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

COVER PICTURE

Begonia 'Mish'

If you could use only one adjective to describe a plant, then *sturdy* would be an ideal choice for *Begonia* 'Mish'. Its appearance is sturdy and its performance indicates that it is *not* a plant which requires special handling and guarding. So far all reports indicate that the plant will tolerate normal begonia growing conditions of moderate warmth, bright diffused light and fairly humid atmosphere.

B. 'Mish' has a very thick stem which is classified as upright rhizomatous. The thick leaves are pillowed, with the leaf nerves being depressed. The leaves are dull medium green and bear fine, very short hairs over the entire surface. Because of its upright nature, this plant could well be used in a display with other shorter varieties clustered around its base.

B. 'Mish' is a recent introduction to the scene. It was developed by Rudolf Ziesenhenné and first distributed in 1974. It appeared in the May, 1975 *Begonian* list of new cultivar registrations with the number 444. Mr. Ziesenhenné continued his practice of honoring the native Indian tribe of the Santa Barbara area by naming it with a Chumash word which means "to cry."

The parents of the hybrid were *B.*

kellermanii and *B. carrieae*. *B. kellermanii* is a shrub-like, hairy-leaved felted plant brought from Guatemala in 1919. It very closely resembles *B. incana*. Some sources consider *B. kellermanii* to be synonymous with *B. incana* Lindley which was discovered in 1841 in Mexico. From this species, *B.* 'Mish' appears to have inherited its general shape and its leaf shape, as well as its drooping white blossoms flushed with pink. Like *B. carrieae* the plant is upright and the leaves are pillowed. *B. carrieae* was collected in Mexico.

The plant shown on the cover was grown by Mabel Corwin of Vista, California. She grew it and brought it to bloom in the greenhouse. The blooming period appears to be coincident with the rhizomatous types — late winter to spring. She propagated a second plant from a base cutting of the original, rooted it readily and grew it in the greenhouse. The first plant was moved to the lath house where it continues to thrive.

Photo by Ed Bates.

PUBLICATION NOTICE

All material for publication — articles, notices, photographs — should be sent to the Editor, preferably five weeks before date of publication. Deadline is the first of the month preceding month of publication.

AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

The purpose of this Society shall be:

TO stimulate and promote interest in *Begonia* and other shade-loving plants;

TO encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants;

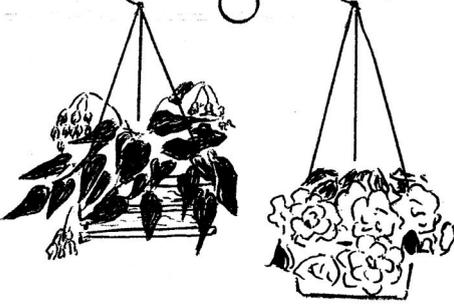
TO standardize the nomenclature of *Begonia*;

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of *Begonia* 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 *Begonia*.

Hang it!



By Tony Borrero, Sacramento, CA
Adapted from the *Begonia Leaf*,
Sacramento Branch newsletter

If you are into flower growing, sooner or later you will transform your dreams of having a greenhouse into a reality.

After this transformation has been completed, a single, sudden thought strikes your mind. You whisper to yourself in silent contemplation: How am I going to fill all this room? You have a sickening feeling in the pit of your stomach of a large, spacious greenhouse area with only one lonely plant placed in the middle of it.

As everyone knows who has ever lived through this nightmare, your unfounded fears evaporate into the thin air as you begin the process of moving in. Shortly thereafter you find that your greenhouse is full, then fuller, then satiated, then overfull.

In a very short time you realize that you miscalculated and built the greenhouse too small. You suddenly have outgrown your greenhouse space. What do you do now? Space which was so plentiful a short time

ago suddenly has become a premium item.

Now you undergo the readjustment process of establishing new priorities. You become more selective, you junk those ratty items and relegate others to the outside environment in order to make more room to continue your collection.

Then, *lo* and *behold*, on a bus tour to the beautiful Victoria Gardens in Palo Alto, you realize that your space problems can be solved by placing your plants in wire baskets and hanging them in tiers. You learn that you can increase your planting area by using hanging baskets to transform your greenhouse, patio area and backyard into instant color masses.

Baskets can be hung from overhangs and tree limbs. Half-baskets can grace fence areas and walls, and "walk-around" flower containers can be hung on constructed frames or wood and metal.

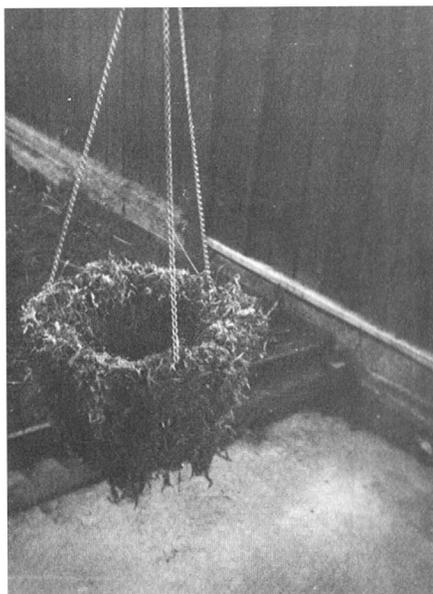
Hanging plants are among the easiest to grow and the most adaptable because they appreciate the warm and fresh air circulation around their containers. The type of basket that is used is a matter of choice and taste, what is available, and good old ingenuity! A container can be any type of vessel that can hold a planting medium to sustain life and be attached to a wire or chain hanger.

A wire basket lined with sphagnum moss and filled with soil makes an excellent container. The moss is light, helps to contain the soil mix, holds moisture and allows the roots to breathe. If you do not have a special planting mix of your own, most any commercial mix can be used. It should be rich in organic

matter, light and porous and slightly acid or neutral. Moisten the mix so it is ready to use when the basket is ready to be planted.

The first step in making a wire basket is to soak the moss in water until it is *thoroughly* wet. Then wring dry by hand, and line the basket bit by bit to make a 2 inch thick lining over the entire basket frame. Some wire baskets and even plastic baskets have round bottoms. This creates a wobbly situation unless taken care of. This is easily done by placing the basket in a squatty pot (fern pot — wide, but shallow) large enough to support the basket. The work then becomes quite simple.

Make a rim around the top by stuffing the moss between the top wire and the first one below it. Pack the moss in a horizontal fashion in a firm and tight maner so that it will stay in place. This procedure provides a nice firm rim that holds the soil from washing out of the basket.

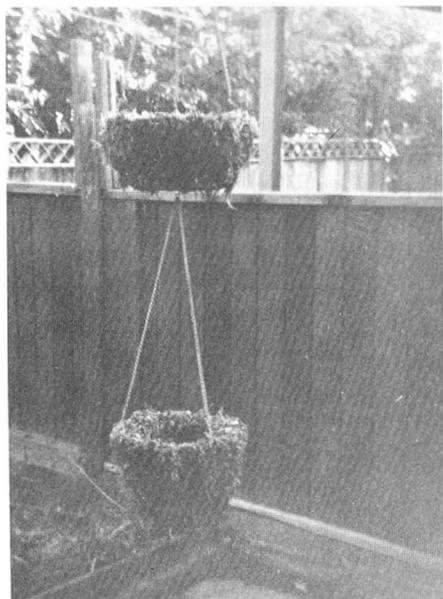


It also provides an effective watering well.

After the basket is lined, set it aside in the shade for a few days so it can dry out. Give the basket a haircut, by trimming the ragged edges with garden shears. This gives a nicely finished touch.

Now the basket is ready to be planted. It may be necessary to re-moisten the liner to make it easier to work. Start 3 inches from the bottom of the basket and insert the plants from the side. The wires can be spread apart and a hole made in the moss. Be sure the roots extend all the way through the moss to reach the wet plant mix. After the plant is positioned the moss hole can be plugged with wet moss to keep the soil from washing out. Build the soil up inside the basket as the plants are inserted. Leave the 2 inches for watering at the top. Water the plants with a solution of vitamin B-1 to re-

(Continued on Page 57)



BEGONIA BASICS

By Evelyn Cronin, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

Editor's note:

Evelyn Cronin presented a seminar on begonia basics at the Eastern Convention this summer. She takes part in the Plant Clinics held by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. For more information about that activity, see *Horticulture*, October, 1975, page 24-5. She is ABS Branch Relations Director and Editor of *Light Garden*, publication of the Indoor Light Garden Society of America.

A plant's environment consists of five physical factors and a biological factor. The former are light, temperature, air, water and soil. The latter includes all living things that affect the plant's growth, such as insects, fungi, weeds, and you, the gardener. You are just as much a part of the plant's total environment as the rest, for upon you depends the plant's well being and its life. Master the art of understanding the environmental needs of your plants, and you automatically become possessed of a green thumb.

Let us translate this into the specific needs of the begonia. Of importance is a knowledge of its native habitat. Begonias may be found hanging down the wall of a dark and barren Mexican cave. They may be three inches high, with china white flowers, growing from a small lima bean-shaped tuber wedged in a soil-less chink between the rocks. It may be up to thirteen feet to the top of a Columbian species, with a trunk ten inches in diameter and leaves two

feet across. Species and natural hybrids may be found in the Himalayas, Venezuela, Brazil, Africa and vast expanses of China. This establishes the fact that the begonia is indigenous to tropical climates. This fact also supplies growing clues. Following are a few cultural hints.

SOILS:

A light, porous soil is a must. The ideal soil mix is one which drains readily. Begonias like aeration at the roots, and do not like to be water logged.

SUGGESTED SOILS:

1. *Soil-less mix*
6 qts. Jiffy Mix
2 qts. medium perlite
1 tbsp. Magamp
1 tbsp. ground limestone
2. *Make your own*
6 qts. sphagnum peat (rub thru $\frac{1}{4}$ " sieve or between hands)
6 qts. medium perlite
6 qts. horticultural vermiculite
1 tbsp. Magamp
1 tbsp. ground limestone
3. *Soil*
6 qts. commercial potting soil
2 qts. perlite OR horticultural vermiculite
4. *Organic soil*
3 parts sifted compost
1 part construction sand *or* perlite (sponge rock) *or* horticultural vermiculite (exfoliated mica)
5. *Garden Soil*
Bake in oven at 250° for 4

hrs. Use 3 to 1 ratio, adding peat and/or perlite; vermiculite.

TEMPERATURE:

70°-75° by day; 65° at night. Slight flexibility at either end. Lower night temperatures induce bloom. Ideally, if you need to wear a sweater, your begonias will thrive.

LIGHT:

East window all year round ideal. Begonias with thick leaves can take winter sun. Rex begonias *do not* take sun.

FLUORESCENT LIGHT EXCELLENT, 12-14 hours a day best, but as little as 10 hours will sustain plants.

HUMIDITY:

40% good; 50 to 60% ideal. For windowsill gardening, trays filled with moist pebbles and groupings of a number of plants will create good humidity. Daily misting helps. Use of a small room humidifier excellent.

Some "odd and rare" begonias require such constant high humidity that it is necessary to grow them in glass containers. This not only solves the humidity problem, but is very decorative.

VENTILATION:

A must for healthy growth; a small fan is helpful when ventilation is otherwise restricted.

WATER:

Make it a habit to poke your finger into the top of the growing medium. **WATER ONLY WHEN TOP OF GROWING MEDIUM feels DRY** to the touch. Water well until water flows out from bottom of pot. Small pots will require more frequent watering.

FERTILIZERS:

For 1 & 2 Soil-less mixes use the constant feed method. Use a dilute solution of a high analysis soluble fertilizer such as 15-30-15. Dilute 1/4 tbsp. to a gallon of water use each time watering is necessary.

Key: 15% nitrogen — 30% phosphorus — 15% potassium

Nitrogen: stimulates vegetative growth; necessary for stems and leaves

Phosphorus: induces good root development; helps balance an overabundance of nitrogen in soil; helps induce buds, fruits and seeds.

Potassium: promotes general vigor of plant; increases resistance to diseases; helps in sturdy root formation.

Occasionally use plain water to dissolve salts accumulating in soil.

POTTING:

Use "tubs" or shallow pots for rhizomatous and rex begonias. Canes can be planted in deeper pots. **DO NOT OVERPOT . . .** begonias like tight boots.

Transplant newly rooted cutting or seedling in a 2" pot. When plant appears to be top heavy, transplant in *one* size larger pot; do this with each successive shift to a new pot.

PURCHASING A PLANT:

Choose compact plants with new growth at pot level. Examine them carefully . . . make certain they are healthy plants. At home, gently knock begonia out of its pot. If plant is a mass of roots, pot in next size pot. Water well, drain thoroughly and place in an open baggie for a few days. **DO NOT TAMP GROWING MEDIUM.** Leave a half inch well at top of pot for easy watering.

PINCHING IN GENERAL:

A gentle art . . . is simply removing with thumb and forefinger the end of a growing tip. Results in a compact plant with heavier bloom. **START A TRAINING PROGRAM WHEN PLANTS ARE YOUNG.** Will eliminate need for drastic pruning later.

PRUNING:

Cutting back of elongated stems. Prune immediately after flowering period. Overgrown, leggy canes can often be revived by drastic pruning. This induces new growth at soil line and causes new leaves to grow on old, bare stems.

Rhizomatous: pinch out new growth at end of rhizome. Prune out heavy canes which crawl over outside of pot. On a very old plant, prune out everything but small, new leaves . . . drastic but worthwhile.

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Begonias relatively free of pests and diseases. Poor air circulation or ventilation frequent cause. More begonias die from overwatering than any other cause.

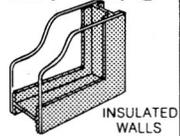
MISCELLANEOUS NOTES:

Rhizomatous begonias are short day plants and need long periods of darkness to induce blooms.

Semperflorens (wax begonias) prefer cooler temperatures, will tolerate more sunlight, and require more fertilizer than other types.

Rex begonias require higher temperatures and humidity than other types.

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B. MOLLERI WARBURG IN ENGLER & PRANTL

By Gene Moglia, *Long Island, New York*

From the *Twiglette*, Hampton Branch Newsletter

Editor's note: Many branches feature a Begonia of the Month and have a brief presentation about the plant, plus a living example or pictures. In this article, Gene Moglia describes his tribulations and his results in learning about his choice.

Begonia molleri is an interesting begonia for several different reasons. When I first agreed to do the Begonia of the Month, I picked *B. molleri* since it was a relatively rare plant. I soon found out that not only is the plant rare, but literature on it is virtually non-existent.

When I checked *B. molleri* in the *Thompson Begonia Guide*, I discovered it was in the trailing-scandent section. This makes sense when one sees it growing since it is similar in its growth habits to *B. convolvulacea* A. DC. and *B. polygonoides* Hooker. The correct name for *B. molleri* is *Begonia molleri* Warburg since Oscar Warburg is reputed to have published the original description in 1894 in the Engler & Prantl *Die Naturalischen Pflanzenfamilien*, printed in Leipzig.

Armed with this information I went to the New York Botanical Garden to look this up in the Library. After some time they were able to track down the correct volume since this book proved to be a botanical journal. Warburg had a section on *Begoniaceae*, which was in German. Unable to read it, I went through it with a fine tooth comb looking for a reference to *B. molleri*. I found only one small mention of *B. molleri* wherein Warburg classified it as an African begonia.

This struck me as odd for several

reasons. In the *Thompson Begonia Guide* and in the Barkley species list it is considered a native of St. Thomas. To me St. Thomas means only the Virgin Islands. Then, checking Barkley a little further I discovered it had been named by Casimir DeCandolle as *Mezierea molleri* in 1892, from St. Thomas.

Naturally I tried to track down the description. This proved to be even more difficult for it was in another botanical journal. With help from the librarian the correct book was found. In it I found the correct section by De Candolle and discovered some interesting information.

B. molleri Warburg is one of a few begonias that started out in a different genus. It was found in 1892 in Sao Tome, or as anglicized, St. Thomas. This is a small mountainous island off the west coast of Africa, just north of the equator. It was collected by a man named Moller at an altitude of about 2700 feet.

The plant itself isn't a very remarkable one. However, befitting the mimic *Begonia* genus, it looks quite like a philodendron. The leaves are a dark, glossy green, ovate and pointed on the end, with over an inch of stem between them. For me it grows very slowly, but Thompson's plant made a fine basket. The stems are amazingly woody and are very

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BEGONIA BOOKSHELF

By Ruth Pease, *Los Angeles, Calif.*

I continue to be fascinated with the many books written almost daily about plants, especially when I realize how difficult it is to come up with a new format, some "new" way to discuss a particular plant, its needs, care, manner of propagation and all that each grower-writer tries to include in his or her book.

Going back a few years to books I have had and still use as references, I find it interesting to read what such writers as Ernesta Drinker Ballard, "Garden In Your House," and Bernice Brilmayer, "All About Begonias," "All About Vines and Hanging Plants," and "All About Miniature Plants and Gardens" had to say in 1958 and the early 60's about the plants many have come to know only in the last few years! These are but a few of the books that provided the basis for my interest in "present-day" plants.

More recently, I have been reading a refreshing book by Richard W. Langer, published by Saturday Review Press/E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc. entitled, "Grow It Indoors." This book is *easy* to read. Mr. Langer has found a way to make it a pleasure to read about various plants we are growing, their cultural requirements and all that is usually mentioned in most books about plants, using subtitles that make you want to read the paragraph that follows!

The first part of his book speaks of "The Plants," and the second, "And What To Do With Them." This second part has titles such as "Making the Plants Feel at Home," "Pets, Pests, and Other Problems,"

and "Long May They Multiply" as well as "Bottling Your Plants."

While looking through the book to select certain areas to write about in this column, I came across the terms *chimera*, *chimeric*. This is the first time I have *seen* these words although they may appear in any of the 250 or so books we have in our home botanical library. An explanation is given in the book and I quote:

"Variegated peperomias and sansevierias will produce plain green plantlets when propagated from leaf cuttings. The plants are chimeric. I used to think chimeras were limited to Greek goats with heads of lions and tails of dragons. But these plants really are composite, a mutation of two genetically distinct types. Specifically, they are known as periclinal chimeras. They have the skin, several cell layers thick, of one plant and the interior of quite a different one. Some of the cells in the outer skin lack the ability to produce chlorophyll, and this gives the plants their variegated appearance. However, since the adventitious shoots and roots that develop to form new

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plants in leaf cuttings arise only from the inner tissue, you end up with plain green plants — ones that have literally jumped out of their skin.”

He goes on with “Out In The Cruel Cruel World” giving information known to many of us but put succinctly in a few choice descriptive sentences:

“Young plantlets that have been coddled within high-humidity propagation boxes of poly bags do not take well to being thrust out into the more hostile environment of your home. What they need is an acclimation period. If they don’t get it, they will usually keel over and die the first day they are removed from their protected surroundings.

“Like a diver coming up from the depths slowly to avoid the bends, a plantlet is removed from a covered propagation box in stages. I usually put the top on crooked for a day, leaving an eighth to a quarter of an inch crack. The second day I make the chink half an inch or so; the third, a full inch; the fifth day I take the new plants out and pot them properly.”

Mr. Langer’s thoughts on “Talking to Your Plants” is an example of the prevailing common sense coupled with subtle humor found throughout the book.

Under the subtitle “Good Enough to Drink,” he says:

“An old wives’ tale that has grown up with modern technology and the popularity of houseplants is that the best water for your plants is rain-water, since it contains no impurities, like chlorine, to harm the plants. The point about chlorine is all well and good, except that unless your tap

water smells like the pool at the YMCA, the chlorine content is not high enough to damage your greens. So letting the water stand overnight in a tub to allow the chlorine to volatilize off doesn’t make a bit of difference to the plants — other than raising the humidity in your home.”

There is more to this discussion in the book. I am not a scientist so can neither agree nor dispute the above, but I find it sensible as I do most of the other choice bits of information given by Mr. Langer.

Information about begonias included in the book is a pleasant surprise. We are always eager to read more about them in present-day books.

A suggestion to writers, editors and/or publishers: It will only take a few minutes to look in the classifieds of *Plants Alive*, *Horticulture* and the individual publications of various plant societies to learn the names and addresses of the current membership and/or circulation chairmen of the American Begonia Society, the International Fern Society and other plant organizations listed in your books. A word to the wise . . .

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ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Members of Round Robin Flights are sharing ideas, hints, and their begonia-growing experience with their friends all over the country. Won't you join us?

Mabel Corwin, California, made a discovery that may be of interest to a lot of you who enjoy growing your begonias from seed. She found that the trays sold for dipping pre-pasted wallpaper make excellent trays for tiny pots. They are 32 inches long, 6 inches wide and 6 inches deep, and are inexpensive.

Mae Blanton, Texas, told Robin friends of another gadget that has proven useful to her. She found the small plastic boxes with six compartments, meant for storing screws and other small objects and available at hardware stores, make very good pollen storage boxes. She puts a bit of cotton in each compartment, with a small piece of paper down in the outside of the compartment on which to write the name of the pollen plant. In the lid she tapes a small packet of desiccant. She removes the pollen flower from the plant, allows it to dry somewhat, then places it on the cotton. Several pollen flowers from the same plant can be stored in the same compartment. Mae slips the box into a plastic bag and fastens the bag shut, then stores the box in the refrigerator. Members of various robins have been sharing some of their observations regarding the use of vermiculite. Bob Hamm, Texas, visited a friend's greenhouse, where he saw several begonias, including a gorgeous specimen of *B. vicinifolia* about five-feet across, which were all grown in straight vermiculite with Osmocote fertilizer added.

Betty Stuart, California, had always preferred using straight vermiculite for propagating leaves. When given a rex leaf at the National Convention to propagate, she put several wedges in vermiculite. She had a wedge left over, so she put it in a jar with vermiculite and long sphagnum moss. The wedges in the straight vermiculite had only the tiniest (one-eighth inch) roots, while the one in vermiculite with sphagnum had already put up little leaves.

Spring will be here before we know it, and several robins have had experiences that may help the rest of us this year.

When Erich Steiniger, Ohio, puts his plants outside in the spring, he puts a mulch of pine bark around them, partially to hide the pots, but also to maintain humidity around them. In one patch he did not get around to mulching, and he noticed that various bugs (including slugs) had been chewing on the leaves of the plants there, but he noticed no damage on the plants in the pine-bark mulch. He put pine bark in the bare patch, and there was no more damage.

Hazel Kipp, Florida, moved her best canes (most were Kusler canes) from under slats into a fiberglass-covered porch with a southern exposure. Although the plants had bloomed under the slats, Hazel found that they had better flower and foliage under more light.

Marvin Kahr, Iowa, shared this perk-me-up for plants. Dilute a normal cup of tea with one cup water. Put this in an atomizer and mist

(Continued on Page 57)

TRAINING PLANTS IN THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO

By Elda Haring, *Flat Rock, North Carolina*

Photos by Walter Haring

While some begonias are naturally compact and low growing, many others need special handling to attain a symmetrical plant or to keep the plants from becoming lanky, sparsely foliaged and unattractive. If you start your training program with young plants obtained from a commercial grower or grown from your own cuttings, timely pinching, pruning and patience are the essentials to develop a compact plant. If, with an eye to flower show competition you have purchased or fall heir to a specimen-sized begonia, some judicious pinching or pruning will produce an attractive and show-worthy plant.

Pinch the growing tip at the end of new shoots to stop new growth and encourage branching. You will note in the photo of *B. 'Marjorie Daw'* a definite pointed tip. If left alone a new leaf unfurls from this tip and the plant continues its upward or outward growth. The new leaf may also be removed after it has unfurled if done carefully, for in many cases the flowers are produced at the end of the branches or in the axils of the leaves and might inadvertently be removed. You will notice in the photo of *B. 'Catalina'* a new leaf being carefully removed leaving the flower buds intact. Pinching the ends of resultant new shoots and branches as they grow can be continued until the plant has reached the size and shape you want. The aim is for compact, bushy plants eventually covered with flowers.

If the tip is removed from cane begonias while still small, new stems

will soon grow from the soil level. The growing tips of rhizomatous begonias can be pinched out to encourage compact growth. Removing the top inch of *B. semperflorens* will force side branches, delaying flowering only slightly. While some of the shrub-like and thick-stemmed begonias naturally grow in a compact fashion many of them need to be pinched while young and growing vigorously to keep them within bounds.

Pruning is practiced on old overgrown plants or those that have become ungainly and need shaping. In the case of begonias that have lost some or all of their lower leaves like that of *B. serratifetala* in the photo, cutting all branches off close to the pot level will cause the plant to send up new shoots. If these in turn have the soft growing tips pinched a well-shaped plant will result. If you have a cane begonia that has developed only one stem and is much too tall for its pot, cut the cane to within 10 or 12 inches of the pot. This will cause the plant to send up new stems from the pot level to give you an attractive plant. Upright rhizomes or stems of shrub-like begonias can be pruned by cutting off protruding stems just above bushy growth to produce a more compact and shapely plant. *B. manicata aureo-maculata* shown in the photograph would have been much improved by the timely removal of the two uppermost stems.

To rejuvenate old plants it is not only possible but most important to take drastic action. It will be necessary to cut back many of the mature

HOW TO PRUNE AND

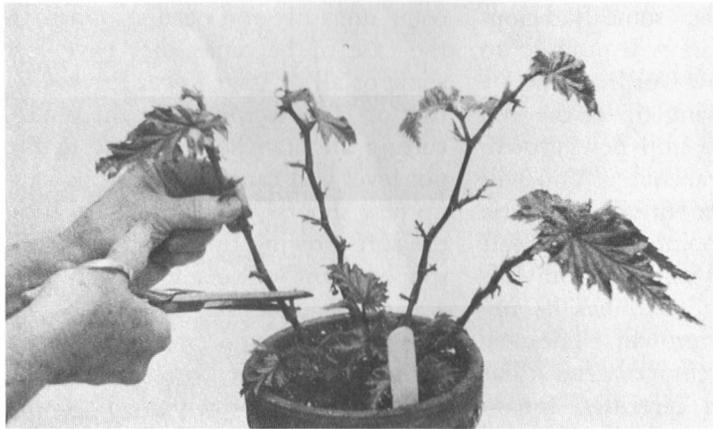


Left page (top to bottom)

B. 'Marjorie Daw'. Prune

B. serratifetala. Cut back
new shoots.

B. 'Medora'. Cut back
flowering is complete



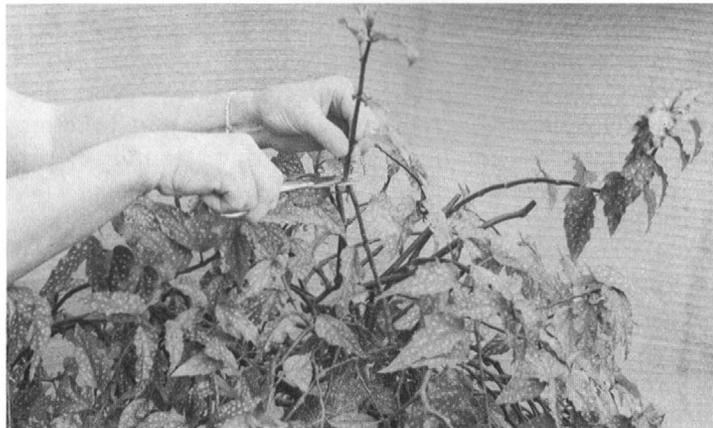
Training Plants They Should Go

Right page (top to bottom)

B. pustulata argentea.
rhizomes.

B. 'Maphil'. Start by
rhizomes.

B. 'Maphil'. Plant is dead
that were above pot



Photos by W

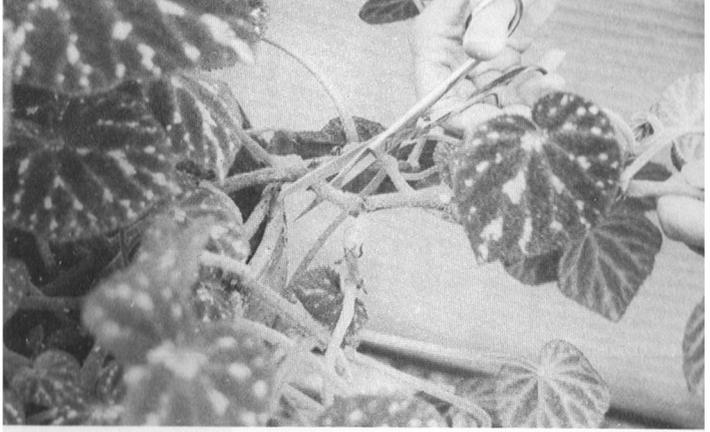
REJUVENATE BEGONIAS

m)

Note pointed tip.

leggy growth to force

long shoots after
te.



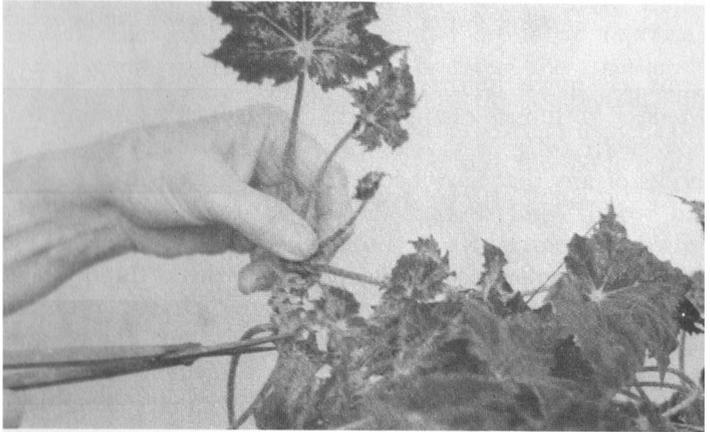
**in the Way
by Elda Haring**

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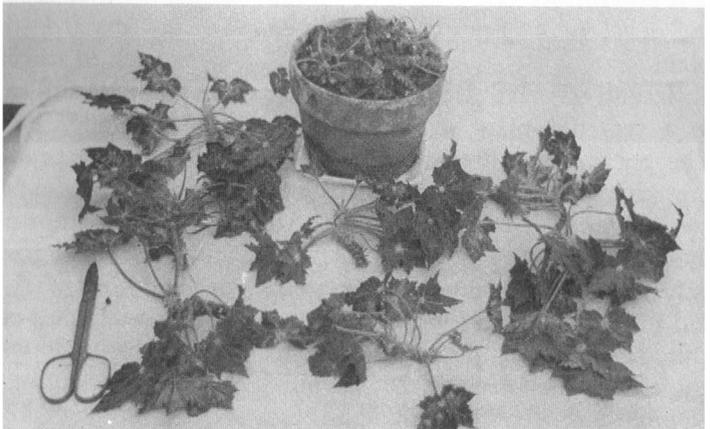
Trim off long narrow

cutting off dangling

nuded of all rhizomes
t level.

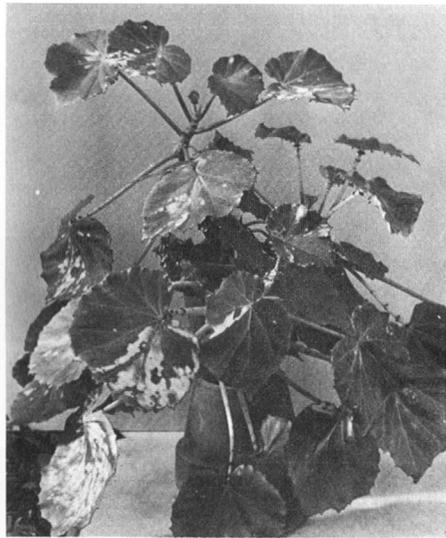


alter Haring





B. 'Catalina'. Pinch new leaf behind flower.



B. manicata aureo-maculata. Uneven growth can be avoided by early control.

stems as shown in the photo of *B.* 'Medora' to induce new growth. Remove with knife or scissors crowded shoots or any that have become hard and woody, and shorten the newer growth considerably to provide a suitable frame work for the rejuvenate plant. Unfortunately there is often great reluctance even among experienced hobbyists to cut back an overgrown begonia for fear of losing potential flowers. Surely it is desirable to sacrifice one season of bloom to develop a beautiful specimen plant.

Recently I gave a drastic pruning to a very old plant of *B.* 'Maphil'. The pot was overflowing with dangling rhizomes and the old rhizomes were covering those at the crown. All the rhizomes were cut off, leaving only those at the crown, and fresh soil filled in around those remaining. Our readers may be interested to know that the plant of *B.* 'Maphil' pictured has been in the same pot for

7 years and has been subjected to this drastic pruning three times. The old rhizomes shown in the photo when placed in a bowl of water produced roots within two weeks and the old plant started to show new leaves within three weeks.

Drastic pruning is also desirable if your plants have been badly damaged by mildew or have become extremely unsightly whether due to insect damage or damage by rain, hail or some other aspect of the weather. Do not discard such plants but cut them back to within 4 to 6 inches of the pot level and treat with insecticide and fungicide. They will recover and become more beautiful than ever. It has been my experience that some varieties that normally rest in winter and are being grown in a cool room or greenhouse may not begin to show new growth until spring, if such drastic pruning is done in the fall or early part of the winter.

BELVA KUSLER REVISITED

By Patrick J. Worley, *Minneapolis, Minn.*
Adapted from the *Minnesota Begonia Review*

The slide show and talk put together by Belva Kusler for the Eastern Convention this year also was presented at the Twin Cities Branch later on. It proved to be not only extraordinarily informative, but also highly entertaining as well.

We begin our journey, and a true journey it is, at the curve of the driveway into the Kusler home. It is summer time and the grass is tall and the day is lazy. We proceed to the rear through the shaded drive and take an interloper's peek around the place: the glass houses, the green house, the plant covered windows.

Suddenly there is a burst of bloom and we are ushered into the inner world of Belva Kusler. We see Belva's most beautifully conceived creations, named and described, and even some of her rejections. We sense the painstaking care with which she goes about her hybridizing and her regrets at giving up too soon to the compost heap, a rare cross. Careful explanation is given of her own hybridizing techniques and tools, an inspiring way to get into the plant breeding side of begonia growing, with emphasis on care and record keeping to insure a valid background for a new hybrid.

We now delve into the heartbreaking bout with an unknown villain. We are immersed in a mystery-thriller as the evidence of an unknown curse-like assailant mounts. It stalks through the growing areas leaving behind deformed plants, weirdly colored leaves, sexless mutants and gnarled, bizarre growth. The Menace? *Herbicide!* Belva's experiments to prove to herself the diagnosed chemicals really had caused the strange and almost universal damage, affirm the fact. Now comes the painstaking work of repotting and trying to rescue the foundering plants, after months completed, only to discover that the treatment has to be repeated because she hadn't used the right sort of disinfectant.

Next comes a look at some of the new hybrids: some yellow cane stems, some bowl-growing possibilities, and some very floriferous Bizzie Lizzie types.

We come to the end of the season: a huge pile of cast-off plants, fall in the air, preparation for winter, a crowded greenhouse, snowdrifts everywhere. We leave the grounds with one last backwards glance, until next time.

ABS Convention, San Diego, August '76

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MEMBER BUSY IN WORLD OF INDOOR PLANTS

Muriel Orans, of Corvallis Oregon, is a member-at-large of ABS, but she is best known as an author and worker in other plant organizations, since she is interested in all plants which will grow indoors. She has written two books from her own experiences in growing.

The first of these is *Houseplants and Indoor Landscaping*, in which she deals with maintaining plants with special emphasis on minimum light requirements and humidity control. There is one chapter devoted to good performance of rex begonias. It has sold over 300,000 copies already.

The second book, "*6 Ways to Grow Houseplants*," has just recently come onto the market. It stresses methods of handling plants according to conditions in a greenhouse, on a windowsill or under lights, etc. She is also author of an article which appeared in the December issue of *Flower and Garden* magazine.

The books are both paperback editions with full color photographs of plants and equipment. Arthur Orans, son of Mrs. Orans, has done the photography. The books should be available from most bookstores or from Countyside Publishing, Barington, Illinois.

Mrs. Orans, who was a former resident of New York, was one of the founding members of the Indoor Light Garden Society. She is currently serving as Oregon state chairman for indoor gardening for the Federation of Garden Clubs, and as a member of the State of Oregon 4-H Plant Science Committee. She is a member of the Oregon Women's Press Club, the Garden Writers of America Association, and the Western Garden Writers Association. She has been instrumental in setting up a contest in which plants which are raised by participating clubs will be judged at the State-wide convention in Oregon next summer.

ABS OFFICERS

James Porter

James Porter, the ABS Treasurer, is a resident of Ventura and a member of the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch of ABS. He is teaching business mathematics at Ventura College at present.

Mr. Porter was named "Teacher Emeritus" after teaching science at Ventura High School for over 30 years, the first teacher to be so honored. He has been both treasurer and president of the area unit of Phi Delta Kappa, educational fraternity. He holds both the BA and MA degrees from Stanford University.

Rochelle Rose

The ABS Secretary, Rochelle Rose, is a native of Whittier, California. She is a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara, with a BA in Sociology. She was a member of the 1969 Project Pakistan team, a project of the University conducted with the University Religious Conference and the U.S. State Department to promote understanding between the U.S. and Pakistan and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh). She has worked in the district office of the State Compensation Insurance Fund.

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

Note: The American Begonia Society is the International Registration Authority for cultivars of the genus *Begonia*. Information regarding registration may be obtained from ABS Nomenclature Director Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

No. 482 — *Begonia* (B. 'Freda Grant' X unknown) 'Gene Daniels'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA in 1973 this shrub-like, bare leaved begonia was first distributed in 1974; mature stem reaches 2 ft.; leaves are deep green, oxblood-red below; unequal heart-shaped, $8\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5"; margin remotely-toothed, hairy; texture medium thick; 8-palmately-pinnate veins; petioles $3\frac{1}{2}$ "; stipules remaining, large, long-oval, keeled. Flowers pink. Differs from other plants in main vein red; a robust basket plant; entire plant, except top of leaves, is red. Reg. June 5, 1975.

No. 483 — *Begonia* (B. *scharffiana* X unknown) 'John Tapia'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné (address above) in 1973, this shrub-like, hairy-leaved, 3' begonia was first distributed in 1975. Leaves are deep green, red below, wide, uneven heart-shaped, 9" x 6"; margin very undulate, finely toothed; texture thick and brittle; 8-nerved; petioles 5"; stipules dry quickly, widely triangular. Has not flowered. Robust plant with undulate leaf-margins. Reg. June 5, 1975.

No. 484 — *Begonia* (B. *carrierae* X *B. bowerae nigramarga*) 'Sisquoc'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné (address above) in 1973, this rhizo-

matous plant differs from *B. bowerae nigramarga* in being larger and having the top of the leaves and entire plant covered with long hairs. The leaves are dull medium-green with black along nerves; long, uneven heart-shape with a long tip. The 4" x $2\frac{1}{2}$ " leaves have toothed ciliate margin and a medium texture with $\frac{3}{8}$ " hairs on top; 7 nerves; petioles green, long, reflexed hairs; stipules triangular, light green. Flowers white with red dots on back, blooming in March and April; $9\frac{1}{16}$ " x $\frac{3}{4}$ " petals of roundish shape, male blossoms 2 petals, female blossoms 2 petals; raceme arrangement on 12" stem. Registered June 5, 1975.

No. 485 — *Begonia* (B. 'Ricinifolia' X *B. carrierae*) 'Troll'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné (address above) in 1973, this rhizomatous plant has bronzy green, satinsheen leaves of an unequal heart-shape with 10 lobes, $8\frac{1}{2}$ " x $5\frac{1}{2}$ ". The margin is double-toothed and shallowly-lobed of a medium texture. Nerves 10; petioles 7", green covered with $\frac{1}{4}$ " hairs and multi-tipped scale-like hairs; stipules rose, ovate, keeled, $\frac{1}{2}$ " hair at tip. The entirely hairy plant has few pink flowers; pod wings pink, roundish shape; 1" x $\frac{5}{8}$ ", male blossoms 2 petals, female blossoms 2 petals; raceme arrangement on 9" stem blooms in April and May. The reddish bronze color of the leaves and the very long lobes of the unfolding leaves give this plant a unique appearance. Registered June 6, 1975.

No. 486 — *Begonia* (B. *bowerae* X *B. carrierae*) 'Chickee'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné

(address above) in 1973, this rhizomatous plant differs from *B. bowerae major* by being entirely covered with hairs. It has a very fresh and clean look about it. The leaves are medium green of an uneven heart-shape, 5" x 3"; margin finely undulate, toothed, ciliate with thin texture; nerves 9; petioles green with long colorless scale-like hairs; stipules triangular, keeled, long hair at tip. The white, ovate flowers 1½" x ¾" have 2 petals on male blossoms and 2 petals on female blossoms. Equally divided cyme on 16" stem, blooms February to May. Registered June 6, 1975.

No. 487 — Begonia (B. 'Bowtique' X B. carrieae) 'Lospe'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné in 1973, this rhizomatous hairy plant has a coarser appearance than 'Chichee' and has red streaks on petioles and flower stems. The white flowers on 10" red-streaked stems have currant-red spots on back. The flowers have kidney-shaped edges curled back, 1½" x ¾", male blossoms have 2 petals and female blossoms have 2 petals. The evenly divided cyme arrangement blooms February-May. The medium green, satin sheen, uneven long heart-shaped leaves, 6½" x 4" are medium texture, bowed up between nerves; 9 nerves, hairy below. Petioles 7", red-streaked; stipules triangular edges curved outward, keeled. Registered June 6, 1975.

No. 488 — Begonia (B. 'Bowtique' X B. carrieae) 'Lospe-tu'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné in 1973 and distributed in 1975, this rhizomatous plant has leaves with two lobes which spiral inward; thickly hairy; dull surface. "Tu" in Chumash Indian language means

"ear." The medium green, uneven heart-shaped leaves, 3½" x 4", have margin undulate, toothed, lobed, hairy, marked black. Medium texture; 6 nerves; petioles 4" green, red at base of each hair; stipules triangular, edges and tip curved backward. The white, obicular flowers, 1½" x ¾", male blossoms have 2 petals and female blossoms have 2 petals, bloom February-March. Arrangement, unevenly divided cyme on 8" stem which has recurved hairs with red base. Registered June 6, 1975.

No. 489 — Begonia (B. 'Norah Bedson' X B. carrieae) 'Wizard'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné (address above), this rhizomatous plant has a dull surface and liver-colored blotching. The leaves are dark green blotched with dark red, uneven heart-shaped, 10" x 8"; margin finely-toothed and ciliated; thick textured; 10 nerves; petioles 8" covered with recurved scales; stipules abruptly long triangular. Flowers are not fully developed, blooming in May. Registered June 6, 1975.

No. 490 — Begonia (B. 'Madam Queen' X B. carrieae) 'Macushla'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné (address above), this rhizomatous plant has lettuce-green, red-hairy leaves of uneven heart-shaped, 12" x 8"; margin slightly lobed; toothed, ciliate; medium-dull texture; 9 nerves with red spots and white hairs; petioles 8", thickly covered with wide, red hairs with many divisions; stipules triangular, keeled, sides curled backwards. The pink, obicular flowers, 1¾" x ¾", male blossoms have 2 petals and female blossoms have 2 petals; raceme arrangement on 22" stem, blooming in March-May. Registered June 7, 1975.

No. 491 — Begonia (B. frigida X B. carrieae) 'Tajiguas'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné (address above) in 1973, the rhizomatous plant has not-peltate to peltate, lettuce-green leaves, dull and pillowed surface. The wide unequally heart-shaped leaf, 10" x 7", has double-toothed and ciliate margin; medium, dull, short-hairy surface-texture; 9 nerves; petioles 8", densely covered with recurved, scale-like hairs; stipules short-triangular, densely hairy. The white flowers have an inverted egg-shaped petal, male blossoms have 4 petals. Arrangement few-flowered raceme on 10" hairy stem, blooming May-June. Registered June 7, 1975.

No. 492 — Begonia (B. tomentosa X B. metallica) 'Metosa'

Originated by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103 in 1966 and distributed in 1967, this shrub-like plant resembles both parents. The uneven heart-shaped leaves are dark green, red nerves below, 8 x 5"; margin double-toothed, ciliate; texture dull, medium; petioles 4"; 7-nerved; long-triangular, quickly-drying stipules. White flowers with red hair on outside, 4 petals on male flower, 5 on female, have evenly-divided cyme arrangement on 6" stem, blooming fall to winter. Registered June 7, 1975.

No. 493 — Begonia (B. 'Dr. Jim' X B. hidalgensis [syn. dayi]) 'Woodlawn'

Originated by Goldie Frost, 10622 Teal Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92643 in 1973 and first blomed in 1975, this rhizomatous plant has pink flowers in 1" clusters, 2 petals male and 3 to 5 female, on a 4' flower stem, blooming spring to summer. The ivy-shaped leaves are thick, smooth, dark-red to black in color, with an intense red on the reverse side; 8-12" in dimension; moderately-cut margin, 7 nerves, smooth petioles and stipules. Reg. June 9, 1975.

No. 494 — Begonia (Seed: Color-vision series from Park Seed Company) 'Herb Warrick'

Originated by Robert C. Dunnell, 2208 N.E. 177th St., Seattle, Washington 98155, in 1973, and to be distributed in 1976, the rhizomatous, rex cultorum plant has unique leaf colors of silver in the center (approximately one-half the leaf area) and bright, magenta-rose on the leaf-edge, and red on the reverse side. The ovate-shaped leaves, 4 1/2" x 6", sparsely ciliate, entirely dentate margins have medium texture, nerves 7; petioles 2 1/2", red ciliate; stipules, 1/2", rose-red. The regularly-formed, 1" x 1", pink flowers have 4 male or 5 female petals in umbel arrangement on a 4" flower stem, blooming throughout the year. Registered June 20, 1975.

THE BEGONIAN

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**No. 495 — Begonia (Seed: Color-
vision series from Park Seed
Company) 'Squat'**

Originated by Robert C. Donnell, address above, in 1973 and distributed in 1975, this rhizomatous, rex cultorum plant has a striking color-pattern of black at sinus and along veins, a bright magenta to red between veins and a 1" deep-green border with spots of pink and silver on the leaves. The ovate-shaped leaf has an acuminate tip and cordate base; 6½" x 6½", of medium texture and crenulate and ciliate border; nerves 6; petioles 5½", red ciliate, white or red hairs; stipules, ¾", rose-red, ciliate. The white, flushed-pink, regularly-shaped flowers, 1¾", with 4 male or 5 female petals, have umbel arrangement on a 5-6¾" flower stem, blooming throughout the year. Registered June 20, 1975.

SCENTED BEGONIAS

James La Plante has prepared a cumulative list of fragrant begonias, listing varieties back to 1934. He will furnish you with a copy of the list if you will send him a stamped self-addressed envelope. His address is: James La Plante

5615 N. Wayne Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60660

ABS Authors

Beautiful rex begonias grace the cover of the January issue of *Horticulture* magazine. ABS Member and *Begonian* contributor, Mildred L. Thompson, has written an article introducing the "Beguiling World of Begonias." Fred M. Ritzau, who won a trophy in the Eastern Show at Boston last fall, wrote an article on starting seeds indoors.

ABS MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE

The ballot-counting committee has tallied the ballots mailed to and returned by Branch Directors who were not present at the National Board Meeting on October 18, 1975. There were 20 votes for the increase in annual dues to \$5.00 and 1 negative vote. These votes, added to the votes cast at the October 18 meeting (22 for, 5 against), total 42 votes for, 6 against the increase.

R. Rose, Secretary

THOMPSON BEGONIA GUIDE

The "Culture of *Begonia*" section of the *Thompson Begonia Guide* will be ready for distribution very shortly to all those who have a copy of the first edition. A letter will be sent giving the price and distribution. For further information write to:

Edward and Mildred Thompson
310-A Hill Street
Southampton, N.Y. 11968

Midwinter African Violet Show

Tucson African Violet Society invites readers of the *Begonian* to its horticultural and artistic exhibition. It will be held in the New Recreation Center at Randolph Park, 200 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, Arizona. The display will be open from 3 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 6th and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 7th. Admission is free.

The Indoor Light Gardening Society of America, Inc., Dept. B, 128 West 58th St., New York, New York 10019. Dues \$5.00. Bi-monthly magazine; light garden; up-to-date, informative; seed fund; round robins; chapters.

Loose Soil Promotes Growth of Begonias

Corliss Engle, editor of the *Buxtonian*, called attention of growers to this bit of advice:

Following is a reprint of the Article, "Firm Rule to Pot Loose," from THE AVANT GARDENER, VOL. 6, No. 13. The essence of the article certainly seems to ring loud and clear when applied to potting begonias.

"Compress the mix when potting and you will slow the plant's growth considerably" says Dr. R. W. Henley, Associate Ornamental Horticulturist at the Agricultural Research Center (Apopka, FL 32703)

Dr. Henley potted unrooted cuttings of two fibrous-rooted tropical plants, *Pilea involucrata* and *Pelionia pulchra*, in a mix of equal parts of perlite and sphagnum peat. The mix was firmed around the stems of half the plants of each species, and merely leveled without firming around the other half. Two months later, root growth of both species was found to be four times greater for the plants growing in the non-compacted mix than for those where the soil had been firmed. The plants in non-compacted mix also showed 50% greater shoot growth.

A surprisingly large saving of mix also results from not firming it. The pots which had been firmed held 1.5 times as much soil mix as those in which the mix had not been firmed.

B. MOLLERI

(Continued from Page 41)

difficult to break by hand; pinching should be done with a sharp snip.

I grew mine from seed offered a year ago through the Clayton Kelley Seed Fund of the American Begonia Society, where one can find seeds of rare *Begonia* offered. They germinated very slowly but a high percentage did grow. Since it has been a slow grower I haven't tried propagating it but it should be similar to *B. polygonoides*, which is a close relative. I grow it in a mix consisting of 2 parts sterile top soil, 1 part Jiffy-mix, 1 part perlite, and 1 part sphagnum moss, watering when moderately dry and fertilizing with Peters 20-20-20 every other watering, using a dilute solution.

The Seed Fund did state *B. molleri* as being ever-blooming, however, neither Millie Thompson nor I have found this to be the case. I was unable to find any reference to it having been used in hybridization.

My adventure with *B. molleri* Warburg proved to be an interesting one. One can learn to appreciate the many different begonias more when information relating to them can be found. It gives the plants a more personal nature to you. When I did a Begonia of the Month for the Long Island Branch, my choice was *B. johnstonii*, which must rank as one of the ugliest begonias in cultivation. When I discovered it grows on the slopes of Mt. Tanganyika, I learned to appreciate it. Of course, it's still ugly.

LES BEGONIAS, BY CHARLES CHEVALIER, TRANSLATED FROM FRENCH BY ALVA GRAHAM, CONTAINS REPRODUCTIONS OF OLD PRINTS, MODERN PHOTOGRAPHS, AND A WEALTH OF INFORMATION ABOUT BEGONIAS. AVAILABLE FROM THE ABS LIBRARY. \$10.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

- Fb 1 — *B. acetosa*: 1827, Brazil species. Rhizomatous. Distinctive foliage with unusual surface. Leaves are round with subdued green fuzz on top, and underneath ruby-red. Stems grow from rhizome. White blooms in spring and early summer. per pkt. \$1.00
- Fb 2 — *B. 'Bikerack'* B3. This is second generation of the offer in June, collected from selected plants. These semperflorens produce beautiful specimen plants, up to 12" tall, and 24 to 30 inches across, with 12 inch wide tresses of pink flowers, 2 1/4 x 2 1/2". Leaves are very large, are a beautiful pale green, some almost heartshaped. per pkt. .50
- Fb 3 — *B. Changeant* — 'Survivor' — rex. There is no guarantee as to what these will produce, except the leaves appear — some more pointed than others, and a combination from pink to red on leaves light to medium green, and sometimes with a silvery sheen. per pkt. .50
- Fb 4 — *B. dipetala*: 1828, India. A handsome fibrous plant, growing to 18", with brown, half-heart shaped leaves, spotted white. Likes warmth and humidity. per pkt. .50
- Fb 5 — *B. mazaе vividis*. Trailing rhizomatous; nicknamed 'stitch leaf'. Round leaves with tiny pointed tail; bronze-green marked red-brown along the light veins which meet with a white eye; deep red underneath. Small, white to light pink, red-spotted flowers in winter to early spring. Grow warm, protected, fairly dry, with perfect drainage. per pkt. .50
- Fb 6 — *B. paranensis*: 1944, Brazil. 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. Plants grow a new stout stem each year from the ground, but flower on top of last year's growth. per pkt. .50
- Fb 7 — *B. parilis*: Brazil. Bush type to 3 ft. Much basal growth, stems arch as they obtain height. Flowers on short petioles. Long narrow leaves are shiny green, smooth on top, underside green with fine brown tomentum. per pkt. 1.00
- Fb 8 — *B. 'Robinson's Peach'*. A low to intermediate growing cane with light green leaves and many peach colored blooms in drooping clusters. Will make a nice wall pocket or hanging basket, or a compact pot plant. Seeds should produce some interesting variations, but being a hybrid will not come true to the parent plant. per pkt. .50

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HANG IT!

(Continued from Page 37)

duce plant shock. Place the basket in a protected spot for a few days. Then hang it in its permanent location.

Feed hanging baskets about a month after planting. Establish and follow a bi-weekly feeding schedule at 1/2 strength.

To the begonia fan, hanging baskets bring to mind the summer-flowering tuberous begonias with their colorful, pendulous stems cascading over the sides to provide a flower-fall of blossoms. There is no end to the number of plant varieties that will provide gorgeous flowers as well as decorative foliage. Try *B. convolvulacea*, *B. dregei*, *B. 'Dainty Spray'*, *B. 'Digswelliana'*, *B. 'Ellen Dee'*, *B. foliosa*, *B. 'Medora'*, *B. 'Purple Petticoats'*, *B. 'Orange Rubra'*, *B. 'Pinafore'*, *B. 'Stitched Leaf'*, *B. bowerae*, and of course, dwarf semperflorens. With this selection, a magnificent show of color can be added to your collection of happy and healthy plants.

And if you need more space . . .
Hang it!

The sun will be shining!
ABS National Convention
San Diego, Calif.
August 26-29, 1976

ROUND ROBIN

(Continued from Page 44)

plants with it. He says the plants seem to perk up right away.

Finally if you're bothered, as I am, by frequent attacks of *Felis domestica herbacea* (plant-eating cats), Marvin Kahn has another hint that may help. Marvin says that coffee grounds sprinkled around plants seem to ward away cats and dogs.

By the way, we're getting a new robin flight together. It is to be a learning robin, and under the direction of Arline Peck members will do various learning projects. If you're interested in joining this, or any other, robin, write and let me know.

Debi Miller

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BRANCH DIRECTORY

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BUXTON BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
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CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Sunday of each month
Mrs. Priscella Beck, Secy.
R D No. 1, Box 121,
Mystic, Conn. 06355

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrea Community Church, Berkeley, Ca.
Julia M. Huwe, Secy
743 Albemarle St., El Cerrito, CA 94530

EASTSIDE BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
590 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, Washington
Douglas Hart, Secy
6005 121st S.E., Bellevue, WA 98006

EDNA STEWART PITTSBURGH BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Phipps Conservatory
Beverly Coyle, Corr. Secretary
144 McCurdy Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15235

EL MONTE COMMUNITY BRANCH

3rd Friday, Members' Homes
Mrs. Gladys Mattuket, Secy.
1801 Azalea Drive, Alhambra, Calif. 91801

FORT, ELSA BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Miss Lola Price, Secy.
628 Beach Ave., Laurel Springs, N.J. 08044

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Sunnyside School
9972 Russell Ave. at Brookhurst, Garden Grove, Ca.
Loretta Stocks, Sec'y.
2668 Redlands Drive, Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626

GERALDINE DALY BEGONIA BRANCH

1st Saturday, Homes of Members
Mrs. Arline G. Peck, Secy.
Eagle Peak Road, Pascoag, R.I. 02859

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand
Mrs. Katharine Alberti, Secy.
3322 Troy Drive, Hollywood, Calif. 90068

GREATER ROCHESTER BRANCH

Third Sunday, Members' homes
Thea S. Tweet, Secy.
280 Weymouth Dr., Rochester, N. Y. 14625

HAMPTON BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:45 p.m.
Parrish Memorial Hall, Southampton, N.Y.
Mildred L. Thompson
310-A Hill Street, Southampton, N.Y. 11968

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

2nd Friday, 10:00 a.m.
Garden Center, 1500 Herman Drive
Mrs. B. A. Russell, Secy.
5926 Jackwood, Houston, Texas 77036

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of New York
128 West 58th St., New York
Samantha G. Langer, Secy.
361 East 50th Street
New York, NY 10022

LONG BEACH PARENT CHAPTER

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m.
Great Western Sav. and Loan Bldg.
6300 E. Spring St., near Palo Verde
Long Beach, California 90818
Mrs. P. E. Powell, Secy.
3031 Shakespeare Dr., Los Alamitos, Ca. 90720

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Mrs. Michael Hecht, Secy.
2 Bonnie Court, Merrick, N.Y. 11566

MESQUITE BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Members homes
Mrs. Mae Blanton, Secy.
118 Wildoak Drive, Lake Dallas, Texas 75065

MIAMI BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Simpson Memorial Garden Center
55 South West 17th Road, Miami, Florida
Mrs. Alma Crawford, Secy.
14250 Madison St., Miami, Florida 33158

MISSOURI BRANCH

3rd Friday, 11 a.m., Member's Homes
Kansas City, Mo.
Mrs. Glenn Lucas, Secy.
Kansas City, Mo. 64109

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts., New Monterey, Calif.
Mrs. Mary Peterson, Sec'y.
24522 Pescadero Rd., Carmel, CA. 93921

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mercury Savings and Loan Assn.
4140 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach
Miss Carol Ruane, Secy.
2133 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, CA 90806

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
First Christian Church,
1130 E. Walnut Street, Orange, California
Mrs. Dorothy Porter, Secy.
19151 Lomita Ave., Orange, CA 92669

PORTLAND BRANCH

Mrs. Otelia Klobas, Secy.
35330 S.E. Dunn Rd., Boring, Ore. 97002

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
R. H. Dana School Cafetorium
135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif.
Mrs. Susian Shaner, Secy.
5026 W. 122nd Street, Hawthorne, Calif. 90250

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. Homes of Members
Juana Curtis, Secy.
4107 Taos Dr., San Diego, Ca. 92117

RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., West Riverside Memorial Hall
4393 Riverside Drive, Rubidoux, Ca.
Mrs. Cindy Gray, Secy.
22601 Whittier Street, Colton, CA 92324

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
Sandra Graves, Secy
9 Rosemead Circle, Sacramento, CA 95831

SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS

4th Monday, 1:30 p.m., Homes of Members
Mrs. Jesse B. Harper, Secy.
Route 3, Salina, Kansas 67401

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way
Mrs. H. C. Banks, Secy.
1279 35th Ave., San Francisco, Ca. 94122

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart, Secy.
169 Mauna Loa Dr., Monrovia, Ca. 91016

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 7:30 P.M.
Casa del Prado (Rm. 104)
Balboa Park, San Diego
Mrs. Nova Gillis, Secy.
11885 Walnut Rd., Lakeside, Ca. 92040

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
2559 Puesta Del Sol
Mrs. Patricia Hill, Secy.
6549 Huntington Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93111

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
Security S & L Bldg.
Fremont and Mary Aves.
Sunnyvale, CA
Mrs. Elizabeth K. Sayers, Secy.
369 Ridge Vista Ave., San Jose, Ca. 95127

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:00 P.M.
Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Ave. N.E.
Judy Boling, Secy
10025 39th Southwest, Seattle, WA 98146

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Senior Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa Clara St.,
Ventura, Ca.
Mrs. Bernice Barker, Sec'y
3316 Porter Lane, Ventura, CA. 93003

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Wm. Moshler Field House
430 South 156th Burien
Helen Harbord, Secy
17859 S.E. 196th Drive, Renton, WA 98055

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH

Mrs. Grace McDougall, Secy.
Plum St., Inverness Highlands
Inverness, Florida 32650

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m., Bank of Fort Worth
Mrs. Richard Ellis, Secy.
2117 Hillcrest, Ft. Worth, Texas 76107

TEXASTAR BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 10 a.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Mrs. V. O. Harman, Secy.
306 Cody, Houston, Texas 77009

TWIN CITIES BRANCH

Pat Burdick, Secy
1910 Skyline Dr., Burnsville, MN 55337

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westchester Women's Club
8020 Alverstone Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.
Barbara Mack, Secy.
424 Oregon St., El Segundo, Ca. 90245

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday 11:00 a.m. every month
Northway Mall Community Room
North Hills, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Marie Treat, Secy
604 Nobletown Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center
5703 South Palm Avenue, Whittier
Miss Anne Rose, Secy.
14036 Ramona Drive, Whittier, Calif. 90605

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Noon Homes of Members
Mrs. John W. Watson, Secy.
209 Fembroke Ave.
Wayne, Pa. 19087

Note to branch secretaries: please promptly notify the editors of changes in meeting place, date, and changes in secretary's name and address.

CALENDAR

Feb. 23 — ABS Board of Directors Meeting — South Gate Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. (unless notified otherwise by mail).

Feb. 27 — Redondo area Branch — 6:30 p.m. at Dana School, 135th Street and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, CA. Jitney dinner. (Bring your own table service). Discussion on Propagating Begonias. Visitors welcome.

Mar. 4 — Twin Cities Branch — Slides and tape: Scenic tour of Panama including begonia garden of Joe Bond. Contact secretary for time and location.

OOPS!

There is an error on page 272 of the November, 1975 *Begonian*. Change to read: ppm means parts per million.

MOVING?

If you are planning to move, be sure to send a change of address notice to the Membership Secretary. Copies of the *Begonian* which are sent by Second Class Mail are returned to the office and are not forwarded by the Post Office.

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