

The BEGONIAN



DECEMBER, 1971

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

VOL. 38 NO. 12



Begonia 'Maphil'

Monthly Publication
of the American
Begonia Society, Inc.

The BEGONIAN

Founded by
Herbert P. Dyckman
January, 1932

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10331 South Colima Road, Whittier, California 90604

Subscription: \$4.00 per year. Foreign (Mexico and Canada) \$4.50. U.S. (Mexico and Canada) 1st Class \$6.00. Foreign 1st Class \$6.50. U.S. Air Mail \$7.00. Pay in U.S. currency only.

Second Class Postage paid at Whittier, California.

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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editors, the Society or its officers.

ACROSS THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Because this is our December issue filled with Christmas greetings from many of the Branches all over the country, I would like to share with you the following Christmas prayer by an unknown author.

Give us the faith of innocent children that we may look forward with hope in our hearts to the dawn of happy tomorrows. Reawaken the thought that our most cherished desires will be realized, the things closest to our hearts—that we may come to an appreciation of the limitless joys and bountiful rewards of Patience, Charity and Sacrifice. Above all, endow us with the spirit of courage, that we may face the perplexities of a troubled world without flinching, imbued with the child-like faith which envisions the beautiful and inspiring things of life . . . and restore the happy hours and experiences so many of us foolishly believe are lost forever. Give us faith in ourselves and faith in our fellow man . . . then, the treasures and beauties of life that make men happy will spring from an inexhaustible source. And at Christmas, when the hearts of the world swell in joyous celebration, let us cast aside the pretense of sturdy men and live, if only for a day, in the hope and joy we knew as children.

Margaret B. Taylor, *President*

SORRY WE'RE LATE

It was 6:30 on the evening of November 1 and I was enjoying dinner in a restaurant near my home. I planned to spend the evening working on the December issue of *The Begonian*. Suddenly I felt a pressure across my chest and right arm—by 7:30 I was in the intensive care unit of a hospital.

Work on the magazine came to an abrupt halt and could not resume for several weeks, while I went through the slow process of recovering from a heart attack.

I trust that you will find this issue just as interesting now as it would have been several weeks ago.

Tru Peterson, *Editor*

NEW ROSTER NEEDED

The Society needs a new membership roster. Is there a typist in the Society who will volunteer to cut the stencils?

Contact the President for details.

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Maphil'

Photo by Quentin Johnson

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* and companion plants;

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of *Begonias* and companion plants;
TO issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the Society; and to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow *Begonias*.

BUXTON BRANCH IS HOST AT CONVENTION

By Evelyn Cronin
President, Buxton Branch, A.B.S.

The Sixth Annual Eastern Begonia Convention and Show was held on October 8 and 9 at the Sheraton Motor Inn, Lexington, Massachusetts, with the Buxton Branch of the American Begonia Society as host.

We are indebted to our two hard-working chairmen, Dr. Fred A. Barkley and Michael Kartuz, for producing one of the finest conventions in the East. It was well organized and the time schedule was strictly adhered to. The programs were topical, informative, and appealing at all levels.

The workshop on "Light Gardens" by Jack Golding was one of the finest talks of this nature heard to date. Dr. Harriet Creighton of the Botany Department of Wellesley College presented a highly scientific talk at layman's level, so every member of the audience was spellbound.

Both the Wellesley Greenhouses and the Northeastern Greenhouses are used solely for student research. These were of great interest as guests viewed tree-sized *Daturas* and peanuts grown in benches at Northeastern; and Fred Barkley's personal begonia collections and the great number of miniature geraniums. Wellesley offered a wonderful tropical house with banana trees in fruit, orchids, etc.

The show was excellent in quality and we are proud of the number of entries from such a small group. Approximately 600 persons (public) viewed the show during the two days.



Dr. Fred A. Barkley, general co-chairman of convention.

Orpha Fox, show chairman, was superb! She caused the show! She made it happen!

Much time, effort, and work was expended to make this the success it was. The Buxton Branch acted as a smoothly working team with members falling in wherever needed for as long as needed. We are grateful to the Branch for its wonderful spirit and support.

The most important by product was the good fellowship which prevailed. Everyone made friends easily; old friends renewed friendships; the representatives from California brought much good will with them and were enjoyed by everyone; the food was good and much was accomplished at the dinner table; an exploration of ideas, a sharing of expertise; promises to keep in touch. This was the spirit of '71.

THE CHARM OF A CONVENTION

More than 600 visitors came to view the Begonia Show staged in conjunction with the Sixth Eastern Convention in Lexington, Massachusetts. Extensive in scope, high in quality, the show displayed begonias grown in every conceivable fashion.

An excellent educational exhibit by Orpha Fox and Arlene Peck, members of the Buxton Branch, introduced the neophytes to the various methods of propagation possible in this varied genus. Lighted by overhead "Gro-Lux," well labeled and attractively staged, this exhibit was studied continuously. Two other exhibits by Jim Wyrzten and Mike Kartuz, showing handsome, rare, and unusual plants, set the pace for the show.

We had one regret; the room chosen was not large enough. As Orpha Fox, show chairman, processed entries and passed them along to her committee, one could hear groans and sighs . . . "There isn't any room, Orpha." Orpha kept her "cool" and replied, "You'll just have to squeeze them in."

As we were short-handed, two of the Knickie people dove in and helped us. We'll never know how Bea Hessler and Adele Zamensky managed not only to fit in every cane entered, but had the exhibit area looking almost spacious. It was nice to have two show-oriented people and with their help we were ready for judging by 10:30 a.m. By 2 p.m. the judging was completed. If one has worked with Ruth Merry, judges chairman, one would know that it would all be done on time.

The convention moved swiftly and on time. The workshops were superb and Saturday will long be remembered. Dr. Harriet Creighton graciously opened the Wellesley Greenhouses to the group and then allowed us to use the lecture hall. She was the first speaker and presented a technical research project with such clarity that everyone could follow along with her scientific data.

Jack Golding followed with just about the finest demonstration-lecture on growing under lights that we have heard to date. He spoke for an hour and a half and the audience still wanted more.

After luncheon, Joy Logee Martin gave a wonderfully simple approach to growing *B. rex cultorum*. The new members gobbled this up.

This was followed by a tour of the Northeastern Greenhouses and then a return to our motel via historic Lexington. Gene Courtney, called upon to give an impromptu lesson in history, turned out to have an unsuspected talent as a tour guide. We followed Paul Revere and General Dawson up Massachusetts Avenue, through Arlington, into historic Lexington, with a short stop at the monument of the Minute Man. The warm, friendly, impromptu things of this nature made the convention the success it was.

John Provine, president-elect of the American Begonia Society, and his father, Jack, were pleasant visitors. John's youth was a delightful surprise and his enthusiasm contagious. Margaret and Rudy Ziesenne, old friends of everyone in the

East, had a busy time circulating. The Ziesenhennes served as judges and Rudy was the banquet speaker on Friday evening.

Dr. Lyman C. Smith of the National Herbarium of the Smithsonian Institution was our delightful Saturday evening banquet speaker.

The Buxton Branch is honored to have as members some of the top scientists in the field of begonias. Dr. Smith, Dr. Lily Perry, Dr. Bernice Schubert, and Dr. Harriet Creighton are all honorary members.

Seventy-eight members attended the convention, coming from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, California, Ohio, and Missouri.



Dr. Harriet Creighton gives talk on adventitious growth.



Shows judges (from left) Mrs. Percy I. Merry, chairman, James Wyrzten, Mrs. Edna Stewart, Mrs. Fred Barkley, Rudolf Ziesenhenne.



Mrs. Edna Stewart (from left), Mrs. Orpha Fox, flower show chairman, Mrs. May Taft Drew.



Placing plants in show are Mrs. Evelyn Cronin, Buxton Branch president (from left), Mrs. Adele Zemansky, Mrs. Bea Hessel.

RICHES IN BEAUTIFUL BEGONIAS

By Orpha C. Fox
Eastern Show Chairman

From letters received, the Sixth Annual Eastern Begonia Convention impressed many as an exciting and stimulating event accompanied by a very successful show. In offering these congratulations, people have overlooked their own share in this success, the entry of their finest begonias in great abundance. Indeed at one point it seemed that the committee was faced with almost an embarrassment of riches in beautiful begonias.

It was impossible to anticipate the deluge of plants that descended upon the workers on that Thursday afternoon preceding the show. The room that had previously appeared adequate in size seemed to shrink visibly as each new entry of begonias was received. As the committee devised, improvised, and modified plans to make room for each plant, one member expressed what may have been the thought of many, "Will I ever want to look at a begonia again?" But on Friday morning when the show was presented to the judges, all problems were forgotten in viewing a beautiful display of begonias in great variety and of exceptionally fine quality.

Begonias were received for competition from six of the Eastern Branches and from one A. B. S. member-at-large of New Hampshire. It was apparent that the rhizomatous group is a favorite of many growers for this was the largest division, the begonias ranging from the new English miniatures to the giant *riciniifolia* types. The *semperflorens* be-

gonias, often rather insignificant in New England shows, were displayed in profusion, alive with color. The rex division had overflowed to the wide corridor where it added beauty to the area and provided a conversation piece as people entered the Inn.

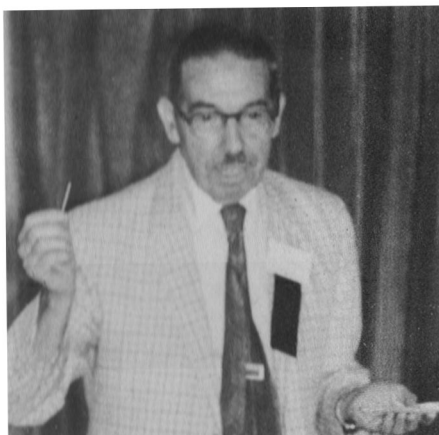
Novel ways of growing have caught the fancy of many growers in the East and there were interesting and unusual arrangements of begonias in bottles, on rocks, and as epiphytes on driftwood. The basket begonias were lush and beautiful.

In the group of special exhibits, James Wyrzten of Floral Park, N.Y. showed a large collection of specimen begonias, outstanding for size and cultural perfection. Michael Kartuz of Massachusetts limited his display to those begonias that had originated in New England. Among these was his spectacular new hybrid, B. 'Mumtaz'.

A large non-competitive exhibit of recent begonia introductions was shown in the banquet room. Belva Kusler of Wisconsin contributed her three most recent hybrids, B. 'Gertrude Nelson', B. 'Magdalene Madsen', and B. 'Question Mark'. Priscilla Beck of Connecticut showed her B. 'Priscilla Beck', B. 'Lois Hutchins', and B. 'Nellie'. Others displayed were originations of Edna Stewart of Pennsylvania, Michael Kartuz of Massachusetts, Ruth Stanley of Ohio, Arlene Peck of Rhode Island, and Sylvia Leatherman of California. Rudolf Ziesenhenné contributed many cultivars from the West Coast, that had previously not



Dr. Lyman B. Smith gives talk on problems in Begonia Classification.



M. Carleton L'Hommedieu discusses propagation of Begonias.



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson display their many trophies: Best in Show, Sweepstakes, and division awards.

been seen in the East.

A begonia convention is not complete without a plant sale, and this was held throughout the convention under the supervision of Murray Selnik, assisted by several members of Buxton Branch. The show was open to the general public on both days and it was gratifying that it attracted so many visitors.

The show chairman is appreciative of the cooperation of the committee members, Joy Porter, Dorothy Stevens, Selma Peck, and Dr. Morton

Loewenthal, and of the interest and encouragement of Buxton Branch president Evelyn Cronin and the convention chairman, Dr. Fred Barkley. There were a great many other Buxton Branch members involved in planning and setting up the show and to these and to all who brought their begonias, the committee is grateful. Eastern begonia growers must never be underestimated in their abilities to cultivate prize-winning plants or in their enthusiasm and generosity in showing them.

EASTERN TROPHY WINNERS

Best in Show —

Paul Revere Bowl, permanent trophy
A.B.S. Perpetual Trophy
Won by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson for *B. fuchsoides*. —

Sweepstakes —

Paul Revere Bowl
A.B.S. Perpetual Trophy
Won by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson.

Best Kusler Hybrid —

Paul Revere Bowl
Won by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson for *B. 'Crispie'*. —
(Donor — Murray Morrison, Knickerbocker Branch)

Div. A — Cane-like begonias

Paul Revere Pewter Tankard
Won by Mrs. and Mrs. Edward Thompson for *B. lubbersi* —
(Donor — Mrs. Margaret Taylor, President A.B.S.)

Div. B — Shrub-like begonias

Paul Revere Pewter Tankard
Won by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson for *B. luxurians*. —
(Donor — Mrs. Orpha Fox, Buxton Branch)

Div. C — Thick-stemmed begonias

Paul Revere Pewter Tankard
Won by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson for
B. 'Richard Robinson'. —
(Donor — Western Pennsylvania Branch)

Div. D — *Semperflorens* characteristics

Paul Revere Bowl
A.B.S. Perpetual Trophy
Won by Mrs. Yarmila Scholberg for *B. semperflorens* 'Firefly'.
(Donor — Rhode Island Branch)

Div. E — Rhizomatous begonias

Silver Bowl
Won by Mrs. Elda Haring for
B. 'Speculata'.
(Donor — Knickerbocker Branch)

Div. F — Rex cultorum begonias

Chippendale Platter
Won by Mrs. Orpha Fox for
B. 'Merry Christmas'.
(Donor — Michael Kartuz)

Div. G — Semi-tuberous and tuberous begonias

Pewter Tankard
Won by Mrs. and Mrs. Edward Thompson for *B. 'Crispie'*.
(Donor — William Penn Branch)

Div. H — Hanging baskets

Pewter Tankard
Won by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson for *B. fuchsoides*. —
(Donor — Mrs. Nancy Alvord, Buxton Branch)

Div. I — House-grown begonias

Pewter Tankard
Won by Mrs. Olivia Do Paco for *B. 'Anna Christine'*.

Div. J — Begonia collections

Pewter Tankard
Won by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thompson for collection of five Kusler hybrids.
(Donor — Fred A. Barkley, Buxton Branch)

Div. K — Novel methods of growing

Pewter Tankard
Won by Peggy Golding for
B. 'Purpurea' on a rock.
(Donor — Mrs. Evelyn Cronin, Buxton Branch)

Div. L — Novice class
Pewter Tankard
Won by Russell Nord for
B. goegoensis.
(Donor — Mrs. Elizabeth
Barkley)

RESEARCH REPORT

Since there has been so little involvement in the Question and Answer Project, it was suggested at the Eastern Convention that several of the questions from the list of 143 be placed in *The Begonian* so that members of the Branches and also members-at-large may have the opportunity of answering them.

We will start with the easy ones and gradually get to the questions that need to be researched. Answer as many as you wish and send your answers to the Research Director. When I receive a number of answers, I will have them placed in *The Begonian*.

Branches that have already selected a specific set of questions may continue to work on them, but please report your progress.

With your cooperation I hope that this project eventually will prove to be of value to all members of the American Begonia Society.

The following questions are the start of this project:

(3). If the root ball of a begonia could be kept damp, what would happen if the plant were suspended in an inverted position? Why?

(22). What are the cultural procedures for growing certain begonias in terrariums? Why do some begonia plants like 'Rajah', *versicolor*, *goegoensis*, and others need such high humidity? How can they stand so

little air movement around their leaves?

(28). It has been said that plants like company. Is there any truth to this and how do they benefit each other? Is it all shading or humidity?

Please give complete answers with explanations.

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu
Research Director

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Elaine Wilkerson of Louisiana, a member of the Research Committee for the past four years, passed away September 1, 1971. She will be remembered for her diligent effort in distributing begonia plants to many Universities in the southern states. This was her way of furthering the aims and purposes of the American Begonia Society. She was also a hybridizer of note. Some of her hybrids, the most recent being B. 'Penny O'Day', are registered. Elaine will be missed by the Research Department and by her many begonia friends.



AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY BOOKLETS

Point Scoring System for Judging
Begonias \$1.25

A Suggested Guide to Classification
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Louisburg, Missouri 65685

TIPS, TECHNIQUES AND IDEAS

By Helen Matsubu
Contributing Editor

The Holiday Season is upon us and this column hopes you all have a very merry one with friends and loved ones.

Since this is the Holiday Season, tips, techniques, and ideas would like to show and write a little about using lights and plants for holiday decorating and gift giving.

One of the nicest gifts, to be sure, would be a gift subscription to *The Begonian*, whether it be to a long-time member or a new one. Also the many inexpensive and useful books the A.B.S. library has to offer would make very nice gifts.

We mustn't forget our advertisers as most have something to offer that you can use for your plants or to add new plants to a growing collection. Cuttings still will come through the mails in good shape as they pack cuttings and plants for weather. Some advertisers have gesneriads for sale also and they are grown much like begonias and most like the same conditions. Some seeds such as rexes, tuberous begonias, semps can be started now. Seeds from the Seed Fund would probably be opened and sown with great pleasure for the receiver.

With the advent of light gardening, tubes and light gardening accessories are always welcome gifts. (See drawing 1)

Gifts of planted planters and bowls, jars, terrariums, or a box of cuttings would make wonderful and colorful gifts for plant lover and newcomer alike (2).

Uses for begonias and gesneriads for holiday decorations may take some planning as for blooming time but they can be used in many interesting ways.

Most effective are low growing plants with the use of candles (3). Pretty and bright red semps make a beautiful and colorful decoration for a well lighted foyer or hall wall (4). If one had time, which very few of us seem to have this time of the year, one could make a block print of a leaf or flower of a favorite plant and use it for holiday mails or even for a greeting card to send to plant friends (5).

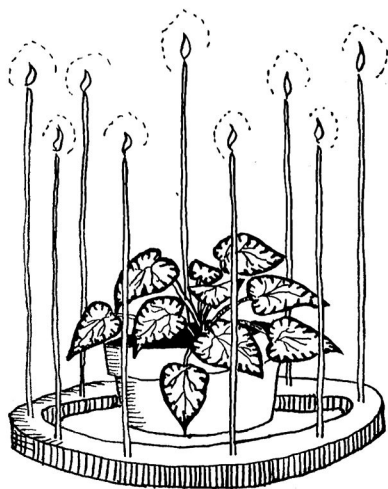
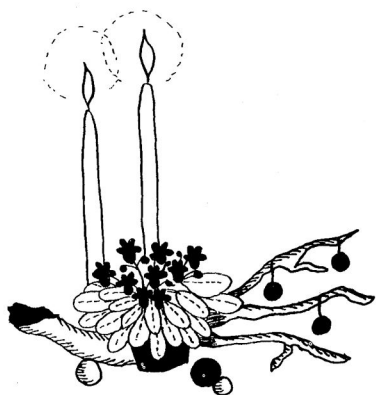
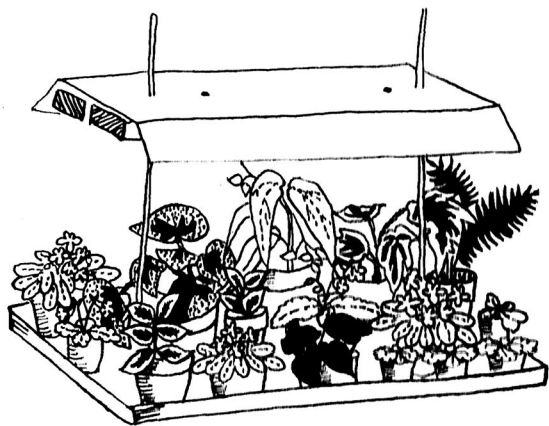
Making your own candle-stick holders is fun and they can be made from odds and ends. They make interesting stands for a nice tray of plants or a single plant (6).

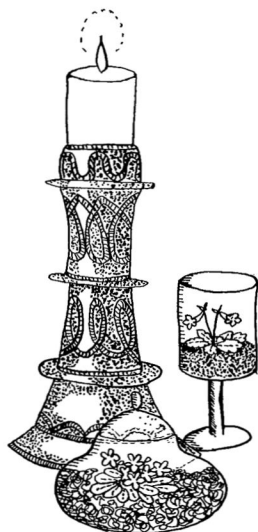
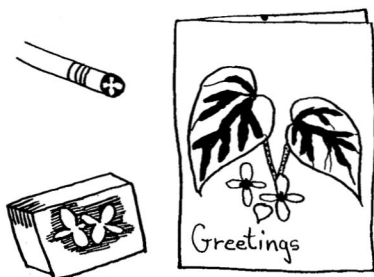
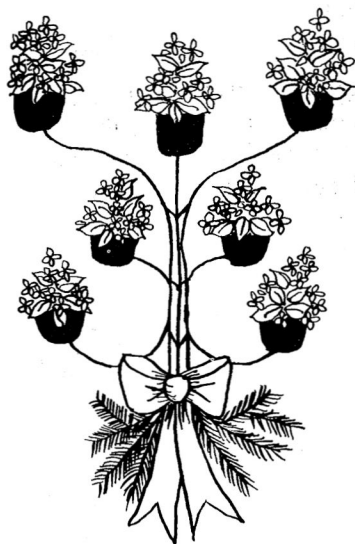
I have only touched on a few ways and know there is a great deal more to work with.

I hope readers will send in ideas for any part of begonia growing or any other things that might be of interest.

Next time tips, techniques, and ideas visits you, it will have something on feather-rock and how to use it and an interesting tip from Mr. Peter Wiese of Birmingham, Alabama, about it, too.

Drawings by the author
on next page.





THE ELSA FORT BRANCH

Extends
Heartiest Greetings to All
At This Holiday Season

GREETINGS
and
BEST WISHES
from
THE EVERGREEN STATE
EASTSIDE BRANCH

THE LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

sends Greetings and Best Wishes
to all the Branches and
Begonia Friends for a
JOYFUL CHRISTMAS and
a Most **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

May the Peace and Good Will
of Christmas
Always Be with You
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

BEGONIAS FROM SEED

By Elda Haring
Contributing Editor

Most beginners are reluctant to attempt growing begonias from seed. Yet they are easily grown this way and it is an excellent way to add plants to your collection, especially if you purchase seed from the Seed Fund of the American Begonia Society or if some other begonia enthusiast is willing to share seed from his own plants.

Experienced hobbyists use plastic shoe or bread boxes for containers but it is really not necessary to use such sophisticated containers. Flower pots, aluminum foil loaf pans or other aluminum foil pans at least two inches deep will do as well. Plastic cottage cheese cartons or even the one-pound-size can of shortening may be utilized. I like to use the market-paks that we purchase from the local garden nursery filled with annuals for our summer garden. Many garden nurseries discard these after the season is over and are glad to give them to you for the asking.

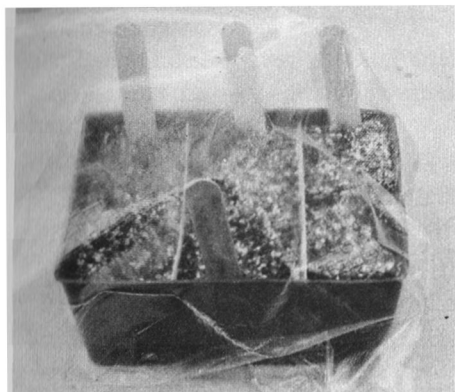
The containers should have a few holes punched in them for ease in watering from the bottom as well as for drainage. If you do have to use containers with no bottom drainage and you have inadvertently overwatered, by carefully tipping the container you can allow moisture to drain from one corner.

A sterile seedling mix is important to prevent "damp off," a devastating soil-borne fungus disease that attacks young seedlings, causing them to fall over and die. My own preference for such a mix is two parts vermiculite, one part perlite, and one part milled

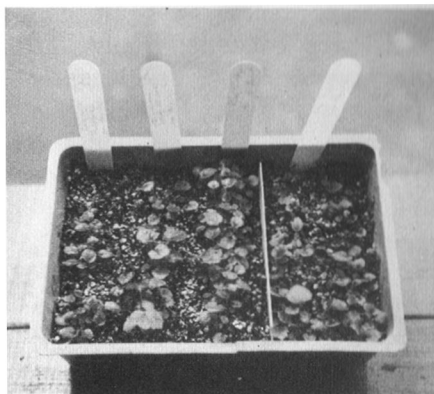
sphagnum. Peat moss may be substituted for the sphagnum and sand for the perlite. Milled sphagnum used alone has a tendency to cake if the seed is slow to germinate. Jiffy Mix is excellent to use as well as any of the so-called Cornell mixes. A fine grade horticultural vermiculite may also be used alone. Sterile potting mixes can be used but as these materials tend to pack, I prefer to add one part sand, perlite, or parakeet gravel to them. These materials are very dry and it is best to place prepared mix in a plastic bag or pail, adding two quarts of water to each ten quarts of the mix, then allowing it to mellow for several days or a week before using.

Before you begin, assemble all materials, containers, seedling mix, seed, and labels. Cover each drainage hole with a piece of newspaper or paper towel to prevent dry mix from sifting through the hole. Fill container with mix to within one-half inch of top and press firmly so that there will be no air pockets. Place container in tub or sink with at least two inches of water to let it soak until it is very wet and moisture is *evident* on the surface of the mix. Depending upon how dry the mix is, this could take ten minutes or it might take several hours or even over night. When all the mix is thoroughly saturated, container will feel very heavy. Let it drain for a few minutes then press with fingers until surface of mix is level.

If you are sowing a number of varieties several may be sown in the



Pan of sown seed in plastic bag.

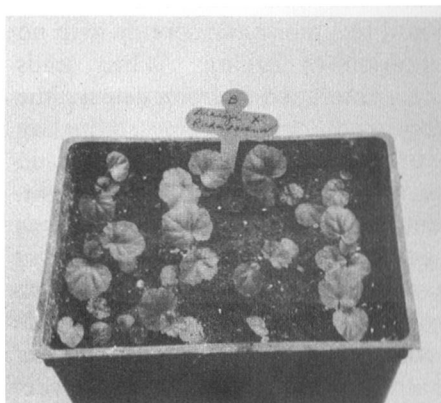


Seedlings after six weeks, ready for first transplanting.

same container. Create separate sections for each variety by using plastic labels cut to length and pressed into the mix as dividers. Prepare plant labels indicating name of begonia and where seed was obtained with the date sown.

Begonia seed is very fine and dust-like. Empty packet carefully onto a small piece of white paper creased in the center. Tap paper gently with fingers to allow only a few seeds to roll out at a time to ensure an even distribution. If seeds stick to paper use end of a label to dislodge them. Seed may be sown in rows or simply broadcast over the mix. After sowing press very, very lightly onto the mix with fingertips. When all seeds have been sown, water container again from bottom as you did before. When you see moisture on top of the mix let the pan drain and then place it in a plastic bag or cover it with a sheet of plastic, being very careful to prop up plastic so that it does not rest on the mix. Use plain labels as additional props if needed. Leave end of plastic bag open for air.

Most begonia seed germinates best



Seedlings transplanted to flat to grow on.

Photos by Walter Haring.

at temperatures of 70 to 75 degrees. Some seed will germinate as quickly as seven days and others may take several weeks or more. If seed is growing under fluorescent lights, pans may be placed anywhere from six to fifteen inches from the lights. An east window usually provides good light for germination. If placed in south or west windows where the sun is strong, there should be a sheer curtain between pan and window. If you have a greenhouse, place pans in strong light but not in direct

sunlight.

Check the containers daily. Lift them. Loss of weight is evidence that moisture is needed. It is very important that top of mix should never become even slightly dry as microscopic roots of embryo seedlings will perish almost instantly without moisture. To be sure that there is constant moisture continue to water from the bottom. Condensate on the plastic bag is caused by fluctuation in temperatures and is not an indication that this mix does not need moisture. Touch the mix with finger-tip. It should feel moist and spongy with no indication of caking. When seeds have germinated and *you can see* the green seedling leaves *remove* the bag to provide all possible light but do not expose them to direct sunlight. Continue to make sure that there is adequate moisture at all times. After two or three weeks start a feeding program by applying a water soluble fertilizer once a week, using only one-quarter strength recommended, preferably again by bottom watering.

The first set of leaves that appear are the seedling leaves and not typical of the mature plant. Begonia seedlings are very tiny. Although experts often advise transplanting when the second set of leaves appear, I do not think that this is good advice, particularly if you are inexperienced. Do not be in a hurry to do the transplanting. Wait until plants are at least one-half inch high. In the case of some varieties and species this could take a month or more.

The same kind of container as used for seed sowing can be used for this step but it is best to use one that is not less than one and one-half inch

in depth. Handle seedlings carefully by lifting from seed pan with end of plant label or teaspoon. These little plants should be placed one to one-and-a-half inches apart and permitted to grow until leaves are touching or even overlapping before removing to individual pots. During this period continue to feed as suggested.

Transplant to small pots of one-and-a-half or two inches depending upon size of root system. Jiffy-7 pressed peat pellets are excellent to use for this second transplanting but when plants have grown big enough to be placed in larger pots remove the netting that surrounds the peat. I have found that this material restricts root development. In about six weeks knock transplants from small pots. If roots have filled the pot and potting mix retains the shape of the pot, plants are ready for shifting into larger pots. If soil is left in bottom of the pot, replace the plant and permit it to grow until pot is filled with roots, then transplant to next size pot.

Potting mixes for begonias should drain quickly yet have moisture-retentive capabilities. Many mixes are recommended for begonias as readers of *The Begonian* know. Whatever you have been using successfully for other indoor plants will suffice. I have used in the past a mixture of two parts garden soil, one part sand, and one part peat moss. As nematodes are not prevalent in our section I do not sterilize the soil. However, I have found that most begonias like a mixture of one part peat moss, one part perlite or Sponge-Rok, and one part vermiculite. This is a sterile mix and there is no need to worry about insects or diseases.

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Gives step-by-step, easy-to-follow instructions and encouragement for beginning seed growers. Price 25 cents.

Please Note:

The seed of *B. tuberhybrida* was so much in demand we decided to offer additional colors. As the season for sowing will be over soon we hope you will take advantage of this offer and grow many beautiful tuberous begonias.

The three varieties listed below are *multiflora* type. If seed is sown early they will start flowering in about four months. They are invaluable as bedding and pot plants, are low growing, do not require staking, and will take more sun than the large type.

B. 'Mrs. Helen Harms'

Double canary-yellow flowers produced in great abundance on bushy dwarf plants. Sun-proof. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. 'Tasso'

Double F₁ hybrid, heat-resistant and sun-resistant, all double, medium sized; deep blood-red flowers produced freely on bushy dwarf plants. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. 'Nana'

Double mixed, medium sized flowers in many colors, freely produced on bushy plants. Price 50 cents per pkt.

Listed below are the large *B. tuberhybrida* which are ideal for shady locations, either in planters or in beds. Superb camellia-flowered, 90 per cent double strains from one of

the foremost specialists. Sow from November to February in a good porous medium, 65 to 75 degrees in early stages, later to 60 degrees.

B. *tuberhybrida pendula mixed*

All the popular shades, doubles and semi-doubles. Ideal for hanging containers. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. *tuberhybrida* — copper

One of the most beautiful. Price 50 cents per pkt.

B. *tuberhybrida* — medium red

Colorful. Price 50 cents per pkt.

As we approach the end of the year we realize that our files should be cleared to make room for new and different seed. With this in mind, we find several good varieties of Begonia as well as other genera. You can help the Seed Fund and yourselves by sowing and growing seed offered below and acquired many plants at a low cost. Please help us dispose of the following:

No. 1 — B. *convolvulacea*

Twining begonia with huge heads of white flowers with yellow centers. Easily grown.

No. 2 — B. *tomentosa*

Has white felted leaves.

No. 3 — B. *unifolia*

Novelty with flat leaf.

No. 4 — B. *veitchi*

Not seen often. Large vermillion flowers.

No. 5 — B. *tenuifolia*

Upright and short branched. Many-pointed, tapering leaves. Large, abundant, delicate pink flowers.

No. 6 — B. *corallina*

Old time favorite cane type with pink flowers.

No. 7 — *B. plantanifolia*

Often confused with *aconitifolia*. Large leaves, deeply cut, and many white to pink flowers. Good begonia.

No. 8 — *Billbergia distachia*

Small plant with green and blue flowers. Leaves pinkish brown, tubular. Requires partial light.

No. 9 — *Billbergia venezuela*

Purple flowers, green leaves, tubular. Partial light.

No. 10 — *Asparagus falcatus*

Deep green, wide leaves. Hanging containers.

No. 11 — *B. sc* Scarletta

One of the best *semperflorens* begonias. Medium growth, green leaves, and always a wonderful display of red blooms.

No. 12 — *B. subvillosa*

Sometimes called 'Scotch Luxurians'. Velvety, oval leaves; flowers white or pink.

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Please send requests for seed to:

Mrs. Florence Gee
See Fund Administrator
234 Birch Street
Roseville, California 95678

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

New flights are being launched and new members are being added to old flights. Work sheets are studied in different phases of begonia growing. Begonias being grown at the present time are being compared with descriptions given in old plates or books. All are part of Round Robin Flights.

Members of the terrarium and bowl-growing flight are compiling a list of begonias they are growing in bowls in their homes. They are comparing notes on which bowls have to be covered and which begonias will grow with the covers removed. Growing mediums are discussed and, before another year rolls around, many members will have learned a lot about what bowl begonias prefer at their roots. Some bowl begonias like to be dry at their roots and some like moisture. Their names are being compiled into a list.

Begonias being tested in bowls or terrariums with covers are: *B. aridicaulis*, *B. crispula*, *B. ficicola*, *B. griffithii*, *B. laciniata*, *B. morelli*, *B. olsoniae*, *B. prismatocarpa*, *B. quadrialata*, *B. rajah x goegoensis*, *B. staudtii*, *B. socrotana*, *B. subnummularifolia*, *B. rajah*, *B. versicolor*, and *B. 'Francis Kay'*.

Begonias being tested to see if they will grow in uncovered bowls are: *B. brooksii*, *B. bowerae nigramarga*, *B. bowerae*, the *B. herbaceas*, *B. foliosa*, *B. rotundifolia*, *B. xanthina*, *B. undisilvestris*, *B. metachroa*, *B. nurii*, *B. 'Emerald Jewel'*, *B. 'It'*, and *B. 'Red Berry'*.

Members feel that five begonias being grown in bowls will get too big for their bowls but are happy at

present: *B. goegoensis*, *B. cathayana*, *B. serratifoliosa*, *B. bartonea*, and *B. laciniata*.

Wally Wagner of California reports that he has a plant of the India species, *B. laciniata*, and is growing it in a 16-inch bubble bowl. It has filled the bowl and its beauty rivals *B. cathayana*. He feels that it is more colorful than *B. cathayana*, with red, very white, and several shades of green leaves but with the plush feel of *B. cathayana*.

Wally writes that a *B. masoniana* (Iron Cross) hybrid to enjoy is *B. 'Eagleshamii'*. Phyllis Wright of Washington writes that she enjoys another *B. masoniana* hybrid, *B. 'Verdant'*.

Mae Blanton of Texas reports growing two semi-tuberous begonias from Seed Fund seed. A wind storm broke off the top of *B. wollyni* and it grew up again and was very bushy. *B. plantanifolia* grew leaves every cool spell this summer and dropped them with every heat wave, but started to grow very nicely when fall came.

Pat Burdick of Minnesota reports having received a very colorful leaf of *B. xanthina*. Mae Blanton raised seedlings of this begonia and they were brownish red with leaves similar to *B. metachroa*.

Mae reports rooting an old yellow leaf of *B. socrotana*, a sometimes difficult species, so is encouraged to try more. She transplanted three to a five-inch pot still setting in a bowl under lights. She reports that the one growing in the greenhouse is much slower than those in the house under lights. She has come to the conclusion that *B. socrotana* would "druther" grow until it blooms. Even

the tiny seedlings grew tubers; a few small ones did go dormant but came out of their dormancy.

Mae reports that her *B. picta* came out of dormancy, bloomed with pale pink blooms, and then went dormant again. She got the seed from India several seasons ago.

B. 'Exotica' syn. *B. brevirimosa*: Several growers have reported very good luck rooting leaves or pieces of leaves in very wet long-fibered sphagnum moss in covered bowls. This beautiful begonia gets much too large for a bowl and will grow on an open greenhouse bench. It does not like cold, seems not to mind the summer heat, and likes moisture at its roots. Its beauty makes it well worth any special effort to grow it.

Now or when the holidays are over would be a good time to join a flight and share the growing of begonias with others. If you wish to join a flight, write a letter about how you grow begonias and your choice of flights. Write to:

Anita Sickmon
Round Robin Director
Route 2, Box 99
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REPORT OF MONTHLY MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Begonia Society was held at the South Gate Auditorium on October 25, 1971, with Mrs. Margaret Taylor, president, presiding. The meeting opened at 8 p.m.

Walter Barnett, treasurer, reported receipts of \$939.25; disbursements \$1,004.34; leaving a balance on hand of \$1,178.34 as of October 18.

Cliff Ebeling, membership secretary, reported 60 new members and 119 renewals. Total membership as of October 18 was 2,329 compared to 2,204 last year, making an increase of 125 members over last year. Funds received and deposited were \$809.00; total number of **Begonians** distributed 2,754.

Advertising manager Anne Rose reported receipts of \$112.50, which included Christmas Greeting ads from twelve Branches.

Business manager Virginia Barnett reported that the "Position Bond" insurance policy was due for payment, to cost \$35.00. No motion was needed.

In the absence of Ruth Pease, judging course director, Mrs. Taylor reported that the committee to review the rules, show schedule, etc. had held a very productive meeting and the results will be published in **The Begonian**.

The report of the research director, Mr. L'Hommedieu, was read. He reported the death of Mrs. Elaine Wilkerson, a member of the research committee.

The research fund is still \$722.52. Mr. L'Hommedieu is still searching for the right project, one that most of our members can understand. The Question and Answer project will be revised. It was suggested at the Eastern Convention that some of the easier questions be placed in **The Begonian** each month, to be answered by any member of the Society. It was thought that the present project is too difficult and too long.

The report of Mrs. Anita Sickmon, round robin director, was read. Six flights came through, with eight flights being revised or restarted. There were five new requests to join flights.

The former slide librarian turned over \$4.00 to the treasurer, money received for two slide programs.

President Taylor read a letter from our new vice-president, Jack Golding. Mr. Golding sent samples of educational literature which had been prepared by the Knickerbocker Branch, with costs and suggested selling prices, which they are offering to the Board and any interested Branch.

Mr. Golding made the following suggestions: a more comprehensive cultural bulletin is needed; a new roster; the Constitution and By-Laws should be reviewed and brought up to date by a committee consisting of people from all over the country; Branches should be notified when members in their areas join, also when members do not renew; the National Board of Directors should not meet every month; **The Begonian** should be good because, to many people, it is the Society. These suggestions will be turned over to Gene Daniels and the Ideas Committee for consideration.

Mrs. Taylor read a letter from Mrs. Margaret Ziesenhenné, parliamentarian, in which she reported some of the suggestions made at the Eastern Convention. Mrs. Evelyn Cronin, president of Buxton Branch, expressed a need for copies of the Constitution and By-Laws and leaflets on such subjects as membership, programs, reviving Branches, etc. Mrs. Ziesenhenné suggested that the editor and his assistants be given this responsibility.

Mrs. Ziesenhenné was asked to bring back a plea for the Board to give members in the East more voice in national affairs.

Mr. Ziesenhenné suggested that each Eastern Branch select someone living out here who can attend Board meetings and who is not already a member of the Board, give him membership in the Branch concerned and elect him representative.

Mrs. Ziesenhenné made the following suggestions to humanize the proceeding of the monthly Board meetings: omit the pledge of allegiance; omit the aims and purposes; omit asking for individual reports from Branch representatives or committee chairmen; make the announcement of standing committee and special committee reports in general, but asking by name only those actually having business the Board must consider. These suggestions will be turned over to the Ideas Committee for consideration.

Irene Grannell
Secretary

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CALENDAR

January 6 — Westchester Branch, 7:30 p.m. Topic: New Year—New Project. Two members will explain and launch a new project for member participation. Refreshments.

Visitors are always welcome at these meetings.

[illegible]

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