball of soil, Amelia packs them tight also, to keep them from moving about.

Peg Scott of Ashland, Nebraska has received several packages of plants; those with plastic bags and wet toweling around the plants, then surrounded by newspaper in the box, came through in fine shape. A strong outer box should be used, as the thin ones collapse and bruise the plants.

When Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania ships unrooted cuttings, she puts them in plastic bags, a few to each, with a few drops of water, and ties them shut. These are packed in a box with crushed newspaper and air-mailed, unless the destination is close, when she mails first class or parcel post, special handling.

When shipping potted plants, Edna puts a section of paper towel around the stem of each plant, tucking it into the top of the pot, watering the plants the day before packing them. She puts a plastic bag over the pot and ties it above the towel, holding it all

(Continued on Page 191)

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

No. 1—*B. paranaensis* Brade—

New from Brazil. Plant found growing near Aguas de Prata at an elevation of 2,900 feet. Belongs to the Pritzelia subgenus. Medium growth, with thick stems, large leaves with dentate margins. Huge white flower clusters in earliest spring, lasting for several weeks. Fruits have one very long wing. Plant has a new stout stem each year, from the ground, but flowers on top of last year's growth. Interesting and different. Price $1.00 per pkt.

No. 2—*B. itaguassuense*—

Brazil. Rhizomatous type with large, velvety, round leaves, dark green above, paler green beneath, with a pink sheen. Flowers white to pinkish-white. Price $1.00 per pkt.

No. 3—*B. socotrana*—

Herbaceous perennial with more or less deciduous branches. Growth bushy. At the base we find a number of connected green bulbils which are covered with brown scales. Stems ramified, petioles four to six inches long, succulent, hairy, green. The leaves of the lower and center parts are peltate, almost circular, about four-and-a-half by four-and-a-half inches when fully grown; slightly bent at the margins, crenate and wavy, fresh green on top, slightly glossy, bare; beneath pale green, hairy at the elevated veins. The upper leaves are more or less cordate or have three to five lobes. Flowers are very large and pink. The bulbils should be collected in the fall and stored in a dry place until spring. The two types of winter flowering or Christmas Begonias are both descendants of *B. socotrana*. Will germinate readily from seed but difficult to grow to maturity. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 4—*B. parilis*—

Brazil. Stems and branches soft-hairy, leaves velvet-like in texture, olive-green, red at the margins, red flushed beneath; flowers pink or white. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 5—*B. vitifolia*—

Large, gleaming green leaves, lobed and finely toothed on the edges, somewhat downy beneath. Flowers pink and white. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 6—B. 'Orange Rubra' x B. 'Lenore Olivier'—

B. 'Orange Rubra' is *B. dichroa* x B. 'Coral Rubra' and B. 'Lenore Olivier' is a hybrid by Belva Kusler *(B. dichroa* x B. 'Elaine'). Tests show fifty per cent germination in fifteen days. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 7—B. 'Illustrata' seedlings—

B. 'Speculata' x *B. imperialis*. Variously described as round or grape-leaved, leaves many and dainty, rounded to a sharp point, shimmering with a coat of fine white hairs. Pinkish flowers in mid-winter. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 8—*B. epipsila*—

Brazil. Low growing, fleshy leaves glossy green above, brown woolly beneath. Flowers white, snowy seed pods. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 9—*B. coccinea*—

Cane type with smooth green leaves, margins red. Flower clusters coral red. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 10—*B. incarnata*—

Mexico. Frilly, fluffy plant with light green, fluted leaves scalloped on the edge; flesh pink flowers in winter. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 11—*B. bradei*—

Brazil. Small, graceful Begonia with opposite leaves on arching stems. Seed pods concealed underneath leaves which have a sheen of fine red hairs, tops bristly. Price $1.00 per pkt.

No. 12—*B. cucullata* Willd.—

Brazil. Allied to *B. semperflorens* with medium, smooth leaves; stolons green, creeping a short distance before ascending as erect, succulent stems, purple-tinged joints. Flowers white and pink tinged, terminal clusters. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 13—*B. popenoei*—

Honduras. Bright green leaves, white flowers. Rest in winter, keep warm and dryish. Price 35 cents per pkt.

No. 14—*B. palmaris*—

Mexico. Stems erect, petioles to four inches long; leaves roundish to eight inches long, usually palmately lobed, sometimes merely once-cleft between the base and tip, green, slightly hairy above and on the nerves beneath, margins toothed and ciliate; flowers in dense auxillary clusters. Price 50 cents per pkt.

No. 15—*B. fagifolia*—

Many odd looking seed but no description in any of the available references. Can anyone give information? Price 50 cents per pkt.

OTHER SHADE PLANTS

***Fuchsia regia*—**

Brazil. Trailing type with large, red and purple flowers in fall. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Pyrrhocactus phyllanthus—

Flame cactus from Brazil. Price 50 cents per pkt.

FREE SEED

***B. leptotricha*—**

While they last. Please send postage if seed from above are not ordered. Send orders for seed to:

Mrs. Florence Gee
Seed Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
Roseville, Calif. 95678

SEED NOTES

Fresh Begonia seed usually is expected to give the best germination, but members have been curious about how long seed will remain viable.

Jane Neal of Worthing, England has been testing seed for viability at different times. Some she gathered germinated well last spring and she was sowing the last sample, when it was eighteen months old.

Ruth Stanley of Bellefontaine, Ohio also testing, sowed rex seed in December that she had gathered the March before. It germinated in thirteen days, made strong plants. She is planting the rest at different times and also sent some to England and to Australia to see if the airplane ride would lessen germination. Seed germinated well, despite the trip.

Daisy Austin of Julian, California, recently sowed seed she had put away in 1963. She had some germination here and there. Arline Peck of Pascoag, Rhode Island sowed two-year-old seed of *B. froebeli, was* surprised to get as good germination as with fresh seed, if not better.

Jane wrote that plants raised from Seed Fund seed are now at Kew Botanical Garden—*B. listida, B. parvifolia, B. alnifolia,* and *B. involucrata.* She thinks the smallest number of seedlings germinating for her for any of these was 35. She doesn't know if it is the careful wrapping for mailing (padded and waterproof), or soaking when sowing (see page 180), or the Levington Compost (a light mix), or all three—but something has given her success.

Begonia seeds germinate in milled sphagnum for Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas but seedlings damp off within three weeks. She has had much better luck with coarse sphagnum, no damp-off.

Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania believes that when you grow from seed, plants are used to your growing conditions from the start and do much better. She reports her *B. sudjanae* and *B. lubbersii* germinated well; *B. venosa* only a few, with three transplanted; *B. goegoensis* nothing. She still has a few seedlings of *B. versicolor* alive and one of *B. staudti*—probably should be on a heating cable.

Mike Michelson of Miami, Florida notes that *B. mannii* has an unusual, round, tube-shaped seed capsule. He has never had *B. mannii* set a seed pod, though pods could have fallen. Another that is different is *B. roxburghii.* He had one fat, green, four-sided seed pod on it this fall.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

New robins on photography and on tropical plants have been requested. Still waiting for members are new robins on organic gardening, hirsute Begonias, rhizomatous Begonias, and Belva Kusler hybrids, and a new species flight. When we have enough members, these will fly.

Cuttings:

Anita Sickmon of Cheney, Kansas finds B. 'Victoria Kartack' will propagate by leaf cuttings, but stem cuttings are faster. She had small leaves coming up from a B. 'Crispie' (*B. dregei* x *B. crispula*) leaf cutting in June. *B. manicata aureo-maculata crispa* leaf too about five months, during winter, and made a compact plant with many leaves; rhizomatous cuttings seem to give leggy plants. Anita has rooted every cutting of B. 'Leslie Lynn' she has put down, and in spring she can get three-inch plantlets on a rooted leaf in three months. *B. fernando-costae* is easily propagated, she finds, and she had tiny plantlets in May on leaves put down in February from *B. cameroun species* from Elbowi. Her plant has not bloomed, but Pat Burdick enclosed a watercolor of her plant in blossom.

B. metachroa (syn. *B. involucrata* var. *purpurascens)* leaves give more new growth from the sinuses if propagated in high humidity and almost none if humidity is low, Anita has seen. In an uncovered box, new plantlets come through the rooting medium mostly.

Artificial Lights:

Rosetta White of Newton, Kansas was keeping fluorescent lights on over her plants fourteen to sixteen hours a day and had no bloom except on a few canes. She started cutting down to nine to ten hours a day; rhizomatous Begonias started blooming and a good many have bloomed since.

From Seed:

David Allen of San Francisco uses distilled water to keep down growth of moss and algae on seedpans. It also makes him more careful with the amount of water used. He finally had five seedlings germinate from seed of the rare and difficult Malay species, *B. rajah,* then lost all but one—which he was "individually" awakening and putting to bed. Winifred Smith of Hillsboro, Oregon reported her seedlings from Seed Fund seed of B. 'Chocolate Soldier' had leaves all identical, but one had palest pink buds while all the others had bright pink. She had seen no adventitious growth, though Murray Morrison of the Bronx circulated slides of his plant by this name showing tiny leaflets growing from veins and sinus of leaves while still on the parent plant.

Bloom:

Winifred's *B. fuchsioides* was dripping with blossoms in her tubehouse in June, but had only female flowers open. Earlier, when buds were small, there was one male to each cluster, but apparently it drops without opening. B. 'Mrs. W. A. Wallow' had male blossoms open, females just about to bloom. B. 'Viaudi' had both male and female blossoms, very large ones. B. 'Mme. Fanny Giron' was putting out beautiful red blossoms, but all males thus far.

Mae Blanton of Mesquite, Texas observed unusual growth on her B. 'Nancy Gail', Kusler hybrid of B. 'Lenore Olivier' x *B. dregei.* Female flowers have tiny female flowers attached to the ovaries, up under the bract that covers the base of the main ovaries. She opened back the petals of the tiny flowers and they have stigmas just as the large ones do, but they are growing on the main flower.

Winter-Blooming Tuberous:

Grant McGregor of Ottawa, Canada thinks the winter-blooming tuberous Begonias the nicest group. He has B. 'Lady Mac' (a *cheimantha*—i.e., *B. socotrana* x *B. dregei* group) and B. 'Mrs. Roberts' (a *hiemalis* — i.e., *B. socotrana* x Andes tuberous group). His plants were off this year, so he tried to find out what he was doing

wrong. A study he read suggested short days. Best results were obtained in Norway, where plants were marketable size by September first and then given at least eight days of short-day treatment. The best quality of flowers were produced in cool temperatures, as low as 50° F. Work in England indicated that best propagation is during April, with final potting about early August, followed by feeding and plenty of light.

B. 'Pink Fairy':

Unusual Woodriff cross of a tuberous Begonia x *B. imperialis,* B. 'Pink Fairy' was still blooming in mid-July for Edna Stewart of Tarentum, Pennsylvania. Leaves were a little different from those of a tuberous Begonia. Her plant had made no side shoots. She tried rooting a leaf and lost it, but has put down two more.

B. richii:

Anita's huge rhizomatous Mexican species, *B. richii,* had browned leaf edges when grown in full light and low humidity. Moved to higher humidity and less light, it improved.

B. sudjanae:

The rhizomatous Java species, *B. sudjanae,* grown from Seed Fund seed by Anita have pale, pale pink flowers rather than white in her Kansas greenhouse. She sees similarity to *B. goegoensis* in the wrinkled leaves. The leaves have a tiny tinge of red around them, adding to their beauty—all except one seedling which lacked the red tinge, was not as robust or as pretty. Anita agrees on ease of cultivation and propagation.

B. staudti:

Most of the seedlings of this new rhizomatous species from Africa were starting bloom stalks for Lucile Mearns of Louisville, Illinois in July. Bloom is two-petaled and deep yellow, with larger petals than those of a *semperflorens.* Some had four bloom stalks. She had put some leaves to root.

B. jussiaeicarpa:

Strange Begonia from Africa, *B. jussiaeicarpa* is a trailer with succulent leaves like those of a cactus, Mac MacIntyre of Liverpool, England writes. It bears one male and one female flower in each axil.

Calla Lily Begonias:

Members of Flight #16 compared experiences with the white-variegated *semperflorens* sports, most agreeing that growing on the dry side with lots of light was needed, as well as cutting back for rest or a new start. A pet goat ate off all the scraggly stems of Anita's callas, *semperflorens,* and B. 'Charm' (yellow-variegated form), but instead of dying, they grew back prettier than before. Two recent cuttings in a prop box of equal parts perlite and vermiculite rooted well for her without dropping a leaf.

International Show:

Murray announced that the A.B.S. Knickerbocker Branch would be host branch at the International Flower Show in New York next March. Amateur groups will be invited to participate this time.

To join a round robin, write:
Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes
Round Robin Director
3916 Lake Boulevard
Annandale, Virginia 22003

GESNERIAD NOTES

Claire Roberts of Clovis, New Mexico pots small tubers and plants from Gloxinia leaf cuttings in two-inch pots of peat-lite, keeping them on the dry side if tubers haven't put up plants. She keeps the little plants quite damp, on the greenhouse shelf, in warmth and light, and they grow into compact plants. She had to learn to grow gloxinias with a single stem.

"Tall and spindly" just means lack light, Clair says, or that they've been grown too long and too crowded before transplanting, although she grows many to flowering in two-inch pots because of lack of space. If a plant produces good bloom on a strong stem, it is repotted for growing on. A weak-stemmed flower is discarded. She finally has concluded, after hundreds of seedlings that weak bloom stems are inherited. Double purples are notorious for weak stems.

Carl L'Hommedieu of Oakdale, Long Island reported that it does not matter how deep gloxinia tubers are covered. If they have begun to sprout and the sprout is three or four inches long, the tuber may be planted on the pot bottom, to avoid a spindly shoot. He likes to plant tubers so they just show on top of the soil, however; they are less likely to get water in the depression on top and rot.

David Allen of San Francisco has help from his four-year-old grandson, whose small fingers are good at getting seedlings out of pans. They transplanted 200 gloxinia seedlings without a broken leaf. David has some of Park's doubles, Buell's doubles, some singles, the compact, the 'Flicker' series, *perennis*, 'Kiss of Fire', and most miniatures. He has a passion for seed!

David grows Episcias on a heating cable, and they do fine. He also has good luck with seeds of these; they grow fast. A "lipstick vine" and a Begonia share a sixteen-inch tub in a window. He plans to put strip lights at the top of two, six-foot recessed windows, with a light-sensitive switch, to grow Columneas in hanging baskets.

Ruth Wille of Jackson, Mississippi agrees that Episcias often lose leaves as they grow away from the root system and believes nodes should be reattached to the soil at intervals with florists' fern pins or large hairpins, loosely, so they can root at those points and make a full plant. Carl points out that, as long as the growing tip of runners continue green and growing, the roots are still feeding the runners well.

Chirita sinensis, species from Southern China, makes a plant easily from a leaf cutting, Carl says. Leaf buds often dry before opening, probably needing more humidity. Flower stems elongate eight inches before buds open. He has never found *Chirita* to flower the way African violets do, though his large plant is seldom without buds showing. Plants from leaves of his nicely marked plant all have the silvery veining except one that is shaded from the light. *Chirita lavendulacea* (lavender-flowered) grows easily and flowers in a short time from seed, has an interesting succulent stem, and flowers continually. Every flower goes to seed.

When shoots of Columneas lose leaves, Carl cuts them back to the pot to bring many more shoots from the base. Some Columneas hold their foliage and long shoots for several years and continue to get longer. He has some about six feet long that are several years old. The variety seems to make the difference, not just environment. C. 'Oneidan' has held its foliage for over three years, while others near it dropped leaves at a year old or less. *C. arguta* is another good one, as are most of its hybrids – C. 'Joy', C. 'Early Bird', C. 'Yellow Gold', C. 'Butterfly', and C. 'Betty Stoehr'. They all have foliage similar to *C. arguta's* – not that they never lose leaves, but they do hold them longer than many others.

Some growers keep their plants pinched back so they do not get very long, always have new growth coming. New growth is less apt to defoliate. Carl likes the long streamers, however. Columneas do well under lights, but it is hard to have long streamers of flowers without two or three tubes on the wall behind plants. to give light to the entire stem. Carl likes a sunny window in winter, but it takes a large window.

Columneas should bloom whether pot-bound or not. Lack of bloom is probably due to lack of light, or the wrong season for the variety. Lyndon Lyon hibrids seem to be more ever-blooming – besides C. 'Early Bird', C. 'Joy', C. 'Betty Stoehr', C. 'Yellow Gold', C. 'Butterfly', C. 'Goldie', and C. 'Yellow Dragon'. The last is in flower all year, with plenty of flowers. C. 'Early Bird' is the best flowering pendant. Three new ones last year are all good–C. 'Flipper', C. 'Red King', C. 'Yellow Dancer', all with large, flaring, upright flowers.

Green-and-white leaved C. 'Katsura' is not a fast grower but eventually will make a nice plant if kept pinched. Under his conditions, it is a shy bloomer, had four flowers in January (in an eight-inch basket). The pretty variegation makes it worth having, however. Upright C. 'Cornellian' is too large for window sills. C. 'Butterball' is good while small, but droops over unless kept pinched.

For small Columneas for winter window sills, it is best to take cuttings in the fall of those just showing buds, which can provide flowers all winter in two-inch pots. On his porch, he lets trailing ones hang down five or six feet; like a wilderness, but he likes it.

David put down a leaf of *Smithiantha cinnabarina* and everywhere the leaf was broken it grew a rhizome–gave him about eight plants. Barbara Walker of Bloomington, Indiana mounts pots of Columneas on corner uprights of her light benches, right up under the lamps, and they do very well. Cut back after any dormancy and fed well with high-phosphorous fertilizer, they will bloom their heads off all spring and summer and be magnificent by fall. Hers grow and bloom year around. Her plant room is never below 55° and nights usually are 60°. Carl reports *Columnea tulae* 'Flava' makes a nice compact plant under lights without pinching and should be a nice window sill plant. It has rather small, light green leaves, small bright yellow flowers.

ATOMIC IRRADIATION . . .

(Continued from Page 177)

other than slight irregularities of the contours of the leaves. The latter were approximately one-third the size of the former. The 5 kr. were almost indistinguishable in size and characteristics from the untreated Wooly Bear seedlings.

On the 42nd day, the control group and the 5 kr. were transplanted from the seedpans, the largest seedlings about one-half inch in size. This early transplanting would have been unnecessary had the seeds been more thinly sowed. The 10 kr. seedlings were much slower, having reached a size about one-sixth that of the pans above, with much irregularity and damage of cotyledons apparent. At this point there were some seedlings far enough developed to indicate that the first leaves were showing some slight damage in contour.

On the 53rd day, the 10 kr. seedlings were transplanted because of serious crowding, some suffering damage on separating them. It was impractical to save all of them so rather than save only the largest plants, several dozen of the smallest ones were kept, in the event that the dwarfing was not due purely to the crowding. Recovery from transplanting was slow.

At three-and-a-half months, a week after the accompanying picture was taken, the control group and the 5 kr. seedlings seem to be identical in appearance, healthy, vigorous, with excellent color, in size about three-and-a-half inches tall by six-and-a-half inches wide. The 10 kr. seedlings are about two inches tall by three inches wide, looking exactly like the above except in size. The photograph shows a representative group, the total cultivation being hundreds of plants.

These *B. leptotricha* plants have been raised under the Gro-Lux lights since the seed germinated, but within a month they will be moved outdoors where they will grow under shelter for the summer. When they are in bloom and observations can be made to guide me in the choice of which subjects to use for further work, the "selfing" (self-pollinating) will begin and this project will be launched into its second stage.

SOIL pH . . .

(Continued from Page 182)

I don't know whether pH kits are available in the United States, but I would be interested in hearing of others' experiences in this way. The test is simple: A small amount of liquid (an indicator) is mixed with a small amount of soil (enough to cover a ten-cent piece), and then a white powder is applied. After two minutes, the resulting color can be checked against the color chart, which goes from orange (acid pH of 2) to purple (an alkalinity of 10 pH). Our kit cost $6.30, but is worth the investment.

A BEGONIA GARDEN . . .

(Continued from Page 183)

dusky olive green and B. 'Feasti' with its leathery leaves, glossy green above and beef-steak red beneath.

We have a dozen varieties of the *rex* type, the same number of tree Begonias, eight of the procumbent stem stype and a number of *semperflorens* type and miscellaneous sorts.

We find great pleasure in studying the varying characteristics of these plants, the different conditions that they require for successful growth, the wonderful combination of colors and the wide variations in shape. We find an additional pleasure in showing our collection to those who are interested and would renew our invitation to those who enjoy plants to call at our home.

LUCK OR WHAT? . . .

(Continued from Page 181)

grow for me, so I brought them to my buddy in New Jersey, and there they are sadly neglected, and some of them are growing to specimen size. Why?

EDITOR'S NOTE

I believe in a natural explanation for all things, but I, too, would like to know some of the answers Ben is asking.

We have a friend who cannot grow an *Asplenium nidus* (Bird's Nest Fern). She has a ready supply and has tried them in all corners of her yard, lathhouse, greenhouse, and patio. Within 24 hours they begin to die and within a week they are gone. This charming lady is an excellent grower and very knowledgeable of her plants.

We have received many Begonias which are considered very tender and difficult to grow. We usually bare-root all plants before potting them into our mix and on several occasions have been advised against this procedure with certain types. However tender and difficult they are, we still find that we have better luck if we do bare-root them.

We have also found that one's soil mix is as personal as his toothbrush. We have discovered that plants from one friend will live one week, from another friend perhaps a month, and from still another approximately 24 hours if we're lucky. If we do not find time to bare-root the plants and get them into our own soil mix within the specified length of time, we have wasted our money. We know that our mix is not compatible with others so that if we shift a plant to a larger pot without bare-rooting, the plant will continue growing within the original ball of soil until it chokes to death.

The mysteries of plant life are numerous and fascinating. I doubt that we will ever know all the answers and I don't think we really want to. Isn't that part of what makes our hobby the fascinating "disease" that it is?

Mae Tagg

FERTILIZER . . .

(Continued from Page 182)

Phosphoric acid is the second most valuable and essential element in your soil and when this is deficient for the needs, a formulation with a high ratio of phosphoric acid, such as the 10-30-20 formulation can be selected. For instance, this is used by orchid growers and for all flowers and vegetables needing less nitrogen, but more phosphoric acid. For starting seedlings, the 10-40-15 formulation is now being used by some growers to make the new plants sturdier, assure better rooting and reduce the shock of transplanting.

Because these new high analysis plant foods (HYPONeX) are in concentrated form, instantly soluble in water for liquid feeding, the various formulations can be kept available in very little space. Being clean and odorless, they create no problems this way. For the present, the 20-20-20 formulation is the most popular of the high analysis group, but look for the others to come on rapidly, as a greater awareness of the benefits of matching your fertilizer to your plant and soil needs is developed.

MAILING BEGONIA . . .

(Continued from Page 183)

together. She then wraps them in lots of newspaper, stapling the paper to the pot and also tying it again. These heavier packages, with roots in soil, are mailed parcel post, special handling. She removes plants from clay pots and just wraps the root balls, or may slip them into plastic pots.

THIRD ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION

Sponsored by the Connecticut Branch of the
American Begonia Society, Inc.
SEPTEMBER 6, 7, 8, 1968

THE INN
Cornfield Point
Old Saybrook, Conn. 06475

Old Saybrook is located approximately mid-way between New York and Boston and easily reached via the Connecticut Turnpike (I-95), Exit 66.

PROGRAM

Friday, September 6:

5:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Flower show entries accepted.
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Convention Registration.
8:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Get acquainted coffee hour sponsored by the Connecticut Branch, A.B.S.

Saturday, September 7:

8:30 - 11:00 a.m.	Flower show entries accepted. Registration.
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Judging.
1:00 p.m.	Luncheon.
2:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Show open to public.
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.	Seminar on Begonias.
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Happy hour.
7:30 p.m.	Convention banquet and awards presentation.

Sunday, September 8:

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Show open to public.
11:30 a.m.	Brunch.
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Question and answer panel.
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	Coffee hour.

Convention Chairman
Mrs. Priscilla Beck
R.F.D. #1
Mystic, Conn. 06355

Registration Chairmen
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bean
26 Washington Avenue
Niantic, Conn. 06357

Entries Chairman
Mrs. Arline Peck
Eagle Peak Road
Pascoag, R. I. 02859

For complete information, write to the above chairmen.

MINUTES OF THE JULY A.B.S. BOARD MEETING

The National Board held a Regional Meeting, Sunday, July 28, 1968, in Glendale, Calif., at the Glendale Savings and Loan Building. The Glendale Branch were hosts to the meeting and due to the illness of Mrs. Korts, Mr. Charles Richardson welcomed the Board. Mr. Lee of San Diego led the Pledge of Allegiance and Walter Pease read the Aims and Purposes. Roll call was answered by thirteen officers and eleven Branch Representatives. The minutes were read of the previous meeting, and after correction, were accepted.

Anne Rose and Gertrude Winsor were appointed by the President to audit the books of the Treasurer. Appointment was accepted by a motion by Margaret Lee, seconded by Pearl Benell. Carried.

Walter Barnett, Treasurer, reported a balance of $994.72, receipts of $622.04, and disbursements of $927.52 leaving a balance of $689.24.

The Chairman of Awards Committee, Margaret Lee, reported the nominations for the Awards have been submitted to the vote of her committee members. She also recommended that the rules for granting all awards be clarified.

Ruth Pease expressed thanks to all who helped in making the show schedule and classification outline. Many hours of work were involved, and no expenses were charged to the Society.

Historian, Edna Burkett, presented the History she has made this past year for the Society.

The report for the Judges Course was given by Ruth Pease. There were six people registered this year for the course.

Lucile Wright gave the Library report, and also read a letter from Past-President, Everett Wright, who has had surgery. Membership secretary, Pearl Benell, reported 37 new members and 2750 *Begonians* dispersed. After reading a letter from a school in Denmark, Pearl Benell made a motion, seconded by Ruth Pease, that a complimentary subscription be sent for a year to Bent Klougart to help inform those interested in Bengonias in Denmark.

Jim Somes announced the posters were ready for the Flower Show. He emphasized that 400 man-hours of work had gone into preparing the new show schedule.

Vera Naumann, Public Relations Director, expressed thanks for the assistance of the co-chairman in that department, and the Branches that sent their Newsletters.

Anne Rose advised that it is time for ads for the Christmas *Begonian*. October 1st is the deadline. Jim Somes moved, seconded by Vera Naumann, that letters reminding the Branches be sent out.

The report of the Round Robin Director had 21 new assignments to robins, eighteen requests answered, and a total of 49 A.B.S. Robins.

President Tagg announced the new stickers have arrived, and new plastic signs. Walter Barnett made a motion, seconded by Walter Pease that the Branches can buy stickers by the dozen for 35 cents each and make the fifteen cent profit. Individuals will pay 50 cents. Carried. Signs are $1.00 each; 75 cents to Branches.

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu will be the speaker at the Convention Banquet.

Mae Tagg moved that the secretary write a letter of appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Warrick for their work on *The Begonian* reprints, seconded by Walter Barnett. Carried unanimously.

Margaret Lee moved that a second Service Award may be given this year, seconded by Anne Rose. Carried.

Bert Slatter made a motion, seconded by Ruth Pease that the Branches be given a free copy of *The Begonian* for their libraries when requested annually by their secretary. Carried.

Following the Branch reports, the Glendale Branch served delicious refreshments, and there was a donation plant table drawing.

Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

Virginia Barnett
Secretary

LETTERS

Dear Mrs. Gee:

No, you are not wasting your time as Seed Fund Administrator for the A.B.S. Please do not hesitate to offer seed of *B. rajah* to the membership whenever it is obtainable.

I am a California grower who did not have germination on the last offering of *B. rajah,* but I know two other members who were successful. Several times you have sent me "credit due" because you were sold out of the rare seed I had ordered. So. Californians have been disappointed, too.

My germination is about 60 per cent on the rare seeds I purchased from the Seed Fund, but I nearly always hear or read of members who did have germination of the other 40 per cent. I must conclude that my failures are a result of not having the necessary requirements.

As I look over my collection of rare species Begonias, I feel like a lucky Irishman because most of them would be unavailable except for your diligent efforts in our behalf.

Let's all remember that growing Begonias from seed is a gamble but one worth taking again and again.

Sincerely,
Thelma O'Reilly
La Mesa, California

EDITOR'S NOTE

I always feel good when I receive letters like this one. It is good to share them with you and I feel that it states the sentiments of many of us in the A.B.S.

A peculiar fault of the human race is the quickness with which people complain and the slowness with which they say "thank you." I hope that during the coming year, all of us in the A.B.S. will attempt to reverse this tempo by being a little quicker to say "thank you" and a little slower to complain. Perhaps by so doing, we will take time to think over our complaints and present the kind of criticism that is constructive.

Thank you, Thelma, for your letter and thank you, Florence, for a job well done. Keep up the good work. We do appreciate it.

Mae Tagg

Definitions:

vitifolia—with leaves like the grape.
fagifolia—with leaves like the beech.

(Seed Fund, page 184.)

IN MEMORIAM

They are not lost who find
the light of sun and stars and God.

Rolland A. Maddox:

Rolland A. Maddox, Riverside, California was a member of the Riverside Branch which he and his wife, Lillian, joined in 1952 and where they served as very active members. Rolland served as the National Representative and was President for two years in the branch. He was interested in entering and propagating many plants for the A.B.S. Show receiving many trophies for his outstanding entries.

Others:

We also share our sympathy with our secretary, Virginia Barnett, whose Mother passed away and with our Southern Public Relations Chairman, Mrs. Margie Sikkelee, on the death of her husband.

SHOW DATES

Sept. 7, 8—THIRD ANNUAL EASTERN BEGONIA CONVENTION AND SHOW, hosted by the Connecticut Branch (see page 192).

Sept. 7, 8—Rhode Island Begonia Society: Fall Flower Show. Public is invited. University of Rhode Island in Kingston, R.I. Hours 2 to 4 p.m.

Sept. 7, 8—Santa Barbara Branch: Begonia Show, an annual non-competitive exhibit of tuberous, fibrous, rhizomatous and rex Begonias. The Flower Hall of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara, Calif. Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Sept. 13—Philobegonia Branch: Flower Show at the home of Cecily Bailey, 5742 Whitman Ter., Pennsauken, N. J.

Sept. 21, 22—San Miguel Branch: Begonia and Shade Plant Show, Floral Building in Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif. Saturday, 2 to 8 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entries from other branches invited. Donation 50c.

CALENDAR

Sept. 5 — Westchester Branch: Birthday Potluck Dinner 6:30 p.m. Rudy Ziesenhenne will speak on the "Propagation of Begonias." Plant table from Rudy's.

Sept. 11 — Inglewood Branch: Ed Shearer will give a program on "Gesneriads" showing slides. 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 12 — Orange County Branch: Luau at Paul Brecht's Orchid Nursery, 1989 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, Calif. Potluck at 6:30 p.m. Presentation of trophies.

Sept. 13—San Gabriel Valley Branch: Ralph Spencer of Palos Verdes will speak on "Begonias of Brazil." Mr. Spencer spent three years in Sao Paulo, Brazil, besides several collecting trips before and since returning to California. 7:45 p.m.

Sept. 19 — Foothill Branch: "A Trip Through South America" illustrated with slides. Speaker will be Miss Esther Smith. Potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 8 p.m.

Sept. 23—A.B.S. BOARD: South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 25—Eastside Branch: "The Art of Making Decorative Floral Arrangements" by Eve Carr of Ballard Blossom Shop of Seattle, Wash. 7:30 p.m.

October 1—DEADLINE for all material for the November *Begonian.*

October 3—Westchester Branch: Sylvia Leatherman will speak on Ferns. 7:30 p.m.

October 6—North Long Beach Branch: Annual Chicken Dinner and Plant Table. Joe Littlefield, Master of Ceremonies. Alberta Logue's backyard, 6053 Lime Ave., Long Beach, Calif. Exit East on Artesia Blvd. off-ramp of the Long Beach Freeway to Atlantic, South on Atlantic to 60th St., Turn East one block to Lime Ave. Corner House. Parking space at market next door. Hours 1 to 4 p.m.

Return Requested
10331 South Colima Road
Whittier, California 90604
Second Class Mail