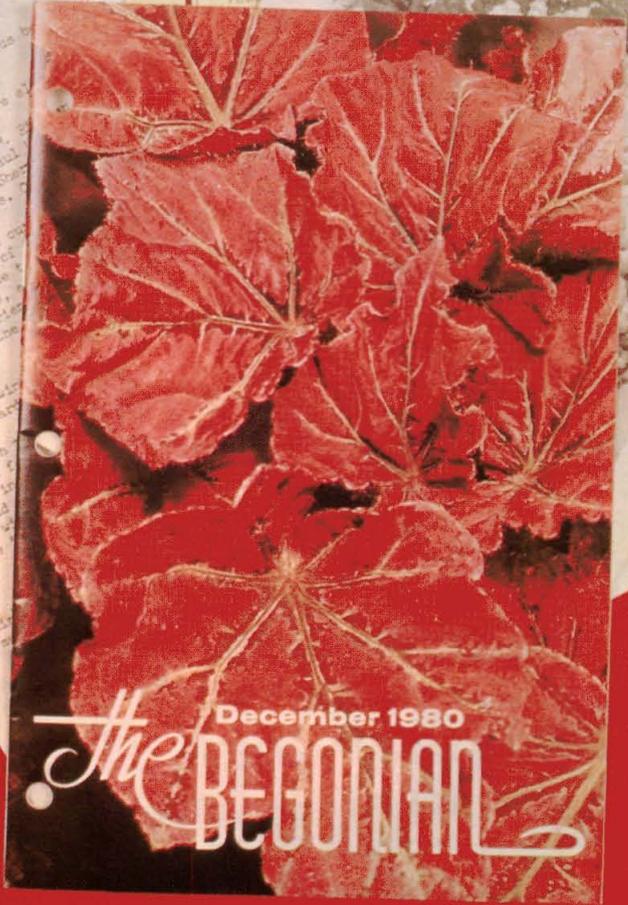


July-August 1982

The BEGONIAN



December 1980

The BEGONIAN

The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and purposes

TO stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.

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

TO standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

TO gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants.

TO issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the society.

TO bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

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See inside back cover

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INSIDE/ *July-August 1982—Best of The Begonian*

THE COVER: In the 50-year history of ABS, its publication grew from the mimeographed *Monthly Bulletin* to *The Begonian* with contents listed on the cover. Later, a photographic cover came about. Now, the cover is in full color. In honor of the golden anniversary, this issue contains representative articles from past issues.

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NOTES/ *From the editors*

To celebrate ABS' 50th anniversary, we could think of no better way than to reprint a selection of the best articles from *The Begonian* and its predecessor, *Monthly Bulletin*.

The idea comes from a suggestion repeated with regularity by many members who have discovered useful articles in back issues. The request usually goes something like: "Why don't you print an old article over again from time to time?"

Instead of scattering them, we've collected a representative sample from the society's first 25 years—from 1957 back—and present them on the following pages.

The Best of The Begonian is like an album of golden oldies: It illustrates the breadth of subjects covered in this magazine and it reflects accurately what ABS and begonia growers were like in decades past.

You probably will recognize familiar names—of begonias and of begonia collectors. Alfred D. Robinson tells how to build a wooden begonia tray, Bessie Buxton lists begonias that were rare and valued at the time (1935), and plant pathologist John Ferguson describes a new plant disease—powdery mildew. (It was new in 1951.)

We hope you'll enjoy this trip down Memory Lane as much as we liked assembling it. We think it is an appropriate way to close the society's first half-century and open the window on the next.

By the way, *Begonian* back issues are far from being museum pieces. You can buy your very own library of them.

Although issues from the 1930s are not terribly plentiful, most of the rest are available readily from the society's chairman of back issue sales. Use the address listed on the inside front cover of this issue.

Another way ABS is celebrating its 50th birthday is at Begoniafest, the 1982 national convention at Santa Cruz, Calif., on Sept. 9-12. Check ABS News in this issue for the latest on convention plans.

If you haven't registered yet, don't waste another day. If you do, there may be no more room left. (This is not just hype—convention organizers say they *are* likely to run out of Holiday Inn rooms and space in the Saturday night banquet room.)



If you didn't get a new ABS membership card when you renewed your membership last, it's because of a temporary cost-cutting measure which has since been abandoned. And if you still want one, please write to membership secretary Elisabeth Sayers at the address on the inside front cover; she'll send you one.

From now on, we'll send renewing members' cards automatically. ABS directors confirmed that policy at their May 17 meeting.

—C.A. & K.B.

Begonia gallery: B. 'Mrs. W. A. Wallow'



Photo/Alfred D. Robinson Collection

B. 'Mrs. W. A. Wallow' was the first begonia pictured in a society publication. This photograph, taken by Alfred D. Robinson at his Rosecroft Begonia Gardens in San Diego, Calif., was on the cover of *The Begonian* for September 1938, misidentified as "'Mrs. A. W. Wallow'." A hybrid of unknown parentage, it was grown from German seed about 1928 by W. A. Wallow of Long Beach, Calif., according to Bessie Buxton's *Begonias and How to Grow Them*. The plant is still in cultivation. This print was made by W. F. A. Stephens from the badly deteriorated original nitrate negative.

Mr. Norwood's talk on tuberous begonias

B. Norwood

Reprinted from February 1934

Tuberous begonias are very notional. They will grow under certain conditions for one person, under other conditions for another person, and under no conditions for others.

The roots of the tuber being close to the surface of the soil indicates that the top soil should be cool and moist and the bottom soil well-drained.

Soil preparation—The soil should be prepared 90 days before planting. Well-drained soil is of first and foremost importance. One-third the depth of the pot is filled with sharp sand or its equivalent in drainage material. The balance of the pot is filled with the following soil mixture:

- 1/3 well-rotted cow manure.
- 1/3 decomposed leaf mold.
- 1/3 sharp sand.

A small amount of equal parts of powdered charcoal and flowers of sulphur.

Starting the Tuber—Start the tuber in a cool place. Never force a plant in too warm a house. A forced plant is absolutely no good the following year.

In February, start the tubers in a mixture of one-half leafmold and one-half sharp sand. Sink the tuber one-half its depth, leaving the top exposed. Water carefully. [More recent experience shows a tuber should be buried in the rooting medium.]

If the plant is an especially fine one, the first shoots when two inches high may be taken off as cuttings and rooted in sharp sand. After the tuber is started, sift enough of the soil mixture on top to cover the top of the tuber one-half to an inch.

As the plant develops, shift to larger



Photo/Chuck Anderson

A tuberous begonia flower

pots, being careful not to disturb the roots. Use new drainage material each time.

Feeding—Do not overfeed, as moderation of bloom means longer life and a stronger tuber.

Watering—Avoid watering in a strong sun as it "spots" the foliage. Early morning is the best time to water tuberous begonias.

Storing the Tubers—Do not lift the tubers but leave them in the pots. Store the pots on edge. In the spring, after the leaves come through, remove the ball of soil. Put in new drainage material. Practically no new soil is added except about an inch on top.

This is the first article on begonia culture ever published by the society. It is a report on a talk delivered by B. Norwood at the January 1934 meeting of ABS' predecessor, the California Begonia Society. The report appeared in the society's Monthly Bulletin, ancestor of The Begonian.

Begonias that were rare in 1935

Bessie Raymond Buxton

Reprinted from December 1935

Between 1840 and 1860, when begonia growing was at its height, many beautiful species were introduced into Europe by English and French horticulturists. Some of these fine plants came to this country, and we enjoy them to this day, but the more delicate ones soon vanished from the commercial world.

The begonia enthusiast, always searching for a new treasure, from time to time reports finding some rare beauty in an out-of-the-way corner. 'Mme Fanny Giron', for instance, a French hybrid between *Begonia incarnata* and some tuberous variety, finally was found in a Wisconsin home. Another was found in a farmhouse in northern New Hampshire.

It is quite possible that other lost treasures are still in existence somewhere, awaiting a discoverer. Rarely does the owner of these treasures know the correct name. It was grandmother's favorite plant, or one that a neighbor gave to mother. Perhaps it went across the plains in a covered wagon, like many another plant.

The enthusiasm of the begonia society, plus the California climate, makes discovery in this state not only possible, but highly probable. Members of the Begonia Club, which meets by means of a Round Robin letter, are already at work on this interesting hunt. This club was started in 1921, and has 24 members in 17 states, from Maine to California.

The following list and brief description of the missing plants will stimulate the search. Anyone finding a plant which answers any of the descriptions should notify Mrs. Buxton of the society. If stock is scarce, urge the owner of the plant to propagate, if possible. If the

Bessie Buxton, pioneer ABS member from Massachusetts, prepared this article for the December 1935 Monthly Bulletin, predecessor to The Begonian, following a visit to California begonia growers. She later was author of the important 1946 book, Begonias and How to Grow Them.

plant can be bought, it should be taken to a good grower for propagation and distribution. A record of the time and place of discovery would be interesting, to show how far the plant has traveled.

Begonia venosa—A tall growing species, with few branches. Stem stout, and quite sheathed with the light brown, papery leaf stipules. The leaves kidney shaped, very succulent and brittle, white frosted. Flowers small, white, on long peduncles. A native of Brazil. Difficult to propagate from cuttings, but grows well from seed. Where can it be obtained?

Begonia subpeltata nigricans—In 1875 this was a distinct variety, but now has distinct allies in *B. 'Mme. Lionnet'*, *B. 'Mme. Hardy'*, and *B. 'Pres. Boureville'*. (Has anyone a description of these French hybrids?) *B. subpeltata nigricans* is the best grower, but may not have the brightest leaves. It is well worth growing for foliage and flowers. Stems, upright light green with linear white streaks. Petioles (leaf stems) 6 inches long, reddish, hairy. Leaves, when mature, 4½ inches wide by 8½ inches long, of a gray metallic luster, shaded still darker, the veins and midribs depressed, hairy, the hairs short and deflexed. The young leaves are a beautiful garnet-red, densely covered with red hairs. Margins of leaves undulate. Flowers, blush-pink, 1½ inches in diameter.

Begonia bismarckii—A remarkably fine flowering plant. The beautiful dark rose color of the male flowers and the large handsome trusses of female flowers that follow them, the capsules the same color, last a long time. Blooms constantly from November to April, and can be had in flower at any season. The first few leaves on shoots from the root are silver spotted. Said to be a garden variety. Introduced in 1888. Stems upright, green, russety-brown when old. Petioles 3 inches long, reddish-green, smooth. Leaves, 5½ inches wide, 9 inches long, dark satiny green, with lighter green midribs, smooth. Under surface, midribs and veins, light green

Report of first annual begonia show—1936

M. B. Dunkle

Reprinted from August 1936

Our first begonia show was a splendid success. The lath house at the Signal Hill Agricultural Center was transformed into a fairyland of beauty by the many carefully arranged exhibits and the scores of individual plants. It is estimated that there were about 1,500 visitors, all of whom showed intelligent interest and pleasure in the variety and perfection of the begonias.

It is impracticable to list all prize winners, the exhibitors, or the donors of prizes, but it was the splendid cooperation of many members from Redwood City to San Diego that made an outstanding success of the undertaking. The show committee consisted of J. N. Nutter, manager; Mrs. O. P. Palstine, awards; H. P. Dyckman, classification; J. S. Williams, entries; and Paul Walker, general arrangements. Judges were S. Nishida, George Carpenter, and H. S. Norwood.

M. B. Dunkle was president of the three-year-old society when it staged its first begonia show at Signal Hill, Calif., on July 25-26, 1936. Membership at the end of this year totaled 325.

and smooth. Peduncles $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches long. Flowers 2 inches in diameter, color a beautiful bright satin-rose, smooth. Wings of capsules equal.

Begonia incarnata superba—One of the best winter-blooming varieties. After a lapse of 20 years, another variety was sent from Europe, said to be a native of Mexico, under the name of *polyantha*. So far, it is identical with the above, if the true *polyantha* has been received here. An improvement of this variety has been produced by Mr. Chas. Sanders of Massachusetts. Plants from seed sown August 19 were in full bloom 13 months later. Stems upright and smooth, nodes, branches drooping. Petioles $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, smooth and slender. Leaves $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, 4 inches long, light or dark green with yellowish green midribs and veins. Hairy. Under surface light

Among the outstanding features of the show were the educational exhibit of Nutter and Dyckman, the complete and well-arranged display of rex, fibrous, and tuberous begonias, and ferns and other beautiful plants by the Palstines; the marvelous display of tuberous begonia blossoms by Vetterle and Reinelt; the exhibit of tuberous begonia cut flowers from the Redwood Begonia Garden, Redwood City; the charming arrangement of beautiful plants by Mrs. H. Young; a beautiful display by the Heinleys and begonias and unnamed seedlings by Dyckman.

Exceptionally fine displays of Rex were made by P. E. Hatch and the Lewises; outstanding displays that featured fibrous were made by Kelly, Haydon and Williams.

The personal contacts by society members and visitors, the interesting cultural and nomenclature discussions by everyone, and the practical expressions of mutual assistance and cooperation by committee members were the real benefits derived from the show. Society members and civic authorities all combined to make this first show a lasting memory to all who participated.

green, smooth. Peduncles 2 inches long. Flower $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, deep rosy pink in bud, lighter when fully open, smooth. A limited stock of the Sanders seedling exists in private greenhouses on the North Shore in Massachusetts.

Begonia erthrophylla—A tall plant, with strong fleshy stems, soft-hairy. Leaves thick, kidney shape, long stalked, dark green and shiny above, red beneath, hairy. Flowers small, white. Color similar to *sanguinea*, but quite hairy. One of the handsomest plants in the Kew (England) collection in 1930.

Begonia decora—A small compact species from Perak, 1892, allied to *rex*. Rhizome short, reddish green. Leaves 3-4 inches long, ovate, rich reddish-brown with prominent yellow-green veins, the whole plant velvety with thick-

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Wartime influences on begonia growing

Helen K. Krauss

Reprinted from August 1943

Necessary wartime conversions were in evidence everywhere. Victory gardens were growing apace. Chickens were being fattened in lathhouse areas set apart for them as protection for them from the hot summer sun. Small propagating houses with bottom heat provided by electric cables served alternately as chicken incubators and protected places for growing tender plants and seedlings.

Some of our commercial growers are working full time in war industries while others are concentrating largely upon the growing of food plants. The urgencies of war rest heavily upon all of us and with the shortage of labor little leisure is left for our hobbies.

Begonia stock should be conserved as far as possible by professional and amateur alike as imports will not be available until the seas and skies have been cleared of the enemy and this war is a thing of the past. Our own hybrids should not be allowed to die out as their loss would be irreplaceable.

In the majority of cases only a minimum of time is left for the care of decorative plants and this time should be used wisely, in order to preserve beauty which is one of our morale builders. It is of interest to note that in spite of the hardships and suffering that England has endured for the past few years her horticultural interests have not lagged far behind those of peaceful days.

Over 200 years ago, imported decorative plants were first made available to the common people which gladdened their souls with God-created beauty

through times of war and peace. We have a responsibility in sharing the privilege of preserving this priceless heritage.

It will be gratifying to all admirers of begonias to learn that this large and fascinating family of plants is being adequately cared for in most instances. The older species and hybrids are growing luxuriously in secluded, quiet corners of gardens and lath houses.

The more recent hybrids are being tenderly watched. Some of these are not yet in their third year and, therefore, not ready for sale or distribution. Three years are required before the characteristics are firmly established. This is particularly true of the rex group which usually changes unrecognizably from the first to the second and from the second to the third years.

At the Montalvo Gardens in San Diego we saw an enormous specimen of *Begonia fuchsoides* in full scarlet bloom rambling rampantly over a lath wall. *B. coccinea* and 'Lucerna' varieties, too numerous to list, were growing well and some of them had pendant clusters of flowers measuring a foot across. The colors ranged from white to dark red.

There were also many types of the *haageana* and *scharffiana* seedlings. Among the latter were some of Mrs. E. M. Fewkes' own developments such as 'Loma Alta', which was a lone giant growing with thousands of *scharffiana* seedlings. 'Valeta', which resembles a miniature 'Duchartrei' and is a prolific bloomer, is the dwarf of the same batch of seedlings. Those intermediate in size are 'Gertrude' with leaves green on both surfaces and bearing white flowers and 'Froncosa', the outstanding sister of the group.

A fine specimen of 'Froncosa' graced a corner of Miss Constance Bower's garden in San Diego. Its leaves are dark green and hard textured. Both surfaces are white hairy, the hairs more numerous along the veins on the underside. It is a robust grower and is distinguishable from the rest of this group by the brilliant red hairs on the pink petals which

World War II had a major impact on ABS members, and this was recorded regularly in The Begonian. Helen Krauss of Wynnewood, Pa., toured Southern California begonia gardens in March 1943 and described her findings in this Begonian article the following August. She was author of Begonias for American Homes and Gardens. The note from Army Private First Class Rowland Hager was published in the October 1944 Begonian.

A letter from the war front

PFC Rowland G. Hager
Battery A, 447 Aw Battalion

FRANCE, AUGUST 20TH, 1944

Dear Friends: My copy of *The Begonian* arrives at the front with satisfactory regularity and every word is read and re-read numerous times. I have even shown it to French begonia fans and in spite of the fact that they could not read it they showed considerable interest in the pictures and what explanations I was able to give in my very meagre French.

The lathhouse is an unknown fixture here and I don't have sufficient command of the language to give them even a remote idea of its wonders. They do, however, grow begonias in pots as house plants and they do a pretty good job of it.

I have seen only one rex but it was a very nice one in a six-inch pot. It resembles our King Edward as near as I can remember. If you had not seen a rex for nearly two years I am sure many of you would be a little hazy on identification.

I have seen some very fine tubers in six-inch pots growing in the house and some bedded out under trees. The types are either camellia or carnation, or a combination of these two. I also have seen some semperflorens in beds and pots. The geranium is the favored plant here and they are seen well grown, in variety, on every window sill.

I'll keep my eyes open and you informed. Sincerely, Ro Hager.

are so dense that the flowers appear red.

In the sanctum sanctorum of the garden which we approached through a gate was as fine a specimen of *manicata* 'Crispa' as could be seen anywhere, measuring over three feet across and still growing happily. Miss Bower developed 'Pink Neely Gaddis' in 1927; 'Conbow' in 1928; and 'Druryi', a general favorite

amongst begonias, which is a 'Cypraea' x *sanguinea* seedling developed in 1932.

Her more recent developments of 1937 are the *incana* x 'Marian' seedlings. [*B. peltata* is the proper name for what had been *incana*.] Of these, "red-veined *incana*" and 'Palomar' are perhaps the best known.

'Ramolo' deserves to be better known, having large, thick, peltate leaves suggesting those of a lotus or pond lily. The upper surface of the leaf is dark green and smooth with light green veins and a large, thick, light green sinus; the under surface is covered with brown tomentum; the flowers are pure white and large for the type.

'Pala' is intermediate between 'Palomar' and 'Ramolo' in texture and shape of leaves, the flowers being pale pink. All of these seedlings are rhizomatous except "red-veined *incana*," which has the habit of *incana* except for the red veins and red sinus.

According to a recent report, the Rosecroft Gardens are no longer in existence but a vestige of its former beauty was still in evidence last March. [The report was erroneous; the gardens had been sold.] For several years, Mrs. Annie Robinson cherished the hope of developing orange-flowering fibrous begonias. The first attempts were made by crossing the species *dichroa* with several varieties of *coccinea*. There are several fine seedlings from these crosses but none with orange flowers.

The outstanding hybrid of these trials is 'Di-anna', the offspring of *dichroa* and 'Annie Laurie'. The foliage somewhat resembles that of *dichroa* and the flowers are bright pink flushed with salmon.

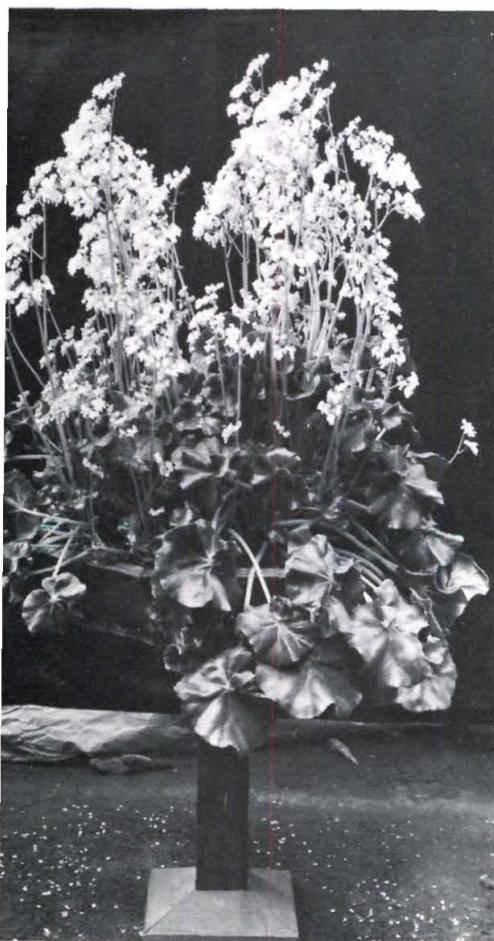
A recent attempt was made by crossing 'Ricinifolia' with *micranthera* var. *fimbriata*, an orange-flowered tuberous species from Argentina. The seedlings look promising. Some of them resemble the female parent in leaf, while others are soft and downy in texture. The habit of flowering differs from that of 'Ricinifolia' inasmuch as the flower stalks arise from the leaf axils and bear loose clusters of from two to eight yellow, salmon, or orange flowers measuring about 2

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Photos/Alfred D. Robinson Collection

The begonia display tray described at right is pictured above. When crowned with *B. 'Erythrophylla Helix'*, the tray is hardly visible (below).



A display tray for begonias

Alfred D. Robinson

Reprinted from January 1944

There has been a large variety of flower and plant containers all alike in one particular, their unfitness for the job. There seems little excuse for grass sprouting all over a pig, flowers blooming out of a duck's back, or roses, even if of the baby kind, springing from a slipper or a cradle. We are all familiar with those pairs of huge tall colored vases with small mouths that, making their first appearance, are pridefully displayed on each side of the front door to be demoted from spot to spot till a kindly accident relegates them to the junk pile, but this writing has more to do with plant containers and was inspired by a wondrous specimen of *Begonia* 'Bunchi' that appeared for years at our local flower show growing in a shallow round galvanized washtub.

I have these washtubs, for they are perfect for soaking and carrying small pots, but they are too nearly related to the tin can, which I have always abhorred as a plant container, so from a tub I got down to a tray and herewith submit pictures and particulars of a final model, the outcome of many experiments though it looks such a simple thing.

This tray is hexagonal, the individual sides are 15 inches by 12, 6 inches deep, 1 inch thick, which makes a pleasing flare without so much of one as to prevent pots being arranged close to the edge. The bottom is put under, not between the sides so as to carry the weight and extends beyond the sides 1 inch.

The standard was more trouble than the tray, but evolved as a 4-by-4-inch upright with a foot square top and bottom. The ends are made by sawing 4 by 4s on the bias so as to have lengths ta-

The indefatigable Alfred D. Robinson, dean of begonia growers, founded Rosecroft Begonia Gardens in San Diego, Calif., and wrote voluminously. This article, with his own photographs was published in the January 1944 Begonian posthumously—he had died in 1942.

pering from three to one inch and this is mitered to fit round the upright and nailed on so as to leave the upright half an inch short of level, which offsets any tendency to rock on an uneven surface.

These standards are made in three heights, 2 feet, 30 inches, and 3 feet; anything higher calls for a hanging basket. Both tray and standard are made of rough redwood, unstained as the object is to feature the plant, not the container. However, a pleasing old-age gray effect can be had by brushing with a thin mixture of ordinary cement and water.

Though the illustration shows begonias in these trays, they are admirable for displaying a great variety of plants which only show off to best advantage when massed, such as *Primula malacoides* (have you seen the newer real pink variety and the doubles); *Saint-paulias*, the so-called South African violet, the double *Lobelia* 'Kathleen Mallard', and even the ubiquitous pansy. Pots of these rounded up to the center, padded in with moss, are most effective, and replacements are only a matter of minutes. When possible, it is better to use potted plants rather than planting direct in the trays because of the considerable increase in weight, but for the best effect with the begonias next to be considered, direct planting must be practiced.

Of this group of low-growing begonias the best known is 'Erythrophylla', which under different names such as Edmondsi, beefsteak, water lily, etc., is in thousands of homes throughout the United States. Its thick leathery foliage is very resistant to insect attack or injury from changes in atmospheric conditions. Though varying somewhat in flowering season, they may all be classed as winter or early spring bloomers and they have two definite periods of growth, one in the summer when they develop their leaves, and the other the flowering season. During the summer leaf production they enjoy a shaded cool situation.

Contrary to a widespread belief, they can be well grown without leaf mold; a good turfy loam free from alkali with one-quarter coarse sand and a free sprinkling of small charcoal will do admir-

ably. Good drainage is absolutely essential and a fine silt-like soil is anathema. Hard water can be softened by the use of alum, one-half ounce of saturated solution to the gallon of water. Let stand overnight and use water from the top.

The soil in the trays should be rounded up to the center and have at least an inch of drainage material at the bottom. Five plants from 4-inch pots will be ample as too-crowded leafage will cause stem rotting. Half the leaves on the *B. conchifolia* illustrated had to be removed to let the flower stems come through. It was equally handsome before it bloomed.

In the one group there are 'Erythrophylla', 'Bunchii', not so called because of its frilled foliage but from its introducer Bunch, *conchifolia*, and 'Heraclei-cotyle', the last with the darkest and almost chocolate flowers, and the last to bloom.

The two manicata begonias, *manicata* and *manicata* 'Aureo-maculata', yellow and green variegated, have lighter green and thinner foliage and the leaf stems have rings of reddish hairs. The blooms are smaller and daintier than the other group; they are not so hardy, though need the same culture.

In true trailing begonias, there are the two scandens, *glabra* with white sprays of bloom like pearls—this will climb by roots along the stem like an ivy—and *procumbens* with coral blooms edged with white.

Then there is the large assortment of semperflorens begonias that are charming subjects for this grouping, and so arranged are much more appealing than in large plantings out of doors.

There is no thought of putting over an all-purpose plant stand, but an offering of the result of much experimentation to find a cheap, effective and fitting method of massing the smaller plants for in- or outdoor display.

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Incredible specimen *B. 'Pink Rubra'* towers to the roof of Montecito home

A prize-winning B. 'Pink Rubra'

Cal Trowbridge
Reprinted from March 1957

Along about now, as the warm winter rains leave their rich rewards in our gardens, my thoughts begin to wander on toward spring, yes and beyond that to the many flower shows that dot our calendar.

I begin to wonder which plants will be the award winners this year. Which plants will bring the most ohs and ahs during the coming flower show season?

Will they be among the tall, graceful fibrous varieties or the sturdy rhizomatous group? Yet they could be one of the glamour lovelies out of your tuberous begonia collection. I am sure the rexes will gain their share of the glory as well as my little friends, the semperflorens.

What I really wanted to tell you about was this magnificent specimen I saw at the Santa Barbara Flower Show last year. As we wandered about the aisles of this beautiful little show, we came upon this giant standing there in all its glory.

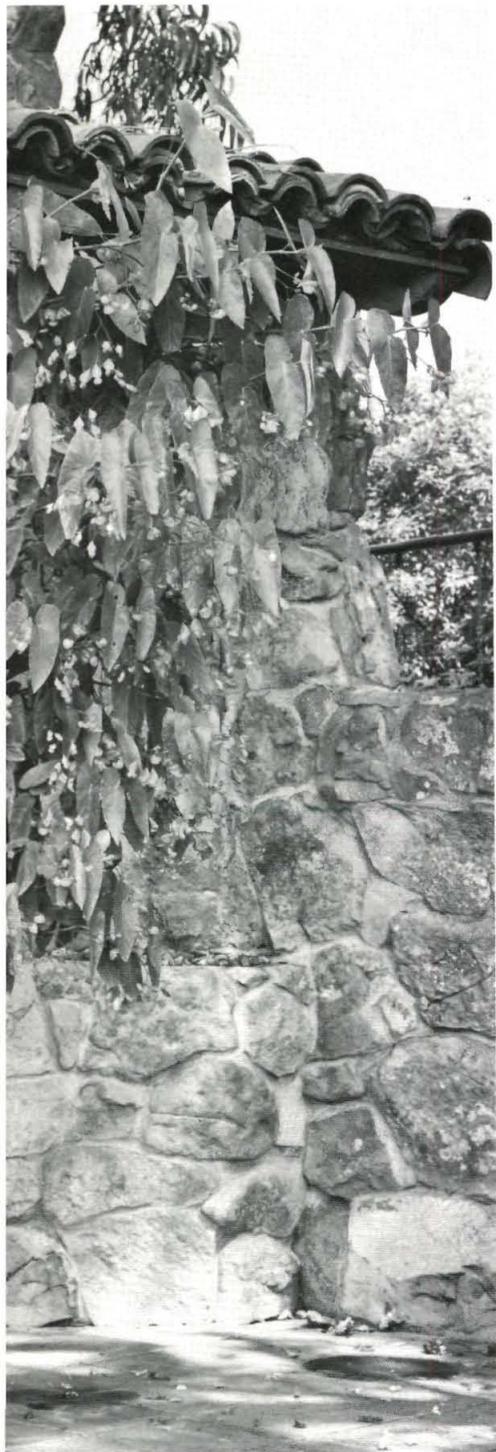
Its height was over nine feet with a spread of over six feet. The huge clusters of reddish pink flowers hung from its branches. It was supported by four steel building rods a half-inch in diameter with bamboo canes tied horizontally across, making a huge fan. Then tied to this large fan was this plant.

Naturally, I became curious about its name, its origin, where it grew, and how. After many questions and some letter writing to some of the old-timers in our society, I came up with these facts.

The original was grown by Theodosia Burr Shepherd some 30 years ago in Ventura [Calif.]. Mrs. Shepherd gave it the name of *Begonia* 'Pink Rubra'. Mr. Alfred D. Robinson referred to it quite

Please turn to page 82

Calvin E. Trowbridge of Los Angeles was ABS president when he wrote this article for the March 1957 Begonian. Cal now lives at 1132 Gardena Rd., Encinitas, CA 92024.



Photo/Thomas E. Arnold

Powdery mildew discovered on begonias

John Ferguson

Reprinted from November 1951

Growers of begonias from Santa Barbara to San Diego, California, have been reporting this year a new disease, powdery mildew. A disease of this type was, however, reported in California in 1935 on tuberous begonias at Capitola. It has also been reported from Florida and North Carolina.

The fungus appears as a gray to white powdery coating of mycelium and spores on spots up to one-half inch diameter on the surface of leaves and stems. The most characteristic feature of the more severe

John Ferguson was in the UCLA division of plant pathology when he wrote this article for the November 1951 Begonian. The disease is, of course, widespread now. Recommended controls include karathane, benomyl, and triforine, although the third is not labeled for use on begonias yet.

More wartime effects

From page 77

inches across. Another year must elapse before it can be said with certainty that the color is established.

Mrs. Robinson is growing these new seedlings at her home in Fallbrook, and it is our hope that her efforts will prove successful.

Mr. Roy Berry, a well-known hybridizer, has an imposing array of miniature rexes in metallic bronzy reds, dark reds, rust and green shades. A few of these seedlings have the usual overtones of violet and purple but most of them have a denser metallic quality which makes

More B. 'Pink Rubra'

From page 81

often in his writings as Mrs. Shepherd's tree or cane begonia. Mrs. Eva Kenworthy Gray also gives mention of it in her early catalogs.

[This plant] is owned and was grown by Mrs. John D. Graham of Eucalyptus Hill, Montecito, California. Truly a fine begonia specimen. We also found out it took four men and a moving van to get it to the show.

infections is the necrotic reddish margin surrounding the white spot. The disease appears most conspicuously on basal leaves or on plants grown under conditions of partial shade.

The causal organism of this disease is a powdery mildew fungus. Only the asexual stage (*Oidium* sp. of the *Erysiphe polygoni* type) was found.

Unlike many fungus infections, powdery mildews are severe under California climatic conditions. The spores are extremely small and airborne. Infection develops most readily under humid, shady conditions. The conditions of the summer of 1951 have been such that other powdery mildews (for example, that occurring on roses) have been more destructive than usual.

Little is known of the relative susceptibility of different varieties of begonias, but the mildew has been seen on many of the popular varieties.

them distinctive in addition to being true miniatures.

These are seedlings of *dregei* x *rex* 'Autumn' and *weltoniensis* x *rex* 'Autumn'. The *dregei* offspring suggest the appearance of pliable metal. The one named seedling of this group is 'Toy'. It has a medallion-like quality with roundish leaves measuring about three by four inches that are somewhat undulate and the edges are scalloped. The markings appear to have been applied of luminous enamel.

Begonia 'Annie Robinson', with leaves about the same size as 'Toy', is thinner in texture with a dark red background overlaid with what appears at first glance to be a thin, luminous sheet of violet metal tapering off toward the edge showing the metallic red. The shallow lobes of the leaves are sharply pointed.

There are other fine seedlings of this group which we hope will be named as this will furnish a handle when requests are made for them later when they are released. We refer particularly to the one which has the rare orange-rust and grass-green markings.

Unidentified species: Name for species ex Kew

Phyllis Bates

The first list of unidentified species was published in the February 1981 issue. Since that time, numerous plants have been discussed and entered into the file but with very sketchy information in most cases. I welcome information and photographs of unidentified species that you may be growing in your collection to add to the files.

Since the first list was published, several of the species have been identified and you may attach the name to the labels:

U004—*B. princeae* Gilg.

U015—*B. cummingii* A. Gray

U021—*B. oxysperma* A. DC.

U031—*B. minor* (syn. *B. nitida*).

U038—*B. chlorosticta* Sands

The first three were identified by Dr. Jan Doorenbos, the fourth by Thelma O'Reilly.

The begonia we have been calling *B. species ex Kew*—originally from Sarawak and introduced through the Royal Botanical Gardens of Kew and into the United States through M. L. MacIntyre of England—was determined to be a new species by Martin Sands of Kew. He named it *B. chlorosticta* in *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* 183 (4): 133-137 and plate 827, February 1982. The name means "green-spotted." Maurice Mason brought this to our attention.

U080

Species imported as seeds in November 1980 by Martin Johnson from Zamboanga, the Philippines, has small, fragile, narrow leaves with metallic bronze, iridescent appearance. This shrub-like begonia grows 6 to 10 inches tall. The flowers are small, about three-eighths of an inch. The female blooms have five tepals.

U081

A plant from Baguio, the Philippines, identified by Martin Johnson. A rhizomatous begonia of the *B. rex* type, it has a jointed rhizome. Leaf blades are light iri-

Coordinator of the ABS nomenclature department's U-number files is Phyllis P. Bates, 554 Arden Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024.

descent green showing a flush of red coloring along the veins and occasional white spots. Leaves are cordate with overlapping lobes. Mature leaves measure 7 by 11 inches. The marginal zone is red, and there are red hairs on the veins on the underside of the leaves. The petioles are also red-flushed and bear red hairs.

The buds are pink. Male flowers are longer than 1 inch and have four tepals. Martin Johnson reported that one leaf developed a plantlet in the center. In general, *this plant grows well on his open bench.*

Further study will be necessary to determine whether this is a species or a hybrid.

U082

Species from the Philippines that was distributed at the ABS Ventura convention plant sale bearing the label "*B. nigratorum?*" This begonia is closely related to U006, but is not the same. It is a creeping plant, not rhizomatous, approximately 1 inch between nodes, and it roots at the nodes.

Leaves are cordate, 2 inches by 2 inches, with silver blotches between the veins.

The flowers are white, lightly flushed with pink on the reverse. The male blossom has two ovate tepals about a half-inch wide and two narrow tepals about a quarter-inch wide. The peduncles are 4 inches tall. Small, whitish, papery stipules drop off readily. It bloomed when very young. Imported by Martin Johnson as seeds from a cultivated plant in October 1980.

U083

A tall, corky, thick-stemmed begonia with small, bright green splotches randomly scattered over the jointed stem. Introduced into cultivation in Florida by Francis Michelson. The plain green leaves are 5 inches x 6 inches and probably will grow larger. The leaves have red veins with a red "eye" at the junction of the blade and stem. The leaves are glabrous, entire-subentire, and widen at the edge exactly opposite the junction. New growth is covered with fine fuzz that disappears with age. **Please turn to page 89**

ROUND ROBINS / *Saving pollen until pollination time*

Mary Harbaugh

What can you do when you want to self-pollinate one of your begonias but the male and female blossoms don't open at the same time? King Langenberg of Waukegan, Ill., gives us his method for saving the male pollen until the female flowers open:

Collect the male blossoms just about the time they fall off. Tear off the petals and dry the stamens for a day or two. Then put the dry stamens in a tiny glass vial and save them until the female blossoms open—usually a week to a month later. Use a tiny paint brush to transfer the pollen to the female flower.

B. *convulvulacea's* habits

Mary Ellen Taback of Newport News, Va., describes some of her experiences with *B. convulvulacea*. She says it is the most rampant of her hanging plants and recovers easily from mistakes made on it. For these reasons she recommends it is a variety which gives good experience in pinching to shape. Pieces of the stem are very easy to root. If the sun is too strong it bleaches out very easily.

Lynda Goldsmith of Fairfax, Vt., did a little research on some of the differences between *B. glabra* and *B. convulvulacea*. *Glabra* climbs to about 5 feet, whereas *convulvulacea* will go to 8 feet. *Glabra* has profuse white flowers, whereas the flowers of *convulvulacea* appeared to be greenish in color. *Glabra* is widely distributed throughout Central and South America and the West Indies, whereas *convulvulacea* is native to Brazil.

Botanically, they are in different sections. *Glabra* is in a very large section that includes *acetosa*, *acida*, *coccinea*, *dietrichiana*, *echinosepala*, *geburtii*, *paleata* and *valdensium*. They are all placed in the same section because of similarities in the flower structure.

Information about joining a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—is available from Mary Harbaugh, round robin director. Write to her at W2899 Homewood Ave., Shawano, WI 54166. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

There is also a difference in the leaf shape between *glabra* and *convulvulacea*.

Dealing with tubers

The tuberous begonias are beautiful and showy plants. Many people have difficulty in dealing with their dormant stage, especially in bringing them successfully out of storage. Marvin Kahr of Elkader, Iowa, describes his method in some detail:

"Sometimes in February, I bring the tubers from their dormant storage in the basement to an upstairs bedroom where it's warmer and light. I then sprinkle them lightly, about every 4 to 5 days, to induce budding or pink shoots. This will take about three weeks, more or less.

"When the sprouts are about a quarter-inch high, it is time to plant them. I usually plant 12 tubers to a pan. I use the tin pans which you buy in hardware stores and can use for draining your car oil, etc. I use a light mix or regular potting soil.

"When ready for planting, the tubers go into a pail of water for several minutes. This plumps the tubers and thoroughly moistens them. Then I set 10 to 12 tubers in each pan full of soil.

"I leave the pink tips just visible or place a toothpick or stick a match near each tuber which shows me where to water each one individually. Since they have been submerged in water, I do not water for four or five days.

"Go carefully on the water as the tubers are inclined to rot if too wet. This is the most critical time, until the first green leaf unfurls—then roots have developed and more water is needed. After this stage, I keep the soil moist at all times and give the pans of bulbs all the light possible for strong growth.

"In about two months, the tubers are about six to eight inches tall and soon showing buds. I set them into outdoor beds about May 15-20, depending on weather conditions.

"The soil in the outdoor beds is a loose mixture of sand, peat, and loam—about the consistency of regular potting soil. I usually set the started plants into the beds somewhat deeper than they had been set

Photographers, we need your help. The photography robin is trying to put together a slide show of species begonias. Whether you are a member of the robins or not, we would appreciate any donations of slides of species begonias. Please label them with the name of the begonia and your name and send them to me.

Also, we can use photographs in the robin column. Black-and-white prints are best, but color slides or prints are acceptable if clear and contrasty. A photo could be of almost anything relating to begonias, their display, or materials you have constructed or use to grow them. Include a short description of what is in the photo and send them to me.

At the National Convention in Santa Cruz, there will be a Round Robin breakfast where we can get together and meet each other face to face. I will be there this year and I hope that you will come.

There have been a couple of suggestions for new robins connected with those of us who live in cold weather climates. One is a flight on greenhouse growing in cold climates and the other a research flight on growing begonias in cold climates. If these interest you, write to me. As someone wrote to me: "Now that The Begonian has gone bimonthly the robins are more important than ever in helping me to keep in touch with the society and to fill the void." I hope that you will join us.—Mary Harbaugh

in their growing pans earlier. They love a morning 'bath' all over the leaves. To avoid mildew, don't water after supper-time.

"If the plants look good, I seldom fertilize. Too much fertilizer causes rubbery leaves and sometimes bud drop. I leave as many shoots or stems as the tuber provides and I do not disbud them."

Feeding advice

In Corvallis, Mont., Joan Campbell says the "experts" recommend that for good blooms on tuberous begonias, feed at the start with a good nitrogen fertilizer, then switch over to one strong in phosphorous.

Cut up tubers?

Jackie Davis of Aptos, Calif., says the growers of tubers in her area do not recommend cutting up a tuber except in a dire emergency such as the tuber rotting.

They feel that the roots are on all sides of the tuber and when you cut them you get less root space and so they are not as vigorous.

The best way to get more starts is to take extra shoots off when they have gotten about 3-4 inches high.

Tuberous from seed

Mabel Corwin of Vista, Calif., thinks it is better to set seed on the tuberous species and grow new plants from seed. "I have lovely plants from the seed of *B. pearcei* that I set last year. The tubers don't always break dormancy and if they

do they are very slow."

Mabel also talks about her *B. picta*, a low-growing tuberous species with lovely pink flowers. She grows it in a bubble bowl with a hole in the top. It grows, blooms briefly, and then dies down.

"If you are lucky it comes up again after a rest. I discovered that it grows very easily from leaves, so now I have about a dozen plants which I put in a bowl together with damp sphagnum moss tucked between the pots for humidity.

"When it dies down, I put the little pot with the tuber in a plastic sweater box and leave it alone until it comes up again. I have never been able to grow it from seed. It germinates, but then dies down while the seedlings are still small. I suppose it has something to do with it being tuberous."

Year-round *B. sutherlandii*

Bob Hamm of Wichita Falls, Texas, has a *B. sutherlandii* that he used to grow year-round under lights but this year he forgot it and it went dormant. He brought it into the house. After a week in the warmer temperature it was showing the early signs of growth.

He tends to lose dormant plants and wanted to speed things up in bringing it out of dormancy so he uncovered the tuber and put it under the center of the lights where they are on a 14-hour day. Once the shoots get to be about two inches long he will put another half-inch of soil over the tuber again.

NEW CULTIVARS/ *Official international registrations*

Carrie Karegeannes and Thelma O'Reilly, nomenclature co-directors

In the citations of cultivar parents, the female (seed) parent is listed first.

Begonia (Quintessence grex) 'Max'

No. 781—*Begonia nelumbiifolia*, red-veined form x *thiemi* syn. *macdougallii* var. *purpurea* hort. (Quintessence g.) 'Max'

Rhizomatous, with 18" x 8", reddish-veined, green, smooth, cleft and usually peltate, castor-bean-shaped leaves with 8 main veins. Petioles are 1½" to 2" long; stipules, 1" x 1¼". Flowers are greenish white. Originated in 1978 by Bob Cole, 18007 Topham Street, Reseda, CA 91335; first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1980. First described (as *B. Quintessence g. 'Maximum'*) in the Plant Shop's Botanical Garden begonia catalog, 1980. Tested by Janet Kerr, 1400 1/3 N. Occidental, Los Angeles, CA 90026. Registered June 26, 1982.

Begonia 'Curly It'

No. 839—*B. 'It'* sport 'Curly It'

Rhizomatous with erect stem, *Rex Cultorum* foliage, and compact habit. A double-spiraled form of the long-grown Woodriff cultivar *B. 'It'* (*B. 'President'* x *socotrana*), this new mutation has 6" x 4" light-green leaves with silver splotches, slightly serrate margin, slightly pustulate surface, and 6 main veins. Petioles are light green; stipules, pale pink. Pink 1½" x 1½", 4-tepaled male and female flowers—similar to those of *B. 'It'*—are borne on 10" peduncles the year round. Originated in 1979 by Leslie Woodriff, Fairyland Begonia Garden, 1100 Griffith Road, McKinleyville, CA 95521; first bloomed

Applications to register Begonia cultivars may be obtained from Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041. Each must be typed or printed in ink.

A \$2 check or money order payable to the American Begonia Society must accompany each completed application. Photos, drawings, and/or dried specimens to accompany applications are encouraged. ABS is the International Registration Authority for Begonia cultivar names.

in 1979; first distributed in 1980. Published in Mildred L. Thompson and Edward J. Thompson, *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide*, 1981, pp. 145, 297. Registered June 26, 1982.

Begonia 'Echo'

No. 840—*Begonia echinosepala* x 'Odorata Alba' 'Echo'

Cane-like trailer with 12" stems, small medium-green leaves, and fragrant pink flowers. The leaves are 3½" x 3", slightly serrate, satiny and smooth, with 6 main veins. Petioles and stipules are light green. The light pink, 1" x 1" flowers are similar to those of *B. 'Tea Rose'*, but larger and deeper pink. Two-tepaled male and four-tepaled female flowers are carried in clusters on 8" petioles the year round. Originated in 1979 by Leslie Woodriff (address above); first bloomed in 1979; first distributed in 1979. Published in Thompson and Thompson, *Begonias*, 1981, pp. 215, 300. Registered June 27, 1982.

Begonia 'Hula Skirt'

No. 841—*Begonia* unnamed *rex* cultivar x *hemsleyana* 'Hula Skirt'

Rex Cultorum group; rhizome jointed at or below the soil with stem erect. Unusual compound, 5" x 4½" leaves have black center, red zone, silver zone, green and black edge, silver markings, and 12 main veins. Leaf segments are lobed, serrate, with smooth satiny finish. Petioles are light red; stipules, light pink. Medium pink, 1½" x 1¼", 4-tepaled (male) flowers are borne in clusters on 7" peduncles year round. Originated in 1978 by Leslie Woodriff (address above); first bloomed in 1978; first distributed in 1980. Published in Thompson and Thompson, *Begonias*, 1981, pp. 182, 307. Registered June 27, 1982.

Begonia 'Lime Swirl'

No. 842—*Begonia* unknown x unknown 'Lime Swirl'

Rhizomatous with erect, 7" stems and compact habit. Double-spiraled, lime-green, 4" x 3" leaves are smooth with

ciliate margin and 5 main veins. Petioles are light red with red dots; stipules, light green. Light pink, 1" x ½", 2-tepaled male and female flowers are borne in clusters on 10" peduncles in winter. Originated in 1979 by Leslie Woodriff (address above); first bloomed in 1980; first distributed in 1980. Published in Thompson and Thompson, *Begonias*, 1981, pp. 141, 311. Registered June 27, 1982.

Begonia 'Little Fantasy'

No. 843—*Begonia* unknown x unknown 'Little Fantasy'

Rex Cultorum group; miniature, compact, with erect stem. Ovate, 2½" x 1½" (occasionally 4" x 3") leaves are silver with black center, satiny red zone, black edge, slightly serrate margin, smooth surface, and 6 main veins. Petioles and stipules are light red. Originated in 1979 by Leslie Woodriff (address above), no bloom to date; first distributed in 1980. Published in Thompson and Thompson, *Begonias*, 1981, pp. 182, 183, 311. Registered June 27, 1982.

Begonia 'Magic Lace'

No. 844—*Begonia imperialis* x 'Bokit' 'Magic Lace'

Rhizomatous with distinctive foliage and compact habit. Double-spiraled, 5" x 4", olive-green leaves with silver markings are slightly serrate and lobed, with pustulate surface and 8 main veins. Petioles are light red; stipules, light green. Light-pink, 1", 2-tepaled male and female flowers are borne in clusters on 7" peduncles in winter and spring. Originated in 1978 by Leslie Woodriff (address above); first bloomed in 1979; first distributed in 1980. Published in Thompson and Thompson *Begonias*, 1981, pp. 141, 312. Registered June 29, 1982.

Begonia 'Mom's Favorite'

No. 845—*Begonia imperialis* x unknown 'Mom's Favorite' (synonym 'Mother's Plant')

Rhizomatous with distinctive foliage and compact habit. Unlobed, 3" x 2½", dark-olive-green leaves with silver overlay and raspberry veins with raspberry overlay are slightly serrate, with pustulate surface and 6 main veins. Petioles are deep red with red dots; stipules, light green. Light-pink, 1" x ½", 2-tepaled male and

female flowers are borne in clusters on 8" peduncles in winter and spring. Originated in 1978 by Leslie Woodriff (address above); first bloomed in 1979; first distributed in 1979. Published in Thompson and Thompson, *Begonias*, 1981, pp. 139, 315. Registered June 29, 1982.

Begonia 'Raspberry Swirl'

No. 846—*Begonia* unnamed *rex* cultivar x *hemsleyana* 'Raspberry Swirl'

Rex Cultorum group; rhizomatous, erect. Double-spiraled, lobed, 6" x 5½" leaves have a black center, raspberry zone, silver zone, and dark-green and black edge. They are smooth-surfaced with 10 main veins, light-red petioles, and red stipules. A spiraled sister seedling to *B.* 'Hula Skirt' (ABS Reg. No. 841), *B.* 'Raspberry Swirl' does not have the compound leaves of *B.* 'Hula Skirt'. Originated in 1979 by Leslie Woodriff (address above); no bloom to date; first distributed in 1980. Published in Thompson and Thompson, *Begonias*, 1981, pp. 182, 321. Registered June 29, 1982.

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ABS NEWS/ *Here comes golden anniversary Begoniafest*

More than 100 members had registered by the end of July for Begoniafest, ABS' golden anniversary convention on Sept. 9-12, organizers reported. The early enthusiasm boosted the expectation that nearly 300 would attend the convention and show in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Convention plans continued to take shape, even after the mailing of an information and registration packet to members in mid-June which detailed major attractions of the event.

Seminar speakers from within ABS and authorities outside the organization were scheduled for slots on Friday and Saturday.

Organizers of the National Begonia Festival in Capitola, meeting in early July, told convention chairman Mary Margaret Rafferty they were pleased that convention participants would view Capitola's waterborne parade on Sunday. Festival sponsors offered to assist with convention publicity and any other help ABS needs.

Special recognition for ABS past presidents is being planned. Past President Margaret Ziesenhenne, asked to invite all living past presidents, did so in a letter to each of them. A past presidents' breakfast probably will take place on Saturday morning.

In addition, past presidents will be recognized at a 50th anniversary reception Thursday evening and at the Saturday night banquet.

Contingents from the Northwest, the Middle West, Florida, the Southwest Region, and New York and New England were reported planning to attend. Many registrants are not frequent ABS convention participants.

Public votes at Miami show

At the Miami Branch's annual show,

Sacramento Branch ABS
15th Annual Begonia & Companion
Plant Show

"NATURE'S MAGIC"

Sat. Aug. 7 - 2 to 6 Sun. Aug. 8 - 10 to 5
Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, Calif.

visitors picked *B. 'Freddie'* as Best in Show as Voted by the Public. The specimen in the show was grown by Georgia Humphries of Fort Lauderdale.

The innovative award was determined by a poll conducted on Saturday, the first day of the show May 1-2. Of 108 ballots cast, 'Freddie' got 12—more than any other variety.

In official judging, however, 'Freddie' didn't win. Branch National Director Charles Jaros of Miami won Best in Show with *B. albo-picta* and garnered 44 blue ribbons to win the sweepstakes award. Charles' other division winners: *B. albo-picta*, best hanging basket; *B. 'Peridot'*, best miniature; *B. thelmae*, best trailing-scandent; his shrub-like collection, best collection; and *B. 'Charm'*, best *semperflorens*.

Anne Fergis of Miami won best canelike with *B. 'Osota'*; best shrub-like, *B. U002*; best tuberous, *B. dregei*; best rex, unnamed *B. rex* cultivar; and best thick-stemmed, *B. lindleyana*. Chris Fergis' *B. 'Barbara Ann'* was best photograph.

Ann Shufflin of Miami won best rhizomatous with *B. 'Brown Eyes'*, and best Paul Lowe hybrid, *B. 'Green Jewel'*. Tropical Greenery's *B. 'Fairy'* was chosen best in show in the commercial class. In the same class, Audrey Goodall won best hanging basket with *B. imperialis*. She also had the best iron cross, a *B. masoniana* 'Tricolor'.

Best contained atmosphere was Maybelle Green of Miami's *B. 'Wanda.'* Christina Llanos took the best arts and crafts award with china painting. Best novel growing method was *B. 'Robert Shatzer'* in a rock, entered by Alma Crawford of Miami. Wendy Smith won sweepstakes-junior, while Fritz Beckmann won best in show for a non-member with *B. 'Lospe-Tu'*.

Theme this year was "Begonias for You in '82." Show Chairman Rosemond Meriwether of Coral Gables counted 375 entries. Award-winning plants were displayed around a maypole built by Show Designer Ray Weakley of Miami. The show was at Fairchild Tropical Gardens.

BEGONIA BRIEFS/ *Looking for Buxton Check List?*

The *Buxton Check List of Begonias*, a valuable reference compiled by Bessie Buxton and published in 1957 by ABS, is out of print but you now can order a duplicated copy from Carrie Karegeannes, ABS nomenclature co-director.

Write to her for information and the cost, using the address on the inside front cover.

Begonias in index

The latest supplement to *Index Kewensis*, the worldwide list of all plant species, published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England, includes 19 citations to *The Begonian*. First published in 1895, the 16-volume work is updated by supplements every five years.

Supplement 16, published in 1981 and covering species named from 1971 through 1975, included four new sections

of *Begonia* published by Rudolf Ziesenhenné and one by Fred A. Barkley. It listed six new species and four varieties named by Rudy, three citations for the late Edgar Irmscher, and a variety named by Jack Golding.

Species and variations (given with *Begonian* volume, page, and date in *Index Kewensis*) included *Begonia bogneri* Ziesenhenné; *B. bowerae* varieties *major*, *Zies. nigramarga* Zies., and *roseflora* Zies.; *B. corzoensis* Zies.; *B. cristobalensis* Zies.; *B. kortsiae* Zies.; *B. mauricei* Zies.; *B. philodendroides* var. *multiloba* Zies.; and *B. tacana* Zies. Also listed were *B. masoniana* Irmscher, Rudy's publication of the type specimen for *B. masoniana*, *B. morelii* Irmscher ex Karegeannes, and *B. conchifolia* var. *rubrimacula* Golding.

More unidentified species

From page 83

U084

Upright rhizomatous species from Colombia. Leaves are cordate and brown felted on the underside. This light brown soft felt covers both surfaces of young leaves; the upper surface becomes sparsely pubescent. The petioles are green with soft, tangled hairs. Leaves show fine red edging, reddish veins, and a red dot at the leaf stem junction. The stipules are brown with parallel lengthwise nerves.

U085

Cane-stemmed species from the Philippines brought into Los Angeles by Rex and Pat Christianson in December 1981. The leaf blades are ovate with cordate basal lobes and are light silvery green accented by dark green veins. The leaf margin is very narrow, minutely crenate, red, and somewhat ciliate. The blade is punctuated by red bristles. The petioles are red. Leaves measure 3" x 6".

U086

Species from the Philippines found as a volunteer seedling by Patrick Worley with a Melastome plant sent by Martin Johnson in fall 1980. The begonia has a flat,

creeping rhizome. Its 4-inch x 5-inch green leaves, covered with very fine white hairs, are cordate with indented veins. The petioles are light green, but may be flushed when young.

The flowers are medium pink and on peduncles reaching just above the foliage. Male blossoms have four tepals, two being rounded and two small and narrow, arranged in opposite pairs. One of the narrow tepals is absent on the female flowers.

U087

Seeds sent to Patrick Worley by Hikoichi Arakawa labeled "From Sumatra." The rhizome is somewhat red and creeping. Leaves are peltate and round, but with one long acuminate point, shiny deep green on top, and red on reverse. The cupped leaves measure 3 inches x 3 inches when flattened. A red dot marks the top surface at the leaf junction with the stem.

The blossoms are pink with the ovary a deeper rose color. The ovary is three winged, with each of the wings evenly rounded. The male flowers have four tepals, two narrow and two rounded; the female blossoms have three or four tepals. Petioles and peduncles are a striking deep red color. Bractlets occur at each branching of the inflorescence.

SEED FUND/ *Seven species, one unidentified*

Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

- J-A 1 — *B. solananchera*: Trailing-scandent species with small, pea green, heart-shaped leaves and fragrant, white flowers with red blotch at center. Blooms in winter and spring. Short viability, but I can give generous amount. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 2 — *B. fagifolia*: Trailing-scandent species with small, dark green leaves with sunken veins and white hairs. Small white flowers in large inflorescence in late winter. (Untested.) per pkt 1.00
- J-A 3 — *B. picta*: Tuberous species from India with small green leaves speckled with silver and veins outlined with maroon. Large pale rose flowers about six months following sowing. Will go dormant if atmosphere goes below 70°F. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 4 — *B. U014*: Trailing-scandent species from Argentina with small, dark green, glossy leaves, elliptical in shape, red on reverse. Intermittent flowers of intense orange. Spectacular. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 5 — *B. rhopalocarpa*: Trailing-scandent species from Africa, somewhat similar to *B. mannii*. First listed in April 1980 *Begonian* and described by Prof. Jan Doorenbos on pages 102-3. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 6 — *B. sanguinea*: Shrub-like species from Brazil named because of the blood-red reverse on medium-sized, bare leaves. Small, white flowers in late winter. Hybrids of this species abound. per pkt 1.00
- J-A 7 — *B. dipetala*: Thick-stemmed species from India as tall as 18 inches, less if pinched, with sparsely hairy, ovate, green leaves, spotted when young. Lovely, large, two-petalled pink flowers in late winter. Should be in every collection. per pkt 1.00

Please make seed for the Seed Fund if you are growing any of these begonias: acaulis, baumannii, gracilis var. martiana, decandra, procumbens, metallica, scharffiana, tomentosa, rajah, imperialis, pustulata.

PAMPHLETS

Begonias from Seed, Sowing and Growing ea. .25

Send orders to Joy Porter, 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope or add 40 cents for padded, hand-cancelled package. Massachusetts residents add 5% sales tax. Checks and money orders should be made payable to: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Foreign orders: U.S. funds only and add \$1.20 for postage.

More rare begonias

From page 75

set short hairs. Flowers pink, comparatively large for so small a plant. Seen at Kew, 1930. A delicate grower.

Begonia modica—A spreading dwarf plant with green, slender stems. Leaves peltate, 2-4 inches long, pale green, margins pink, undulate, margins and veins hairy. Petioles greenish red, 3-5 inches long. Male flowers small, 2 petalled, orange-yellow, with red blotch at base of petal. Females same color, ovary ½ inch long, winged and hairy. From tropi-

cal Africa, 1908, therefore needs heat. Seen at Kew, 1930.

Begonia cinnabarina — Tuberous rooted. Stems short, green zigzag, slightly downy. Leaves on short petioles, obliquely ovate, lobed and serrate. Peduncles 9-12 inches long, red. Flowers cinnabar red, 2 inches across. A species from Bolivia, introduced in 1849.

Begonia engleri—A tall-growing species with few branches, from East tropical Africa. The stem red mottled and hairy, the leaves thin, flat, oblique, deeply serrate, light green, red ribbed, hairy. Free blooming, flowers pink.

ABS SERVICES

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and addresses of department heads and other officers, see inside front cover. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you write.

AT-LARGE MEMBERS—Services for members who don't belong to branches are handled by the members-at-large director. Contact him for details. If you are interested in finding a branch or starting one in your area, contact the branch relations director for help.

THE BEGONIAN—The journal of the society publishes how-to articles, scientific information, and ABS news. Articles on a member's personal experiences with begonias are welcomed, as are black-and-white photos of begonias and color slides suitable for use on the cover. Contact the editors.

BEGONIAN BACK ISSUES—Individual copies of The Begonian more than a year old are available from the back issue sales chairman (75 cents). A full year is \$6.50 for any year in the 1940s. \$5 for any year from 1950 through 1979. Back issues less than a year old are ordered from the membership secretary for \$2 each.

BOOKSTORE—Books on begonias and related subjects can be purchased mail-order from the bookstore manager. Contact her for a list of books available. The bookstore also sells reproductions of antique begonia prints and other items.

JUDGING DEPARTMENT—The judging department offers a course by mail with which you can learn to become an accredited begonia show judge (\$8). Also available are a booklet on point scoring (\$1.25), information on fuchsia and fern judging, and other requirements to become a judge. Add \$1 postage and handling to all orders and 6% tax for California residents.

LIBRARY—Books about begonias and gardening may be borrowed by mail from the lending library. Con-

tact the librarian for a list of books and the procedure.

NOMENCLATURE—The nomenclature department monitors newly published findings on begonia names as well as handling official international registration of new begonia cultivars. Registrations are published in The Begonian.

QUESTION BOX—Send begonia-growing questions to Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. You'll get a prompt answer and Mabel will use questions of general interest in her Begonian column.

RESEARCH—The research department conducts a Grow and Study project in which members experiment with various begonias and compile their findings. The department also has other activities, including the review of requests for ABS backing of outside projects. For details, contact the director.

ROUND ROBINS—Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through a packet of letters which circulates among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets—called flights—on many specialized subjects. To join one or more, contact the round robin director.

SEED FUND—The Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund offers seeds of begonia species and cultivars by mail. New offerings are listed in The Begonian. Donations of seed are encouraged. Please contact the Seed Fund Director.

SLIDE LIBRARY—A series of slide shows on begonias and begonia growing can be borrowed by mail for showing at meetings and seminars. New shows are under preparation. Contact the slide librarian for fee information.

SPEAKERS BUREAU—The speakers bureau maintains a directory of speakers on begonias and related subjects. Contact the director.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Announcing the New EXOTICA 4, Pictorial Cyclopedica of Exotic Plants, by Dr. A. B. Graf; enlarged to 16,300 photos, 405 in color, incl. 813 Begonias; 2,590 pages in 2 volumes. \$175. All-color TROPICA 2, 7,000 photos, incl. 215 Begonias; 1,138 pages. \$115. Booklists gladly sent. ROEHRS, Box 125, E. Rutherford, NJ 07073.

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