

May 1978

# The BEGONIAN



ISSN 1260-0383



## GENERAL OFFICES:

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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

Cover Photograph .....	119
Culture of Tuberos Begonias .....	119
A Garden to Live In .....	121
A New Begonia Friend .....	127
Begonia 'Daisy' .....	131
New ABS Show Rules .....	133
Sponsors Sought .....	133
Seed Fund .....	134
New Seeds .....	134
Round Robin .....	136
New Culture Certificates .....	137
Nominations for the 1978 ABS Awards .....	138

## 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

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Full Page .....	<b>\$80.00</b>
Half Page .....	<b>40.00</b>
Quarter Page .....	<b>25.00</b>
Per Inch .....	<b>10.00</b>

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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*.

## Cover Photograph

### BEGONIA 'THELMA'

Photograph by Jay Porter, Ventura, Calif.

The pink ruffle on this crested tuberhybrida begonia certainly attracted a lot of attention at the Theodosia Burr Shepherd Branch Show last summer. It was hybridized, grown and displayed by Gene Daniels, one of the few hobbyists who crosses the tuberous varieties. Nobody likes the color pink any better than Thelma O'Reilly, so he named it for her.

Jay Porter photographed it and later had a slide show for the Branch. At their urging, he sent the slide to the *Begonian* to be shared with everyone . . . and we are glad he did.

## CULTURE OF TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

From "Begonia Culture," courtesy of the San Francisco Branch

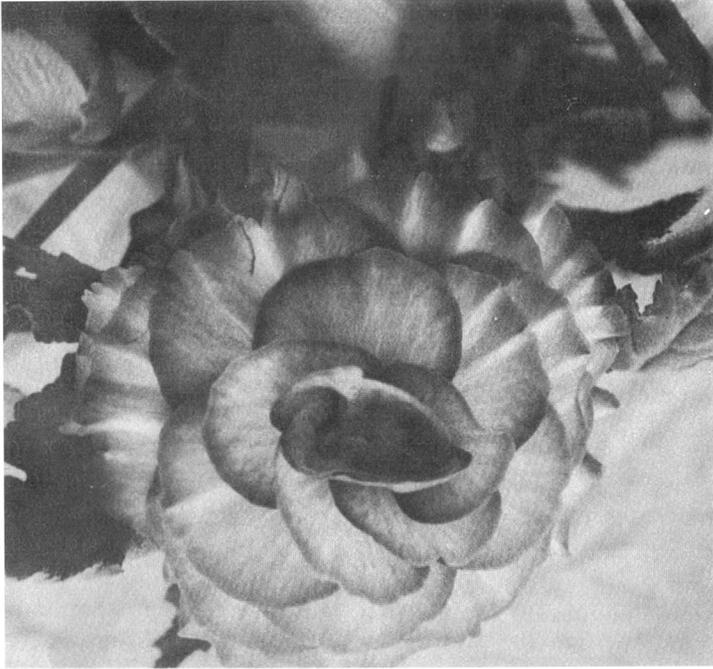
Tuberous begonias can be grown practically anywhere if protected from hot, dry air or extreme cold. They will grow in partial sunlight or shade, where air is moist and they are protected from the wind. They grow especially well along the coastal regions in the so-called "fog belts." If grown in hot dry areas, some means of providing an atmosphere of relatively high humidity and controlled temperature is necessary. High temperature or drafts of hot, dry air will cause the buds to drop. If grown in too much shade there will be very few blooms. They grow best in an environment of 50 to 60 percent shade.

They can be grown from seed, stem cuttings or established tubers, but growing from tubers is the simplest method. Tubers can be purchased from December through April and should be planted as soon as the new buds appear. Best results are obtained by planting tubers in flats with well composted, coarse oak leaf

mold. The tubers should be spaced at least  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3" apart, depression side up, and should be covered with  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1" of leaf mold so roots will develop over the entire surface of the tuber. The flats should have good drainage but should be kept moist.

When the new plants reach a height of 4" to 6" they should have a well developed root system and can be transplanted to individual containers. Except for very small tubers, pots or tubs smaller than 8" should not be used, and shallow containers — such as fern pots — give better results. Up-potting during the growing season is not necessary as with other begonias.

A good potting mix for tuberous begonias is made from using half last year's mix combined with fresh leaf mold which has been composted. When transplanting, a small handful of fish or cottonseed meal in the bottom half of the container will stimulate healthy growth. Staking should be done at this time also. Water in



Camellia-flowered tuberhybrida blossom is a picotee, that is, the edges of the petals are shaded with a second color — in this case, rose on white. Grown and photographed by Wally Wagner.

well, with a solution of Vitamin B to overcome possible shock.

During the early stages of the growing season, tuberous begonias should be fed with a high nitrogen fertilizer every two to three weeks, changing to bloom producing fertilizer as the blooming season approaches.

One or two tip pinchings are recommended during the early stages of growth for hanging basket types.

As the growing season nears an end, in the late fall, tuberous begonias will go into dormancy naturally. In the final stages, water should be withheld and the foliage and stems allowed to separate from the tuber without cutting or breaking. After

complete separation, the tubers should be dug up, all soil removed, and the tubers dried in the sun for a day or two. When dry, they should be placed in flats and stored in a cool, dry, ventilated area.

In the spring, when new buds appear, tubers are ready to start all over again.

The major pests and diseases affecting tuberous begonias are powdery mildew, which can be controlled with a preventative containing Karathene; worms, which can be controlled in the early stages of growth with insecticides and later by manually removing them; and rot which can best be controlled by not overwatering and making certain that the planting medium is clean and free of fungi.

## A GARDEN TO LIVE IN

By Pat Maley, El Cajon, Calif.

Photos by Dennis Maley



Entrance to the Maley's greenhouse and view of island.

Three years ago we built our first greenhouse, an 8' x 10' kit model. This was our learning model and over time we learned much about its possibilities and limitations. During this same period we were also learning what we really wanted to grow, and how to do so. We learned about shading; for the regular weight fiberglass let in too much light and heat for the shade plants and tropicals we wanted to grow. In time we found our niche in the plant world . . . shade loving tropicals such as begonias, ferns, gesneriads, aroids, and orchids. And suddenly our little 8 x 10 pre-fab greenhouse was completely inadequate. We had a good sized yard, but most of it baked in the hot El Cajon sun, and so was use-

less for our needs. Shade was needed, and in large quantities.

January of 1977 we erected our shade cover . . . a 16 x 20 ft. area next to the house with a patio roof of used fluorescent tubes. These have been used for many years by shade gardeners. Closer to the coast they are often spaced like wood laths, to let in more light. For our purposes, we placed them side by side. (Whole greenhouses can be built of them.) Tubes have many advantages besides often being acquired free. They are easily hosed off. They allow light to pass through, but cut off the burning direct sun. The vacuum tubes also function as insulation. During the summer the area beneath remained cool and moist; during El Cajon's



View of display benches.



Adjustable tiered display stand is eight feet across.

frosty nights of winter, tender ferns, begonias, and fuchsias were protected.

But as you know, plants grow, and deepening involvement found us collecting more, many of them in need of a bit more protected environment than our shade patio could provide. A greenhouse of sufficient size was the only answer.

In the fall of 1977, land area was cleared and leveled, black plastic was put down, and 2 cubic yards of pea gravel was delivered to our driveway, to be carted back to the area by Denny and the boys. Finally we were building our dream. The building seemed to take shape quickly. And it was so BIG! How would we ever fill it? (That was 6 months ago . . . now we're wondering if we built it large enough!)

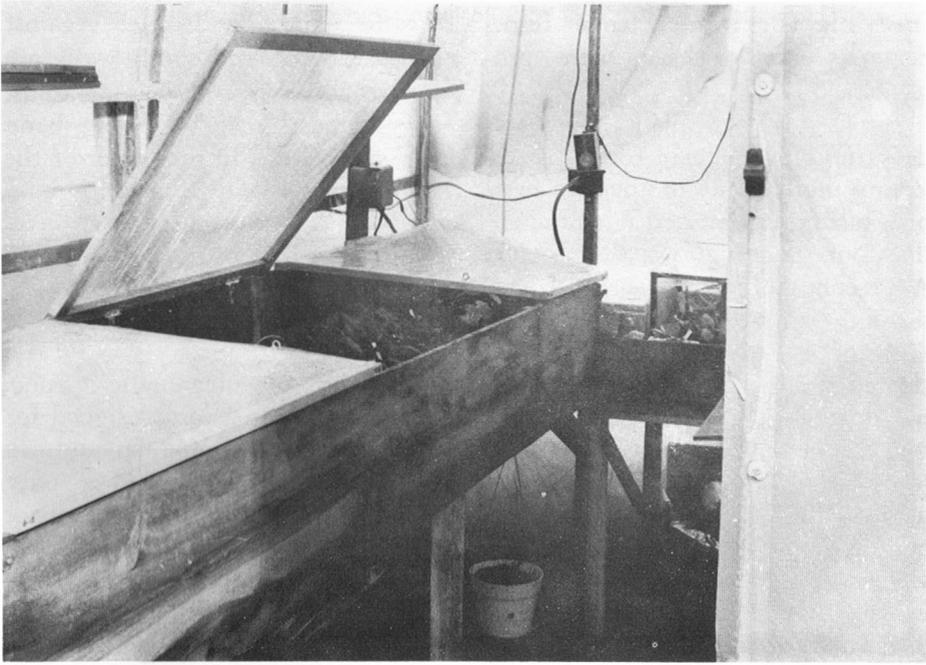
The greenhouse is 17 x 22 ft. with 8 ft. side walls and 12 ft. peak. Flat, clear fiberglass was used for the sides. There is less heat loss than with corrugated fiberglass, for there is less surface area. The roof is also flat fiberglass, but of a very dense, opaque white, eliminating the need to apply additional shading material on the roof. The entire house is lined with plastic stapled to the wood frame, to create an insulating air space. The north end of the greenhouse faces onto the shade garden, with an 8 ft. expanse of sliding glass doors affording good viewing in or out.

This is my dream of a greenhouse . . . a combination of functional growing space and an area of live-in beauty. Just inside the sliding doors are a small table and a couple of chairs . . . a peaceful spot for a cup

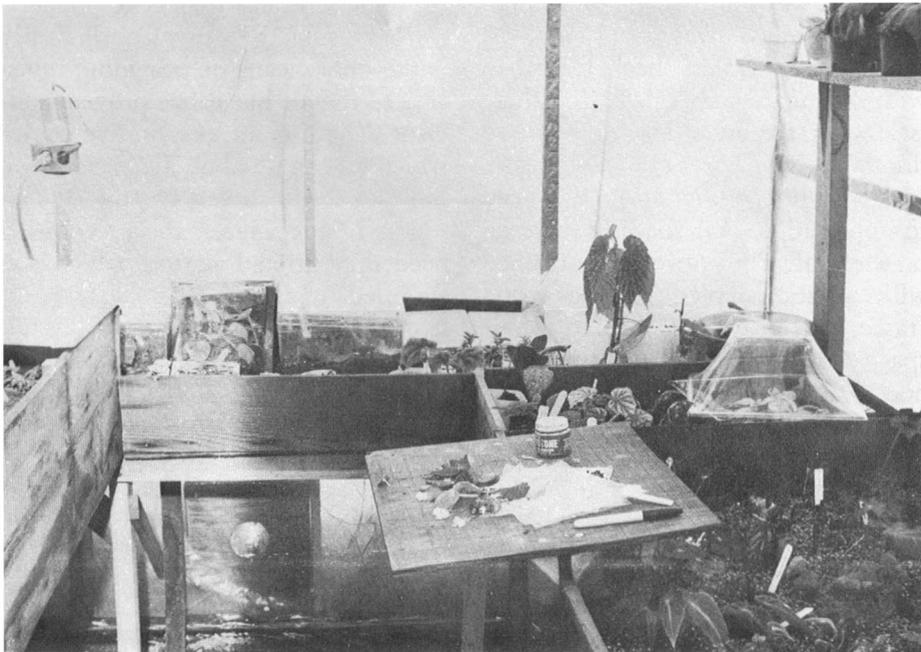
of coffee or to sit and sketch. Against the east, west, and south walls are benches and shelves of varying kinds, some tiered, some flat. Plants hang from the rafters. In the center of the house is an 'island'. Platforms hold a mixed collage of begonias, ferns, anthuriums, and orchids. Large baskets hang overhead. It makes a lovely garden-island viewed through the sliding doors.

As I said, the greenhouse is functional also. Benches are designed for working. They are modular and can be adjusted or reassembled to offer a variety of kinds of growing space and to accommodate flats of 2½" and 4" young plants and also large specimen plants. The sliding doors are aesthetic, but also give a 4 ft. wide doorway for ease of moving large specimens in and out. So far we have no automatic climate control equipment other than two exhaust fans. Hosing the gravel periodically is the only means of providing moisture to the air but it has proven sufficient. There is an evaporative cooler which we can use, but, again, we have not had to do so yet. On the coldest nights of the winter, the greenhouse needed additional warmth which was supplied by a 1300 watt heater, and it assured that the temperatures did not go below freezing.

Meanwhile, the 8 x 10 house has been emptied, cleaned, lined with plastic, and filled with propagating benches. A continuous U-shaped bench of redwood lines 3 walls of the house. Sides were built up 6" to hold propagating medium. On the north side of the house, bench sides are 12" high, and have a "lid" (wood  
(Continued on page 126)



North wall of 8 x 10 ft. propagating house showing covered section of bench.



Work board slides along edge of propagating benches.



Another view of center island in large greenhouse.

frame covered with plastic) which lifts in 3 sections and can be hooked open to a small shelf above. The bottom of the redwood bench is lined with 1" thick sheets of styrofoam, a type made for insulating walls. On top of this is 140 ft. of heavy duty heating cable, plugged into a thermostat which can be set from 30° to 120°. (This measures temperature of the propagating medium itself, not of the cables.) The styrofoam keeps the heat going up into the propagating medium rather than being lost through the bottom of the bench. Denny built moveable wooden dividers, so that I can divide the benches into sections to experiment with different mediums. So far I've been too busy to experiment, so I continue to use coarse vermiculite (Zonolite) which has proven a good medium for me. With the thermostat set at 80°, in 10 days time *B. 'Dancing Girl'*, *B. 'Paul Bee'*, *B. 'Eunice Grey'*, and *B. 'Murray Morrison'* all had nice clumps of 1" long roots in the open bench. Leaf cuttings are slower, of course. One section of bench has just a 1" layer of vermiculite. On this are plastic sweater boxes, terrariums, young seedlings, and seed growing containers. Denny also made a small work board for preparing cuttings. This slides onto the side of the bench and can be moved to different areas.

Our next projects are to set paving stones in the shade garden (I'm tired of mud) and to install a redwood Hot Tub in the midst of the jungle.

A greenhouse/garden can be much more than just a place to grow plants. The therapy of working with plants is further enhanced by the joy of be-

ing able to sit in their midst and admire the fruits of our labors. And with a busy, noisy house full of children and teenagers, it's wonderful to have a peaceful spot where all is serene and calm. Our live-in garden gives the plants a good environment to grow in, and does the same for the family.

## My Experience With Orthene

By Wally Wagner, Silverton, Oregon

Articles in recent *Begonians* state that Orthene is harmful to begonias and should not be used . . . it is probably only the liquid formulation that is causing the problem. We have been using the soluble powder formula since it came out with great results on begonias, fuchsias, ferns, streptocarpus, etc. We have eliminated the white fly problem on fuchsias with three applications of Orthene, ten days apart. Even maidenhair ferns were not damaged.

When the liquid form came out, before the soluble powder Orthene 755SP was available, we tested various plants which we "innoculated" with mealy bugs and aphids. These included all of the plants mentioned above plus philodendrons. The aphids were gone after one application and the mealy bugs ceased to exist after the third application and didn't return. None of the plants, including all classes of begonias were harmed.

**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; cultural guides; seed exchange; round robins; chapters; slide library.**

## A NEW BEGONIA FRIEND

Ayako Yamamoto joined the ranks of begonia growers about two years ago shortly after she saw her first cane-stemmed begonia at the home of a friend. She soon established a tiny collection and joined the Japan Begonia Society. Aside from *semperflorens*, only a few varieties of begonia are available at plant shops and she really has to search for different kinds. The collection now numbers about fifty varieties. Some of these are displayed in her "begonia corner," a well lit window in her living room. The overflow is kept at the greenhouse of Mr. Akagi, who is a junior high school teacher and whose own preference is for *Paphiopedilums*. Among the canes she now grows are *B.* 'Orange Rubra', *B.* 'Anna Christine', *B.* 'Lucerna', *B.* 'President Carnot', *B.* 'Rubaiyat' and *B.* 'Lenore Olivier'. She also has *B.* 'Norah Bedson', *B. bowerae nigra-marga*, *B. heracleifolia nigricans*, and *B.* 'Corbeille de Feu' among the non-canes. Like many other growers, she

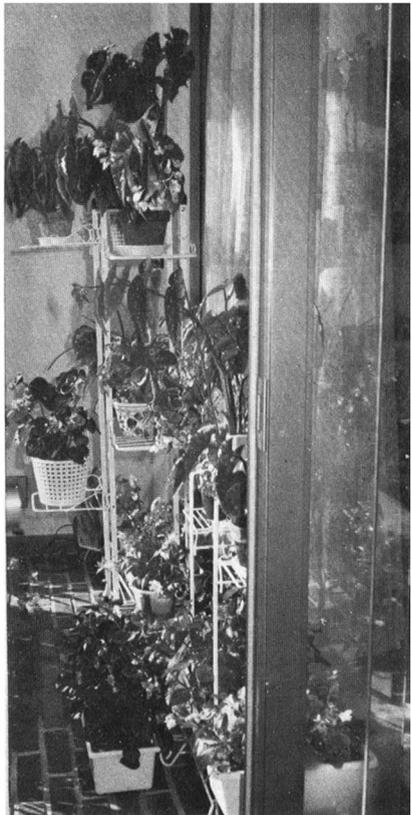
would like to have her own greenhouse eventually.

The Japan Begonia Society has been the source of her plants, information about begonias, and friendship with other growers. Since she lives in Okayama, and the JBS meets at Osaka or Nishinomiya, both rather long trips for her, the collection increases slowly. Recently, she learned about Alice Clark's *Begonia Portraits*, wrote to Mrs. Clark and soon found a second correspondent in Pat Maley, too.

Ayako, wife of a dentist and mother of a teen-age son and daughter, says the family enjoys traveling very much. They have been to Disneyland, spent another holiday in San Francisco, and most recently visited with a friend in Scotland. On that trip they visited the Royal Botanic Gardens at Edinburgh and Kew. Perhaps someday she will again combine hobby and vacation plans to attend an ABS Convention and visit with her begonia friends here.



Ayako Yamamoto with her family.





This page — Two views at New Gardens.  
Left page — Close-up, exterior and interior views of the  
"begonia corner."





"I visited the Hyogo Prefecture Flower Center with my friends. You can see the beautiful tuberous begonias in the greenhouse and the wonderful carpet of semperflorens outside. I've been there twice. I'd like to visit again, but it takes about two hours from Okayama."

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

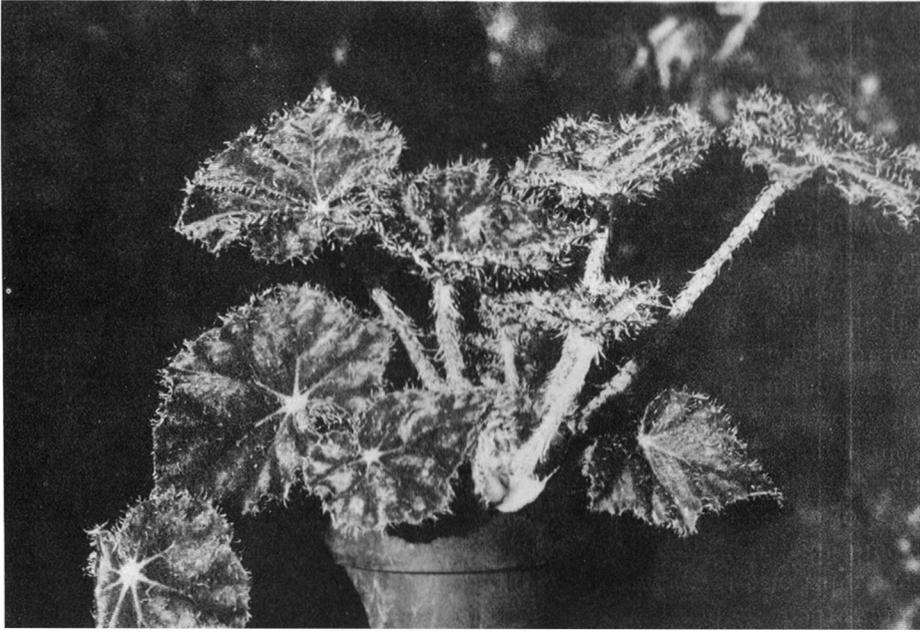
Carl Naumann

Carl Naumann served as national president of the American Begonia Society in 1963. He was very active in the San Gabriel Branch. His interest and knowledge was applied to many branch and national shows in staging, exhibiting and judging. He was owner and operator of a nursery, and frequently served as instructor of classes in growing begonias. He died the first of March.

## BEGONIA PROFILES

By Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, Calif.

### BEGONIA 'DAISY'



While preparing the seminars for Begonia Heritage, the 1976 ABS National Convention and Show, I thought it would be interesting to include some of the Eastern hybrids in the seminar "New Introductions to Enjoy".

Walter and Elda Haring, who are always ready to cooperate and share, arrived at the convention with a box of Paul Lowe's begonia hybrids which included *Begonia* 'Daisy'.

*Begonia* 'Daisy', while not one of Paul's recent hybrids, became my favorite as I watched its progress. Now, as it gaily heralds spring with masses of pink blooms held high on 12-16 inch strong, softly hairy peduncles, I am charmed by this rhizomatous begonia. The blooms are very large in comparison to the small

leaves. There are two petals on both male and female flowers. Large, pink wings accentuate a green ovary. The brown leaves have a vibrant green star pattern and become a rich bronze color as they mature. The most distinct feature of *B. 'Daisy'* is the villous surface that appears on all plant parts except the blooms. I am always tempted to touch this begonia and pet it gently.

*Begonia* 'Daisy' resulted from mating Rudy Ziesenhenné's *B. 'Chumash'*, a popular favorite of many collectors, and the charming, small Mexican species, *B. bowerae nigra-marga*.

Paul named *Begonia* 'Daisy' in honor of his friend, Daisy Austin. Daisy served as Membership Secretary for the ABS from 1963-1966.

Paul was on the ABS Board of Directors during this time and they became regular correspondents. She was his guide to many begonia gardens and nurseries on his trip to California.

*Begonia* 'Daisy' thrives in my unheated lath house and propagates quickly from leaves. It bears Registration #317 (see *Begonian* Sept. 1972). I have never seen *B.* 'Daisy' in a collection and cannot find it listed in any of my catalogs. By sharing, I hope we'll see more of it in the future.

\* \* \*

villous — With long, soft, somewhat wavy hairs.

ciliate — Beset with a marginal fringe of hairs.

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peduncle — The stalk to a solitary flower or to an inflorescence.

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## NEW ABS SHOW RULES

By Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, Calif. 92041

The Show Chairman is required to submit a report listing the names of each plant and exhibitor of all ABS Annual Show winners to the ABS Board of Directors.

All New Begonia Introduction entries must be registered with the Nomenclature Director. This includes grower and commercial nursery entries.

Rules for "New Begonia Introductions by a Commercial Nursery":

1. All entries must be registered with the ABS Nomenclature Director.
2. All entries must have been released for sale within a year from the previous ABS Annual Show.

## SPONSORS SOUGHT FOR COLOR PRINTS

Wallace Wagner has submitted eight fine old *Begonia* prints from *Curtis Botanical Magazine* to be used in the *Begonian*. These exquisite and rare color prints, done in the 1860s, are housed in libraries where most people will never have the opportunity to see them. We propose to use them in the *Begonian* in the same manner as the recent photos (January and March 1978) and the print of *B. fischeri* (June 1977). The Curtis prints would be handsome in the center of the magazine; they would not fare well as cover subjects. To reproduce them in black and white would be a real injustice.

The price of reproducing them in full color in the magazine is \$100 each in sets of four. The current receipts of the Society do not warrant the expenditure for additional color printing. Letters have been sent to the branches to sponsor one or part of one of the prints. We urge individuals who would like to contribute funds to help with the project to join in with a donation. The names of individual donors and branches will be given at the time of publication.

In the event that we do not receive sufficient funds to underwrite at least a full set of four prints within a reasonable time, the checks will be returned to the donors. Checks should be made payable to the ABS and correspondence sent to the editors.

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# CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

By Linda Miller, Director

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- My 2 — *B. engleri*: curious, tall, shrub-like plant with red-haired stems; dark green, wide leaves with white hairs; rose-pink blooms in spring and summer. Easily grown from seed. .... per pkt .50
- My 3 — *B. luxurians*: shrub-like, with large, bare leaves. Flowers cream white in winter. .... per pkt 1.00
- My 4 — *B. ottonis*: shrub-like with small bronze-colored leaves. per pkt .50
- My 5 — Mixed rhizomatous varieties. Some choice plants from this group. per pkt .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.

Correction: In the Seed Fund listing for March, the flowers of *B. sutherlandii* were described as "white" by the contributor. Normally the flowers are yellow on this species, as I presume will develop on the plants grown from this seed offering. Any abnormality should be reported to me.

## NEW SEEDS

It is again time for the Seed Fund to request seed from our ABS members. We are in need of fresh and different varieties. Can you help?

Contributions of seeds do not go unrewarded. When sending seeds, send a list of a few varieties that you would like to have from recent issues, or others that you may be looking for. I will do my best to meet your requirements. Seeds of species are especially in demand, although every contribution, no matter how small, is appreciated. Even one seed capsule of a rare or unusual plant may enable your grower friends around the world to share in the growing of a new plant.

Questions are always coming in the mail regarding setting, cleaning,

and sending seed; so I will try to answer some of your questions.

In order to obtain seeds, it is best to hand pollinate your flowers. Many plants will set seed on their own, but the grower then does not know whether the pollen has come from the same plant or another close by. When planted the seeds may not produce the same named plant. If either parent plant is a hybrid itself, the seeds will not reproduce the original plant: the seedling will revert to the hybrid's parents or new cultivars arise. The *semperflorens* varieties produce seeds freely and these are great for the seed fund as is, for they are used in mixtures anyway.

Begonias have 2 kinds of flowers — male and female. The female is

easily identified by the winged ovary in back of the petals. The male is the pollen-bearing flower. When the pollen is ripe on the male flower, the golden pollen will cover your fingernail like dust. Choose a female flower that has been open 2-3 days. It will be more ready to accept the pollen at this stage.

There are several ways of transferring the pollen from the stamen of the male plant to the pistil of the female flower. One method is the use of a small brush, picking up the pollen then lightly dusting it onto the pistil of the female flower. Another easy way is to remove the male flower and hold over the female flower and very carefully "rub their little noses together", or just dust the pollen onto the flower. Be careful not to injure the pistils on the female flowers.

If pollenization has taken place, the petals usually drop from the female flower and the ovary will swell with seed production. (Success!) The seed pod should ripen in 2-4 weeks. Remove it from the plant when the flower stem is dry. Do not leave it on too long or the seed capsule will open while still on the plant, with seed sown in every surrounding pot!

After removing seed pods, store separate varieties in small paper bags to completely dry. Seed should open on its own into the bag. If some pods still contain seed, open up each seed compartment with a needle.

Dump seed onto a piece of paper, leaving seed capsules in bag. Roll seed off edge of this paper onto another piece of paper. Lightly tap as you do so. Most chaff should re-

main on the first paper. Another fast way of removing most of the chaff is to sift through a fine tea strainer. This is especially good for large quantities of seed. Any remaining particles of foreign matter can be removed with a tweezers. It is important to get seeds as clean as possible, for foreign particles can produce fungus problems in your growing medium.

For mailing seed, you can recycle Seed Fund envelopes for packaging or make your own. Regular paper, onion skin, or roll-your-own-cigarette papers are a few of the things you can use. Do not use plastic for storing or sending seed. The seeds stick to this like crazy. Make sure all ends are closed well, so that seeds can't stray.

To avoid crushing in the mail, (the postmark can do irreparable damage!) use cotton, bubble packing, or even kleenex, as cushioning material. Try to position seed packet in corner of envelope away from the postal mark.

I hope these few suggestions will help you. Try setting seed on your plants, even if only for yourself and your friends. If you have extra, please share with the Seed Fund. Send along with a short description of the plant, and the plant name, if known. Unlabelled varieties will be combined and offered as mixtures.

Do you have an unusual or "sure fire" method of sowing seed? Write to me, so that different methods can be shared with our growers.

---

*For personal answers to begonia questions, write to Elda Haring, Begonia Question Box, Box 236, Flat Rock, NC 28731.*

## ROUND ROBIN NOTES

By Mabel Corwin, Round Robin Director

### Propagation workshop

Everyone seems to be busy planting seeds and propagating since spring has arrived. Pat Maley, California, told how she has converted her 8' x 10' greenhouse into a propagation house. A large U-shaped bench lines 3 sides. On one side of the house the bench is 12" high with a lid. The lid is a wood frame, covered with plastic, which lifts in three sections. This section of the bench has moveable wood dividers so she can experiment with different propagating mediums in different sections. At the present time she is using coarse vermiculite (zonolite) which works well for her. Some cuttings are rooted in 10 days.

### Prop box

Dorothy Jeanne Aikin, Maryland, wrote: My prop box is a styrofoam chest that was originally used to ship tropical fish. I cut a large hole in the lid and cover it with saran wrap. Two or three inches of potting mix on the bottom of the box and I am in business. Cuttings and leaves go directly into the mix, and the box just fits on my light stand under the bottom set of lights. The box is about 16" deep. Some of the rhizomatous varieties stretch toward the light a bit, but others find the conditions just right. Reflection of light off the white sides increases the light somewhat. The temperature is 5 to 10° warmer inside the box and the humidity is quite high. I've had tremendous success with just about everything I've put in it.

### Rex propagation

This is the way Ben Dougherty, California, starts rex leaves: I use 1 part strained peat moss and 1 part vermiculite. I drill holes in the bottom of plastic shoe boxes and use the top of the box for a watering pan. I cover the box with saran wrap and put under lights. When they are rooted, I pot the small plants in 6 oz. foam coffee cups with perforated bottoms and sides. I water first with B1 solution and later with very weak fish base fertilizer.

### Leaf wedges

Louis Padavan, New York, reported: I have discovered an almost fool proof way of getting every leaf wedge to start. Near my house is a bog. I get all the fresh sphagnum moss I want. I dry this out before using — then rinse thoroughly with very hot water. I layer a plastic shoe box (without any holes punched in the bottom) with about an inch of the moss. On top of this I place a layer of 1 part perlite and 1 part vermiculite that has been soaked with Peter's African Violet fertilizer. I place the leaf wedges about 1/2 inch apart in the mix, then put on the lid which has holes punched in it. The box is placed under lights. Shortly, leaflets appear. I harden the plants off after I have at least three good leaves. Slowly the lid is removed. It is at this point that the sphagnum moss underneath serves much of its purpose. I keep this moist with Shultz Instant or other terrarium fertilizer. I also use styrofoam cups filled with

sphagnum moss for starting most other begonias, especially rhizomatous.

It has been suggested that we have a robin for commercial growers. If any members who are growing commercially are interested, let me know and I will be happy to start a flight. If you have any questions about the robins, write to me.

Mabel Corwin  
1119 Loma Vista Way  
Vista, CA 92083

### 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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## NEW CULTURE CERTIFICATES

Two (2) additional ABS Award for Culture certificates may be awarded at the discretion of the Show Chairman and/or Awards Chairman, making a total of ten (10) certificates available in any one show. This means that they may be awarded in any one of the following eight (8) basic begonia divisions: Cane-Like, Shrub-Like, Thick-Stemmed, Semperflorens Types, Rhizomatous, Rex Cultorum, Semi-Tuberous and Tuberous, and Tuberhybrida. When a Division winner does not obtain the necessary 90 points or better, the certificate allotted for that Division may be given in any of the remaining Divisions listed above. A record containing the name of plant winner and exhibitor for each certificate awarded in all shows *must* be submitted promptly to the Awards Chairman. Any certificates not awarded must be returned with this record.

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# NOMINATIONS FOR THE 1978 ABS AWARDS

Thelma O'Reilly, Awards Chairman

NOW IS THE TIME to give serious consideration to your nominations for the three top American Begonia Society Awards for 1978: the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award, the Herbert Dyckman Service Award and the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial Medal. Nominations may be made by any member of the ABS and must be submitted in writing. Please take note that these awards are not given for friendship or popularity but performance and exceptional service. The rules governing these awards are as follows:

## EVA KENWORTHY AWARD

This award is presented to a person who has contributed literary material which aided members in their study and knowledge of begonias, or who has been outstanding in his or her promotion of interest in the culture of begonias and understanding between the members in their pursuit for knowledge of begonias. He or she need not be a member of the American Begonia Society.

## HERBERT P. DYCKMAN SERVICE AWARD

This award is to be presented to a member who has rendered long-time or very outstanding service above and beyond the normal duties of a member or officer of the ABS.

## ALFRED D. ROBINSON MEMORIAL MEDAL

This medal is awarded to an outstanding *Begonia* hybrid. The following rules govern this award:

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

2. The originator of the *Begonia* nominee must be a member of ABS.

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

All nominations must reach the Chairman of the Awards Committee by July 7, 1978, in order that they may be forwarded to the other six members of the committee for review and analysis. As there remains a great deal of paperwork and details on the part of the Awards Chairman after the committee members have submitted their ballots, please mail your nominations no later than July 1, 1978. Last year sixteen letters of nomination arrived as much as fifteen days after the deadline — making them ineligible for consideration. Please realize that as an ABS member you have a duty to participate in submitting nominations of any person or plant you consider worthy of being a recipient of one of these cherished awards. Send your nominations to:

Mrs. T. M. O'Reilly  
Awards Chairman ABS  
10942 Sunray Place  
Las Mesa, California 92041

### Note

You will be amazed to learn that there are 157 begonia names that may be eligible for the A. D. Robinson Memorial Award this year. Of course, not all of them meet all the requirements for nomination but there is a large choice. I recommend that members check the *Begonia* (Continued on page 139)

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If your branch director is not listed, it means that the ABS Secretary does not have the name and address on file. Please send additions and changes to Virginia Barnett, 1213 S. Mullender Ave., West Covina, CA 91790.

The next branch directory will appear in the July issue.

The Board of Directors will meet May 22 at South Gate Auditorium.

### Nominations for Awards

(Continued from page 138)

Registrations in the back issues of the *Begonian* and make a nomination that meets the requirements for this award. Take into consideration that several eligible begonias will leave the list in 1978 because they have been in distribution for 10 years and this is their LAST CHANCE to be considered for this prestigious award.

Last year the Awards were won by Ed and Millie Thompson, Gene Daniels, and *Begonia* 'Wanda', in order listed above. Previous winners from all other years are listed on page 164, June, 1977.

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