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The BEGONIAN



The BEGONIAN

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American Begonia Society

Founded January 1932 by Herbert P. Dyckman

Aims and Purposes

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

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

To standardize the nomenclature of begonias.

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

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

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

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COVER PHOTOS: The U#s - unidentified begonias

Front - This lovely unidentified species was grown and photographed by Prof. Jan Doorenbos. It was at one time thought, mistakenly, to be B. U013.

Back - Kit Jeans Mounger grew and photographed strikingly spotted B. U062.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1990 Convention: Begonias Olé!

Banquet

Invocation	124
President's Message	124
ABS Top Awards Given	125
SWR Awards	126
Banquet Address	127
Show Results	129

Articles

Growing Begonias in Drought	132
B. 'Phil's Phantasy'	133
Unidentified Begonias:	
New Listings	134
Update: Identified!	136
Begonias in Malaysia, part 2	144
Begonia Fever, part 2	149

Regular Features

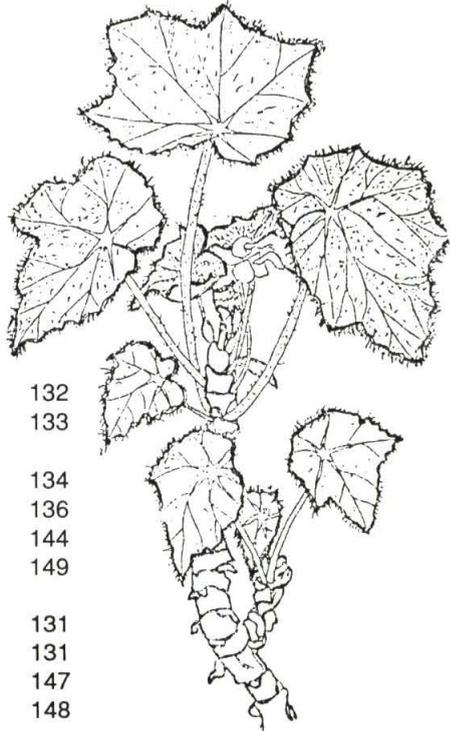
Judge's Corner	131
Coming Events	131
ABS Book Store	147
Bulletin Board: ABS News	148

- Nomination of Officers
- Speakers' Bureau
- Begonias Olé! Boutique
- Branch Directory
- Notes

Show News Around the Country	150
Conservation News	151
Seed Fund Notes	153
Seed Fund Listing	155
Round Robin Notes	156

Short Notes

Additions, Corrections	134
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B. 'Sulcu'
drawing by Connie Cole

Quick! Check your mailing label!
If it reads 7/90 or 8/90 your membership is about to expire.
Please renew - we don't want to lose you!

Begonias Olé!: At the Banquet

Invocation

Genesis 2, verse 15:

"And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."

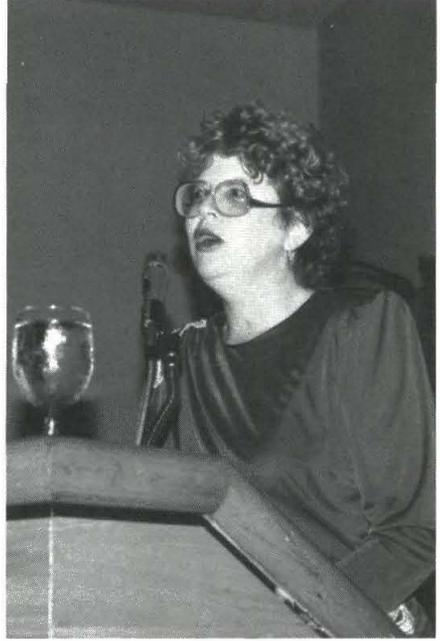
Let us pray.

Dear Father, we gather here to celebrate this great world you have created, the beautiful earth that reflects your power and wisdom. As gardeners we want to make it our Eden, as nature permits and skills allow. The power that populated the Heavens with stars and galaxies also placed vast varieties of seed into the ground. This, our journey, calls us to the task of nurturing both plants and people. It is a poor gardener indeed who looks after one and neglects the other.

We ask your leadership tonight as we stand here bonded in friendship. Give us strength to do the work and sense to know what and how to do it.

In Thy name we ask help to do Thy will and achieve our goals. Amen.

-Cynthia Ritchie



President Jeannette Gilbertson

President's Message:

In the short time that I have been president I have attempted to follow the Aims and Purposes, especially the last line: to bring into friendly contact all those who love and grow begonias. I have attempted to open communication between members and different parts of the country, and to involve more members in the business and pleasures of the Society. *By nominating me for a full term as president, I feel that you have recognized my efforts and told me "Go for it!" and for that I thank you.*

The theme of Begonias Olé! is conservation, and I feel that there are two positive actions that all of the branches and all of the members can take. I would like to challenge you all to take them. First, support the Seed Fund. You who are growing species, please self the species, test your seed, and send them on to Seed Fund Director Diana Gould so we can all share them. Second, we really need to get our species catalogued, and this can be a fine branch project. It is work, but if each branch would appoint one or two persons to go around to the different gardens and poke around someone else's plants and see what they have, and write it all down, that gets to be fun.

I am delighted to be here in Texas. Your hospitality is amazing, it's truly been enjoyable, and if I can I'll certainly be back for the Southwest Region next year."

- Jeannette Gilbertson

TOP AWARDS GIVEN

Awards Chairman Rudolf Ziesenhenne announced the following recipients of ABS' top awards, which were presented by President Jeannette Gilbertson:



The Eva Kenworthy Gray Award

This award is presented to a person for two reasons: for contributing original material toward helping our rank and file members in furthering their study of begonias or for contributing something of a spiritual value toward cementing goodwill and harmony within the American Begonia Society. The person to receive this award has tried to keep close contact with members all over the country and strives to counsel patience and to get people to sit down and talk reason. Her warmth and friendliness have been very infectious. The 1990 Eva Kenworthy Gray Award is presented to **Arlene Davis Ingles.**"



Herbert B. Dyckman Award for Service

"Herbert P. Dyckman Award for Service is awarded to a member who has rendered longstanding service or outstanding service beyond the call of normal duties. The recipient of the award this year precedes the begonia society in her interest in begonias, and when she finally learned that there was a begonia society, she joined in May, 1937. She's a speaker much in demand, and she has written on various plant subjects, and it's really my sister, **Joy Logee Martin.**"



Alfred D. Robinson Medal

"The Alfred D. Robinson Medal is awarded to an outstanding begonia hybrid. You'll notice that this award is given to the plant and not the person, although we'll have a person receive it for the plant. The 1990 Medal is given to a mutation of B. 'Essie Hunt', which is said to be an easy grower and makes a lovely plant. The 1990 award is given to **B. 'Glennis Crouch'**, and it was produced by **Mae Blanton.**"

Awards Committee: Nomenclature Director Carrie Karegeannes, Pat Bradley, Mary Bucholtz, Tom Keepin, Thelma O'Reilly, Alethea Thomas.

Southwest Region Awards



Glennis Crouch presented the **Marguerite Vernon Award:**

"Southwest Region has many members who work diligently behind the scenes to ensure continued and smooth progress of our Region and the American Begonia Society. They expect no special thanks, no special recognition, no award except the knowledge of a job well done. This award is called the Marguerite Vernon Award for Unsung Heroes.

Marguerite was just such a person. Not only was she a good grower, especially of canes, she was always ready to help wherever and whenever she was called upon; if she didn't have the answer at her fingertips (and she usually did) she would say "I'll look it up and call you back." And she always did. We lost her in September of 1989, and we miss her very much.

In her memory, this award is being presented by the Mae Blanton Branch. It wasn't easy to choose a recipient, but the one we have chosen for this award has certainly earned our thanks for his tireless efforts on behalf of the SWR & ABS. **Tom Keepin**, would you please come up?"



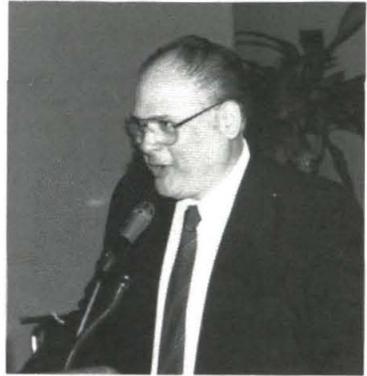
Joy Porter presented the **Mae Blanton Award for Service:**

"Southwest Region gives the Mae Blanton Service Award to a member whose efforts over the years have greatly added to the benefit of the organization and the enjoyment of all the members. When she joined six years ago, our recipient thought she was going to grow begonias and have a good time. She never dreamed she was going to work like a dog and everybody else was going to have the good time. When needed, she can't say no, and she never panics over large or small catastrophes. A little bird told me that she gets rid of her begonia stresses at the Roaring Twenties dance. Perhaps that is why this is the third convention she has chaired, and everyone appreciates **Melba Schultz** so much."

Don Miller announced the first recipient of the **Dr. Fred A. Barkley Research Grant:**

"The Southwest Region has established a research grant in honor of its native son Dr. Fred A. Barkley. The \$1,000 grant is designed to follow his lead in encouraging begonia research. It will be offered annually to botany or horticulture researchers. This award will be called the Dr. Fred A. Barkley Research Grant.

Tonight the first recipient, who has worked with Dr. Barkley, is **Dr. Tracy McLellan**, for her trip to Africa."



Conservation of the Rainforest: A Matter of Life or Death

Banquet Speech by Roberto Brin

Planet Earth, home of the human race and to this moment the only habitat we have in the entire universe: this is the main reason why we have to conserve our world -

the world of the majestic rain forest, lungs of our planet, where life is exuberant and green takes infinite shades

the world of clean oceans and beaches

the world of wild begonias that maybe some day will be the joy of our members

the world where trees explode in an orgy of flowers to make our senses enjoy the pleasures of beauty.

But to keep all this, we have to stop deforestation, a crime against nature. Every second we lose an area of rainforest equal to a football field, every minute we lose an area the size of 10 city blocks, every day an area equal to the city of Philadelphia, every year an area the size of the state of Pennsylvania, every 10 years an area equal to the states located at the east of the Rocky Mountains. As you can see, this is an alarming rate of deforestation.

Why do we have to care about deforestation? What is the rainforest? Why is it so important to the third world countries and to our planet?

Misconceptions abound about what the rainforest is and the value it has to our planet. To people of mild climates the tropical rainforest is mysterious, dangerous, inhospitable. You all have seen it on movies, television, or in magazines. But it is one thing to see a Hollywood picture and another to see the rainforest alive. The rainforest is a place where a symphony to life is played every second, a symphony of sounds that come from birds, monkeys, jaguars, neques, snakes, and the wind passing through tree canopies, a place where begonias and wild orchids thrive, but also a place where the cruel drama of surviving is performed everywhere, a world where life supports life, and that includes humans.

Do you know that around 25% of all medicines available in the U.S.A. have a plant component and that the majority are made from rainforest plants? The rainforest is like a huge drug store. The pharmaceutical potential of her plants have barely been touched: only 10% have been tested for medical use. Some of the substances obtained from rainforest plants are used to attack heart, circulatory, respiratory, and neurological problems. Alkaloids from the rosy periwinkle have revolutionized the

treatment of some forms of leukemia in children. Without curare, heart surgery would be impossible. 1500 of her plant species are known to have anticancer properties. Maybe soon somebody will discover a plant component that will cure AIDS. Then don't you think that conservation of the rainforest can be a matter of life or death for millions of people?

The rainforest is also a place where it's dusk at noon, where temperatures are almost constant (around 80° - 90° in the low lands and from the 50° to the 70° in the high lands) and humidity is always close to 100%. It is open at the ground level but the foliage layer overhead is so dense that only around 2% of the sunlight that falls on the tree tops, 160 feet above, filters to the floor.

Scientists recognize many categories of tropical rainforest, from 30 to 40, but to make it easy to understand some experts stretch the term tropical rainforest to include woodlands that get over 80" of rainfall per year and are close enough to the equator to be unaffected by seasons, so that all trees are evergreen.

The rainforest is also a potent climatic and environmental stabilizer. At least 50% of the rain that falls on these forests is evaporated or transpired by plants back into the atmosphere within a week. Billions of tons of carbon is bound up in the plants of the rainforest, carbon that might otherwise be in the form of carbon dioxide and contribute to the greenhouse effect. To me this is another principal reason to conserve the tropical rainforest.

A map of the world would show that the tropical rainforests comprise only 4% of the world's surface, a 1,500,000 square mile strip around the equator between the Tropic of Cancer to the north and the Tropic of Capricorn to the south. Many people have the misconception that the major part of this forest is in Africa; that's erroneous. Africa and Asia together contain only 37%, with Oceania having 21%.

What is incredible is that in this 4% of the world's total land live over half of our planet's species. For example, Madagascar has 2,000 tree species, compared with the 400 in the entire temperate forests of North America. The Malaysia peninsula has 7,900 plant species, compared to 1,430 in Great Britain.

The world of the rainforest is one of complex relationships and interdependencies. For example, the ant acacia tree is completely dependent on its ant residents for defenses against insects and other plants. The worker ants fight off intruders, clean leaves, and kill anything that grows within 30" of the tree; in return, the acacia supplies the ants with their entire diet. An acacia colony without an ant colony will do poorly if it survives at all.

The richness suggested by the green of the tropical rainforest is a great lie. In the majority of cases the nutrients are in the vegetation at the top of the trees, and are rapidly recycled when the plants or animals die. The soils beneath are old and poor. The layer of nutrients is shallow and very vulnerable to the direct impact of the rain and sun. Erosion takes place quickly as soon as that layer disappears.

*Banquet speaker Roberto Brin is well known to ABS members through his contributions to the Seed Fund and his articles in the **Begonian**. Future issues will carry the rest of his text, and tell us where the other 42% of the world's rainforest is to be found. Roberto Brin's address is Apto. 7470. Panamá 5, República de Panamá.*

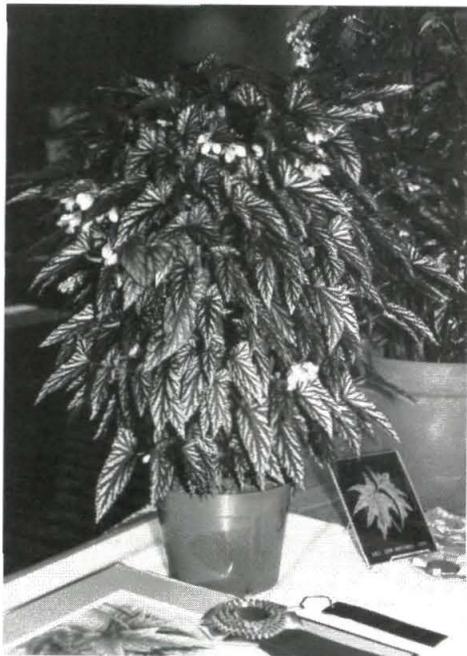


Note: timing & deadlines precluded full photographic coverage of **Begonia Olé!** We'll have more for you in the next issue.

<p>BEGONIAS, GERANIUMS, EXOTICS FERNS, OXALIS, CACTI, HERBS new Full Color Catalog...\$3.00</p> <p>LOGEE'S GREENHOUSES (Est. 1892) Dept. B, 55 North Street, Danielson, CT 06239</p>

Begonias Ole!:

1990 Convention Show Results



B. 'Guy Savard'
photo by Kit Jeans Mounger

BEST OF SHOW:

B. 'Guy Savard'
entered by Don Miller
Trophy donated by
Mae Blanton Branch
in memory of Marguerite Vernon

SWEEPSTAKES

Don Miller, with 12 blue ribbons
Trophy donated by Alamo Branch

"SHOWING IS SHARING"

John Howell, with 65 entries
Trophy donated by Dallas Area Branch in
honor of Millie & Ed Thompson

ALICE CLARK MEMORIAL AWARD

watercolor, "Jungle Shadows"
by Charles McGough
Trophy donated by Barkley Branch

BEST SPECIES IN SHOW

B. serratipetala
entered by Gloria Quinn
Trophy donated by Astro Branch

DIVISION WINNERS

Cane-like: B. 'Guy Savard'
Exhibitor: Don Miller
Trophy Donor: anonymous, in memory of
Mildred Hooton

Shrub-like: B. 'Ginny'
Exhibitor: Maurice Amey
Trophy Donor: Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Curtis

Shrub-like, Distinctive Foliage:
B. 'Midnight Sun'
Exhibitor: Charles McGough
Trophy Donor: Ann & Gene Salisbury

Thick-stemmed: B. 'Emma Watson'
Exhibitor: Melba Schultz
Trophy Donor: Jacksonville Branch

Rhizomatous: B. 'Enech'
Exhibitor: Don Miller
Trophy Donor: Carol & Peter Notaras

Rhizomatous, Crested/Spiral: B. 'Delta'
Exhibitor: Barbara & Naron Stewart
Trophy Donor: Potomac Branch

Rhizomatous, Distinctive Foliage:

B. 'Tricolor Masoniana'

Exhibitor: Martha Curry

Trophy Donor: Westchester Branch

Rex: *B. rex* cultivar

Exhibitor: Lucille Dyess

Trophy Donor: Margaret Lee, in memory of Paul Lee

Tuberous: B. 'Pink Parade'

Exhibitor: Don Miller

Trophy Donor: San Francisco Branch

Trailing-scandent: *B. radicans*

Exhibitor: Don Miller

Trophy Donor: Buxton Branch

Contained Atmosphere, Single Variety:

B. versicolor

Exhibitor: Merle & Max Gotcher

Trophy Donor: Mae Blanton Branch, in memory of Margie Smith

Species: *B. masoniana*

Exhibitor: Lucille Dyess

Trophy Donor: Keepin' Green

Hanging Containers/Wall Pockets:

B. serratipetala

Exhibitor: Gloria Quinn

Trophy Donor: Buxton Branch in honor of Wanda Macnair

Novel Grown: B. 'Smidgens'

Exhibitor: Don Miller

Trophy Donor: Jo Pangrazio & Sherwood Hilliard in memory of Bonnie Pond

New Introduction, Hobby Grower:

B. 'Joy Porter'

Exhibitor: John Howell

Trophy Donor: Fort Lauderdale Branch

Novice: B. 'Helen Teupel'

Exhibitor: Estelle Sullivan

Trophy Donor: Santa Clara Valley Branch

Contained Atmosphere, More than One Variety: mixed species terrarium

Exhibitor: Don Miller

Trophy Donor: Merle & Max Gotcher

Southwest Region Hybrids:

B. 'Juanita's Jewel'

Exhibitor: John Howell

Trophy Donor: anonymous, in memory of Aislee Russell

Travelling Begonias: B. Buttercup'

Exhibitor: Miree Lex, from Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Trophy Donor: Philip Seiden

Photography, judged horticulturally:

B. 'Essie Hunt'

Exhibitor: Janet Welsh

Trophy Donor: Ann & Gene Salisbury

Artistic Photographs: B. 'Pink Jade'

Exhibitor: Sue Hessel

Trophy Donor: Rubidoux Branch in honor of R. H. Terrell

Begonia Art: watercolor,

"Jungle Shadows"

Exhibitor: Charles McGough

Trophy Donor: Ann & Gene Salisbury

Begonia Crafts: lamp, glass etched with Southwest Region hybrids

Exhibitor: Kit Jeans Mounger

Trophy Donor: Alfred D. Robinson Branch, in memory of Alice Clark

Special Exhibits: Mae Blanton Hybrids

Exhibitor: Mae Blanton Branch

Trophy Donor: Helen Spiers, in honor of Mrs. Grant (Flossie) Herzog

Southwest Region thanks the following people for their generous donations to the trophy fund: Kay & Lorne Bradley, Roberto Brin, Dale R. Elmlade, Martin Johnson, Wanda & Richard Macnair, Joy Logee Martin, Al Morgan in memory of Bonnie Pond, the Children of Bonnie Pond in her memory, Janet Welsh, East Bay Branch, Greater Chicago Branch, Knickerbocker Branch, Miami Branch, Orange County Branch in memory of Margaret Taylor, Sacramento Branch, San Gabriel Valley Branch, San Miguel Branch, and Santa Barbara Branch.

Cultural Certificates

- 99: Don Miller, B. 'Guy Savard'
98: Lucille Dyess, *B. masoniana*, B. rex cultivar
97: Maurice Amey, B. 'Ginny'; John Howell, B. 'Juanita's Jewel'; Charles McGough, B. 'Midnight Sun';
96.75: Lucille Dyess, B. 'White Chandelier'
96 points: Martha Curry, B. 'Tricolor Masoniana'; Don Miller, B. 'Moon Maid', *B. radicans*, B. 'Smidgens'; Gloria Quinn, *B. serratifolia*; Estelle Sullivan, B. 'Helen Teupel';
95 points: Tom Keepin, B. 'Perfectiflora'; Don Miller, B. 'Enech', *B. venosa*; Gloria Quinn, B. 'Orococo'; Helen Spiers, B. 'Di-Anna'; Barbara & Naron Stewart, B. 'Spindrift', B. 'Delta'

Hybrid of Distinction

By Hobby Grower:

John Howell, B. 'Joy Porter',
with 92 points

*entered as B. 'Fragrant Alamo' x *B. salicifolia*, and named after the show in honor of Joy Porter

The Plant Sale Committee thanks the following donors for their generous contributions:

Don & Billie Asmussen, Elaine Baxter, Mae Blanton, Tamsin & Bruce Boardman, Mary Bucholtz, Merrill & Kathryn Calvert, Laverne Carpenter, Margaret Coats, Rosemary Cronk, Glennis Crouch, Martha & Maurice Curry, George Fix Jr., Nancy Hagerman, Marie Harrell, John Howell, Pam Lee, Naomi Lynch, Wanda Macnair, Joyce Martin, Marie McCooey, Lillian McIntire, Don Miller, Carol Notaras, Joy Porter, Ann & Gene Salisbury, Melba Schultz, June Shawver, Eric Steiniger, Barbara Stewart, Savey Trinca, Lloyd Van Epps, Janet Welsh, Ruth Wills, Astro Branch, Barkley Branch, Mae Blanton Branch, Logee's Greenhouses, and everyone who helped with set-up and pricing.

JUDGES' CORNER

Maxine Zinman, Judging Chairman

Congratulations!
to the following new ABS judges who received their cards in San Antonio:

Elaine Baxter
Jeannette Gilbertson
Maybelle Green
John Howell
Charles Jaros
Helene Jaros
Gene Salisbury
Patrick Vacca

Mary Bucholtz has advanced to
Senior Judge.

Judging School

Plans are underway for a Judging School to be held in conjunction with the Potomac Branch Show September 15 & 16. Please let Maxine know if you would be interested in attending. Her address is Rt. 1, Box 73, Boyce, VA 22620.

COMING EVENTS

June 29-July 1: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily, 25th annual *Cactus & Succulent Society of America* Show and Sale, at the Los Angeles State & County Arboretum.

August 25-26: Palomar Branch Show and Sale, at Quail Gardens. Saturday 1-5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Judged Show. For more information contact Eleanor Calkins, 910 Fern, Escondido, CA 92027.

August 11: Santa Clara Valley Branch Sale, Santa Clara County Fair, 10-5.

September 15-16: Potomac Branch Show at U.S. Botanical Gardens. Contact Johanna Zinn, 4407 Jensen Place, Fairfax, VA 22032 for more information.

Deadline for next issue: July 15

Growing Begonias in Drought Conditions

by Herbert C. Bloom

As the Greater San Francisco Bay Area goes into the fourth year of drought conditions, I thought our methods of coping with water shortages might be of interest to other ABS members.

First, a little background. The many communities in this area obtain their water supplies from the snow pack in the Sierra Nevada Mountains about 200 miles to the east. Although there has been snow this past winter, with some heavy storms, it has not been enough. The reservoirs in the mountains are down to 50 - 60% of their capacity. Many cities in the area are already on rationing. Water rationing for San Francisco residents will go into effect in May: residents will be permitted to use 90% of the water they used in 1987 for indoor purposes, 40% of their 1987 supply for gardening.

So what do we do to keep our gardens and greenhouses watered while reducing water consumption?

Don't use water needlessly:

I think the most important factor is the use of good common sense. Don't go splashing water all over the area; don't wash down sidewalks, sweep them. The soil in potted plants should be about one inch below the lip of the pot, so that water doesn't spill over.

The most efficient method of conserving water would be to install a drip system, with timers to turn the water on and off.

Recycle water:

One method is to install a gutter under benches. Two boards, with a space about an inch between them, could form a bench for plants. The runoff from the pots would

drain into a gutter that is installed to slant into a collection container at the end. White plastic gutter, available at a building supply store, is very satisfactory. Collected water can be used on grass or shrubs.

For hanging pots, a hook can be fashioned out of a wire coat hanger, bent into this shape:



This can be punched through the drainage hole in the bottom of a pot, with the loop protruding below the bottom. From this a drainage container can be hung from the hook under the hanger pot. In this way, the runoff water will not dribble down on other plants. This collected water can also be used on grass or shrubs.

Bath and laundry water can be used to water grass and shrubs (certainly not begonias). The first water from the laundry should not be used, because of its soapy content. The rinse water is good on lawns and shrubs. I have used it in past years and the plants have thrived - it even helps cut down on harmful insects that might be in the lawn. This same water can be used to wet down the ground of the greenhouse to raise humidity.

Using laundry water is fine, but carrying it is hard work. Five gallons of water is about 40 pounds; besides, the water can slosh around and spill. If laundry water can be collected in a 55 gallon drum the work is easier. The use of a pump and hose will make the job a simple one.

Try a soil conditioner:

The use of a processed granular diatomite as a soil conditioner is another water saver. In San Francisco such a product is sold under the name of Dialoam. It absorbs,

stores, and retains more water than sand or soil. This in turn steps up root growth. Some of the San Francisco Branch members are using this product, and it will be interesting to learn of their results.

Other thoughts on saving water:

1. Water gently and carefully; don't aim strong jets of water at the soil, don't just spray the foliage.
2. Use water-retentive pots: plastic, glazed clay, and sealed redwood pots are best for slowing evaporation.
3. Use saucers to reclaim water - they catch excess water at each watering; suck it up with a turkey baster to water other containers.

At this writing, the end of April, the rainy season for the San Francisco area is just about over. There won't be any real rain until the end of October. In the meantime, the hills will turn brown and drab and the fire hazard will be very high.

I'm sure that other ABS members have more ideas on saving water; if so, San Francisco Branch members would welcome their suggestions!

Herbert C. Bloom is past president and current treasurer of the San Francisco Branch, and editor of the branch newsletter. His address is 2282 41st Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116.



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Artesia, CA 90701

At the 1989 ABS Convention in San Francisco, the trophy for Best New Introduction by Hobby Grower was won by cane-like B. 'Phil's Phantasy'. Here its creator, Phil Mudgett of Lakewood, Colorado, gives its background.

B. 'Phil's Phantasy'

by Phil Mudgett

At the ABS Convention in Riverside, California, in August of 1983, I was especially attracted to the larger-than-average size and beauty of the flowers and leaves on a small sale plant, B. 'Florence Rita'. Taking it home, I used pollen from a male flower to pollinate some of the female flowers of B. 'Lenore Olivier'. This cross resulted in only one seed, but that seed was grown on to produce the seedling that became B. 'Phil's Phantasy'.

B. 'Phil's Phantasy' has been registered, and, while cuttings are not presently available, requests for them eventually will be granted. It is a low-growing, cane-like begonia of easy cultivation. When mature, the plant is 19" tall and displays sizeable clusters of large, orange-red flowers that contrast well with its 9" x 3 1/2" silver-spotted, dusky green leaves. Like some other hybrids, it tends to drop its male flowers; only a few open, but those are potent. The females, however, open wide, accept pollination readily, and do not tend to drop. Initially the blooming period was believed to be July through November; however, the plant which won the trophy started blooming in June, and was still blooming in early April, 1990.

The female parent, B. 'Lenore Olivier', resulted from a 1961 cross by Belva Kusler of B. *dichroa* x B. 'Elaine'. The male parent, B. 'Florence Rita', was created by M. L. MacIntyre in 1971. B. 'Phil's Phantasy' seems to reflect only the features of its parents, including the tendency of B. 'Florence Rita' to drop many unopened

male buds. Thus far, crosses of B. 'Phil's Phantasy' with several other canes have not created any very desirable hybrids, although the potential certainly exists.

Kit Mounger once said to me, "You could put B. 'Lenore Olivier' on an African Violet!" Not likely, of course, but the potency of this begonia for hybridizing is outstanding. Nonetheless, there are other potent canes, such as B. 'Laura Engelbert', B. 'Mandarin', B. 'Irene Nuss', and B. 'Elaine', to name only a few.

While new begonia species are being found, few are in the cane-like class. Consequently, the opportunity for hybridizing with new cane species is limited. The mutual crossing of hybrid canes, and crossing of canes with the other groups of begonias, should therefore be encouraged in order to create new hybrids having desirable characteristics.

As many of the most successful hybridizers have said, anyone can enjoy the pleasure and excitement of creating new hybrids.

Hybridizer Phil Mudgett is a member of the Members-At-Large Committee, and lives at 9005 West 5th Ave., Lakewood., Colorado 80226.



CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS

Please return **Eleanor Calkin's** name to the list of officers! Eleanor is Treasurer, and, through a glitch, her name was omitted when the last set of covers was printed. Eleanor's address is 910 Fern Street, Escondido, CA 92027.

In the March-April issue: *In the News...* should have noted that B. 'Pink Parasol', listed as an elite container plant for 1990 in Flower & Garden, is a 1983 cross of *B. sutherlandii* x *B. partita* created and registered by **Goldie Frost**

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 is important for supplying information, including observation, photographs, slides, or drawings, for the group. Any shared information will be appreciated. Please contact Thelma O'Reilly, 10942 Sunray Place, La Mesa, CA 9204

*The references in parentheses are in the **Begonian**, year: Seed Fund number & page. Example: B. U121 - (1984: M-J 1: 1989: 153-154).*

B. U121

Panama. Seed collected by Robert Brin near El Valle February, 1984 Rhizomatous; leaf blades 7 x 5 inches green, sparsely hirsute, marginally serrate, apically acuminate, cordate (1984: M J 11; 1989: 153-154). Identified as *B. urcophylla* (syn. *B. villipetiola*) by Prof. Doorenbos.

B. U122

Caldas, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 by a stream margin along road from Fresno to Manizales. Elevation 7800 feet. Shrub-like.

B. U123

Caldas, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 by a stream margin about 35 km. west of Fresno on road to Manizales. Elevation 9700 feet. Shrub-like. Identified as *B. urticae*.

B. U124

Caldas, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 along road to Manizales. Elevation 9000 feet. Shrub-like. Identified as *B. urticae*.

i. U125

Ingambato, Mexico. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 along road to Toluca. Elevation 700 m. Distributed by Patrick Worley. Rhizomatous; leaf blades 6 x 4 inches, lettuce green, shiny, deeply cordate, sparsely pubescent above, glabrous below. Petioles 7-9 inches, light green, lenticellate, sparsely lanate near apex. Bracts persistent. Staminate flowers white, 2 tepaled, glabrous, pedicels pale green to pink, 1/2 inch. Pistillate flowers white, 4 tepaled, occasionally 3, glabrous, pedicels same as staminate pedicels, bracts quickly deciduous, wings 3. This species remains dormant 5-7 months annually.

i. U126

Choco, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 past El Carmen along road to Quibdó. Elevation 800 feet. Shrub-like. Tentatively identified as *B. holtonis*. Some reports disagree with this identification.

i. U127

Choco, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 a rocky stream area along road from El Carmen to Quibdó. Elevation 4000 feet. Shrub-like; stems succulent, leaf blades green, puberulent above, pleated effect. Difficult to cultivate.

i. U128

Choco, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 along roadside from El Carmen to Quibdó. Elevation 700 feet. Shrub-like. Identified as *B. fischeri*.

i. U129

Antioquia, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 along new highway from Medellín to Bogotá. Elevation 5100 feet. Shrub-like. Identified as *B. fischeri*.

i. U130

Cundinamarca, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 along road to Bogotá. Elevation 600 feet.

Shrub-like; stem glabrous; leaf blades

1 1/2 x 3 1/2 inches, medium green, glabrous above, hairs on nerves below, margin subentire, serrulate. Petioles 1/2 - 3/4 inches, green flushed red, sparsely hairy. Stipules 1/2 x 3/4 inches, pale green, glabrous, keeled.

B. U131

Cundinamarca, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 along road to Fusagasugá. Elevation 8700 feet. Shrub-like. Identified as *B. ferruginea*.

B. U132

Cauca, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 near waterfall along road from Balboa to Argelia. Elevation 7700 feet. Shrub-like. Identified as *B. kunthiana* aff.

B. U133

Cauca, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 at shaded stream margin near road along highway from Balboa to Argelia. Elevation 7600 feet. (1989:153-154.) Shrub-like. Identified as *B. holtonis*.

B. U134

Cauca, Colombia. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 at stream margin along road from Balboa to Argelia. Elevation 5800 feet. (1989: 68-69.) Identified as *B. holtonis*.

B. U135

Pichincha, Ecuador. Seed collected by Scott Hoover January, 1984 along trail above river crossing highway to Santo Domingo de Los Colorados. Elevation 5600 feet. Shrub-like. Identified as *B. foliosa* var. *foliosa* by Prof. J. Doorenbos.

Please turn the page
for an update on
all the U# listings
which have been identified



B. U012: unidentified *Symbegonia* species
Plant grown and photographed by Mildred & Edward Thompson



B. U032
unidentified species
from Brazil
plant grown and photographed
by Thelma O'Reilly

Unidentified Begonia Species Update

Thelma O'Reilly, project director

Begonia

- U001 = *Begonia grisea* A. de Candolle. Identified by Rudolf Ziesenhenné.
- U002 = *Begonia thelmae* (U009) x B. U003. This cross has been made by Kartuz Greenhouses, Logee's Greenhouses and Mabel Corwin. All plants were identical to B. U002.
- U003 = This begonia will be described as a new species in the near future.
- U004 = *Begonia princeae* Gilg.
- U008 = *Begonia subvillosa* Klotzsch. Identified by R. Ziesenhenné.
- B. U009 = *Begonia thelmae* Lyman B. Smith & Dieter C. Wasshausen.
- U010 - Research has found a clue that leads to New Guinea as the collection site for this species.
- U015 = *Begonia cumingii* A. Gray. Tentatively identified by Mildred L. Thompson. Verified by Prof. Jan D. Doorenbos.
- U016 = Tentatively *Begonia formosana* (Hayata) Masamune.
- U018 = *Begonia manicata* Brongniart var. *peltata* L. B. Smith & B. G. Schubert. Tentatively identified by Thelma O'Reilly. Verified by L. B. Smith.
- U020 = *Begonia oxysperma* A. de Candolle.
- U021 = *Begonia oxysperma* A. de Candolle.
- U026 = *Begonia palmata* D. Don var. *palmata*
- U028 = *Begonia minor* Jacquin. Identified by T. O'Reilly. In 1980 T. O'Reilly received two small seedlings labeled B. U028 and B. U031 from Martin Johnson. At maturity she identified B. U031 as *B. minor*. Later research showed that the labels were mixed before arrival. B. U031 remains unidentified.
- U030 = B. U007.
- U033 = *Begonia leprosa* Hance. Tentatively identified by Lynda Goldsmith. Verified by L. B. Smith.
- U035 = B. U049 and B. U099.
- U038 = *Begonia chlorosticta* Sands.
- U039 = *Begonia heracleifolia* var. *nigricans* Schlechtendal & Chamisso. Identified by Robert Cole.
- U044 = *Begonia dipetala* Graham. Identified by Arline Peck.
- U045 = Tentatively *Begonia cucullata*.
- U049 = Tentatively *Begonia juliana* Loefgren. Identified by Arnaud Maurières, France. Waiting for verification from the Smithsonian Herbarium.
- U058 = *Begonia cumingii* A. Gray or a form of this species.
- U059 = B. U085 & B. U093.
- U065 = B. U022.
- U066 = B. U016.
- U067 = *Begonia bakeri* C. de Candolle. Identified by R. Ziesenhenné. Other authors have placed *B. bakeri* as synonymous to *B. cardiocarpa* Liebmán & *B. pruinata* (Klotzsch) A. de Candolle.
- U072 = Tentatively *Begonia rex* hybrid. Identified by T. O'Reilly.
- U073 = *Begonia oxysperma* A. de Candolle. Identified by Mabel Corwin. Slight variegation on young leaves disappears with maturity.



B. U050
Unidentified species from Colombia
Plant grown and photographed by Ed Bates

B. U055
Unidentified species from Costa Rica
Plant grown and photographed by Martin Johnson



- U075 = *Begonia aequata* A. Gray. Tentatively identified by M. Thompson. Verified by J. Doorenbos. Additional seed collections from the Philippines, resulting in species of similar habit, have placed this entire group under further study.
- U076 = *Begonia incisa* A. de Candolle. Tracy McLellan questioned this identification after studying type illustration in the Annotated Species List. B. U076 is under further research.
- U078 = *Begonia maculata* Raddi. Identified by Carrie Karegeannes & T. O'Reilly.
- U081 = Tentatively *Begonia rex* hybrid. Identified by T. O'Reilly.
- U082 = Tentatively *Begonia nigritarum* (Kamel) Steudel. Seed from the Philippines under this label has produced plants with differences in leaf color and shape. For an interesting overview of *B. nigritarum* read article by J. Doorenbos in **Begonian** 1980: 326-327 where he tentatively identifies the species that we grow as *B. nurii* = *B. nigritarum*.
- U084 = *Begonia sericoneura* Liebmann. Identified by T. O'Reilly.
- U085 = B. U059 & B. U093.
- U086 = Tentatively *Begonia luzonensis* Warburg. Identification by J. Doorenbos.
- U087 = *Begonia coriacea* Hasskarl. Identified by C. Karegeannes & T. O'Reilly.
- U090 = Tentatively *Begonia rex* hybrid. Identified by T. O'Reilly.
- U093 = B. U059 & B. U085.
- U095 = *Begonia roezlii* Lynch. Identified by L. B. Smith.
- U099 = B. U035 & B. U049.
- U105 = *Begonia holtonis* A. de Candolle. Identified by J. Doorenbos.
- U115 = *Begonia multinervia* Liebmann. Tentatively identified by Roberto Brin. Verified by T. O'Reilly. This is the same form (leaf underside red) collected by O'Reilly in Costa Rica, 1977.
- U117 = *Begonia urophylla* W. J. Hooker. Identified by J. Doorenbos.
- U118 = *Begonia urophylla* W. J. Hooker. Identified by J. Doorenbos.
- U120 = Tentatively *Begonia estrellensis* C. de Candolle. Identified by Roberto Brin.
- U121 = *Begonia urophylla* W. J. Hooker. Identified by J. Doorenbos.
- U123 = *Begonia urticae* Linnaeus. Identified by Scott Hoover.
- U124 = *Begonia urticae* Linnaeus. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U126 = Tentatively *Begonia holtonis* A. de Candolle.
- U128 = *Begonia fischeri* Schrank. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U129 = *Begonia fischeri* Schrank. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U131 = *Begonia ferruginea* Linnaeus. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U132 = Tentatively *Begonia kunthiana* Walpers. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U133 = *Begonia holtonis* A. de Candolle.
- U134 = *Begonia holtonis* A. de Candolle.
- U135 = *Begonia foliosa* Humboldt, Bonpland & Kunth var. *foliosa*. Identified by J. Doorenbos.
- U139 = *Begonia cryptocarpa* Smith & Schubert. Identified by J. Doorenbos.
- U140 = Tentatively *Begonia buddleiifolia* A. de Candolle. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U141 = *Begonia maynensis* A. de Candolle. Identified by T. O'Reilly during visit to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in March, 1985.
- U144 = *Begonia glabra* Aublet. Identified by S. Hoover. Two species were combined in this collection. B. U144-B was assigned to second species which remains unidentified.
- U146 = Tentatively *Begonia secunda* L. B. Smith & D. C. Wasshausen. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U148 = *Begonia urticae* Linnaeus. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U149 = *Begonia maurandiae* A. de Candolle. Identified by S. Hoover.



Above - B. U064: unidentified species from the Philippines, grown and photographed by M. & E. Thompson

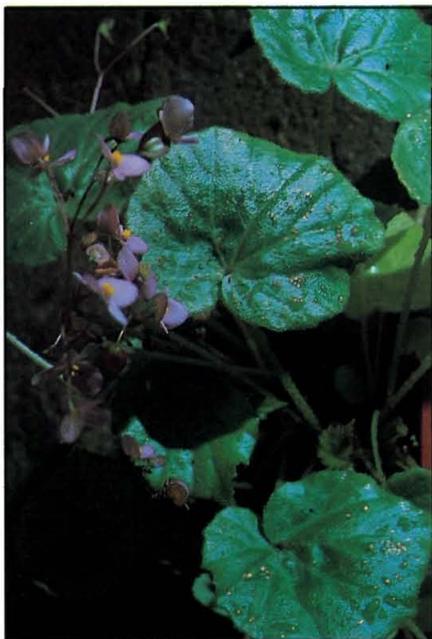


Left - B. U074: unidentified species from the Philippines, grown and photographed by E. Bates



Above - B. U082: Tentatively *B. nigritarum*
Plant grown by Mabel Corwin
Photo by T. O'Reilly

Below - B. U086: from the Philippines
Plant grown by Patrick Worley
Photo by E. Bates



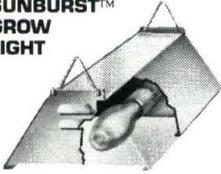
Below - B. U152: from China
Plant grown and photographed
by M. & E. Thompson



- U150 = *Begonia heracleifolia* Schlectendal & Chamisso. Identified by R. Brin as a form of this species.
- U151 = *Begonia subvillosa* Klotzsch (B. U008).
- U152 = *Begonia masoniana* Irmscher var. *maculata* S. K. Chen, R. X. Zheng, & D. Y. Xia. Verified by C. Karegeannes & T. O'Reilly.
- U157 = Tentatively *Begonia plebeja* Liebmann. Identified by T. O'Reilly.
- U162 = Tentatively *Begonia meridensis* A. de Candolle. Identified by L. Goldsmith.
- U163 = Tentatively *Begonia dichotoma* Jacquin. Identified by L. Goldsmith.
- U166 = Tentatively *Begonia hernandioides* Merrill. Identified by Kingsley Langenberg.
- U167 = *Begonia glabra* Aublet var. Identified by T. O'Reilly.
- U170 = *Begonia domingensis* A. de Candolle. Identified by T. O'Reilly. Verified by L. B. Smith.
- U171 = *Begonia manicata* Brongniart. Identified by T. O'Reilly.
- U172 = *Begonia sericoneura* Liebmann. Identified by Tracy McLellan.
- U173 = *Begonia sericoneura* Liebmann. Identified by T. McLellan.
- U174 = *Begonia heracleifolia* Schlectendal & Chamisso form.
- U178 = *Begonia crassicaulis* Lindley. Identified by T. O'Reilly. Verified by L. B. Smith.
- U179 = *Begonia manicata* Brongniart. Identified by T. O'Reilly. Verified by L. B. Smith.
- U187 = *Begonia novogranatae* A. de Candolle. Identified by T. O'Reilly. Verified by L. B. Smith.
- U194 = *Begonia urophylla* W. J. Hooker. Identified by T. O'Reilly..
- U197 = Tentatively *Begonia seemanniana* A. de Candolle. Identified by R. Brin.
- U230 = *Begonia holttumii* Irmscher. Identified by T. O'Reilly. Verified by L. B. Smith.
- U231 = B. U162.
- U239 = *Begonia urticae*. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U240 = *Begonia parviflora* Poeppig & Endlicher. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U242 = *Begonia rossmanniae* A. de Candolle. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U245 = *Begonia maynensis* A. de Candolle. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U247 = Tentatively *Begonia maurandiae* A. de Candolle. Identified by S. Hoover.
- U249 = *Begonia filipes* Benthham. Identified by T. O'Reilly.

**Printing of color photographs in this issue was
made possible by the
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B. U177: unidentified species from Colombia.
Plant grown and photographed by Thelma O'Reilly.

B. U250: unidentified species from Panama.
Plant grown and photographed by Roberto Brin



Jacques Jangoux is a free-lance photographer with a botany background who specializes in the rainforest. In October and November, 1988, he visited four national parks and a forest reserve in Sarawak and Sabah, the two Malaysian states on the island of Borneo (the rest of the island belongs to Indonesia and Brunei). In our last issue, he told of visiting Bako National Park, with vegetation ranging from mangrove swamps to lowland rainforest to tropical heath forest and scrub, where he found carnivorous pitcher plants but no begonias. From Bako he went to Gunung Mulu National Park, a long trip by air, car, then three express boats and a longboat (a canoe with outboard motor). In Gunung Mulu he found magnificent vistas and many begonias, most of them still undescribed and unnamed. Here we pick up his narrative to complete his stay in Gunung Mulu National Park

Begonias **in the National Parks of Malaysian Borneo**

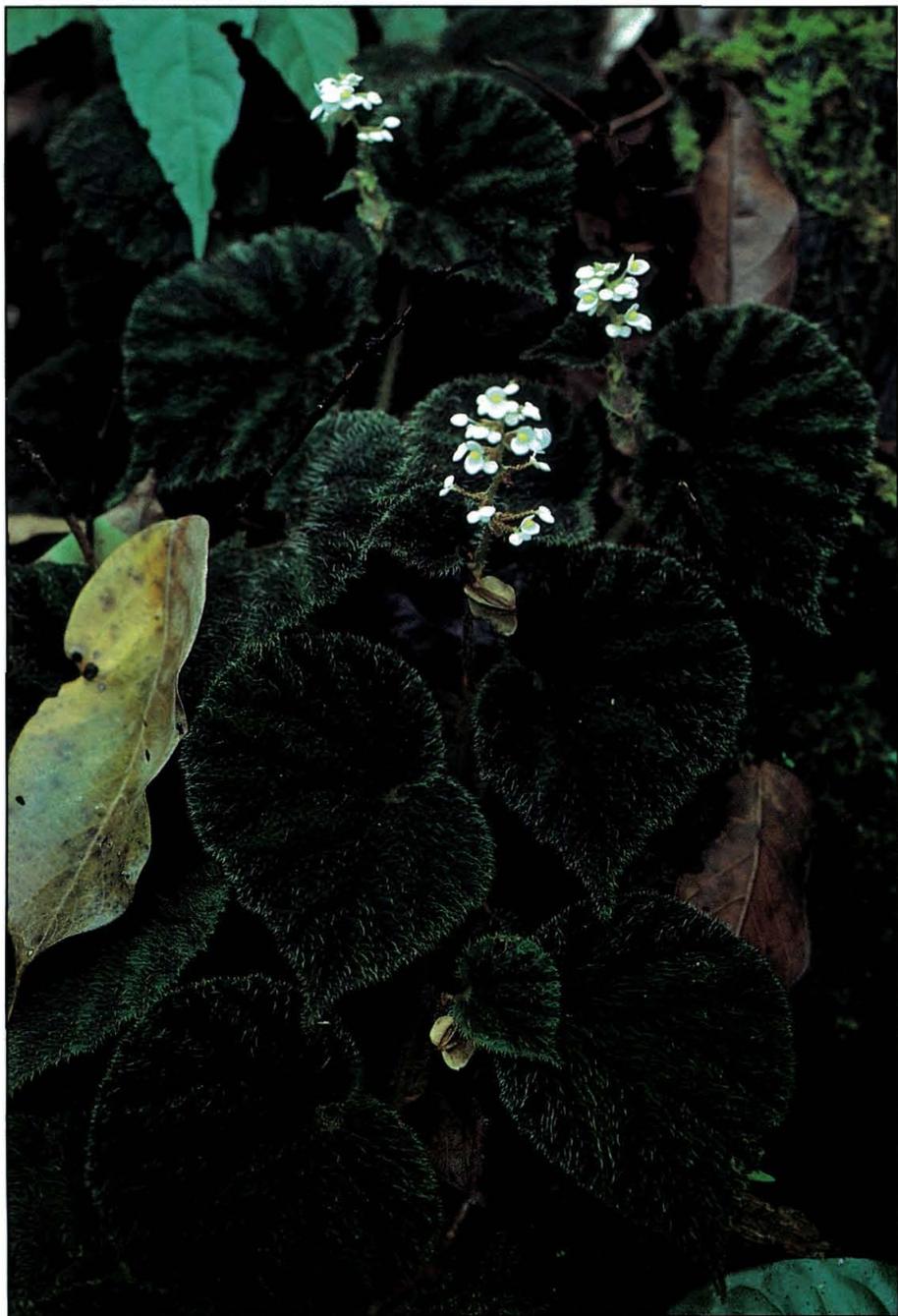
Part 2

Photos and Text by Jacques Jangoux

I saw the sixth *Begonia* species on the way back two days later. It formed a group of several low plants on the forest floor, standing out from the rest of the vegetation by their yellowish-green young leaves. Its flowers were hidden below leaves borne by a hirsute stem. Martin Sands of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew suggests it is related to *B. pubescens* Ridley (photo below).



We slept at "camp 5," a wooden shelter at a site established by a scientific expedition a few years ago. By early morning the next day we started our way up Gunung Api. Only 10 minutes from the start we met our first obstacle: a bridge made of a log crossing a deep gorge, with two vine "handrails." I crossed without looking down, and after that my knees kept shaking for 20 minutes! Soon afterward I found the first plant of a most beautiful begonia that I would see several times during the climb; it is perhaps my favorite of the entire trip. It has been called *B. conipila* Irmscher, an unpublished name. From its small green and black leaves with a pustular surface covered with rigid hair emerged an inflorescence of white flowers (see photo, next page).



species with white flower and densely hairy leaves,
sometimes known in gardens as *B. conipila*

The climb was quite steep, on very irregular ground, and with each step I had to figure out how to place my foot; I had to grab rocks, roots, tree trunks and branches constantly to pull myself up (you may have guessed that I am not a mountain climber!).

After more than four hours of that kind of scrambling the climb became steeper still. Now it was almost rock climbing. The vegetation was now stunted.

Among the rocks grew, together with mosses and ferns, another begonia, with glabrous green leaves (photo at right).



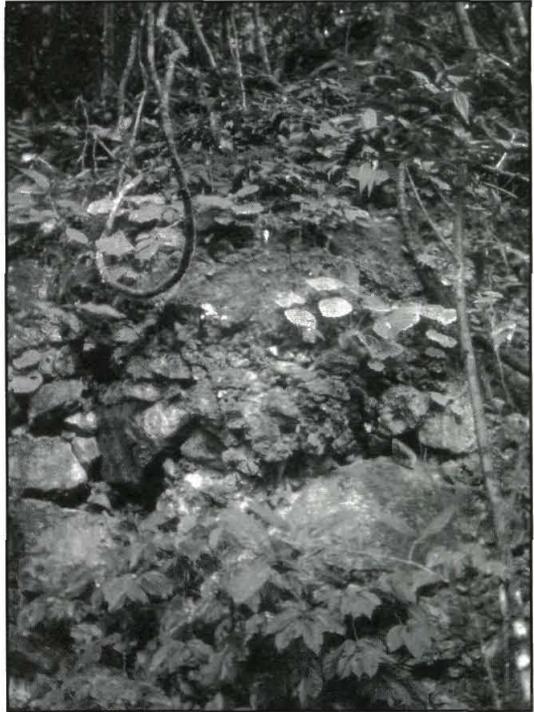
*The nation of
MALAYSIA
is cross-hatched*



It was already well past mid-day, and I decided to turn back to allow time for the downhill "walk" before dark. So I did not reach the famous limestone pinnacles.

On the way back through the lowland forest, on the third day, I saw two more begonias: one was growing at the top of a limestone cliff at the foot of the mountain (photo at right). The other is the species with yellowish young leaves already described.

I did not do the excursion to the summit of Gunung Mulu, 2376 meters. It's two days each way. I suspect that more begonias are to be found along the summit trail.



After Gunung Mulu I spent three days visiting Lambir Hills National Park, a half-hour taxi ride from Miri. Lambir Hills stands out by its rich undergrowth palm flora, among which I was particularly impressed by *Eugeissona minor* highly perched on stilt roots, a species of *Licuala* with palmate, circular, divided leaves, and *Pinanga mirabilis* with entire, bifid leaves. I did not see any begonias here, although I suspect that if I had gone farther toward the hills and a waterfall, I might have seen some.

In our next issue: part 3 of **Begonias in the National Parks of Malaysian Borneo**, Mount Kinabalu National Park, rich in begonias.

New in the
ABS BOOK STORE:

new, updated
BUXTON CHECKLIST
of begonia cultivars
\$35 (price includes postage)

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BULLETIN BOARD

Speakers' Bureau

Officer Slate Presented

Glennis Crouch, Houston Knight, and Wanda Macnair served as members of the ABS Nominating Committee, and submitted the following slate of officers:

President: Jeannette Gilbertson
First Vice-president: Tracy McLellan
Second Vice-president: John Howell
Third Vice-president: Millie Thompson
Secretary: Ingeborg Foo
Treasurer: Eleanor Calkins

Please vote! Your vote will show support for these fine candidates, who have indicated their willingness to give of their time and energies to work for the American Begonia Society.
Ballots must be in by July 21.

Notes

Slide Librarian Daniel Haseltine wants to upgrade the slide library, and **Charles Jaros** has volunteered to help Dan put together some new programs. You photographers out there can help! Send Charles individual slides or (even better!) slide programs. His address is 2621 NW 23rd Court, Miami, FL 33142.

Research Librarian Lorra Almstedt reminds members that she has lots of research materials. Contact her at 1965 Celeste Lane, Fullerton, CA 92633 for a list.

Overprints of the **Begonian** are available to branches for shows for cost of postage-contact Back Issues Chair or Editor.

The ABS Speakers' Bureau maintains a list of members willing to speak at branch meetings, garden clubs, or other meetings across the country. Chairman Muriel Perz would like to update the list.

If you would be willing to present programs on begonias, please send your name, address, and phone number to Chairman Muriel Perz, 2943 N. "H" St., San Bernardino, CA 92405.

At the general meeting May 19, San Antonio:

Statement of Conservation Goals and Code of Ethics was ratified. Appointments of Houston Knight as Research Director, Anita Ruthenberg as Book Store Manager, and Kay Tucker as Long-range Planning Chair were approved. Affiliation with National Council of Garden Clubs was approved.

Minutes and Treasurer's Report will follow in next issue.

Opening

Round Robin Director: Keep the Robins flying! And write the Round Robin Notes. To volunteer, contact President Jeannette Gilbertson, 410 JoAnn Circle, Vista, CA 92084.

Branch Directory comes out next issue - **please send in officer changes** to Editor Tamsin Boardman, Box 249, Roanoke, TX 76262.

Begonias Olé! Boutique a success, thanks to you!

Boutique Chairs Pam Lee and Anita Ruthenberg thank all of you who sent unique items for the Begonias Olé! Boutique. We had lots of interesting begonia, and just about sold out.

A Begonia Fever Epidemic!

Part 2

by Helen Spiers

If you've caught Begonia Fever, you know that it's one infection that leads to happiness. Spread it around!

Join forces with other infected persons in the immediate area. Join the local branch. If a branch is not available, join a support group like the Members at Large Committee.

Many ideas mentioned in the previous issue become even more effective when implemented by a branch. Additional suggestions for group actions are:

1. Provide well-planned plant sales and demonstrations for the public. Follow up with those who exhibit interest. Make available an instruction sheet on planting and caring for begonias. Make certain to include telephone numbers of begonia experts who may be contacted in time of need by the new begonia owner - a support system, please.

2. Actively recruit new members for the local branch. Set goals. Realistically, the branch membership can double in one year if each member recruits only one new member a year. The same goal set by ABS would do wonders!

3. Work with local radio and television stations - place begonias in television studios, preferably in plain view of the viewing audience. If possible, have a representative of your branch as a guest on a plant or garden show. Make a concerted effort to have the garden and/or greenhouse of a member featured in the local newspaper, magazine, or on a television program.

4. Invite the editor or a reporter of the garden section of your local newspaper to conduct a workshop for your members. The members will learn techniques for writing news releases, and, who knows, the editor

or reporter may fall prey to the epidemic! It's good to have a friend on the inside when it comes to public relations.

5. Join forces with local botanical gardens and other gardens open to the public. Provide plants, information, and volunteer services.

6. Organize a public relations committee. Provide the speaker's bureau of the local Chamber of Commerce and garden centers with a list of speakers, both local and national, available for local organizations and clubs. It's surprising how many program chairpersons out there are searching for interesting programs. Do not limit speaking engagements to plant organizations. Who knows which civic organization would join gladly with a begonia branch to beautify the community. Reach out!

7. Get to know members of historical societies. Provide "oldie" begonias for display in historical buildings open to the public.

8. Subscribe to the **Begonian** for the public library, or have members request that it be available. Before receiving my personal copy of Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide, I requested a copy from my branch library only to learn it must be sent from the central library. When I went to pick it up I almost didn't get it! The librarians were fascinated with the book and decided to request a copy for their branch.

A subscription for the **Begonian** would also be a lovely gift to local school libraries. Such subscriptions may be given as memorials or in honor of special people. This is especially nice when the persons honored are known to the students.

The list for group actions is limited only by the ingenuity of the members of the group and their ability to function in harmony as a group.

It is desirable that each individual join a regional organization and be an active participant in the American Begonia Society. Yes, **you** can and should become a positive influence in the decision-making process of the society at both the regional and national levels. Express your opinions! Share your ideas! Flaunt your talents! Active participation benefits the individual and the organizations.

As stated above, an epidemic begins with you, an individual. The American Begonia Society is just that - a society, by

definition, "A group of human beings (individuals) broadly distinguished from other groups by mutual interests". As a group of individuals let's band together and spread begonia fever until it reaches the epidemic stage!

Let it begin with you, **you, YOU** (and **me**)!!

Helen Spiers is a member of Astro Branch, which is G-R-O-W-I-N-G!! She lives at 1423 Lasky St., Houston, TX 77034.



Show News Around the Country

The Sacramento Branch booth at the *Home & Garden Show* in February drew lots of attention, with a variety of begonias for demonstration and for sale. The most popular sale plants were 4" pots of **B. echinosepala** in full bloom. **Marilyn & Roy Nelson** were in charge of the project.

The Barkley Branch put on a spectacular show in honor of founder Fred A. Barkley April 7-8 in Oklahoma City. In a large field of 211 plant entries, **Archie Butler** took Sweepstakes with 35 blues and "Showing is Sharing" with 44 begonia entries. Best of Show went to B. 'Tiger Kitten', entered by **Ann & Gene Salisbury**, and Best Species in Show was *B. paulensis*, entered by **Kathlyn and Merrill Calvert**. The show featured a large Novice Division, with **Linda Clemons** winning Best of Division; several educational exhibits; and ongoing demonstrations by **Diane Horne**.

At the Miami Branch Annual Show **Charles Jaros** took Best of Show and Sweepstakes. New member **Syble Boozer** won a blue for her artistic arrangement.

Greater Atlanta Branch members did well at the *Atlanta Flower and Garden Show*, with **Rhonda Youngblood** winning Best in Begonia Class with her B. 'Sophie Cecile' and taking Sweepstakes as well. **Betty Lockett, Russ Richardson, Virginia Almand, and Doug Jensen** took ribbons, also. Buxton member **Corliss Engle** judged the show.

Phyllis Podren was in charge of the Buxton Branch exhibit which took a second place award at the *New England Spring Flower Show*. The Mildred and Edward Thompson Award for Best Begonia in Show went to **Elizabeth McBratney's B. solanathera**.

Other Buxton winners were **Linde Sacksen**, whose northern exposure greenhouse exhibit took a third place, and **Wanda Macnair**, with five blue ribbons for her begonia entries. Kudos also to **Ernie Ayles**, who managed the branch plant sale at the show.

Do you have a question about growing begonias, indoors or out? Write ABS' horticultural expert Mae Blanton, 118 Wildoak, Lake Dallas, TX 75065 and let her solve your problem!

Conservation News

Martin Johnson reports that he sent out 90 cuttings and 103 seed packets collected by Scott Hoover on the Malaysian expedition.

At the general meeting during the 1990 Convention in San Antonio, Texas, the American Begonia Society ratified the following Conservation Goals and Code of Ethics:

THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CONSERVATION GOALS

1. CONSERVATION OF BEGONIAS.

Objective:

To ensure the survival and maintenance of genetic diversity of begonias throughout the world, both in the wild and in cultivation.

The American Begonia Society's priority for the preservation of wild begonias should be concentrated on endangered species and their introduction into cultivation. With the limited financial resource base available to the American Begonia Society, the organization should devote its attention to collecting the wild species, leaving the more politically complex issues of habitat preservation to much larger organizations.

2. DATA COLLECTION.

Objective: To prepare a record of begonia species in cultivation in botanical gardens, and/or in private collections.

3. RESEARCH.

Objectives: To promote and support more research based on results from field collecting, such as taxonomy, population biology, or evolutionary studies.

4. PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR CONSERVATION.

Objectives:

a. For the American Begonia Society members in general to develop an aware-

ness of wild species and the value of introducing wild species to cultivation.

b. For the general public, the American Begonia Society should assist in promoting an awareness of the loss of biological diversity through rainforest destruction by having experienced members willing to give presentations to schools at all levels of education, garden clubs, museums, men's clubs, etc.

c. Public awareness should include a willingness to make financial donations to efforts that assist in conserving rainforests and endangered species.

5. EXPLORATION.

Objective: To promote the exploration and collection of begonias in the virgin rainforests through cooperation with other plant societies and botanical institutions, with help from mining, petroleum, pharmaceutical, and lumber industries.

THE AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BEGONIA GROWERS AND COLLECTORS

a. Conduct regarding field collection: Any recipient of American Begonia Society funds for field collecting of *Begonia* must subscribe to the following professional standards: Contact the country's Botany, Forestry Department, or similar institution and make arrangement for a deposit of a duplicate set of herbarium specimens. Arrange with an American botanical institution for deposit of herbarium specimens. Collection of herbarium specimens in the field as vouchers for germplasm collected. Photographic documentation of species collected as to habitat, habit, and male and female flowers with a duplicate set of slides left with the ABS Slide Library and the Nomenclature Department. Germplasm can be collected as seed, cuttings, tubers, rhizomes, or seedlings if the population and species are abundant locally or regionally. Seedlings, tubers, or rhizomes should not be collected from small populations of

only a few individuals; however populations in danger of imminent extinction should be collected.

b. Conduct regarding newly introduced species:

A copy of the field notes of the begonias (from which germplasm is collected) shall be sent promptly to the Unidentified Species Project Chairman of the Nomenclature Department for assignment of "U" numbers prior to distribution of seeds from unidentified begonias.

The germplasm collected from any American Begonia Society funded field trip shall be distributed by the collector or sent to the Conservation Department for distribution to those branches, organizations, or individuals who contributed financially to that expedition. Division of germplasm will be based on a percentage of the funds donated toward the whole trip. Seeds will be sent to the American Begonia Society seed fund, and will be commensurate with the size of the American Begonia Society's contribution to the trip.

Germplasm, in the form of live cuttings, tubers, or rhizomes should be given to those individuals in the American Begonia Society who are "expert or proven growers." It is absolutely necessary for expert growers to have priority in the distribution of limited germplasm entering the United States in the form of cuttings, tubers, rhizomes, or small quantities of seed.

Once expert growers have successfully propagated the first generation of germplasm introduced from the wild, it is then their responsibility to contact the Unidentified Species Project Director for "U" number assignment of each unidentified begonia, and then to distribute willingly and graciously cuttings, small plants, and seeds. In the likely event professional growers have the new material, they may then sell the plants.

Approved by Scott Hoover and Martin Johnson, Co-Chairmen of the American Begonia Society Conservation Committee

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CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND NOTES

July-August 1990
Diana H. Gould, Seed Fund Director

Germination times for this issue's selections vary from 6 to 74 days, so please be patient. Unless otherwise noted, these selections have not been offered during the past 3 years.

The Seed Fund would like to thank **Mae Blanton, Roberto Brin, Lynda Goldsmith, Jan Goodwin, Mike Kartuz, Pat Sage**, our anonymous donors, and the international exchanges for making this issue possible. **Thank you!**

Trailing-scandent

B. mollerii (Tropical West Africa) has profuse, intermittent white flowers. *B. radicans* (synonym: *B. glaucophylla*; Brazil) has profuse deep coral blooms January through spring. B. U201 came in without any data.

Thick-stemmed

B. multinervia (Central America; SO 89) , has large, bare leaves and white flowers. *B. paranaensis* (Brazil) has large bare leaves with white flowers in spring, and B. U241 has stems 5/8" thick, oblanceolate leaves with smooth surfaces, glossy without hairs, approximately 1" wide by 3" long, and cream or white flowers.

Shrub-like

B. acutifolia (Cuba-Jamaica; SO 89) has small bare leaves and is everblooming with profuse white flowers that are tinted a deep pink. *B. boisiiana* (Indochina) is classified as "distinctive foliage" and has moderate white flowers from fall through early winter. *B. holtonis* (synonym: *B. foliosa* var. *amplifolia*; Venezuela) has small, bare leaves with moderate white flowers that have deep pink edges, in contrast with its sister variety, *B. foliosa* var. *putzeyana* (Colombia) which has small bare leaves and white flowers. *B. venosa* (Brazil) is a very unusual

species with its felted leaves, and moderate, fragrant white flowers that bloom in late summer. B. U257 (New Guinea; JA 89) came in with no data, as did our species from Peru.

Semperflorens

This issue's only semp offering is *B. cucullata* var. *spathulata* (Brazil-West Indies), which is everblooming with profuse white flowers.

Cane-like

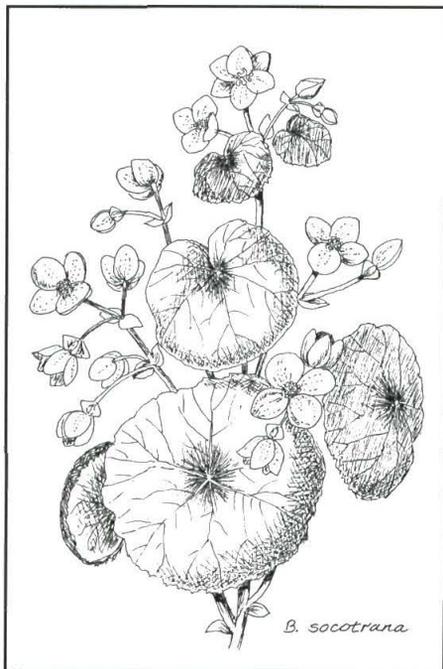
B. maculata (Brazil; MA 88) is a moderately tall cane with soft pink flowers from March to November, while *B. undulata* (Brazil) is tall-growing with white flowers in summer. All I know about our third cane offering is that it is similar to *B. maculata* and has white flowers.

Rhizomatous

Once again we offer *B. heracleifolia* var. *nigricans* (Central America; MJ 88) with its large, parted leaves and its profuse pale-pink flowers in late winter and early spring. We are very pleased to offer *B. imperialis* var. *smaragdina* (Mexico), a species with distinctive foliage, pustular type, and white flowers, which requires terrarium care. Its companion is *B. pustulata*, also from Mexico, another species with distinctive foliage, pustular type, and rose-pink flowers. Seeds have come in labeled B. U118, B. U121, and *B. santae-martae*; all of these have now been determined to be *B. urophylla* (see Unidentified Begonia Listing, this issue) *B. urophylla* is from Central America, Colombia, Venezuela, and was last offered SO 89 as B. U118; it has very large leaves and pink flowers. You might like to order seeds from all three sources, and see if you detect any differences; if so, specify on your order and send payment for three packets. Supply is very limited.

B. U119 is similar to *B. urophylla* but with smaller leaves. These are in very limited supply.

B. U193 (Panama; JA 89) has white flowers and leaves 7" by 7" with many drip points.



B. socotrana

Drawing by Kit Jeans Mounger

Tuberous

B. dregei var. 'Glasgow' has small lobed leaves, does not lose its juvenile spots, and has white flowers (see the **Begonian**, May-June 1990, p. 91 for photo). *B. grandis* ssp. *sinensis* came in without data. *B. gracilis* (Mexico) is tall growing with pink flowers. *B. socotrana* (from the island of Socotra off the coast of Somalia) has profuse rose-pink flowers from December to February. B. U236 (Ecuador; SO 88) from Scott Hoover's collection and B. U237 (Philippines) have no data. Nor, for that matter, does the offering B. mixed tuber species spills.

Classification Unknown

B. acerifolia (Ecuador), *B. fissistyla* (Bolivia), B. U147 (Rizopavonia, Bapa, Ecuador; JA 89), and three Costa Rican species that I am calling C.R. #1, C.R. #2, C.R. #3, which Dr. Kathleen Burt-Utley is working on identifying. C.R. #1 has dark, bottle-green leaves regularly spotted with silver with a leek-green underside. It has large pinkish-white blossoms. C.R. #2 is very similar to #1, only the underside is tinged purplish and its has much larger flowers. C.R. #3 has large sap-green leaves scattered with silvery spots, with a deep burgundy underside; it is a tall cane with aromatic soft pink flowers.

We also offer a begonia species from India, which came in with no data.

Last and by no means least is another selection of B. mixed species.

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All orders must be accompanied by check or money order payable ONLY in U.S. funds, and made payable to the CLAYTON M. KELLY SEED FUND.

Cost of mailing in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are: 1-12 packets of seeds, 55c; 13-24 packets, 70c; 25-36 packets, \$1.15; 37-48 packets, \$1.45.

Foreign mailing costs are: 1-12 packets of seeds, \$1.30; 13-24 packets, \$2.10; 24-36 packets, \$3.10; 37-48 packets, \$4.10.

Two sets of planter dishes with free instructions in one mailer cost 77c. If ordered with seed and sent in one mailer, the cost of 2 sets of planter dishes and 1-12 packets of seed is 90c; 2 sets of planter dishes and 13-24 packets cost \$1.07; 2 sets of planter dishes and 25-36 packets cost \$1.42; 2 sets of planter dishes and 37-48 packets cost \$1.75.

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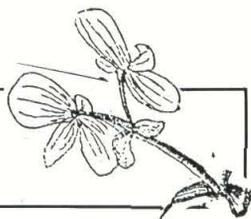
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B. dregei var. 'Glasgow'
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B. foliosa var. *putzeyana*
B. gracilis
B. grandis ssp. *sinensis*
B. heracleifolia var. *nigricans*
B. holtonis
B. imperialis var. *smaragdina*
B. maculata
B. molleri
B. multinervia
B. paranaensis
B. pustulata
B. radicans
B. santae-martae (*urophylla*)*
B. socotrana
B. undulata
*B. urophylla**
B. venosa
B. U057
B. U118 (*urophylla*)*
B. U119*
B. U121 (*urophylla*)*
B. U147
B. U193
B. U201
B. U236
B. U237
B. U241
B. sp. C.R. #1
B. sp. C.R. #2
B. sp. C.R. #3
B. sp. India
B. sp. *maculata* type
B. sp. Peru
B. mixed species
B mixed tuberous species

*in very limited supply

ROUND ROBIN NOTES

Margaret Coats, Round Robin Director



Elaine Ayers (OH) claims she's found the secret to growing rhizomatous begonias: adding sand to her potting mix. This year she has been rewarded with more and much taller bloom stalks. From now on she plans to use two different potting mixes - one with sand for her rhizomatous, and one with more perlite for her canes.

Here is one smart lady! Esther Combs (TN) read an article on rooting in Oasis, but saw no reason to try it as long as she is successful with her present method. Then she carefully explained her method: "I use styrofoam glasses and pot cuttings up the Texas pot way in unmilled sphagnum moss and perlite, using one inch of perlite on the bottom. To pot up, just crumble off your inch of perlite, roots and all, as these are your water roots anyway. Peel off the styrofoam and pot up your undisturbed plant." There's no root damage this way.

The members of one of the species Robins have been challenged by chairman, Daniel Haseltine (IL) to grow at least ten species out of the Seed Fund listings. In this way each member would be able to set seed for the Seed Fund in addition to passing information on to one another and ABS. Daniel sees no point in ABS sending people out into the wild to harvest seed if the members won't help grow the seeds. He then went on to explain his method of planting seed. He uses 1 oz. clear plastic glasses filled to the top with Jiffy Mix. Daniel finds it easier to get the seedlings out of the Jiffy Mix. For potting up he uses a nut pick, which works great for lifting the seedlings and is ideal for making the hole for transplanting. He uses the same tool for tamping the mix around the small, newly planted stem and firming it so the plant sits well in its new home.

Mabel Corwin (CA) reports on seeds of *B. chlorosticta*, *B. U014*, and *B.*

roxburghii. All create very strange looking pods, which she reports are very similar to a pod once sent to her by Dr. Doorenbos. It was hard as a rock, and when finally opened contained only few seeds which did not germinate. Her experience with seed pods on *B. handelii* has been that they must be removed before they dry, and the outer skin peeled away. Mabel says these pods hang on for eight or nine months.

Maybe some of you have had the same experience with *B. cavalyensis* as Mabel. Every time she staked it the stem died, even though she tied it to the stake very loosely. Now she plants it in a hanging basket.

Robins are still arriving with reports of heavy losses from the devastating cold spell of December 1989. Kit Mounger (TN) reports that some begonias that survived without freezing to the ground were 'Gene Daniels', *sanguinea*, *paranaensis*, *maculata*, *lubbersii*, 'Tiny Gem', and 'Orrell'. She also reports some of her plants are putting up new basal growth after having frozen.

Elaine Ayers (OH) uses time-release fertilizers marketed for African Violets on her reluctant bloomers and finds it usually 90% effective. She claims to be a great one for bottom watering, especially if she is in a hurry. But, she warns, the pots still must be watered from the top at least once a month to flush out the salts.

In the odd/rare/unusual Robin, both Bill Voss (VA) and Virginia Hamann (IA) are singing the praises of sphagnum moss for rooting. Virginia said she was amazed at how fast her leaves root and put up plants: "It is magic."

Here's yet another approach to planting seed, explained by Kingsley Langen-

berg (IL): "I shake the seeds out on a blank piece of paper and look at the seeds under a 7-power jewelers' loop to check for crushed and unpollinated seeds...I count out 25 to 50 seeds and scatter them in any old starter mix or lighting potting mix. This is held in a small 3" square, 1" deep translucent plastic dish. I poke holes in the bottom corners with a pair of forceps (tweezers). Then I invert another of the same plastic dishes and fasten it over the first one as a lid. After sowing seeds, I write the name of the begonia around the lip of the container, along with the date and number of seeds sown. I half-fill a third dish with distilled water and place the soil-filled container in the water until the soil is saturated. Then I lift it out and place it on paper towels until thoroughly drained. Finally, I fasten the inverted top dish with a rubber band, drain the water from the third dish, and replace the covered dish into it for a miniature greenhouse." King explains that immediately following the seed sowing, the little greenhouses are put on top of the light fixture where there is much less light and some bottom heat. After germination he puts them under the light for 24 hours a day, with daily foliar feeding by misting with a 5-30-3 solution. "I place up to a dozen little greenhouses about 6" under a fluorescent 4' desk light. I grow my seedlings right on my desk at work - have been doing this for over 12 years now. People stop by to look at my begonia farm." Each container is inspected each work day, and the larger seedlings are transplanted four per dish and then one per dish as they grow.

Brad Thompson (CA) reports on belonging to a branch: "I must admit that I get much more from them than I could ever give back. It's what keeps my interest going, just as the Robins do. If I don't learn new things, learn about new plants, or meet new people to share my interest and knowledge, I would lose that spark to further the popularity and culture of begonias." (I would like to add that if you lack that spark of enthusiasm, join a Robin or two and a local branch or the Members-At-Large.)

Jane Hays (CO) has found a better way to rid her plants of mealy bugs. Instead of messy and often ineffective Q-tips, she found a tiny, flat, stiff brush about 1/4" wide and used it to brush rubbing alcohol on the plant, then washed it in Ivory liquid and tackled the little mealy again. She found the little brush quick, clean, and just stiff enough to be effective in getting into the crevices without damaging the plant.

Shirley O'Barsky (MO) read that two sheets of newspaper should be placed over the flat in which tuberous seed has been planted, and wanted to know if that wouldn't reduce the light a lot. Howard Siebold (CA) said he had been puzzled for many years about opposing rules for starting seeds. He has always used Blackmore & Langdon instructions and started his seed under lights, but when he started working with Brown Bulb Ranch he found they cover their seed flats to keep out all light for ten days and then remove the covers. By that time the seed has usually started to sprout. Howard says he has tried both ways and can see no difference, but adds that covering the seed obviously does delay the formation of algae during the ten days. To deter algae, he explains that your seed starting mix should have little or no fertilizer and the water should be free of any minerals since algae needs light and a food supply (especially phosphate).

Do you grow tropicals along with your begonias? The tropical Robin has some experienced growers looking for new members and would welcome you. Let me know if you'd like to join them.

Attention, teenagers and young adults! Want a Robin all your own? I have a chairman ready to go if you will send me your name and address. This Robin will be geared to your needs.

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