

April 1978

The BEGONIAN



ISSN 1260-0383

Monthly Publication
of the American
Begonia Society

The BEGONIAN

Founded by
Herbert P. Dyckman
January, 1932

Copyright 1978 by the American Begonia Society

GENERAL OFFICES:

Dues, address changes, or magazines: Jacqueline Garinger, Membership Secretary
8302 Kittyhawk Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90045

Subscription: \$6.00 per year. Foreign (Mexico and Canada) \$6.50. U.S. (Mexico and Canada) 1st Class \$9.00. Overseas Air Mail \$18.00. Pay in U.S. currency only.
Single back issues 75¢.

Third Class Postage Paid at Culver City, California

IN THIS ISSUE

Begonia odoteiantha Handro	91
Begonia carrieae	94
Begonia pearcei	95
Round Robin Notes	97
Begonia 'Red Planet'	99
Begonia 'Old Witch'	101
Sacramento Displays	102
Seed Fund	104
Begonia Question Box	106
Registration of Cultivars	109
Minutes	112
Tax Exempt Status	113

DEADLINES

Deadline for advertising and copy is the first day of the month preceding the date of issue.

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

Printing by Kandid Litho Co., San Gabriel, CA

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 Ledge ways, 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	

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.

Advertising Manager Lorraine Frinchaboy
3981 Garfield, Carlsbad, CA 92008
Phone (714) 729-5241

Editors Edgar and Phyllis Bates
554 Arden Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024
Phone (714) 436-1419

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*.

A Species Survey

BEGONIA ODETEIANTHA HANDRO

By Mildred L. Thompson, Southampton, New York

Cover: Close-up of section of plant

Photographs by Ed and Mildred Thompson

In 1967 Francisco Pontes discovered a new species of *Begonia* in the Brazilian state of Sao Paulo in Cunha, near the border of the state of Rio de Janeiro. Cunha is about 100 miles south of Rio de Janeiro along the Atlantic coastal region where during the summer months the temperature ranges in the 70's and 80's with occasional higher temperatures. In the winter the temperature stays within the 40's and 50's. The humidity is high during the summer — 70%-80%; however, in the winter it is slightly drier.

Dr. Oswaldo Handro described this discovery as a new species in November 1969 in "Plantas Novas da Flora do Brazil III," *Loefgrenia*, No. 39, pages 4-5. Dr. Handro dedicated this species to Mrs. Odete Pires Siqueira, an efficient and dedicated worker at the herbarium of the Botanical Institute of Sao Paulo, and the species was named *B. odeteiantha*.

Botanically *B. odeteiantha* is placed in the section *Pritzelia* (Klotzsch) A.DC. The majority of the species placed in this section were discovered in Brazil. In 1972 Dr. Fred A. Barkley in *The Begoniaceae: The Genera, Sections, and Known Species of Each* listed 105 species in this section; quite a few of these are in cultivation today.

Species placed in the section *Pritzelia* (Klotzsch) A.DC. are semi-

shrubs or herbs which are mostly glabrous. The leaves are most often either not symmetrical, with palmate-pinnate venation, or peltate. Very often the undersurface of the leaves is purple-red. Bracts and stipules are usually large. In most cases the inflorescences are not large or expanded. The staminate flower has four tepals. The filaments are free and the anthers are longer than the filaments. The pistillate flower has five tepals. There are three styles united below, and on all sides they are covered with stigmatic papillae. The placenta is not divided. Most frequently the fruit has three cells and three somewhat unequal wings.

To my knowledge the first time this species was distributed in this country was in October 1972 shortly after Dr. Doorenbos of Wageningen, The Netherlands, generously contributed seeds to the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund of the American Begonia Society.

Since that time it has been offered by the Seed Fund a few more times. At present it is not widely grown in this country, nor is it readily available. In time, however, this intriguing begonia will be enjoyed by many growers once its unusual, stately beauty is more widely known.

At present there have not been any hybrids introduced with this species as one of the parents. As the species becomes known, however, hybridiz-

ers will be motivated to carry the large lance-shaped leaves into interesting hybrids.

Horticulturally *B. odeteiantha* is classified as shrub-like, bare-leaved, medium-leaved (4" to 6" at maturity). The purple-green stems are long and somewhat woody. The stems are gracefully pendant, and very often become two feet in length, but they rarely branch. The internodes of the stems are inconsistent in length; a series of long internodes is followed by a portion with short internodes. The stem is almost covered by large membranous stipules (4 cm long by 2.5- 4 cm wide), which quickly dry and turn brown. The light-green petioles are short, measuring 5-20 mm.

The deep green leaves are lanceolate with oblique cordate bases and acute apices. The leaf margins are undulate and toothed. The leaf surface is glossy and glabrous; and the light green undersurface has a dull sheen. The texture of the leaf is somewhat leathery. The venation is pinnate with the secondary veins arranged along the central midrib. The main vein is depressed in the surface, and the other veins are also depressed but to a lesser degree.

The small clusters of moderately-sized white flowers appear in the fall. The blooming is not profuse. The pendant peduncles are shorter than the length of the leaves, and they measure about 8 cm; they branch two or three times. The membranous bracts are large and dry quickly. The pedicel of the male flower measures 1.5 cm; the pedicel of the female flower is much shorter, measuring 7-15 mm. The staminate flower has

four tepals with two being narrower (two: 12-16 mm long, 9-14 mm wide, and two: 12.5 mm long and 3-4 mm wide). There are several stamens with free filaments (1 mm long) and longer linear anthers (2.5-3 mm). The female flower has five tepals which are somewhat equal in size (10-13 mm long and 8 mm wide), and sometimes one or two tepals will be narrower. The ovary is oblong and trilocular and it has three small subequal wings.

This unique begonia is not difficult to grow and it responds favorably to the same basic culture as most shrub-like begonias. Because of the long graceful stems, it is preferable to grow this species in a hanging container so that the stems can arch naturally over the sides of the container. The porous quality of the clay container or moss-lined wire container will prove most beneficial in allowing the proper aeration necessary for good root development. We prefer to grow *B. odeteiantha* in a moss-lined wire hanging container so that the natural beauty of this species can be enhanced; at the same time this type of container supplies the optimum potting accommodations for the plant. The potting mix should be coarse, light, and have good drainage qualities. As with all begonias regular spraying and fertilizing programs are essential for a plant that is attractive, healthy, and disease resistant.

It is important to provide the proper accommodations for this species and to be certain that it is never over-potted so that it does not get "leggy." *B. odeteiantha* does not branch readily, but it does produce many basal shoots. Pinching the growing tips of



the young shoots does help to induce some branching. As the plant matures and there are quite a few long stems, it is judicious to cut back a few of them to encourage branching and to encourage more basal shoots to appear.

In the summer in our locale we find that *B. odeteiantha* grows beautifully outdoors suspended from a tree limb on the outer circumference where it will benefit from sunlight. It will do best when it has filtered sunlight all day and/or three hours of direct sunlight provided, of course, the sun's rays are not too intense (as they are in some locales). In the winter this species thrives with a lot of winter sunlight in the greenhouse or window garden. *B. odeteiantha* can be grown successfully in the fluorescent light garden; the only restricting factor to growing it under fluorescent lights is the size it reaches at maturity. Considering the climate of the natural habitat of *B. odeteiantha* where there is much rainfall and high humidity it is easy to understand why it is advantageous

to grow this species where the relative humidity would be at least 50%.

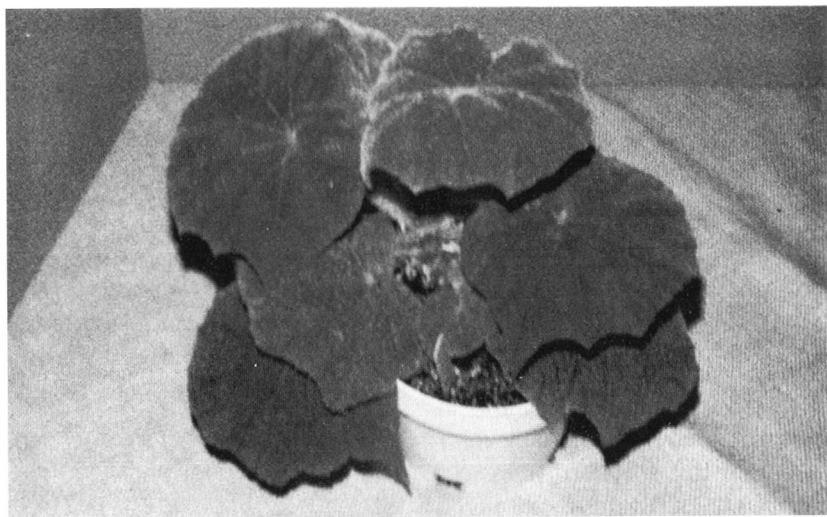
The most successful means of propagation is by stem cuttings. Cuttings of *B. odeteiantha* require a longer time than most shrub-like begonias to develop a root system, so patience is required. Since this begonia is a species, propagation by seeds is excellent because the resulting plants will be exactly like the parent plant. Because this species is not widely grown, it is important for growers who have this plant to propagate it and share it with other growers.

My husband and I received our first plant of *B. odeteiantha* from Rudolf Ziesenhenné in June 1974. It was not long before it was evident that the natural elegance of this species combined with the ease of culture made it one of the most enjoyable and rewarding species of *begonia* to grow. *B. odeteiantha* quickly became one of our favorite and most treasured begonias.

Glossary on next page.

GLOSSARY

anther	pollen producing element of the stamen
cordate	heart-shaped
filament	supporting stalk of stamen
free	freedom from adjoining parts
glabrous	free of hairs
inflorescence	the flowering portion of the plant
lanceolate	lance-shaped
pedicel	stalk supporting a flower in a cluster
peduncle	main flower stalk supporting either a cluster or a solitary flower
petiole	stalk which attaches leaf to the stem
pistillate	female
stigmatic	tiny projections where pollen can be accepted
papillae	
tepals	term used for sepal and petal which are not readily distinguishable
venation	pattern of veins
undulate	wavy



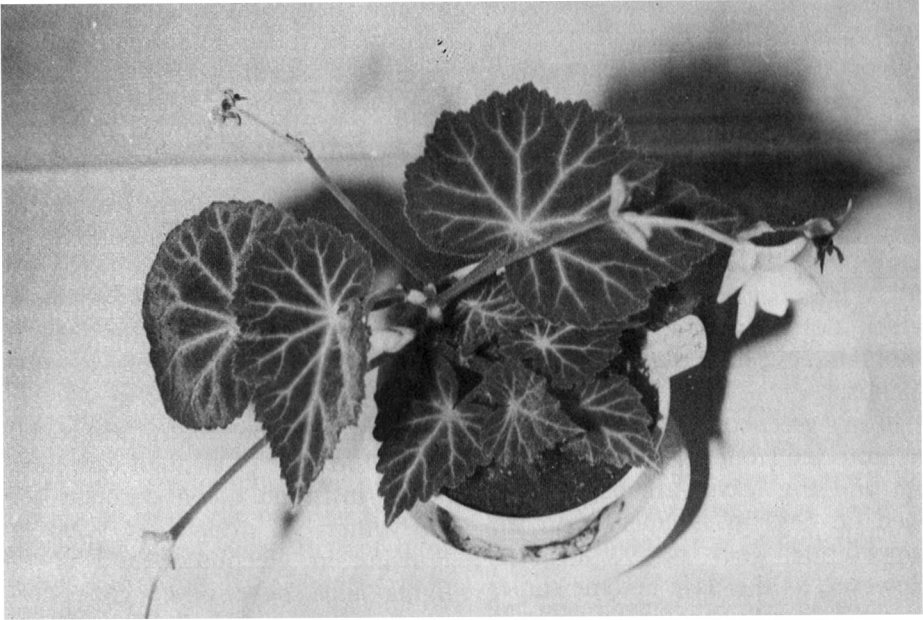
BEGONIA CARRIEAE

Grown and Photographed by Charles J. Jaros of Miami
Winner of Best in Show, Miami Branch — 1977

Begonia carrieae is a rhizomatous plant like many other Mexican species. It is characterized by a uniform color on leaf, stem and rhizome: bright lettuce green. The leaf stems and the leaf surface are liberally covered with scale-like hairs. The leaf surface is puckered in a fashion similar to seersucker fabric (rugose). For more information about this beautiful species, see issue of May 1976 where the original description by Rudolf Ziesenhenné appears.

BEGONIA PEARCEI

By Elda Haring, Flat Rock, N.C.



In my collection of begonias are many favorites. As space is limited I have a special interest in the smaller growing species and cultivars. One of these is *B. pearcei*, a tuberous species found in 1864 in Bolivia by Richard Pearce for whom it was named, and is one that contributed the yellow flowers and marbled foliage to tuberous begonias (*Tuberhybrida*). It is a low growing plant and the small heart-shaped leaves, deep green with cream-colored veins, red under, are lightly toothed. Bright yellow flowers are held high above the foliage.

We first saw *B. pearcei* when we attended the National Convention of ABS at Goleta four years ago. It was part of the educational exhibit shown annually by the Theodosia Burr Shepard Branch, set up and presided over

by two lovely sisters, Louise Bower and Hattie Lee Keller. Observing my interest in this little begonia, Louise graciously shared a leaf from her plant. Placed in a tightly closed plastic bag containing two drops of water, the leaf remained in good condition until our return home ten days later when it was promptly placed in a propagation box under fluorescent lights. In a very short time a plantlet appeared and when potted grew rapidly under lights. Blooms appeared in February and continued until late summer. As I had understood that *B. pearcei* should be grown as you would *Tuberhybrida*, water was gradually withheld until leaves yellowed at which time the tuber was removed, cleaned and put to rest in dry vermiculite encased in an open plastic bag and placed on the floor

under the bench. Imagine my surprise three weeks later to see new leaves showing, at which time it was repotted. Since that time the plant has never gone dormant. After blooming, new growth appears at soil level, the old stems being cut off and propagated.

The male flowers produce quantities of pollen and the female flowers open soon after the males thus it is easily self-pollinated, the pods yielding a large quantity of viable seed which not only have gone to the Seed Fund but have been shared with friends.

In my greenhouse *B. pearcei* must be protected from the full rays of the sun and the leaves are badly damaged on days in summer when the temperature goes to 90 degrees. However, as the days become cooler renewed growth appears. A plant of *B. pearcei* given to a friend in the Palmetto State (S.C.) Branch succumbed to temperatures of over 100 degrees in her greenhouse last summer. Now that it has been re-cycled, her plant of this lovely little begonia is happiest and blooms profusely during the winter, growing in the coolest spot on the floor of her greenhouse near the outside door.

Single leaf stem cuttings root quickly and seeds germinate rapidly with bottom heat but I find that it usually takes eight to ten months for good sized tubers to form. I keep a supply of small potted plants on hand to present to begonia friends for *B. pearcei* is much admired.

From experiments I have done I find that *B. pearcei* is not fussy as to potting mixes. In my own favorite potting mix consisting of packaged top soil, peat moss, sand, dolomite lime, and a slow-release fertilizer it tends to grow fairly compact while in soilless mixes, leaves are larger and stems longer. Many people tell me that in spite of all their care their plants insist on going dormant for the winter, yet after three years of growing in greenhouse and under lights mine have never gone dormant, a mystery I have yet to solve.

Melodie in Flowers

April 21, 22, 1978

10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sikes Center Mall, Kemp & Midwestern
Aves., Wichita Falls, Texas

A show presented by the Florarama Council, a group of 6 garden clubs. Potted plants, cut specimens, artistic arrangements, commercial displays, sales area.

SPOONIT® MEANS **HEALTHY PLANTS**



PLANT FOOD dissolves instantly in water.
18-20-16 Analysis. Send \$1. for 3 oz. trial size
ppd. Ask about our **PROFIT MAKER** for your
club treasury. Dept. T at **PLANTSMITH**
1924 Plymouth St. Mountain View CA 94043

**The Plant Shop's
Botanical Garden**
18007 Topham Street
Reseda, CA 91335

**NEW 1978 CATALOG
OF BEGONIAS ONLY**
OVER 300 BEGONIAS DESCRIBED
IN 32 PAGE BOOK
\$1 per copy
(deductible from first order)
Send self-addressed, stamped envelope
for platycerium list.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

By Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Director

Growing from seeds

Many members are growing begonias from seed. There seems to be as many methods as there are growers! Ray Sodomka, California, likes to start his seeds in a 4" plastic pot. He puts in a layer of 2 inches of sphagnum moss and then fills the pot with screened leaf mold and peat moss, leaving 1/2 inch at the top for seeds to grow. He then pours boiling water on the mix, and permits it to cool before sowing the seed. He does not tamp the seed but covers the pot with clear glass and puts it in a light, warm spot—or he puts the container in the oven of the gas stove that has a constant pilot light going and keeps the container near the door for it would be too warm farther back in the oven. He prefers to water from the bottom.

Mabel Allen, California, tries all kinds of methods for sowing seed, but prefers to use a large styrofoam box 12" x 12" x 3". She uses bent metal gadgets for a frame and covers with a sheet of plastic. For a mix she uses Hawaiian Potting Soil with a thin layer of vermiculite and fine peat moss on the top. She feels the large container makes it easier to remove the seedlings. For transplanting she uses a lightly damp mix and sprinkles with water to settle. She finds seedlings will rot in too wet a mix.

Eleanor Mulch, California, prefers to use a cheese container with clear plastic lid for sowing her seeds. She uses plain vermiculite over which she pours hot water. When cooled

she sows the seed over the top and puts the lid on tight. When germination takes place she loosens the lid. She likes small containers because they are easily propped up close to the lights. She waters seedlings with Schultz Instant Fertilizer and prefers watering from the bottom. She likes to let seedlings get fairly large before transplanting.

Lucille Ehlers, Maine, likes to use a mini-greenhouse for seeds. It has an outside container and an inner container with drainage holes and plastic top. When seed is sown she places the mini-greenhouse close to fluorescent light for germination.

Begonia shelter

Glen Maynard, California, writes: My wife and I decided about 4 or 5 years ago to raise a few begonias as a hobby. We have discovered that one does not raise a *few* begonias, but gathers hundreds! To the side of the greenhouse we added another plant shelter this summer. It is 16' x 20'. Two sides have a 2' basketweave fence with 6' above that in corrugated greenhouse plastic (Alsenite). The roof is the same plastic. The other two sides are open in summer; this fall we have hung sheet plastic over the openings for wintering some begonias in there. We built this area primarily to raise tuberous begonias which is not easy where we live because of the dry heat in summer. We stretched unbleached muslin under the plastic roof which has a good cooling effect. Below that we have a half dozen misting heads

mounted in plastic pipe on a timer that mists for 5 seconds every 5 minutes during the middle of the day. All this just to raise tuberous begonias! Although the shelter wasn't finished until mid-August we were pleasantly surprised to see the plants respond immediately and soon come into bloom.

Robin ideas

In her first round robin letter Leona Gildseth, Minnesota, reported that she had started a page in a loose leaf notebook for each of the other members of the robin, jotting down the ideas and information that was shared. This is a very good way to keep track of the many helpful hints that are in the letters.

Growing under lights

Many of our members are growing at least part of their begonias under lights. Michael Malicki, Wisconsin, describing his light set up wrote: I found a good way to conserve space and also a good location for my cuttings. I put a piece of heavy glass on top of 4 mason jars. Glass which is used for furniture shelving works well. Plants which need more light are put on top of the glass and propagating containers go underneath. Using quart mason jars gives you enough height to put 4" or 5" pots under the glass shelf, or plastic shoe boxes which I also use for propagating. Using my light meter I get a reading of 8 above the glass and below, a reading of 4— so there's enough light underneath the glass for plants which require less light, and for propagation. He sent photographs to illustrate.

Propagation

Tim Johnson, Virginia, gave this report on his method of propagation: I propagate rhizomatous begonias using styrofoam cups, the large size, with a hole punched in the bottom. The rooting medium is equal parts of peat moss, perlite and vermiculite which I buy already mixed. If the plant is delicate or of unknown durability I put it in one of the terrariums or in my very large plant case made from a kitchen table with glass between the legs. Otherwise, I just put them among my other plants. Sometimes I take or receive cuttings at a time inconvenient to use the regular method, so I put the cutting in a glass of water under lights. Gradually I add rooting medium to the water until the water is totally replaced. For control of mealy bug Tim uses a 50-50 mixture of water and rubbing alcohol. This is used as a spray.

Greenhouse enjoyment

Nola Kalez, Oregon, is another new member. She has 4 teenagers. In her first letter she wrote: My greenhouse should be called my therapy house. I have used it many times as an escape hatch. It's a soothing, lovely place to be when the walls are closing in with rock music, telephone ringing, and the cat chasing the dog, or vice versa.

If you would like to be part of this interesting group, write to me. Tell me of your interests and I will include you in the robins. The more choices I have, the sooner I can get you into a robin.

Mabel Corwin
1119 Loma Vista Way
Vista, CA 92083

BEGONIA 'RED PLANET'

A Note from the Hybridizer

By M. L. MacIntyre, Cranage, Holmes Chapel, Crewe, England

I have just received the January 1978 *Begonian* and, on looking at the photo on the cover, I thought it was my hybrid *B. 'Tracery'* except for colouring. On turning to page 3 I was surprised to find that it was another of my hybrids, *B. 'Red Planet'*. It is a pity that the red spot does not show in the photo as it is one of the main features of the plant. Also, the portions of leaves at the bottom of the picture give a more realistic idea of the true colouring.

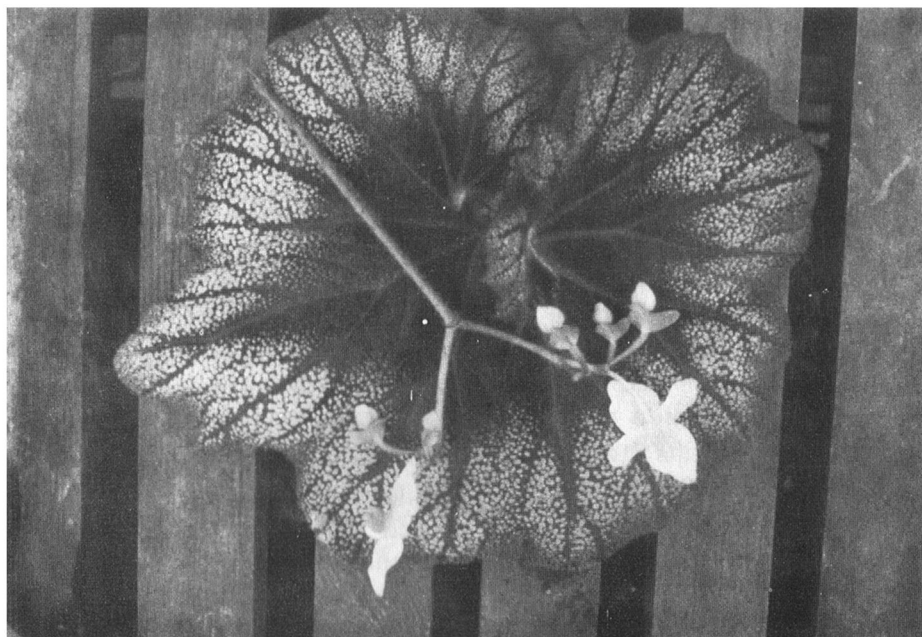
B. 'Red Planet' is a cross of *B. 'Scottish Star'* X *B. 'Zip'*. *B. 'Scottish Star'* is a cross of *B. 'Cleopatra'* X *B. 'Tracery'*. *B. 'Tracery'* is a cross of *B. 'Norah Bedson'* X *B. 'Clifton'* and this is where the mystery begins. According to Mr. Bedson, *B. 'Norah Bedson'* is a cross of *B. bowerae* and *B. daedalea* and he received *B. daedalea* from Mr. Ziesenhenne in 1950. Since then Mr. Ziesenhenne has proved beyond a doubt that the plant is not *B. daedalea* and he has named the one grown in your country *B.*

cristobalensis. Our *B. daedalea*, of which I have sent seed and cuttings to him, seems to differ from your *B. cristobalensis*. Ours has characteristic blotches between the veins at the petiole which are very dominant. They appear in *B. 'Norah Bedson'* and in all my cultivars using *B. 'Norah Bedson'* even once or twice removed. They are clearly shown in the photo.

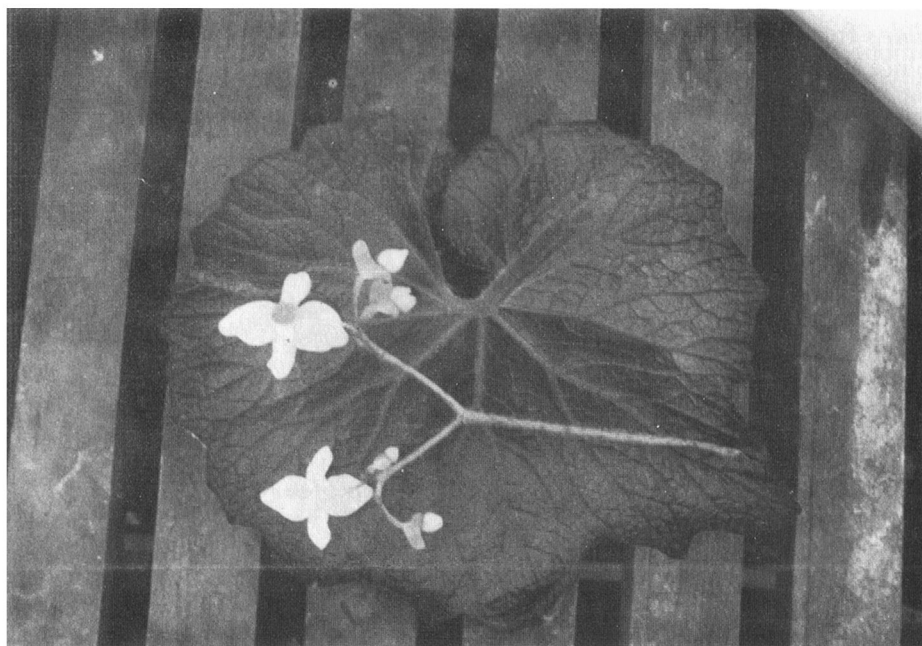
I see that Mr. Ziesenhenne has used our *B. "daedalea"*, which he has called *B. 'MacIntyre's "daedalea"'* in some of his recent cultivars. He has been working on my *B. "daedalea"* for some time now and I am hoping he will soon be able to identify it.

I have been trying to locate the true *B. daedalea* since 1971 but without success. It was known to be in existence in 1936 but that is a long time ago. I shall keep on trying for it is just possible that it may be in some obscure collection.





The two surfaces of the leaf of *B. 'Old Witch'*. Photos by Bob Cole.



BEGONIA 'OLD WITCH'

By Bob Cole, Reseda, Calif.

'Old Witch' is an impressive begonia. It is a magnificent rex with a rhizome at or just below the soil level. Each leaf is about a foot across so the number of leaves on the plant at one time tends to be few. At the sinus each lobe spirals gracefully.

Even color photographs do not do justice to this elegant plant. The upper surface is rich olive and has the appearance of fine velvet. Along the edge is a very fine margin of red. The outer portion of the leaf blade for two to three inches all around is decorated with silvery white dots, tiny and multitudinous, a delicate lace frill. Pale veins radiate to the margin. By contrast, the underside reveals none of the artwork of the obverse, for it is an even deep red with only the pattern of the veins showing.

The fuzzy peduncle with blossoms is shown with the leaf. The male flowers are $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches across.

This again emphasizes how large the leaves are, for that is a moderately large blossom for a begonia. The flowers are pale pink, almost white. A newly introduced hybrid, *B.* 'Applesauce' (see Registrations) is a descendent of *B.* 'Old Witch'.

When the Plant Shop acquired the collection of Sylvia Leatherman, this plant was included. Mrs. Leatherman said it had been a part of the collection of Peter Borree who had passed away some years before. She saved it because of its beauty, and named it 'Old Witch'.

At the Plant Shop it is growing among the various tropical plants along with many other rexes in a greenhouse with high humidity. It is definitely a challenge to maintain and deserves to be in the collection of only the advanced grower who is prepared to devote careful attention to it.

RECENT ARTICLES

Golding, Jack. Nov 1977. The Nomenclature of the Genus Begonia. *Phytologia* 37 (5): 425-440.

Shepherd, William R. Mar 1978. Tuberosus Begonias. *Plants Alive* 5 (3): 23-25.

Thompson, Mildred L. Mar 1978. Iron Cross Begonias. *Plants Alive* 5 (3): 26-27.

..... Leslie Hatfield Grows More Begonias than She Can Count. *Joy of*

Gardening, 1978. A Sunset Special Book. pp 62-3.

Do not assume that someone else will inform the editors of the appearance of articles about begonias. Write the complete reference on a postcard and mail it when you see the item. References to state agricultural bulletins, magazines and books of limited distribution, and sources where articles about begonias might be unusual are particularly sought.



SACRAMENTO DISPLAYS

The foyer of the Shepherd Garden and Art Center in Sacramento was the site of the display of ferns and tuberous begonias entered into competition at the last branch show. The excellence and variety of plants exhibited bids well for the next national show which will be hosted by the Sacramento branch with assistance of nearby branches.

Two huge begonias captured the attention of show-goers: *B. 'Cachuma'* and *B. 'Madame Queen'*. The hairy petioles and the bright leaf

coloring of *B. 'Cachuma'* resemble *B. carrieae* which is one of its parent plants. The size and the star shape of leaves held well away from the rhizome make one wonder what the unknown parent of this cultivar might be. The ruffled skirts of *B. 'Madame Queen'* almost hide the erect rhizome of this favorite. The deep coloring of the surface is highlighted by pale green veining and stems. The leaves ripple and the edges ruffle to show the rich red undersurface.

Operation Plant Donation

Recently letters went out to each Branch asking for donations of plants for the National Convention and Show. The Sacramento Branch has started the ball rolling with a pledge of 1900 plants! We do not

expect this of every Branch, but we are anxious to know what you can do to help us. The cooperation of each Branch is vital to the success of the convention and show.

Lou Thompson, Plant Sales Chrm.



Begonia 'Cachuma'



Begonia 'Madame Queen'

Photos by Pat Graves

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

- Ap 1 — *B. acida*: shrub-like, hairy leafed, compact plant. Large seersucker puckered leaves of apple green. Flowers in spring, dainty white, on stems standing well above the foliage. A beautiful plant. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 2 — *B. bradei*: Brazil. Stems and leaf surface hairy, covered like a dense velvet carpet. Underside of leaves crimson, green above. Large pale pink flowers. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 3 — Begonia species from Brazil from Organ mtns. This cane-like plant, to 3 ft., has white, fragrant flowers in pendent inflorescences. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 4 — *B. echinosepala*: 1871, Brazil. Small, shrub-like plant with narrow, serrate leaves; drooping, arched branches. A very profuse bloomer with white flowers. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 5 — *B. ludwigii*: fibrous, upright, stem short and thick. Leaves hairy, star shaped, with silver-tipped points. Flowers white. Everybody should be growing this one! per pkt 1.00
- Ap 6 — *B. macdougallii*: Mexico. Rhizomatous with giant compound leaves. Flowers white in winter and spring. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 7 — *B. maculata* var *wightii*: lovely cane with spotted leaves. Grows to 4 ft. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 8 — *B. masoniana*: 1959, Singapore. Known as the "Iron Cross" begonia. Leaves are very pebbled with a distinctive mahogany marking on green. Flowers greenish white in late spring and summer. Seeds may take as long as 8 weeks to germinate, but it is worth the wait. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 9 — Begonia species from Mexico: unidentified, from Oaxaca. Upright rhizomatous; large leaves, at least 6 to 8 inches. Felted medium green, leaves with red sinus. Underside and stem is light green with tan 'fuzz'. An abundance of white flowers. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 10 — *B. nelumbiifolia*: 1830, Mexico to Columbia. Rhizomatous; leaves large, green with puckered texture. Flowers white. Jumbo pkt 1.00
- Ap 11 — *B. platanifolia*: cane-like plant with lovely oak-leaf shaped leaves. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 12 — *B. plebeja*: 1853, Nicaragua. Up to 1 ft. tall; thick stems ascending; leaves up to 5 in., broadly ovate with long drawn-out tip, dull green above, brownish tomentose underneath. Flowers pink. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 13 — *B. putzeysiana*: 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 14 — *B. setulosa*: shrub-like, about 1 - 1½ ft. high, very compact. Covered with bristly hairs. Pink flowers. per pkt 1.00

HYBRIDS

- Ap 16 — *B. 'Corallina de Lucerna'*: vigorous cane, little branched, 6 to 10 ft. tall. Leaves green with some white markings. Coral-red flowers. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 17 — *B. 'Kentwood'*: tall, cane-type angel wing. Leaves deep green, spotted silver. Flowers pink. per pkt 1.00
- Ap 18 — *B. 'Orange Rubra'*: basket-type cane, with green leaves, spotted white. Flowers a bright orange. per pkt 1.00

EASY GROWERS

- Ap 19 — *B. leptotricha*. Special per pkt .25
- Ap 20 — *B. semperflorens*: special mixture. Special price, too! per pkt .25

OTHER PLANTS

- Ap 21 — *Agapanthus* per pkt .75
- Ap 22 — Red *Monarda* per pkt .75
- Ap 23 — Mixed *Dianthus* per pkt .25

NOTES

1. This month: FREE with any order, a pkt of mixed exotics. Combination of varieties on hand in amounts too small to offer alone.

2. Pamphlets available

"Begonias from Seeds — Sowing and Growing"\$.25

"Begonias In General —

Basic Descriptions of Classes and Culture"50

California residents please add 6% sales tax. All customers, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Make all checks or money orders payable to: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Foreign customers, please pay in U.S. funds only. Mail to: Mrs. Linda Miller, P. O. Box 227, Gardena, CA 90247.

BEGONIAS FOR BEGINNERS

By Elda Haring
Hard cover 9.95, Paperback 5.95

BEGONIAS by Chevalier

Translated by Alva Graham
Paperback 10.00

BACK ISSUES, THE BEGONIAN

\$.75 ea. Not all years are complete



ABS PINS

Green on gold tone emblem, \$5.00

ORDER FROM ABS BOOKSTORE

LYDIA AUSTIN

15239 Eastwood Avenue
Lawndale, CA 90260

Calif. residents add 6% tax.

PLANT Beautifully & Naturally

in a

COCO-GRO™

(natural fiber)
Hanging Basket

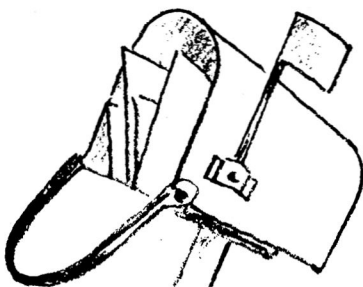


Enhance your plants! Made with reinforced brown coconut fiber, **COCO-GRO™** Hanging Baskets provide drainage, retain moisture, aerate roots, and insulate. Sturdy, more durable than wire and moss, yet lightweight. Convenient direct planting. Satisfaction guaranteed. With weather treated jute hanger: 10" basket \$4.95; 12" basket \$5.75; postpaid. Calif. residents add 6% tax. Send check or M.O. to:

THE NUTRA COMPANY, Dept. B
2277 Jerrold Ave., S.F., CA 94124
Phone (415) 285-1133

BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

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



Question: You say if you have a plant in your greenhouse that is host to white fly you remove it. Don't you ever put it back? *Answer:* I place a brown paper bag over the plant to prevent too many white flies from flying off and throw plant in garbage can. I wash the pot in Clorox and I spray the immediate area with an aerosol containing pyrethrin-rottenone several times a week. I would rather discard a cherished plant than infest the whole greenhouse with white fly which is almost impossible to eradicate completely. I never use toxic insecticides indoors.

Question: I usually transplant leaf wedge cuttings when the first true leaves appear but have heavy losses. When should I transplant and into what kind of mix? *Answer:* I like to let rooted wedges grow until they are 2 to 3 inches high. They are then placed in a good potting mix in 2 1/2" to 3" pots depending on the size of the root system. Do not overpot, for putting in pots too large for the root system could result in losses. Better to check often and move to the larger size as the original pots fill with roots.

Question: I find an occasional egg cluster of mealy bug on one of my begonias which I promptly remove with a Q tip dipped in alcohol, but I

never see any adults. Are they microscopic? *Answer:* Adult mealy bugs are about 1/16 of an inch in size. They are usually pale flesh colored and are found on stems or underside of leaves. They are especially difficult to detect on brown or reddish stems. When you remove egg clusters spray plant with insecticide made especially for indoor plants, or wash plant off with suds of Ivory liquid and rinse with clear water. Repeat twice a week for several weeks.

Question: It has been suggested that I sow begonia seed directly to the pressed peat pots, Jiffy 7's. Do you approve of this method? *Answer:* Many members use these to start seed but I have found it difficult to lift the seedlings for transplanting. By planting only two or three seeds then snipping off the weakest ones, the plant could remain in the Jiffy 7 until it is ready for a 3 inch pot. Be sure to remove the indestructible nylon netting before re-potting.

Question: How can I tell a species from a hybrid? *Answer:* The species begonias were found growing in the wild in the tropics. Each has its own characteristics of growth and leaf pattern. For ready identification in books and catalogs species names are designated in italics using a small

letter to begin the word, as *B. versicolor*. When seeds produced by self pollination of a species are planted, they produce plants identical to the parent.

Question: I have orange colored mushrooms growing in my terrarium. How can I get rid of these? *Answer:* I have never encountered this problem, but I would suggest that you remove the fungus growths and dust the soil surface with sulphur, Fer-mate, or rose dust which should destroy the spores.

Question: How long does *B. evansiana* remain dormant? *Answer:* *B. evansiana* is our only hardy begonia. Here in North Carolina it usually goes dormant in October and does not renew growth until April or May. In Connecticut where we used to live they did not show new shoots until June. Those grown indoors, however, in pots stored for the winter will begin to grow in March or April at which time they may be repotted and cared for as any other begonia.

Question: Do you know where I can find a plant of *B. 'Zemenia'* created and registered by Mrs. U. U. Stanford in 1969? *Answer:* I am not familiar with this cultivar. If any of our readers know where it may be obtained I would be glad to hear from them.

Question: Can semperflorens begonias be grown from a single leaf stem cutting? *Answer:* Yes, I have used this method just to prove a point. However, leaf stem cuttings of the calla lily begonia produced a plant with all green leaves and no signs of typical variegation.

Question: How do you grow tuberous begonias from seed? *Answer:* Use a sterile medium for seed growing such as vermiculite or milled sphagnum. Soilless mixes may be utilized. If you use leaf mold, sterilize it in oven at 180° for an hour. The medium should be thoroughly moistened before sowing seed. Drop seeds onto surface of moist mix. Never cover seed with any of the mix. Cover pan with clear plastic making sure it does not rest on the medium. Seeds need light for good germination but do not put in sun. Best temperature for germination is 70°. Bottom heat by use of heating cable is helpful. Check often to be sure mix is uniformly moist at all times. Germination should take place in 7 to 14 days. When you see the green seedling leaves remove plastic and continue to keep moist by watering from bottom. After two weeks feed seedlings weekly with 1/4 strength soluble fertilizer. When a half-inch high transplant to 1 1/2 inch pots in rich potting mix giving them strong light but little or no sun. Shift to larger pots as they grow. Keep adequately moist at all times.

Question: I live in Costa Rica. How do you grow tuberous begonias from seed? I have tried planting them from the 1st of January to the 1st of August. Have used different kinds of soil and moss as well as leaf mold but without success. Tuberous species grow wild here. *Answer:* By tuberous begonias I assume you mean the tuberous-rooted begonia (*Tuberhybrida*). They are cool weather subjects and not suitable for tropical climates unless you live at the higher elevations in Costa Rica where I un-

derstand temperatures range from 50 degrees to 72 and 75. However, they are easily grown from seed as any other begonia if conditions are right.

You may have to adjust the directions above to keep the temperature from going too high rather than too low, and watch that the seedlings do not damp off from over-moist conditions.

Question: You say rexes tend to rest in winter. Are they tuberous? I don't understand the difference between a resting plant and a dormant one.

Answer: Rexes are rhizomatous. A begonia is said to be resting or dormant when plants are inactive, that is, not showing any new shoots or leaves. Some tuberous and semi-tuberous ones like *B. sutherlandii* and the tuberhybrida will go completely dormant, losing all leaves and stems, and must be stored dry until spring when they are ready to go into their growth cycle. The so-called maple leaf begonias (*B. dregei* and its hybrids) will lose most of their leaves and stems with a few green leaves at soil level. Usually this resting or dormancy is brought on by the advent of cooler weather and shorter daylight hours.

ROBERT B. HAMM

Begonias / Gesneriads / Unusual Plants

2951 ELLIOTT, WICHITA FALLS, TX 76308

For a price list plus a year's worth of special offers and additions send \$1.00.

Open 10 AM - 5 PM Tues-Sat.

EXHIBITION MANUAL

An optional supplement of *The Thompson Begonia Guide* for both subscribers and non-subscribers, approximately 100 pages. Price \$4.75, optional binder \$3.50, including packaging and shipping. N.Y. residents add state tax. DISTRIBUTION DATE, MARCH 15, 1978. To order write to:

E. & M. Thompson

P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968

Question: Since reading the article in the September *Begonian* I am confused. Could you please describe non-technically, *B. 'Cathedral'* and *B. 'Cathedral Windows'*. I am not sure which I have. Some growers are selling *B. 'Cathedral'* and *B. 'Fiji Islands'* as the same plant. Are they the same plant?

Answer: *B. 'Cathedral'* is rhizomatous, and has small leaves with crested margins. Leaves grow to three inches across. The curled and cupped leaf is dark green shading to lighter green in the center. Underside of leaf is red but with a green pattern resembling the shape of a cathedral window as you can see in the photo in the *Begonian*. I believe *B. 'Cathedral Windows'* is not a valid name. The origin of *B. 'Fiji Islands'* is obscure. Its leaves are much smaller, tightly curled and crinkled. Back of leaves are green. Only a rhizome cutting will produce a plant typical of a mature *B. 'Cathedral'*.

Question: One of my begonias has what appears to be grains of sugar or salt on the leaves. Is this a disease or some kind of insect? *Answer:* If these crystals feel like salt when rubbed between thumb and forefinger and can easily be washed off with a gentle flow of water, appearing again in time, they are probably glandular secretions and are a natural phenomenon on some varieties.

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.

REGISTRATION OF BEGONIA CULTIVARS

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

No. 629 — Begonia (B. 'Roi' X B. heracleifolia nigricans) 'Alparu'

Bernard Yorke, 24 Mulgowie St., Sunnybank, Brisbane, Australia, developed and first distributed this plant in 1976. Rhizomatous, it has pale green leaves, netted black all over; star-shaped with major leaf incisions; 13 x 20 cm (5 x 8"); margin hairy; texture smooth; 8-nerved; petioles 20 cm (8"). Has never bloomed. Registered Sept. 28, 1977.

No. 630 — Begonia (B. 'Illsley' X B. bowerae nigramarga) 'Escudero'

Originated in 1976 by Bernard Yorke, address above, this rhizomatous begonia has not bloomed nor been distributed to date. With a lovely sheen and an extra long point like the pollen parent, the leaves are olive green, shaded light black along veins; star-shaped; 16 x 7.5 cm (6½ x 3"); margin rough; texture smooth; 8-nerved; petioles 18 cm (7"). Registered Sept. 28, 1977.

No. 631 — Begonia (B. 'Stash' X B. bowerae nigramarga) 'Mulgowie Pride'

Compact, with creeping rhizome, branching freely, this rhizomatous plant was originated in 1976 by Bernard Yorke, address above. Leaves are olive green, heavily spotted and splashed dark brown; uneven star-

shaped, cupped, with one long point; 7.5 x 5 cm (3 x 2"); margin slightly hairy and serrated; texture thick; nerves 7; petioles 13 cm (5"); stipules colorless. Registered Sept. 28, 1977.

No. 632 — Begonia (B. 'Roi' X B. bowerae nigramarga) 'Crown of Thorns'

This very small, compact plant with many spotted, pointed leaves bunched together in great profusion was originated by Bernard Yorke, address above, in 1976 but has not bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves are pale green, splashed in between nerves with maroon; star-shaped with major leaf incisions; 7.5 x 6.3 cm (3 x 2½"); margin toothed, crisp, and prickly; texture crisp; 7-nerved; petioles 5 cm (2"); stipules colorless. Registered Sept. 28, 1977.

No. 633 — Begonia (B. 'Illsley' X B. bowerae nigramarga) 'Imatonic'

Bernard Yorke, address above, who originated this rhizome-like erect stem plant in 1976, describes it as having leaves sharply contrasted, with the mature plant being quite pretty although the rhizome is slightly erect; leaves form a nice semi-circle over the pot; plant is similar to No. 452, *B. 'Patricia Ogden'* (*Begonian* Sept. 1975), although more compact. Leaves are pale green, heavily colored black along veins and margins; peltate; 5 x 10 cm (2 x 4"); margin slightly hairy; texture smooth; 7-veined; petioles 7.5 cm (3"). Has not bloomed. Registered Sept. 28, 1977.

No. 634 — Begonia (B. 'Lucerna' X B. 'Frances Lyons') 'Mrs. Hashimoto'

This canelike begonia was developed in 1970, first bloomed in 1971, and first distributed in 1972 by Sumako Hashimoto, 1-60-3 Nakano, Nakano-ku, Tokyo, Japan. The bright green leaves are angel wing shape, 20-28 cm x 8-11 cm, with wave-like margin, and texture slightly thick and bare; nerves 8-20; petioles 3-5 cm long; no stipules. Flowers outdoors are white with pale pink, in indirect light, pure white; spoon-like shape; male 24 x 22 mm, female 18 x 15 mm; petals male 4, female 5; flower stem 5 cm to 7 cm long; blooms all seasons, holding flowers even in indirect light. Registered Dec. 19, 1977.

No. 635 — Begonia (B. 'Lee's No. 9' X B. 'Big Boy') 'Serenade'

Lavender-grey on outer edge, with green-silver margin, and flecked silver overlay, the leaves of this stem-erect rex cultorum are subentire, 6 x 5", cleft margin, texture smooth with some hair; nerves 7; petioles 6 - 10", lightly hairy; and 1/2 x 1/2" stipules maroon red. Originated by Bob Cole, 18007 Topham St., Reseda, CA 91335 in 1976, the plant has not yet bloomed nor been distributed. Registered Jan. 20, 1978.

No. 636 — Begonia (B. 'This-N-That' X B. 'Lee's No. 9') 'Zeit-Geist'

Bob Cole, address above, developed this stem-erect rex cultorum in 1976 and it first bloomed in 1978. The leaves are dull silver, dark vein-

"Lord & Burnham makes a truly fine greenhouse.




Jim Crockett. Star of Crockett's Victory Garden T.V. Series. Author of the Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening.

Send today for your copy of the new 1978 Lord & Burnham Catalog, Jim Crockett's personal guide to the finest greenhouses in America.

It's the one I chose for myself."

"A greenhouse is a very important purchase. It really makes good sense to get the best - one that will last and give you years of gardening pleasure. That's why I chose Lord & Burnham - for my home and for my T.V. series *Crockett's Victory Garden*. Their product is excellent and has been for over 120 years.

If you're thinking about buying a greenhouse, talk to Lord & Burnham first. I never seriously considered anyone else."

 LORD & BURNHAM Division Burnham Corporation IRVINGTON, N.Y. 10533 Dept. 14	
NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	
STATE _____	ZIP _____

ed, with lavender edge and margin; subentire, 6 x 4", margin serrate, texture smooth, veins 6, petioles 6 to 10 with some light hair, and stipules red $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ "; flowers are pink. Registered Jan. 20, 1978.

No. 637 — Begonia (B. 'Green Frills' X B. 'Pam Sue') 'Silver Penny'

This rex cultorum was originated by Bob Cole, address above, in 1976, but has not bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves have a brown-maroon edge, margin green, with leaf ground color silver; brown color follows veins and leaf center, fading to lavender; shape is subentire; $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 5"; margin somewhat serrate; texture puckery; 6 nerves; petioles 4 - 6" with fine white hair; stipules $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Registered Jan. 20, 1978.

No. 638 — Begonia (B. 'Sir Edward Hodgins' X unnamed rex cultorum) 'Day and Night'

Developed in 1976 by Bob Cole, address above, this rex cultorum begonia has not bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves have alternate zones of brown-maroon, silver and brown maroon; subentire, $6\frac{1}{2}$ x 8", margin cleft ciliate with red hair; texture

smooth; 7-nerved; petioles 6 - 10", red haired; stipules $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Registered Jan. 20, 1978.

No. 639 — Begonia (B. 'Green Frills' X B. 'Pam Sue') 'Zenaida'

Leaf zones of lavender flecks on green, lavender, and flecks of lavender on green, characterize this rex cultorum developed by Bob Cole (address above) in 1976. It has not been distributed nor has it bloomed. Leaves are subentire, $6\frac{1}{2}$ x 7"; margin ciliate; texture smooth; 9-nerved; petioles 6 - 8"; stipules $\frac{3}{4}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$ ", reddish. Registered Jan. 20, 1978.

No. 640 — Begonia (B. 'Lee's No. 9' X B. 'Old Witch') 'Applesauce Pink'

This rex cultorum, developed in 1976 by Bob Cole, address above, has leaves with an iridescence on a dark ground with prominent metallic lavender-pink design; non-spiral leaves are 8 x 5" with margin serrate and ciliate; texture smooth; 6-veined; petioles lightly hairy, $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{1}{2}$ "; stipules chocolate brown. Has not bloomed nor been distributed. Registered Jan. 20, 1978.

TEXHOMA BEGONIA SOCIETY MEETING

The Texhoma Begonia Society invites all growers in the Texas/Oklahoma area to attend its meeting, Saturday, April 15th, 1978 at 1 PM in the Community Room of Sikes Center Mall, Kemp and Midwestern Pkwy, Wichita Falls, Texas.

The Program will be "Begonias from Seed" presented by Bob Hamm. All persons present will receive seeds

or seedlings to take home.

Other features of the meeting will be the plant table, library table, mini-show of begonias, door prize plants, and refreshments. Everyone interested in begonias is invited to attend.

For directions or other information, contact Bob Hamm at (817) 691-1295.

SOUTHWEST GET TOGETHER REMINDER

If you haven't sent in your reservations for the Southwest Begonia Growers Get Together, do it now! Deadline is May 1st. If you are late you may not get hotel reservations.

We are all looking forward to the show, to seeing the Tape and Slide program being sent by Millie Thompson, to scouring the plant tables for new begonias and going to workshops to learn how to grow our plants better! Most of all we all are looking forward to getting to know new friends, see old ones again, and talk, see, and be immersed in begonias for the whole time.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

February 27, 1978

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. in the South Gate Auditorium by President Charles Richardson. Margaret Taylor led the salute to the flag, and Nathaniel Randall read the Aims and Purposes.

Eight Branches gave their reports.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as read by the Secretary. Correspondence was read from Mrs. Ziesenhenn.

Linda Miller, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, reported \$427.96 in receipts this month.

Judging Course Director Margaret Lee reported selling six courses, eleven Classification booklets, and ten Point Scoring booklets, leaving a balance in the account of \$32.03 after expenses. Also Arline Peck is now a Senior Judge.

Lorraine Frinchaboy reported \$432.00 received in January for *Begonian* ads, and \$223.87 in accounts receivable.

The Membership Secretary reported processing 273 memberships, 3,925 members in good standing, and \$1,495.05 in receipts.

Gilbert Estrada, Treasurer, reported \$4,359.31 in receipts, \$3,782.25 in disbursements, leaving a balance of \$1,519.29 in the treasury. He also reported gross receipts of \$12,354.60 for the

So get your reservations in! Come meet some of the people you've read about in the *Begonian* but have never seen. Come explore local growers collections, from window sills to greenhouses, swap information (and plants), and get to know a lot of new friends. Come to the Get Together!

If you are late getting your reservations in, please call Bob Hamm at (817) 691-1295 and let him know they are on the way. See you May 19th, 20th and 21st. As Millie Thompson says, "Showing Is Sharing," so bring plants to the Show and for the plant table.

1977 Show and Convention, expenses of \$10,521.02, leaving a balance of \$1,833.83.

Pearl Benell read the Research Director's report. Mr. L'Hommedieu has a balance of \$461.84 in the research fund. Mae Blanton is working with the Research Committee again. Mr. Hoover sent 86 species to Mr. Ziesenhenn. Mr. Hoover is working on an article about pollination.

Editors Ed and Phyllis Bates reported the index will be in the April *Begonian*. The colored pictures inside the *Begonian* are a gift from Kandid Litho. The Publication committee will be meeting this month. Walter Barnett made a motion that the A.B.S. send the Southwest Begonia Growers Get Together \$100.00 advance to assist in expenses for their show. Passed.

Doug Frost reported that the audit committee found the Show and Convention records in good order. It was also stated that Joan Coulat of Sacramento is the 1978 Show Chairman, Mary Ann Flunker is Treasurer, and the Show Committee is using the River City Bank.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Margaret Taylor, chairman, Ed Bates, and Walter Pease was approved by the Board.

The Board approved a Life Membership given by the Ventura Branch to Gene and Nettie Daniels. The Daniels are moving to the East.

Gil Estrada reported that the Life Membership Certificate will mature in March.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:50.

Virginia J. Barnett, secretary

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.

Violets - Begonias - Episcias

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

BEGONIAS. Featuring Wally Wagner hybrids, gesneriads, miniatures for light gardens. List 35¢ Pat Morrison/Jim Heffner, 5305 S.W. Hamilton St., Portland, OR 97221.

The Good, The Rare and The Beautiful in begonias. Rex, rhizomatous, cane and shrubs. 25¢ for list. Visitors welcome. Lera's Greenhouse, P.O. Bx 948, Porter, TX 77365 (713) 354-3567.

BEGONIAS. Popular varieties, new hybrids, 300 kinds. 20¢ cash or stamp for list. Rainbow Begonia Gardens, Box 991, Westminster, CA 92683

Begonias — Blue Ribbon Winners. Many varieties. Retail only. Price list 35¢ or stamps. John Sousa, Begonia Paradise Nursery, Rte 1, Box 94, Bear Creek, NC 27207.

The Gift Horse Greenhouse — begonias, violets, cuttings only. List 35¢. Kit Jeans, Rt. #1, Box 319, New Johnsonville, Tennessee 37134 (615) 535-2026.

THE THOMPSON BEGONIA GUIDE, second edition. Three volumes; 975 pages; over 750 black and white photos; and many line drawings. Volumes may be purchased separately but subscription to entire three volumes is required. To order and for further information write E. & M. Thompson, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, N.Y. 11968.

TEXAS BEGONIA LOVERS, We have many standard and unusual varieties and we love to visit with begonia people. GRANT'S PLANTS & THINGS, 252 E. Tarleton, Stephenville, Texas 76401, (817) 965-5979.

We feature over 100 begonias, botanical orchids, over 150 aroid species, African succulents, 80 peperomias, many rare ferns, and many tropicals from bromeliads to hibiscus and hoyas to indoor bonsai materials. Glasshouse Works, 10 Church St., Stewart, Ohio 45778. (614) 662-2142. Open all year Thurs. thru Sun. No shipping.

TAX EXEMPT STATUS

By Margaret Ziesenhenn

Finance Committee Chairman

The American Begonia Society's recognition as an educational organization entitled to exemption from Income Tax under Internal Revenue Code Section 501 (c) (3) is opening new vistas of activity in which every member should rejoice.

Charles Richardson, ABS president, has asked me to explain what this exemption means in our financial area. The easiest way to explain it to our many church-going members is that any donations they, their families, interested business firms, or foundations, may make to the overall activities of ABS or to a specific ABS project, may now legally be shown as a charitable deduction on the donors' income tax returns. Dues are not legal deductions as contributions. I believe it was in 1971 that it was found the ABS had no traceable non-profit exemption and the matter was called to the board's attention. Last year we received our exemption and the branches (24 of them so far) have also been given an educational organization exemption; we can now expand our research and nomenclature activities with funds donated with full credit being given to the donor's tax return; we can suggest donations or grants be established for more color in our *Begonian*; we can give grants to researchers if their work is found worthy. We have a responsibility to carry out our founders' purposes in educating the public schools, other plant societies, about the genus *Begonia*. Help us in our new status with suggestions and funding!

BRANCH DIRECTORY

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT THESE MEETINGS

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 10:30 A.M. Homes of Members
Betty Cooper, Pres.
4444 Arista Dr., San Diego, CA 92103

BUXTON BRANCH

3rd Saturday, Waltham Field Sta.
241 Beaver St., Waltham, MA
Anthony P. Croce, Pres.
24 Saxon Terrace, Newton, MA 02161

CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN BRANCH

Dr. William Ireton, Pres.
1702 Camino Primavera, Bakersfield, CA 93306

CONNECTICUT BRANCH

4th Monday, Home of Members
Mds. Arline Peck, Pres.
Eagle Peak Rd., Pascoag, RI 02859

DENTON BRANCH

Sharon Nied, Pres.
1418 Dogwood Trail, Lewisville, TX 75067

DESERT BEGONIA BRANCH

Barbara Rogers, Pres.
8508 Shasta Dr., Tucson, AZ 85730

EAST BAY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:45 p.m.
Northbrea Community Church, Berkeley, Ca.
Lloyd Olson, Pres.
1244 Mountain Blvd., Oakland, CA 94611

EASTERN NEW YORK BRANCH

Betty Pullar, Pres.
411 New Karner Rd., Albany, NY 11205

EASTSIDE BEGONIA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
590 116th Avenue N.E., Bellevue, Washington
Dale Greer, Pres.
1704 212th Ave. S.E., Issaquah, WA 98027

EDNA STEWART PITTSBURGH BRANCH

3rd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Phipps Conservatory
Frank A. Kerin, Pres.
922 Savannah Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221

ELSA FORT BRANCH

1st Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Marion Buck, Pres.
420 Park Blvd., Moorestown, NJ 08057

GARDEN GROVE BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
New Community Meeting Center
11300 Stanford, Garden Grove, CA 92643
Walter Jungkeit, Pres.
822 N. Lenz Dr., Anaheim, CA 92805

GERALDINE DALY BEGONIA BRANCH

GLENDALE BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m.
Glendale Federal Savings, 401 N. Brand
Dolores Fernandez, Pres.
4369 Tujunga Ave., North Hollywood, CA 91604

GORDON LEPISTO BRANCH

Quentin Johnson, Pres.
3509 Ivy Pl., Wayzata, MN 55391

GREATER CHICAGO AREA BRANCH

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

GREATER CINCINNATI BRANCH

Erich Steiniger, Pres.
208 Beechpoint Dr., Oxford, OH 45056

GREATER ROCHESTER BRANCH

Third Sunday, Members' homes
Betty Fennell, Pres.
1054 Shoemaker Rd., Webster, NY 14580

HAMPTON BRANCH

2nd Monday, 7:45 p.m.
Parrish Memorial Hall, Southampton, NY
Audrey Hanzman, Pres.
18 Knoll Road, Southampton, NY 11968

HOUSTON TEXAS BRANCH

4th Monday, 1:00 p.m., Garden Center
1500 Herman Dr., Houston, Texas
Hinds Poth, Pres.
45 Carolane Trail, Houston, TX 77024

JACKSONVILLE BRANCH

2nd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Members' homes
James D. Koon, Pres.
5443 Allamanda Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32210

KNICKERBOCKER BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Horticultural Society of New York
128 West 58th St., New York
Marjorie L. Mack, Pres.
75 Henry St., Brooklyn, NY 11201

LONG BEACH PARENT BRANCH

2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Community Room
Great Western S & L
6300 E. Spring St., Long Beach
Mrs. C. R. Davis, Pres.
5826 Barbanel St., Long Beach, CA 90815

LONG ISLAND BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Planting Fields Arboretum
Oyster Bay, Long Island, N.Y.
Annette Boree, Pres.
8 Brown Rd., Great Neck, NY 11024

MESQUITE BRANCH

1st Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Members homes
Dorothy Taylor, Pres.
2518 Spring Hill, Dallas, TX 75228

MIAMI BRANCH

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

MONTEREY BAY AREA BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 8:00 p.m.
Lighthouse and Dickman Sts., New Monterey, Calif.
Don Englund, Pres.
1111 Harrison, Monterey, CA 93940

NORTH LONG BEACH BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
Mercury Savings and Loan Assn.
4140 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach
D. T. Sullinger, Pres.
7238 Irvinggrove Dr., Downey, CA 90241

ORANGE COUNTY BRANCH

4th Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Fullerton S & L, 2310 E. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim
James Barnhill, Pres.
511 Riverside Ave., Newport Beach, CA 92660

PALMETTO BRANCH

Arlene Waynick, Pres.
100 Dexter Dr., Taylors, SC 29687

PALOMAR BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Vista Recreation Center
Eleanor Calkins, Pres.
910 Fern St., Escondido, CA 92027

PORTLAND BRANCH

Alma Kintrea, Pres.
3728 S. E. 76th Ave., Portland, OR 97206

POTOMAC BRANCH

4th Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Falls Church
Recreation Cntr., Great Falls & Little Falls Sts.
Falls Church, VA
Maxine Zinman, Pres.
Rte 1, Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620

REDONDO AREA BRANCH

4th Friday, 7:30 p.m.
 R. H. Dana School Cafetorium
 135th St. and Aviation Blvd., Hawthorne, Calif.
 Diane Fries, Pres.
 3531 Cricklewood, Torrance, CA 90505

RUBIDOUX BRANCH

4th Thursday, 7:30 p.m., West Riverside Mem. Hall
 4393 Riverview Dr., Rubidoux, CA
 Glenda Elin, Pres.
 5390 Camino Real, Riverside, CA 92509

SACRAMENTO BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
 3300 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.
 Marvin Vipond, Pres.
 1719 Markham Way, Sacramento, CA 95818

SALINE COUNTY BRANCH OF KANSAS

4th Monday 1:30 p.m., Homes of Members
 Mrs. Sam Gilmore, Pres.
 536 Crestwood Rd., Salina, KS 67401

SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 8:00 p.m., Garden Center
 Golden Gate Park, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way
 Carol Clements, Pres.
 38 Chalda Ct., San Raphael, CA 94903

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY BRANCH

2nd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Los Angeles State and County Arboretum
 501 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, Calif.
 Elizabeth Stuart, Pres.
 1002 Oakleaf Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH

1st Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Casa del Prado (Rm. 104), Balboa Park, San Diego
 Dennis Torzeski, Pres.
 1147 Tucson Ct., El Cajon, CA 92021

SANTA BARBARA BRANCH

4th Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
 Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center
 1232 De la Vina St.
 Rudolf Ziesenhonne, Pres.
 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103

SANTA CLARA VALLEY BRANCH

3rd Thursday, 8:00 p.m.
 Allstate Savings & Loan
 Norah Rogers, Pres.
 c/o Secretary, C. L. Sayers
 369 Ridge Vista Ave., San Jose, CA 95127

SEATTLE BRANCH

3rd Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.
 Bethany Lutheran Church, 7400 Woodlawn Ave., N.E.
 Barbara Crick, Pres.
 2845-140th NE, Bellevue, WA 98005

SOUTH SEATTLE BRANCH

4th Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Wm. Mosher Field House
 430 South 156th, Burien, WA
 Louis A. Pompeo, Pres.
 423 S. W. 175th Pl., Seattle, WA 98166

TAMPA BAY AREA BRANCH

3rd Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
 University of So. Florida, Student Chapel Bldg.
 Dora Lee Dorsey, Pres.
 8110 N. Edison Ave., Tampa, FL 33604

TARRANT COUNTY BRANCH

2nd Monday, 10:00 a.m., Bank of Fort Worth

THEODOSIA BURR SHEPHERD BRANCH

1st Tuesday 7:30 p.m.
 Senior Citizens Bldg., 420 Santa Clara St.
 Ventura, CA
 Velma Montgomery, Pres.
 5203 Aurora Dr., Ventura, CA 93003

WESTCHESTER BRANCH

2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Citizens S&L Assoc.
 5347 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, Ca.
 Katherine Balz, Pres.
 1500 East Oak Ave., El Segundo, CA 90245

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA BRANCH

2nd Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. every month
 Northway Mall Community Room
 North Hills, Pittsburgh, PA
 Genevieve Allison, Pres.
 221 Schaffner Rd., Butler, PA 16001

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. Edward Sohler
 51 Howellville Rd., Berwyn, PA 19312

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BRANCH LISTING

The Branch Directory has been revised to include the latest information that has been received from the branches. In most cases, the name and address of the president is given. Any changes in the listing should be reported to the ABS secretary immediately. The Branch Directory will appear in July. Deadline is May 29.

The Board of Directors will meet April 24 at South Gate Auditorium.

NEW BRANCHES ORGANIZING

If anyone in the following areas would like to share the fun and love of growing begonias, contact the following ABS members who are desirous of forming a branch:

Robert B. Hamm

2951 Elliott

Wichita Falls, TX 76308

Mrs. M. L. Lusk

110 Sandero Drive

Belvedere, SC 29841

Dr. Martin P. Price

595 Forest Hills Blvd.

Knoxville, TN 37919

If you would like to get a group together in your area, write to me for a leaflet on how to form a branch. It takes just seven interested people to make a branch. Sharing a hobby with others increases your knowledge. Learning, making new friends and the sociability involved make branch membership an enriching experience.

Mrs. Evelyn Cronin

Branch Relations Director

88 Ledgeways

Wellesley Hills, MA 02181

American Begonia Society
8302 Kittyhawk Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90045

Address Correction Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 261
Culver City, Ca.

- ★ 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
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

LEARN ABOUT FERNS

Join the
LOS ANGELES INT'L FERN SOCIETY
Membership only \$8.00 per year
28 page Bulletin and 2 page Lesson monthly
4369C Tujunga Ave., No. Hollywood, Ca. 91604

"Schultz-Instant"
LIQUID PLANT FOOD
10-15-10
Concentrated, High Analysis — All Purpose — 10-15-10 "Starts and Feeds" all Plants Indoors and Outdoors.
Available at your store or send \$1.00 for 5½ oz., \$2.00 for 12oz (includes mailing).

7 DROPS PER QUART WATER

"Schultz-Instant"
SOLUBLE FERTILIZER
20-30-20
Concentrated, High Analysis — All Purpose — 20-30-20 crystals. Grows Vegetables, Flowers, Roses, Trees, Shrubs, Lawns, Etc., in Yards, Gardens, Greenhouses.
Available at your store or send \$8.95 for 5 lb (includes mailing).

1/2 TSP PER GALLON WATER
SCHULTZ CO. — St. Louis, MO 63043
SEND FOR OUR FUND RAISING OFFER

Palos Verdes

**Begonia
Farm**

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

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

COMPLETE SELECTION OF BEGONIAS
AND SHADE PLANTS

FUCHSIAS—CAMELLIAS—FERNS

OPEN DAILY

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