



AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

Website: http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html



VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, February 23 2 P.M.

Zilker Botanical Garden Center

2220 Barton Springs Road

Austin, TX 78746

BOOK

Hybridizers of the Southwest Region/ABS is a book that features Freda Holley's begonias including B. 'Amy Byrom' and B. 'Nelda Moore.'



B. 'Nelda Moore' by Freda Holley, compliments of Syria Holley, gifted to Jim Landers January 26, 2025.

TRAILING-SCANDENT BEGONIAS



B. radicans

These varieties are a small group consisting of about 35 species and 35 cultivars to date that trail or climb and have either thick or thin stems that branch regularly with regular pruning and pinching. The leaves can become rather large. Usually a cluster of white flowers appear on multiple spikes. Both natural species and cultivars require strong light or sunlight but not midday sun for healthy growth and flowers. They grow best when the temperature is 58-72 degrees F. Cold will slow their growth and it may be necessary to move them to a warmer area with ideal humidity around 50%

Use pruning and pinching for maintaining a compact plant that is leafy but not lengthy with bare places. What you want is multi-stemmed leafy growth from the base, accompanied by an abundance of flowers.

Shallow pots are ideal for potting these species and cultivars. Terracotta or plastic pots can be used if the soil provides good drainage. Use a small pot when beginning to plant and start pinching to shape the begonia. Then pot one size larger as needed. Use an indoor potting mix that retains moisture but drains freely.



B. 'Bob-O-Link'



B. 'Yorke's Nocturne'



B. solanthera

TUBEROUS BEGONIAS



B. morelii



B. 'Splotches'

At this time of year tuberous begonias make wonderful gifts at Christmas and throughout the New Year. Their huge colorful flowers bring great cheer to anyone who loves the exotic dwarf and bushy plants with huge brilliantly red, yellow, and white flowers.

Some of the strains popular today include tuberhybrida that has a single or double flower and good form for hanging baskets. Hiemalis also grows as a pot plant with double flowers. Cheimantha or "Christmas" Begonia are single flowered pot plants also grown in hanging baskets.

Natural species have green leaves of various shapes and are free flowering during the season.

Many are used in hybridizing. Semi-tuberous varieties do not always fully defoliate. Most have maple leaves and drooping stems and benefit from extra light.

Tuberous begonias also require some sun, some shade, and good lighting after dormancy. This rest period is usually , but not with every form, during winter.



B. 'Isabella'

Tubers left in pots over this period usually rot; therefore, remove the tuber, wash them and dry them. Then dust with sulphur or tomato dust as a protection from vermin or disease. Keep them in peatmoss or dry sand, label them, and periodically give them a light watering to prevent shrivelling.

In spring at 60 degrees F tubers will begin to grow. Some can then be started in a well drained potting mix. Plant the tuber so that the top of the tuber is showing. They should be kept warm until they root. Then lift and plant in a pot. Water carefully but do not allow them to dry out. When the flowering has finished, the plant will cease its growing cycle.



B. bogneri



B. 'Flamboyant'



B. pearcei

MINUTES FOR THE AABS MEETING JANUARY 26, 2025

The Austin Area Begonia Society met at 2 P.M in the auditorium of Zilker Botanical Garden on Sunday, January 26, 2025.

Doug brought many begonias that he replanted from Washington during the freeze. There were also hanging baskets and other flowers that attracted the members and the visitors who joined and learned about different types of begonias as well as caring for them and propagating them.

Freda Holley presented the program about cane-like that has Superba types, Mallet types, and others that may be taller, intermediate, or suited for hanging baskets; Shrub-like that vary in height and leaf shapes; Thick-stemmed that is propagated by stem cuttings; Rhizomatous which have green leaves or

beautiful colors and markings, shapes and textures; Rex known for beautiful foliage; Semperflorens or landscape begonias; Trailing-scandent known for trailing or climbing;; Tuberos known for flowers. Vickey Cole presented the financials. Doug will purchase merchandise for demonstrations in Tillery Nursery on March 22 and 23 from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M. and propagation on February 23.

Doug also asked for other members to help with hosting our meetings. Charlotte Boyle and Joan Estes will work for February 23.

Hospitality was complete with cereal snacks, an assortment of cookies, pecan pie, chicken, tamales, iced tea.

Respectfully submitted,
Nelda Moore



Pictures by Syria Holley and
Jim Landers

