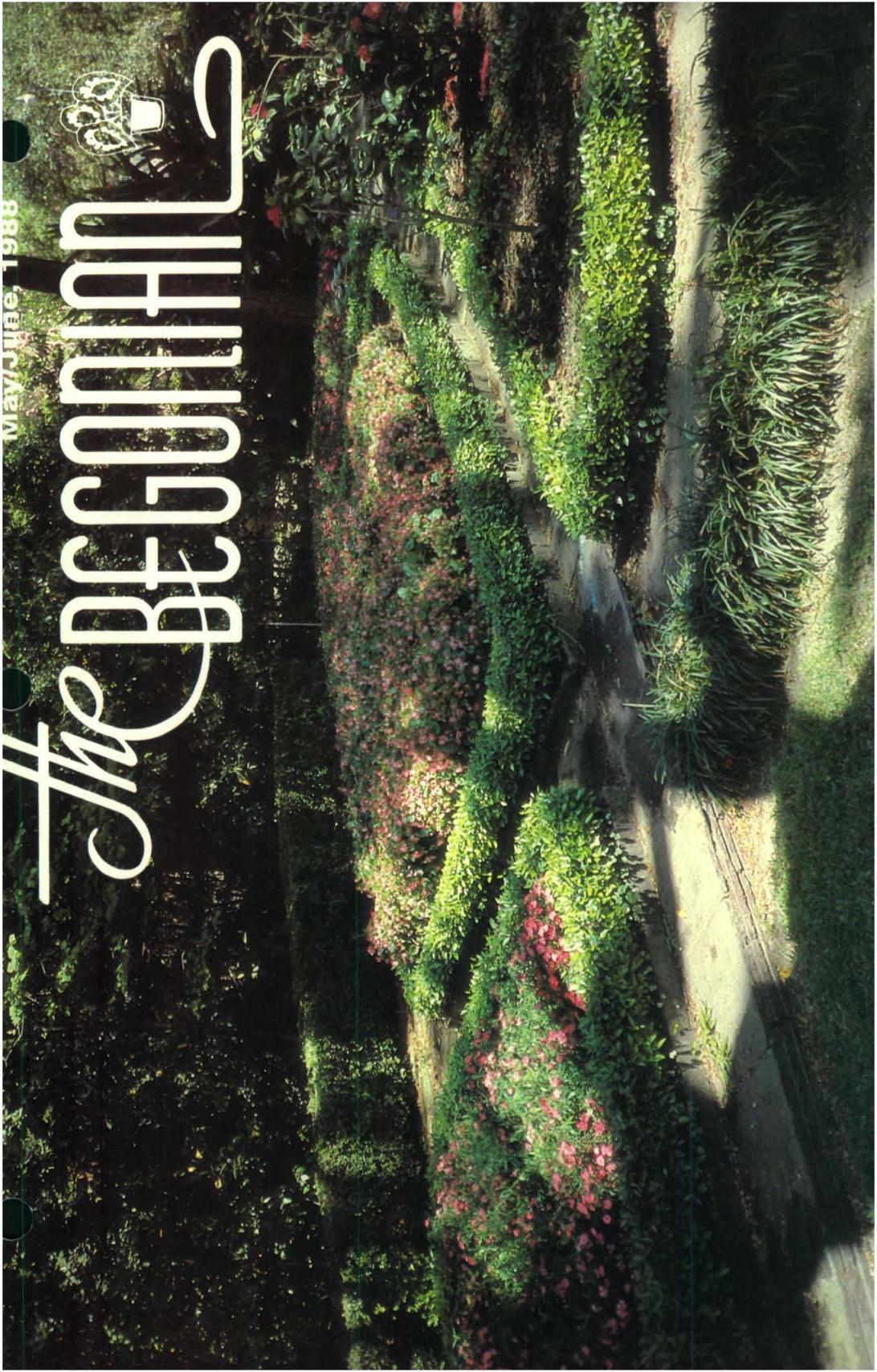


May/June, 1988

The BEGONIAS



The BEGONIAN

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Publication of the American Begonia Society

American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

The Begonian is published bimonthly by the American Begonia Society, Inc. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the society, its officers or the editor. Contents, except where labeled otherwise, may be reprinted without limitation, provided credit is given to "*The Begonian*, magazine of the American Begonia Society."

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American Begonia Society—P.O. Box 1129, Encinitas, CA 92024-0990

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Advertising Manager—James Hankerson, 3010 San Paula, Dallas, TX 75228

COVER PHOTOS:

Front - Tom Keepin of Houston, Texas, took this shot of a shady, private, formal garden he designed, planted, and maintains. See article, p. 76.

Back - *B. manicata* Brongniart See article, p. 84.

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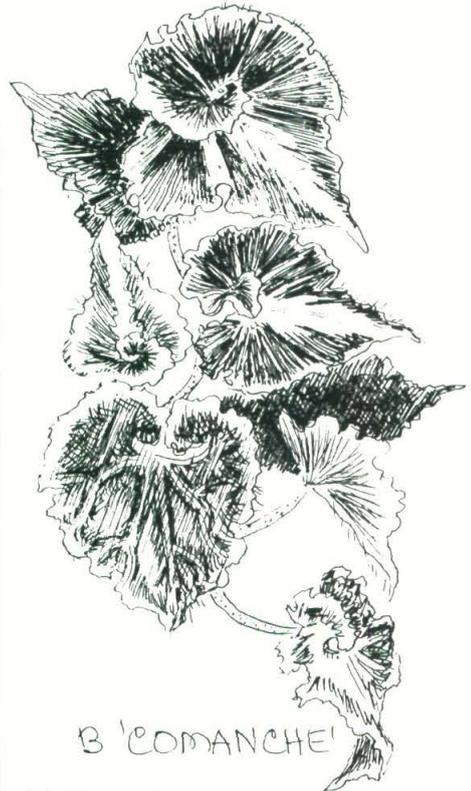
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B 'COMANCHE'
KIT JEANS ©1979

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

The individual who signs up the most new members between April 1 and July 31 will win a \$25 gift certificate from Kartuz Greenhouses and a one-year 1st class ABS membership; the Branch which recruits the most new members will win a \$50 gift certificate. Both individual and Branch receive credit for each new member. Our membership contest closes July 31 - please write John Ingles, Jr. by then and list: your name, your Branch, and the new members.

IT'S OFFICIAL! San Francisco Branch will host the 1989 ABS Convention. Dates are August 3-6.

ATTENTION, BRANCH OFFICERS!

There will be an updated Branch Directory in the next issue. Please make sure your Branch listing is current by sending a list of your officers, meeting place, date, and time to Secretary Jeannette Gilbertson, 410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92027 by June 10. Thank you!

At the 1987 Southwest Region Get-Together in San Antonio, Tom Keepin, a landscape designer in Houston, Texas, gave an excellent talk on "Landscaping with Begonias." Tom has been designing for about 5 years and has been a grower for about 15 years.

Because Houston is a sub-tropical city, begonias can be grown in the ground 10 months out of the year. Normally, the ground does not freeze during the winter, and in most cases all that is needed to ensure the safety of the plants in the cold months is to cut back and mulch; when a freeze is predicted, the rhizomatous and cane types must come out of the ground and be moved inside. The semps usually are covered to protect the plants as much as possible from scarring; this is important in keeping his customers happy.

Typically, little bed preparation is needed. However, with "gumbo" soil (soil that has a lot of clay) organic products such as peat moss must be added to break up the soil. Tom usually adds Osmocote to the soil for fertilizer and then adds his plants, usually from 4" pots. The clients whose gardens he designs and maintains desire instant color and like their gardens to look full even on the first day of planting. So when Tom plants, he makes the leaves touch slightly instead of spacing the plants out. He suggests planting begonias in large masses to achieve color. After the plants are in, he sprays each and every week with one-quarter strength of either Super Gro, BR-61, or some type of bloom promoter. To his fertilizer spray he adds Funginex, and Orthene for insect control. He usually mixes all of it together and uses it as an all-purpose spray. He has little problem with root rot, but uses BanRot once a month as a precautionary measure.

Tom said that in recent years more semperflorens have appeared in Houston gardens, and they take to the hot, humid

climate wonderfully. Tom is experimenting with growing canes, such as B. 'Pinafore sport,' in beds in masses. In the ground in Houston, they can reach 4-5 ft. The blooms get very dark red and the veining throughout the leaves is a deep maroon. B. 'Sophie Cecile' and a begonia known in our area as 'Pink Coccinea' are tough, tall and leggy, and both bloom well. In his own yard, Tom has tried a few rhizomatous types. He is experimenting currently with some of the *B. bowerae* hybrids. He has used 'Silver Jewell' and *B. imperialis*, but reports he has problems getting them to bloom.

Tom talked about some of the good performers, such as the "cocktail" series of semperflorens: Begonias 'Gin,' 'Vodka,' 'Whiskey,' and 'Brandy.' He likes to mix these up for lots of color. He recommends B. 'Pink Prelude,' which is a good grower and bloom producer. For full sun he suggests Begonias 'Scarletta' and 'Linda,' both have large pink flowers.

Tom recommends using single bloom types for mass plantings. They're neater. Single blooms will fall off the plant, while doubles tend to hang on and turn brown. With many gardens and plantings to care for, Tom finds it necessary to use shortcuts; to prune mass plantings of begonias he uses a weed-eater.

Slides of commercial greenhouses which produce begonias in large quantities and of some of the gardens which he has designed (giving us a peek at his skills as a landscape artist: he is very good) completed his seminar.

This article appeared in the May, 1987 Begonia Leaflet, newsletter of the Southwest Region.

Maurice Amey is an artist who lives at 923 Martinique, Dallas, TX 75223. He is an excellent begonia grower himself.



SEMPERFLORENS CULTIVARS

Beautiful and Easy

by Jack Golding

Semperflorens cultivars are the most beautiful and the easiest begonias to grow for magnificent colorful gardens. They are ideal for continuous borders or clustered together for imposing accents of color.

Many years ago, following the literature, I grew semperflorens begonias in the shade or semi-shade. The results were disappointing; the leggy plants with a few flowers were not, as their name connotes, always flowering. Later I tried some in the front of our house where they received full sun from early morning to late afternoon. Pleased with the resulting many flowered compact plants, I now grow all my begonias in the sunniest parts of my gardens.

The area in front of our house is landscaped in the shape of a horse-shoe, with lawn in the center surrounded by raised flower gardens. The soil in these gardens is well drained with a good mix of organic matter. Originally, I used different colored begonias for each segment of the border. But now I use one color for the entire border with the most attractive results.

I prefer flowering plants in masses of one color. Others like a confetti effect of mixed colors, or alternate white and pink or white and red, or arrange colors in stripes. Take care to select varieties that will mature to the same height and use adjacent colors that do not clash. In a good garden center the flats of plants are labeled to indicate the color and height at maturity. Green and bronze leaf types can be mixed; if you follow my simple instructions the plants will have so many flowers the foliage will be nearly invisible.

In mid-May I visit the local garden centers and select flats of young well grown plants. For the borders using the lower growing varieties, I plant two rows in a repetitive triangular pattern, with the plants spaced equidistant from each other on 6" centers. For splotches of color elsewhere, cluster 12 or more plants on 6" centers. Some of the older larger leaves might get sunburned and turn brown; don't worry, they will be replaced quickly with new smaller vigorous leaves.

Everyone is anxious to enjoy the first flowers, but they are a mere illusion of the splendor to follow. It is difficult the first time, but pinch off every flower and bud. Water thoroughly and feed with a fertilizer for flowering plants such as Stern's Miracle-Gro. Two weeks later, again, pinch off all the flowers and buds. Also fertilize but be careful; follow the instructions on the container and do not use excessive amounts. Repeat in another two weeks and remove all the flowers and buds.

Water regularly, fertilize as specified and you will soon see the results of the pinching in the full, many branched plants. By the middle of July the final effect will be apparent and for the rest of the summer you will be rewarded with multitudes of beautiful flowers blending together in continuous color. In late August some cultivars may have some elongated stems and appear leggy. Cut off the long stems at their base, and soon their space will be filled with new growth. My begonias flower until the first killing frost in late October or sometimes November.

Several plants in tubs, window boxes or hanging baskets can add vibrant color to a patio, wall or balcony. For all these I add extra peat moss to the growing media to help retain moisture longer.

In the northeast, I have found that begonias grown in shade are not very satisfactory. For better plants with robust foliage and many flowers, grow in full sun. But it is necessary to start with young plants that become acclimatized quickly to the brighter light. In the warmer parts of the country, with summer temperatures over 95 degrees, you might have to use some shade. But experiment; try some in more sun and you might be pleasantly surprised by their improved growth.

I have good results with the following cultivars. Low compact plants 6-8" tall with green foliage are: 'Scarletta,' scarlet flowers; 'Linda,' deep rose; and 'Viva,' white. Those with bronze leaves are: Ambra series with flowers of white, pink, salmon, rose, and carmine; Danica series with rose or red flowers; 'Melody,' white with salmon pink edges; 'Othello,' scarlet red; 'Vodka,' red; and 'Whiskey,' white. For taller plants 8-12" tall, try the Glamour series with red, rose, pink, or white with pink edges. 'Pink Avalanche' with its cascades of abundant pink flowers is excellent for hanging baskets. Last summer I found a good new variety, 'Party Friend,' with lush purple-bronze leaves and very large pink flowers.

These are a few of the many available cultivars. Try some for a beautiful care-free begonia garden. But remember: before you can relax and enjoy, pinch early, pinch, then pinch again.

This article is an update of one which Jack wrote for the Eastern Region Begonia News, May, 1985.

Jack Golding lives at 47 Clinton Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032. His garden is a traffic-stopper!



PRESERVING BEGONIA SEED BY FREEZING

by Goldie and Douglas Frost

Seeds kept in the refrigerator usually lose their viability after a few months. Goldie had read about the viability of seeds after years of freezing, so she decided to try freezing begonia seeds.

In 1985 she put seeds of three varieties of begonias in sealed plastic containers, and put them in the freezer.

In January, 1988, we took the seeds from the freezer and planted a few seeds of each. We actually believe that every seed had germinated within ten days, and all are growing beautifully now. The three varieties are: *B. carrieae*, *B. subvillosa*, and B. 'Rory.'

We are now convinced that this is a good way to keep seeds viable for a long time.

Goldie and Douglas Frost, who received the Dyckman award for service in 1983, live at 10622 Teal Dr., Garden Grove, CA 92643. The B. 'Rory' mentioned is one of their many fine hybrids.

See also "Hybridizing with Last Year's Pollen: A Success!" by Masami Fujimoto, the **Begonian**, January-February, 1988, p. 15 for methods of storing pollen and seeds for freezing.

STORK REPORT

Mary Margaret Rafferty, ABS convention chair in 1982, has given birth to a beautiful daughter, Jennifer Ann Kanne. Jennifer Ann was born January 20, 1988, and weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz.

TIPS FOR BEGONIA BEGINNERS

by Dorothy Patrick

As a generalization, begonias need bright light. Outside, most of them will do well under a tree, or at the edge of a porch roof or patio cover. If the leaves burn brown and crisp around the edges, move the plant into a slightly more sheltered area. If the stems become long and stringy, and the plant is a bloomer which doesn't bloom, try giving it a little more direct light.

By the way, virtually all begonias thrive on an "outdoor vacation" after a winter of being closed in the house. Just do not put them in direct sunlight until they are acclimated to the brighter light outside.

Use any name brand, balanced fertilizer (such as 10-10-10). Many growers suggest using two or more brands of fertilizers in alternation. Dilute according to directions on the package. I use fertilizer only during the active growing period of spring and summer.

NEVER pour your fertilizer solution on a dry plant! Water the plant first. I also do not feed a sick plant.

To know when your begonia needs to be repotted, turn the pot upside down and, supporting the upside-down plant with your free hand cupped under the foliage, gently tap the edge of the pot on a table edge. The root ball will slide out. If the root ball retains the shape of the interior of the pot, it is time to move it up - but only by one pot size. In other words, do not take a begonia from a 3" to a 6" pot. Go instead to a 4" pot.

To repot, put a shallow layer of your potting mix into the new pot, adjusting the amount of mix you use so that the surface of the root ball comes to about 1" below the top edge of the new pot. Loosely fill in around the sides of the plant, adding just a thin layer on the top surface. You do not need to tamp the

newly potted plant. Instead, add a drop of Super Thrive to a gallon of water; using a small watering can, gently, slowly water the plant in. (The Super Thrive is excellent to prevent shock to the plant; if you can't find Super Thrive, there are other preparations available labeled as transplanting solutions or root stimulators). You will be able to see immediately if a little more soil is needed. The soil will come to about 3/4" below the top of the pot; keeping the soil below the top will prevent it from washing out when you water.

One problem I had as a beginner was finding start-up plants. Where could I locate begonias? Here are some suggestions:

1. If there is an ABS Branch in your area, join! The branches are listed periodically in the **Begonian**. Most branches have a plant exchange, or a sale table, at every meeting. Most also have an "open to the public" sale, and, if you're lucky, a show once a year. Branches are the greatest source available for begonias and help on how to grow them.
2. Join an ABS Region. There are two at this time, Eastern and Southwest. There are no monthly meetings, but each has an informative newsletter, and information on what the branches in the region are doing and when they will have a show or sale. There are also regional shows and sales. Eastern Region has annual dues of \$5, which should be sent to Ed Thompson, P.O. Drawer PP, Southampton, NY 11968. Southwest Region's dues are \$7 (\$10 family, \$25 commercial), and should be sent to Marie Harrell, Rt. 3, Box 689, Elgin, TX 78621.
3. The **Begonian** carries names and addresses of mail-order sources for begonias.
4. Look in the plant area of grocery stores and discount stores as well as nurseries. My

experience leads me to recommend small rooted cuttings for beginners, rather than large mature plants. You stand a better chance of acclimating the plants to your environment, and, if you lose a plant, you don't have such a large investment in it.

Dorothy Patrick is a terrific begonia grower who has served ABS on the Awards Committee and as Convention Chair. Her address is P.O. Box 2515, South Padre Island, TX 78597. In the next issue she'll tackle pinching and pruning, and different types of begonias.



EARLY BEGONIANS

Are you a long-time member of ABS? Do you have years of **Begonians** on your shelves, or in the attic?

Joan Campbell writes that the Seed Fund Director's set of the **Begonian** is missing several issues. If you have duplicates of the issues, or would be willing to part with them, she would appreciate your sending them to her to complete the set. Missing are all of 1940 except May; January and December, 1941; February, March, April, June, July, November, December, 1943; and August, 1961. Indices are missing for 1943, 1949, 1961, and 1962. Joan's address is 814 NE Honeyhouse, Corvallis, MT 59828.

Joan's letter prompted an inventory of the editor's set, and missing are August, 1940; January through August, 1941; September through December, 1942; February, 1948; June, 1954; December, 1957; March, 1958; January, 1959; February, 1981; May-June, 1984. The editor's set includes only a few issues from 1938 and 1939, and no earlier ones. Do you have any of these early issues which you would be willing to photo-copy? Please send to Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262; if you'll include the copying bill, I will be happy to reimburse you.

COMING EVENTS

May 6-7: Jacksonville Branch Show and Sale, Roosevelt Mall at San Juan Ave. and Roosevelt Blvd., Jacksonville, Florida.

May 13-15: SWR Get-Together, Howard Johnson Plaza Inn North Motel, Austin, Texas.

June 11-12: Westchester Branch annual show and sale, Cox Hills Mall.

July 30-31: San Francisco Branch annual show and sale, Tanforan shopping mall, San Bruno, CA.

July 30-31: San Gabriel Valley Branch Show and Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum at Arcadia. Open to the public Saturday, 1- 4 p.m. and Sunday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

August 16-17: The London Begonia Society will be having their annual show at the Royal Horticultural Society Hall in Vincent Square, Westminster, London. For more information write Jean Hopkins, 9 Dukes Ride, Silchester Reading, Berkshire RG7 2PX, England.

August 26-28: San Francisco County Fair - Flower Show, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Preview Aug. 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m. San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Admission \$3, seniors \$2, children under 12 free.

September 9-11: Sacramento Branch annual Show and Sale. Contact Show Chair Bob Hamm, 10065 River Mist Way, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, (916) 366-7835 for more information.

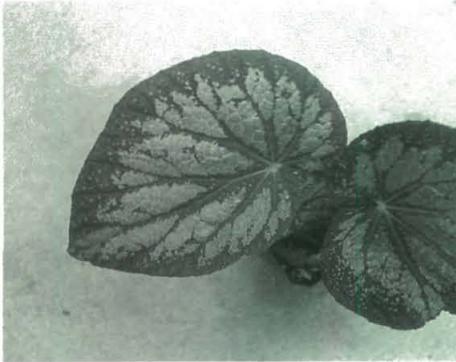
September 15-18: ABS Convention 88!, Burlington, MA.

UNIDENTIFIED BEGONIA SPECIES LIST

Thelma O'Reilly, project director

The ABS Nomenclature Department maintains a list of unidentified species. These are assigned numbers preceded by "U" (for "unidentified").

Your cooperation in supplying any information, including observations, photographs, slides or drawings, for this group or any other unidentified species will be appreciated. Write to Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa CA, 92041.



B. U090 Photo by Phyllis Bates

B. U090

Baguio, Phillipines. Plant purchased by Martin Johnson, October 1980. Rhizomatous; short, creeping rhizome; ovate leaves are slightly overlapped at leaf base, dark olive green with large silver areas between nerves and small silver dots on the outer leaf area, 7-8 main nerves, finely ciliated on subentire margins; red flushed peduncles are covered with white hairs; flowers are pink. Probably a *B. rex* hybrid.

B. U091

Cavinti, Phillipines. Seed imported by Martin Johnson, March 1981 under number MJ 51. Green leaves with white spots.

B. U092

Luzon, Phillipines. Collected by Martin Johnson, October 1980. Shrub-like; large, freely branching shrub.

B. U093

Mount Banahao, Phillipines. Plant purchased by Martin Johnson, October 1980. Shrub-like; stems green, lenticellate, with scattered white-to-red villi which disappear on lower section as plant ages; leaves ovate, acuminate, shallowly cordate, 5 1/2" x 3 1/2", slightly puckered upper leaf surface is olive green with silver overlay and scattered light red, short hairs, green veins become red as veins mature, green under surface is flushed red with raised, red veins and light red hairs overall, 7-8 nerved, marginally ciliate, finely red edged; stipules persistent, pale green, sometimes flushed pink, 1/2"-3/4", setiferous, keeled; petioles 2"-3", green flushed red with white-red scattered villi; staminate flowers satiny, blush pink with 4 tepals, 2 ovate and 2 narrow, rarely opening, 3/4" x 1/2"; pistillate flowers 1 1/2", 5 satiny, blush pink tepals, 1 tepal narrow and occasionally missing, contrasting bright rose-pink ovary has 3 wings of equal size; peduncles are green flushed pink with occasional villi; pedicels are bright pink. Flowers are fragrant and profuse, everblooming under ideal conditions.

B. U093 is identical to B. U085. It shares an interesting relationship with B. U059. It is also grown under the following labels: B. U059, B. U085, B. U092, and 'Pinkie.' For additional information see **Begonian** Jan-Feb 1988, pp. 25-26. A separate article is due to appear in the **Begonian** and will cover the numerous reports and controversies about this beautiful begonia.

B. U094

Peru. Collected by Stephen Morgan to the east of Villa Rica, 850 m. alt., September 1982. Collector's number is "Stephen Morgan PC36." Seed was sent to Patrick Worley and Phyllis Bates. Cane-like; stems to 1 m. high; leaves glabrous, reddish; flowers pink. No distribution under this number. Seed not viable.

B. U095

Peru. Collected by Stephen Morgan, September 1982 near the site where B. U094 was collected. Collector's number is "Stephen Morgan PC27." Seed was sent to Patrick Worley and Phyllis Bates. Cane-like; few stemmed, rarely branching, 3'-4' high, prominent stipule scars and undeveloped red leaf appendages give glabrous stems an interesting appearance; glabrous, bright green leaves are 3"- 4" x 6"- 8", with prominent red spot at leaf-petiole junction, 9 light green nerves radiate from the red spot, under leaf surface usually flushed orange-red, finely ciliated margin edged orange red, dentate, serrulate, subentire; green petioles 2"-3", glabrous; peduncle 5"-10", glabrous; 2 quickly deciduous bracts completely wrap around the bud clusters as the inflorescence starts to elongate, followed by 2 more sets of bracts before the buds mature into a showy, scarlet-red, rather flat topped inflorescence. For additional information about B. U095 see **Begonian** cover Nov-Dec 1986 and "A Peruvian Puzzle" pp. 154-155 of same issue.

B. U096

Carpath, Peru. Collected by Stephen Morgan, September 1982. Collector's number is "Stephen Morgan PC44." Seed was sent to Patrick Worley and Phyllis Bates. Collector described plant as a climber, very showy, masses of bright red flowers. No distribution under this number. Seed not viable.

B. U097

Brazil. Seed collected by Jeffrey Kent, February 1982. Shrub-like; hirsute with elongated leaves. Plants did not survive. Patrick Worley reports "probably a known species." No distribution.

B. U098

Brazil. Seed collected by Jeffrey Kent, February 1982. Shrub-like; glabrous leaves elongated and star shaped. No distribution.

B. U099

Seed of this begonia was sent to the Seed Fund by Ruth Wills, OK, who received

her plant from Kathlynn Calvert, OK. Shrub-like; sparsely hairy, mature leaves are 1 1/2"- 2 1/2" x 6"-9" with "fishtail" lobes at apices, leaf under surface is green with red nerves; margin is dentate; habit is like B. U049. B. U099, grown in Mabel Corwin's garden at Vista, CA is identical to B. U049. Seed listed in **Begonian** May-June 1983, p. 86. For additional information see **Begonian** cover March-April 1986 and inside article "The Pot of Gold" p. 42.

B. U100

El Valle, Panama. Seed collected by Roberto Brin, February 1983. Rhizomatous; leaves pale green and pubescent; flowers white. See Seed Fund listing, M-J 2, **Begonian** May-June 1983.



BRANCH DIRECTORY ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Correction: **Orange County Branch** meets the second Thursday at 7:30, not the second Tuesday. New president of Orange County is Elda Regimbal, 3117 San Juan Dr., Fullerton, CA 92635.

Address change: Bob Moore, president of the **Pinellas County Branch** and the **Tampa Bay Branch**, has moved. His new address is 6316 8th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710.

New time, new place, new date: **Whittier Branch** will be meeting on the first Friday of each month at 7 p.m. in Room 1 of the Civic Center Complex, 7630 Washington Ave. in Whittier.

Palm Beaches Branch president is Paul Lowe, 5741 Dewberry Way, W. Palm Beach, FL 33415.

CONVENTION '88

Buxton Branch members continue the preparation of their fiftieth anniversary celebration at ABS Convention '88. Besides the activities in setting up the show on Thursday, September 15, attendees may wish to tour the Freedom Trail in Boston and the Wellesley College Greenhouses. In the evening, there will be an informal reception and no-host cocktail party, with a plant sales preview.

Friday will feature a morning tour to the famous glass flowers at Harvard University; seminars in the afternoon; and a traditional clambake in the early evening, with entertainment. Saturday will offer more seminars, the annual meeting, and a meeting of the Members at Large, with the activities culminating with the banquet and presentation of awards. On Sunday, following the Round Robin breakfast, buses will take all interested parties to Logee's in Connecticut, returning late afternoon.

Seminar speakers include Michael Kartuz, Corliss Engle, Scott Hoover, Chuck Anderson, and Dr. Luc Brouillet of the Montreal Botanic Gardens.

The Buxton Branch would like your help in celebrating fifty years of growing, research, New England hybrids, and many fine publications. Our trophies this year will be collector's items. Dedham Pottery, long famed for their crackle-ware pottery, is designing pieces with a decorative begonia motif. These will cost \$40 per division plate and \$75 for platters. If you wish to sponsor a division winner, requests will be handled on a first come, first serve basis. Please make checks payable to "ABS CONVENTION FUND '88" and mail to: Evelyn Cronin, Trophy Chairman, Box 732, Cotuit, MA 02635.

IN MEMORY

Patricia Ann Burdick, a founder of the Minnesota Begonia Society, died in August, 1987. In addition to growing and hybridizing begonias she was active in promoting interest in begonias locally and involved in several of the Round Robin flights. Our deepest sympathies to husband Gary and daughters Susan and Dawn.

Afton Light, a long-time member of the Garden Grove Branch, passed away on September 20, 1987. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him, especially the Garden Grove Branch members. He was active in all the things our Branch accomplished and was very active in his church, the First Baptist Church of Garden Grove.

- Goldie and Douglas Frost

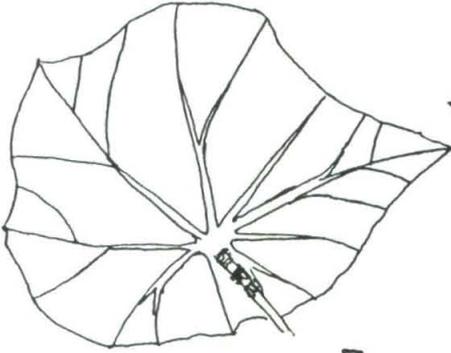
Gene Schrider, a past president of the San Gabriel Valley Branch, died March 2nd. A supportive participant in all branch activities, he was also on the Board of the Los Angeles Arboretum. He will be missed very much.

Frances Anderson, a much loved expert gardener, has died in Florida... All who knew her will miss her for years to come.

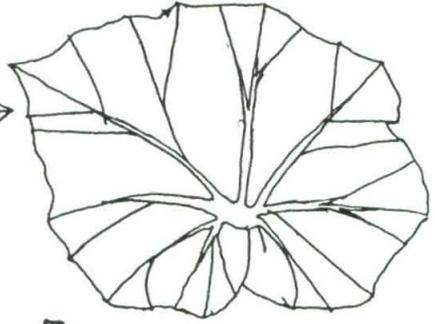
-[the Shadehouse](#), Pinellas Co. newsletter

Convention '88, continued:

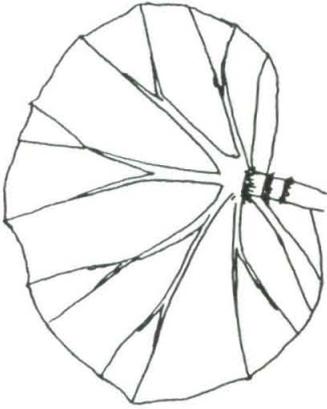
What is a convention without a plant sale? We need plant donations and a baseball park idea of how many begonias you can propagate. We do hope you think BIG. We are hoping for plants from every part of the country so that we can offer a very representative selection. For monetary donations, please make checks payable to "ABS CONVENTION FUND '88," and send to: Wanda Macnair, 177 Hancock St., Cambridge, MA 02139



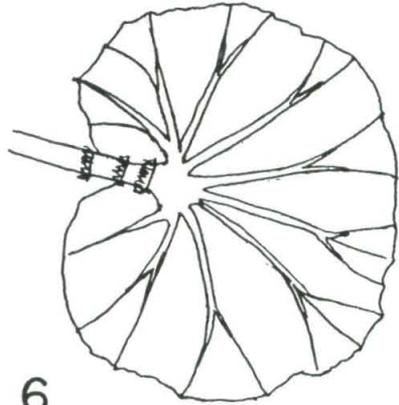
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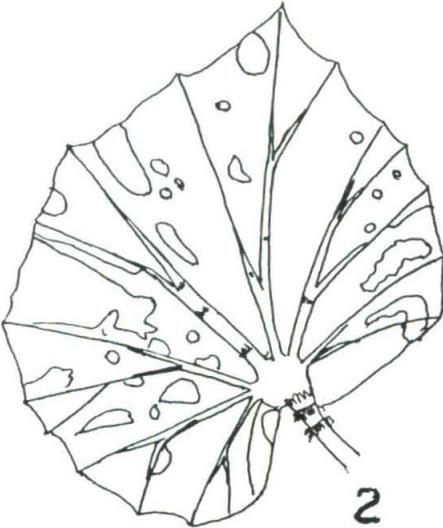
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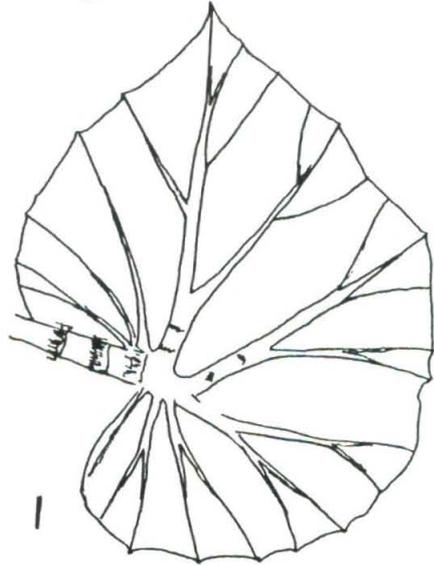
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R.C.Z.

Begonia manicata Brongniart and Its Varieties

by Rudolf Ziesenhenné

Begonia manicata Brongniart, one of my favorite begonias, was first purchased in 1935. Since then I have grown several specimens obtained from collectors. The plant is valued because it grows well in the house and has a clean, fresh look, flowering in late winter with pale pink flowers. The red scales on the petioles, where they develop into little cuffs on the upper end close under the leaf, are fascinating, and set the plant apart from all other begonias. *Begonia manicata* has been most useful in hybridizing. (Figure 1).

Begonia manicata was first collected in 1837 in Mexico by Jean Jules Linden (1817-1898), a botanical explorer and nurseryman of Luxemburg who introduced it into cultivation in Europe. Linden sent *Begonia manicata* to Theodore Brongniart, Professor-Administrator of Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. Brongniart, after having August de Drumenil paint a picture of the plant in 1839, described the plant botanically in Herbier general de l'Amateur, III, table 46 (1842). Brongniart was the leading French taxonomist in the 19th century. I have been unable to locate this publication but the same illustration and text were also published intact in the serial l'Horticulteur Universel by Antoine Charles Lemaire, Volume 4, pages 33-36 (1842). At the end of the article appears the note: "Extracted from Herbier general de l'Amateur Paris III, table 46 (1842)."

I wish to thank Dr. G. Aymonin, director of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire de Phanerogamie, Paris, for furnishing me color slides of this rare work.

The above institution does not have a herbarium specimen of *Begonia manicata* with Linden's name as collector; the illustration with the article is the type specimen for this species. (See back cover).

The color plate is very detailed, so the following description (translated from the Latin) accompanying it is very brief: "Stem creeping, lengthened, the tip erect; leaf petioles cylindrical, much longer than the blade, thick at the base, clothed with scaly thin membranous growths, dull purple, with separated elongated fringe; around the summit of the petioles are ringlets in the form of cuffs; blades thick, slanting, entire, fine-toothed-ciliated on the edge, very smooth above, paler below; stipules bare, egg-shaped, membranous-transparent, paler at the edge, small tuft fringe; flowers in loose panicles, longer than the leaves; flowers two-sepaled, rose, sepals elliptical entire, stamens few in number (8-10) free; anthers oblong, ovary 3-celled, 3-winged, wings at the front less than angular, running down to the petioles; stigmas simple having a straight tip, moon-shaped."

The earliest herbarium specimens of *Begonia manicata* Brongniart I know of are numbers 188 and 198 of the collector Henry Galeotti (1814-1858, a French-born botanist and explorer in Central America), who collected them at about 2000 feet in humid ravines of the Cordillera (Veracruz), Mexico in 1840. Both of these specimens are in the herbarium of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire de Phanerogamie, Paris. I wish to thank the director of the museum for sending me photos of both plants.

"Mexico og Central Americas Begonier" is a paper published by Frederik Michael Liebmann in Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den naturhistoriske Forening i Kjobenhavn, 1852, No. 1, pages 1-22. In this paper Liebmann describes on page 17, *Begonia lepidota* (scaley) which was collected by Magistrate Orster on Mt. Pantasma in the province of Segovia, Nicaragua, at 4,500 feet, in early flower in November. This specimen of which I have a photo, labeled by Liebmann as #182, is really *Begonia manicata* Brongniart. In my study of the number of stamens in 73 flowers of *Begonia manicata* the fewest I encountered were 4 and the most were 13, which gives an average number of 7.52.

scale-like hairs on the veins on the underside of the leaf and the entire length of the petioles as well as the manicas on the upper end of the petioles are cardinal red. The inflorescence is more compact than those of other *Begonia manicata* plants.

Stamen count:	
flowers	stamens
1	4
1	5
8	6
13	7
5	8
3	9
flowers examined: 31	
stamen average: 6.93	

Over the years I have obtained plants of *Begonia manicata* from various collectors. Thomas MacDougall collected *Begonia manicata* (C.37) at Rio del Corte (Coatzacoalcos) east of Mogone, Juchitan, Oaxaca, Mexico, on March 3, 1944. It was found growing on rocks in the shade. This plant had the typical eggshaped leaves with an abrupt sharp point. The margin is even with a few hairs. Near the tip there are fine serrate teeth with a hair on each tip. The margin curls downward. The stigma viewed from above is U-shaped.

Unlike the other *Begonia manicata* plants the top of the stigma is almost circular but a little oblong with only a very slight sinus between the two lobes.

MacDougall's *Begonia manicata* (C.57) was a cultivated plant found in San Cristobal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, February 5-6, 1948. This plant is smaller in every way than the other manicata-type plants I have. The stems appear more rhizome-like and are very thin and cannot support themselves erect as the other plants do. The leaf nodes are very close. The leaves are egg-shaped with a short tapering tip which is cardinal red (Royal Horticultural Society Color Chart 822/1). The margin has a tooth at the end of each vein. Saw-teeth line the margin with a hair up to one millimeter long protruding from each one. Hairs also appear on the margin proper where there are no teeth. The top of the leaf is pod green (061). The margin and random areas on the top of the leaf and the undersurface are cardinal red (822/1). The

I received *Begonia manicata* collected by W. Scott Hoover under his collection number 179 with no collection data. This is a very robust plant capable of making a large specimen. The nodes on the stems are about one inch apart and it does support itself erect. The leaves are egg-shaped but rather angular. The leaves are lettuce green (861/1). The scale-like hairs on the veins and petioles are currant red as are the cuffs. The leaf point is long and tapering. The margin had an abundance of hairs and near the tip are some teeth.

Stamen count:	
flowers	stamens
1	5
1	7
2	8
11	9
flowers examined: 15	
stamen average: 8.46	

I also have *Begonia manicata* marked 'Mexico Highway #125' (figure 1). I do not remember from whom I obtained it. This plant resembles the ones collected by Mr. Hoover and Noble Bashor.

Stamen count:	
flowers	stamens
1	6
2	7
8	8
5	9
2	10
flowers examined: 18	
stamen average: 8.27	

The upper surface of the leaves is fern green (0862) while the underside and the cuffs are currant red.

Noble Bashor of Salem, Oregon, sent me his *Begonia manicata* #1167 collected in Vera Cruz, Mexico, November, 1973, at 4,500 foot elevation, growing very large on a wet bank of a stream in the shade, near Coscomatepec. The leaves were up to 10 1/2 inches long and 7 1/2 inches wide. The leaves are egg-shaped but almost circular with a tooth at the end of each vein and fine hairs on the entire margin. The leaf comes abruptly to a short tapering point. The underside of the leaf has currant red scale-like hairs on the nerves. The entire petioles are moderately covered with scale-like currant red hairs. The stigma top is oblong with a small sinus.

Stamen count:	
flowers	stamens
1	10
4	11
3	12
1	13
flowers examined: 9	
stamen average: 11.44	

This plant has the highest number of stamens in the various *Begonia manicata* plants that I grow. This plant is very vigorous and is also capable of making a nice large specimen.

Thomas MacDougall also collected *Begonia manicata* to which he gave his number C.214 at El Suspire, Berriozabel, Chiapas, Mexico, March 30, 1959. I have lost this plant.

Begonia manicata variety 'aureo-maculata' is a very striking begonia. The earliest article I can find on this plant is in Bulletin de la Societe d'Horticulture de Geneve, 1840, January, on page 100. The article states that the plant was obtained from M. M. Roggero & Sons, Turin, Italy. This plant is like the *Begonia manicata* type except that the lettuce green (861) leaves may be spotted, blotched or variegated with white to primrose yellow (601/3). The margin is pale rose. The flower stems and petioles are agathia green (60/3). The flowers are spinel pink (0625/3). The inflorescence is spreading.

Stamen count:	
flowers	stamens
1	5
8	7
10	8
17	9
2	10
flowers examined: 38	
stamen average: 8.26	

Begonia manicata variety 'aureo-maculata' has always been assumed to be a cultivar produced in the garden since it was introduced into the trade by Victor Lemoine (1823-1911), a French horticulturist who introduced many new cultivars of *Begonia* and *Fuchsia* as well as others. It has been variously called *Begonia manicata* variety 'alba,' *Begonia manicata* variety 'aurea variegata' and *Begonia manicata* variety 'maculata.' However, on August 12, 1979, Loran Whitlock of Los Angeles presented me with a plant he collected in the wilds near Palma Sola, Vera Cruz, Mexico, which has proven to be *Begonia manicata* variety 'Aureo-maculata.' I asked Mr. Whitlock if it was possible that the plant could have escaped from cultivation. He assured me that there was not the slightest chance of that having happened. To corroborate the fact that *Begonia manicata* variety 'aureo-maculata' is really a plant found growing in the wild state, I found on page 154 of the book Les Begonia by Adolphe van den Heede (1903) the following: "*Begonia manicata* 'aureo' variety is a natural variation introduced from

Mexico by Victor Lemoine." No date is given. Since this is truly a wild plant, I name it botanically *Begonia manicata* variety *aureomaculata* Ziesenhenné, new variety. (Figure 2).

The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL, sent a plant-collecting expedition in 1941-1942 to Guatemala. On March 12, 1942, Julian A. Steyermark collected a plant of *Begonia manicata* in the Department of Alta Verapaz in crevices in the upper part of a limestone bluff in Montana Yxocubvain, 2 1/2 miles west of Cubilguitz at an elevation of 1,000 feet to 1650 feet. The collection (figure 3) was given the number 44980. Dr. Lyman B. Smith and Dr. Bernice Schubert examined this specimen in 1943 and noticed that while it was definitely *Begonia manicata* it differed from the type by having the leaves attached to the petiole inside the leaf margin (peltate) and so they named this specimen *Begonia manicata* variety *peltata* Smith & Schubert. This plant became the first botanical variety of *Begonia manicata* and the name is published on page 175 in the paper "Begoniaceae: Flora of Guatemala" by Smith & Schubert in *Fiediana: Botany Volume 24*, part VII, No. 1, 1961.

I thank Dr. Bernice Schubert of the Gray Herbarium and Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University for furnishing the photo of the type specimen of *Begonia manicata* variety *peltata* Smith & Schubert.

On January 20, 1969, Thomas MacDougall was collecting east of Palomares, Juchitan, Chiapas, Mexico, and in a rocky, partly open area in the rainforest at 500 feet he found a plant (figure 4) of *Begonia manicata* to which he affixed his collection number C.299. This plant was mailed to me and it was a pleasant surprise, for while it had the manica or cuffs on the petiole as the other *Begonia manicata* plants have, the cuffs are agathia green (60/3) instead of the usual dark red. The stem is a creeping rhizome with very close internodes. The petioles are also agathia green, as are the three sets of cuffs or manicas. The leaves, four

inches long and three inches wide, are egg-shaped to transverse elliptical and may or may not have a very small point at the tip; the color is sheeles green (860/2) above while the underside of the leaves is agathia green; the margin has small hairs and a small tooth occurs at the end of each vein. The ovary is pod green (061/1) while the wings are spinel pink (0625/3). The sepals are paler than the wings.

Stamen count:	
flowers	stamens
2	9
5	10
3	11
1	12
3	13
2	14
flowers examined: 16	
stamen average: 11.25	

This plant is a new variety to be called *Begonia manicata* variety *manicativiridi* Ziesenhenné new variety. It differs from *Begonia manicata* Brongniart by having a thin creeping rhizome with very close internodes, leaves ovate to transverse-elliptical with or without point, manicas and scale-like hairs on the underside of the leaves agathia green instead of red, stamens nine to 14 instead of eight to 10.

On November 11, 1971 Thomas MacDougall collected what he called a "cane" begonia among rocks in part shade at Lasepila, Ocozocoautla, Chiapas, Mexico. Helabeled the plant C,321. He collected this *Begonia* again on December 3, 1971 at Las Pitas, Ocozocoautla, Chiapas, Mexico, and noted it was "collared, glabra." McDougall called the plant a "cane" apparently because of its many upright stems and bushy growth. The petioles of this plant are attached to the side of the leaf (figure 5) but some are attached to the base (figure 6), especially the mature leaves. The upper third of the leaf stem has scale-like hairs and three manicas (cuffs) which have fringed tips. The hairs and cuffs are agathia green (60/3). The leaves are fleshy, spinach green (0960/1) above,

overlaid with glaucous, even, smooth nerves, not prominent, and of a lighter color; below lighter green, nerves protruding, dull, with only one or two scale-like fringed hairs on nerves; typical leaves are unequally transversely broadly elliptical; however, some leaves are symmetrical in outline (young plants may produce first leaves broadly ovate), tip rounded or with a sharp point, basal lobes large and overlapping; margin undulate (the tissue bordering the indentation between the lobes is bowed up vertically), unequally shallowly lobed, lobes rounded, a large tooth at the end of each nerve, finely toothed with a hair protruding from each tooth; five inches long, six inches wide; pedatinerved, three costae at the base giving rise to ten nerves reaching the margin, one main nerve, outside two basally, three laterally, inside basally two, laterally two, areas between nerves smooth.

Stamen count:	
flowers	stamens
1	6
5	8
8	9
3	10
flowers examined: 17	
stamen average: 8.70	

These counts are similar to those of *Begonia manicata* Brongniart. This plant C.321 displays all the other characteristics of *Begonia manicata* Brongniart but differs in the following ways: the leaves are unequally transversely broadly elliptical with some leaves almost symmetrical. The leaf margin is very undulate. The leaves have five shallow lobes. The basal lobes are large and overlap. Ten nerves all arise from three basal costae. All scale-like fringed hairs are agathia green. Only one or two scale-like fringed hairs are on the underside of the leaves. Because of the above differences from the type plant *Begonia manicata* Brongniart, I present the name *Begonia manicata* variety *ocozocoutlaensis* Ziesenhenné new variety.

Latin Diagnoses

Begonia manicata var. *aureo-maculata* Ziesenhenné var. nov.

A var. differt foliis viridis lactucinis maculatis variegatis albis ad primulinis.

Type: Loran Whitelock. Palma Sola, Veracruz, Mexico.

(Holotype R. Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA. 93103.; Isotypes, US, A, P.)

Begonia manicata var. *manicativiridi* Ziesenhenné var. nov.

A var. differt: rhizomatibus repentibus tenuibus, internodiis contractis, petiolis cum manicatis tribus et pilis squamois-similibus apicibus fimbriatis itidem foliis subtis omnino viridibus agathaibus ad invicem ruberis, staminibus novem ad quatuordecim ad invicem quatuor ad decem.

Type: Thomas MacDougall #C.299. East of Palomares, Juchitan, Chiapas, Mexico. Jan. 20, 1969.

(Holotype: R. Ziesenhenné, 1130 N. Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA. 93103. Isotypes: US, A, P.).

Begonia manicata var. *ocozocoutlaensis* Ziesenhenné var. nov.

A var. differt: foliis transverse late ellipticis inaequalibus, marginibus undulatis magnopere, lobis quinque non profundis, lobis basibus grandibus imbricatis, nervis decem exoribus costatis tribus, pilis squamis-similibus apicibus fimbriatibus omnino viridibus fimbriatibus omnino viridibus agathibus.

Type: Thomas MacDougall #C.321. Lasepila, Ocozocoutla, Chiapas, Mexico. November 11, 1971.

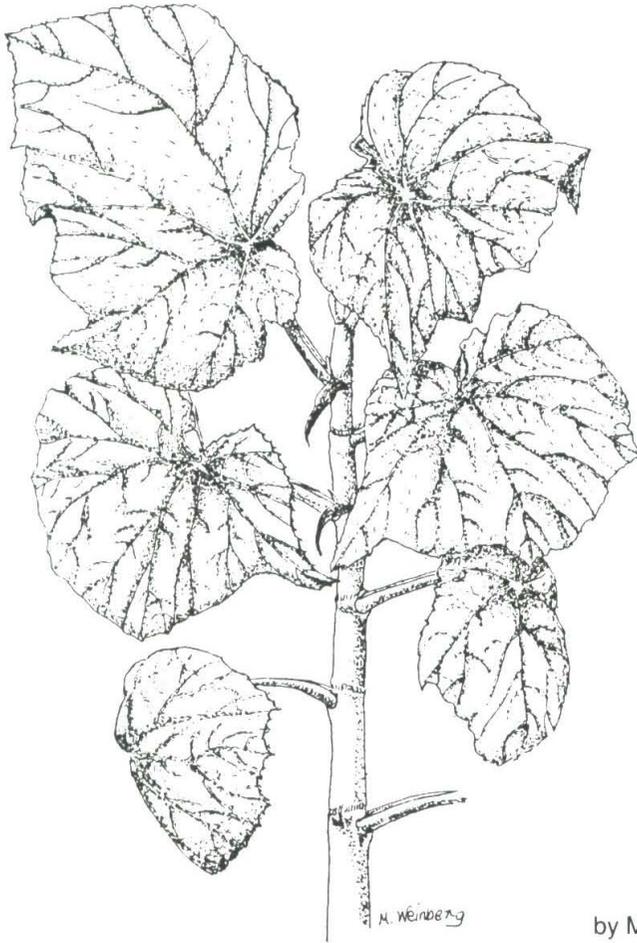
(Holotype: R. Ziesenhenné. Isotypes: US, A, P.).

Rudolf Ziesenhenné, Begonia specialist, lives at 1130 North Milpas St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103. In recognition of his many contributions as a hybridizer and begonia scholar, he has won all three of ABS' top awards.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Begonia vitifolia



by Mary Weinberg

B. vitifolia was first collected by Heinrich Schott in 1817-1818 in Brazil. It was described by Schott in 1827. It is in Section Prizelia, and has 38 chromosomes.

B. vitifolia is a thick-stemmed begonia. It forms a small tree; eventually the base of the stem may be two inches in diameter, according to Otto and Dietrich. The stems are trunk-like, non-ramified. Leaves are grass green in color, asymmetrically kidney-shaped, angularly lobed, serrate, with 6-7 veins, covered with short stellate hairs, sparsely above and

more densely underneath. Petioles are terete, stipules ovate-oblong, acute glabrous. Inflorescence are small and white on large branching cymes; the staminate flowers have four tepals and pistillate flowers have five tepals; the ovary is three celled, with three unequal sized wings, one quite broad and two almost vestigial. It is a very sparse bloomer and will not bloom at all if not given the right conditions. Blooms winter-spring.

My *B. vitifolia* is not an old plant, and up until this summer it had only one main stem;

it is about 20 inches tall (including the clay pot), and is now getting two new growths at its base, one on each side of the stem. In June I placed it in my summer greenhouse, and as it was so tall it had to be placed on the top shelf; had I put it on the ground it would have gotten very little sun. My greenhouse gets full sun from 9 a.m. until about 3 p.m., when shade from a neighboring tree covers it. As this is too much sun for *B. vitifolia*, a few of the leaves got very small scorch spots; but the leaf color remained very good otherwise, not at all bleached out as might be expected. I am hoping to find a better location for it next summer.

CULTURE

Light: *B. vitifolia* likes sunlight, in summer preferably morning and late afternoon sun, as leaves may burn if exposed to the midday sun. In winter give it a sunny window, or sunny greenhouse shelf. If it is still a small plant it can be given the brightest spot in the light garden. *B. vitifolia* tends to be weak stemmed and wobbly in its pot if not given enough light.

Growing medium: I have *B. vitifolia* in a good grade potting soil made up by our local greenhouse for their customers. To it I have added a generous amount of perlite.

Potting: I use clay pots for tall plants, as the plants tend to fall over more easily in plastic pots. Do not over-pot *B. vitifolia*, as thick-stemmed plants will grow better if kept slightly pot-bound (this also encourages basal growth).

Temperature: The ideal temperature is 62-65 degrees F.

Humidity: The ideal humidity for this plant is in the 40-60% range.

Fertilizer: According to the Thompsons in Begonias: the Complete Reference Guide,

thick-stemmed begonias will need a little more fertilizer than other types of begonias in order to encourage branching. This is particularly true if the plant is pot-bound.

Water: Water when the growing medium is dry to the touch. Clay pots will dry out much faster than plastic pots.

Note: I have staked *B. vitifolia*, as it needs this extra support to keep growing straight.

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Artist/writer/begonia grower Mary Weinberg lives at 1527 W. Highland Ave., Chicago, IL 60660.



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1988 ABS SERVICE AWARDS

We will convene in Boston Sept. 15-18 to share our love of Begonias and renew friendships. Once again I ask you for help in honoring ABS' finest achievers.

This year brings changes in the rules for one of the awards: the Alfred D. Robinson Medal. The rules now allow for a plant to have been distributed for fifteen (15) years instead of the ten required previously. This means many plants are again eligible for this prestigious award. The change was voted on at the Long Beach convention last year.

Your written nominations must state the reasons for believing the person or plant is deserving of the award. The Awards Committee members make a decision on the basis of qualification. The winner may, or may not, have received the most votes.

Please read carefully the following rules governing the awards:

EVA KENWORTHY GRAY AWARD

This award may be presented to a person for one of two reasons:

1. For contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony among our members.
2. For contributing original material toward helping our rank and file members in furthering their study of Begonias.

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

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

1. All Begonia nominees must have been registered with the ABS Nomenclature Director.
2. The originator of the Begonia nominee must be a member of ABS.
3. The Begonia nominee must have been released to the public for at least five years, but not more than fifteen years, prior to the nomination.

Only through your nomination can we consider your candidate. Will worthy persons go unnoticed for their work and dedication to ABS because they were not nominated? Make a difference! Write a letter! Make someone happy!

Nominations must be received by July 9, 1988. Send them to:

Michael Ludwig, Awards Chairman
7007 Mt. Vernon Ave.
Lemon Grove, CA 92045

Because previous recipients are not eligible for the same award (although they may be considered for another award), the list of earlier winners is printed below.

Recipients of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Award:

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May Taft Drew	1966
Sylvia Leatherman	1967
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Dr. Fred Barkley	1973
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Dr. J. Doorenbos	1975
Alva Graham	1976
Mildred L. and Edward J. Thompson	1977
Jack Golding	1978

Thelma O'Reilly	1980
Phyllis and Ed Bates	1983
Scott Hoover	1984
Hikoichi Arakawa	1985
Chuck Anderson and Karen Bartholomew	1986
Pat Maley	1987

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Florence Gee	1968
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Alva Graham	1969
Edna Korts	1969
Everett Wright	1972
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Mae Blanton	1975
Gordon Lepisto	1976
Gene Daniels	1977
Margaret and Paul Lee	1978
Margaret Taylor	1979
Rudy Ziesenhenn	1980
Mabel Corwin	1981
Clarence Hall	1982
Goldie and Doug Frost	1983
Pearl Benell	1984
Joy Porter	1985
Martin Johnson	1986
Thelma O'Reilly	1987

**Recipients of the Alfred D. Robinson Memorial
Medal for Begonia Hybrid**

B. 'Silver Star'	1945
B. 'Freddie'	1946
B. 'Golden West'	1949
B. 'Ricky Minter'	1950
B. 'Glendale'	1950
B. 'Virbob'	1951
B. 'Orange Rubra'	1954
B. 'Verde Grande'	1957
B. 'Kumwha'	1961
B. 'Madame Queen'	1964
B. 'Sophie Cecile'	1966
B. 'Purple Petticoats'	1968
B. 'Lady Frances Jean'	1969
B. 'Eunice Gray'	1972
B. 'Paul Bee'	1973
B. 'Universe'	1974
B. 'Wanda'	1977
B. 'Bowtique'	1978
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DEFECTIVE BEGONIAS

Membership Chairman John Ingles, Jr., who doubles as circulation manager for the **Begonian**, has learned that some members in Japan and England received copies of the January-February issue with several pages missing. We wish mistakes never happened! But with printing in bulk, a few errors will sneak through the strongest efforts to catch them. If your January-February **Begonian** is defective, please write to John at 923 East Francis St., Corona, CA 91719 and tell him what's wrong (you don't have to send the magazine). He'll send you a good copy right away.

CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND

May-June, 1988

Joan Campbell, Seed Fund Director

The Seed Fund is a service for members only. It is a privilege of your membership.

All packets of species seeds are \$1 each. Hybrid seed packets are 50 cents. A pamphlet on growing begonias from seed is 25 cents.

Orders must be accompanied by check or money order in U.S. funds made payable to Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund. For seeds alone, add 45 cents for postage on orders from the U.S., Mexico, and Canada (60 cents on orders of more than 12 packets). Overseas postage is \$1.20.

With care, I can get two sets of planter dishes with free instructions in one mailer. For this alone, send 62 cents. For dishes and seeds, send 75 cents postage or 92 cents if more than 12 packets are ordered.

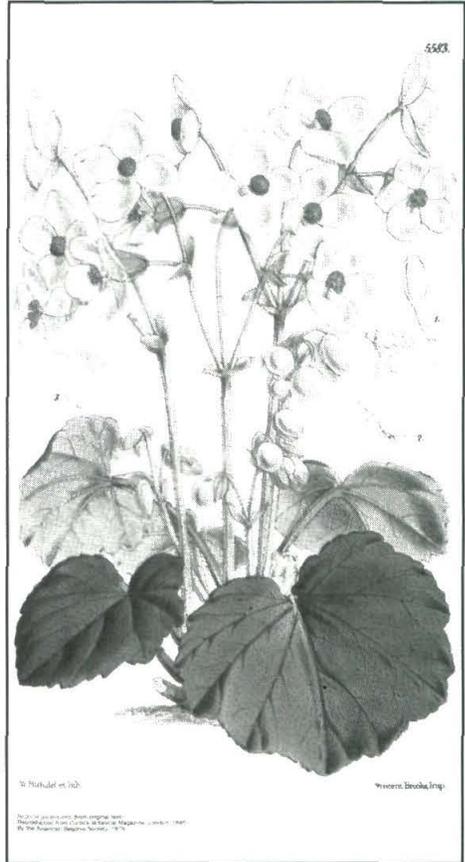
Note: the postal increase will be balanced out by a small decrease in the price of the small mailing envelopes, so cost will remain the same.

Send check or money order to:

Joan Campbell
814 NE Honey House
Corvallis, MT 59828
USA

Notes on the Seeds Listed:

Named for its geranium-like leaves, *B. geranioides*, a semi-tuberous begonia from Natal, South Africa, has never before been offered. This begonia is so rare no photograph or herbarium specimen was printed in the Smith & Wasshausen *Begoniaceae*. It is a low growing plant, often stemless, with its round leaves and petioles lightly haired. The juvenile leaves are often white spotted. The flowers are described as "pure white."



B. geranioides, botanical print

B. incarnata, an old favorite from Mexico, is offered again with seeds collected from the wild which produce a shorter, better branched plant, and with seeds collected from the usual cultivated type. It is shrub-like with narrow green leaves with ruffled margins and deeply colored pink flowers. Its name means "flesh colored." It is easy to grow.

B. heraceifolia var. *nigricans* has been in cultivation since 1857, but it is difficult to find a picture or description of this rhizomatous Mexican begonia. The original citation describes its leaves as green, blotched with an almost black tint at the margins of the lobes, and pale purple green on the undersides. The leaves are large and deeply parted, usually with seven lobes. The flowers are white, and if seeds are set the fruit is dotted green with rose-colored wings on the ovaries.

B. U007 is a cane-like begonia from Lucban in the Phillipine Islands. The bright green leaves are somewhat thick and there are large clusters of everblooming pink flowers. This can be grown as a standard, an upright, or even as a basket begonia if properly pruned and pinched. It can grow to 10 feet if you let it.

B. huegelii hasn't been offered since 1967. It is a shrub-like begonia from Brazil with soft hairy medium-sized leaves, shallowly lobed and toothed, green above and red under. The stem is green with a band of red at the nodes. It produces large clusters of white flowers, which are lightly "bearded" on the outside of the tepals.

B. salicifolia is another old timer from Brazil. Cane-like, it is named for its willow-like leaves which are green and glabrous, about 1" x 6" in size. Flowers are white.

This must be a good month for Brazilian begonias as *B. tomentosa* is another offering. It is shrub-like with densely pubescent thick leaves, felted top and bottom, and produces pink blossoms edged in white with red hairs on reddish peduncles. Sound colorful!

B. crassicaulis from Guatemala has been very popular. When its glossy palmately lobed leaves drop at the end of the growing season, white blossoms develop along the peduncles which emerge from the

leafless, erect, thick, fleshy rhizome (which gave this begonia its name). There is an interesting glittery appearance to the floral parts. See cover picture, article, and other pictures in the **Begonian** of January-February, 1985.

B. natalensis (syn. *B. dregei*) is another of the semi-tuberous begonias from South Africa. This begonia produces 2" to 3" lobed leaves and is well branched, with white flowers. Although Hilliard in Flora of Southern Africa 22 has decided that *B. natalensis* is synonymous with *B. dregei*, the Thompsons, our horticultural authorities, think we should retain the usual name so that growers may distinguish the form of *B. dregei* which they are growing or discussing. I imagine they will decide to keep the distinctive names of *Begonias maculata*, *maculata* var. *wightii*, and *U078* for the same horticultural reasons.

B. sonderana, another semi-tuberous type from the temperate, subtropical zone of South Africa, has light green maple-shaped leaves and pink flowers. Like all the semi-tuberous begonias, it will rot if kept too wet.

B. thompsonii is new to the Seed Fund and rare in cultivation. I have no information to share on this other than that the leaves are green with a velvet plush covering of red hairs. I have been sharing this as a substitution and germination is reported good. So I want to share this new supply, but the supply is limited.

Once again, mixed seeds of many hybrid canes are available. Fresh seeds of *B. multinervia* are available again.

Growing Notes:

More about *B. macduffieana*: "Seedlings do keep their spots for several months, until they are ready to bloom. A lot of growers have been confused. It grows tall and rangy, with long internodes. Needs lots of staking."

Have you noticed silver-leaved seedlings among the green ones in the *B. roxburghii* plantlets? The New York Botanic Garden reportedly had one form of this begonia with silver striped leaves many years ago.

Begonias with deeply parted, compound leaves, such as *B. luxurians*, take a very long time to show the divided adult leaf form.

I have some of Benary's B. 'Rex Colorvision' from Stokes Seed Co. and the planting instructions are different and interesting: "...spread a kleenex over the surface (of the planting mix). Do not cover the kleenex. Broadcast the fine seed on to the kleenex row...Cover the flat with a piece of clear glass...Tiny seedlings root easily through the kleenex as it decomposes." They further state that bottom heat is a "must" and 21 days germination time should be allowed.

Many of us had problems with germination in the heat of last summer. Apparently excessive heat will deter germination. I haven't any research material on this point; however, Stoke's sowing directions for all types of begonias state that a constant soil temperature of about 65 degrees must be maintained, and that a few degrees above or below will reduce germination drastically.

When I have time and space, I like to sow old seeds to see what the results might be. I put down a few seeds of *B. rhopalocarpa* recently, very old seeds. In a few days I saw what appeared to be mold on the seeds. However, after inspecting the pan with a 10X lens I saw the seeds actually were coated with fine hairs. I had read that seeds of other plants do this as a means of aiding germination, but I'd never seen beonia seeds do this. After about a week the "moldy" look disappeared and cotyledons started to appear.

One of our French readers advises, when in France, visiting the Jardin Botanique

de Rochefort, 17300 Rochefort, France, and Jardin Botanique Parc de la Tete D'Or, 6900 Lyon France, as both have good collections of begonias. Also, Mr. Arnaud Maurieres, Domaine Horticole de la Bellongue, Orgibet 09800 Castillon-En-Couserans France, has a large collection of species begonias. The Jardin des Plantes de la Ville de Caen in France would like to exchange cuttings of begonias. Wouldn't it be fun to go to France for the 1992 Olympics and come home via all these botanical gardens.

Please don't order from advance copies of the **Begonian**.

If you are soliciting seeds from unusual sources for the Seed Fund please inspect, clean and test them before sending them to me. I will re-test then or arrange to have it done.



Clayton M. Kelly Seed Fund

Species seed

(\$1 per packet)

M-J 1	<i>B. geranioides</i>
M-J 2	<i>B. incarnata</i>
M-J 3	<i>B. heracleifolia</i> var. nigricans
M-J 4	B. U007
M-J 5	<i>B. huegelii</i>
M-J 6	<i>B. salicifolia</i>
M-J 7	<i>B. crassicaulis</i>
M-J 8	<i>B. natalensis</i>
MJ 9	<i>B. sonderana</i>
M-J 10	<i>B. thomsonii</i>
M-J 11	<i>B. tometosa</i>

Hybrid seed

(50 cents per packet)

M-J 12	mixed hybrid canes
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JUDGES' CORNER

Margaret Lee, a past Judging Chairman, answers the question about awarding the Best in Division:

The Board has appointed Michael Ludwig (7007 Mt. Vernon Ave., Lemon Grove, CA 92045) as Judging Department Chairman, and Tim Last (437 Prospect Ave. #15, Brooklyn, NY 11215) as Show Entries and Classification Chairman. Michael asks that judges planning to attend the convention in Boston please let him know; it will make his job of finding judging panels much easier.

The Judging Committee reports that the revised judging course is nearing completion and should be finished by summer. Among the changes is a new award, the Alice Clark Award for Artistic Merit, to be given in the Arts and Crafts division.

In the first appearance of this column in the January-February **Begonian**, James Numes raised three questions:

1. When two plants in the same division (both awarded blue ribbons) have the same point score, how should ABS judges proceed in determining the Best in Division award?
2. How should the judges proceed in determining the Sweepstakes award when two exhibitors have the same number of blue ribbons, and the same number of red ribbons?
3. What is a cultural award, and why is it given?

Bob Ammerman answered the third question in the same issue, and two members of the Judging Committee have sent answers to the first and second questions.

Keep in mind that a plant must receive a minimum of 93 points to be eligible for a trophy.

In the event that a team of judges arrives at an identical number of points for two plants in the same Division, the two plants should be judged against each other to give one plant the higher score. Each team member should consult with the others so that a compromise can be affected to give one of the plants just one point more or one point less. This will change the total score by a fraction of a point, resulting in a higher number for one plant.

The question about the Sweepstakes Award is answered by Thelma O'Reilly, a member of the Judging Committee:

The Sweepstakes Award is calculated by the following procedure. All blue ribbons are counted. If a tie exists, then count all of the red ribbons for exhibitors who have tied for the blue ribbons. If a tie still exists, white ribbons are used as a tie breaker. Duplicate prizes are awarded if a tie continues to exist.

This award is determined by the Judging Chairman, Classification and Entries Chairman, and a third member of their choice.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Marie McCooley has advanced to Senior Judge.



ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director

An interesting New Year's Resolution came through the **Greenhouse Robin** from Charlotte Kuhnle (OR). She resolved to keep her greenhouse as clean as possible and have fewer plants, but to give those plants better care than in the past. She lost quite a few plants to mealy bugs in the fall, and now finds that with fewer plants she is able to give the remainder more room in her greenhouse and more reasonable care. She also finds it much easier to observe individual plants.

Thelma O'Reilly (CA) says Sylvia Leatherman, a begonia authority for many years, advises that older begonia cultivars (those in cultivation since the 1800's) tend to lose their vigor because selfing the same plants, vegetative propagation, etc., does weaken the strain. To get a more vigorous plant, these cultivars can be re-created with seed of a cross of the same parent species.

Some of the members of the **Growing under Lights Robin** were discussing planting seed by moon signs, and Daniel Haseltine (IL) remarked that in nature seed do not pay attention to what phase the moon is in. They germinate when moisture and temperature are at the right levels. Dan's advice is to get on with the planting, and don't worry about the moon.

An alternative to growing in a hanging basket is described by Sheila Matthews (IL). Her *B. solananthera* is growing epiphytically on a large ficus, and in full bloom. It has climbed from the lowest fork to the top of the tree, twining with a vanilla orchid, and is quite a sight. She regrets that she has had no luck with this begonia under lights. In responding to one of the member's plight with fungus

gnats, Sheila says she usually uses a few puffs of Raid, which reduces the number of gnats with no ill effects on the plants.

In a **General Culture Robin**, Christine Giordano (NY) is very impressed with how much better plants grow in terrariums than in greenhouses. She finds she has very few failures with terrarium growing, and it is so much easier. She has made comparisons between terrarium and greenhouse growing with *B. parilis*, *B. pilifera*, and B. U166.

In commenting on the beautiful B. U166 in the same Robin, Mary Simon (OH) finds that, although it needs a fair amount of light, any excess causes the leaves to pale. She says the best way to test is to look at the plant in the morning before the lights are turned on for the day. If the leaves are a good, strong green color at that time, chances are it would do better toward the ends of the tubes. She also finds that U166, like many begonias, prefers a shallow container.

The same **General Culture Robin** was discussing the subject of pH. Rhodora Buss (IA) believes that many begonia growers, without realizing it, have adjusted their soil mixes to compensate for a poor pH balance while they experimented with finding a growing mix that worked. She also wonders if, in areas where begonias can be grown outdoors, fresh air and sunshine do, in part, counteract some of the pH problems.

With this past winter's cold spell in California, Mabel Corwin lists some of the begonias that withstood the cold very nicely. They are *B. palmata*, B. 'Valdesium,' B. 'Connie Boswell,' B. 'Little Brother Montgomery,' and

B. maculata. (B. 'Connie Boswell' has *B. palmata* in its background).

Mary Ellen Taback (VA) was encouraging her fellow **Southeast Growers** members to try setting seeds on their species. She is hoping to get skillful enough at this to send some to the Seed Fund, and thinks all members should try to do the same: to strengthen our organization, to give pleasure to those who grow from seed, and to raise money for the collecting trips as well. (This is an excellent idea for all ABS members).

LaVerne Carpenter (MS) explains her method of carrying over canes which have been planted in beds. To avoid bringing nematodes into her greenhouse, she takes cuttings to root rather than saving her plants. She pots the rooted cuttings into 4 or 5 inch pots for the winter, and when spring rolls around, into the beds they go.

Have you ever thought about making compost in a bread wrapper? Fifi Madigan (OH) and Virginia Hamann (IA) of the **Windowsills Robin** are doing it! Fifi's method: just throw a few coffee grounds in a bag along with kitchen scraps, a little potting soil now and then, shake the whole thing every once in a while, and before you know it you have a sack of beautiful compost. Hmm...sounds interesting!

Houston Knight (CA) makes a very interesting comment on dormancy in one of the **General Culture Robins**. He feels plants in their young stage of growth seem to know not to go dormant the first year. He has taken lots of seedlings of plants that should go dormant through the winter, put them in warm conditions and under lights, and the seedlings continued their growth.

For all of you who love the species, here is some information from Bob Hamm (CA), a member of a **Species Robin**. In any species, you will get a lot of natural variation in tolerance to heat, cold, light variations, etc. It is often the variance in seed-grown species

that allow selection of a hardier form from a group of seedlings. This is how a lot of "new" cultivars come about. Even with a plant like B. U014, if enough people raise seed under different conditions, there is the hope of one showing up that is a bit hardier. It would have to be propagated from cuttings to keep that characteristic, though. This is one reason Bob often raises seed of species he already has. If he finds one plant that is a bit more robust or more tolerant of poorer conditions and distributes that form, more people will succeed with it. This factor also explains why there are regional clones of some species: when seed is raised in many different climates, the seedlings that survive are those best adapted to that climate. When a plant is swapped to someone in another area, it often fails in the new climate even though it may seem identical to a plant of the same variety which grows well in the new area.

If you feel you aren't getting your money's worth out of your ABS dues, you need to join a Robin or two! Not only will you meet some wonderful people who will become like family, but you will gain a world of knowledge from their experiences. Everyone is anxious to help with your growing problems, and you'll wind up feeling as though you are getting twice your money's worth! To join, or to get a list of Robins circulating and their topics, write to:

Margaret Coats
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BEGONIA QUESTION BOX

Mabel Corwin, ABS Horticultural Correspondent

Question: I am interested in the begonia planting mix listed in the March-April 1987 issue of the **Begonian**. Can you please advise where I can purchase hoof and horn meal? FLORIDA

Answer: The mix printed in the **Begonian** is a good one. It is about the same as the one that I use. I buy hoof and horn meal at most any large garden supply store. The brand we have here is Bandini, but I'm not sure if this is distributed to all parts of the country. Check with a nursery that has a large variety of packaged fertilizers, such as bone meal, ammonium sulfate, etc. and you will probably find it.

Hoof and horn meal supplies some nitrogen. If you can't find it, go ahead and use the mix without it. There is such a small amount to a large batch that it won't make too much difference. You will still have a good mix.

Question: I have a small plant of *Begonia herbacea*. It is growing in a covered fish tank, under lights, and it is blooming. How do I propagate it? Do I wait for the rhizomes to get bigger, or can I start it from leaves, or leaf wedges? NEW YORK

Answer: I usually propagate *B. herbacea* by taking a small portion of the rhizome, which will have roots. I think it will start from a leaf, but I'm not sure about leaf wedges as the leaf rots quite easily. I have rooted a *B. 'Golden Sands'* from a leaf, and I believe *B. herbacea* is one of the parents. I suggest you give it a try.

Question: I recently purchased a single-flowered Reiger begonia, and a summer-blooming double yellow tuberous begonia. Please tell me what is the best culture for both.

I have them both in an east window that is kept open at the top, to keep all plants at that window cool. It gets 3 hours of morning sun, and strong daylight the rest of the day. It gets quite warm when the sun comes up, but cools off later. I don't have air conditioning.

Please advise about culture, dormancy, and repotting next year. Can I keep the double yellow one in the same pot for next year, or should it be removed in the fall? What about the Reiger? Will it develop mildew? Should I cut it back when it stops blooming? NEW YORK

Answer: Tuberous begonias grow best in coastal areas where the summers are cool. The nights cool off, and often the fog comes rolling in. Anything you can do to create these conditions will be helpful for your tuberous begonias. They will not tolerate full sun.

Your summer blooming, yellow tuberous is a *Tuberhybrida*. Grow it as cool as possible during the summer. Good air circulation is very important to prevent mildew and stem rot. Some growers keep a small fan running in the plant room.

In the fall the foliage of your *Tuberhybrida* will gradually yellow and fall off. Cut back on the watering at this time. The tuber can be left in the pot, or removed. It should rest for

about 3 months, then it will sprout again. At that time I think it is better to remove the old mix and pot the plant up in fresh mix in a clean pot.

The Reiger begonias like the same growing conditions as the tuberous. When they are through blooming look for new basal shoots. The tops should be cut back to about 4 inches. You might want to repot in fresh mix at this time.

Mildew can be a problem with both of these begonias. Several years ago I purchased 2 Reiger begonias. I brought them home and placed one inside the house, and put the other out in the shadehouse. One week later, both were covered with mildew. There was no mildew in the house or the garden, so the plants had to be infected when I brought them home. I am afraid this is sometimes the case with nursery grown plants. Also, I have found that some commercially grown plants have been fed so much high nitrogen fertilizer to force growth that they develop stem rot. In that case they often don't develop a good tuber.

*Mabel Corwin, ABS Horticultural Correspondent since January, 1982, is resigning to devote more time to her own begonias. This will be her next-to-last column for the **Begonian**.*

A new Horticultural Correspondent will be named in the next issue.



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AROUND ABS

Notes from our Newsletters

Two branches celebrated birthdays in February: Monterey Bay Area Branch had a gala dinner for their 17th birthday, and Seattle honored past presidents on the 40th anniversary of their founding. Sacramento Branch turned 40 in March, with cocktails and dinner.

In February, Sacramento Branch had a display and sale booth at the Cal-Expo Home and Garden Show. They really went prepared to promote begonias and their branch: in addition to beautiful plants and handout sheets on begonia culture, they gave away pencils imprinted with information about their meeting place and time. A sign-up sheet offering a free copy of their newsletter had almost 400 signatures!

Santa Barbara Branch is studying begonia anatomy in a short course taught by "Mr. Begonia," Rudolf Ziesenhenné. To reinforce the learning experience, Mr. Ziesenhenné is having the lessons printed up - at his own expense - for distribution to the members. How lucky branch members are to have the benefit of all that knowledge, and a free text book too.

Tired of looking for terrariums of appropriate size and shape? Potomac Branch members took matters into their own hands: bringing gloves and masking tape, T-squares and glass cutters, they convened for a hands-on program on making glass terrariums led by member David Hott. Glass and caulking were provided. Other branch members had suggestions for terrariums: Joyce Caveny uses plastic toy containers (such as those found in cereal boxes to hold the "prize") to propagate small rhizomes. Marian Fox showed a plastic cover which fits over flats to create a mini-greenhouse.

The Buxton Branch entry in the New England Spring Flower Show won a 2nd place and a cultural certificate. The entry committee, chaired by Patrick Vacca, was Marion Lirakis, Dorothy Gardner, Gail Titcomb, Cathie Fahey, Joan Campbell, Nancy Kingman, and Hugh Howell.

Horticulture, the magazine of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, featured an article about Corliss Engle and her light gardens in the March issue. Corliss is Registration Chair for the 1988 convention, and an outstanding grower.

Miami Branch annual auction of begonias and shade plants was a success, a lot of fun, attracted some prospective new members, and brought in \$608 for the treasury.

Risa Young spoke to the Pinellas County Branch on pinching and pruning in February, and, as a demonstration, cut back overgrown plants members had brought for shaping. Here's how she roots drooping, overgrown rhizomatous begonias: "...instead of cutting the rhizome she prefers to root it while still on the plant. She simply places the rhizome into another pot of loose soil and only when the rhizome roots does she sever the new plant from the mother."

The East Bay Branch newsletter gave a recipe for a non-toxic plant spray made with garlic:

"Take 3 oz. of garlic, chopped finely, and mix with 2 TSP kerosene and 1/4 oz. of household detergent or soft soap. Soak at least 24 hours, stirring occasionally. Add 1 pint of water and leave to settle. Strain the solution through fine gauze or muslin and store in a screw top jar. Use 1 part to 99 parts of water or 10 mls to 1 litre. This spray is

harmless to humans, birds, and animals but is lethal to aphids, cabbage moth, snails, etc., killing these pests on contact."

The Tampa Bay Tidings (editor, Bob Moore) had this to say about pests:

"It is far better to prevent the occurrence of disease and pests than to correct it. Cleanliness is of the utmost importance. The plants should be free of old, dead leaves and flowers on the plants themselves as well as on the surface of the soil. Pots should be kept clean, as should the implements used to care for the plants. The growing area should also be kept clean and free of unwanted dead plant parts and weeds. Diseases that thrive in excessively high humidity and stale air combined with poor light, especially when the weather is very humid or dark and dreary, can be prevented with proper ventilation and good air circulation. These poor conditions all add up to trouble for the plants if not corrected. A strong, vigorous, and healthy plant is far less susceptible to disease.

Many products for the elimination of pests and diseases are on the market. The products can be purchased at nurseries and chain stores, but proper maintenance and a clean environment will save the grower time, money, and favorite plants."

Editor Dorothy Williams, in the Seattle Chatter, reports on a newspaper article quoting George Pinyuh, Washington State Extension Agent, as stating that houseplants like fuchsias, streptocarpus, Boston fern, jade plant, asparagus fern, peperomias, spathiphyllum, and spider plants are not really sensitive to normal amounts of chlorine found in tap water. (Begonias weren't listed as not sensitive).

If that's good news, there's bad news, too. Fluoride does have an adverse effect: "sensitive plants show burned and dried leaf tips and margins, and even discolored areas in the center of the leaves, when fluoridated water is used." What's worse, "fluoride will not go off as a gas if water is allowed to stand overnight."

If you have ever made a mistake, you will enjoy this paragraph from the Palomar Planter:

"OUR MISTEAKS

If you find mistakes in this publications, please be assured that they are put there for a purpose. We try to please everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes. To those who revel over slips in commas and occasional poor proof reading or omission, enjoy them."

The Miabegonia, edited by Charles Jaros, offered these tips in March:

"Look to your Angels. What should a good cane begonia look like? It should be of good average height for its variety, not excessively tall and spindly. It should be symmetrical and well filled out. During its blooming season it should have many clusters of colorful blooms. Pruning correctly is one of the most important factors in growing beautiful cane begonias. Encourage branching and the production of new canes by pinching out some of the terminal buds. If you are working with a veteran plant, cut back some of the older canes. You may want to cut them back to different lengths, but be sure to make cuts above promising buds. Cane begonias have few problems, though powdery mildew may appear. But healthy plants are their own best guards against disease and pests."

In the B-line, newsletter of the Alfred D. Robinson Branch, editor Lois Donahue writes of a favorite plant:

"One of my favorite begonias is *B. morelii*. It is listed as semi-tuberous, but has a very definite little tuber in one of my pots. Several years ago Phyllis Bates gave me my start, which I put in a terrarium. It didn't grow too much for over a year and I don't remember just what I did to it, but it began to grow and eventually filled a 12" terrarium. It comes from tropical Asia and needs at least 40% humidity. Mine is grown under lights on a light stand and while the house gets pretty cold at night, it isn't cold enough to bother the plant. It is grown in a plain potting mix and

gets a little fertilizer about twice a year. The leaves seldom get any larger than two inches in diameter, with a heart shape. There is a very interesting pattern with gold flecks on the leaf. The flowers are four-petaled, male, white with a faint pink blush around the edges. The December 1975 **Begonian** has a color cover photo of this begonia, accompanied by an excellent article written by Gordon Lepisto (pages 291-295). This was the best source of information I found. Several writers planted their *B. morelii* plants in sphagnum and perlite. One used quite a bit of orchid bark. Several complained of the plant going into dormancy and being slow to come out of it. Last fall I gave away several clumps of the plant, and the recipients probably thought their plants had died. I prepared four pots for myself for future plant tables. They soon lost their leaves and the pots are still sitting there. I poked around in one and found a very firm tuber, so will just wait and see what happens. In the process of removing the clumps, a lot of leaves were broken off. Because the plant is tuberous, I put the leaves down in damp perlite in a shoe box, after removing all but an inch of stem. In very short order, all the leaves produced little plants. I now have 17 plants which were put into a loose mix on Super Bowl Sunday. They seem to be doing well."



CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

"Pots!" on page 54 of the March-April **Begonian**, was written by Fred Ritzau. I had credited Judy Calvert, erroneously, and apologize for the embarrassment this caused her.

In the same issue, p. 61, at the end of the first paragraph, please correct the labeling of one of the U numbers. Thelma O'Reilly writes that B.U010, B. 4047, B. 'Platysun,' and Kartuz #10 from Puerto Rico should be labeled **B. U010**, not B. RZ 4047.

Louis Manning of Georgia reports that he ordered seeds of B. 'Wings' from Burpee and had excellent germination in one week.

Please pull out your January-February issue and make the following correction at the bottom of page 9: the phonetic pronunciation of *B. ludwigii* should read "**LOOD**-vig-i-eye", not "**LOOD**-vig-i-aye." As if pronouncing botanical names weren't difficult enough without typos to confuse us! Thanks to Jack Golding and Howard Siebold for bringing this to our attention.

Going back to the November-December, 1987, issue, p. 148, Mr. Ziesenhenne's first name is spelled Rudolf, not Rudolph.

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

March 6, 1988

The March 6, 1988 meeting of the Board of the American Begonia Society, held at the Corona Steak House, Corona, CA, was called to order at 11:20 A.M. Aims and Purposes were read by Michael Ludwig. Minutes of the Jan. 2 meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report showed a balance as of Feb. 29, 1988, of \$16,246.95 in checking and \$35,240.38 in savings, for a total of \$51,487.33.

Correspondence: A letter from Millie Thompson was read, thanking the Board for their refusal of return of the \$500 donation to their Begonia Museum. A formal request was received from the San Francisco Branch to host the 1989 A.B.S. Convention. Board approved. The dates will be August 3-6, 1989. A place has not been set.

Appointments: Board accepted with regret the resignation of Michael Ludwig as Chariman of Classification and Entries. The Board approved Timothy Last as new Chairman of Classification and Entries, and Michael Ludwig as Judging Chairman.

Special Committee on revising the judging course reports there have been five meetings. Material has been mailed out to absent members of the committee.

Awards: July 9 is the deadline for nominations for A.B.S. special awards. The time of hybrid distribution for the A.D.R. medal has been changed from 10 years to 15 years. There will be an article in the **Begonian** concerning the requirements for the awards.

Bookstore reports prices will be going up because of the increased shipping fees on books from Japan and the rise in U.S.A. postal rates. A new price sheet will be sent out when ready.

Ongoing Projects: Concern was expressed on the progress of two "works-in-progress," the book on Registered Cultivars and the Buxton checklist. The first book on registered cultivars contained the first 100. It cost \$1550 for 1,000 copies. There are 819 cultivars still to be listed. The Buxton Checklist is a comprehensive list of all begonias mentioned in any literature. The original was published in 1957. There were supplements published in 1958, 1962, and 1967.

Seed Fund reports proceeds of \$601.55 for 12/1/87 to 1/31/88. A check was sent to the Treasurer for that amount.

Conservation: A check was received from the Westchester Branch for the Scott Hoover trip.

Judging: Those judges who are planning on attending the A.B.S. convention in Boston are requested to let Michael Ludwig know. The next meeting of the course revision committee will be at President Arlene Davis' home March 26.

Members at Large #11 Newsletter will be mailed at the end of March. A 'member-at-large' Jeanette McCombs has opened a business selling begonia cuttings called "The Begonia House." New Color Fund total is \$597.25. All monies have been sent to the Treasurer.

Membership: 1354 dues paying members, 81 Life members, and 115 institutions. The renewal letter was sent out Nov. 11. Of 380 sent out, 54 have renewed so far. France is forming a begonia society. There was an error in the pages of the January-February **Begonian**. Some issues were missing pages, some had double pages. Do NOT send the issue back- let John Ingles know and he will send you a correct copy. The March-April issue will be the last sent from Encinitas. Postal increase should not affect dues.

Nomenclature: There was one new application for registration received, 15 applications being processed, 2 requests received for a number of forms.

Public Relations: Pinellas Branch is involved in a cable TV show on begonias. Martin Johnson sent a preliminary report on Scott Hoover's trip.

Reports were also received from Research Librarian, Round Robin, Convention, Entries and Classification. **Chairmen, if you cannot be at the meeting, it is part of your job to send in a report!**

New Business: Board approved an advance of \$100 to send the President to the Southwest Region Get-Together.

Nominating Committee was appointed: Margaret Lee, chairman; John Ingles, Jr., Thelma O'Reilly.

Branch Reports: Branch Reps. present reported on membership and problems in finding meeting places. Whittier is meeting the first Friday of each month at the Whittier Recreation Center, Room 1, 7630 Washington Ave., Whittier. Westchester Branch will hold their 7th show and sale at Cox Hills Mall June 11 and 12.

There was discussion about obtaining publicity for A.B.S. and the Branches. The concensus was that publicity is everyone's responsibility. If you have a good idea, follow through!

Next meeting will be May 22 at the Fullerton Arboretum. Secretary will send out reminder notes with a map.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannete Gilbertson,
Secretary

ABS SERVICES

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

At-Large Members

Members who do not belong to branches are represented at board meetings by the Members-at-large director. MAL committee works on projects by mail.

Bookstore

Books about Begonias and back issues of the **Begonian**.

Judging Dept.

Mail order course for members who wish to become accredited judges. The course is currently being revised.

Nomenclature Dept.

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**.

Round 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 acquisitions are discussed in the **Begonian**. Donations of seeds are encouraged.

Slide Library

List of programs available from slide librarian. Donations of individual slides and programs requested.

Speakers Bureau

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

ABS BOOKSTORE

Begonia Book, Gray \$4.

Begonias, Arakawa \$25

Begonias in Color, Murotani \$15

Growing Begonias, Caterall \$18

Les Begonias, Chevalier \$5 soft cover

Buxton Check List \$20

Guidelines for Conventions & Shows,

O'Reilly \$2.50 (5 or more, \$2 each)

Catalog of Reg. Cultivars \$4

Roses, Taylor \$14.95

Your Indoor Garden, Seddon \$12.95

NY Times Book of Houseplants, Faust \$10.95

Binders \$5.25

Prints, \$5 set of 6, \$1 single

ABS emblem pin \$6

Plastic sign, \$1

See Nov-Dec, 1987 issue for complete descriptions of items.

Back Issues of **Begonian**: \$1 for individual copy more than a year old, \$6 full year through 1981; 1982 and on are \$1.50 @ or \$7 year. Issues less than a year old \$2 @.

Send check or money order to:

Bob Bailey, ABS Bookstore

5190 Mission Blvd., Sp. #90

Riverside, CA 92509

Add 75 cents per book for postage and handling. California residents add 6% sales tax. Foreign orders must be paid in US currency. Please add \$1 per book for orders outside USA.

MOVING?

Please remember to notify the Membership Chairman of your change of address. The Post Office does not forward third class mail: ABS is billed for notification of the new address (if one is available), but the issues are destroyed. You miss your **Begonian**; ABS must pay for the issue, the postage, and the notification that you have moved; and no one is happy. If you forget to let the Membership Chair know you've moved, you'll have to purchase your missed magazines from the Book Store.

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Begonia manicata Bronx
illustration from *l'Hortic
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this begonia inside.

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