The background of the cover is a close-up photograph of a flowering plant, likely a begonia. It features several white flowers with bright yellow centers and numerous pinkish-red buds and partially opened flowers. The leaves are green and have a lobed, slightly serrated appearance. The overall lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the petals and the vibrant colors of the buds.

September-October 1986

The BEGONIAN

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The Cover: A delightful discovery, *B. lipolepis* was photographed by Lynda Goldsmith in a steep, shady ravine. "Along the Begonia Trail." is an account of her adventures in exploring *Begonia* habitats in Venezuela.

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ALONG THE BEGONIA TRAIL

Lynda Goldsmith

There I sat, on a warm, sunny January morning, on a hillside in the Andes of Venezuela, not far from the Colombian border and just eight degrees above the Equator. All around me were nodding, bell-like red flowers of *B. formosissima*, the aptly named "most beautiful" of begonias. Sounds idyllic? Well, almost. I couldn't afford to sit there dreaming, for below me on the narrow, twisting mountain road waited my husband in our oversized, rented car. The highways in this part of the world cling to the sides of the mountains (except where landslides have loosened their grip) and there is seldom room to park along the road. Thus anyone who pauses along the way either has nerves of steel or utters incantations, all the while, against the simultaneous appearance of trucks around the curves just a few feet away from each end of the car. I was definitely in the second category.

How did I reach this state of nervous bliss? The trail had started back in Vermont with the decision to go to the Andes to see the beautiful and rare—at least in cultivation—horned-fruit species of section *Casparya* growing in their cloud forest habitats. More recently, the

Lynda Goldsmith has enjoyed several trips to Central America to collect and photograph begonias. Normally she may be reached by writing to R.D. 2, Box 3850, Fairfax, VT 05454.

plans had turned to reality when we left Caracas, capital of the country, after having successfully rented a car, obtained a collecting permit, and gathered information as to the probable whereabouts of species of interest. These preparations, dismissed here in a sentence, actually occupied the better part of five frustrating days.

After a day and a half of traveling over hot, dusty plains, we began to climb into the mountains, and not long after the roadside began to look like the 'right' habitat for begonias—shady, moist banks—we spotted the first begonia of the trip, *B. stigmosa*, growing in a shaded ravine (*quebrada*) next to a miniature waterfall. Very soon we came across large patches of shiny-leaved *B. dichotoma*, with lacy clusters of white flowers held well above the leaves. We stayed that first night in Santo Domingo, in an inn built around a seventeenth-century monastery tucked into a valley 9000 feet high. We were grateful for the heated bedroom and hearty meals, for at that altitude the temperature drops abruptly at sunset. The cool temperatures were reflected in the vegetation: lupine and forget-me-nots bordered the road, the inn was nestled among pines, and the inn gardens were bursting with pansies.

Above Santo Domingo is the *paramo*, the zone where trees and shrubs seldom reach more than three or four feet high, and the herbaceous plants often grow in tufts or mats. Here one truly feels on top of the world—the *paramo* stretches as far as the eye can see



Begonia dichotoma
with sprays of white
blossoms in the
Venezuelan Andes

Photographs for this
article by
Lynda Goldsmith

along the slopes of the jagged young peaks. When we followed one of the trails (up, up, up, at 11,000 ft) in the National Park that makes the paramo accessible, we saw only one other pair of hikers, briefly, before we were left alone in that vastness. Exhilarating coolness, brilliant white sunlight, deepest unbroken quiet. Solitude. And before us stretched a gigantic patchwork quilt of yellow *Espeletia* and raspberry colored *Senecio*. These are both composites. The imposing *Espeletia* species, the principal plants here, have basal rosettes from which the flower stalks rise to shrub or small-tree proportions.

However, this was not begonia country. We were seeking species of the cloud forest a bit lower, at 6500 to 9000 feet. At the inn was a group of ornithologists from California, one of the very few English-speaking parties we met in Venezuela. They had told us, when they learned of our interest, of a strange-looking begonia they had observed on a bird walk a day's drive away, near Merida. It looked like a begonia, they said, but the fruits had strange hornlike projections on them instead of papery wings. Our quarry! I doubt it's often that a plant hunter gets such specific directions as we then got to help us find the first *Casparya* species of our quest. Thus we pushed on toward Merida, leaving the mysterious paramo behind.

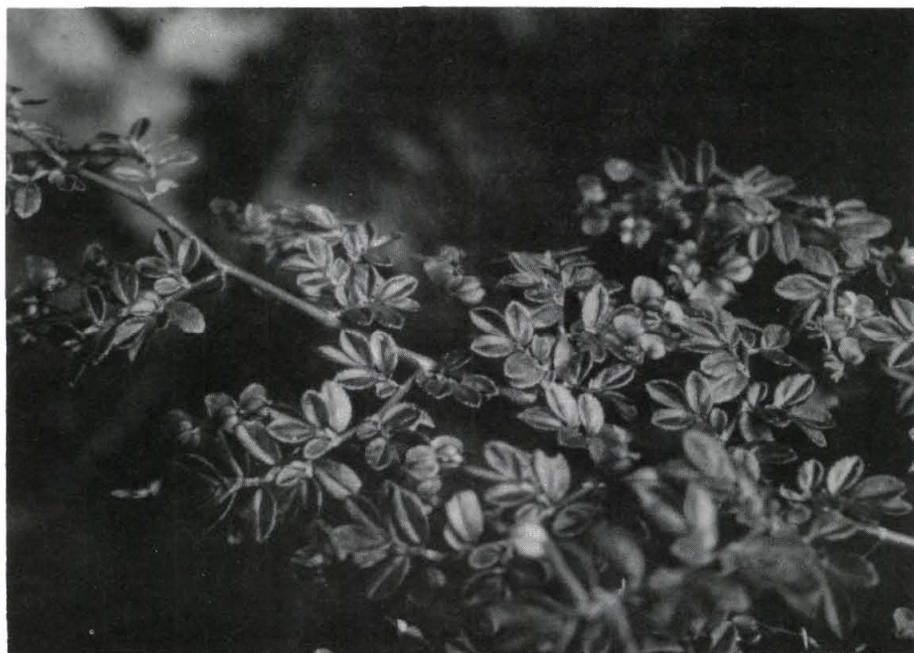
The road corkscrewed up and down the mountains. A motion sickness pill was in order for me, and many a gasp escaped our lips as we witnessed daring feats of passing.

Our own progress was slow because we didn't care to be responsible for the erection of one of those little roadside memorials so familiar to travelers in Latin America; ornamented with cross, candles, and flowers, they are reminders of drivers that didn't make it. However, we reached our destination unscathed and set off on our next hike. This hike started a little sooner than we'd planned, for the road that we had been told was passable was not so for our 'small' Chevrolet Malibu, so we parked it among the boulders and climbed the park trail, pausing for a picnic along a rushing rocky stream, again alone. On the humid forest trail above, just where it was supposed to be, there was *B. brevipedata* in dappled light. It was a tall, shrubby plant with rather small white flowers and, yes, there were horns on the fruit. Although it proved to be one of the more unassuming-looking of the species found on that trip, it was the first, and I lingered there as long as possible photographing it, until the approaching dusk propelled me down the mountain.

As we drove, we often stopped along the way so that I could explore some promising quebrada. Frequently, I found *B. foliosa* or some other small-leaved, succulent begonia, such as *holtonis* or *B. microphylla*. More often, I was thwarted by barbed wire fence, where the ravine had been incorporated into a cow pasture. All along the highway that runs along the spine of this part of the Andes, at least north of Merida, there was agricultural development. Only in the parks was the nat-



Pale pink flowers of *B. mariae* resemble apple blossoms.



Begonia foliosa was frequently seen during travels in Venezuela.



Leaf and inflorescence of *B. meridensis*. Female blossoms have rosy ovary. Tepals are white to pale pink.

ural environment unmolested, but even there a crisscross of cattle trails was often evident.

One of the most exciting treasures yielded by these spontaneous roadside forays was a tall shrub (reaching above my head, to perhaps 7 feet) with dark green, leathery leaves and the largest, roundest inflorescence of pinky white flowers I had ever observed in a wild begonia. It was growing in a rather dark, north-facing ravine where the cool, moisture-laden vapors kept the foliage in constant motion. Indeed, the only way to photograph it was to carry a spray back to the protected courtyard of the hotel. This beauty turned out to be *B. meridensis*, which grows, in all the world, only in this small region.

Perhaps the most famous attraction in Merida is the *teleferico*, the highest, longest cable car in the world. It leaves Merida at 5332 feet and, in four stages, with a total length of almost eight miles, reaches to 15,630 feet, nearly the top of the glacier-covered Pico Espejo. My particular interest in the *teleferico* was that *B. mariae* grows beneath it! In order to find this diminutive plant, it was necessary to disembark at one station and trace the little used trail below the cable line to the next station below.

What began as a leisurely tour of the vegetation zones as I moved down the mountain turned into a panicky, heart-in-throat scramble when I realized that I might miss the last

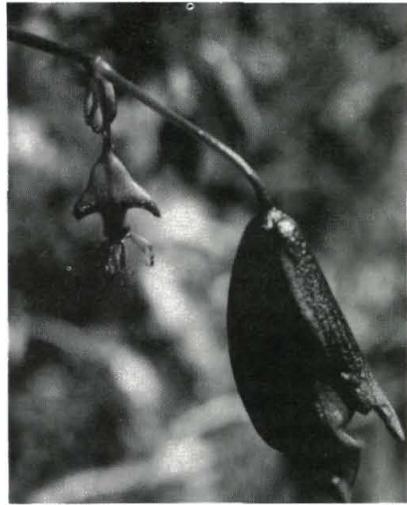
cable car down to Merida. Thus when I found *B. mariae* near a gushing stream I had just crossed, with no little fear of losing my footing or dropping my camera, I wasn't able to lavish the attention on it that I had on *B. brevipedata*. A few brief moments were all I had to admire the large, solitary pink flowers (reminiscent, on quick glance, of the wild rose) and glossy foliage, made more glistening by the stream's spray, creeping through wet humus and up mossy tree stumps. Then it was onward and downward! Oops, it was onward and upward, for here, just when I needed to gain speed, the trail took a cruel turn up, and I panted on. Another patch of *B. mariae* whizzed by. Happily, I reached the station with a full ten minutes to spare — after a 3 1/2 hour hike — and so my next adventure, instead of one of being stranded overnight on the mountain, was destined to be finding another begonia.

South of Merida is a long stretch of road with little vegetation; the highway drops to 1450 feet before ascending again, and as it guides you through the Chama Gorge, you see nothing for miles but rocky, sterile, dry riverbeds and eroded mountain slopes. Then, as the road winds up again, comes an area of sugarcane fields followed by lush tropical forest. Now up into begonia country again. It is time once again to scan the roadside wherever there is a moist, north-facing quebrada.



And that is how I came to be sitting on that hillside of *B. formosissima* one January morning. The red flowers caught the eye immediately—such a lot of them! This Casparya species appears to thrive on half a day of full sun; one whole sunlit side of the quebrada glowed rosy with its begonia carpet. An inflorescence consists usually of one male and one female flower; each flower is close to two inches across when open, but the flowers remain closed for most of their life, giving the appearance of tubular flowers. The petals of the female flower fall first, but the stigmas are persistent. What a shame this species doesn't survive in cultivation. One of its collectors, S. S. Tillett, wrote on a herbarium label in 1973; "One of the most incredibly beautiful wild plants I have seen, and should be in cultivation; however, six transplants made at the site into cans failed even to sprout in Merida (1600 m elevation), and seed germinated in Merida died within a week."

Even bears in a berry patch become sated, and so it was with me. Off we went, with one long backward look till we rounded the next curve and the hillside disappeared from view. Not half an hour down the road, we found *B. lipolepis*, its blossoms showering down a steep embankment, for it is a rather woody, trailing species that drapes itself over shrubs and small trees. It was impossible to photograph it in place, four feet directly above my head, and nearly impossible to collect, for I had a most unreasonable desire not to lose my balance on the rocky slope. The cover photograph attests to my eventual success in catching hold of a bit of it.



At left: Brilliant red blossoms of *B. formosissima*, almost two inches in diameter.

Above: Horned fruit (green pod) and unopened red bud of *B. formosissima*. Succulent stems are also red.

After that wonderful day, it was time to retrace our path to Merida, then try for a few more species on our route back to Caracas. We did add *B. trujillensis*, another trailing species, and *B. trispathulata*, different from the others in the group in having large, rounded leaves and flattened horns. But finding these was anticlimactic—nothing could equal that magical morning when I lolled on a bed of crimson begonias.

Acknowledgment

Our trip became a reality only after many hours of poring over the records of many collectors, both in the United States and in Venezuela. My thanks go to those trailblazers, as well as to the botanists at Venezuelan herbaria, who gave me every possible assistance.

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CLAYTON M. KELLY

Rudolf Ziesenhenné

This brief autobiography of Clayton M. Kelly is the result of a diligent search for information. Rudolf Ziesenhenné said that he had 63 letters and cards from Kelly but they contained nothing about himself outside the ABS. Ziesenhenné knew that Kelly had relatives in Santa Barbara. Rudy tried civil records from the Long Beach, Calif. area, and the only positive thing he got was a copy of Kelly's death certificate that listed his occupation as "rancher."

A tall, intellectual, gentleman farmer, who was 27 years old when his family moved from Indiana to California in 1902, Clayton M. Kelly was one of the founders of the American Begonia Society and the instigator of the begonia seed fund activity which bears his name.

Kelly was one of the group of begonia enthusiasts who were invited to the home of Mr. & Mrs. Herbert P. Dyckman in December 1931 to see Dyckman's begonia collection which had been exhibited at the Long Beach Dahlia Show; the same group met in January 1932 at Kelly's home where the California Begonia Society was formed but was renamed the American Begonia Society in June 1934 at Alfred D. Robinson's Rosecroft, San Diego.

At the January 1932 meeting Dyckman was elected president of the California Begonia Society and bulletins show Kelly as a member of a committee to classify *Begonia* for show purposes. Later he headed various committees such as reception, lathhouse and board of managers. His first article appeared in the bulletin of February 1934 entitled "Begonia History," and there followed 24 articles in the bulletin and *Begonian*.

Kelly exhibited tuberous and fibrous begonias in the thirties in Long Beach Flower Shows, and in 1935 he started corresponding

Rudolf Ziesenhenné has written several articles recounting people he knew and events in the American Begonia Society history. His address is 1130 N. Milpas Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

with possible foreign seed sources; the results of his efforts were shown in the October 1935 bulletin. His first seed offering states: "A new undertaking of the society is an effort to secure seed of native species of *Begonia* from the country of their habitat. Any member interested in this experiment is invited to contribute one dollar or more to a fund for this purpose." Offered were three species from India which started the seed fund activity, notes of which appeared occasionally in the bulletin.

Kelly was elected corresponding secretary of the American Begonia Society in 1936, with responsibility for publishing the *American Begonia Society Bulletin*, which contained meeting and other notes. The position title of "Bulletin Editor" was given him in 1937. The first publication appeared in January 1932 and 1933 as "Begonia Notes" and were published by Paul J. Walker, another founding member. The early bulletins were not always titled, and the name varied, being "The Monthly Bulletin" or "American Begonia Society Bulletin." The *Begonian* first appeared in July 1938.

Named research director in 1938, Kelly was also responsible for special bulletins and foreign seeds.

Kelly's interest in restricting the American Begonia Society to begonias is reflected in a letter to me dated July 20 1938 in which he states:

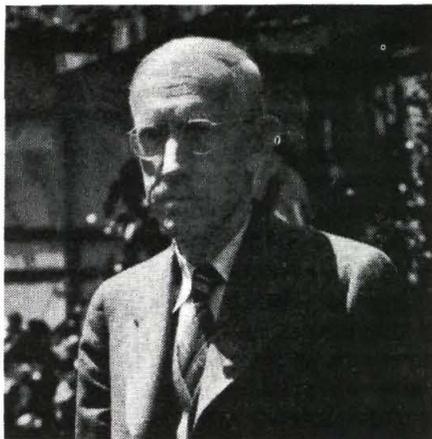
"The matter of the way the Society is drifting into other fields, however, has been a source of concern to me. If we are to function under the name of the American Begonia Society, then we should confine our programs and bulletin material strictly to begonias. If we do not do so, but include in both considerable matter on other subjects, then it is proper for us to change our name. There are several of our members, prominent in the management of the society, who have for some time contended that it would have been better to have organized as a lathhouse or sheltered

garden society rather than a begonia society. These persons have persistently worked to the end that we include other lath house subjects in our discussions. In our board meetings I have consistently insisted that we stick strictly to begonia subjects, and whenever I published other material in the bulletin it was done as a concession to the demand for it. There has been some desire to include in our meetings more *travel talks* and *musicals*, with more social features.

"Of course, when you come right down to it, there are not a lot of our members who are seriously interested in begonias—one could count them on their fingers. My own interest is, I think, a little broader than just to use them as incidental garden subjects, though I do not have the space or equipment to indulge it. And my purpose in instituting and continuing to search for seed of the species we do not have was to further interest in begonias and the society. I will admit that the results are disappointing. There have been a relative few supporting the endeavor and about one half of those who had previously contributed to the seed fund dropped out when I recently notified them that, if they wanted to participate in future distributions, an additional contribution would be necessary."

At the end of Kelly's 1938 report of the Research Department he stated about 30 people contributed to the seed fund and over 600 packets of seed had been sent out. At the third annual National Begonia show in 1938 in Long Beach Kelly had an outstanding exhibit of the various plants grown from seed collected through the seed fund.

In February 1939 the *Begonian* Kelly said the Research Department with the cooperation of *Sunset Magazine* offered free bulbils of *Begonia evansiana* and *Begonia sutherlandii* and seed of other kinds of *Begonia* to readers of *Sunset* who would send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Four thousand requests were received of which the first one thousand received bulbils and the others seeds. New members were obtained by this method. In Kelly's December 1939 annual report of the Research Department, he stated over five thousand requests had been received



Clayton M. Kelly, Seed Fund Founder and first Research Director for the ABS

to the free seed offer. He also stated the Seed Fund required more of his time than any other duty.

In January 1940 Kelly was made an Honorary Director in recognition of his many contributions to the society.

Lambert E. Day succeeded Kelly as Research Director for the years 1940 and 1941, when the term "Armchair Explorers" was introduced. In 1942 the Seed Fund was made a separate department with Mrs. Clarissa Harris as the Seed Fund administrator; she served through 1945.

Kelly continued his interest in obtaining seed of wild begonias until his death January 12, 1942. His sister, Flossie Kelly, an active member of the American Begonia Society, survived him. In the March 1942 issue of the *Begonian* on page 35 is "A Resolution of Respect on the Passing of Clayton M. Kelly." At the annual convention of the American Begonia Society, November 7, 1942 at Glendale, California, it was voted to honor the founder of the Research Department and Seed Fund by establishing the name "Clayton M. Kelly Research Department of the American Begonia Society." The name "Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund" first appeared in the *Begonian*, October 1952 on page 231.

Clayton M. Kelly can be remembered as a founding member of the American Begonia

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Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

Joan Campbell, Seed Fund Director

B. micranthera var. venturii S-O 1

Argentine tuberous species, an early bloomer with pointed, red orange blossoms. It doesn't grow too tall to be considered a natural companion with *B. cinnabarina*. Both bloom at the same time.

B. plebeja S-O 2

Nicaraguan species with a different habit of growth from the Panama species. This plant has an upright rhizome. Blooms are white or pinkish white.

B. philodendroides S-O 3

Mexican species, formerly classified as tuberous. The rhizome grows below the soil level and the plant goes fully dormant yearly. It is named for the "philodendronlike" leaves. Blooms are white.

B. santae-martae S-O 4

Colombian species which is an old-timer in the Seed Fund. It is rhizomatous, with large leaves and white blooms. Syn. *B. stigmata*, *B. urophylla*.

B. squarrosa S-O 5

Mexican species, rhizomatous with small- or medium-sized leaves, heavily spotted. Doesn't get large so it makes a good windowsill or table plant. Very striking. Supply is limited.

B. tenuipila S-O 6

Mexican species collected by Scott Hoover (S.H. 415). Some authorities consider this the true *B. plebeja* (see S-O 2 above). This begonia is rhizomatous with medium-sized leaves.

B. versicolor S-O 7

Chinese species noted for its beauty. It is rhizomatous with distinctive foliage and needs terrarium care. Blooms are salmon pink. You must allow 70 to 90 days for germination.

B. U014 S-O 8

Argentine species much in demand for its orange blossoms and manageable size. It is shrublike with three-inch leaves.

B. U043 S-O 9

Brazilian species which is another old-

timer in the Seed Fund. It has gone 20 years without a name. It is thick stemmed, with large, fleshy leaves. Syn. "J-11". Supply is limited.

B. U064 S-O 10

Philippine rhizomatous species very popular for its small, peltate leaves, not humidity demanding. Leaves are red edged when small and blooms are red to pink. Its slow growth makes it an excellent house plant.

B. U078 S-O 11

Brazilian species. A cane type with spotted leaves and greenish white flowers. It has been compared with *B. maculata* Raddi.

B. U115 S-O 12

Panama species. Thick-stemmed type which resembles *B. multinervia*. It has red stems and petioles, red-backed leaves, and red pink flowers.

B. U151 S-O 13

Peruvian species. This is a semperflorens type, much resembling *B. U008* and *B. subvillosa*.

Mixed hybrid cane seed S-O 14

A mixture of seeds from *B. 'Lana'*, *B. 'Silvermist'*, and *B. 'Carolyn Collman'*, and many others, all selfed or open pollinated, so the offspring may be quite different from the parents. This is a real "gambler's choice" with triple the usual amount of seed offered.

Note: Listing M-A 10 should have read *B. U188* instead of *U187*. I have been trying to notify all growers of this fact.

Be sure to suggest a substitution if the listing is "supply limited."

All packets of seed \$1.00 unless noted otherwise. "Growing From Seed" pamphlet is 25¢.

Orders from U. S., Mexico, and Canada need 45¢ over seed price for postage (60¢ if over 12 packets are ordered). Overseas orders require \$1.20 for postage. Send checks or money orders in U. S. funds made payable to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. Mail to Joan Campbell, 814 NE Honeyhouse, Corvallis, MT 59828.

BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

Mabel Corwin

QUESTION: My first question is about pinching canes. I never know whether I'm pinching off what would be a bloom. Is there any way of telling if a new shoot is a bloom or a leaf?

My second question is about my baby rexes. Just when should I start pinching the new leaf growth on small plants from seed? Mine are now in 2-inch pots and are on the average 3 inches tall. I have just pinched off the shoots of almost all of them.
CALIFORNIA

ANSWER: The idea of pinching the canes is to shape the plant. Also, when the tip is pinched out, the stalk branches and makes a fuller plant. It usually puts up more growth from the soil. You pinch early in the growing season and then stop. If you continue to pinch you will sacrifice blooms. Some varieties need very little pinching and pruning to make a nice plant. Other varieties will grow up tall and skinny if you don't watch them constantly.

Your rex seedlings should not need any pinching at all. When my rexes are in 4-inch pots or larger and the rhizome starts to grow over the edge of the pot I cut off the tip of the rhizome. This causes new growth to start along the rhizome. I think you are being overanxious. Just water and fertilize and talk to them and they should be fine.

QUESTION: I just received a large order of tuberous begonias and I have quite a few "holdovers." I have read all of the material I can find but can't find the answer to my problem, so I am writing for help.

All of my tuberous begonias are grown in containers. I use new soil mix, free of pests. When I dig my tubers to store them I find grublike worms. They eat into the tubers and

Send questions about begonia growing to Mabel Corwin, 1119 Loma Vista Way, Vista, CA 92084. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope; you'll get a prompt reply.

eventually destroy them. They must be a stage of some insect that comes during the summer. What do I do?

I've grown begonias for years and never had this problem until we moved here. Is there a pesticide I can use as I plant these new tubers and what can I treat the damaged tubers with when I replant them?
OREGON

ANSWER: I believe the cause of your problem is the vine weevil. I am using the book *Growing Begonias* by Eric Catterall as reference. This is what Mr. Catterall says about the vine weevil:

For the grower of tuberous begonias, this pest has in the past few years become a major problem. The weevil is a small white grub with a brown head which burrows into the tuber. The parent is a dark grey brown beetle about one half inch long which may lay up to 1000 eggs on the surface of the tuber in spring and summer. The grubs have insatiable appetites and within a period of some three months a complete tuber can be destroyed. If the grub is still there then it must be dug out and destroyed. The one sure way of killing the grubs is to incorporate a small quantity of Aldrin, a persistent organochlorine insecticide into the compost. This insecticide is banned for use on edible crops, but may still be available for use on ornamental plants. Cyclamen is a known host for the weevil.

The author is English and I doubt if Aldrin is available in this country. My suggestion would be to use systemic granules in your potting mix. If you have already potted the tubers you can mix it into the surface. I use Oxymil, but I have to buy it in 5-pound packages at the farm supply store. Ortho and
Continued on page 136

Ask the average man on the street to describe a begonia, and chances are that you will be treated to a description of a semperflorens begonia. Not everyone knows them as "semps." Some people refer to members of that begonia group as "rose begonias" due to their rosebud-shaped blossoms; or as "wax begonias," a nickname which describes their waxy foliage. But, call them what you will, nearly everyone can recognize those popular begonias.

In summer, semperflorens are the most visible members of the Begoniaceae. They are prodigious performers. From the day that you plant them in the garden throughout the season until fall, you can depend on a never-ending array of flowers. As their nickname infers, the blossoms resemble tiny rosebuds in color and form, appearing in carefree profusion.

Semperflorens are continually before the public eye. Due to their tolerance of bright sun, hot weather and heavy rain showers as well as their profusion of flowers and compact habit, semperflorens have earned a well-deserved place as one of the most popularly employed bedding plants in the country. Although semperflorens blossom all year, their summertime performance is the most impressive and reliable.

Semperflorens can fill many positions in the garden. They are one of a few flowering plants that will endure full sun very stoically, and for this trait, they are generally employed in open gardens that receive the unabated strength of summer sunshine without shelter. Due to their compact habit, they are often found edging a low-growing annual bed

Tovah Martin is a staff member at Logee's Greenhouses and a frequent writer for many horticultural magazines. Her address is 55 North St., Danielson, CT 06239.

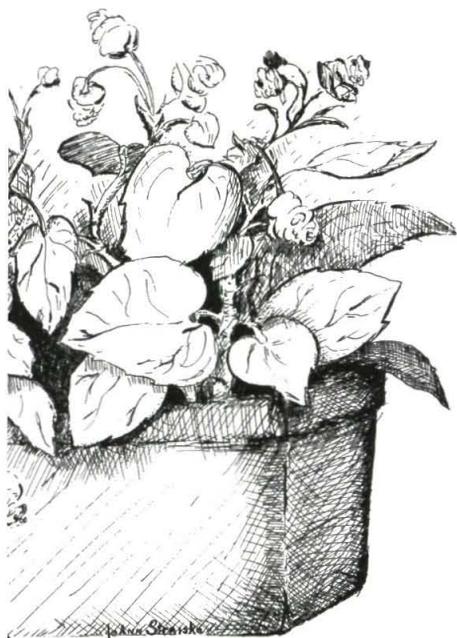


The Year of the Semperflorens

THE SI

amongst other small-leaved annuals such as the best bedding plants. They should be planted tightly to fill in rapidly. Leave each plant only about six inches in diameter in which to expand. Single-flowering varieties seem to be more profuse than the doubles, and from a distance, they are every bit as impressive. Green-leaved hybrids are the most popular for bedding work, but bronze-leaved semperflorens make a nice contrast to either the pink, white, or red flowers that bedeck the foliage all summer.

Semperflorens lend themselves to a varied array of uses. They make excellent window box fillers. The compact varieties might be used to edge the front of a large window box, acting as a foil for taller growing flowering



IMMER

alyssum, alternanthera, and santolina. Their neat, petite stature recommends them for small but colorful plantings in front of banks and town halls. Semperflorens are also often employed in small geometric designs and in parterres that spell out company names and initials in floral letters.

For bedding purposes, you might purchase cell packs of unnamed hybrids for planting, taking care to match the heights of the plants at maturity if you are working with semperflorens hybrids of several colors. Low-growing semperflorens can remain as compact as four inches in height, whereas taller growing hybrids are available which attain over a foot in height. The more compact varieties make plants. Larger semperflorens might fill their

own window box, urn or wine barrel either in combination with or as a substitute for geraniums. Like geraniums, they provide a never-ending performance with little fuss or bother.

Semperflorens can also be used to edge trees. They may grow a little taller and lankier in a shady location than they would in full sun, but they will blossom freely nonetheless. They also make a unique edging for a driveway or house foundation, providing a bounty of color with very little maintenance.

A well-kept secret is that semperflorens make excellent hanging-basket plants. They rapidly expand to fill out a moss globe in a wire frame and can be clipped and pruned to achieve a scandent habit. True, the flowers tend to drop, littering the ground. But is a little vigilance with a broom or rake too high a price to pay for an eye-ful of color? I think not.

When growing semperflorens in a featured position where a few plants are 'on stage,' the double and semidouble hybrids are preferable. Most seed companies list many laudable hybrids, and semperflorens can be grown very easily from seed. In fact, seedlings tend to come up hither and yon without any invitation whatsoever.

A list of a few personal favorite semperflorens to be used as focal points would include the Thimbleberry hybrids that are particularly well suited to hanging pots. My favorite hangers are 'Pied Piper', 'Thimbleberry' and 'Firefly'. However, almost any hybrid can be coaxed into a cascading shape.

For small window boxes, the compact semperflorens such as 'Bo Peep', 'Cinderella' and 'Ballet' will hug the pot and blossom profusely. Larger spaces can be filled with taller growing hybrids such as 'Ernest K', 'Pink Wonder' or 'Lucy Locket'.

Summertime is definitely the "semperflorens season." Walk down Main Street and enjoy them. No doubt, you will find semperflorens performing in your neighbors' gardens and window boxes throughout the town.

NEW CULTIVARS

Official International Registrations
Numbers 896-900

Carrie Karegeannes, Nomenclature Director

Applications to register *Begonia* cultivars may be obtained from Carrie Karegeannes, 3916 Lake Boulevard, Annandale, VA 22003. Each form must be typed or printed in ink and accompanied by a \$2 check or money order payable to the American Begonia Society. Photos, drawings, and dried specimens of new cultivars are encouraged. ABS is the International Registration Authority for *Begonia* cultivar names.

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

Begonia 'Fran Brodie'

No. 901—*Begonia* 'Yellow Sweetie' ×
'Gold Rush' 'Fran Brodie'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with very large, fragrant, pink-blushed yellow double flowers and medium green leaves of good substance. Stems are 11" long. Ovate leaf blades are 6"7 4/5" long and 4 3/4"6" wide, shallowly angulate-lobed, cordate with shallowly round, slightly overlapping basal lobes and acuminate tip. The margin is serrate-crenate, the upper surface sparsely short-hairy, and the lower surface bare, crossed by 5 to 6 main veins. Petioles are smooth, 2"2 1/3" long; stipules, 1/5"3/10" wide, 1/5" long. Extra double flowers almost 6" in diameter are soft yellow with pink blush on outer edges and darker in the center, in summer and fall. Male flowers have more than 100 tepals, females 5. They are usually arranged with 1 male and 2 side females on 7 1/10" peduncles. *B.* 'Fran Brodie' can be distinguished from *B.* 'Yellow Sweetie' by blossoms almost twice as large, as well as color. Its fragrance, lacking in most Tuberhybrida, is about the same as that of 'Yellow Sweetie'. Originated in 1981 by Howard Siebold, 32050 Westwood Drive, Fort Bragg, CA 95437; first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1984. Tested by Thelma O'Reilly, La Mesa, CA. Registered July 3, 1986.



Top: *B.* 'Fran Brodie'. Blossoms are soft yellow with pink blush.

Bottom: *B.* 'Sweetie II'. Blossoms are brilliant yellow and fragrant.

Begonia 'Sweetie II'

No. 902—*Begonia* 'Yellow Sweetie' ×
'Gold Rush' 'Sweetie II'

Tuberhybrida Pendula cultivar with large, fragrant, double, bright yellow flowers, medium green leaves, and 11" stem. Ovate,

8"9 4/5" × 5"6" leaf blades of good substance are shallowly lobed with cordate base, acuminate tip, broadly serrate-crenate margin, sparsely hairy upper surface, bare under surface, and 5-6 main veins. Petioles are sparsely short-hairy, 2 1/3" to 3 1/5" stipules, 1/5"3/10" wide, 1/5" long. Bright yellow flowers with lighter centers (or pale lemon in less intense light) are very double, almost 6" across, and usually arranged with 1 male flanked by 2 females, borne on 7" peduncles summer and fall. Male flowers have more than 100 tepals, females 5. *B.* 'Sweety II' has flowers twice as large as those of 'Yellow Sweety', with stronger fragrance than in either 'Yellow Sweety' or 'Fran Brodie', its sister seedling. Originated in 1981 by Howard Siebold (address above); first bloomed in 1982; first distributed in 1984. Registered July 3, 1986.

***Begonia* 'Rachael Louise'**

No. 903—*Begonia* 'Crestabruchii' × chance seedling 'Rachael Louise'

Large rhizomatous begonia with large, reddish black green, heavily crested leaves, the red underside showing in the wide crests. The rhizome is large, thick, and green with white spots. Leaf blades are 13" × 9", fleshy, and lobed, with margins waved and twisting into deeply curled and ciliate frills, the tips twisting over. The 9 main veins are pale green, dotted with red and outlined with paler green. They are indented and bare above on mature leaves and thickly hairy on the dark red underside. Two heavy veins are bare of leaf tissue for 2" to 3" at the edges of the leaf base. Thick petioles up to 18" long are long-hairy, pale green with paler green lines and "bleeding" red spots; hairs arising from the spots are red at the base and white tipped. Many pink flowers in large, one-sided cymes on stalks up to 4' tall rise high above the foliage in the spring. Male flowers drop off; females have 2 tepals and 3-winged ovaries. This cultivar is the most ruffled and largest of four being registered from this cross. Similar in size and habit to the parent *B.* 'Crestabruchii', it has darker leaves of a different shape, with the



B. 'Carol Johnston', a new cultivar from a set of sister seedlings that demonstrate the variations in a planting of hybrid seeds.

marginal crest much larger. The pollen parent was a large, glossy black volunteer from Cuthbert's Nursery. Originated in 1981 by Hazel Burley, 59 Main Avenue, Rainworth, Brisbane 4065, Queensland, Australia; first bloomed and distributed in 1982. Tested by Carol Johnston of Brisbane; inspected by Ted Williams, Edwardstown, South Australia. Registered July 4, 1986.

***Begonia* 'Carol Johnston'**

No. 904—*Begonia* 'Crestabruchii' × chance seedling 'Carol Johnston'

Rhizomatous with very large, thick rhizome and many large, glossy, black green, deeply crested, ciliate leaves, greener when old. Heavy 12" × 12" leaf blades have large lobes spirally twisted at the tips of each main vein, showing the dark red underside in the

crinkles. The upper surface is smooth with little or no hair on the 9 prominent, indented, colorless main veins speckled with red; underneath, the veins carry tufts of white-tipped red hairs on the close red spots, but with age hairs nearly disappear. Basal lobes overlap in young leaves, but with maturity two heavy veins bare of tissue at the base outline a wide-open sinus opening. Petioles 15" long are green with numerous red spots and white hairs that become short with age, as well as a white, scaly-hairy collar at the top that decreases with age. Many pink flowers in the spring are carried on 12" petioles in large, long, one-sided, many-branched cymes with pink bracteoles at each main fork. Male tepals drop; females have 2 large pink tepals, greenish ovaries flecked with red, and 3 deeper pink wings. *B.* 'Carol Johnston' is large and strong like *B.* 'Crestabruchii', but its leaves are darker, rounder, and heavier. It is not as large as sister seedling *B.* 'Rachael Louise' and has rounder leaves more finely crested, though crests are larger than those of 'Crestabruchii'. Originated in 1981 by Hazel Burley (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1982. Tested by Carol Johnston for whom it is named; inspected by Ted Williams (as above). Registered July 4, 1986.

***Begonia* 'Pauline Elizabeth'**

No. 905—*Begonia* 'Crestabruchii' × chance seedling 'Pauline Elizabeth'

Rhizomatous with large, thick rhizome and dark green to reddish brown crested leaves. Leaf blades are 16" × 14", ovate to triangular, with 7 distinct lobes, wide basal sinus, and very hairy margin heavily crimped, twisted, and curled, giving glimpses of the dark red underside. The red shows through from below to give the smooth, glossy upper surface a reddish tinge. The main veins are indented above, pale green outlined in paler green, and flecked with a few small red spots carrying fine white hairs. Underneath, long red, white-tipped hairs arise in tufts from red spots on the veins, and fine white hairs cover the surface. Drooping petioles are 16"

long, green, with coarse tufts of white-tipped red hairs from small red spots, as well as a fringe of large heavy tufts encircling the top at the leaf junction. Many rosy pink flowers in large, branching clusters are borne on peduncles up to 3' tall, with pink bracteoles at the main forks. Male buds drop off; females have 2 rosy pink tepals and matching pink 3-winged ovaries. Leaves are darker than those of green *B.* 'Crestabruchii'. They are more reddish brown than blackish and longer and more triangular than other named from the cross and have white hairs covering the underside. Originated in 1981 by Hazel Burley (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1982. Tested by Carol Johnston and Ted Williams of Australia. Registered July 5, 1986.

***Begonia* 'Kara'**

No. 906—*Begonia* 'Crestabruchii' × chance seedling 'Kara'

Huge rhizomatous plant with large, thick rhizome; large, crested, reddish black leaves; and long drooping petioles and peduncles. Leaf blades are lobed, lighter along the 9 indented, red-flecked main veins, and smooth above, with thickly hairy, wavy, crested margins. Two veins, bare at the base, border a wide open sinus. The deep red of the hairy underside shows through to make this the most colorful of the cultivars from this cross, though the habit is loose and lax. The 2" petioles are red with white-tipped red hairs in tufts and a long, thick ruff at the leaf junction. *B.* 'Kara' is closest to *B.* 'Douglas Charles' in leaf shape, but is larger, more crested, and has the best flowers of the group—a deeper pink displayed in 2-tepaled female flowers and 3-winged ovaries (males drop), borne in large, many flowered trusses on arching 2' peduncles in the spring. Originated in 1981 by Hazel Burley (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1982. Tested by Glenys Burley, Brisbane, Australia. Registered July 9, 1986.

***Begonia* 'Douglas Charles'**

No. 907—*Begonia* 'Crestabruchii' ×

unknown 'Douglas Charles'

Compact, tidy, rhizomatous cultivar with large, thick rhizome and large crested leaves of black green tinged with red on erect, stiff petioles. Leaf blades are 9" to 6", deeply and distinctly acute to acuminate lobed, and marked by 10 heavy, pale main veins bordering the overlapping basal lobes, which mature to form a narrow basal opening. The glossy, deep red underside fades with age. The margin is toothed and ciliate, waved and delicately ruffled into a narrower crest than on others in the group. Tips of the lobes are sometimes spiraled. Thick, fleshy, petioles are 10" long with greenish white lines, red spots, and tufts of fimbriate white hairs. Many, medium-sized, 2-tepaled female flowers are pink (males drop off), and the pink ovaries are spotted with red, on red pedicels. The branching clusters are borne on 18" red-spotted green peduncles in the spring. The originator says this cultivar is similar to *B. 'Ricky Minter'* in size and form, but markedly different in leaf color, shape, and margin. Originated in 1981 by Hazel Burley (address above); first bloomed and distributed in 1982. Tested by Carol Johnston and inspected by Ted Williams of Australia. Registered July 9, 1986.

Clayton M. Kelly

Continued from page 125

Society; Seed Fund originator and administrator; originator of the research department and its director; the *Bulletin* editor; a champion for preserving the American Begonia Society as a begonia society; a very fine person and a gentleman. He did not foresee the financial aid the Society would receive from the Seed Fund which has at times made it possible for the Society to pay its bills.

The following articles by Clayton M. Kelly appeared in the *Begonian* in the issues noted.

Begonia History, Feb 1934, p 3.

Notes on a Visit to Rosecroft, June 1934, pp 1-2.

Foreign Correspondence. A report on foreign contacts. Aug 1935, pp 2-3

In Quest of the Unusual, June 1937, pp 3,4,5.

Report of the Bulletin Editor, Dec 1937, p 3.

Begonia 'Beth Wheat'

No. 908—*Begonia 'Crestabruchii'* × *B. glabra* seedling 'Beth Wheat'

Rhizomatous with large, scarred, dark green rhizome and convoluted, glossy, golden green leaves and pink flowers. Leaf blades are 12" × 10", rounded, puckered, fleshy, crisp, and deeply waved and folded, with entire, crimped margins that are thickly and finely red-ciliate when young and often curl under. Young leaves are light green, turning golden green as they mature in a little sunlight. The 7 prominent main veins are paler, with red spots and a short red hair from each spot. The 12" petioles are stiff, thick, and green, with tufts of long, red-based white hairs when young and a frill of fine white hairs at the leaf junction. Many large, pale pink, 2-tepaled female flowers (males drop) with pink ovaries are carried in branching clusters on stiff, strong, red-striated, greenish red peduncles in the spring. *B. 'Beth Wheat'* makes a compact, tidy, few-leaved plant. Originated in 1981 by Hazel Burley (address above); first bloomed in 1982. Tested by Carol Johnston and inspected by Ted Williams of Australia. Registered July 9, 1986.

Research Notes on Mutation Reproduction, June 1938, pp 2-4.

Those Leaf Holes, Aug 1938, p 3.

Research Notes, Aug 1938, p 7.

The Research Department Exhibit, Sept 1938, p 3.

Fragrant Begonias, Oct 1938, p 2.

Winter Storage of Tuberous Begonias, Jan 1939, pp 4-5.

Report of the Research Department for 1938, Jan 1939, p 7.

Research Department: Seed Distribution, Feb 1939, p 5.

Research Department: Begonias From India, March 1939, p 5.

Rock Loving Begonias, April 1939, p 6.

More Indian Begonias, May 1939, p 5.

Research Department Notes, Aug 1939, pp 2-3.

Indian Expedition, Sept 1939, p 7.

Research Notes, Oct 1939, p 5.

Annual Report of the Research Department, Dec 1939, pp 1-3.

A Naturalist in Brazil, Jan 1940, p 3.

Winter Blooming Tuberous Begonias, April 1940, p 8.

A Climbing Begonia, April 1941, p 6l.

For the Sake of Correct Records, Feb 1942 p 28.

The Habitat of *Begonia octopetala*. Apr 1942, p 5-6. (posthumous)

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Mary Ellen Taback, Round Robin Director

Newly Launched Robins:

Cane IV, Research II

Openings in Robins:

The above two, Small Commercial Growers, Thick-stemmed Begonias, Odd-Rare-Unusual Begonias, Greenhouse, Tuberous Begonias, Tropical Plants, Semperflorens, Unidentified Species II.

There are five General Culture Robins flying, covering all sorts of plant-growing topics, **soil mix** being a popular one. Chris Giordano, NY, recently repotted some of her begonias in equal parts topsoil, sphagnum peat, perlite, Jiffy Mix, and was amazed at the beauty that resulted. Mabel Corwin (CA) suggests that scraping off and discarding the top layer of soil in a pot and replacing it with fresh mix is sometimes sufficient to effect a change, and a good way to eliminate a pesty growth of **moss**. Check the air circulation, also, if moss is a problem.

How do you line your hanging baskets?

At the Glasgow Botanic Gardens growers experienced difficulties with sphagnum moss, Albert Weatherhead (England) reports, and recently they have been experimenting with capillary matting with some success. At the Washington, D.C., Botanic Gardens the huge baskets, hanging outdoors in summer heat and wind, are lined with both moss and, hidden from view inside the moss, an inner layer of plastic, says Joyce Smith (VA).

Do you use **plastic bags** for plants? Betty Tillotson (CA) notes that Ziplock freezer bags seem to suffocate plants, while the ordinary Ziploc bags for storage allow air interchange. Joyce Smith (VA) concurs.

Dead or dormant? Here are three ways to tell. Chris Giordano examines the rhizome. If it is plump and turgid, fine; if it is dry and empty, dead. Betty Tillotson breaks off a tiny piece of stem. If green, alive. Mabel Corwin

turns the plant out of its pot and examines the roots. If the fibrous roots are white and pliable, OK; if brown and brittle, dead.

Drainage is important to plants whose roots are subject to rot. Chris Giordano enclosed an article from *Gardening*, Nov '85, warning against the use of crock in the bottom of pots.

Baskets lined with moss drain superbly— all over the wrong places. Chris says that saucerlike containers are available to dangle below the baskets and catch the drip. She did not give a mail order source.

Terrariums are subject to drainage problems if overwatered or not ventilated properly. Kathleen Herr recommends repotting them if the plants languish. They may be suffering from either an accumulation of salts or sour soil. She reminds us that taking a cutting from a plant that is undergoing a decline should be done as soon as a problem is noted, just for "insurance."

Seeds of begonias require light to germinate. Some require much more time than others. "*B. versicolor* is a slow one," advises Joan Hill. "Don't give up on it, and give it plenty of light. *B. polygonoides* cannot stand being chilled."

Seed production can be a challenge. *B. cathayana*, among others, will not accept pollen until near the end of the blooming season, Robin #82 notes. Other begonias, like *B. serratifolia* and *B. pavonina*, do not develop male flowers. It is reported that Dr. Doorenbos feels this is a cultural deficiency and not an indication that these plants are hybrids. Mabel Corwin is exploring whether *rex* Putzeys is a species. She finally had produced some seeds by selfing her plant, but her letter was written only six days after planting them.

Having male and female flowers produced at different times reduces the chance of inbreeding, an advantage to the species. To promote female flowers, ethylene gas (as

produced by apples) may be used. Risa Young noticed that making hot spiced apple cider set her bromeliads blooming. Lowering the growing temperature and shortening the day length may promote bloom.

Rex cultivar seedlings do well in McClellan's orchid mix recommended for terrestrial orchids and bromeliads, Martin Johnson notes. Other seedlings do well in this also. They need a very light potting mix, of sand and humus plus perlite, with some finely-ground bark added. Elaine Ayers starts her rex cuttings in bark mix, then repots into orchid mix with a little soil added. No sign of dormancy, she says. When one rex plant was allowed to dry out to the point of total leaf loss, leafing out resumed within a week of renewed care, with a feeding of Knox gelatin and fertilizer solution (1 tablespoon per gallon of water) with a few drops of Rapid-Gro added.

Canelike begonias are so popular that we now have four Robins. Elaine Ayers (OH) uses the Knox gelatin solution (see Mar/Apr, p 50) to promote firm growth rather than soft growth that is promoted by a high nitrogen fertilizer. This also encourages leaf buds to sprout along the length of the cane, not just at the top. Her hoyas improve in the same manner. She brings her canes indoors well before the weather changes in the fall to avoid mildew and leaf drop.

Arline Peck (RI) cuts her overgrown canes back to just a few nodes on each stalk. At the same time she roots the cuttings for insurance in case the stubs refuse to sprout. Pinch after the blooms are gone, she advises, to shape the plant.

Russ Hammer (TX) warns that late (Jan.) season repotting of canes can cause some to turn to mush. Better to leave them pot-bound. Last summer he experimented with

airlayering his canes, with great success. The best were 'Question Mark', 'Ososta', and 'Alice N'. Russ not only cuts his canes back to a few nodes, he also cuts the rootball into thirds or quarters, plants each section in a 10-inch basket. New growth arises from the soil line and below to produce a "super basket in no time." He uses equal parts of peat-moss, vermiculite, perlite and soil for his cane mix.

Rhodora Buss (IA) who does not grow in a greenhouse as Russ does, prefers a heavier mix (more soil) for canes. Her reliable favorites are *Begonias* 'Laura Engelbert', 'Dawn', and 'Kentwood'. Kathleen Herr's old reliable is 'Honeysuckle'.

Betty Tillotson (CA) says that the difficult cane 'Midnight Sun' can be propagated by taking very small tip cuttings, using a terrarium, and growing on the dry side. The dryness intensifies the color, she has found.

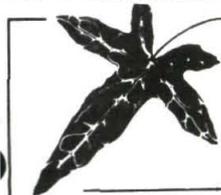
Dorcas Resleff (WA) has wintered a cutting of the Kusler cane 'Nancy Gail' in nothing but water. Two canes that can take cold are 'Irene Nuss' and 'Marguerite de Cola', Dorcas reports.

Do you lose **seedlings** when you transplant? One of the General Culture Robins recommends not rushing them. Let them reach a healthy size before moving them. Mabel Corwin keeps her seedlings in sweater boxes until they are well established in 2-inch pots, and then gradually opens the lid.

Lena Bussard (KS) of the **Ferns Robin**, finds that wicking is a very successful

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method of supplying water to her moisture-loving species, be they begonias or ferns.

The **African Species Robin** has many observations about its favorites to share. Charlotte Kuhnle (OR) notes that, except for *prismatocarpa* and *ficicola*, her terrarium plants prefer natural daylight over artificial lights.

Gwen Stephens's favorite African species are *socotrana* and *natalensis*. An experienced grower of succulents, she recommends treating members of the *B. dregei*, *B. suffruticosa*, *B. partita* group like caudiform succulents, i.e. lots of full sun, very dry between waterings, underpotting, and a very loose mix.

Millie Thompson (NY) suggests that this group is fun to train into a sculptural form, fascinating to visitors. She keeps her African begonias almost rootbound. *B.* 'Flat Rock' has a tuberous formation the size of a grapefruit.

Frances Hoffman (NY) has grown her *B.* 'Flat Rock' to a leafy, filled-out plant over 80 inches high, covered with white blossoms in May.

Some of the African species can take cold weather without leaf drop or fungus infection: *B. microcarpa* taking 39°F, as Gwen reports. *B. polygonoides* on the other hand, shows severe leaf drop after only a few nights of 45°F. Ruth Wills and Joyce Smith (OK and VA) both note that *B. U089* does not like high temperatures.

Gwen's *B. raynalianorum* blooms vigorously all winter in an 11-inch terrarium under fluorescent lights. Millie says leaf wedges of this species will root successfully in a 1:1 long fiber moss/perlite mix. *B. triflora* roots in the same mix, but from the whole leaf rather than wedges of it.

Rhizomatous begonias tend to decline as they bloom, notes Janet Welch (PA) of that Robin. Lee Thomas (NY) counterattacks with fertilizer as the bloom period winds down so the plant can handle the extra drain of blossoms as well as leaves.

The **tuberous begonia** growers will profit from Albert Weatherhead's comment that stem rot is primarily the result of feeding too much nitrogen fertilizer. Increase the air circulation, also, to remove the overmoist conditions at the base of stems.

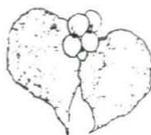
If you would like to join a robin—a packet of letters circulated among begonia lovers—write for details and a complete list of flight topics to **Round Robin Director Mary Ellen Taback, 151 Shoe Lane, Newport News, VA 23606.**

QUESTION BOX

Continued from page 127

Science both have systemic granules available at most nurseries. Now that you know the problem you might find a nurseryman who would have a product that would work.

The book *Growing Begonias* is available to members from the ABS Bookstore.



Begonia Buttercup

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ABS NEWS

KEY TO BEGONIACEAE

NOW BEING DISTRIBUTED TO ABS

Copies of the *Begoniaceae: Illustrated Key and Annotated Species List* are being sent to those ABS officers who are likely to find it useful in their work. One copy has been sent to each of the branches for the reference use of the members. Each recipient should enter the volume into the inventory of ABS property for their office and make appropriate provisions to safeguard the copy, as it is irreplaceable. The number of copies printed was limited to immediate needs of botanical libraries and certain persons presently studying and working with *Begonia*.

It was suggested that branches could investigate having the copy bound with a hard cover or that a clear plastic cover such as Con-Tact could be used.

SLIDE LIBRARY WELCOMES ADDITIONS TO ITS PROGRAMS

Slide Librarian Dan Haseltine will welcome 35mm slides of begonias. You may send individual slides or several slides or an entire program set. Please identify the plants, owners, locations, etc., as slides with no data are not useful to others.

BUXTON CHECK LIST

The ABS Bookstore now has copies of *The Buxton Check List* available for \$20.00, postpaid. California residents must add sales tax. Supplements are included.

MEMBERS AT-LARGE LETTER 7 READY FOR DISTRIBUTION

The seventh newsletter of the members at-large committee will be sent to all requesting it around the end of October. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your copy to Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 92041.

BEGONIAN MINI-ADS

Miniads are \$1 per line per insertion with a minimum of \$4. A line is 36 characters including punctuation and spaces. Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to ABS and send to Jess Martinez, 1770 Foothill Dr., Vista, CA 92084.

BEGONIAS and EPISCIAS

Plants and Cuttings. Send 50 cents for listing. Wilson's Greenhouse, Route 5, Box 328, Ozark, MO 65721

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ABS NEWS

NATIONAL DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORTS NOW DUE

Each national director is required to file an annual report of the activities of the branch or region he represents. These reports can be mailed or delivered to Secretary Jeannette Gilbertson or President Margaret Lee at the National Convention.

Reports need not be long, but should include number of members, how frequently the group meets, special projects undertaken by the group, information about programs such as speakers and tours, and any other pertinent ideas.

NEW BRANCH OFFICERS

Many branches elect new officers who assume duty in the fall after a summer break. Please send the list of new officers, meeting information, etc. Indicate if the meeting date or time has changed so the secretary can update the directory for the *Begonian*.

UNDELIVERABLE ISSUES OF THE *BEGONIAN*

After a trial period, Membership Secretary John Ingles announced that he will revert to the old policy of not replacing issues of the *Begonian* if the member changes his address and does not send a forwarding address to the ABS. Billing the member after replacing an issue does not get a response.

The post office does not automatically forward third class mail. The annual costs of replacing and remailing issues are equivalent to several added pages in the magazine. Those who want back issues will have to buy them from the ABS Bookstore. It is unfair to the bulk of members to have to finance replacement for those who fail to notify the Society.

MEETING CALL

The board meeting will be held on November 2 at 11 a.m. at the home of Michael Ludwig, 7007 Mt. Vernon Ave., Lemon Grove, Calif. Contact the president concerning items to be listed on the agenda. Bring a sack lunch.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

July 13, 1986

The board meeting of the American Begonia Society was held at the home of Ralph and Mabel Corwin, Vista, Calif. President Margaret Lee called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. Aims and Purposes were read by First Vice-president Arlene Davis. Minutes of the May 4 meeting were approved as sent out.

Treasurer's report showed a balance on hand as of January 31 of \$13,220.34 in the checking account and \$30,869.51 in the savings accounts.

Correspondence was read: one letter from *Mature Outlook* magazine, inviting ABS to subscribe and make money for the organization by selling subscriptions. Board was not interested.

In the absence of the editor, Ed Bates reported the May-June issue of the *Begonian* is at the printer's. A discussion ensued on how we can get the *Begonian* out in a more timely manner, as the members and advertisers are unhappy. Ed explained that he and Phyllis are now doing 90% of the work that used to be done by the printer in order to save the ABS time and money. They do the typing [computer coding], correcting for grammar and botanical errors, paste-up. The editor offered to resign if the board thought it necessary, as putting out the magazine is practically a full time job. A suggestion was made that members who live in the area could volunteer to help with the typing and proofreading certain days a week. Anyone who can help should schedule time with Phyllis.

Reports were read or given by chairmen of advertising, former bookstore manager Bobbie West, members at-large, slide librarian, round robins and seed fund.

Membership chairman reported 1491 members as of June 30. Seventeen members of the Knickerbocker Branch were granted memberships. They had paid their dues, but the funds were not received by the ABS. John Ingles has requested copies of the cancelled checks. On June 30, each branch was mailed names of members and expired members in its zip code area. They can be contacted and encouraged to join the branch and ABS. A Life Membership was approved for Stephen Wells.

The convention chairman reported 40 registrations have been received, mostly from out-of-state. Upon checking in at San Diego, those who have registered will be issued meal tickets and a name badge, which must be used in order to attend meals and seminars. The next convention committee meeting will be July 28 at Bob Ammerman's house.

Old business: the audit committee will consist of Marion Paris, chairman; Eleanor Calkins, and Toni Baker. John Ingles will advise.

Under new business, President Margaret Lee presented a standard form for installation of officers. Board approved, and copies will be sent to branches with the minutes.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting at the convention.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Jeannette Gilbertson, secretary

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

ABS AIMS AND PURPOSES

- stimulate and promote interest in begonias and other shade-loving plants.
- encourage the introduction and development of new types of these plants.
- standardize the nomenclature of begonias.
- gather and publish information in regard to kinds, propagation and culture of begonias and companion plants.
- issue a bulletin which will be mailed to all members of the society.
- bring into friendly contact all who love and grow begonias.

ABS Services

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

AT-LARGE MEMBERS - Members who do not belong to branches are represented at board meetings by the at-large director. To find a branch in your area or to start a new one, contact the branch relations director for help.

BOOKSTORE - See information in this or next issue.

JUDGING DEPARTMENT - Mail order course for a member who wishes to become an accredited begonia show judge, \$10. Also available: 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 on all orders and 6% tax for California residents.

NOMENCLATURE DEPARTMENT - Monitors newly published findings on *Begonia* names. Handles official international registrations of new *Begonia* cultivars and publishes these registrations. Gathers information about and assigns numbers to unidentified species.

QUESTION BOX - Prompt assistance with horticultural questions. Those of general interest will appear in the *Begonian* column.

FOUND ROBINS - Members exchange information about begonias and their culture through packets of letters which circulate among a small group of growers. There are dozens of these packets, called flights, on many specialized subjects. Contact the director for information.

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 seeds are encouraged.

SLIDE LIBRARY - See information in this or next issue.

SPEAKERS BUREAU - The director maintains a list of speakers on begonias and related subjects.

ABS Slide Programs

Rhizomatous Begonias 200 slides with taped discussion by Mildred Thompson.

Japanese Cultivars grown in the United States. 127 slides, printed list. Taped program. By Mildred Thompson.

Begonias in their Natural Habitat by Scott Hoover. Slides from Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Papua New Guinea, and Jamaica. Taped program.

Begonias for Contained Atmospheres. 81 slides. Printed list, taped program. By Mildred Thompson.

The Tropical Rainforest by Scott Hoover. 45 minute tape narration. 78 slides.

The Making of a Begonia Show. 77 slides of the show being set up and the plants displayed by the Barkley Branch in 1982. Printed slide list.

A Trip to the Montreal Botanical Gardens. 92 slides by Jackie Davis and Joy Porter. Printed list.

Horticultural Grouping of Begonias. 140 slides by Mildred Thompson. Begonias divided into 8 groups. List.

This is a partial list of slide programs available for rental to ABS members and branches. The fee is usually \$10 plus First Class Insured return postage. Deposit required. Send SASE for complete list and detailed instructions.

Daniel Haseltine, Slide Librarian
6950 W. Nelson Street
Chicago, IL 60634

Mailing Notice

For Those With New Addresses

Issues sent by Third Class Mail are not rerouted to a new address unless the recipient has arranged for this service with the Post Office. The issues are destroyed, and the ABS pays for the notification of the new address if it is available. If the member misses an issue for failure to notify the Membership Secretary, he may purchase it from the ABS Bookstore.

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