

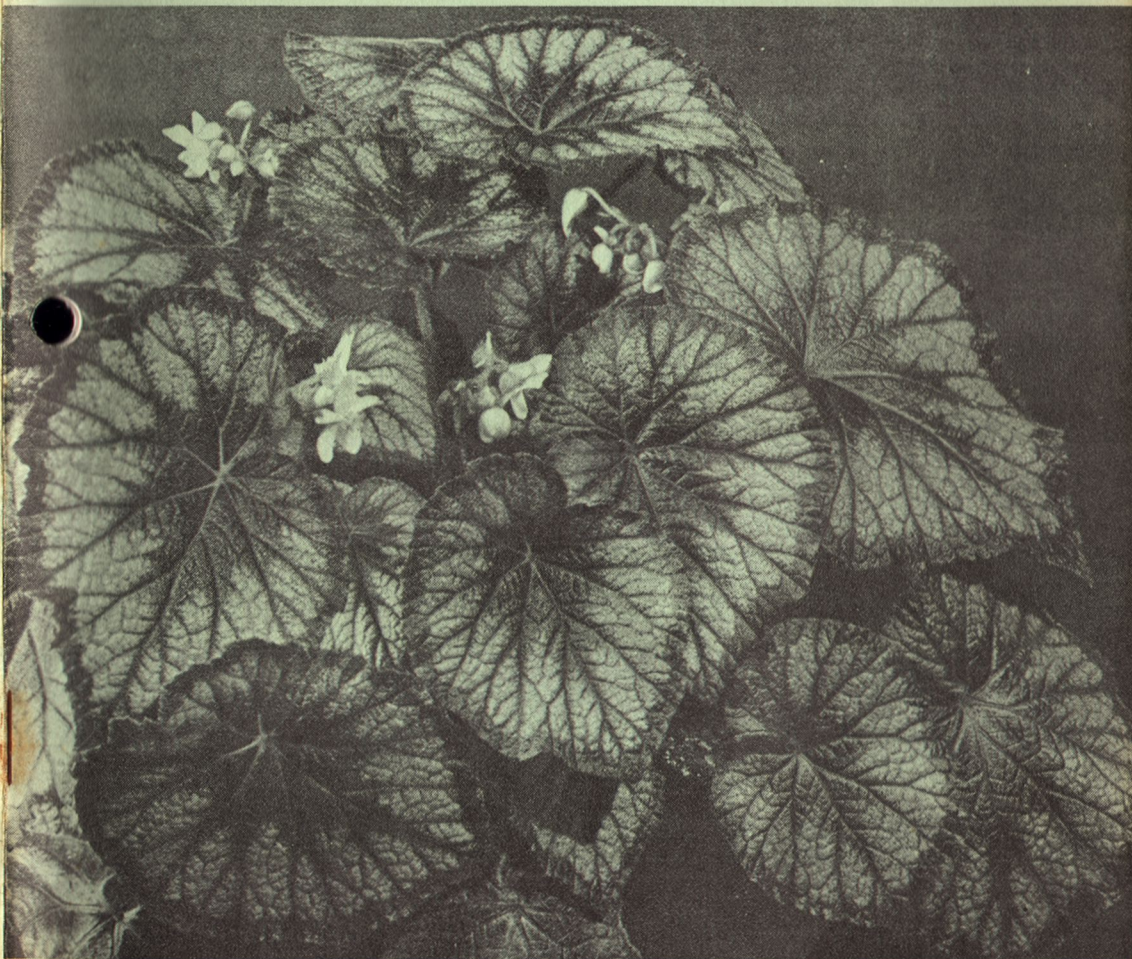
The BEGONIAN



MAY, 1971

Devoted to the Sheltered Garden

VOL. 38 NO. 5



Begonia 'Silver Firecolor'

Photo by Gene Daniels, Black Starr

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

ADDENDUM

In the article describing *Begonia corzoensis* Zies. in the March 1971 *The Begonian*, the author inadvertently deleted the following: "The type specimen of *Begonia corzoensis* Zies. is MacDougall Number C.170, collected near El Edan at 300 foot altitude on the north slope of Sierra Madre, Ville Corzo, Chiapas, Mexico, October 22, 1954. The type specimen is in the herbarium of Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103."

Rudolf Ziesenhenné
Nomenclature Director

BOOK REVIEW

So much interest has been evidenced lately in growing *Begonias* in glass containers or terrariums that a new book *Gardens in Glass Containers* by Robert C. Baur might make an excellent source for reference as to planting mediums, tools, suitable plant material, sources for plants etc. Any good book store should have the book or can order it for you. Check your local Public Library, they may have it on their shelves.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with a great sense of loss that the Buxton Branch announces the recent death of Percy I. Merry. The Merrys have been part of the world of *Begonias* for many years and have always been contributors. We know that many of you are still growing Percy Merry's introductions. Among them are B. 'Beatrice Had-drell', B. 'Needham', B. 'Illsley' and B. 'Kingsbury'. Percy Merry was a photographer by vocation and a plantsman by avocation. His passing will leave a void in the many plant societies to which he contributed so richly.

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Silver Firecolor' is a specimen plant of a new hybrid by Harold Howard which is a cross of B. 'Curly Fireflush' x *B. versicolor*.

POEM

The sweetest bird builds near the ground.
The loveliest flower springs low;
And we must stoop for happiness
If we its worth would know.

CHARLES SWAIN

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*.

ENZYMES

by Thelma O'Reilly, *Research Committee*

Harold Howard, who is known in Southern California as a grower of magnificent *Begonias*, is Research Director for the Westchester Branch of the American Begonia Society. Because of his health, he retired from business over six years ago. His wife, Edie, who grew and loved plants, decided growing a few of her African Violets would be just the hobby to keep him busy.

Mr. Howard is a perfectionist, welcoming the challenge of impossible tasks. He decided if he was going to grow plants, they must be healthy. In his opinion, a healthy plant is a properly fed plant. So, plant food became the necessary factor in his new hobby. He decided on the enzyme program to be different from most growers who use humus.

Mr. Howard was motivated by "The Spark of Life" by John H. Tobe. Mr. Tobe says "Enzymes are the prime movers and motivators of every natural, normal function on the face of the earth. Every living thing on earth contains or is motivated by enzymes."

An orchid plant was purchased for his first experiment in enzymes. Enzyme feeding caused the eyes in back of the flower stem to produce plants during and after bloom. That was it! An unexpected windfall of avocados, intended for salad, ended up as enzymes for plant food. A workshop was built and he proceeded to make his first kind of enzymes. Many different plants were fed and they loved it, especially the *Begonias*. Mrs. Howard provided

encouragement and set up a complete and accurate record system on this fabulous project.

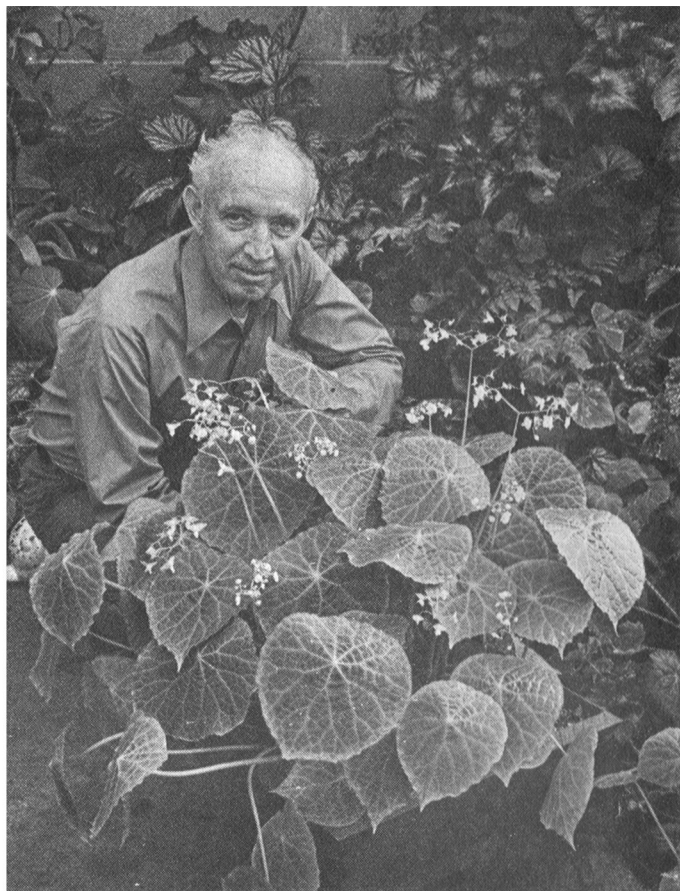
The plants responded so well to avocado enzymes that Mr. Howard was encouraged to experiment with other kinds. Today he is feeding 32 different enzymes to his plants. The latest are *Begonia* enzymes. Mr. Howard said "Enzyme food for plants is a natural process using life giving raw material, some water, a little yeast to start the process, and warmth to encourage fermentation. The sugar, starches, and other matter are converted by enzymes actions into life giving food for the plants. Enzymes are unstable substances and are easily destroyed or inactivated by high temperatures or by a great range of chemical substances. When you eat anything cooked, the enzymes are dead.

"Photosynthesis is regarded as the most important chemical reaction in the world because it returns oxygen to the air as well as manufacturing and storing food with life giving enzymes. Only green plants have the ability to capture the energy in sunlight and use it in the manufacture of food. Enzymes are a chemical ferment whose catalytic action is necessary for the transformation of plant and animal substances. If we feed our *Begonias* chemical food, those little enzymes in the leaves are busy chewing up this substance and they get so tired with no help from raw material enzymes, the plants look weak and their color is bad. Plants should have organic food and some raw

food for enzymes. Then you will see that your plants are healthier, show better color, and grow larger”.

Interesting facts that Mr. Howard has observed are that certain enzymes are more effective on certain plants and one must find which one the plant likes. Each enzyme has a different reaction. Different types of *Begonias* like different enzymes. Some *Begonias* normally have only female flowers and will produce male flowers after being fed enzymes. An illustration is *B. 'Fireflush'* syn. 'Bettina Rothschild'. For many

years, there has been controversy concerning the status of this *Begonia*. Is it a species or a hybrid? Many growers have tried to pollinate this plant for years with no positive records of success because the plant does not normally produce male blooms and the female blooms have consistently proven to be sterile. Mr. Howard succeeded selfing an enzyme fed 'Curly Fireflush' which produced a batch of seedlings identical to the parent plant, supporting the belief that it probably is a species. For further proof, Mr. Howard plans to test the seedlings



Harold Howard in garden with his hybrid named *B. 'SuGoGo'* which is a cross of *B. sudjanae* x *gogoensis*.

Photo by Gene Daniels, Black Starr

of selfed 'Curly Fireflush' when they bloom by selfing them.

The Howard's *Begonia* seedlings and plants requiring warmth and humidity thrive in a glasshouse. Others live in a large Fiberglass house of unique design. Visitors to this garden wonderland are reluctant to leave the warmth and friendliness of the Howards and their handsome, healthy, happy *Begonias*.

To be continued

The next installment will give the procedure for making enzymes, effect on some *Begonias* and a progress report on the Westchester Branch's enzyme project.

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

Note: The American Begonia Society is the International Registration Authority for the genus *Begonia*. See "How to Register Begonias", December 1967, p. 266 and "Nomenclature News", August 1968, p. 157. For information contact Rudolf Ziesenhenné, ABS *Nomenclature Director*, 1130 N. Milpas Street, Santa Barbara, California 93103.

No. 274 — *Begonia* ('Norah Bedson' x 'Clifton') 'English Knight'

A plain leaved rhizomatous *Begonia*, black on upper surface, dark red on reverse; originated by M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England, in 1964; bloomed first in 1965. Leaves, which tend to turn green if given too much light, are oblique, cordate, acuminate, $3\frac{3}{4}$ x $2\frac{3}{4}$ inch, margin fimbriate, texture thin, upper surface glabrous; veins average 7, translucent; petioles flecked red, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, $1/10$ inch wide at base; stipules $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, tip acute, browning early. Flowers resemble 'Norah Bedson', blooms January to April. Available from M. J. Kartuz, propagator, Wilmington, Mass. Registered November 10, 1970.

No. 275 — *Begonia* ('Scottish Star' x 'Zip') 'Red Spot'

A plain leaved rhizomatous *Begonia* with an uneven, slightly wavy, dark brown margin, leaf oblique, cordate, acuminate, 4 inch x $2\frac{7}{8}$. Developed by M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England in 1969; first bloomed in 1970. Leaf texture thin, veins average 7, slightly depressed; petioles red and flecked, 8 inch long x $1/8$ wide at base; stipules $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, tip acute, browning early;

flowers pink, slightly larger than 'Norah Bedson'; flower stem 12 inches long, blooming season January to April. Registered November 10, 1970.

No. 276 — *Begonia* ('Scottish Star' x 'Zip') 'Red Spider'

Green, plain leaved rhizomatous *Begonia* with a red spot at sinus and red veins which are slightly depressed. Leaf shape oblique, cordate, acuminate, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch x $2\frac{7}{8}$ inch, uneven, slightly wavy margin, thin textured; petioles red and flecked, 7 inches long, $1/8$ inch wide at base; stipules $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide, tip acute, browning early. Flowers pink, slightly larger than 'Norah Bedson' on 11 inch stems, blooming January to April. First bloomed in 1970. Originated by M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England in 1969. Registered November 10, 1970.

No. 277 — *Begonia* ('Cleopatra' x 'Tracery') 'Scottish Star'

M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England, originated B. 'Scottish Star' in 1966 and it first bloomed in 1967. A star-leaved rhizomatous *Begonia*, very deeply cut and very hairy; the leaves are brownish green, oblique, pedately lobed, acuminate, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch x $2\frac{1}{2}$ inch, sparsely serrate, thin textured, with an average of five even veins; petioles are red flecked, hairy, $4\frac{1}{4}$ long, $\frac{1}{4}$ inches at base; stipules are $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, acuminate, browning early. Flowers pink, resembling those of B. 'Norah Bedson' but twice as large; flower stem 8 to 10 inches, blooming January to April. Registered November 25, 1970.

No. 278 — *Begonia* ('Norah Bedson' x 'Clifton') 'Tracery'

Distinctive for the spider-web black tracery pattern on green leaves. This plain leaved rhizomatous *Begonia* was developed in 1964 and first bloomed in 1965 by M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England. The leaves are oblique, cordate, acuminate, 2½ inch by 1¾; margin slightly serrate and wavy with a thin texture; veins even averaging 7; petioles red flecked, 5 inches long, 1/8 inch wide at base; stipules ½ inch long, ¼ wide, tip acute, browning early; flowers pink like 'Norah Bedson' in shape, form, position and arrangement; blooming January to April on 8 to 9 inch stems. Registered November 25, 1970.

No. 279 — *Begonia* ('Norah Bedson' x 'Clifton') 'Jodrell Bank'

A reddish-brown pattern on pale green leaves characterizes this plain-leaved rhizomatous *Begonia* originated by M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England. Leaves oblique, cordate, acuminate, 2¾ inch x 2 inch, leaf margin uneven, slightly wavy, thin textured, about 7 even veins; petioles red flecked, 4 inches long, 1/8 inch wide at the base; stipules ½ inch long, ¼ inch wide, tip acute, browning early. The 5 to 6 inch stems bear pink flowers resembling 'Norah Bedson' from January to April. Registered November 25, 1970.

No. 280 — *Begonia* ('Norah Bedson' x 'Clifton') 'Many Colours'

M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England, originated this rhizomatous, plain leaved *Begonia* which seldom has two leaves alike but has shades of green, brown and

red. Leaves oblique, cordate, acuminate, 3¼ by 2¼ inch, uneven; margin slightly wavy, thin textured, veins slightly depressed, average 7; petioles red flecked, 3½ inch long, 1/8 inch wide at base; stipules ½ inch long, ¼ inch wide, acuminate browning early. Pink flowers like 'Norah Bedson', borne on 6 inch stems in January to April. Developed in 1964; first bloomed 1965. Registered November 25, 1970.

No. 281 — *Begonia* ('Jodrell Bank' x 'Scottish Star') 'Black Watch'

Black-leaved with dark red reverse and very outstandingly depressed pale green veins. This star rhizomatous *Begonia*, developed in 1969 by M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England and first bloomed with pink flowers like those of B. 'Norah Bedson' but slightly larger, on 9 to 10 inch flower stems from January to April 1970. Leaves moderately star-shaped, 4¼ x 5 inches, margins indented and slightly wavy with thin texture; petioles red flecked, 8 inches long, 1/8 inch wide at base; stipules ½ inch x ¼, tip acute browning early. Registered November 25, 1970.

No. 282 — *Begonia* (*bowerae* var. *nigramarga* x 'Zip') 'Sun God'

An almost black leaf, red on reverse with a red spot at the sinus distinguishes this plain leaved rhizomatous *Begonia* developed in 1969 and first bloomed in 1970 for the originator, M. L. MacIntyre, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, England. Leaves oblique, cordate, acuminate, 4 inch x 2½ inch, slightly wavy, margin uneven, thin textured, veins slightly depressed, averaging 7; petioles reddish, flecked dark red, 7 inches long,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 115)

BEGONIA BASICS

for Beginners

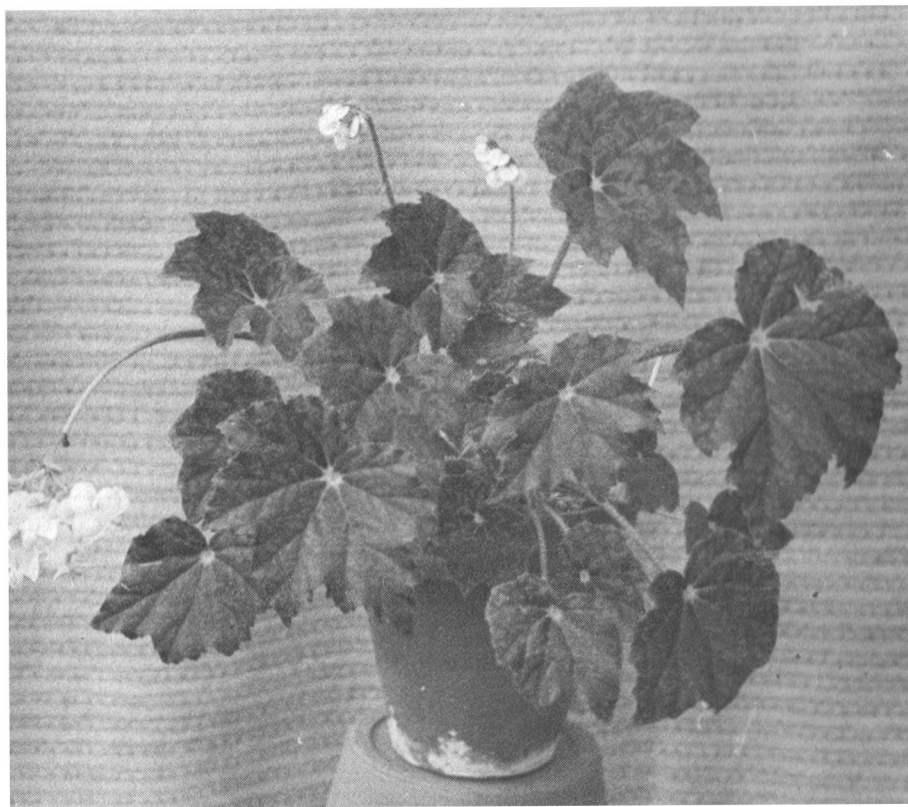
by Elda Haring, Greenwich, Connecticut

WATERING

All *Begonias* growing in pots need some degree of moisture in the growing medium at all times and should never be allowed to become completely dry. The only exception to this rule would apply to those plants which have a period of dormancy, such as the semi-tuberous *B. sutherlandii*, when stems and leaves fall off naturally and the plant shows no growth for several months. Even in such a case, a little water must be applied at long intervals to keep the semi-tuber plump and in good condition. Toward the end of the winter when days are becoming brighter, plants in this category should start receiving adequate water when new sprouts are showing. Other *Begonias* such as some rhizomatous types like to rest in the fall and winter, losing some of their leaves and stems but not going completely dormant and these as a rule need less water than during the growing season. All *Begonias* when showing new leaves or shoots or growing vigorously should never be allowed to dry out to the point of wilting. While a plant does recover from such treatment, permitting it to dry out to such an extent time after time will result in the loss of the plant. Many varieties and species of *Begonias* like the rexes need constant moisture at the roots but must not be kept soggy. Some cultivars such as the recent introductions of Thelma O'Reilly, *Begonias* 'Universe', 'Aquarius', 'Aries' and 'Nep-tune' and the Sylvia Leatherman

miniatures B. 'Winkum' and 'Blinkum' (which I obtained from my friend Mary Ellen Ross of Merry Gardens this winter while in Florida) can take adverse conditions without harm. In experimenting with these plants over a period of four months, I found that they could become very dry without showing signs of wilting and yet, on occasion, have been kept very moist for several weeks without obvious damage to the plant. In my opinion, the beginner should not attempt to grow difficult ones like *cathayana* for instance, until he has become experienced enough to recognize danger signs.

Generally speaking, it is not possible to water plants on a regular schedule and it would be impossible for me to set forth such a schedule for conditions vary from one location to another. Plants grown under cool conditions (50 to 70 degrees) will not need as much water as those grown in a warm place, say at 75 to 80 degrees. Plants whose pots are filled with roots will need more moisture than newly potted plants. On sunny days the soil in the pots will dry out quickly and conversely, if days are dark and humid, the soil may not dry out at all. You must constantly observe your plants and take care of their needs in a timely fashion. Dark soils often appear moist when in effect they are quite dry. Potting mixes vary greatly all over the country and some are more moisture retentive than others. If possible, check the soil in the top of your pots daily and if it seems dry



'Universe' grown by Eunice Claggett

Photo by Walter Haring

to the touch, the chances are that water is needed. If the plant wilts drastically, the root ball has been allowed to become too dry. Place in a tub or large container of water deep enough to allow water to flow over the top of the pot. If the rootball is dry, bubbles will rise to the surface. Wait until the bubbling has stopped, then drain and do not water again until the soil in the top of the pot is approaching dryness. Although the space at the top of the pot generally hold enough water to soak the rootball, a large plant may need 2 or 3 waterings before the soil is thoroughly moist throughout the pot. If, however, water stands in dish or saucer more than

15 minutes it should be promptly emptied for waterlogged roots will sour and rot. If you are not using saucers under your pots, make sure the pot retains enough water for good growth, usually the pot will feel light if the soil mix is too dry.

Beginners must exercise great care to give their plants adequate moisture. My own method is to give a thorough watering and then not water again until I see the top of the mix becoming dry. The condition of the plant itself is a good indication of its needs. When there is adequate moisture stems are turgid and leaves are crisp. If they begin to look at all droopy they are indicating a need for moisture.

TIPS — TECHNIQUES — IDEAS

by Helen Matsubu, *Fruitland, Idaho*

Many of these tips, techniques and ideas you will have already used but for some beginners, they may come in handy as reference material.

Seedlings: (1)

A tip for seed growers would be to use Chuck Tagg's bent tipped fountain pen for removing or pricking large seedlings out of a bunch. If they are too tightly bunched together one might try to immerse the whole bunch into warm water for awhile, then the plantlets should be easier to separate.

Flats for seedlings: (2)

Styrofoam egg cartons make very good little flats for seedlings. Holes punched into the bottom with any pointed object will make it possible for bottom watering, which is better for seedlings than trying to drown them from the top.

Stem cuttings: (3)

How long should the petioles be? It doesn't seem to matter if the petioles are long or short. For me, each seems to root the same. A petiole with a heel or part of the rhizome seems to keep in better shape as it roots. If you have a large overgrown plant that might need to be cut up, you might try a petiole with a heel. It doesn't seem to matter into what rooting medium you put them. Although I have found the finer and smaller grain the rooting mediums, the better the root system. I've tried the large grains of vermiculite and some cuttings never did root which leads me to think that petiole cuttings need

closeness to the rooting medium in order to start rooting action, although the cuttings themselves have a built in rooting system of their own with the right conditions.

Terrariums: (4)

Here is an idea you might like to try. Many times we enjoy watching little seedlings grow or to watch the many miniatures grow. Why not in combination with other shade loving plants? Here is a way a terrarium can be fixed for under the lights or a place with good light. Terrariums are lots of fun and need less care than one thinks. The one thing that seems to kill them off the fastest is T L C along with too much water. They keep in good condition for many days, weeks and months with very little care. Since one looks at them most everyday to see how they are doing, that's about the only care they need.

If you have any good tips, techniques and ideas to share, let me hear from you. Write to me at Rt. 1, Box 120, Fruitland, Idaho 83619.



AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY BOOKLETS

Point Scoring System for Judging
Begonias \$1.25

A Suggested Guide to Classification
of Begonias for Show Purposes \$1.50

ORDER FROM: Ruth Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90045

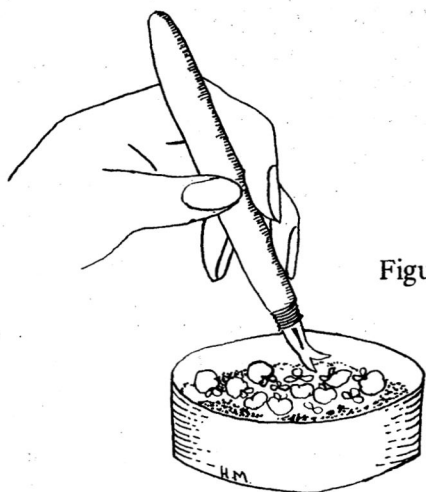


Figure 1.

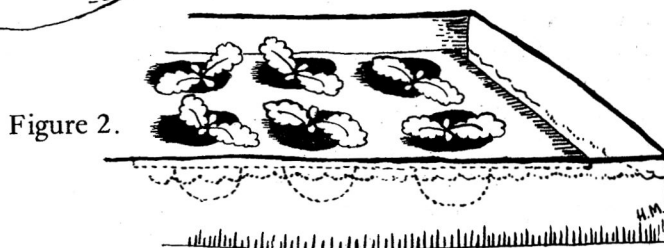


Figure 2.



Figure 3.

Figure 4.



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

"Begonias from Seed — Sowing and Growing" gives step-by-step easy to follow instructions and encouragement for beginning seed growers. Price 25¢

No. 1 — *B. piresiana* Handro

Was published in *Loefgrenia* No. 14, pages 1 & 2, March 1964 in Sao Paula, Brazil. Bushy plant to 2 ft. tall; stem thick and fleshy; whitish or reddish hairy. Stipules large; leaves thick and fleshy, covered with yellowish-reddish, velvet-like short hairs; leaves $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide. Leaf irregularly obscurely oval, oblong, ovate, oblong to inverted egg-shaped oblong (leaves appear to be irregularly shaped and not uniform), 7-9 palmately nerved with a short abrupt point. Cyme of dense flowers, white. The interesting and important part of this *Begonia* is that the entire plant and all the stems and back of sepals have the yellow-reddish velvet-like hairs. New and choice. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 2 — *B. circumlobata* — China

"Lobed all around". Leaves like a Chinese umbrella, but cut deeply to the stem end. Fairly fast grower, do not allow it to become pot bound. Do not overwater, grows drier than most. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 3 — *B. viscida* Zies.

Distinctive new species from Mexico. Upright, hairy and dioecious (male and female flowers on different plants). Leaves are 6 x 4 inches, golden green, sparsely scattered with silver spots; covered with short bristly hairs on upper surface. Lovely pale green flowers. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 4 — *B. bradei* — Brazil

Stems and both surfaces hairy, covered like a dense velvety carpet.

Underside of leaves vividly crimson, green above. Flowers large and white; crimson hairs on outside of petals. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

No. 5 — *B. olsoniae* — Syn. *B. vellozoana* — Brazil

Herbaceous, 8 to 12 inches tall; stems short, oblique, up to $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; rooting at the stipules; leaves oblique, broadly ovate subauricular, cordate, with a closed basal sinus. Palmately 8 nerved, to 4-5 inches broad, hispid-pilose on both surfaces with frimbriate scales on nerves beneath; green above with a whitish zone on the veins, paler below and occasionally reddish. Flowers are whitish, sometimes the outer rosy. Considered one of the most beautiful *Begonias* in cultivation. Price \$1.00 per pkt.

B. sc Semperflorens continued:

There has been such a good response to our offer of this popular *Begonia* and in response to overwhelming demand, we offer the following versatile plants, easily flowered, for beds, borders or greenhouses. Can be grown in sun or partial shade for a beautiful display over a long period.

B. sc 'Scarletta'

Bright scarlet red. Best for vivid color and compact growth. All plants bloom at once and freely. Price 50¢ per pkt.

B. sc 'Pink Profusion'

Light pink and good for border or in pots. Green foliage, intermediate growth. Price 50¢ per pkt.

B. sc 'Othello'

Intermediate with bronze foliage. Flowers, scarlet-orange. Showy anywhere. Price 50¢ per pkt.

Greenhouse plants:

Asparagus falcatus (Asparagus fern)

Deep green, wide leaves; does not grow fast. For hanging baskets or pots. Young plants resemble a *Pteris* fern. Sow in spring in 60 degree house. Slow to germinate, after becoming established feed with high nitrogen plant food at frequent intervals. Price 50¢ per pkt.

Adiantum 'Ocean Spray'

A special sturdy strain easily grown from spores. Price 50¢ per pkt.

Kohleria eriantha — *Gesneriaceae*

Erect soft hairy species from scaly rhizomes with deep green, ovate, toothed leaves; conspicuous border of reddish hairs; orange-red corolla, tubes widening toward the throat which is pale yellow and marked blood red. Price 50¢ per pkt.

Aechmea fasciata — *Bromeliaceae*

Medium growth; blue and pink; olive-green, silver banded leaf; grows in shape of vase. Diffused light. Price 50¢ per pkt.

Aechmea chantinii — *Bromeliaceae*

Flowers red, yellow. Leaf green, banded silver; vase shaped; grow in partial light. Price 50¢ per pkt.

Aechmea chantinii 'Pink Goddess' — *Bromeliaceae*

Variation of above. Price 50¢ per pkt.

Amaryllis Hybrids

Seed treated to produce mutation. Female plant a very large white crossed with a large red hybrid. Price 50¢ per pkt.

Send request for seed to:

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

WE GET LETTERS

Dear Editor:

The article by Yvonne Wells of Mesquite, Texas interested me because it is a plant from Harbor, Oregon that appears to be the granddaddy of all the *B. versicolors* in the United States. At the time we visited the "Woodruffs", all they told us about it was that it had come from Yunan Province in China before the communist took over. You might say on the last slow boat from the orient. Whoever brought it over had some seeds and 2 plants and asked Mr. Woodruff which he wanted. He took the plants. When we were there in 1954 he had put down thousands of wedges in his greenhouses by the sea and had just sold a shipment to a famous nursery in California. They were considered something really unique and special, but the sad story was that it was not known that what they needed was more humidity than is in our atmosphere. This is why they had survived the ocean voyage.

As I wrote in the August, 1961 "Begonian", when I gave it a glass cover, it responded, so I transplanted it to a glass jar. I grew it in the glass jar for 5 years before it started "going down". At one time I only had one leaf left but found out they are easily propagated and have become very popular as a terrarium plant. They do not grow too large and are easy to grow if given the right conditions.

Leslie Woodruff hybridized this plant with another and we saw it at the time we visited his nursery. However, it did not have nearly the charm of the little "Fairy Carpet" that seemed to thrive near the ocean in Oregon.

Mrs. Wilma Blough.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Spring is here and *Begonias* are really doing "their thing" and summer is not far away.

Mix:

Bee Gueldner of Ponchatoula, La. uses a mix of milled sphagnum and Jiffy mix for planting *Begonia* seeds and has had good germination. For over a year she has used Jiffy 7's for rooting cuttings. She puts about ½ inch of the insides of Jiffy 7's on top of her mix of sphagnum and Jiffy mix. She finds that it is a lighter, fluffier mix for the tiny roots than straight Jiffy 7's.

Hybridizing:

Yvonne Wells of Mesquite, Texas is watching seedlings of her own cross of B. 'Joe Haydon Jr.' x *B. manicata aureo maculata crispa*. They are getting maroon splotches in the leaves instead of yellow splotches.

A letter was received wanting a source of Leslie Woodruff's hybrids: B. 'Pink Fairy', 'Yellow Sweet', 'Orange Sweet', 'Wild Rose' and 'Patty Sweet'. If any of our readers have these *Begonias* or know where they can be obtained, please write to the R.R. Director.

B. rajah:

Mae Blanton of Mesquite, Texas reported that about two weeks after the last male blossom fell from her *B. rajah*, the first female blossom showed on the same stem. She could hardly believe it as it was so tiny and seemed to come from nowhere. Mae has been experimenting with the storing of pollen and had stored pollen earlier from male

blossoms of this same *Begonia*. She checked one pollen flower that had been stored for a month and it had pollen to fly. The selfing took place immediately and the seed pod was still developing nicely in mid March. At that time another bloom stem was growing on — seems to be one for each leaf on that particular rhizome. There is another plantlet which is just as large as the blooming one but no buds on it. The original leaf is still there and still vigorous. Mae rooted the leaf in green sphagnum which had started growing and she strongly suspects that the green sphagnum contributed to the rapid growth.

B. socotrana:

Mae has been growing this *Begonia*, which many consider difficult, in a bowl in her home. It started putting out bulbils at the lower leaf nodes (Mae thinks the humidity of the bowl caused this). Some of the bulbils are as big as a small garden pea, quite fuzzy too. Mae figured it was getting ready to go dormant so was unprepared for the surprise of buds on one of the larger plants. The first male blossom was beginning to open in March so she was hoping it would have pollen.

Fragrance:

Flossie Smith of Schenevus, New York asks "Why didn't someone tell me that B. 'Sophie Cecile' was fragrant"? She kept smelling something and finally realized that it was coming from this plant. She had heard in Robins that many considered B. 'Sophie Cecile' sterile but had a seed pod that she had selfed hang-

ing and looking like it was going to develope.

Flossie had a B. 'Sir Percy' that stayed so small and refused to grow so she set it inside a large glass pitcher. She covered it with a plastic bag and it soon filled the pitcher; now she is looking for a bigger place for it.

Rex:

Vera Melvin of Salina, Kansas reports that she picks the bloom from her rex *Begonias*. She feels the plant loses too much strength from the bloom. Vera propagates so many from leaf sections and feels it does not weaken or hurt the plant if it is done with care. Vera thinks it will help grow a more bushy compact plant. Her rex show no sign of going dormant and many are going on two years old. She always keeps a duplicate plant for replacement in her stock plants in case she loses the original.

Miniatures:

The members of the flight on "Growing Miniature *Begonias*" are sharing cuts and plants to be sure they are writing about the same *Begonia*. They are keeping their lists up to date by crossing off those that get too big. There is much discussion going on as to whether to include those *Begonias* with small leaves but long stems (mainly basket *Begonias* that can be pruned to keep in a small space). Most members feel these should be in a catagory to themselves but no definate decision has been made. Many *Begonia* names have been added to the original list. There is much more growing, comparing of plants, etc. that must be done before our miniature *Begonia* list can be considered accurate and

complete.

If you want to be a part of these interesting and informative flights, write to:

Mrs. Anita Sickmon
Round Robins Director
Route 2, Box 99
Cheney, Kansas 67025

CORRESPONDENCE WANTED

A blind *Begonia* fan who grows *Begonias* and writes by "feeling" would like to receive letters from other *Begonia* fans in the Society. She has a "reader" and would like to hear from other members. Write to: Mrs. P. C. Thurmon, 226 E. Main Street, Homer, Louisiana 71040.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 107)

1/8 inch wide at base; stipules 1/2 inch long, 1/4 inch wide, tip acute, browning early. Pink flowers resembling 'Norah Bedson' appear on 12 inch stems from January to May. Registered November 25, 1970.



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NOMINATIONS FOR ABS AWARDS

Branch members and members at large — it's that time of year the Awards Committee would like you to take notice of the rules for the Awards presented each year at the National Convention and Show.

This year a booklet has been published, Rules for Awards of the American Begonia Society. This will be sent to the Secretaries of all Branches and any member may have one by writing to the Chairman of Awards.

Any member may send in their nomination for the awards to the Chairman or to any member of the committee whose names and addresses are as follows:

Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass, Chairman
265 N. Walnut Drive, Ventura, Ca. 93003

Mrs. Carrie Karegeannes
3916 Lake Blvd., Annandale, Virginia 22003

Mrs. Margaret Lee
1852 31st St., San Diego, Ca. 92102

Mr. Herb Warrick
6543 26th Ave. N. E., Seattle, Wash. 98115

Mrs. Ruthann Williams
2160 Stacia Way, Sacramento, Ca. 95822

Mr. Walter Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, Ca. 90045

Mr. Rudolf Ziesenhenn
1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93103

July 1st is the deadline for sending in your nominations. DO IT NOW!

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD

This Award may be presented to a person for one of two reasons:

1. For contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing good will and harmony among our members.

2. For contributing original material (other than *Begonias*) toward helping our rank and file members in furthering their study of *Begonias*.

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN AWARD FOR SERVICE

To be eligible for this Award a person must have rendered long-

time or very outstanding service above and beyond that usually expected of a member or officer of the American Begonia Society.

Each nomination for the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award and/or the Herbert P. Dyckman Service Award must be accompanied by a list of specific reasons as to why the nominee is deemed worthy to receive one of these Awards.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON AWARD

The following rules should be considered when making a nomination:

1. All *Begonia* nominees must have been registered with the ABS Nomenclature Director.

2. The originator of the *Begonia* nominee, amateur or commercial, must be a member of the ABS.

3. The *Begonia* nominee must have been released to the public for at least five years, but not more than ten years prior to nomination.

AWARD FOR CULTURE

1. A request for the number of Certificates needed, along with the classification to which they will be awarded, should be sent to the Awards Chairman.

2. The plant must be judged by accredited ABS Judges and have obtained a rating of 90 or more points, according to the American Begonia Society Point Scoring System for Judging Begonias.

3. One Certificate may be awarded for each individual Begonia Division listed in the ABS Show Schedule, i.e. Cane-like, Thick-stemmed, Shrub-like, etc. These awards are for single plant entries only and are not intended for collections, photographic entries, sweepstakes, etc.

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD

Recipients:

Mrs. Bessie Buxton

1955

Mrs. Charlotte Hoak	1956
Miss Constance Bower	1957
Mrs. Alice Clark	1958
Mr. Rudy Ziesenhenn	1959
Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger	1960
Mrs. Helen K. Krauss	1961
Mr. Bert Slatter	1962
Mrs. Bernice Brilmayer	1962
Dr. Clyde Drummond	1963
No Award	1964
Mrs. Mary Gillingswaters	1965
Mrs. May Taft Drew	1966
Mrs. Sylvia Leatherman	1967
Dr. Lyman B. Smith & Bernice G. Schubert	1968
Mr. Harry M. Butterfield	1969
Mrs. Ruth Pease	1970

HERBERT P. DYCKMAN SERVICE AWARD

Recipients:

Mrs. Florence Gee	1968
Mr. Herb Warrick	1968
Mrs. Alva Graham	1969
Mrs. Edna Korts	1969
No Award	1970

A. D. ROBINSON AWARD

Begonias:

'Silver Star'	
'Feddie'	
'Golden West'	1949
'Ricky Minter'	1950
'Glendale'	1950
'Virbob'	1951
'Orange Rubra'	1954
'Verde Grande'	1957
'Kumwha'	1961
'Madame Queen'	1964
'Sophie Cecile'	1966
'Purple Petticoats'	1968
'Lady Frances Jean'	1969

Mrs. Hazel Snodgrass
Chairman, Awards Committee

TERRARIUMS FOR BEGONIAS

by Mae Blanton, *Mesquite, Texas*

Many *Begonias* are grown more easily in the humid protection of a terrarium. With some species it is almost a must for their successful cultivation unless the grower has a very carefully controlled greenhouse or conservatory. Terrariums for *Begonias* are becoming more popular as the apartment dwellers, window sill growers and "under lights" enthusiasts learn of their ease of maintenance. Added to this, they are becoming a popular art form for the expression of creativity inherent in

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 118)

PHOTO DIVISION OF THE SHOW SCHEDULE

The show schedule for the ABS 1971 Begonia Show will have six classes in two divisions for photographs.

A division for photographs of *Begonias* will include the following classes open to anyone residing outside a 100 mile radius of the show.

1. Black and white print
2. Color print
3. Color slide

The second division will be for photographs of Branch Garden Displays and Education Exhibits open to Branches outside a 100 mile radius of the show. Prints 5"x7" or 8"x10".

1. Black and white prints
2. Color prints
3. Color slides

Each photograph should have the name of the plant or plants (spelled correctly and printed legibly) on the back of the print followed by the name and address of the exhibitor. Slides should be placed in an envelope (one slide per envelope) with this same information enclosed on a separate piece of paper.

A self addressed stamped envelope must be enclosed if you want your pictures returned. Pictures which are not returned will be used in the Historian's Book, *The Begonian* or the Slide Library.

Photo entries must be received by August 15, 1971. Mail your entries or questions to:

Mrs. Irene Grannell
1431 Coronado Terrace
Los Angeles, Calif. 90026

A subscription to "The Begonian" would make a nice Birthday gift or a Gift for any occasion.

most of us. They are the ideal gift for a hospital patient, an aged shut-in or a bedfast child. Aside from their minimum care requirements, they are a great conversation piece when visitors drop in to visit them and a source of pleasure during their quiet hours.

Types of Terrariums:

1. *Begonias* in pots set on moist media of some sort, inside a clear container of glass or plastic, covered or uncovered.
2. *Begonias* planted in sterile media (such as long fibered sphagnum moss) in closed or open container.
3. *Begonias* planted directly in potting mix in the terrarium, grown alone or with companion plants in a landscaped design.

Containers for Terrariums:

1. Bubble bowls (a bubble glass open at the top, usually hand blown by craftsmen in Mexico).
2. Fish bowls of various sizes and shapes.
3. Widemouthed glass jars of various sizes and shapes. (These can often be obtained free from restaurants or school lunch rooms).
4. Decorative glass containers such as apothecary jars, covered candy dishes, brandy snifters, etc., even antiques!
5. Fish aquariums of various sizes or Wardian cases of similar shape.
6. Clear plastic containers of suitable sizes and shapes.
7. Bottles of suitable sizes and shapes (these required special tools, or improvised substitutes, and skills for handling plants if opening is small).

Covers may be fashioned of many things. Use a little imagination and keep an "eagle-eye" when browsing



A.B.S. LIBRARY BOOKSTORE

The following selection of books are FOR SALE

**Gesneriads And How To Grow Them.* \$7.95
by Peggy Schulz

**Rex Begonias As House Plants* \$1.00
by Virginia Withee

**All About Begonias* \$5.95
by Bernice Brilmayer

**So Say The Experts* \$2.00
by Ruth Pease

Classification Guide Compiled by . . . \$1.25
the Westchester Branch, A.B.S.

**Ferns We Grow* by Sylvia \$3.85
Leatherman and Dorothy Behrends

**Begonias Slanted Toward the* \$3.00
Beginner by Dorothy Behrends

**Platynerium Fern Facts* \$4.95
by Wendy Franks

**The Tuberous Begonia* \$10.80
by Brian Langdon

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(To be continued)

Part one of a continuing series on kind of container, mix, how to plant, watering, *Begonias* suitable for containers and other valuable information on terrariums.

The Begonian

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL BOARD MEETING March 22, 1971

Meeting called to order at the South Gate City Auditorium. After opening ceremonies 13 officers and 9 representatives answered roll call. Minutes of February meeting read and approved as corrected.

REPORTS

Treasurer: Receipts \$1,033.60; disbursements \$1,003.56; balance 3-18-71 \$1,570.17.

Membership Secretary: New members 76; renewals 112; total 2195. Funds received and deposited \$814.02.

Advertising Manager: Receipts \$83.70 unpaid accounts \$47.50.

Business Manager: Insurance Policies paid as authorized.

Judging Course Director: Report read.

Nomenclature Director: Offers of help has been received and progress made on the "Catalog of Begonias". Total in The Publishing Fund \$505.68, including contribution in memory of Elsie M. Frey by the Santa Barbara Branch and \$25.00 by the Inglewood Branch.

Begonia Boat Editor: Glendale Branch and Eastside Branch had sent in bulk subscriptions.

Show Chairman: New division for High School students to be designated the Junior Division in the Show Schedule. Trophies and special ribbons to be awarded to create an interest by young people.

Slide Librarian: Reported \$2.00 received for a slide program.

An invitation to attend the Eastern Convention hosted by the Buxton Branch was read. Motion made to send \$35.00 for a trophy.

Report read from Editor reporting on recommendations of Special Committee, tabled for further study.

Nominating Committee appointed: Cliff Ebeling, Ruth Pease and Cecelia Grivich.

Motion made to enter Fuchsia Show July 9, 10 and 11th.

Following Branch reports, meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Regional Board meeting April 25th in La Mesa at the La Mesa Recreation Center, 8550 La Mesa Blvd.

Respectfully submitted
Irene Grannell, Secy.

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2764 by '72

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All it takes is money, and money means more members. Our new goal is 500 additional members by the end of 1971 2765 by 1972.

We are fortunate to have a very progressive Board this year. The Society is starting an "Ideas for Progress" Committee. Things are happening!

Our membership has remained constant. We gain, we lose, but we stay the same. As Membership Chairman I am trying to find out why, and with the help of "The Ideas for Progress" Committee we intend to change this.

Each Branch will increase its membership by 10 this year. We believe this You believe it too.

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An up-to-date manual detailing how to start a new Branch is being prepared. Every Board member listed on the inside cover of this "Begonian" is ready and eager to assist.

OK! . . . 2764 by '72! . . . Let's Go!

Cliff Ebeling
Membership Secretary

THE

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CALENDAR

May 6 — Westchester Branch 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Mr. W. Cocke, "Epi-phyllums from Seed", with slides.

May 6 — Whittier Branch 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Ruth Pease "Growing and Enjoying all Types of Begonias".

May 14 — San Gabriel Valley Branch 7:45 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Alice Giridlian Gans of Oakhurst Gardens "Orchids and Companion Plants".

May 16 — Long Beach Parent Branch 1:30 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Burnell Yarick, Professor of Botony at Glendale City College, "A Botanist Looks at Begonias".

May 18 — North Long Beach Branch 7 p.m. Pot Luck, Speaker: Rudy Ziesenhenn, "Begonia Culture in General".

May 18 — Seattle Branch 7 p.m. Speaker: Phyllis Wright, "Culture of Non-tuberous Begonias and House Plants".

May 24 — ABS Board 7:30 p.m., South Gate City Auditorium, 4900 Southern Ave., South Gate, Calif. Meetings are always open to members.

June 3 — Whittier Branch 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Muriel Perz, past President of the National Board.

June 3 — Westchester Branch, POT LUCK, 6:30 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Thelma O'Reilly, "Is It New to You".

Visitors are always welcome at these meetings.

VISIT A BRANCH THIS MONTH

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