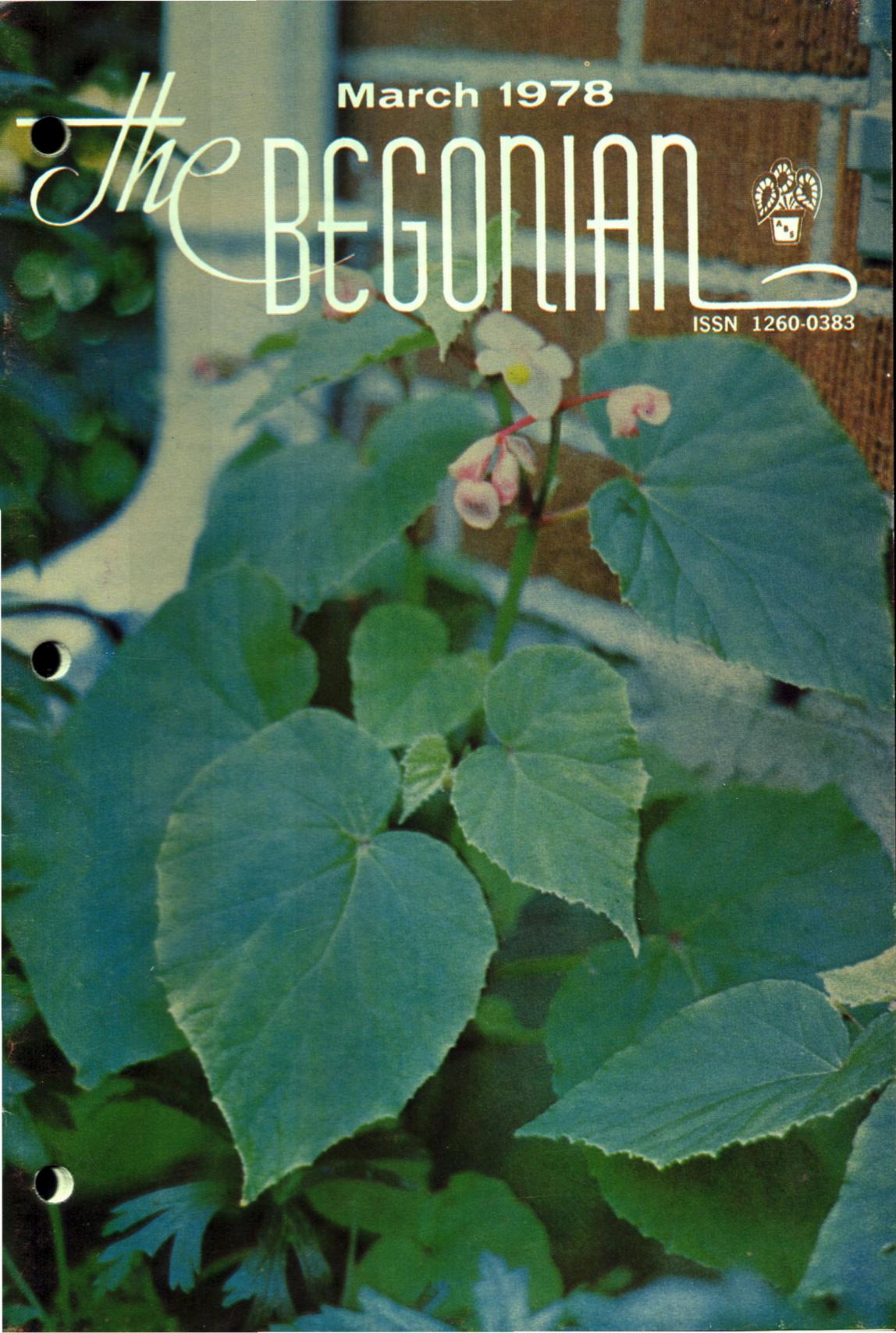


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The BEGONIAN



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Photo by Wray M. Bowden

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DEADLINES

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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*.

THE HARDY BEGONIA

By Wray M. Bowden, Simcoe, Ontario

The Cover Photograph:

Begonia grandis Dryand.

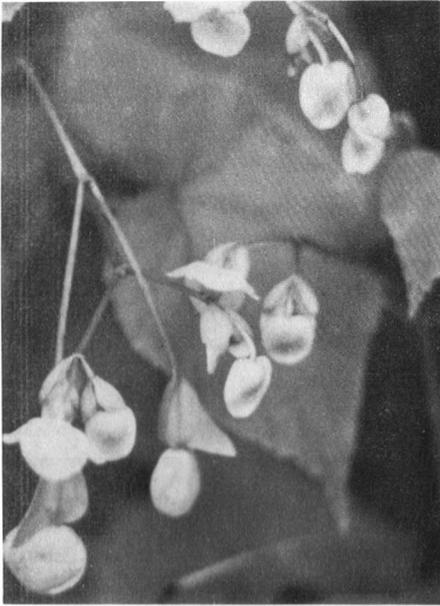
Both the cover photograph and the close-up view on the next page were of plants which survived the severe winter of 1976-77 in the garden.

The Hardy Begonia is now called *Begonia grandis* Dryand. but many texts and most gardeners have used the name *Begonia evansiana* Andr. It is a native of China, Japan and the Malay peninsula. In 1970, I obtained a few plants of this species from the greenhouse of Mrs. Ruth Verity who lived a few miles west of Brantford, Ontario, Canada. Each year the tubers and bulblets overwintered well near the foundation on the north side of our house at Simcoe, Ontario. However, the plants grew and flowered best during the summer and early fall of 1977, partly because of improved winter-protection methods in 1976-77, and partly because of the deep snow which gave extra protection from the cold during that winter.

The Hardy Begonias were planted close to the foundation on the north side of the house near the northeast corner. No direct sunlight fell on this place but there was much reflected light from the northern sky. The soil was loam topsoil. One can also use a mixture such as three parts loam, half part peat moss and half part well-rotted cow manure. For fertilizer, I used a solution of one tablespoon of Royal Purple, 15-30-15, per one gallon of water. The solution was applied to the bases of the plants with a watering can about May 15, June 1, June 15 and July 1. The soil

should be kept moist. Since the plants received no direct sunlight, the soil did not dry out and only a minimum of watering was needed. The small new axillary bulblets should not be planted deep and they will root where they fall on the soil surface. The older tubers can be planted one to two inches deep but some of my strongest plants grew from tubers just below the surface of the ground.

Between the fall of 1970 and September 1976, I did not provide extra protection for my Hardy Begonia plants and they survived each winter. In late October 1976, I provided extra protection, and the tubers and axillary bulblets overwintered in better condition and produced much stronger plants during the growing season of 1977. The extra protection was provided as follows: After the stems of the plants were cut down to ground level, a thickness of several inches of newspapers was spread over the whole area of soil where the plants were growing. Then, about three inches of garden soil were placed on top of the newspapers in a solid layer. In late April 1977, the soil and newspapers were removed. By the middle of May, small leaves had formed and by July 1st, the plants were up to ten inches tall. By the end of August, the tallest plants were about thirty-five inches high. The first flowers appeared about mid-



July when the plants were about a foot high. As the season progressed, the flowering branches grew considerably, so that by mid-September they were five to twelve inches long. The branches bearing the flowers were colored red to pink and the network of branches hung from the tops of the plants to a third of the way down.

The stems of the *B. grandis* are green but are deep red near the nodes. The leaves are large, handsome and up to five inches across the blades. The flowers are pink, numerous and attractive; and there are both staminate and pistillate flowers. The masses of yellow anthers do not appear to have any pollen. The stigmas are yellow and the ovaries are pink. Many of the ovaries enlarge considerably and, by October my plants form rather large three-winged fruits. However, the ovules do not develop and seeds are not formed.

Begonia grandis can also be grown

as a house plant or as a greenhouse plant. The tubers and bulblets have a dormant period so the plants are not lush with growth all year. In the greenhouse, bulblets often fall from the stems to the bench or below the bench and plants sometimes become well established there.

Questions to the author with answers and comments

1. *The winter of 76-77 was one of record breaking cold. What prompted you to start this procedure, since you obviously had done so before the severity was evident?* As I recall, the winter of 76-77 was noted for the exceptionally deep snowfall in our area. The two winters before were noted for quite low minimum temperatures in one of them while the other one had normal lows but they lasted a long time. I made the trial because I had a hunch that the tubers and bulblets were suffering from the cold. I have been building up special methods that give increased protection to such things as the Hardy Fuchsia, *F. magellanica*, Chinese orchid, Japanese irises, etc. so it was normal for me to try to protect the begonias and I did not expect such a good result. It was the first time I had used newspapers, and they were used on the begonias since I would lose many bulblets in the next spring when I tried to remove the soil from the area. With my methods, after the soil is removed in the spring, the newspapers can be taken off and the area is in good condition where it had been covered.

2. *What temperatures did the bulblets endure?* During each winter we have a series of periods alternating

between mild days — 3 to 6 at a time — and colder days and these usually last from 2 to 4 days. Our normal days of severe low temperatures would be about 20 degrees below zero F. Then we have thaws which would be above 32 degrees F. 3. *What was the weather like when you removed the extra covering in the spring?* In late April, I removed the soil and papers and the weather

was quite spring-like. The snow had all melted but a fresh snow can happen even into May but it soon melts. By late April, the spring flowers will be out — *Helleborous*, *Crocus*, and snowdrops for example. We still get frosts on the roof up to May 24, rarely into the first week in June. We often get lots of rain in late April.

For sources, see page 86.

ADVENTURE WITH A BOOK

The Search for *Begonia californica*

By Martin Johnson, Redwood City, Calif.

As do many members of the American Begonia Society, I look forward to all new books about begonias. When I received *The Species of Begoniaceae* by Dr. Fred Barkley and Jack Golding several years ago, I had some doubts about its value to me because I am not a botanist. Botanical descriptions and most of the species names as well, are as much a mystery to me as the Rosetta Stone.

As time went by I found myself checking out certain begonias to determine their native habitats. One begonia I purchased bore the name *B. megaphylla*. This appellation proved to be erroneous and the correct name, according to the guide, is *B. barkeri*. In another instance I received a leaf to propagate that was identified as *B. brooksii*. Upon checking this name, I found *B. plejeba* as the proper species name.

Soon I was going through the book to see, for example, which begonias came from Brazil, Mexico, Africa, etc. It was inevitable that certain names would arouse curiosity about a particular begonia. Would *B. or-*

chidiflora really have an orchid-like flower? Is it presently grown anywhere now?

I was surprised to find a begonia named *B. californica*. I was wondering if it would be worth growing and why it had not been brought into cultivation, especially since the habitat was Baja California.

The Barkley-Golding guide also gives the reference source of the botanical description, so I was able to locate a copy of the original from the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco:

T. S. Brandegee, *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* 3: 140. 1891 (See page 66.)

The most interesting part of this species description to me is the color of the flowers. Pink or purple flowers. Could this be truly a purple-flowered begonia? If so, it would give hybridizers a new color to strive for in the tuberous group. Let us hope some adventurous begonia collector can rediscover *B. californica* soon and put our hybridizers to work.

238. *BEGONIA* (*KNESEBECKIA*) *CALIFORNICA*.—Herbaceous from a tuberous root, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. high, glabrous, purple-tinged: lower leaves cordate, somewhat unsymmetrical, sparingly pilose at the top of the petiole and on the veins, equaling the petiole, 5–7 nerved and lobed, dentate-serrate and setiferous, 6 cm. wide, 4 cm. long; upper leaves very unsymmetrical, 2–3 nerved and lobed, dentate-serrate and setiferous; stipules 6–7 mm. long, 3 mm. wide, broadly lanceolate setiferous, persistent, those of the lower leaves unsymmetrical: cymes few flowered: bracts broadly acuminate setiferous: pedicels 3–4 cm. long, bibracteolate at the middle with very setiferous deciduous bracteolæ: flowers pink or purple: the male perianth 4-lobed, the two outer lobes broadly ovate, 7 mm. long, denticulate, the inner smaller; anthers obpyriform, emarginate: female perianth 5-lobed, the outer ones sparingly denticulate, 5 mm. long, the inner smaller; capsule 2 cm. long or more, 2–3 winged, the largest wing roundish-deltoid, 10–12 mm. in greatest width, the opposite wing 3 mm. wide, the dorsal small.—Sierra de San Francisquito.

BEGONIA CALIFORNICA

Reproduced above is the original description reference from the *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* 3: 140. 1891, written by T. S. Brandegee. The specimen was observed on Sierra de San Francisquito, Baja California.

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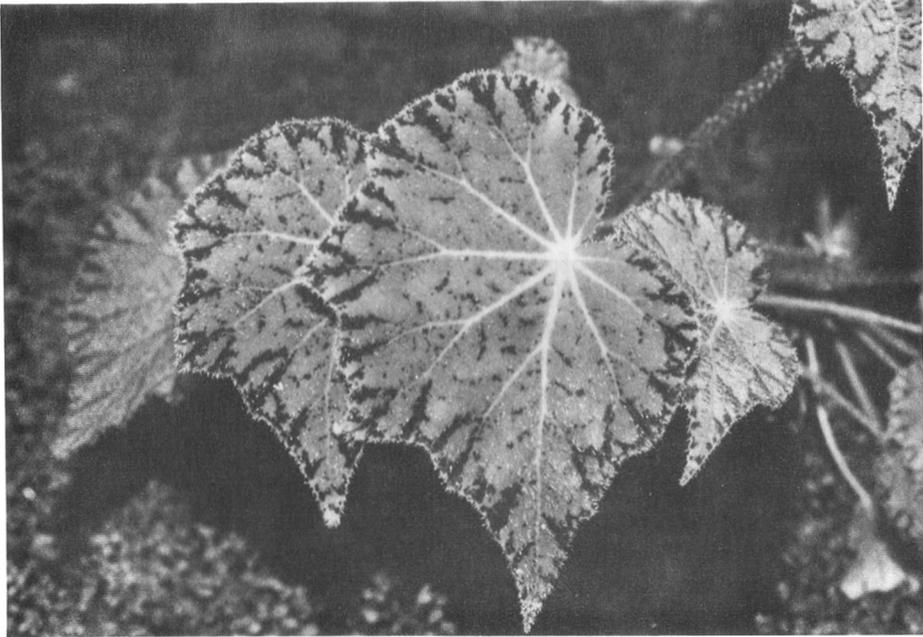
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BEGONIA PROFILES

By Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, Calif.

BEGONIA 'LOSPE'



One of the most distinct and magnificent of all *Begonia* species is *B. carrieae*. Rudy Ziesenhenné spent several years researching this plant before publishing the description and naming it in honor of his long time friend and cohort, Carrie Karegeannes. *B. 'Bowtique'*, because of its unusual leaf shape, created a sensation when it was introduced at the 1972 National Show in Glendale, Calif. The successful mating of *B. 'Bowtique'* X *B. carrieae* promised something special to cherish in our collections.

The seed, planted in September 1973, germinated quickly. Seedlings developed into two distinctly differ-

ent groups of rhizomatous plants, one having plain leaves and the other having sinus spirals. Rudy named the plain-leaved group *Begonia* 'Lospe' after a Chumash Indian tribe of Santa Barbara County. The spiral-leaved group was given the name *B. 'Lospetu'*, *tu* being the Indian word for ear.

The star attraction of *Begonia* 'Lospe' is the dull, hairy, rough surface of the leaves that also have the *B. bowerae* markings on the margins. *B. 'Bowtique'* is a sport of *B. 'Dark Forest'* which is a *B. bowerae* hybrid.

Begonia 'Lospe' has medium green, uneven heart-shaped leaves that are 6½ inches long and 4 inches wide.

(Continued on page 86)

TWELFTH EASTERN REGIONAL BEGONIA CONVENTION AND SHOW Miami, Florida

Thursday, April 13

- 6:00-10:00 p.m. Flower Show Entries
8:00 p.m. Hospitality Hour

Friday, April 14

- 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Late Flower Show Entries
10:00-12:30 p.m. Flower Show Judging
12:30 p.m. Luncheon
Greetings: Helene Jaros, Convention Chairman
Gilbert Estrada, ABS treasurer
Roll Call of Branches
Mistress of Ceremonies: Frances Hunter
2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Show Open to Public
3:00 - 3:45 p.m. Seminar: Dr. John Popenoe, "The Begonia Collection of Fairchild Tropical Garden and the Plant Introduction Program"
3:55 - 4:40 p.m. Seminar: Joy Logee Martin, "Begonia Introductions — New Hybrids"
6.00 p.m. Cocktail Hour
7:00 p.m. Awards Banquet
Welcome: Alma L. Crawford, President, Miami Branch
Presentation of Awards: Helene Jaros, Alma Crawford, and Charles J. Jaros
9:00 p.m. Musical Presentation: Keith Tynes
10:00 p.m. Informal Meeting of Elected Officers of Branches

Saturday, April 15

- 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Seminar: Laura Smith, "Making Hanging Baskets"
9:20-10:05 a.m. Seminar: Ann Helton, "Re-acclimating Your Begonias"
10:10-10:55 a.m. Seminar: to be announced
10:00 - 5:00 p.m. Show Open to Public
11:00 a.m. Luncheon
12 noon 5 p.m. Tour: Fairchild Tropical Garden and Parrot Jungle
6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour
7:00 p.m. Banquet
Address: Rudolf Ziesenhenné, "Hybridizing Begonias"

ADDITIONS TO THE SHOW SCHEDULE

as announced in January issue

DIVISION T—Novel Method of Growing

163A Rock Plantings

163B Shell Plantings

DIVISION Y—All Other Crafts

Must include begonias in some manner

164 (May be subdivided)

A PROLIFIC HYBRIDIZER

By Dorothy Behrends, Encinitas, Calif.

Hybridizers are in themselves special. Today, many of us enjoying the beauty and stamina of the begonias created a decade ago do not know the story supporting the aims of the good hybridizers of yesteryear.

One of these special people, Louise Schwerdtfeger of Santa Barbara, gave us hybrids with only species parents. Persons today may be assured of duplicating her hybrids at anytime, perpetuating them forever. Such select hybridizing seldom happens these days. In the first place, few collectors are able to collect all the available species. Louise had the largest species collection in the United States at one time.

Only a dedicated hybridizer is able to give the time and patience to watch for the development of the pollen on the stamens and, at the right time of day, apply this pollen to receptive pistils. A written record of this pollinating must be kept.

Let us go back to the beginning to learn when and how such a dedicated hybridizer came to be.

Louise Schwerdtfeger bought her first tuberous begonia in 1923, not knowing it was a tuberous. It had a single flower approx. $1\frac{1}{4}$ " across and she planted it under a big rose bush. (The nurseryman was also unaware of its tuber.) It was not until the next year when it reappeared after presumably dying that she investigated and found the tuber.

Eventually she met the late Elsie Frey and they became close friends. It was Elsie who inspired Louise and taught her the procedure of successful hybridizing. Louise in turn has

generously taught many other begonia fans the art, as she appreciated Elsie's spirit of sharing.

She also became well acquainted with Lambert Day, who went to great lengths to accumulate all the begonia literature he could find. Most of it was foreign; in fact, the only begonia book published in our country at the time was the small tome by Eva Kenworthy Gray, the first book on begonias in the U.S.A. It must have been frustrating in those early days not to be able to run to a book and look up information easily as we do today, thanks to Ed and Millie Thompson. Lambert Day willingly shared his knowledge and actively helped numerous begonia students.

When the A.B.S. originated in 1932 it was due to tuberous begonia fans. Later it embraced the cane stemmed begonias grown so prolifically by A. D. Robinson; still later it included the rhizomatous begonias. By 1945 the American Begonia Society was fairly settled with its Aims and Purposes. At this time Mrs. Schwerdtfeger's four children were grown, so with the support of her husband, Otto, she accepted the appointment of Public Relations Director for the Society. Living in Santa Barbara with the ABS headquarters in Los Angeles necessitated long hours of travel to and from the numerous branches for this energetic woman. Mrs. Schwerdtfeger took her responsibilities seriously and is proud to relate the Seattle, Sacramento, Elsa Fort and Salina Branches were all organized during her tenure. It was during that time I met Mrs. Sch-



B. 'Agnestee' was a blue ribbon winner at the recent show in Anaheim. It was grown outdoors in San Diego by Marge and Paul Lee.

werdtfeiger when I was a member of the then active Hollywood Branch.

All this time Louise was an active begonia grower and hybridizer. Later she successfully conducted the Casa de Begonia Nursery in Hope Ranch Park, specializing in mail orders. (No longer in business.)

We shall only be able to list a few of her crosses now. All of these may be obtained from various begonia specialty growers as they have been favorites for years, thanks to their stamina. The latter is probably attributable to her use of species as parents. Growers in the east have found them to be exceptionally acceptable and reports indicate they are still in demand.

She also produced a vast number

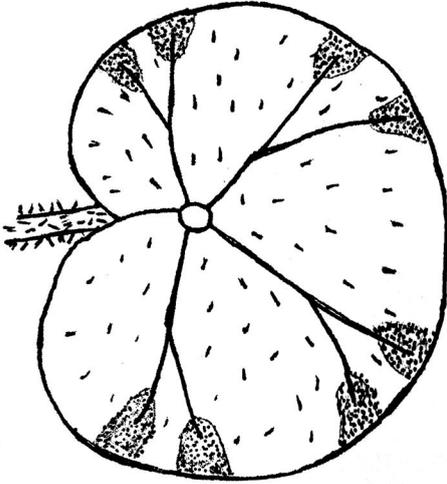
of rex hybrids, but as her activity diminished, she decided to sell the seeds rather than plant them. It was Louise's seeds from which Paul Lee selected *B. 'Purple Petticoats'*, which he named with her permission and registered in 1968 (ABS No. 249). Louise is happy to know it won the top A.B.S. award for an outstanding begonia, the Alfred D. Robinson Medal, that fall.

CULTIVARS

B. 'Agnestee' (1961)
(*B. venosa* x *B. olsoniae*)

This begonia seldom looks tired, needing rest. It usually has a few flowers all year long when grown outdoors in a mild climate.

heim. It was named for Agnes Thieben.



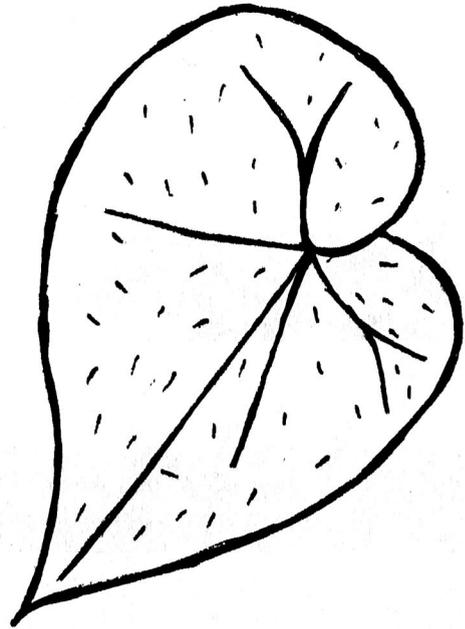
Begonia 'Otto Alfred' (1954)
(*B. strigillosa* x *B. barkeri*)

A significantly distinct rhizomatous begonia with an almost round leaf of medium to dark green; sparsely covered with tiny colorless hairs on the surface and heavier on the underside; faint brown zone around veins and especially near margins; creeping rhizome which branches frequently. The begonia is named after Louise's husband.

Lower right:

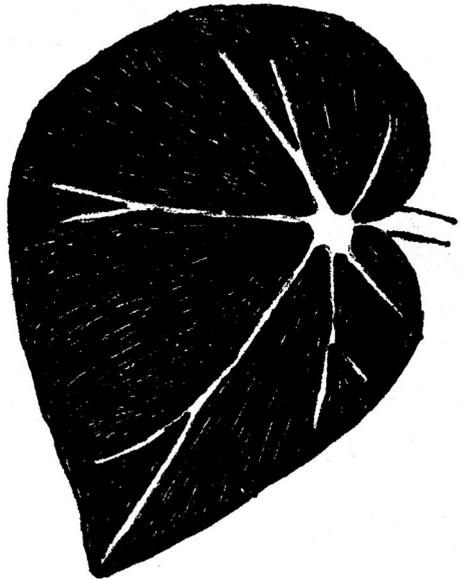
B. 'Zaida' (1954)
(*B. mazae* x *B. epipsila*)

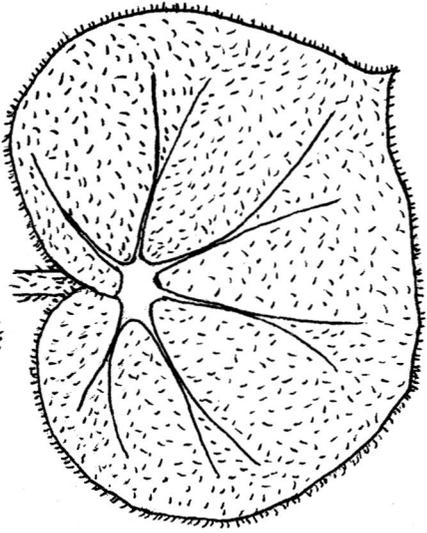
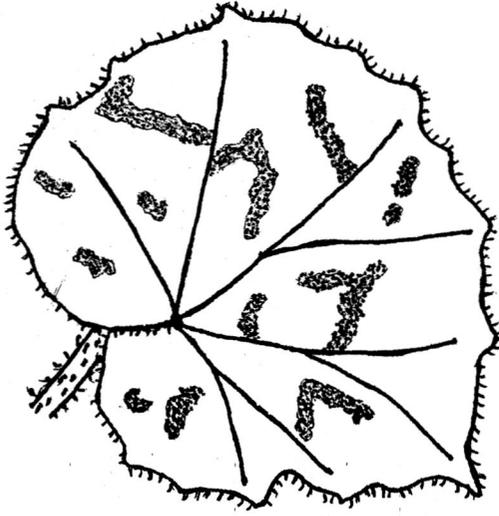
A beautiful deep green chatoyant leaf surface may show brown zones when grown in strong light. The under surface is dark red with light green veins prominent only near the sinus. The petioles are light green, succulent and grow to about 10", holding aloft the orbicular leaf blades. Subdued light and consistent moisture is recommended for successful growing. Large clusters of pink tinged flowers are held above the foliage.



B. 'Raythel' (1956)
(*B. fernando-costae* x *B. epipsila*)

This shrub type begonia has oblique leaves, sparsely hairy. The upper surface is very dark green and the underside dark red. White flowers are held aloft on strong red stems.



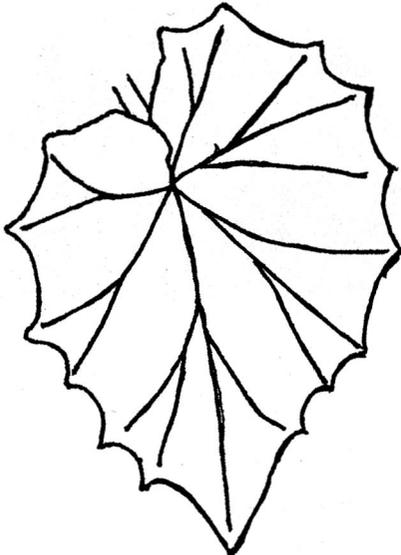


B. 'Patty Bar' (1953)
 (*B. fuscomaculata* x *B. barkeri*)

This rhizomatous begonia has shiny bright green leaves with colorless hairs on the margins. The veins are evident on the lower surface only. The scattered brown zones vary and no two leaves are alike. It grows readily to a large specimen.

B. 'Laura Jane' (1957)
 (*B. acetosa* x *B. acida*)

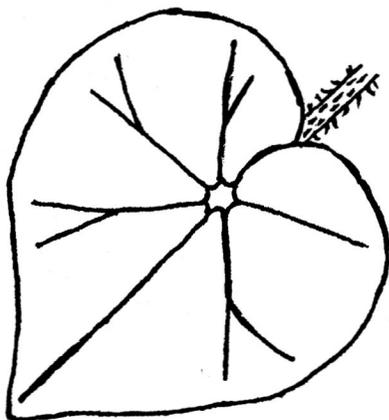
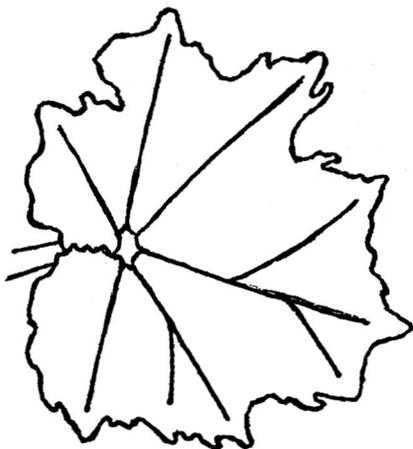
A creeping rhizomatous begonia. The medium green leaves are approximately 4" x 5" and have short, soft, colorless erect hairs on the upper surface and dark rose to rust hairs of the same texture on the underside. Strong petioles are covered with soft white hairs.



Lower left:

B. 'Colonel Gale' (1952)
 (*B. manicata crispa* x
B. kenworthyae)

The parents of this begonia have been known to be demanding to grow. This plant is easily recognized. It is an upright rhizomatous with close nodes. The leaves have a bluish green cast. Translucent petioles with sparse red markings hold aloft delicate leaves whose light green veins are prominent. There is a collar of neat red scales on the stem where it is joined to the leaf blade on the underside.



B. 'John R.' (1952)
 (*B. macdougallii* x *B. hidalgensis*)

A rhizomatous begonia with shiny, smooth, bright leaves; the petioles are lightly covered with brown tomentum. It may become a large specimen with leaves approximately 8 x 10 inches. White flowers are borne well above the foliage.

B. 'Elsa Fort' (1952)
 (*B. imperialis* x *B. metallica*)

This fibrous begonia has leaves textured like crepe and approximately 2 1/2" by 3"; the upper surface is light brownish green and the obverse is bright red. Both surfaces are minutely hairy. It is an excellent plant for windowsill culture but it should not be exposed to direct sunlight. The veins are not prominent.

Louise's list of distributed hybrids is long. We can list only a few more of them which you may want to watch for: *B.* 'Marie Reed', *B.* 'Helen Kraus', *B.* 'Ruthanne', *B.* 'Spaulding', *B.* 'Alice Mac' and *B.* 'Mac-Alice'. The last two are different enough to have warranted being named though they have the same parents: *B. macdougallii* and *B. imperialis*. They are reverse crosses.

Mrs. Schwendtfeger will be long remembered by her many friends in the begonia world for her handsome first generation crosses.

Mrs. Louise Schwerdtfeger still enjoys begonias at her Santa Barbara home. She will be long remembered by begonia fans for her handsome hybrids.

Note: The drawings are not reproduced to scale. They are meant to show leaf shape and features.

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:

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NOTES ON *B. FERRUGINEA*

By Fred A. Barkley, Tecumseh, Oklahoma

Begonia ferruginea L. f., *Suppl.* 419. 1781, is one of the species of *Begonia* that have been known for a very long period. It apparently has not been widely cultivated, probably because it is very difficult to find and to grow. It is native to the Andes in the central part of Colombia where one usually finds it growing up through shrubs to a height of two meters and remains very inconspicuous in this setting, where it apparently likes the protection and support

of the shrubs. Insects are fond of it.

It has rich velvety green leaves and scarlet flowers. The accompanying photograph by Barkley and Saldarriaga was made from a specimen growing in the patio of the Institute of Biology of the National University of Colombia, in Bogota. It is the only specimen of this species that I have seen growing in cultivation. Repeated attempts that I have made to grow it from seed and cuttings have failed.

BEGONIA FERRUGINEA L.F.

By Scott Hoover, Williamstown, Mass.

B. ferruginea L. f. Does that resemble any colors you have in mind? Poets of ancient time have lent distinction to these scarlet plants, for instance, the Chinese poet Sung Tung P'O¹ entitles one of his poems "Begonias". Musicians of contemporary time have acknowledged the scarlet spirit of begonias also, for the inspired lyricism of the Grateful Dead² rings a tale of crimson delight.

Recollection of the flaming color portrayed by *B. ferruginea* captured my senses in a journey through high mountains of the Boyaca in Colombia: Splashed against a dark green, misty background, interrupted by moisture laden, fiercely driven clouds, appeared a scarlet flash. My path suddenly became well defined. Climbing over water saturated moss, and breaking through bamboo shoots, my search revealed *B. ferruginea*. After two unsuccessful attempts to collect this species, I finally was rewarded, and my experience al-

lows me to judge this species as one of the prime contenders for the most beautiful. It literally inflames the landscape upon which it grows.

B. ferruginea is placed in the section *Casparya*, which has several distinctive characteristics. One trait is a horned fruit: this is a fruit which exhibits a thickened, insulating cellular mass covering the ovary. Rather than having one modified or enlarged wing, with two smaller forms, the *Casparyas* have three horns of equal length, each species having slight variations. Another distinctive characteristic of species in *Casparya* is their high frequency of occurrence at high elevations, generally well over 6,000 feet.³ It appears that the increased mass of cellular tissue provides a protective covering for the developing seeds within the ovary, for at high elevations the temperature is lower. *Casparya* is limited to a small percentage of species within

(Continued on page 77)



ferruginea. BEGONIA fruticosa, foliis integerrimis, floribus paniculatis.

Icon. *Mutis. amer. v. I. t. 18.*

Habitat in Nova Granada. *Dr. Mutis. ¶.*

Caulis suffruticosus, declinatus, teres, subarticulatus, lævis, ramosus.

Folia alterna, remota, petiolata, oblique cordata, altero lobo baseos nullo, integerrima, nisi basi obsolete crenata, subtus squamis minutissimis, rotundatis, coloratis.

Petioles teretes.

Stipulae geminae, amplexicaules, reniformes: altera duplo minor.

Flores monoici, sanguinei, in pedunculis dichotomis.

Masculi:

Calyx nullus.

Petala quatuor, lanceolata: duo opposita emarginata,

D d 2

Filamen-

420

MONOECIA. Polyandria.

Filamenta decem ad octodecim.

Antherae laterales filamentorum.

Feminei.

Calyx nullus, sed germen.

Petala sex, lanceolata: alterna emarginata.

Germen inferum, turbinatum, trigonum.

Styli sex, multifidi, capillares.

Stigmata obsoleta.

Capsula turbinata, trigona, trilocularis absque alis.

Semina numerosa, parva.

Hæc Dr. Mutis.

Photocopy from the original publication in the Gray Herbarium Library, Harvard University: Linnaeus, Carl von, f. *Supplementum plantarum* 419-420. 1781. This includes the lower portion of page 419 and the upper portion of 420. Courtesy of Dr. Fred A. Barkley.

BEGONIA FERRUGINEA L. F.

(Continued from page 74)

the genus *Begonia* as a whole, though presently is the fourth largest section in the Americas.⁴

Like many horned fruit *Begonia*, *B. ferruginea* is endemic to Colombia. My observations warranted recording the parasitic nature of *B. ferruginea*, for it always was draped over the surrounding vegetation; it never was observed free from the support of other plants, often to a height of ten feet or more. It may be classified as a shrub or a cane type because of the development of woody tissue. It does not branch profusely, exhibiting rarely more than about eight or nine branches off the main stem. The entire plant bears a considerable quantity of pubescence, adding to its enriched, sedative appearance. The dichotomous branching of the cymes occurs from two to four times, and the drooping, elongated pedicels emerge as slender fingers bearing the scarlet flowers. Sustaining the essence of this species' aesthetics, are the four staminate and six pistillate sepals of the flowers.⁵

The horticultural challenge is well defined if *B. ferruginea* can be captured and spawned to cultivation. To my knowledge, the only horned fruit members of the Begoniaceae in cultivation are *B. heydei* C. DC., which Mr. Ziesenhenné grows, and *Symbegonia sanguinea* Warburg from New Guinea, grown by Dr. Doorenbos.⁶ It would be valuable for those involved with growing begonias to have the pleasure of such exquisite plants.

FOOTNOTES

¹The poem entitled "Begonias" appears in the book *One-Hundred Poems from the Chinese*, translated from the French version by K. Rexroth: New Directions paperbacks, 1971. In this case, the cultural distinction reflected by this poem is greatly altered since it has been translated twice.

²The California Music Band "The Grateful Dead," entitle one of their songs "Scarlet Begonias," which appears on their album, *Grateful Dead from the Mars Hotel*, 1974.

³Hoover, W. S., 1976. An Altitudinal Survey of Species of *Begonia* having a Horned Fruit. *Phytologia*, Vol. 35(2).

⁴Refer to Barkley, Fred A. 1972. Begoniaceae: The Genera, Sections, and Known Species of Each. *The Buxtonian*, Vol. I (4).

⁵The Taxonomic work of Dr. Smith and Dr. Schubert included a description of *B. ferruginea*. Smith, L. B. and B. E. Schubert, 1946. *The Begoniaceae of Colombia*, Vol. IV (16).

⁶While I was a student at Colorado College, Mr. Ziesenhenné gave me a cutting of *B. heydei*. A photograph of a horned fruit *Symbegonia* appeared on the May 1974 *Begonian*, which Dr. Doorenbos suggests is *S. sanguinea*.

For an account of Mr. Hoover's current activities, see Research Report.

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REPORT OF THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT JANUARY 23, 1978

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu, Research Director

Recently, a letter was received from Scott Hoover giving a report of his progress of plant collecting in New Guinea. He was glad to hear that additional funds had been received to help him. So far he has collected 30 to 50 species and he anticipates getting another 20 or 30 species from here and also in the Philippine Islands. The most beautiful *Begonia* species came from the Frieda River area, W. Sepik. This has been the most profitable area that he has encountered in New Guinea. Problems have arisen in shipping the material. There have been delays and some of his shipments arrived here in bad condition. However, some shipments have arrived in good order. Scott is hopeful of having his botanical articles published in the top journals since his work is very new.

He needs all the help we can give him. There seems to be a lot of interest in his trip. Donations of any size from individuals and branches would be appreciated.

In my November report I anticipated that the cultivar project would be completed by December. When I received the xerox material and file cards, I checked through them and found there was still some details to be taken care of, and that the work will take a little longer.

Financial Report of the Research Fund

Balance on hand, November 28, 1977	\$363.45
Receipts:	
Dec. 9, 1977 San Gabriel Valley Branch	25.00
Dec. 30, 1977 Seed Fund	36.64
Jan. 9, 1978 Sacramento Branch	
In memory of deceased members	67.25
Jan. 10, 1978 East Bay Branch	25.00
Interest	1.34
total	\$518.68
Disbursements — Carolyn Dickerman	100.00
Balance on hand, January 23, 1978	\$418.68

Pacific Horticulture
a magazine about
plants and gardens of the west.
Quarterly, U.S. \$6, Foreign \$7
Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94122

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.

STARTING FROM SEEDS

By Linda Miller, Seed Fund Director

Growing from seeds is easy and fun. How else could you have so many lovely plants for just pennies? Still have your membership packet? Well, open it up and let's grow!

First of all prepare labels with the variety and date of sowing. Old margarine tubs can be cut up into any size label you need. I keep a log showing what was sown, date of sowing, source of seed, date of germination and other comments.

Try to save some seeds for a second sowing. Sometimes things happen: your container dries out, the cat upsets your seedlings on the windowsill, or they are just forgotten. This gives you a second chance. You'd be surprised at the number of seed in a packet, so don't sow heavily. It's easier to transplant your seedlings if they are not too crowded.

What better time to get those plants started for spring and summer blooms than right now! It only takes a few minutes to gather the materials together on the kitchen table. Here are a couple of methods using materials most of us have around, to help get you started.

Method #1. Start with a clean margarine tub, clear plastic shoe box or other suitable container. Make several drain holes in the bottom with a hot ice pick.

Put 1/2" layer of perlite, sponge rock or other porous material in bottom. Top with 1/2 to one inch of fine sowing medium. I use vermiculite, but sphagnum moss, sterilized sand (pour boiling water over sand to sterilize) or screened sterile garden

soil can be used.

Set container in pan of water to soak overnight to make sure medium is thoroughly moistened or use warm water to speed up soaking.

Pour seed out onto a small card or piece of paper. Tap paper lightly from underneath to sprinkle seed sparingly over the medium. Set pan back in water pan for short while to make sure everything is wet. Usually additional water is not necessary until after germination. Cover with lid or saran wrap. Put in a warm, light spot out of direct sun.

Varieties such as *semperflorens* usually germinate in 3 to 5 days, but some varieties may take as long as several weeks or months. The reward is worth the wait.

Method #2. "Brick Mother" This method was described in the February Round Robin Notes and has proven satisfactory for numerous growers. The directions are included again for your convenience:

Pour boiling water over a brick. Top with approximately 1/2" of pre-moistened growing medium. Sow seed sparingly on top of medium then set brick in pan that contains 1 to 2 inches of water. Always keep water in pan, and that is all the care you will have to give until ready to transplant seedlings. No need to cover the pan, since the water in the bottom supplies enough moisture and humidity needed for germination.

Do you have a seed sowing method that really works great for you? Send your suggestions to me to be shared with your friends.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

- Fb 1 — *B. bracteosa*: 1859, Peru. An easy to grow shrub, 3 to 6 ft. high, with glossy green leaves. Has light pink flowers. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 2 — *B. diadema*: 1882, Borneo. Name means "crown". Leaves too deeply cut to make a star but not deeply enough to be palm-like. Lustrous, silky bright green leaves with tiny silvery smoke rings on leaves between veins. Rhizome hidden beneath the soil. Loves heat and moisture. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 3 — *B. 'Frutescans'*. This low spreading, shrub-like plant is very similar to *B. sanguinea*, but has smaller leaves. The leaves are slightly cupped, green above and red underneath. Flowers small, white. Excellent hanging basket. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 4 — *B. malabarica*: 1783, Ceylon. One of the oldest known begonias. A thick-stemmed upright. Grows to 2 ft. Deeply toothed leaves, which are white spotted when young, covered with short white hairs. Leaves grow to 6 inches long. Flowers are bright pink. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 5 — *B. megaptera*: about 1 ft. high, completely glabrous. Stems brown, striped with white, leaves oval, with a few large teeth. Flowers large pink. Very special. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 6 — *B. patula*: 1819, Brazil. Shrub-like plant 2 to 3 ft. high. Leaves cordate, rounded. Should be a rather small plant. May prove interesting. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 7 — *B. pringlei*: 1854, Costa Rica. Small rhizomatous plant. Leaves are lobed, small, angular, covered with white hairs. Flowers white. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 8 — San Lorenzo species: special. jumbo pkt .50
- Fb 9 — *B. sutherlandii*: 1868, South Africa. A low-growing tuberous type. Small white flowers. Very pretty. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 10 — Mixed varieties from Australia. Some exceptionally lovely plants have come from this source in the past. Fresh batch, just in. jumbo pkt .75

EASY GROWERS

- Fb 11 — *B. 'Charm'*: very different semperflorens type with yellow and white coloring on leaves. Flowers light pink. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 12 — *B. 'Cinderella'*: compact semperflorens type. Green leaves. Flowers are what is different: the centers are large, fluffy balls of buttercup yellow. Pink flowered variety. per pkt .50
- Fb 13 — *B. 'Cinderella'*: same type as above, but this variety has white flowers. per pkt .50
- Fb 14 — *B. 'Bikerack #3'*: a ruffled flower semperflorens type. A beautiful and hardy plant. Flowers range from light pink to dark rose. per pkt .50
- Fb 15 — Unidentified species of *subvillosa* type: entire plant covered with hairs. Everblooming, white flowers have hairs on the back of the



- sepals which become reddish in filtered sun. Plant branches and grows to one ft. (See photo) per pkt 1.00
- Fb 16 — *B. schmidtiana*: fibrous species from Brazil. It grows to 12 inches with a bushy habit. Handsome olive green foliage. Prolific bloomer with "apple-blossom" pink flowers. Makes a graceful basket plant. jumbo pkt .50

OTHER PLANTS

- Fb 17 — Mixed mini sinningias: all sizes and lots of different colors from pink to lavender. Choice. per pkt .75
- Fb 18 — Pteris fern: Easy to grow from spore. Terrestrial ferns. Fronds variously divided. per pkt .75
- Fb 19 — *Lemmaphyllum microphyllum*, Bean Fern spore: Small, creeping epiphyte with thick, oval succulent leaves, can be used in terrarium, or pot. A novelty. Slow growing. per pkt 1.00
- Fb 20 — *Crossandra infundibuliformis*, the Firecracker Flower: bright tangerine-orange flowers. Foliage is a deep, shining green. Needs bright light. Very colorful addition to your plant collection. 1.00

NOTES

1. This month a free packet of mixed begonia will be sent with each order. No semps in this mix.
2. Free fern growing instructions on request.
3. Pamphlets available

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

"Begonias In General —

Basic Descriptions of Classes and Culture"50

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A NOTE FROM YOUR NATIONAL CONVENTION PLANT SALES CHAIRMAN

Each year for the past three years I have observed the plants donated by the various Branches, and after reviewing the financial report of the conventions, I realize the success of the National Convention and Sales depends greatly upon plant donations. I am appealing to the Branches, growers and members-at-large to once again go all out for the Sacramento Branch, your host for this year's convention and show.

It was my pleasure and privilege to be Plant Chairman at Anaheim in 1977. Without the help of the various Branches and at least nineteen members of the Sacramento Branch, I could never have made it. The cooperation and enthusiasm of each

Branch is necessary for a successful plant table. We need your donations of plants to help defray the expenses of the 1978 National Convention and Show.

A note to the Branches and growers in the east — the terrarium plants were greatly appreciated and much in demand.

Please send me the approximate number of plant donations we can expect from your Branch. An accounting of the number of donations made will be noted in the *Begonian*.

Lou Thompson
Rt. 4, Box 616
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Ph: 916-273-8244

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. 619 — *Begonia* (B. 'MacIntyre's 'Daedelea'') X *B. aridicaulis* Ziesenh.) 'Yutum'

Developed in 1975 by Rudolf Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103, who has not observed any bloom, this rhizomatous begonia will be first distributed in 1978. Leaves are dark green, nerves lighter, below green; nerves red; thin band of black on margin; unequal heart-shaped; 6.5 x 3.5 cm (2½ x 1¾"); margin hairy; texture medium; nerves palmately 7; petioles streaked red, 15 cm (6") long; stipules long triangular. Registered Aug. 2, 1977.

No. 620 — *Begonia* (B. 'MacIntyre's 'Daedelea'') X *B. aridicaulis* Ziesenh.) 'Chucu'

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, address above, originated this rhizomatous plant in 1975 and will distribute it in 1978. Leaves are dark green, nerves lighter, with a very narrow band of black on margin; green below; uneven heart-shaped; 7.7 x 4.7 cm (3 x 1¾"); margin thinly ciliated, shallow-toothed; texture medium; nerves palmately 8; petioles 12 cm (4½") long; stipules long triangular. Flowers are white; wings edged rose; pod spotted rose; inverted egg shaped; 1.3 x 1.6 cm wide; petals male 2, female 2; arranged in cyme on 17 cm

(7½") flower stem; blooms July - August. Registered Aug. 2, 1977.

No. 621 — *Begonia* (B. 'Bowtique' X *B. 'Tiger Kitten'*) 'Brown Twist'

This rhizomatous plant with distinctive foliage has striking color combination of brown and chartreuse on unusual leaf shape. Leaves curly, twisted, spiralled, asymmetrical; 9 x 6.5 cm (3½ x 2½"); margin slightly cut, serrate; texture firm, smooth; nerves 5; petioles reddish; stipules green. Flowers whitish pink; 2 1" male, female petals; arranged in a panicle on 12" stem; blooms in spring and early summer. Originated and under propagation by Leslie Woodriff, 1100 Griffith Rd., McKinleyville, CA 95821; year developed, first bloomed, distributed not shown. Registered Aug. 28, 1977.

No. 622 — *Begonia* (B. 'Bokit' X *B. 'Bokit'*) 'Fuzzy Wuzzy'

Distinguished by its tightly rippled and folded leaves with brilliant coloring, this rhizomatous plant was developed in 1976 by Leslie Woodriff, address above; it has not yet bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves are chartreuse and brown, tightly rippled, swirled and folded; 5 x 7.5 cm (2 x 3"); margin slightly cut and folded; texture firmly crisped; nerves 10 - 12; petioles 7.5 cm (3"); stipules green. With an elongated, open sinus, the leaf is striking with long white whiskers on all edges. Registered Aug. 28, 1977.

No. 623 — *Begonia* (B. 'Zip' X *B. carolineifolia*) 'Madame Butterfly'

Rhizomatous with distinctive foliage, this plant is said to have an entirely new look. On tall, strong stems

the striking leaf forms an opening at sinus as it ripples and flutes its star shape; leaves are green; 19 x 15 cm (7½ x 6"); margin serrate, slightly hairy; texture firm; nerves 6; petioles tall, strong, reddish-brown, soft haired; stipules large, green with red hairs. No blooms to date. Originator Leslie Woodriff, address above, in 1975; first distributed in 1977. Registered Aug. 28, 1977.

No. 624 — Begonia (B. 'Madame Queen' X B. 'Bokit') 'Magic Elf'

A miniature, compact-type rhizomatous, *B. 'Magic Elf'* was developed in 1976 by Leslie Woodriff, address above; it has not bloomed nor been distributed. Leaves are hunter green, waxy-surfaced, with maroon underside; asymmetrical, 6.3 x 4.4 cm (2½ x 1¾"); margin slightly cut; nerves 6; petioles 6.3cm (2½"); stipules green with red spots. Registered Aug. 24, 1977.

No. 625 — Begonia (B. *socotrana* X B. 'Bokit') 'Curly Cloud'

This bulbous begonia differs from others in the two spirals at the leaf sinus, and the dark pink, everblooming panicles spectacular with 40 male flowers on a raceme terminating in one female flower. Leaves are light green, heart-shaped, 9 x 9 cm (3½ x 3½"); margin slightly serrate; texture firm; nerves 5; petioles green, red-spotted; stipules small, green. Flowers are shaped like those of *B. socotrana*, 4 cm (1½"), four male petals, five female, hanging clusters Hiemalis-like, on 15 cm (6") stem. The plant was developed by Leslie Woodriff, address above, in 1976; it first bloomed in 1977. Registered Aug. 25, 1977.

No. 626 — Begonia (B. 'Sir Percy' X B. *heracleifolia nigricans*) 'Gee-whiz'

Developed in 1976, and first distributed in 1977, this rhizomatous begonia has a dull silver shading with green veins, red underneath; slightly star-shaped, with uneven points; (7 x 3"); margin is rough with some hairs; texture is rough but smoother than *B. 'Sir Percy'* with some hairs; nerves 7; petioles 18 cm (7"); stipules colorless. Has not bloomed. Originated by Bernard Yorke, 24 Mulgowie St., Sunnybank, Brisbane, Aust. Registered Sept. 28, 1977.

No. 627 — Begonia (B. 'Roi' X B. *heracleifolia nigricans*) 'Barassi'

Seed parent of this rhizomatous begonia is an unregistered seedling of *B. 'Joe Hayden'* by Mickey Meyer; it has olive green leaves, heavily patterned, dark brown along leaf incisions and netted between; star-shaped with major leaf incisions; 13 x 20 cm (5 x 8"); margin prickly; texture rough; 7-nerved; petioles 18 cm (7"). Originated by Bernard Yorke, address above, in 1976, the plant has not yet bloomed nor been distributed. Registered Sept. 28, 1977.

No. 628 — Begonia (B. *bowerae* *nigramarga* X B. 'Stash') 'Howzat'

Rhizomatous, stem erect, this begonia originated by Bernard Yorke, address above, in 1976, has not yet bloomed but was first distributed in 1977. Leaves are brilliant dark green, heavily bordered with jet black, standing erect on mature plants; star-shaped with major leaf incisions; 5 x 13 cm (2 x 5"); margin slightly eyelashed; texture smooth; 7-nerved; petioles 18 cm (7"). Registered Sept. 28, 1977.

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

By Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Director

Terrarium Hints

Many people have trouble growing *B. 'Exotica'*, so it is frequently discussed in the robins. Elda Haring, North Carolina, made these suggestions: I do not grow *B. 'Exotica'* in a bubble. It does well under lights with humidity of 40 percent in winter and 60 to 70 percent in summer. It does not have to grow tall. I pinch mine as it grows to keep it compact. This forces new growth from the bottom. I have only one problem with *B. 'Exotica'*—the root ball must never dry out completely. If it does, (and it has) I give it plenty of water and leave an inch of water in the saucer overnight. Even the leaves and stems have wilted and fallen over, but by morning they are sturdy again. It propagates well from wedges although I usually lose a third of the wedges to rot before rooting. I have found that any begonia kept in a completely closed terrarium will be damaged if the top is opened for a couple of hours, but those that are kept in bubbles with a two inch opening at the top are not damaged by having the top removed, even overnight.

Culture of tuberhybrida

Larry Koester, Wisconsin, tells how he grows his tuberous begonias: I start the tubers in March or April in shallow trays with special soil purchased from White's Flower Farm mixed with perlite. I cover the whole tuber. Then after they sprout in two or three weeks I pot them in 4" pots, then a month later in 5" or 6" pots. From there about half go into the

ground, the rest I put in 6" or 7" pots. Sometimes I repot an especially nice plant into an even larger pot. In the fall I bring the potted ones upstairs and let them slowly dry out when they look ready. I usually leave them in their pots all winter, although I lose more that way than if I cleaned them and stored them in trays. The plants in the ground I dig up and let dry in the shed. Then I clean off the soil and lay them in covered trays in the basement where the temperature stays about 40 to 50 degrees. I check them now and then, and if they look shriveled I sprinkle them. When the growth buds appear I start them again.

Mildew Control

Humidity is a problem for everyone. Some have too much, some not enough. Lynda Goldsmith, Vermont, handles it this way: I don't mist to increase humidity because my first real problem with my plants came last winter when I started misting, at the same time we were lowering the thermostat. I got powdery mildew. Now the only time I use the mister is when I spray a weak solution of Lysol twice a week. I spray toward the ceiling above the plants if it is a bright day, but not over any plants the sun is shining on. I spray around the pots, pot rims, and water trays, but never at the foliage. This seems to be controlling the situation, but if I stop the routine for a week, or even less, powdery mildew is back. I think this may be the biggest problem with lowered temperatures.

All ABS members are welcome to be a part of the round robin program. If you would like to be included in this interesting group of members write to me. I will send you information about joining and a list of the flights available.

Mabel Corwin
1119 Loma Vista Way
Vista, CA 92083

SOURCES OF *B. GRANDIS*

Tubers of *B. grandis* ssp. *evansiana* are available from Cruichshank Ltd., Toronto, Ont. and Wayside Gardens, Hodges, S.C. Seeds were listed in the Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund in the November, 1977 list. A limited amount still available.

There was a typographical error, on page 10, Jan. issue: Division G winner: *B. 'Maxwelton'*.

BEGONIA 'LOSPE'

(Continued from page 67)

They are of medium thickness and are bowed up between the nerves which are hairy below. The petioles and flower stems have red streaks running lengthwise. The kidney shaped white flowers have current red spots on the back of the tepals. Both flowers have two tepals. The blooming cycle is February thru May.

The entire plant is hairy. Because of this characteristic I have had some difficulty with propagation.

B. 'Lospe' bears registration #487 (see *Begonian* Feb. 1976). It is available from Rudolf Ziesenne, 1130 Milpas St., Santa Barbara, Ca.

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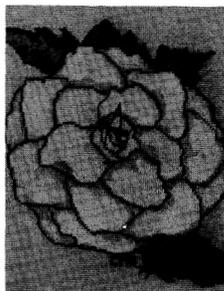
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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR
MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
Jan. 23, 1978**

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M. in the South Gate Auditorium by President Richardson. Nate Randall led the flag salute, and Margaret Taylor gave the Aims and Purposes. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as corrected. Thelma O'Reilly is heading a committee to review show rules for trophies and awards, separate from the awards committee as stated in the minutes. The correspondence was read.

Thelma O'Reilly reported she had written nine letters, as chairman. The review committee is not complete as yet, but expect to begin work soon, and will have a report in March.

The Board voted to accept a life membership from the Jacksonville Branch, for Ann M. Helton, their past president.

The treasurer reported receipts of \$1,552.64, disbursements of \$2,583.40, leaving a balance of \$1,202.66 for December 18, 1977. For January, 1978, receipts of \$2,508.36, disbursements of \$2,768.79, with a balance of \$942.23.

Ralph Corwin reported work was progressing on the revision of the Bylaws.

Bill Walton reported he had bought the new supply of ABS pins. They are handled thru the librarian, Lydia Austin, and will be \$5.00 plus tax.

Judges course chairman, Marge Lee, reported little action during the holiday season.

The Round Robins are flying around. Mabel Corwin said sixteen were restarted, some were snowed in, and interest is high.

The report of the Past President as head of finance committee was given. "Group Exemption Recognition" from the IRS has been received.

Linda Miller, seed fund administrator, reported sales of \$81.61.

M. Carleton L'Hommedieu wrote that Scott Hoover is now in New Guinea, and that he has collected nearly 50 species already. He also reported that he is organizing the cultivar material.

Membership secretary, Mrs. Garinger, reported 89 new members, 3,971 members in good standing, and receipts of \$1,811.75.

The Show committee reported the books are ready for audit. The Board approved Doug Frost and Margaret Taylor for the audit.

President Richardson said he had received a letter requesting a representative from the Board go to the Eastern Show. Mabel Corwin said they were planning to

attend, and would be happy to represent the Board.

There was discussion concerning the ad in *Horticulture*, and it was moved and passed that the ad be discontinued, since the response was not too favorable.

After some discussion, a motion was passed to have the editors reduce the number of *Begonians* printed each month.

After some interesting branch reports, the meeting adjourned at 9:30.

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.

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