

April 1977

The BEGONIAN



GENERAL OFFICES:

Dues, address changes, or magazines:
8302 Kittyhawk Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Subscription: \$5.00 per year. Foreign (Mexico and Canada) \$5.50. U.S. (Mexico and Canada) 1st Class \$8.00. Overseas Air Mail \$17.00. Pay in U.S. currency only. Single back issues 75¢.

Second Class Postage Paid at Los Angeles, California

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ELECTED OFFICERS

President Charles A. Richardson
5444 Hartwick St., Los Angeles, CA 90041
Past President Margaret Ziesenhenn
1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103
First Vice President Nathan Randall
8200 Irondale Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91306
Second Vice President Evelyn Cronin
88 Ledgeways, Wellesley Hills, MA 02181
Third Vice President Ralph Corwin
1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083
Treasurer Gilbert A. Estrada
7914 Springer St., Downey, CA 90242
Secretary Virginia Barnett
1213 S. Mullender Ave., West Covina, CA 91790

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Branch Relations Director Evelyn Cronin
88 Ledgeways, Wellesley Hills, MA 02181
Business Manager Bill Walton
P.O. Box 4048, Torrance, CA 90510
Judging Course Director Margaret Lee
1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102
Librarian Lydia Austin
15329 Eastwood Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260
Membership Secretary Jacqueline Garinger
8302 Kittyhawk Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045
Nomenclature Director Rudolf Ziesenhenn
1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103
Parliamentarian Phyllis Bates
554 Arden Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024
Past Presidents Group Chairman Walter Pease
8101 Vicksburg Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045
Research Director M. Carleton L'Hommedieu
370 Locust Ave., Oakdale, NY 11769
Public Relations Director Corliss Engle
26 Edgehill Rd., Brookline, MA 02146
Round Robin Director Debi Miller
919 Hickory View Circle, Camarillo, CA 93010
Seed Fund Director Pearl Benell
10331 Colima Rd., Whittier, CA 90604

Seed Fund Orders Linda Miller
P.O. Box 227, Gardena, CA 90247
Show Chairman E. Douglas Frost
10622 Teal Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92640
Slide Librarian Patrick Worley
Box 644, Mendota, MN 55150
Speakers Bureau Nathan Randall
8200 Irondale Ave., Canoga Park, CA 91306

BRANCH NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Central San Joaquin Mary Reed
East Bay Glen Maynard
Edna Stewart Pittsburgh Dale Stewart
Garden Grove Douglas Frost
Glendale Marian Douglas
Gordon Lepisto Douglas Forbes
Greater Chicago Jane Cullen
Hampton Mary Burnaford
Jacksonville Lucius Gordon
Long Beach Parent Muriel Perz
Long Island Marie Donnelly
Miami Charles Jaros
Monterey Bay Leslie Hatfield
North Long Beach D. G. Sullinger
Orange County Marty Litton
Palomar Ralph Corwin
Portland La Verne Jenkins
Potomac Allen Taylor
Redondo Area Melba Gabbert
Robinson, Alfred, D. Margaret Lee
Sacramento Lou Thompson
San Gabriel Valley Walter Barnett
San Miguel Paul Lee
Santa Barbara Barbara Philip
Santa Clara Charles Sayers
Seattle Mary Dunnell
Shepherd, Theodosia Burr Debi Miller
South Seattle Clarence Eastwood
Westchester Katherine Alberti
If your branch representative is not listed, please contact editors with the correct information.

The Board of Directors will meet April 26 at South Gate Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Deadline for the June issue is April 27.

**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
AIMS AND PURPOSES OF THE**

- 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*.

THE BEGONIAN STAFF

- Co-EditorsEdgar and Phyllis Bates
P. O. Box 82109, San Diego, Ca. 92138
Phone (714) 436-1419.
- Advertising ManagerMabel Corwin
1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, Ca. 92083
- Advertising Accounts ManagerEsther Passet
2123 Dracena St., Bakersfield, CA 93304
- CirculationJacqueline Garinger
8302 Kittyhawk Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90045
- Contributing Editors
- Elda Haring.....Box 236 Ravenswood Loop Rd.
Flat Rock, N.C. 28731
- Ruth Pease.....8101 Vicksburg Ave.
Los Angeles, Ca. 90045

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

**THE BEGONIAN
ADVERTISING RATES**

	One Time
Full Page	\$80.00
Half Page	40.00
Quarter Page	25.00
Per Inch	10.00

5% Discount for 4 or more consecutive runs.

Limited printing of a book containing data about 550 registered cultivars. Prepared by R. Ziesenhenné, Nomenclature Director. (Under \$10.) Send name and address to reserve copy to Lydia Austin, 15329 Eastwood Ave., Lawndale, CA 90260.

Editorial

With great reluctance we have published in this issue both the list of the Board of Directors and the Branch Directory. We say reluctantly, not because we want to hide the Branch meeting times nor to downplay the hard working Board of Directors, but only because alternating the lists on the back pages allowed us to print about 24 pages of additional begonia articles and pictures each year.

We have continued to try to vary the type of content and the focus of the articles to please the wide variety of members' interests. We have felt most fortunate to have so many articles and pictures contributed. Always it has been our aim to give you the most information we could in each magazine.

Our President, Charles Richardson has emphasized that the ABS is more than a magazine subscription. Therefore, in the next issue, we shall include a questionnaire about your preferences. We ask that you reply thoughtfully and quickly.

In This Issue

Open Letter to Subscribers	88
Zip's Children	89
Garden in the Concrete Jungle	90
Hybridizing	92
My Begonia Friends	95
Begonia plejeba and Begonia tenuipila	96
Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund	102
Round Robin Notes	104
Begonia Question Box	105
New Branches	108
Minutes	109

AN OPEN LETTER TO RECENT SUBSCRIBERS

By Charles Richardson, President, American Begonia Society

Although I have worked in the Glendale Branch for many years, the letters that I have received from the Members-at-Large have made me more aware of the Society's problems than the branch experience has. In different ways most of the letters express the desire to know someone with whom to share begonia experiences and thoughts. Some writers felt that our only contact with them was the *Begonian* — that we were a magazine subscription. All of us are aware of the challenges that we meet in growing begonias, but we sometimes forget the other members' problems. However, I believe our real shortcoming lies not in what we are doing, but in the fact that we have not made you aware that there are services created over the years for the one purpose of helping all of you who join also to participate.

Has anyone told you that the Round Robins (circulating begonia letters) are for the one purpose of drawing you, the member, into the mainstream of participation — of sharing your begonia growing ex-

periences with others and they theirs with you? There are about 75 different groups or flights and at least one subject should interest you. Why don't you drop a line to Debi Miller and ask for a list. Debi is concentrating on this effort now since Mabel Corwin has taken over the responsibility of reporting items that will be of interest to all readers in the *Begonian*.

This is just one of several activities that have been planned for you. I'll tell you more about these later. But just now, remember that as a member of the American Begonia Society you are welcome to join any branch of your choosing or to visit any branch when traveling. Lots of people do this and many members belong to more than one branch. I want you to know that you are more than a name on a mailing list to us. The Society is a lot of people all over this country and others who are trying to meet the challenge of growing and knowing more about begonias. We are glad you are with us.

RIEGER ELATIOR BEGONIAS — For June Delivery Order Now!

Schwabenland Type — Single flowers, for pots

Red Crispa — Bright red flowers, deeply ruffled heavy foliage

Pink Crispa — Pink flowers, deeply ruffled heavy foliage

Browns Golden Gelbe — Yellow flowers, better than Bernsteins gelbe, stronger grower

Aphrodite Type — Double flowered, for baskets or staked for pots.

Peach — Peach colored flowers, very floriferous

Twinkles — Bright pink flowers, serrated foliage, self branching

Limelight — Very double white with infusion of chartreuse on back of petals

These are patented plants — Propagation Prohibited.

ROBERT B. HAMM

2951 ELLIOTT, WICHITA FALLS, TX 76308 — PHONE (817) 691-1295

3" pots in bud or bloom, \$2.50 ea., 6/\$13.50 Add \$2.00 postage & packing. Sent U.P.S. — if no one is home during the day specify Parcel Post shipment (we do not guarantee Parcel Post shipment) Airmail on request — Add \$0.25 per plant. Texas residents add state & local sales taxes. Send \$1.00 to receive all price lists and special offers for the year, (Free with order.)

ZIP'S CHILDREN

Cover photo of Begonia 'Zippo' by Bob Cole, Reseda, Calif.

Begonia 'Zippo' is only one of a set of related hybrids recently developed at the Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens. They are small plants with medium sized leaves of heavy substance and are hardy and easy to grow. Pink flowers and creeping rhizomes are also traits which this group possesses. The five delightful cultivars of *B.* 'Zip' and *B.* 'Bow-Nigra' are called *B.* 'Zippo', *B.* 'Zipper', *B.* 'Bowzip', *B.* 'Zippy' and *B.* 'Charles Rick'. The begonia collector will have to be careful of his plant labels and descriptions because, at least on paper, this group can be somewhat confusing.

Bob Cole chose as the seed parent a little plant which is included in many begonia collections. The original plant was called "Zip" by Sylvia Leatherman who thought the plant identification number resembled a postal zip code. Jack Golding through his studies concluded that "Zip" was a variety of the species *B. conchifolia* and designated it as *Begonia conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula*. Rudy Ziesenhenné feels that it is a specific cultivar hybrid and refers to it as *B. conchifolia* 'Zip'. The pollen parent in all five cases was *B.* 'Bow-Nigra', a cross of *B. bowerae* and *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*. It is a small rhizomatous plant with dark markings on toothed leaves.

All five of Cole's cultivars have peltate leaves. *B.* 'Bowzip' is the only one without the central red dot. Three of them have the dark markings that are characteristic of *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans*: *B.* 'Zipper',

B. 'Zippy', and *B.* 'Bowzip'. Both *B.* 'Zippo' and *B.* 'Charles Rick' have marginal stitching. This trait of *B. bowerae* is so dominant that it appears in hybrids much removed from the species.

Two more *B.* 'Zip' cultivars hybridized by Bob Cole have *B. bowerae* var. *nigramarga* as the pollen parent. They are whimsically named *B.* 'White Bellybutton' and *B.* 'Red Bellybutton'. As miniature rhizomatous plants they are suited for windowsill and table top culture. The dark edged leaves are light green with characteristic *B. bowerae* eye-lashing. The single most important distinguishing feature is the color of the central dot.

Glen Lewis, also of the Plant Shop's staff, worked with crosses of *B.* 'Zip' and *B.* 'Cleopatra' to develop a series of small windowsill plants. Here again the central red dot appears in cultivars with the names *B.* 'Glen Lewis', *B.* 'Glen's Zip', and *B.* 'Lewis's Zip'. The leaves of these three are different in appearance. Another related cultivar with *B.* 'Cleopatra', is *B.* 'Bill Cook' which is a large, unusual, erect plant of heavy substance. It has sturdy cane-like stems and leaves with an oak-leaf shape and silver blotching. The red color is apparent only in some of the veins.

At the San Diego Show exhibited among the new introductions were two other *B.* 'Zip' crosses, one called *B.* 'William Cook' and the other *B.* 'Billiam'. The pollen parent for
(Continued on page 106)

A GARDEN IN THE CONCRETE JUNGLE

By Bill Cook, The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens

The houses and businesses of Reseda, Tarzana and Encino lie all around the Gardens, yet this oasis remains an isolated oasis in a small section of agricultural zoning, only one block from condominiums and major traffic. Once you step into the Gardens you are immediately in another world. The exterior garden is composed of cacti and succulents from the far reaches of the world. The exotic shapes and even more exotic blossoms are dramatic in their presentation in the landscaping. Within a short distance, you step through Alice's mirror to find a magic world of tropical splendor.

The main house contains the major portion of the begonia collection. Many well known and much loved begonias are here including the former Leatherman Gardens collection and many new hybrids and a growing array of species. Here you can find the new developments such as *B. 'Bill Cook'* and *B. 'Zipper'* and a peek at some even newer, just registered "inventions" of co-owner, Bob Cole.

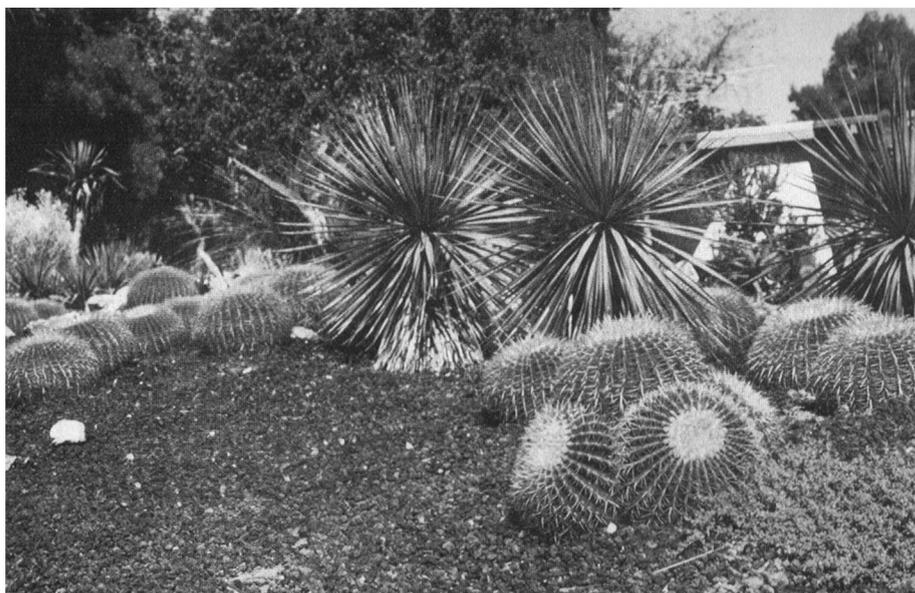
The center of the main display house is a natural jungle planting where you may view a major portion of the permanent collection in a natural setting. Ever see a begonia run up a tree? You can here. *Begonia convolvulaceae* given ideal conditions will run through shrub and brush and root its way philodendron-like right up a tree trunk. Many visitors are surprised to see orchids and bromeliads growing epiphytically. It is much easier here to explain the



concept of how plants survived before man put them in pots and made them portable. Begonia growers get so accustomed to seeing and dealing with container growing that they tend to forget that the container is an artificial device contrived for convenience.

In addition to the plant groups already mentioned there are excellent ferns, carnivores and a large variety of miscellaneous rare plants to peruse.

The Garden is a friendly, gentle place of ever changing beauty where you may browse, enjoy and admire or acquire as your desires move you. More and more people from countries around the world are finding the way to the Gardens. It is always a treat to compare notes and meet new friends.



Photos of the Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens by Charles Rick.
Top — The exterior garden of cacti and succulents.
Below — The greenhouse where begonias, ferns, tropicals grow.
Previous page — A jungle planting.

HYBRIDIZING

By Gene Moglia, Long Island, New York

Reprinted from *Begonia Gems*

When one considers the myriad of begonias available today, the question that pops into mind at once is why anyone would bother hybridizing. Surely almost every conceivable type and kind of begonia can be bought from some of the specialist growers. We have wee, colorful rexes; giant leaved rhizomatous; enormous flowered tuberous; begonias suitable for terrariums, baskets, greenhouse, under lights and window-sill growing. It seems there is a begonia for every purpose.

However, when one looks at the many hybrids available, it becomes obvious that comparatively few species have been used as parents. Many of the species being grown are somewhat tempermental; for instance the *B. bowerae* species tend to need more humidity than its cultivars. This does not mean, of course, the hybrid begonias are indestructible when compared with the species used. *B. versicolor* needs an enclosed atmosphere and one of its progeny, *B. 'Wanda'*, likewise needs the high humidity afforded by a terrarium or bubble. For the most part, though, many of the new hybrids are much easier to grow than tempermental species.

The ideal hybrid tries to combine the best traits of its parents. Naturally this does not always work in the plant world, just as many times it does not in our human world. A beautiful actress once remarked to George Bernard Shaw that a child with her beauty and his brain would be ideal. He said yes, but suppose the

poor thing came into the world with his looks and her brains! Thus the best thought-out plans may not materialize. However, given all the chances for something to go wrong, there have been some remarkable advances made in the begonia world in just a few generations. We have vigorous rhizomatous, everblooming *semperflorens* and multi-hued rexes.

Also, there is another facet not yet mentioned. Hybridizing means growing plants from seed and to those of us who have tried it this is a fun way to grow begonias. Using seed gives one several advantages — one little pod can produce hundreds of seedlings. Generally, compared to vegetative reproduction seed-grown plants are usually trouble-free, especially with respect to disease. A third important advantage to growing from seed is that this is a rather simple way to grow plants. Though a begonia seed is minute, it will germinate quickly, if fresh, and grows rapidly. A well grown specimen can be achieved within only a year.

One question that should be considered is the number of chromosomes in begonias. Chromosomes are important for they carry the genetic code that decides the plant. Unlike some plant families there is great variation on the number of chromosomes from one species of begonia to another. Dr. Doorenbos has studied this extensively and has published his findings in the *Begonian*. Begonia chromosomes number anywhere from 20 to 156, depending on

the species. It may be that there are naturally occurring tetraploids within the family since there are many which have numbers that are multiples. For instance, there are many begonias with 22 or 44 chromosomes; likewise there is a large group with 28 and 56 chromosomes. However, this disparity in numbers has not been an impediment to hybridizing. We have had crosses between 76 and 56 and even 76 and 38. It can be gleaned from records that most crosses occur between begonias with chromosome numbers fairly close.

Naturally, the first requirement for hybridization is begonias that bloom. Often this is easier said than done. Some plants are naturally sparse bloomers but under our indoor light conditions, some adjustments can be made in day-length or temperature to produce bloom. Also, some begonias when they do bloom produce either male or female blossoms at any given time. This may necessitate the storing of pollen in a refrigerator. It is most important to keep the pollen dry as well as cool until it is used.

Begonia flowers are interesting in that they are unisexual. There are individual male, pollen producing flowers with anthers or female flowers with stigmas. Female begonia flowers are usually also distinguished by the winged ovary. In early October the female flowers on our *semperflorens* danced in the wind. Usually both flowers may be found on the same plant though not necessarily at the same time. It is interesting to note that a handful of species are dioecious like holly. A plant will produce either male or female flowers exclusively. Most begonias are

monoecious though, with male and female flowers produced.

Given the nature of begonia flowers, it seems that an agent must be present to result in fertilization. Only recently has any work been done in this area so this is just a supposition. Philip Seitner wrote an article in the June '76 issue of the *Begonian* and hopes to do further research into the role of insects in begonia pollination. In our hopefully bug-free environment, be it in the greenhouse or under light, this works to the hybridizer's favor. This enables better control for crosses. If we cross "A" with "B" and get seed we can be confident it is the result of our cross and not the result of a nocturnal visitation on the flower by a bug.

Rather than discuss the actual mechanics of pollinization, I would advise reading an article by Dr. Doorenbos in the July 1975 issue of the *Begonian*, "How to Produce Begonia Seed."

We can assume now that we have had a successful cross, resulting in a number of pods which we have harvested, sown and grown to maturity. It may be of interest now to see how some of our illustrious predecessors fared in the uncharted seas of pollinization and hybridization.

One of the first groups of begonias to be improved through selective hybridization was the *semperflorens* cultorum class. There is a dispute at present whether there is a distinct *B. semperflorens* or whether it is merely *B. cucullata* var. *hookeri*. It is sufficient for our purposes to look at the original cross, which was *B. semperflorens* crossed with *B. schmidtiana*. This was done almost 100 years ago.

It is interesting to note that according to available records this was the only time *B. semperflorens* was used in the development of the class, however, the name stuck. *B. schmidtiana* gave compact size to the class, and it is slightly more floriferous than the other parent. Since there is a close affinity between *B. semperflorens* and *B. cucullata* var. *hookeri*, we can accept the latter as the original parent. Since it is in cultivation today, one is struck by the close similarity in some respects between it and the highly polished hybrids. Anyone that has ever grown the *hookeri* variety is struck with its vigor — it is a virtual weed and this has been its most important characteristic passed on to its progeny.

Later development saw *B. roezlii* introduced into the strain in 1881 and it added a greater color range to the flowers. A few years later, about 1890, the bronze colored semps appeared as mutants. *B. fuchsoides* was introduced and passed on smaller and glossier foliage. Another important mutant which appeared in the 20th century was the calla type, with the variegated foliage. Thus we have available today a great array of semperflorens: green foliaged, bronze foliaged, single flowered and double flowered and calla types with colors ranging from pure white through blush pink to the most vivid reds.

The rhizomatous class of begonias has been marked by several significant parents. To anyone perusing the parentage section of the *Thompson Begonia Guide*, *B. bowerae* and its varieties appear again and again. *B. bowerae* is noteworthy for the eye-

lash and black margin of so many hybrids. Some of our most popular begonias today can be traced back to *B. bowerae*: *B. 'Bow-Joe'*, *B. 'Bow-Arriola'*, *B. 'Bow-Nigra'*, *B. 'Chantilly Lace'*, are only a few. *B. 'Chumash'*, a chance seed pod on a *B. bowerae* plant shows a strong influence from its mother.

B. imperialis and *B. pustulata* were very important in developing the distinctive foliage type rhizomatous begonias. *B. 'Silver Jewel'* and *B. 'Emerald Jewel'* are products of the reciprocal crosses between *B. imperialis* and *B. pustulata*. Each is a distinctive addition to any begonia collection and when grown well can be a true show stopper, as was the case when *B. 'Emerald Jewel'* was best in show at the 9th Eastern Regional Convention a few years ago. *B. 'Black Raspberry'* is one of the most freely flowering begonias and is a cross between *B. acetosa* and *B. imperialis*. Both parents are easily identified in the hybrid. *B. 'Wanda'*, mentioned earlier, is a cross between the difficult *B. versicolor* from China and *B. masoniana* from Singapore. This is one of only a few hybrids using *B. masoniana*. A few other distinctive foliage begonias are *B. 'Buttercup'* [*B. prismatocarpa* x *B. rajab*], *B. 'Mumtaz'* [*B. goegoensis* x *B. rajab*]. In each one, one is able to pick out the characteristics of the parents.

A last group of rhizomatous begonias to be considered are groups known as star begonias. *B. heracleifolia* and its varieties have been used a great deal by the amateur hybridizers to produce begonias with deeply

(Continued on page 106)

MY BEGONIA FRIENDS

I have just finished reading a short editorial by Peter W. Tobey, a person whose view of plant names I share sympathetically and completely. Tobey's argument for the use of scientific names is singular and clear—a scientific name is unique to a given plant and descriptive as well. Incidentally, if he gives me permission to reprint the editorial, I shall do so. Otherwise, you may want to search for a copy of *House Plants and Porch Gardens*, February, '77, to see it for yourself.

Many begonia hobbyists have come to terms in dealing with scientific names of begonias. Just as my long-time friends know my full name, but call me "Phyl," the begonia owner may know the full name of his plant is *Begonia polygoniodes* Hooker filis and refer to it as *polygonoides*, or even "poly" in friendlier moments. If he did not know the full name, he would have to know something about the plant's source and background to search for the full name. It would take a knowledge of my background to locate my full and complete name, too! Trips to appropriate people or county courthouses would be in order. Point is, there are places to look and people to ask about many plant names. Some searches may end in a question mark and poor little begonia may be designated as Sam and lived with all the same, until a better name comes along.

The chief argument I have heard against the use of scientific names seems to be the difficulties involved in spelling and remembering. Some person's names are not exactly easy to learn. My kindergarten friend, Re-

gina Marguerita Reinheimer, somehow learned to print her name across two lines in a style acceptable to our teacher as readily as did James Roy Clark. So did kids whose names were Przybyc, Bjornson and Gajewski (pronounced Purr-zib-bik, Bay-ore-en-son, and Gay-es-key). Of course they had a very special reason to learn—these were their very own names. The rest of the class learned them, too. These were our friends!

With plant names there may be difficulties, but we can learn names of the BEGONIACEAE or MARANTACEAE or LILIACEAE family members, in addition to shortened forms. The human memory for names being notably short, it is best to write down the full name of the plant to be able to look at it occasionally. Learning what the name means helps to fix it in your mind: *prismatocarpa* — *carpa* means "seed pod" — *prismatocarpa* — "seedpod like a prism". Learning to pronounce the name helps a great deal, too. Several styles of Latin pronunciation are used, depending on the background of the speaker. Usually one is preferred to the others by botanists or horticulturalists.

Do I know the scientific names of all the plants in my yard? No, just those which I have had longest or love best. It is worth the effort to know the names of your friends—person or plant. P.B.

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.

BEGONIA PLEBEJA LIEBM. & BEGONIA TENUPIILA A.DC

By Rudolf Ziesenhene, Nomenclature Director

Always having been interested in growing *Begonia* and not just in looking at their pictures, in January 1947 I planted seed of a plant identified as *Begonia plebeja* Liebm. which had been sent me from Costa Rica by a plant collector, Austin Smith. I have had this plant in my collection continuously since then. My knowledge of *B. plebeja* was originally based on the description by F. Liebmann in his article "Mexicos og Central-Americas Begonier" (Mexican and Central American Begonias) in *Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den Naturhistoriske Forening i Kjobenhavn*, 1852, No. 1, page 8, and a photograph from the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago of *B. plebeja* Liebm. which is one of their "Types of the Berlin Herbarium" obtained through the Rockefeller Foundation Fund for Photographing Type Specimens.

On the basis of this information in the March 1959 issue of *The Begonian*, pages 60-62, I described *B. kenedyi*, a plant found in Old Panama in June 1914, as a new variety of *B. plebeja* Liebm., which we must change now.

In 1957 Thomas MacDougall sent me seed of his collection number C.196 in two packets to which I gave my *Begonia* planting numbers 2617 and 2618 but which did not produce plants identifiable as a species. In 1959 MacDougall collected one plant of his C.196, sending it to me in 1960. MacDougall's earlier collection notes list C.196 as a climbing upright rhizome with spotted leaves,

collected February 1957 at Cerro Tres Picos (north of Tonalá), Chiapas, Mexico, 5000-6000 feet. The plant sent me in 1960 does not have spotted leaves so a possibility exists that labels and plants were mixed in handling at the fumigation station, Laredo, Texas.

In 1971, upon learning that photographs of herbarium types of plants in the Copenhagen Herbarium could be obtained from Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University as "Photographs of Type and Historical Specimens," I requested photos of all of Liebmann's *Begonia* type-specimens.

The Hortorium's specimen-photo of *B. plebeja* Liebm. was an entirely different plant from that in the photo obtained of the Berlin plant furnished by the Field Museum. Interestingly this new herbarium specimen appeared to be MacDougall's *Begonia* C.196. I then wrote to the University of Copenhagen and sent a photo of the Berlin plant. In reply Dr. A. Skovsted, Curator of the Botanical Museum, sent me photos of two herbarium specimens of *B. plebeja* Liebm. designated "Orsted No. 197" and "Orsted No. 198", and said I might use them with an article.

It is apparent that a misunderstanding exists in the botanical world as to what is truly *Begonia plebeja* Liebm. At the end of Liebmann's description he lists two plants as being this species, the first one designated "Magister Orsted fandt den paa Vulcanen El Viejo i Nicaragua paa 300' in November" ("Magistrate Orsted found it on Volcano El Viejo

in Nicaragua at 3000' in November") and listed it as "Orsted No. 198"; from the botanical standpoint this is the TYPE specimen of *Begonia plebeja* Liebm. as it is mentioned first. Liebmann continues: "og/paa Bjerget Aguacate i Costa Rica paa 2000' i November." ("and on Mt. Aguacate in Costa Rica at 2000' in November.") This plant is listed as "Orsted No. 197" on the herbarium sheet. There is no doubt in my mind that two very different plants were involved in the formulation of the original description of *B. plebeja* Liebm. This point was quite clear to me since I had living material of what appeared to be both of these plants in my greenhouse. It must be remembered that the botanical work, "Mexico's Central-American Begonier", was written 1852 when not many *Begonia* were known. In fact in this article only 44 *Begonia* were described.

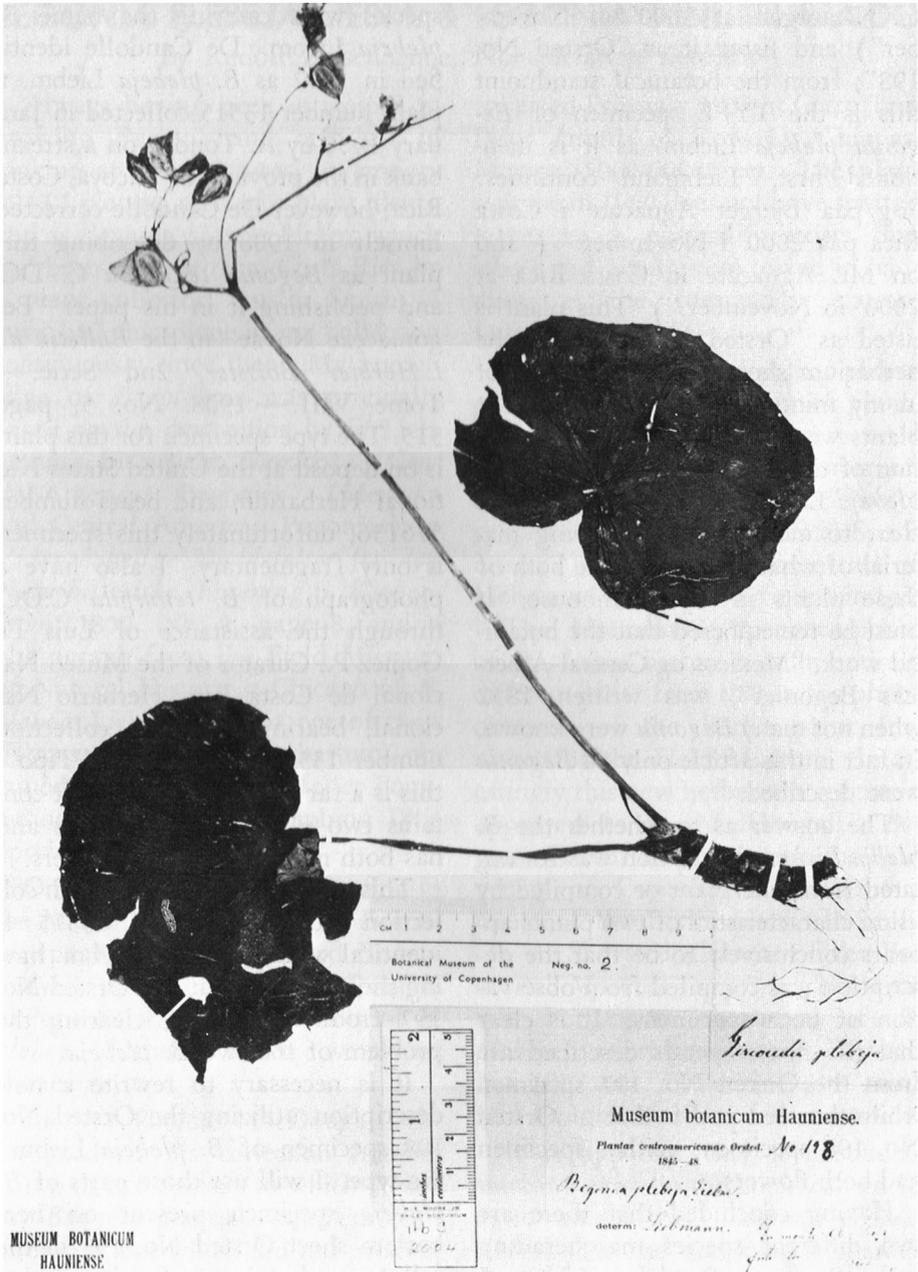
The answer as to whether the *B. plebeja* Liebm. description was formulated from one plant or compiled by using characteristics of two plants appears conclusively to be that the description was compiled from observation of both specimens. It is clear that the flower petals described are from the Orsted No. 197 specimen while the seed pod is that of Orsted No. 198 specimen; neither specimen had both flowers.

Having concluded that there are two different species masquerading under the name *B. plebeja* Liebm., I searched to determine if any other botanist had noticed this; a long, persistent search revealed that Casimir De Candolle, the famous Swiss botanist, had noticed in 1902 that two unlike

species were carrying the name *B. plebeja* Liebm. De Candolle identified in 1902 as *B. plebeja* Liebm. a plant number 13515 collected in January 1900 by A. Tonduz on a stream bank in the province of Nicoya, Costa Rica; however De Candolle corrected himself in 1908 by describing this plant as *Begonia tenuipila* C. DC. and publishing it in his paper "Begoniaceae Novae" in the *Bulletin de L'Herbier Boissier*, 2nd Serie.— Tome VIII.— 1908. No. 5, page 315. The type specimen for this plant is on deposit at the United States National Herbarium and bears number 576136; unfortunately this specimen is only fragmentary. I also have a photograph of *B. tenuipila* C. DC. through the assistance of Luis D. Gomez P., Curator of the Museo Nacional de Costa Rica Herbario Nacional, bearing Tonduz's collection number 13515 and stamped "Tipo"; this is a far better specimen as it contains two plants of the species and has both male and female flowers.

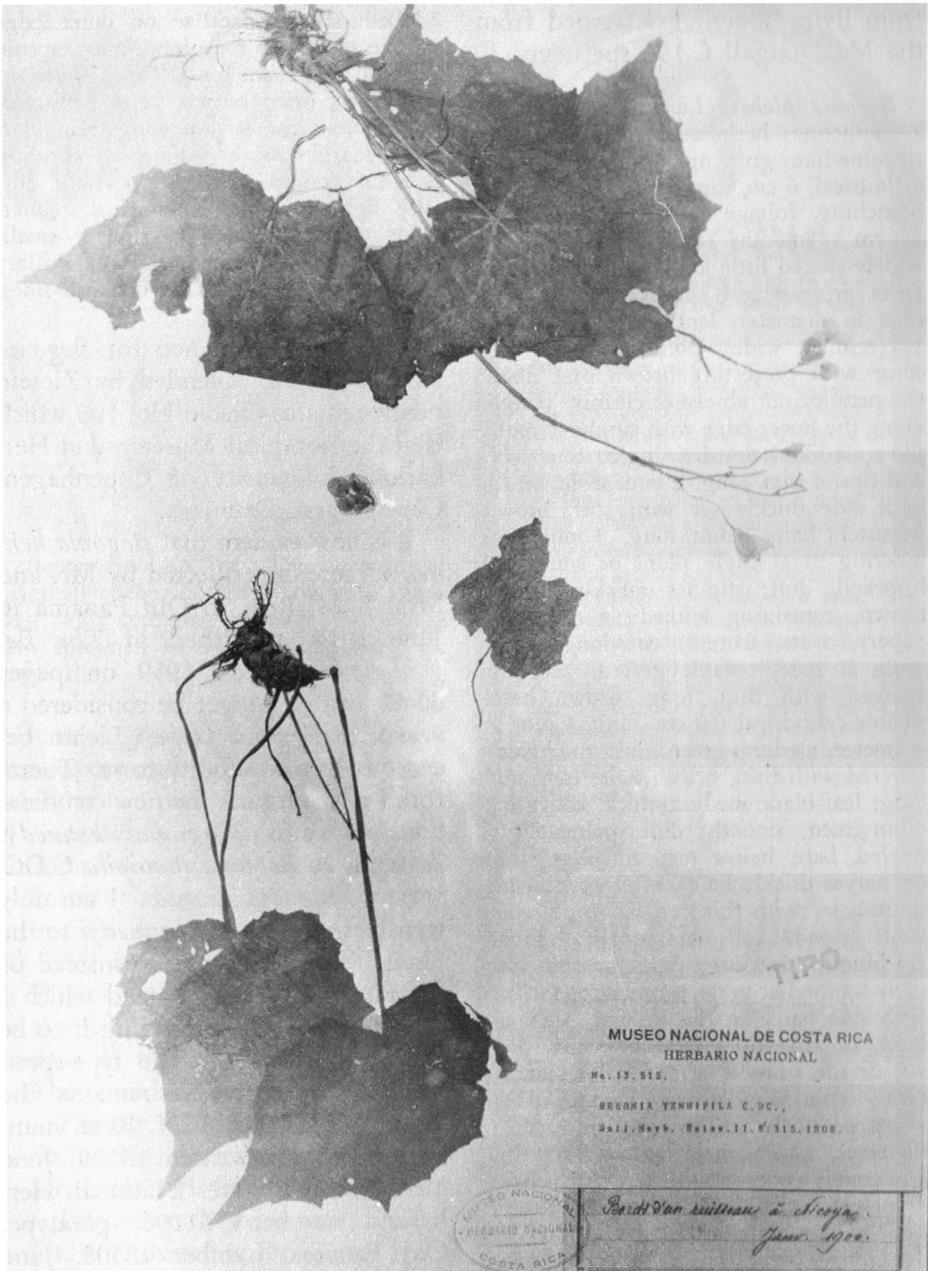
This plant, *B. tenuipila* C. DC. collection number Tonduz 13515 is identical with *B. plebeja* Liebm. having the collection number Orsted No. 197 from Costa Rica, clearing the problem of the two *B. plebeja*.

It is necessary to rewrite a new description utilizing the Orsted No. 198 specimen of *B. plebeja* Liebm., the type. I will use those parts of *B. plebeja* specimen present on herbarium sheet Orsted No. 198 in the following description for it remains the TYPE specimen for the begonia species of this name; since so much material is lacking in the original description, I will add those characteristics from my drawings made



BEGONIA PLEJEBA Liebm.

Dried herbarium specimen, prepared from plants collected by Orsted in Nicaragua in the 1840's, showing leaves and female flowers. The notation shows the section of the genus *Begonia* to which *plejeba* is assigned by present day botanists. It was formerly thought to be a separate genus.



BEGONIA TENUIPILO C. DC.

The specimen was collected in Nicaragua in 1900. The original description of the plant was written by Casimir de Candolle, whose initials are attached to the name. He thought it was *B. plebeja* in 1902, but named it a new species in 1908.

from living materials obtained from the MacDougall C.196 specimen:

Begonia plebeja Liebm., amended by Ziesenhenné: herbaceous perennial; stem rhizome-like growing oblique to erect, cylindrical, 6 cm. long, 1 cm. in diameter, branching, foliage at the tip, internodes 1 cm., smooth, medium-green, with widely-spaced little knobs of undeveloped roots protruding 3 mm. and being 1.2 mm. in diameter, lenticels 3 mm. long, 1.5 mm. at widest point, leaf scar tan-color with projecting brown bast fibers, the petioles not abscising cleanly, fringed along the lower edge with single or multiple scale-like hairs dividing to four lobes and tips, 4 mm. long, 2 mm. wide, on the back side thickly set with stiff, brown, persistent hairs 3 mm. long, .3 mm. wide tapering to a single point or sometimes biforked, dull; stipules quickly turning brown, remaining affixed to the stem, papery, ovate, acute, 1 cm. long, 1 cm. wide at base, outside keeled, keel-edge fringed with thin, long, brown hairs; petiole cylindrical, 10 cm. long, 3 mm. in diameter, medium-green, dull, moderately covered with thin, brown hairs to 2 mm. long; leaf-blade medium-thick, above medium-green, smooth, dull, palmately 9-nerved, bare, below medium-green, dull, on nerves thickly hairy, internervium medium-hairy with thin red hairs, obliquely heart-shaped, basal lobes equally rounded, tip blunt with a long point, margin minutely-toothed at nerve terminations, ciliate with fine hairs on the margin, 11.5 cm. long, 7.5 cm. wide, basal lobes may overlap or the sinus is acute; inflorescence a cyme repeatedly-divided, December-February, peduncle axillary, smooth, 3 cm. in diameter, 19 cm. in length, green, dull, moderately covered with red, curly hairs, branches 6 mm. to 40 mm long; flowers pink to rose, male flowers, pedicels 1 - 1.1 cm. long, bare, tepals 2, thin-circular, blunt, stamens 8 - 18 arranged like a hand of bananas, filaments 1 mm. long, anthers oblong wedge-shaped, tip rounded, 3 mm. long, connective produced; female flower tepals 2, transverse oblong, tip blunt, base roundish, 1.4 cm. long, 1.8 cm. wide, styles 3, persistent, 3 mm. long, slightly

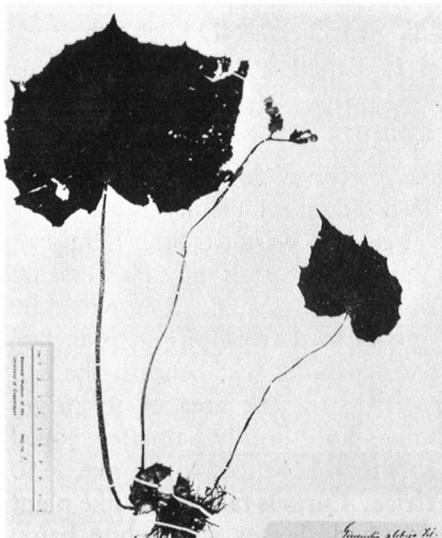
2-lobed, stigma papillae on outer edge and tip make one complete circle; capsule elliptical, 1.25 cm. long, 7 mm. wide, in life green, dried brown, bare, 3-winged, membranous the largest wing triangular, blunt, margin above ending very abruptly as if cut straight across, 7 mm. long, dorsally light-curved, second wing smaller, blunt angle, third wing very small, rounded: ovary 3-celled, placenta axillary two per cell carrying seed on both sides.

The TYPE specimen for *Begonia plebeja* Liebm. amended by Ziesenhenné remains Orsted No. 198 which is at the Botanical Museum and Herbarium, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

It is now evident that *Begonia kennedyi* Ziesenh., collected by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rose in Old Panama in June 1914, published in *The Begonian* of March 1959 on pages 60-62, can no longer be considered a variety of *Begonia plebeja* Liebm. because it has no affinity to it. Therefore I now propose the new combination to affix *Begonia kennedyi* Ziesenh. as *Begonia tenuipila* C.DC. variety *kennedyi* Ziesenh. I am only transferring *Begonia kennedyi* to the plant it has an affinity to instead of the plant incorrectly named which I was studying, understanding it to be the type specimen. The type-specimen of *B. kennedyi* remains the same: Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Rose, number 19809, overwritten 18508, June 1914, United States National Herbarium number 761196; paratype, Old Panama, number 18508, June 1914, New York Botanical Garden.

Comparing the type-specimens and growing plants of *B. plebeja* Liebm. and *B. tenuipila* C.DC. the following observations are noted:

B. plebeja Liebm. has a rhizome-



Begonia tenuipila C. DC. which had originally been incorrectly named. Compare with specimen on page 99. For a live specimen of *Begonia tenuipila* see page 103.

like stem growing erect, the stipules are papery and the leaf has very fine teeth; it has pink flowers

B. tenuipila C.DC. has a creeping rhizome, woody, persistent stipules, is dormant about four months of the year, and the leaf-margin is large-toothed; it has white flowers.

Sincere appreciation is expressed to the following who made the completion of this study possible:

The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill.

Bailey Hortorium, Ithaca, N.Y.

Dr. Lyman B. Smith, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Dr. A Skovsted & Dr. Bertel Hansen, The Botanical Museum and Herbarium, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

Luis D. Gomez P., Curator, Museo Nacional de Costa Rica Herbario Nacional, San Jose, Costa Rica.

3

ways to buy greenhouses:

One. You can buy a window size greenhouse to fit almost any window, even an apartment window, priced from \$200, and get started modestly. **Two.** You can buy a full size greenhouse you install yourself, priced from \$644, and save on installation cost. **Three.** You can buy one of our larger greenhouses, and have it permanently installed by a qualified professional.

These are the 3 ways to buy greenhouses and they're all explained fully in our new catalog. In it you'll find 173 greenhouses, one of which is just right for you. You'll also find page after page of greenhouse facts you'll want to know before you decide to buy. Our catalog will tell you all about us, too, and our nationwide service. You'll discover we have a man near you who will help you select the site, the greenhouse and accessories best for you. He cares. So find out all about it. Send for our new catalog, today.



LORD & BURNHAM

Division Burnham Corporation
the greenhouse people

IRVINGTON, N. Y. 10533 Dept. 14

Gentlemen:
Please send your **FREE** catalog to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

Compiled by Pearl E. Benell

- Ap 1 — *B. 'Bianco'*: 1910, semperflorens, from Italy. Grows to 2 ft. or more tall, with very large white bloomsper pkt. \$.50
- Ap 2 — *B. cathayana*: China species. Silky, velvety leaves, zoned ruby-red and emerald-green on top, and deep red on undersides. One of the most beautiful begonias grown. Requires warmth, high humidity, and needs protection from all drafts, and sunlight. Flowers are orange. Grows best in a terrarium.per pkt. 1.00
- Ap 3 — *B. deliciosa*: an Asian species, grows to 2 ft. Upright, branched with atypical rhizome-like stem which hides just beneath the soil surface. Nick-named "Indian-spotted" for the area of its origin and the large gray spots on its olive-drab, deeply palmately lobed leaves. Surprisingly large and soft-pink blooms.per pkt. .50
- Ap 4 — *B. engleri*: 1904, from tropical Africa. Curious tall, shrub-like plant with red-haired stems; dark green, wide leaves with white hairs; rose-pink blooms on peduncles in spring and summer. Easily grown from seedsper pkt. 1.00
- Ap 5 — *B. fernando-costae*: Brazil. Eye-catching plant with soft, fleshy, green cupped, oval, roundish leaves with inconspicuous hairs. Branched shrub, 1 to 2 ft. Erect clusters of white blossoms, with pointed petalsper pkt. .50
- Ap 6 — *B. 'Illusione'*: another semperflorens from Italy, 1928. 2 ft. tall plant with large, white flowers with deep-rose edging, giving a delightful picotee effect.per pkt. .50
- Ap 7 — *B. 'May Queen'*: an *albo-picta* seedling. Small, shamrock-green leaves with silver polka dots; greenish-white blooms. Plant stays low and branches freely.per pkt. 1.00
- Ap 8 — *B. putzeysiana*: species from Venezuela. Shrub-like to 1 ft. with spreading branches. It is related to *B. foliosa*, but more floriferous, and leaves and flowers are larger. It does not form canes.
per pkt. 1.00
- Ap 9 — *B. 'Roussel'*: 1878 semperflorens from France. Grows around 2 ft. tall (taller in warm climates) and has very showy large pink flowersper pkt. .50
- Ap 10 — *B. tenuipila*: 1908, Costa Rica. Rhizomatous with smooth leaves, 4-5 inches, sometimes with dark smudges. Flowers are rather small and white. This plant is often confused with *B. plebeja*.
per pkt. 1.00
- Ap 11 — Mixed/Australia. This is another batch of those lovely plants grown in Australia, which has given many of you very beautiful plants.
per pkt. \$1.00 or 3 for 2.00
- Streptocarpus — mixed colors. Grown by one of our Calif. members. Very beautiful plants.per pkt. .50



B. tenuipila



B. putzeysiana

Fern Spore:

Phyllitis scolopendrium — cristata forms — has wavy edge and is 'fan' tipped. Some very unusual plants have grown from this.

per pkt. .50

Camptosorus rhizophyllus — "Walking Fern" from Tennessee.

per pkt. .50

Calif. residents, please add 6% sales tax. All customers, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, and make all checks or money orders payable: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Mail to: Mrs. Linda Miller, P.O. Box 227, Gardena, CA 90247.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Debi Miller Round Robin Director

Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Compiler

Culture of Miniatures

Some of the robins have been discussing miniature begonia. Dorcas Resleff, Washington, feels the size of the pot and growing conditions govern how small a begonia grows. Clara Tuoto, California, keeps the minis "mini" by trimming the roots and re-potting in the same size pot. Barbara Neptune, California, feels that in warm and humid circumstances, "minis" require a lighter soil mix.

B. prismatocarpa

Margaret Waugespack, Louisiana, found that *B. prismatocarpa* doesn't like too much light and warmth. She had hers in the utility room under lights near the washer and dryer. The leaves were bleaching out and the plant regressing. She moved it to a cooler space near the end of the tubes. The plant looks better.

Propagation hints

This is the way Nancy Cummins, Kentucky, roots hairy begonias. She soaks the stems in water for several hours, then uses her finger nails to very gently remove the hairs from the stems. This way they are less likely to rot. For the very hirsute and felted she uses perlite, barely moistened, to root. Judy O'Keefe, Iowa, roots leaf and rhizome cuttings with almost 100% success in a covered clear plastic sweater box. She spreads a 50 - 50 mixture of perlite and vermiculite in an aluminum oven liner and dampens the mixture. The liner fits neatly into the sweater box. Cuttings are propped up in the mixture and generally are well rooted within 2 or 3 months.

Ellen Jacobson, Colorado, gave this suggestion for sprouting seeds. She places them over the ballasts on top of the lights. This seems to supply just the right amount of bottom heat. In answer to some questions regarding *B. dregei* cuttings, she gave this suggestion — she puts the cutting in plain water for 1 week and then pots directly in the potting mix. For her this works 99% of the time.

Plant sale

Art Sackenruther, California, has found a way to solve the problem of too many plants. He has an Annual Patio Plant Sale one weekend in August. He has been doing this for 5 years, and now folks come from all over the country to buy plants which are well grown and reasonably priced.

If you would like to participate in the Round Robin program write to

Debi Miller

919 Hickory View Circle

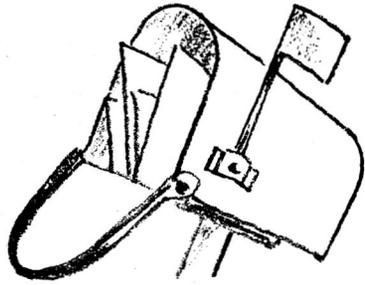
Camarillo, California 93010

Slide Library

If you or anyone in your branch is keeping slides or scripts of slide presentations from the ABS Slide Library *please return them immediately* so they can be made available to other branches. ABS Slide Librarian Pat Worley reported that he had some difficulties with mail service when he moved but that service is back to normal and he is trying hard to make all programs available to those who want them. The address for returning materials is Pat Worley, Box 644, Mendota, MN 55150.

BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

Write to: Elda Haring
Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731



Question: For propagating seeds I use Reddi-earth, perlite and fine vermiculite in plastic shoe boxes covered with Saran and placed 4 to 6 inches under a combination of cool white and "grow light" fluorescents. Seeds sprout but a crust of green stuff forms. This crust makes it difficult to prick out the plants and there is some loss of seedlings. Room temperature is 65° or less. *Answer:* Reddi-earth contains fine vermiculite, screened peat moss and nutrients. It would be better to add with the perlite the same amount of coarse vermiculite instead of adding additional fine vermiculite. Poke holes in the Saran for better ventilation. It has been my experience that algae forms more readily under cold temperatures. The use of a heating cable might help. Some experts suggest drenching the mix with Benlate (Benomyl) and Dexon the day before sowing seed. My plant room is very chilly in winter and I use a heating cable for bottom heat. Unless seedlings stay in containers for many weeks I have never experienced algae on top of mix.

Question: While the light is more than adequate for growing begonias the winter temperature in my plant room at night is 55 degrees, and in some corners of the room it may be as low as 45 degrees. Can you recommend some begonias to grow in this room? *Answer:* Many begonias do well in a cold winter time environment if light is adequate. Semperflorens, canes, shrub-like and most rhizomatous as well as trailers will be satisfactory. Rexes may tend to mildew and go dormant in such a cold room.

Question: Fixtures of my fluorescent lights cannot be adjusted. Tubes are 15 inches from the table. Most instructions for germinating seeds say to keep seed pans three inches from the lights. Would seedlings be lanky if pans are placed ten inches from the tubes? *Answer:* Pans can always be propped up closer to lights if necessary. However, top of my own seed pans are 11 inches from the tubes. The fixture takes 2 forty-eight inch tubes. My seedlings are always compact, never leggy. Seeds 3 to 4 inches from lights would benefit from warmth from the ballast when lights are on. I use a heating cable which keeps the medium at 70 degrees around the clock, especially for begonia and gesneriad seed.

**OUT OF PRINT & DISCOUNT
BOTANICAL — BOOKS**

Begonia - Cacti - Bromeliads - Gesneriads

Send for Free Catalogue

H. LAWRENCE FERGUSON

P. O. Box 5129, Ocean Park Station
Santa Monica, Calif. 90405

HYBRIDIZING

(Continued from page 94)

slashed leaves. One of our favorite rhizomatous begonias is *B. 'Beatrice Haddrell'*. This is a cross between *B. bowerae* and *B. heracleifolia* var. *sunderbruckii*. *B. 'Black Falcon'* is another widely grown rhizomatous begonia with cleft medium size leaves. Its two parents are *B. kenworthyae*, an erect rhizome cleft type crossed with *B. heracleifolia* var. *sunderbruckii*.

We can see that even though there are thousands of varieties there is still a great deal of room for improvement. The only limitation is our imagination. Leslie Woodriff, who gave us the wonderful *B. 'It'*, has even crossed rexes with tuberous. Variation is fun and when we get an easily grown, beautiful begonia in the bargain, everyone profits!

ZIP'S CHILDREN

(Continued from page 89)

these two cultivars was the large rhizomatous *B. macdougalii* var. *purpurea*. The latter has large compound leaves, which are heavily palmate, and a thick rhizome. Bob Cole was also responsible for these crosses.

This does not exhaust the list of cultivars that have resulted from the experimentation with *B. 'Zip'* at the Botanical Gardens. There were several more on display at the San Diego Show. A number of them appear in the lists of new ABS registrations for February, March and May.



IF YOU WANT

"Begonia Beautiful"
"SaintPaulia Superbia"
"Gesneriads Jeswunderfulia" &
"Blossoms Profusica"

HERE IS

EXCITING NEWS for ALL you
Growers of Begonias, Gloxinias,
African Violets and ALL plants
that grow in the soil

ANNOUNCING

New Triple-Strength VITALOAM Cultured

Re-jewva-tone

for all Home Gardeners. Lighter than Ever . . . Richer than Ever . . .
Safer and Easier to Use than Ever . . . BETTER THAN EVER and
priced LESS THAN LAST YEAR to help Whip Inflation Now.

NO Fertilizers . . . NO Manures . . . NO additives needed . . . Will
NOT Burn . . . Will NOT Leach out with watering . . . Completely
SAFE Alone or mixed with your soil . . . Use as Little or AS MUCH
as you want depending on results desired.

ORDER TODAY AT THESE SPECIAL DIRECT PRICES:
Retail Size (approx. 6 qts.) \$4. ea., 2 for \$7.50. Club Special, Ctn.
of 12, \$32. Special Economy Size (5 times as much & Extra Strength
for the advanced grower) \$15.00 ea. All orders prepaid east of Rock-
ies, all others add \$1.00. Dealer Inquiries Invited on Letterhead.

Make Checks Payable To: RE-JEWVA-TONE SALES
P. O. Box 636 - Newton, N. C. 28658

STOP! DON'T TURN THE PAGE UNTIL YOU ORDER YOUR NEW VITALOAM !!!
If you don't order, the Exotic Plant Gremlins will give you a "Brown Thumb".
Try New VITALOAM and love it forever — O. K?



Pictured at
Left is our
Beautiful
4-Color
Retail
Package.
Tremendous
Sales
Appeal
& Repeater

Mini-Ads

The rate for advertising in this column is \$1 per line (about 36 characters) with a minimum charge of \$4. Payment for the ad must accompany order. Direct questions, copy, and checks to the Advertising Manager, Mabel Corwin.

Begonias, Gesneriads, miniature terrarium plants, tropicals, Catalog \$1. Kartuz Greenhouses, 92 Chestnut St., Wilmington, MA 01887. Phone (617) 658-9017

Violets - Begonias - Episcias

Cuttings only. Send stamp for list. Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 1 Box 165-4 Ozark, MO 65721

Begonias, oldies, collectors items, new hybrids, 20¢ for list, Stamps ok. Rainbow Begonia Gardens, Box 991, Westminster, CA 92683.

Bolduc's Greenhill Nursery—Exotic and hardy ferns. Send self-addressed stamped envelope for list. 2131 Vallejo Street, St. Helena, CA 94574

Begonias — Blue Ribbon Winners. Many varieties, Retail only. Price list 25¢ or stamps. John Sousa, Begonia Paradise Nursery, Rte 1, Box 94, Bear Creek, NC 27207.

Plant Workshop. Begonias, gesneriads, foliage plants. Send 13¢ stamp for descriptive catalog of over 100 varieties. Rt. 4, Box 10, Everett, PA 15537.

Rhizomatous Begonias, miniature African Violets, Episcias, Columneas, miniature Sinningias and unusual houseplants. List 35¢. Bombadils, 2126 E. Locust, Milwaukee, WI 53211. (414) 332-6260.

The Plant Shop's Botanical Gardens Visitors welcome Wed. thru Sun. 10-6 88 page rare plant catalog \$1.00 18007 Topham St., B, Reseda, CA 91335. (213) 881-4831

The Thompson Begonia Guide, Second Edition, Volume III (over 400 pages) will be in distribution on or before April 25th. Volume III has more than 700 black and white photos (250 "how-to" photos in Culture of Begonia section and more than 445 photos of individual begonias in the Pictorial Review section). Volume I (295 pages) and Volume II (290 pages), second edition and revision sheets for Volumes I, II, and III, first edition are being distributed. To order and for further information write to E. & M. Thompson, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968.

Propagation Study Workshop

The second part of the propagation workshop sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Branch is set for April 11, 7 o'clock at the L.A. State and County Arboretum, Arcadia.

Even if you have missed the first session you are welcome to attend this meeting and to bring interested friends with you. Workshop director Walter Barnett asks that you bring clear plastic cups, scotch tape and predampened vermiculite with you.

Branch to Learn About Meristem Culture

Bob Makino, manager of Phyto-Tech Laboratories in Torrance, will be the speaker at the April meeting of the Rubidoux Branch. He will show slides and explain how a large number of plants can be propagated from a small amount of plant tissue by meristem culture.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 Thursday evening, April 28 at the Riverside Memorial Hall, 4393 West Riverview Dr., Rubidoux.

National ABS Annual Convention and Flower Show

September 1 thru 4
Inn at the Park, Anaheim, California

We hope to make this a very special event. There will be seed and propagation exhibits and seed from the Seed Fund for sale. Also exceptional speakers, good company and lots of fun.

Last year the plant sale was so successful that we again ask for your pledges of plants. I shall start the ball rolling with a pledge of 50 plants.

Linda Miller, Publicity Chairman

NEW BRANCHES OF THE A.B.S.

By Evelyn Cronin, ABS Branch Relations Director

GREATER CINCINNATI BRANCH

A much needed branch in this mid-central area has been formed, the Greater Cincinnati Branch. Two veteran growers of begonias, Nancy Cummins and Eric Steiniger, were instrumental in forming the group. Eric is serving as President and ABS Representative, Nancy as Secretary-Treasurer and Verda B. Stull as Vice President. This small and enthusiastic group would welcome other members in the area to join them. Write to Nancy Cummins, 411 Baltimore Ave., Covington, Ky. 41015.

The group is researching programs and workshops, sources of begonia, etc. Be assured it will be lively and active.

EASTERN NEW YORK BRANCH

A state as large as New York needs representation in areas in upstate New York. The need was so great for begonia lore that Betty Pullar, one of the organizers, joined the Buxton Branch and for several years would set out on a Saturday morning from Albany and drive three hours to attend an 11 a.m. meeting. Buxton has benefited from this for Betty arrived last month with a new member, the secretary of the new branch.

Betty Pullar is serving as President and ABS Representative and Ila Hallowell as Secretary. If you'd like to join the group write to Ila at 297 Second St., Albany, N.Y. 12206.



Betty is a long time begonia fancier and Ila confesses to an enthusiasm not only for begonias but also for many orchids. There is a great deal of talent in this group. Fran Finkbeiner, a member of the group, is a well known fern expert and literally lives among her ferns. Fran is a Liaison Vice President of the Indoor Light Gardening Society and Ila Hallowell serves the I.L.G.S.A. as librarian.

If you live within driving distance of Albany and would like to join with others to learn about the wonderfully varied family of begonias, this is the place where it is all going to happen.

PALMETTO BRANCH

This last and newest branch is based in South Carolina. John McWhorter serves as President; Lucille Peden, Vice President; Arlene Waynick, Secretary; Irene Smith, Treasurer and El McWhorter, as ABS Representative. This group has been active for a short time with El McWhorter as its first president. A request received on February 8th asked that the group be chartered in time for their March meeting. We trust we were able to meet the deadline.

Here is an opportunity for members to join with this group in an area where there has been interest but no formal branch. Contact Arlene Waynick, 100 Dexter Drive, Taylors, S.C. 29687.

If you're interested in meeting and exchanging information, cultural expertise, seeing begonias or whatever, write to me and I shall be most happy to help you organize a group.

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS OF THE
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
February 28, 1977**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. in the South Gate Auditorium with the pledge of allegiance and the Aims and Purposes, President Charles Richardson presiding. The minutes of the January meeting were approved as read.

Since Mr. Estrada has been ill during the past month, he did not have a complete report. He did give the balance in the treasury, as of February 18th, \$2,329.08. Next month, he will have a complete report. Mr. Estrada moved that the insurance for the office equipment in storage be dropped, second by Mr. Walton. Passed. A motion was made by Mr. Ziesenhenne that the obsolete equipment (stencil address-o-graph, stencil file, Smith-Corona typewriter) be sold. A question was raised by Pearl Benell concerning what we would do if the membership secretary was changed, and we had no equipment. After discussion, it was agreed an individual couldn't handle the mailing with the old machines. Added to the equipment was the secretary's aged typewriter. The motion was approved. Mr. Estrada noted that \$300.00 was paid to Mr. LaMaster for the typesetting of the Begonia Cultivars. Lydia Austin sent an oral statement to resign as librarian as soon as possible. The Board was asked to think about dividing the job since the work has greatly expanded under the direction of Mrs. Austin.

Past President, Margaret Ziesenhenne, reported she had been researching the Life Membership list. Also, she is still trying to find the way to obtain a change in our standing with the I.R.S. so donors could receive a tax deduction for gifts to the Society.

Phyllis Bates, co-Editor, reported the index is still in work. Kandid Litho has given the Society four free color pages to be used inside the magazine during the year. There will be an article accompanying each one. The Board asked the secretary to send a letter of thanks to Kandid for this generous gift. A garden club requested material for distribution at their show. Phyllis said the Research Director

had contacted the publication committee notifying them the material they have been working on is ready to consolidate and get ready for publishing.

The Advertising Director, Mabel Corwin, reported \$331.25 in receipts for January. There was also a request for a colored ad.

Bill Walton told the board he is working on the exemption classification for donations to the society.

Judging Course Director, Marge Lee, sold four courses and several other publications totaling \$38.63.

The Seed Fund had a busy month with \$351.65 in net sales, including seeds, bulletins, and one membership. Linda Miller announced the seed fund could use any seed that members had available.

Doug Frost announced the show committee for the National Show has started working. Volunteers are needed for several committees.

Evelyn Cronin, Branch Relations Director, sent a charter to the secretary from the Greater Cincinnati Branch. It was presented to the Board, approved, and the new Branch was welcomed into the Society. Mrs. Cronin and the Secretary requested that officers' names and addresses be in the front of the Begonian every month.

Mr. Richardson is concerned about the number of members that drop out of the society every month. The board voted to give him permission to start a program to see if former members could be interested again in the many activities available through the Begonia Society.

Walter Barnett made a motion to accept the Bloughs and the Steinhauses of the San Gabriel Valley Branch as life members. Approved.

Twelve branches were represented at the meeting. As each representative gave his report on activities, it was noted planting seeds and starting new plants is the most important event at the meetings for the next months.

Virginia J. Barnett, Secretary

LEARN ABOUT FERNS

Join the

LOS ANGELES INT'L FERN SOCIETY

Membership only \$5.50 per year
28 page Bulletin and 2 page Lesson monthly

2423C Burritt Ave., Redondo Beach, CA 90278

*Palos
Verdes*

**Begonia
Farm**

4111 - 242nd St., Waleria, Ca. 90505

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS
AND SHADE PLANTS

FUCHSIAS—CAMELIAS—FERNS

OPEN DAILY

Complete Nursery & Garden Supply Shop
1 1/2 Miles E. of Redondo Beach
Hi-Way 101

BRANCH DIRECTORY

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

BUXTON BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Homes of Members
Simon Malkin
19 Kernwood St., Malden, MA 02148

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN BRANCH

Irene Cabibi, Secy.
685 W. Morton Ave., Porterville, CA 93257

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 Albarmarle 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
Laverfa F. O'Leary, Secy
176 Plymouth St., Pittsburgh, PA 15211

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.
New Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford, Garden Grove, Ca.
Kathy Brown, Secy
10692 Bolsa, Apt. 14, Garden Grove, CA 92643

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. Irene Grannell, Secy.
1431 Coronado Ter., Los Angeles, CA 90026

GORDON LEPISTO BRANCH

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

GREATER CHICAGO AREA BRANCH

3rd Sunday each mo. except July, Aug., Dec., 2 p.m.
Oak Park Conservatory
561 Garfield, Oak Park, IL.
Barbara Berg, Secy.
17 Oak Ridge Lane, Barrington, IL 60010

GREATER CINCINNATI BRANCH

Mrs. Nancy Cummins, Secy
411 Baltimore Ave., Covington, KY 41015

GREATER ROCHESTER BRANCH

Third Sunday, Members' homes
Mrs. George Mavis, Secy.
2744 Ridgeway Ave., Rochester, NY 14626

HAMPTON BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:45 p.m.
Parrish Memorial Hall Southampton, NY
Patricia Thompson, Secy.
P. O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

4th Monday, 1:00 p.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Mrs. George LeBlanc, Secy.
9310 Fairdale, TX 77063

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Members' homes
Ann M. Helton, Pres.
334 Brunswick Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32216

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., Community Room
Great Western S & L.
6300 E. Spring St., Long Beach
Joan Krellenberg, Secy.
2025 Rutgers Ave., Long Beach, CA 90815

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Joan Shilkret, Secy.
118-55 234 Street, Cambria Heights, NY 11411

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
Laura May Smith, Secy.
6950 S. W. 97 Ave., Miami, FL 33173

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.
Cherrie Waldo, Secy.
2874 Congress Rd., Pebble Beach, CA 93953

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mercury Savings and Loan Assn.
4140 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach
Mrs. W. B. Seymour, Secy.
4811 Gundry Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807

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

PALOMAR BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:30 p.m.
Oceanside Savings, 249 S. Indiana St., Vista, CA
Ingebor Foo, Secy.
1050 Melrose Way, Vista, CA 92083

PORTLAND BRANCH

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

POTOMAC BRANCH

4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Falls Church
Recreation Cntr., Great Falls & Little Falls Sts.
Falls Church, VA.
Alberta L. Cooke, Secy.
1930 Kennedy Dr., Apt. T-1
McLean, VA 22101

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
R. H. Dana School Cafeterium
135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif.
Mrs. Evelyn M. Isaac, Secy
2022 Bataan Rd., Redondo Beach, CA 90278

ROBINSON, ALFRED D. BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. Homes of Members
Lois K. Donahue, Secy.
3251 Innuitt Ave., San Diego, CA 92117

RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., West Riverside Mem. Hall
4393 Riverview Dr., Rubidoux, CA
Mrs. Dorothy Ansevics, Secy
4063 Opal St., Riverside, CA 92509

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
Pauline Eaton, Secy.
R.R. #3, Salina, KS 67401

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way
Mrs. Kathy Donlin, Secy.
c/o 230 Jones St., #302, San Francisco, CA 94102

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 P.M.
Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
Mrs. Evelyn M. Anderson, Secy.
450 Scholl Dr., Glendale, CA 91206

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 7:30 P.M.
Casa del Prado (Rm. 104)
Balboa Park, San Diego
Ruth Gilbert, Secy
4122 Mt. Bigelow Way, San Diego, CA 92117

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

4th Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center
1232 De la Vina St.
Mrs. Erica Price, Secy.
5940 Mandarin Ave., Goleta, CA 93017

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.
Sue Stice, Secretary
6823 19th Ave. N.E., Seattle, Wa. 98115

SHEPHERD, THEODOSIA BURR BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Senior Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA
Diana Penney, Secy.
2802 Petit, Camarillo, CA 93010

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

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

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH

3rd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
University of So. Florida, Student Chapel Bldg.
Mrs. Mary Breit, Secy.
2315 N. "A" St., Tampa, FL 33609

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

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

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Citizens S&L Assoc.
5347 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, Ca.
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 Noblestown Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220

WHITTIER BRANCH

1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Palm Park Community Center
5703 South Palm Avenue, Whittier
Gertrude Blackstock, Secy.
15311 Elmbrook Drive, La Mirada, CA 90638

WILLIAM PENN BRANCH

4th Tuesday, Noon Homes of Members
Mrs. Murdoch Davis, Sec'y.
256 Broughton Ln., Villanova, PA 19085

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

Riverside Community Flower Show

ABS members are invited to enter plants in the newly created division for begonias at the Riverside Community Flower Show. This is the first time a separate division for begonias has been scheduled. The judges will hold ABS judging cards. There is no charge for entering plants in the Show, but an admission charge of one dollar will be charged for viewing the displays.

The Show will be held April 22, 23, and 24 at Raincross Square in Riverside, California and plants may be entered into the competition on Thursday, April 21 in the afternoon and evening. The Rubidoux Branch is one of the co-sponsors of the event.

SECOND CLASS MAIL
American Begonia Society
8302 Kittyhawk Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90045

Return Postage Guaranteed

- ★ Hormex Rooting Powder
- ★ Plastic Pots - by the dozen
- ★ Polypropylene Shade Cloth
- ★ Polyethylene Film

PARAMOUNT PERLITE CO.
(213) 633-1291
P.O. BOX 48-B
PARAMOUNT, CA. 90723

ANTONELLI BROTHERS

2545 Capitola Road
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060
36-page color catalog 25 cents

plant talk!

RUTH & WALTER PEASE
6863 La Tijera Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90045
(213) 641-2130

INDOOR & OUTDOOR PLANTS • EXOTICS
DECORATIVE CONTAINERS • ACCESSORIES
PLANT RELATED GIFTS • BOOKS • SERVICE

BEGONIAS

HOUSE and GARDEN PLANTS

25c to cover mailing costs for plant list

ROUTH'S GREENHOUSE
Louisburg, Missouri 65685

BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS
FERNS, OXALIS, CACTI, HERBS
1977 - 1978 Catalog with Color — \$2.00
85th Anniversary Issue

LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES
(Est. 1892)

55 North Street, Danielson, Connecticut 06239

BEGONIAS

REX BEGONIA SEED
RUDOLF ZIESENHENNE

\$1.00 per pkt plus 13c postage
Calif. residents add 6% Sales Tax
1130 North Milpas Street
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA 93103

SPOONIT


All-purpose plant food
guaranteed analysis 18-20-16

HEALTHY HOUSE PLANTS

... need **SPOONIT** nourishment for color, vigor, and resistance to disease. **SPOONIT'S** chelated iron controls chlorosis and its balanced (18-20-16) formulation is super for all kinds of house plants, shrubs, ferns and vegetables.

for Orchids in bark

ORCHID SPOONIT


guaranteed analysis 30-10-10

Write for free sample and brochure containing helpful hints, sizes, prices.

If Your Nursery Does
Not Carry Spoonit,
send \$1 for 3 oz. trial size (ppd)
Calif. res. add 6%.

Plantsmith®
INC.

Dept. T 1924 Plymouth Street
Mt. View, California 94043
(415) 961-3344