

BEGONIA CHATTER



<p>Astro Branch American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539 713-299-2661</i></p>	<p><i>Next Meeting:</i> DATE: June 7, 2020 TIME: PLACE: CANCELED PROGRAM:</p>
<p>June 2020 ISSUE</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>

JUNE MEETING CANCELED

The June 7, 2020 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society has again been canceled do the coronavirus being active in the Houston area. Listening to the news things seem to be getting better with less reported cases and fewer deaths. Social distancing is still in effect and the attendance numbers for group gatherings and meetings is still quite limited. We have done some checking and West Gray Multi-Service Center is completely shut down until further notice. No one is willing to venture a guess as to a date we can look forward to reopening. Right now all we can do is take it one month at a time.

Until then please keep yourself safe and healthy. Your begonias and their companion plants will certainly enjoy the extra attention you are still able to lavish upon them.

Perhaps you might take some photographs of your plants and/or your garden and consider sharing with us through the Chatter's *We Are Looking At*, until we can 'Show and Tell', (maybe even giving us a little blurb on what meet together again **Happy Growing!**)



B. coccinea - pink in Tom Keepin's front yard.

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

June

3 rd & 4 th	Scorpio
7 th & 8 th	Capricorn
12 th & 13 th	Pisces
17 th & 18 th	Taurus
22 nd & 23 rd	Cancer
30 th	Scorpio

July

1 st	Scorpio
5 th & 6 th	Capricorn
9 th , 10 th & 11 th	Pisces
14 th , 15 th & 16 th	Taurus
19 th & 20 th	Cancer
29 th & 30 th	Scorpio

*** Planting and Transplanting are best done in Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces with Cancer being the best.

*** Best pruning for quick growth is first Taurus and then Capricorn.

(The pruning, planting and transplanting dates above are taken from the *Harris Farmer's Almanac for 2020*)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Happy Birthday wishes to our members born in June. We hope your special day is truly a special one.

Doug Byrom	June 27 th
Donna Robert	June 7 th

"Take a few moments to remember all the good things you've seen and done, as you've grown and things you've learned. Celebrate your memories and your dreams....everything that has made you the wonderful person you are today.

"Happy Birthday"

WEATHER FORECAST FOR JUNE 2020

According to the United States Weather Service, Houston and the surrounding areas fall in Region 7 of the National Weather Map. Here is what they predict for the month of June.

Our temperatures will be near normal and precipitation will be near normal. Our average temperatures should range from 78 degrees in the North to 82 degrees in the South. Our coolest June temperatures will be June 3rd thru 5th, 12th thru 14th, 21st thru 22nd, and 28th & 29th. Our warmest June temperatures will be June 2nd, 8th thru 11th, 16th thru 19th and 24th thru 26th. The best chance for scattered showers and thunderstorm will be at 4 day intervals. Severe weather potential is highest June 2nd & 3rd....Very Humid.

(The weather forecast above is taken from the Harris Farmer's Almanac for 2020)



Begonia barkeri from *Begonia Portraits*
by Alice M. Clark

IN MEMORY OF FUKUMI SMITH

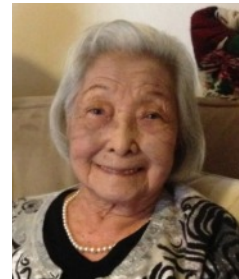


This begonia is being grown by Lucy Melara and the picture was taken by her. Lucy sent it to me inquiring if this is normal for a begonia. I can't say that I have ever seen anything like it either. We are interested in finding out if anyone can identify the plant and also tell us if this is normal for this plant or any other begonia. As you can see one flower cluster is male and the other is female (as well as being different colors). If you can help us with this please contact:
Tom Keepin: at thomas.keepin@gmail.com or 713-686-8539 (CST). We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Our friend and Astro Branch Member passed away early Easter Sunday May 12, 2020. Fukumi lived at Brookdale Shadowlake for the past 4 years and experienced a fall from which there was no hope for recovery. Fukumi became a member of the Astro Branch May 5, 2002 and soon became the darling of the branch. She was kind, sweet, soft spoken and was quick to share any of her horticultural knowledge, especially when it came to begonias. Everyone looked forward to the meeting's refreshments when Fukumi was one of the hostesses....you knew that she would provide lots of homemade goodies for everyone's enjoyment. Fukumi had been missed for some time at meetings, resulting in many notes and cards being sent her way to keep a smile on her face and let her know we were thinking about her. Fukumi was laid to rest in a private ceremony with only family attending.

Very recently we received a \$500 donation from her daughters Deanne and Irene in memory of their mom. Deanne and Irene were sent beautiful thank-you cards with lovely notes inside by our Sunshine Lady Donna Williams. Our friend and Astro member will be missed for a very long time, but we are comforted by wonderful memories of her.

The family said anyone wishing to honor Fukumi's memory, to please consider planting something pretty in your garden or adopting a new houseplant





Begonia chlorosticta Sands by Morris Mueller

This exotic-looking begonia from Sarawak, Malaysia, was first collected in 1965 or 1967 (dates vary by source). Until 1982 it went by the name “ex-Kew species” or B U038, when Martin Sands named it *B. chlorosticta*, which means green-spotted.

The illustration provided is somewhat fanciful as the flowers are closer to white and the leaf background is a lighter green and the spots are more numerous.

B. chlorosticta is in the section *Petermannia* along with other begonias that have raised spots, such as *B. serratipetala* and *B. amphioxus*. The Thompsons in their book, **BEGONIAS: The Complete Reference Guide** classify it as shrub-like, distinctive

foliage, unusual surface and/or coloring. It is a weak herbaceous plant that must be grown in a terrarium here in a moist freely draining mix. It is happiest with temperatures around 70°F. Unlike other shrub-like begonias, it can be propagated from both stems cuttings and leaves. Many other Southeast Asian shrubs can be propagated from leaves. Because the stems are so herbaceous, stem cuttings are more difficult to start than leaves. Cuttings tend to rot.

There are four hybrids created with *B. chlorosticta* as the pollen parent: *B.* ‘Calico Kew,’ *B.* ‘Aluminum,’ *B.* ‘Moon Maid,’ and *B.* ‘Lady Amethyst.’ They are all shrub-like except for *B.* ‘Lady Amethyst’ which is a rex.

There is also a color variant of the species called Brown *chlorosticta*.

