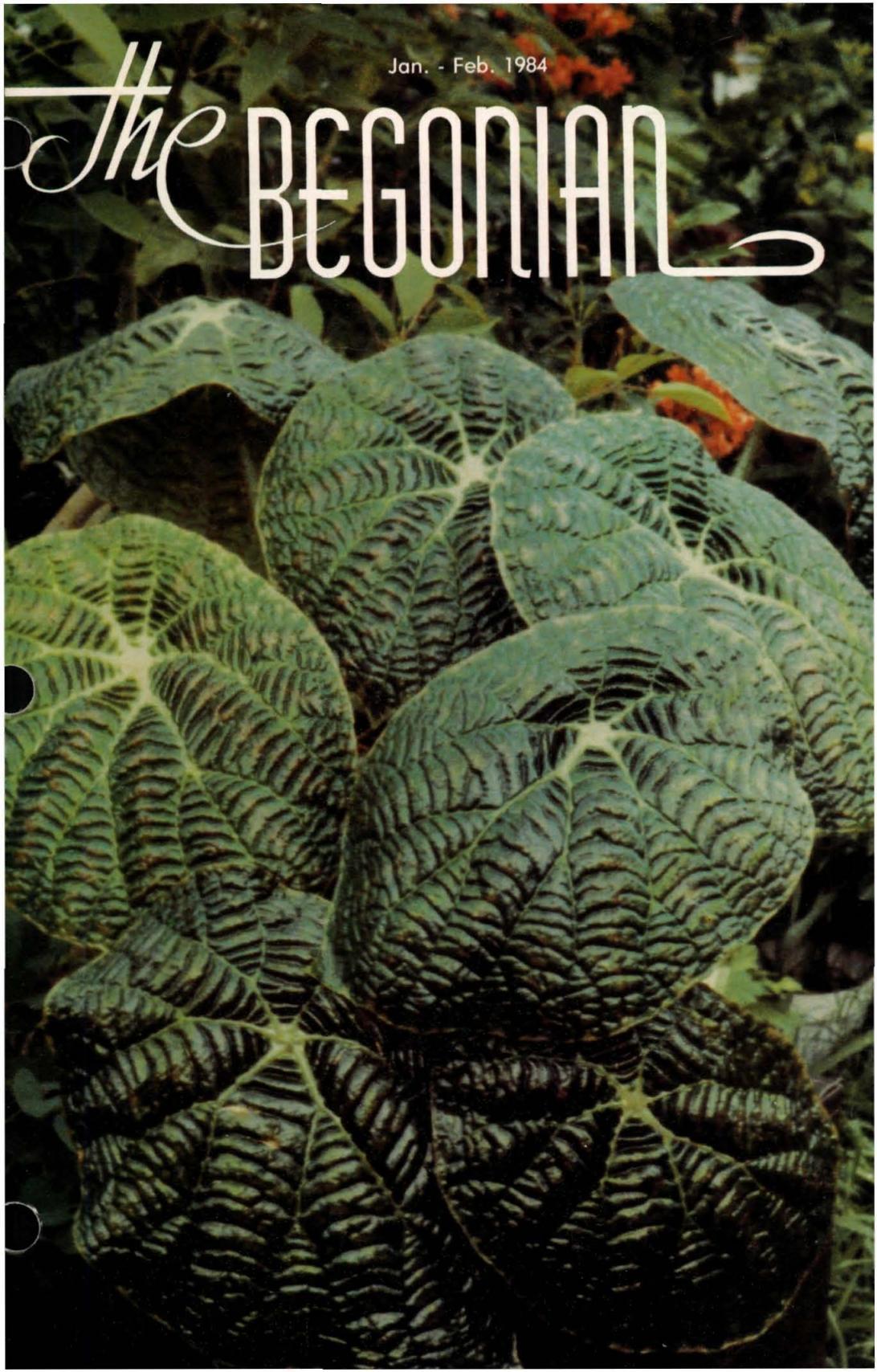


Jan. - Feb. 1984

The BEGONIAN



The BEGONIAN

Publication of the American Begonia Society

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(continued on back cover)

The Cover: *Begonia paulensis*, native to Brazil, is frequently grown in a greenhouse or contained atmosphere. Its large distinctive leaves with bullate surface are much admired. It is often called a collector's plant because it is sensitive and difficult to handle. Photographer Dael Jones of Dallas, Texas proves he has the right touch with this two-year-old plant which he grows entirely in natural light in a north window in a shallow 10" clay pot using a mixture of garden soil, peat, and builder's sand.

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ABS NEWS

New Membership Secretary

Pearl Benell has been appointed to the post of national membership secretary. She had previously served in that post from 1967 to 1971. Before that she had served as circulation manager for two years, and was also director of the Seed Fund from 1974 to 1977, so she is well known to many ABS members. She joined the ABS in 1954 and has been the Whittier Branch representative numerous times. Pearl was ABS president in 1970-71.

The Board of Directors thanks Elisabeth Sayers for her service to the society. She had been the national membership secretary for the past three years.

Address Labels

The entire set of address labels was redone for this issue. Corrections and changes that we were aware of were made. It is inevitable that some changes will still be required. If your label is incorrect, please contact Pearl Benell with the details. If you are aware of someone who did not receive this issue and should have, please inform them of the new address. Help will be forthcoming when they write to Mrs. Benell.

A substantial savings will be realized as a result of the change in computer label service.

New Program

Another new slide program has been received, "Begonias for Contained Atmospheres." This program has a tape as well as a printed list of the slides to be presented to those who view the program, according to slide library chairman, Dan Haseltine. The program and the printed list were donated to the ABS by Edward and Mildred Thompson.

If your branch would like to show the program, contact Dan Haseltine for scheduling details.

Life Membership Award

Ernest and Metta Thomsen were given a life membership in the ABS by the Santa Barbara in recognition of their services to the branch covering a quarter of a century. Dara Emery, president of Santa Barbara branch, presented the award at the January meeting.

The Thomsens have held branch offices numerous times and have hosted garden tours for the local and national units. Thomsen, a carpenter, has helped to design and construct displays for the Santa Barbara flower shows. Along with their daughter Genie, they have displayed numerous plants throughout the years.

(More on pages 20 and 21)

My Research Project: *Begonia* U014

Mary Weinberg

In May 1982 Kingsley Langenberg brought to the monthly meeting of the Chicago Branch several containers of seedlings as a research project for our members. He urged each member to take home several of the seedlings, grow them in any manner they liked, and report back the results. The seedlings were of three species, *B. cucullata*, *B. evansiana* and *B. U014*.

I chose three plants, two were *B. cucullata* and the third seedling I thought was *B. evansiana* was U014.

All three seedlings were planted outside in a very shady area; no new growth was observed over a four week period. I moved the seedlings to a six inch strip of ground between the sidewalk and fence. This location receives morning sun, and as noon approaches, a tree located eight feet southeast of the planting site gives filtered sun and light shade throughout the day. Soil in my area of Chicago is unlike soil in other areas of the city, as I live five blocks from Lake Michigan and the soil is very sandy.

When *B. U014* was planted at the new site, it had two leaves. It immediately started new growth, developing two stems, each growing in the opposite direction. A side branch developed on each main stem. By September the main stems were ten inches in length, and had developed flower buds very close to the ends of the stem. I potted it in mid-September to bring inside for the winter. It was placed in an eight inch azalea pan, using Millie Thompson's soilless mix recipe. I tried not to disturb the roots when transplanting, so a great deal of the garden soil was also included in the pot.

B. U014 was placed on the floor next to my light garden. This location gets morning sun for an hour or so from an east window, and throughout the day and early evening receives glancing light from the light garden. The temperature during the

winter months was in the low sixties, and the humidity was between 47-54 percent.

B. U014 blooms first opened in October, and continued blooming all winter. It was never without flowers. In April, I made two tip cuttings from the main stems, removing the flowers to help promote root growth. Both cuttings were rooted within three weeks and transferred to a soil mix.

My experience with pollination during the winter months was not successful. No pollen was observed and the male flowers did not open completely. I used flowers from different stages in their blooming cycle, including flowers dropped from the plant. I suspect the climate was not to its liking — possibly more light and warmth is necessary for the plant to produce pollen. *B. U014* was returned to the garden for the summer in order to promote flowering, with the intention of more tries at pollination.

Successful crosses have been made using *U014* as the male parent. In all cases it was crossed with semperflorens cultivars. Hybrids from these crosses are *B. 'Christmas Candy'*, *B. 'Cockatoo'*, and *B. 'Firebird'*. All hybrids retain the nearly everblooming quality and the large orange-red flowers.

From my observances, *B. U014* is a shrub-like plant with four- to five-inch long, grass green, ovate, subentire leaves; stipules are obtuse, chartaceous, hyaline, and tan in color; channeled petioles are arranged alternately along stem; stems, petioles, and leaves are glabrous. Flowers are large, orange-red with white ovaries; staminate flowers have five tepals, and pistillate flowers have two tepals; female flowers have three orange-red bracts loosely veiling the ovaries.

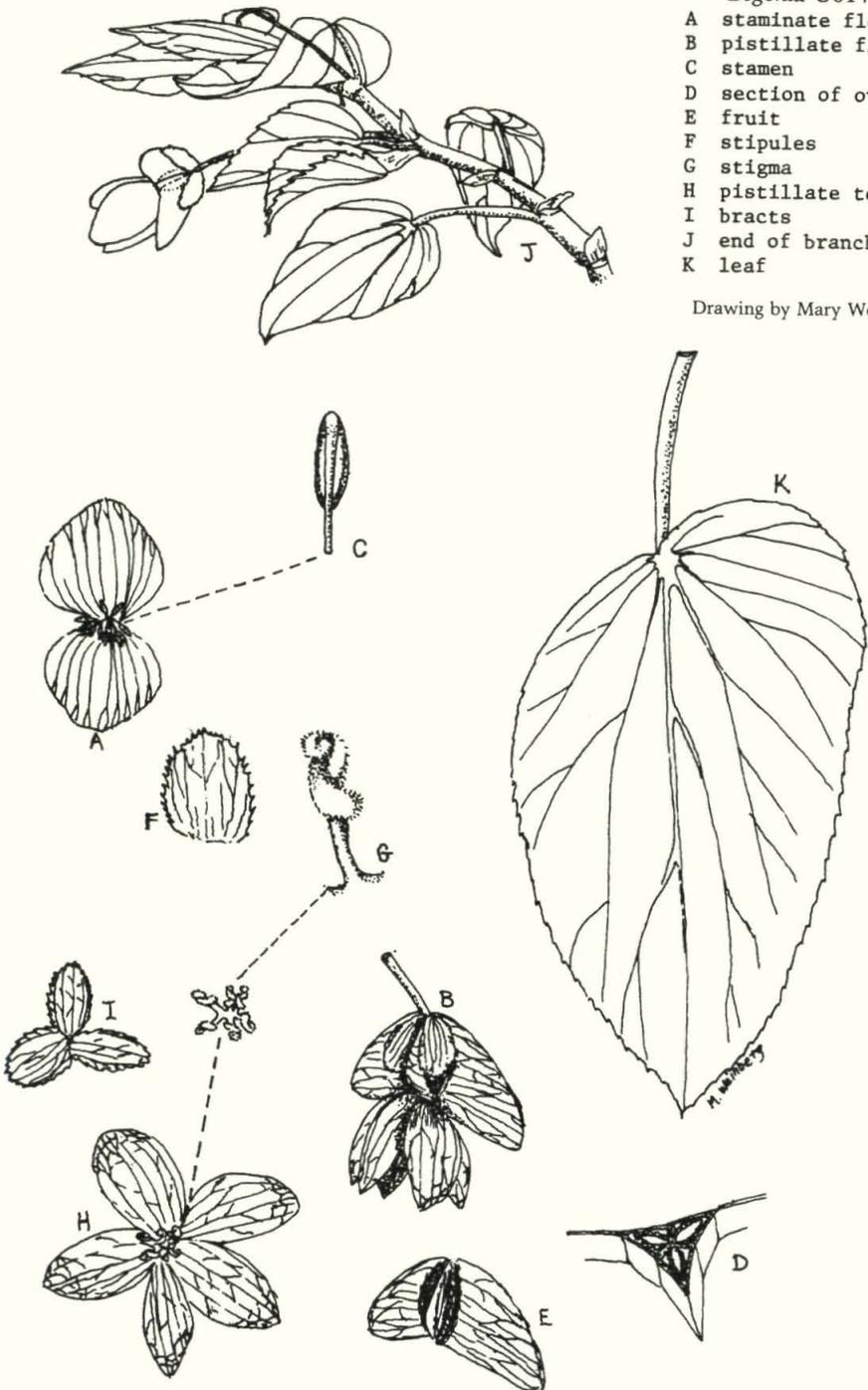
B. U014 is nearly everblooming and has succulent leaves that appear to be mildew resistant, both desirable characteristics.

B. U014 was first discovered in Ecuador in 1979 and imported that same year by Tom Mentelos and Fred Fuchs.

Begonia U014

- A staminate flower
- B pistillate flower
- C stamen
- D section of ovary
- E fruit
- F stipules
- G stigma
- H pistillate tepals
- I bracts
- J end of branch
- K leaf

Drawing by Mary Weinberg



Mary Weinberg of 1527 W. Highland Ave., Chicago, IL 60660 is president of the Chicago Branch. She is chairman of the

research robin.

This report appeared in the Chicago Begonian, the branch newsletter.

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Starting From Tubers

Howard Siebold

Tubers are offered by mail order houses and by local garden shops. When buying locally, you can usually select the tubers that you want. Avoid any that are soft or spongy and any that have sprouts more than an inch long. If small pink or white buds are showing, sprouting is fairly certain. Tuber size is not very important. A diameter of 1½ to 3 inches is good. Handle carefully any with buds or sprouts. They are easily damaged.

The beginner should start out with less expensive tubers. These would be tubers from Belgium or our West Coast. Wait to try the "named varieties" after a few years of experience.

Store tubers with buds or sprouts in a cool place (40° to 50°F.). Store those not showing buds at 65° to 72°F. until buds show. Keep tubers cool until the proper time for starting in your area. If you have greenhouse facilities, you may start them as early as March. If not, wait until about six weeks before the night time outdoor temperature will be above 50° to 55°F. For most of the country, that is after June 1st so mid-April is about the average date for starting.

They may be started in flats or in individual pots. Regular flats are good since 3 or 4 inches of starting mix is enough. If flats are used, space the tubers 6 or 8 inches apart and cover with ½ inch of starting mix which can be premoistened. The easy way to moisten the mix is to put it in a plastic bag with some water. Press out most of the air and tie the bag closed. Knead the mix for a few minutes or let it stand overnight. Keep the mix in the flats moist but not soggy.

Success with tuberous begonias depends

Howard Siebold of 32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437, has been growing tuberous begonias for more than 50 years, on the West Coast as well as near New York City and Chicago.

on a large root system. A damp mix with little food encourages root development.

These begonias do best when the mix is made with milled sphagnum moss. Use three parts of milled sphagnum moss to two parts of medium or coarse Vermiculite with one part of Perlite. Add one-half cup of dolomite lime for each bushel of mix. Turn the pile over on itself five times to mix well. A close approximation is Sphagna Mix available in some areas. If milled sphagnum moss is not available, substitute german peat moss or sphagnum peat moss (coarse ground).

The tubers are placed in the mix with the concave side up. This would be the side with buds and showing the scar of last year's stem.

The temperature range for starting tubers is 60° to 70°F. Since light is not necessary at this stage, a basement floor may give the proper temperature. When a basement is kept at 72°F, the floor will likely be a few degrees cooler. If the temperature in the flats or pots is below 60° when on the floor, they may be raised up to a platform or table. A temperature lower than 60° will slow down the development of sprouts and roots, while above 70° the development may be too rapid. This could result in plants ready to set outside long before the weather conditions are suitable.

Temperature is an important factor in all phases of growing tuberous begonias. Keep a thermometer handy to check temperatures at crucial stages. Pet supply stores carry glass encased thermometers for fish tanks that are adequate and not expensive. Select one that reads down to 30°.

When the sprouts are an inch or two high, move to a well lighted location to prevent spindly stems. These begonias do not do well under fluorescent lights alone. Daylight is also required. If the light is coming from one side, turn the pot or flat daily to avoid crooked stems. They will lean toward the light.



This brilliant red double flowered pendula type tuberhybrida is called B. 'Pom Pom.' It was photographed by H. Siebold at his garden in Fort Bragg.

There is considerable variation in the growth rate of sprouted tubers. Some plants will be four inches high, ready for potting outside in beds long before others are ready. The rate of growth can be controlled by raising or lowering the temperature as mentioned above. The goal should be to have plants four or five inches high by the time that the nighttime temperature outdoors is consistently 55° or over.

About two weeks before moving them outside, they can be planted in their first pots unless they are to go directly into beds outside. The potting mix is the same as the starting mix except with fertilizer added — a slow release fertilizer such as MagAmp or Osmocote and some sewage sludge.

For potting, use 6 inch or 8 inch azalea pots depending on the size of the root system. Plunge the finished pot into a bucket of half strength soluble fertilizer formulated for soilless mixes — such as Plantex 15-15-18. The pot should drain

quickly. If it does not, repot and try again.

When planting in outside beds, mix plenty of peat moss and sand with the regular soil. Mix a handful of MagAmp and one of sewage sludge in the hole for each tuber and water in with half strength soluble fertilizer. The roots are very fragile so handle with care.

In either case the started tubers should be hardened off before moving outside permanently. Move them outside to a shaded spot for an hour the first day and increase the time each day for about ten days. The final location of the pots or the beds should have partial shade at mid-day with early morning and late afternoon sun permissible.

When planting in beds, remember that the flowers will always face in the direction that the leaves point. If the plant has two stems with leaves pointing in two directions, the flowers will face in two directions.

Blackmore and Langdon: Their Exceptional Tuberhybrida

Joy Porter

The greenhouses of Blackmore and Langdon, Ltd., nestled amid rolling green hills dotted with white sheep, were still vibrant with color although it was mid-October when I visited. I was met by John P. Smith, who has been with the firm more than 22 years, and it was through him that I had the opportunity to learn something of the past and the present of these innovative growers.

According to Mr. Smith, the operation was completely redesigned eight years ago when the facilities were moved from Bath to Pensford, south of Bristol, England. This redesign was made to combat eelworms (leaf nematodes) which travel in droplets of water; therefore, all overhead watering was eliminated and metal trays instead hold water at a preset level. Tubers, cuttings and seedlings are individually potted in a soilless mix, and are placed in the trays which are flooded until the plants are uniformly moist. The water is then drained into a holding tank and is heat-sterilized before it is used again. Feeding is done through the watering system.

Tubers are started into growth in January and cuttings are taken in March. These cuttings will provide the tubers of named hybrids to be sold the following spring. Seed from the previous season is sown in January. As they come into bloom, the outstanding seedlings are segregated in a special house according to color. These are used as pollen-bearers for the named cultivars. This practice maintains vigor and provides the basis for new cultivars, and proof of Blackmore and Langdon's care in hybridizing was apparent from the book, thick with years of recorded crosses, which Mr. Smith held in his hands.

In addition to the large three-acre greenhouse, I saw three plastic-covered Quonset-type houses filled with seedlings (some with eight-inch flowers) and six fifty-foot cold frames where I was drawn like a magnet by a large section of seedlings

with velvety dark-crimson flowers whose common parent was the outstanding 'Zulu.' As Seed Fund Director, I was delighted to hear Mr. Smith state emphatically, "Properly-grown seedlings will have flowers as large as tuber-grown plants." Besides their work on standards, a program to increase size and contour of pendula types is well underway. For instance, *B. 'Bridal Cascade'* has a pristine white ground with pink picotee in a well-doubled form.

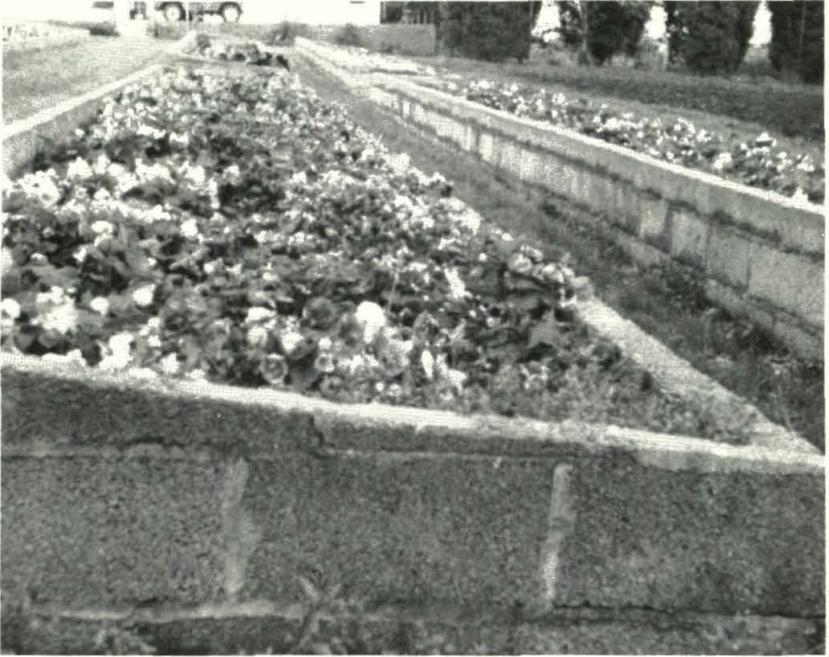
Regardless of the manner of propagation, toward the end of the growing season, the large double male flowers become smaller as the inner petals are replaced with pollen-bearing anthers. The pollen is brushed on the pistils of the female flowers, and when the pods are dry, they are harvested and cleaned by blowing away the chaff. Matured tubers are washed thoroughly and dried in bins over hot-water pipes and stored dry at 48°F.

At this time, the cycle is complete and hopeful growers are mailing in their seed and tuber orders with anticipation of a rewarding new season with these beautiful and diverse Tuberhybrida.

As an aside, this season's disappointment was a bench of perhaps 150 tissue-cultured plants¹ of their beautiful *B. 'Can-Can'* (pictured on page 96, *The Begonian* July-August 1983), a ruffled yellow with scarlet picotee. The young plants were just showing color — a solid orange-salmon without picotee. If a beneficial virus has caused the picotee, the process of tissue culture had eliminated it!

Given my experiences at Blackmore and Langdon, I feel assured that future generations of Tuberhybrida will continue to improve in both vigor and beauty.

1. Although *Begonia* tissue culture is still in its infancy, Fionnula Morrish of University College, Cork, Ireland (whom you will be hearing from in a later issue) is engaged full-time in tissue-culture study.



The indoor and outdoor growing beds of tuberhybrida cultivars at Blackmore and Langdon. Photo by Joy Porter.

SEED FUND/ A few tuberous plus other unusual species

Joy Porter, director, Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

- J-F 1—*B. sandtii* Ziesenhenné, *Begonian* 36: 184, 186: A Mexican summer-flowering tuberous species to 2 feet with green, soft-hairy, lobed, six-inch leaves and small orange-scarlet flowers. The small bulbils, which are produced in the leaf axils, should be planted the same as seed (not covered). 6-10 bulbils per pkt 1.00
- J-F 2—*B. picta*: An Indian tuberous species needing terrarium culture. Some seedlings will have green leaves while others will be variegated with maroon outlining the veins — truly beautiful. Large pale-rose flowers will appear within six months if the plants are not subjected to drastic temperature changes. One pkt. per customer per pkt 1.00
- J-F 3—*B. micranthera* variety *venturii* is a tall tuberous summer-flowering species with green leaves and large orange-red flowers with elongated tepals. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 4—*B. echinosepala*: This small-leaved shrub-like species is perfect for baskets and its medium-size white flowers, with white hairs on tepal reverse, are fragrant. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 5—*B. polygonoides*: This trailing-scandent species from tropical Africa has small dark-green leaves and tiny white flowers held close to the stem. Females have wingless ovaries. One pkt. per customer. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 6—*B. macdougallii* det. Ziesenhenné: Rhizomatous species with compound leaves and large panicles of small, greenish-white flowers in spring. Can be very large when planted in the open. Pot culture restrains the size. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 7—*B. acutifolia* syn. *acuminata*: Small-leaved everblooming shrub-like species which is excellent for baskets. Profuse white flowers with pink tint. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 8—*B. carrieae*: Lovely rhizomatous species with large pea-green, lobed leaves covered with white hairs. Large white flowers in early spring. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 9—*B. rhopalocarpa*: Trailing-scandent species from tropical Africa with long, dark-green leaves. The unusual fusiform ovary of the female flower is pictured on the cover of the April 1980 *Begonian*. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 10—*B. bradei*: Shrub-like, hairy-leaved species from Brazil with white flowers. The olive-green leaf has a ruby-red, soft-hairy underside. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 11—I have fresh seed of the following: *B. ampla*, *B. nelumbiifolia*, *engleri*, and *wollnyi*; all of these have been described in the 1983 Seed Fund listings. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 12—*B. grandis* sub-species *evansiana*: Not only is this tuberous species hardy (with protection), but the beautiful pink flowers are fragrant as well. A white-flowered variety is also available. per pkt .50
- J-F 13—*B. U025*: Philippine species with upright rhizome, medium-size ovate green leaves and medium-size white flowers. per pkt 1.00
- J-F 14—*B. U031*: A large cane-like species from Brazil with white flowers. One pkt. per customer. per pkt 1.00
- “Growing from Seed” pamphlet25

New Rules for Shipment of Seeds

Because of newly-installed machines, Post Office regulations now require 29¢ for letters ¼” thick and over because these oversized letters must be sorted by hand. I have found that seeds mailed without padding will not germinate because they have been crushed by the new sorting machines, and it is still possible, even with padding and 29¢ postage, for letters to be put through these machines.

Many of the varieties listed are rare and difficult to obtain, and I can no longer waste good seeds, your money, and my time by mailing in envelopes. Since I have kept seed prices to pre-inflation levels, I feel justified in refusing to fill orders unless they include 40¢ over the price of seed. This 40¢ allows for both postage and special padded package (which cannot be run through automatic machines).

If ordering more than 12 seed packets, please add 50¢ total over the price of seed, not 90¢, as some have done.

Postage for Canadian and Mexican orders are the same as for U.S. orders. Foreign orders require \$1.20, and payment must be in U.S. funds only. All checks and money orders should be made payable to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund (not Joy Porter or American Begonia Society). Send orders to: Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund, Joy Porter, 9 Bayberry Lane, Framingham, MA 01701.

Begonia 'Edith M.'

Don Horton

In the early 1950s I embarked on a flurry of begonia hybridization. I was not alone. To help bring order out of this proliferating chaos, in 1953 the American Begonia Society instituted a program of registering begonia hybrids.

My first registered hybrid 'Edith M.' was just the 16th begonia on the list. And even though I received the Alfred D. Robinson Medal for another hybrid, 'Kumwha', 'Edith M.' is the most popular begonia I ever produced. *B. 'Edith M.'* is special to me, too, for I named it after my grandmother.

Edith McLean was the first person to reveal to me that there was such an organization as the American Begonia Society. The oldest *Begonians* on my book shelf were hers—although for some mysterious reason her name was spelled McClain.

Under present rules of nomenclature I could not name the begonia "Edith M!" Such initials are not permitted. It would be 'Edith McLean'. Sometimes I regret not having named it thus at the time. I don't really remember why I just used the "M" at the time. It could have been that I thought the name flowed better. Maybe I was just

embarrassed—or cautious—since I didn't know if the begonia would go anywhere.

'Edith M'—the begonia not the person—is a hybrid between *bowerae* (the seed parent) and 'Reichenheimi'. *B. bowerae* hadn't been in commerce very long and because of its eyelash markings and small size was used extensively in hybridization. It still is, or at least its hybrids are.

B. 'Reichenheimii' is a larger plant. It was a favorite of mine for hybridizing because it was an excellent bloomer and very fertile. *B. 'Kumwha'* was a cross of 'Reichenheimii' on *kenworthyae*. 'Reichenheimii' is an old hybrid having been developed in Europe in 1897. Its parents were 'Fuscomaculata' and *heracleifolia*. Rudy Ziesenhenné tells me that he got the seed from Europe and introduced the best. This would have the American 'Reichenheimii' not the same as the European. Seed of a hybrid does not come true. This seems almost academic now since no one, including Rudy, seems to have *B. 'Reichenheimii'* anymore.

Edith M—the person not the begonia—isn't with us anymore. She was in her late eighties when she died a few years ago. She died peacefully in her sleep with her Burmese cat, Burma, on her chest.

So maybe the next time you see an 'Edith M.' you won't say, there's just another *bowerae* hybrid, and perhaps wonder what the 'M' stands for, but think instead of a woman who loved her plants, loved her cat, and, most of all, loved her grandson.

Don Horton grows begonias in the Sacramento area, and his account appeared in the branch newsletter.

Begonia komoensis

Mildred L. Thompson

In September 1981, I received seeds of *B. komoensis* from Dr. J. Doorenbos of the Wageningen University in the Netherlands. To my knowledge *B. komoensis* had not been in cultivation in this country before September 1981. Dr. Doorenbos commented that the growth habit of this species is similar to *B. mannii* and *B. polygonoides*. Since I am fascinated with both of these interesting species from West Africa, I felt great excitement and anticipation while I waited and watched each day for the seeds to germinate. When the seedlings appeared, I hovered over them to be certain nothing would prevent them from developing into plants. I was anxious to grow this species and to study it as well as to disseminate it to other growers who are studying and enjoying African species. In the meantime, I gathered as much information as I could about our newly acquired rare species.

Dr. Doorenbos wrote that the form of *B. komoensis* that he sent to me was collected in Gabon in 1978 by Dr. Breteler and Dr. de Wilde; at the time, however, they did not realize they had collected it. They had actually collected a specimen of *B. squamulosa*, and it was not until this was growing in the greenhouse that Dr. Doorenbos noticed a divergent shoot, which was determined to be *B. komoensis* — a wonderful accidental discovery!

Since that time it has been imported several times from Gabon to the Wageningen University, and, as a result, horticulturists there are now growing several different types. However, Dr. Doorenbos thinks that "the accidental import is still the most beautiful and most distinct."

In 1921, Dr. Edgar Irmscher named and described this species in "Begoniaceae Africanae III" in *Botanische Jahrbucher* 57,

Mildred Thompson's address is P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968.

No. 1, page 242. *B. komoensis* is botanically classified in the section *Tetraphila*. The type in Dr. Irmscher's description was collected by Auguste Chevalier on October 6, 1912 on the summit of Komo, Agonenzorck in Gabon; thus its name *B. komoensis*.

In the same work Dr. Irmscher described and named the spectacular yellow-flowering *B. triflora*, another recent introduction into United States through the generosity of Dr. Doorenbos. The type of this species was also collected first by Aug. Chevalier on the summit of Komo, Gabon just a few days after he found *B. komoensis*.

B. komoensis has branched trailing/climbing stems that are woody and have a light reddish-brown felt-like surface. The internodes are 1-2 inches in length. The persistent stipules are lanceolate. The red petioles have reddish-brown hairs, and are, in most cases, less than ½" in length. The medium green leaves are lance-shaped and are pinnately veined. The undersurface of the leaf is a lighter green with hairs along the raised main vein and scattered hairs on the remainder of the surface. The main vein is red, and there is a fine red edge along the leaf margin.

Inflorescences are axillary and are unisexual; the male inflorescence has up to seven flowers, whereas the female inflorescence has three flowers. The peduncles are about one inch in length and are covered with short hairs. The male flower has four tepals, two elliptical, with the two inner tepals more narrow. The stamens form a conical cluster and are fused at the base. The female flowers have four tepals, two elliptical and two linear in shape. The male and female flowers are a dark rose-pink and have a much lighter pink border on all the tepals. There are three linear unbranched styles that are fused at the base. The ovaries are fusiform and are covered with short reddish-brown hairs.



B. komoensis Irmscher

B. komoensis is a fascinating plant that grows handsomely in a hanging container. The stems tend to grow horizontally before they trail — the growth is sprawling.

B. komoensis seems to require temperatures of 62 degrees or higher year round and humidity of about 60-65%. If it is placed in a temperature lower than 60-62 degrees, it seems to stop growing and to go into a semidormant period. It does best when grown in lightly filtered sunlight in winter with a little more filtering of the sunlight in summer. Of course, in geographical areas where the sun's rays are very intense, filtering should be adjusted accordingly. Regular spraying to prevent insects and disease infestation is recommended. Regular fertilizing is necessary.

As with all epiphytic begonias, I have found it prudent to repot only when the root system fills the soil ball quite densely (almost to the root-bound stage). Then I will repot in a container that is only one size larger. I prefer to grow this species in a

moss-lined wire container starting with one that is only 3-4 inches in diameter. I use our regular potting mix.

To insure that *B. komoensis* has somewhat compact growth, it is best to continue pinching back to induce branching along the stems. Save the pinched branch ends that have three nodes or more and propagate them, so that you can pass this newly introduced species to other begonia enthusiasts. This rare treasure is a delightful challenge that is not too demanding if you can provide adequate humidity and temperature in your growing area.

I am deeply grateful to Dr. Doorenbos for first sharing seeds of *B. komoensis* with me and also for the information that he gave me concerning this species. I have tried to disseminate this species to as many begonia enthusiasts as possible, and I will continue to do so.

*photos by Ed and Millie Thompson
All rights reserved.*

This One's for You

Pat Maley

This article is about judging begonias. WAIT! Don't turn the page, thinking to yourself "Oh, I don't know anything about judging begonias. This is for judges."

This is for YOU . . . if you've ever gone to a begonia show and wondered why little begonia "X" received a blue ribbon, and that big gorgeous begonia "Z" only received a red ribbon . . . if you've ever entered a plant in a show, and wondered just why those judges judged as they did.

My purpose is to de-mystify judging; to help you understand what the judges look for, so that as a viewer you will have more appreciation of the plants, and so that as an exhibitor you will be able to compete better.

First let's look at the structure of a begonia show, the system of show classification which divides those many and varied begonias into similar groups for judging and viewing. The begonias are put into divisions according to basic type, cane-like, shrub-like, thick-stemmed, semper-florens, rhizomatous, rex, tuberous, and trailing-scandent. Each division is further broken down into classes, according to leaf size, leaf type, height, growth habit, or other distinctive characteristic. As an example, the shrub-like division is usually divided into classes as follows:

DIVISION B - SHRUB-LIKE

Bare leaved

6. Large leaved (over 6") as *B. 'Braemar'*, *B. 'Jack Golding'*
7. Medium leaved (4 to 6") as *B. 'Dancing Girl'*, *B. 'Thurstonii'*
8. Small leaved (under 4") as *B. 'Richmondensis'*, *B. foliosa*
9. Small leaved, everblooming as *B. 'Preussen'*, *B. 'Catalina'*

Hairy leaved

10. Wide leaved (over 3") as *B. 'Alto Scharff'*, *B. 'Paulana'*
11. Narrow leaved (under 3") as *B. 'Ginny'*, *B. bradei*
12. Felted leaved as *B. peltata*, *B. 'San Miguel'*

To list each of the divisions and classes in a national show would be too space consuming. However, you should have

received, or will soon, your 1984 Convention packet, containing the 1984 Show Schedule, which you can refer to. Most shows also contain other divisions besides the basic ones, such as species, hanging containers, novel grown, contained atmosphere and more.

Let's get down to the judging. The basic tool used in judging is a system of evaluation, the ABS Point Scoring System. The idea is to start with a perfect plant in one's mind, compare the exhibited plant with that standard of perfection, and deduct points as necessary where the plant exhibited does not measure up. The perfect plant is given 100 points.

Canes, shrubs, thick-stem, rhizomatous, rex, trailing-scandent, and tuberous (other than tuberhybrida and Rieger) are judged by the same basic point scoring breakdown.

A. Cultural perfection	40
B. Foliage	30
C. Quantity of flowers	10
D. Quality of flowers	10
E. Difficulty of cultivation	10
	<hr/>
	100

All well and good, you say, but what do these categories mean? Each category must be clearly defined so that we are all using the same standards. Each is broken down into very specific aspects. (See chart at right.)

This does not mean that one holey or brown edged leaf is going to cost you the whole number of points under that category in foliage. Points are deducted for the total imperfect leaves under each item, *in proportion* to the total number of leaves on the plant.

That is the basic system used. Now let's look at what usually happens when a show is judged. A judging team generally consists of three judges and the appropriate clerks to handle paperwork and ribbons. Less experienced judges are generally paired with senior judges, so that they might gain more knowledge. All judges, however, are expected to state their own views, and listen considerately to the views of the other judges. One judge may

A. Cultural perfection	40
1. Shape of plant	8
2. Plant fullness	8
3. Plant size	4
4. Plant vigor	4
5. Free from pests	4
6. Proper container	4
7. Clean container	4
8. Plant staking	4
B. Foliage	30
1. Holes	6
2. Healthy color	3
3. Substance	3
4. Quantity	3
5. Mildewed	3
6. Old, yellowed	3
7. Dried, brown-edged	3
8. Wilted	3
9. Dirty, dusty	3
C. Quantity of flowers	10
1. Superabundance	10
2. Well covered	8
3. Average	5
4. Below average	4
Few begonias are everblooming. If an off season for bloom, no points should be deducted.	
D. Quality of flowers	10
1. Size	2
2. Color	2
3. Lack of blemishes	2
4. Substance of petals	2
5. Freedom from old flowers & stems	2
E. Difficulty of Cultivation	10
1. Very difficult to grow	10
2. Hard to grow	7
3. Medium difficult to grow	5
4. Easy to grow	3
This item should be considered <i>only</i> if a plant difficult to grow is in close competition with others whose vigorous growth habits are well known.	

be more familiar with the growing habits of a particular plant. Another may notice an asset or defect others failed to consider. The first "screening" of a class is done with a discerning eye, using a quick mental process of elimination to determine the top contenders.

Not all plants are point scored; only those in competition for the top awards in each class. A blue, a red, and a white

ribbon is awarded in each class, but *only* if merited. In some classes no ribbons may be merited. Blue ribbon winners in each class are then point scored to determine the division trophy winner. Once all divisions are judged, division winners are point scored to determine Best of Show.

That is the basic procedure, but let's back up a minute. Take another look at the point scoring breakdown. Now take a close, careful look at the plant you are viewing or entering. Add up the points that can be lost due to old leaves, brown edges, holes, dust, old flowers, or a dirty container. *That* is what those judges are looking at... and *that* is what makes one plant a blue ribbon winner and another just a well-grown also-ran. Most anyone can, with a little effort, grow a decent begonia. You water it, pinch it, feed it and turn it. But that is not enough. The deciding factor, the one comment written most often on the back of entry tags, is GROOMING. Grooming has to be a continual part of the growing process, all year round. Then when the plants are being entered in a show, do a final grooming check. Look at the plant from all angles, look up from underneath, look at the soil and the pot. You had better, because the judges will.

I said I wanted to de-mystify judging. The real point is, there is no mystery. It all comes down to the basics of growing, and to that one factor we stress again and again... GROOMING. Ask that dear lady who wins trophy after trophy and she'll tell you the same thing... GROOMING. There is no secret, no mystery.

Now, at the next show you attend, stop and take a close look at the plants... the winners and the others also. I'll bet you can see what makes the difference now, and have much more appreciation for a really fine specimen show plant.

Better yet, *enter* the next show, whether local, regional, or national. You have as much opportunity as anyone to bring home awards, for you know what those judges are looking for. You might volunteer to be a clerk on a judging team. It requires no special knowledge, and is a great learning experience. Perhaps you will find that it is so exciting and interesting that you'll decide to become an ABS judge yourself!

Joan Campbell, director

The **round robin flights** are one of the privileges of ABS membership. A robin flight is a group of letters which go from member to member. The correspondence is not for persons seeking pen pals, but rather for those who grow and love begonias, so they may seek and share cultural information.

Is it for you? Yes, if you need advice about growing begonias or feel your experience can help others. A good flight moves swiftly because the members learn from it and are anxious to communicate again and again with the other members. Some flight members willingly offer or trade begonia cuttings, seeds, or fern spore. Others may enclose photos of their plants with the flight, or small samples of potting mix with which they experiment.

Many flight topics are available and suggestions for others are welcomed. For example, in recent times we have had approximately 40 Australian members and that many more Canadian members. We could easily start a flight for "All Australian" with just six or eight requests (or "All Canadian", or "All New York", etc.).

Comparing notes on the **species flights**, Joyce Smith, South Carolina, comments that *B. U074* is interesting to grow. It does not seem too delicate, and she thinks it may be a plant with possibilities. She felt that *B. bogneri* grown in a terrarium did not take last summer's heat well.

Ruth Wills, Oklahoma, has had no problems with *B. rajah*. It blooms almost continuously and she says the secret is to keep it pinched out to allow the blooms to come through. She propagates it easily from leaves.

Susan Johnston, Oklahoma, had *B. kenworthyae* on her back porch in a window

Information about joining a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—is available from Joan Campbell, round robin director. Write to her at 814 NE Honey House Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828.

and even with the help of a small grow light the plant sulked and refused to do anything. She finally repotted it into a clay pot and put it under lights in her basement and within two weeks it had sprouted four new leaves. Susan thinks it needed the additional humidity there.

Mabel Corwin, California, found that the seed pods rotted and dropped on her first attempt to set seed on *B. ampla*. Mabel felt she may have left them on too long. Now, when the pod turns orange and looks ripe, she will pick it and remove the outer shell and let the inside dry 'til the seeds come free. Mabel comments that *B. versicolor* grows best for her in a glass bowl with a glass lid, in other words, closed tightly.

Mabel had a start of *B. prismatocarpa* 'Variegation' for more than a year. It didn't grow or bloom and she couldn't understand why anyone would get excited about it. She decided it wasn't worth the room she was giving it, but she took some cuttings and put them in her propagation box and to her surprise they started to grow with the variegation showing and bloomed when very small. She easily had two small bowls filled with blooming plantlets and she doesn't understand why the plant would not grow, although she's seen plants behave like this before. They seem to sulk and never do a thing, then in a year or two they start to grow and make beautiful plants.

Dan Haseltine, Illinois, got *B. prismatocarpa* to bloom by changing the daylength and using a 10-15-10 plant fertilizer.

Discussing **terrariums**, Beryl Orchard, Massachusetts, notes when plants go downhill in her terrarium she knows it is time to empty it, sterilize the inside and renew the perlite and moss, and then to trim the plants or start with new ones.

Lorraine Simmons, Wisconsin, asks those using sphagnum moss to notice if the moss decomposes more rapidly in a terrarium when it is very moist. She thinks that it does. Lorraine says some growers use charcoal and/or gravel at the base and

place the center of the moss higher so that the plant also sits a bit higher. This way the moss stays wettest at the edge, the center then soaks it up to the plant as needed, and the plant may not be as likely to rot in a terrarium.

Elaine Ayers, Ohio, also feels that wet sphagnum moss in terrariums does deteriorate quickly and that four months is probably the maximum length of time it will last.

Joyce Smith, South Carolina, thinks when using a soilless mix in a terrarium it should be fertilized with each watering, then about once a month plain water used to flush the soil. She comments that terrariums shouldn't be fertilized often if you want the plants to stay small. She sterilizes her sphagnum moss by soaking it well, and places it in a covered container in the microwave oven 'til it is steaming hot.

Joyce is giving up soilless mixes since she feels the necessity of fertilizing regularly is a problem. It was pointed out to her some years ago that soilless mixes couldn't utilize some or all of the nutrients from fish emulsion and other similar fertilizers. Nurseries do well with soilless mixes, but for home conditions she thinks some soil incorporated into the mix is desirable, even with rex begonias. Joyce feels fine, powdery perlite packs too tightly around cuttings and contributes to rot.

David Atkinson, Arkansas, has also heard that using organic fertilizers with a soilless mix is not recommended, specifically he thinks that fish emulsion caused adverse effects. If perlite (Sponge Rok) makes you cough when measuring it and blending it into potting mixes, Glennis Crouch, Texas, reminds us to water the perlite and peat moss too, before use. These ingredients should be moistened first as they are hard to moisten after mixing.

Comparing results on **growing from seed**, Joan Hill, England, thinks if she gets three really good strong plants from seedlings she should be pleased. She has a friend who thinks she is mad to put so many seedlings in the trash; nevertheless,

if they are not good enough for Joan, out they go, she wouldn't think of giving them away.

Ruth Thibodeaux, Louisiana, reports she has closed her commercial greenhouse "Springtime Gardens" because she has married and will move to Texas. Her robin friends hope someday she will resume her begonia growing.

Thelma Crawford, Kansas, thinks **semperflorens** are prone to rot and that double blossom semperflorens are the worst of all. They don't like wet feet and sometimes she feels nothing you try will please them. She grows in a soilless mix and restarts plants often.

Pauline Chambers, Florida, regrets that the old-fashioned double blossom semp *B. 'Aloha'* developed by Park Seed Co. seems to have disappeared from cultivation. The plant offered by commercial growers today has salmon or coral blossoms, whereas the true *B. 'Aloha'* had very solid, unmistakably orange blooms, and she hopes somewhere someone is still growing the original plant.

Discussing **general culture**, Ruth Paslay, Utah, advises that phosphorus deficiency will cause plant leaves to turn purple, yellow, or red. She has found this several times on plants in the greenhouse which have been left in vermiculite too long. They had no nutrients. Phosphorus won't correct damaged leaves, but the new ones will be all right, she says.

Give the round robin director a present by taking time to re-read the flight cover sheets very carefully in 1984!

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QUESTION BOX/ Help with propagation techniques

Mabel Corwin

Question: As a beginner in growing begonias I would like to learn how to propagate them in order to increase my collection. Although I have successfully grown other plants by cuttings, I have not been successful when trying begonias. Could you please give me some tips on growing them from stem and leaf cuttings? What is the best method for propagating semperflorens?

Answer: Most begonias are easily grown from cuttings or leaves. Cane and shrub-like are usually started from tip cuttings, rhizomatous and rex are started from leaves, and semperflorens from base cuttings.

Using a large plastic sweater box with a clear plastic lid is an almost foolproof way to propagate. I like to use 1 part perlite and 1 part vermiculite for my propagating medium. Some milled sphagnum moss can be added if you have it, but it isn't essential. Mix together and moisten. Put 2 to 3 inches in the bottom of the box and press firmly. Insert the cuttings and press the mix around the stem to make good contact. This should be watered just enough to moisten. If it is too wet the cuttings may rot. Place the lid on the box and put in medium light. Most cuttings will be rooted in 2 to 4 weeks. Pull gently and if it resists it is rooted.

I always remove any blossoms and some of the leaf growth when making a cutting. I like to have 1 or 2 nodes in the mix and 2 or 3 nodes above. The length of the cutting will depend upon how far apart the leaf nodes are on that particular plant. Usually a short cutting is preferable.

I use the same kind of container and mix for leaves as I do for tip cuttings. I cut a stem 1 to 2 inches long and gently rub off the hairs. I cut most of the leaf away, leaving a circle of leaf on the stem. The stem is inserted into the mix. The roots form on the bottom of the stem, and then little plantlets start to grow from the same area. The rest of

the leaf can be cut into wedges and planted if you want a lot of plants. Each wedge should have a strong vein as that is where the roots will form.

Don't be in a hurry to pot these up. It is best to wait until you have a strong clump of plantlets that are well rooted. I always pot the whole clump together the first time. Later they can be separated into individual plants, or left as they are for a fuller plant.

Many growers have difficulty when they pot up their rooted cuttings. I always put the plants in another plastic box, giving them the same conditions as the rooting box. Let them grow this way until they are well established, then gradually open the box just a little at a time. I have very few losses when I use this method.

Semperflorens cuttings are handled a little differently. You need to use base cuttings. This is growth from the base of the plant at soil level. The cuttings should have growth buds on the stems. Tip cuttings that have bloomed will root, but will never branch because there are no growth buds. Sometimes you can just gently divide the plant instead of making cuttings.

Question: I am very confused about what pesticides and fungicides are safe for rexes and the tender begonias. Last summer I had trouble with any pesticide that I used burning the leaves. Do you think it is because of the hot weather? I grew most of them in contained atmosphere because of the dry climate here. They were fine until I sprayed them. Some rexes have revived and some haven't. I used a houseplant spray. Can you tell me if Ortho Funginex is safe for begonias? Is Malathion safe? Should these only be used in cooler temperatures?

When I joined the ABS this spring I ordered a lot of the old issues of *The Begonian* and I have been studying them. In some of them I was reading about some growers using Lysol spray and epsom salts to prevent fungus and mildew. Is this really safe on all types of begonias? I have spent so much money on some of these little plants that I don't want to harm them. The only

Send questions about begonia growing to Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92083. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope; you'll get a prompt reply.

pests that I have had are springtails. I haven't had any mildew yet, but I want to be prepared in case I do.

Answer: Have you actually had mildew on your rexes, or are you just anxious to prevent it? If the plants are clean, and you use a good sterile potting mix you should never have to spray plants grown in a closed container. Spraying in a closed atmosphere usually results in burn, especially if you have high temperatures. You should be able to relax and enjoy your plants grown this way, since they require little care.

In many parts of the country mildew has become a big problem. If you are in a dry climate you may not have mildew at all. High humidity and cool temperatures cause it to spread very quickly if the spores are on the plants. Good air circulation is very helpful in preventing its growth. A small fan in the plant room can keep the air moving enough to control mildew.

My begonias are grown in a cool shade-house. I use Funginex to control mildew. It is perfectly safe for begonias. Doo Spray is also safe for begonias and is good mildew control. I have not used Malathion, but I think it would be safe. I always spray early in the morning when the air is cool.

I would be very reluctant to use any of these sprays indoors, and especially in closed containers. If you have mildew on house plants I think spraying around the room once or twice a day with Lysol helps kill any spores in the air. I'm not sure epsom

salts would be helpful.

Springtails apparently aren't very harmful as they seem to live on decaying matter in the soil. In *The African Violet Book* Helen Van Pelt Wilson recommends a lindane soil drench. She says to use one quarter teaspoon to one gallon water. Drench soil twice at 7 to 10 day intervals.

You are wise to be concerned about protecting your begonias. However, if you are purchasing small plants from commercial sources they are probably free of pests. I suggest you check the plants frequently and don't worry about spraying unless you actually find pests or mildew.

Question: What kind of rhizome does *B. U003* (Burle Marx begonia) have? Is it upright or horizontal? An upright rhizome is my least favorite type. It is so hard to keep them shaped.

Answer: *B. U003* is now classified as shrub-like, low, compact. It actually has a stem, not a rhizome. It spreads, but does not grow upright at all. Mine is in a 14 inch shallow tub and is already going over the sides of the tub. It is very easy to grow if you can give it the conditions that it likes. It must have low light and high humidity to bring out the beautiful colors of the leaves. I grow mine in the greenhouse on the north bench where it gets additional shade from some larger plants. I'm sure you will enjoy it. There is no problem at all with staking or shaping. It just "does its thing" and makes a beautiful plant.



Photo by R. Das

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IN MEMORIAM

Florence Carrell

Florence Carrell, long active in the ABS, died in August just before the Convention. She was Seed Fund administrator from 1946 until 1952. When she began seed supplies were short. ABS members would join the Seed Fund for \$2.00 and would receive a share of whatever seeds she was able to obtain, usually once a year. At the time she resigned, she was distributing seeds on a monthly basis. She was able to do this because of the huge correspondence she maintained.

In addition to her participation in the robins, she corresponded with plants-people throughout the world. Her letters were the source for articles in the *Begonian*. She called herself the Armchair Explorer. Many present growers are indebted to her efforts.

In addition to begonias, Florence was deeply interested in other plants, though usually she dedicated herself to only one or two groups at a time. She grew gesneriads, bromeliads, ferns, carivorous plants and finally orchids. Old books were another passion. These she bought, traded and sold at nominal prices. Cookbooks and horticultural books were her special interests.

Leota Simpson

Leota Simpson, vice president, charter member, and horticultural chairman of the Jacksonville branch, died in August after a brief illness. She was active in the robins, the Garden Club of Jacksonville and several other plant societies. Her knowledge and dedication to plants and the education of others about begonias will be missed by her branch members and community.

Orchid Show

The largest display of orchids in the world will be on display at the Eleventh World Orchid Congress in Coconut Grove Exhibition Center, Miami, Florida, March 5-12.

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Convention '84 Countdown

Excitement is really mounting in the Southwest for our very first National Convention! We feel a bit like kids waiting for Santa — will it ever get here?

We're excited, too, about the programs. Millie and Ed Thompson will hold an all-afternoon seminar on Friday, with an ice-cream break, and take us on a visual tour of their Begonia Museum at the Banquet Saturday night. We'll have a real live tour of the Ft. Worth Water Gardens, Japanese Garden, and Begonia collection at the Botanic Garden, plus a mini-tour of members' greenhouses. There will be an Old West barbecue with a square dance demonstration and, for the more adventurous, a caller experienced in teaching beginners. There'll be speakers and seminars and demonstrations galore, and a terrific show and humongous sale, and lots of fellowship with other Begonia lovers. We hope you'll all come and have a good time!

Members-at-large who are attending the Dallas Begonia Round-up should consult the bulletin board for a notice of the time and place for a special meeting with Thelma O'Reilly, director for members-at-large.

Would you like to be more than a guest? Join our family of workers. Contact Marge Lee if you can judge or clerk; Pat Maley can use really qualified people on her entries and classification committee; clever at addition? — help Bob Dodd at the plant sale; like to answer questions? — Barbara Hamilton can use help staffing the membership booth during the sale. Nettie Daniels, hospitality chair, is looking for volunteers with warm smiles; she'll also

accept donations. Trophy chair Dorothy Patrick (she's also convention chair — we're a small group) would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to contribute to the trophy fund; March 10 is the deadline for engraving. No talent at all, but a strong back? Bruce Boardman needs help in dismantling. Any help you can give, we can use. Contact Dorothy Patrick at 1023 Elmdale, Dallas, TX 75224 and she'll give your name to the right committee chair.

If you did not receive registration materials, write to Dorothy Patrick immediately, or call (214) 948-9473.

Yipee!

Begonia Round-up's really coming!

Gesneriad Show

Fashionable Houseplants: Spotlight on Gesneriads'' will be the theme of the 25th anniversary show of the New York Chapter of the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society. Admission is free to the show to be held at the Horticultural Society of New York, 128 West 58th Street, New York City on Saturday, April 7 from noon to 6 p.m., and Sunday, April 8 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Judging Queries

If you have questions about judging, please write to Pat Maley, Codirector, Judging Dept., 7384 White Oak Dr., Placerville, CA 95667. If you would like to become a qualified ABS Judge, or would be interested in clerking at a national or regional show, contact Margaret Lee, Codirector, Judging Dept., 1852 31st St., San Diego, CA 92102.

THE BOARD/ November 9, 1983

Meeting called to order by President Bob Ammerman at 7:45 p.m., Fullerton Savings & Loan, Anaheim, CA.

Arlene Davis read the aims and purposes of the American Begonia Society.

Treasurer's report: Bill Scarbrough stated that books are balanced and ready for audit. He also reported that he opened a new life membership fund in an 11% account; interest will go into the Life Membership Auxiliary Fund which will continue to draw 5½% interest. This account can be renewed again next year at the same guaranteed rate. At the end of October balance was \$8402.71.

Bob Ammerman read letter from Wally Wagner in which \$100 check was enclosed to be used for the publication of the Begonian in memory of his wife Twyla and Wanda Elin.

Other letters were received from Anthony Croce with \$10 for ABS research in memory of Louise Bower, and from membership secretary Elisabeth Sayers asking for new lifetime membership for Mrs. Robin D. Schultz. Motion made and carried.

Bob Ammerman asked the board to approve the following appointees: branch relations, Chuck Richardson; historian, Norma Pfrunder; and membership secretary, Pearl Benell. Motion made and carried.

Book store sales: Bobby West reported \$780.77 in checking account.

Judging committee report: Margaret Lee announced two new certifications: Marie McCooney, Arcadia, judge; and Shirley Ann Thompson, Florida, junior judge. Bob requested a new revised judging course.

Advertising report: Arlene Davis reported balance of \$114.82; also that first corporate membership had been received from Joy Martin (\$100).

Business manager John Ingles reported that large and small size letterhead stationery had been received along with matching envelopes.

Speakers director Muriel Perz stated that letter is being sent to branches requesting that people who want to be on speakers list write directly to her and request this.

Editor Phyllis Bates announced that ABS has a new permanent address: P.O. Box 1129, Encinitas, CA. Phyllis went on to say that Chuck Anderson has extra copies of the Begonian on hand and will be willing to store them at his place. She also said that the southwest region would like to have 300 copies of recent issues for the convention in April. Motion made and carried that on request of branches 25 Begonians may be sent to said branch for public relations. Request is limited to one a year and must be made by national representative or branch president. Virginia Carlson and Gil Estrada were approved to be added to the publication committee. Motion made by Bob Cole and carried to have 80 old photos taken by Alfred Robinson that are in Karen Bartholomew's possession destroyed due to the fire hazard they present.

The president received a letter from Caxton Karegeannes asking permission to have the Buxton Checklist (list of very early begonias) reprinted from masters. Cost would be \$331 for spiral-bound volumes with three supplements bound in, and \$568 for 50 volumes. Motion made and carried that 25 copies be

printed, one copy to go to the patent office and part of them to go to the book store to be sold.

Letter received from Scott Hoover requesting \$750 for Ecuador collection expedition (location changed from Sri Lanka due to political conditions). Scott stated that he wanted to send half of the seed collection by mail and bring the other half back with him when he returned. Bob Cole made motion that money be given only on the stipulation that all collected seeds, data about the plants, and photos (if possible) be sent or given directly to seed fund chairman and that a complete cataloging be done as soon as it is brought into the country for ABS identification and distribution. Scott must agree in writing to these conditions before money is sent to him.

Bobby West requested a motion that all back issue requests be standardized at \$6/year, \$1 single copy; less than one year \$2 each. Motion carried.

Lorra Almstedt read a letter from Sherman Gardens asking if ABS could send people to verify identification of begonias in their gardens. Bob A. suggested that Lorra and Ronnie Nevins try to help them and if they need additional expertise to recruit whoever is necessary.

George Ghiotto made a proposal that the South Coast Botanical Garden, North Long Beach Branches, and Long Beach Parent Chapter jointly host the Western Regional Show in September 1984 at the South Coast Botanical Garden, Palos Verdes, CA. Motion made and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m. Next board meeting January 16.
George Ghiotto, Secretary

The next board of directors' meeting will be held Monday, March 19 at Fullerton Savings & Loan, 2310 E. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting in May is scheduled for the 19th, at a time and place to be announced.

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ABS 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.

ABS SERVICES

These services are available to all ABS members. For names and address 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 her 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 editor.

BEGONIAN BACK ISSUES — Individual copies of the Begonian more than a year old are available from the Bookstore for \$1, \$6/full year. 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 (\$10.) Also available are a booklet on point scoring (\$2.), the old (unofficial) classification booklet (\$2), information on fuchsia and fern judging, and other requirements to become a judge. Add \$1 for 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. Contact 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 projects periodically. 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.

Begonia. Misono, 1974. Japanese text with 302 good color photos identified in English. \$30 hard cover. (English translation with no photos. \$5.50 paperback. Order both for \$34.)

Begonias. Japanese text with 431 excellent color photos from 1980. \$23 paperback.

Begonias for Beginners. Elda Haring's popular primer published in 1976. Very useful. Now sold only by the ABS Bookstore. \$6 hard cover.

Les Begonia. Charles Chevalier's classic 1938 study of the begonia family translated by Alva Graham from the French in 1975. Illustrated. \$5 paperback.

Pamphlets. Begonias from Seed, 35 cents each, with book order 25 cents. Culture of Begonias, 75 cents each, with book order 50 cents.

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African Violets and Related Plants. 117 color photos plus 21 photos of gesneriads. \$4.50.

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Ferns. How to identify and grow 84 common ferns. Color photos. \$4.50.

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