

# BEGONIA CHATTER



<p><b>Astro Branch</b> American Begonia Society <i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539</i></p>	<p><i>Next Meeting:</i> <b>DATE:</b> July 10, 2022 <b>TIME:</b> 2:00 P.M. <b>PLACE:</b> Plants For All Seasons <b>PROGRAM:</b> Cutting Party</p>
<p>June 2022 Issue</p>	<p><a href="http://www.begoniahouston.org">www.begoniahouston.org</a></p>

## CUTTING PARTY

The July 10, 2022 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at Plants For All Seasons located at 21328 State Highway 249, Houston, TX. Their telephone number is 281-376-1646. We have the meeting room from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

This is our Annual Cutting Party where members bring in plants that can be pruned for cuttings or actual cuttings in plastic bags. All cuttings need to be named (labeled), as do the plants that cuttings will be taken from. Members will tell us about the cuttings they have brought and when that is completed members will have the opportunity to select bagged cuttings or take cuttings from plants.

We will have our usual drawings and the refreshment host and/or hostesses will delight us with tasty treats. If you wish to have a beverage other than water, feel free to bring it.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing cuttings to add to our begonia collections.

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



## PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

### July

9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
21 <sup>st</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Taurus
26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer

### August

5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Scorpio
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>	Capricorn
13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pisces
17 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	Taurus
22 <sup>nd</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup>	Cancer

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

\*\*\*\*\***Best Pruning** for quick growth is first in Taurus and then in Capricorn.



B. 'Fireworks'



B. 'Summer Wing Dark Elegance'

## JULY WEATHER FORECAST FOR 2022

According to the United States Weather Service Houston and its surrounding areas fall in Region 7 of the National Weather Map. Here is what they predict our weather will be for the month of July.

Our temperatures and precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should average from 80degrees in the North to 85 degrees in the South.

Our coolest July temperatures will be July 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> thru 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> thru 24<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>.

Our warmest July temperatures will be July 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> thru 29<sup>th</sup>.

There is a good chance for widely scattered showers and thunderstorms at 3-to-5-day intervals. The heaviest precipitation will be along the Gulf. There is a slight chance for a hurricane during the first week and a moderate chance at the month's end.



photo by Paul Tsamtsis

## Begonia 'Deco Darkness'

by Paul Tsamtsis

B. 'Deco Darkness' is a great rhizomatous hybrid by Tim Anderson of Palm Hammock Orchid Estates in Miami Florida.

Begonia growers in Miami have a hard time dealing with their USDA Zone 10 tropical growing conditions for certain type begonias like rexes and tuberhybrida. Tim Anderson starting a breeding program using some species from tropical Asia and parts of China. The resulting plants are rex-like, but owe nothing in their genetics to the original B. rex Putz from the Himalayan foothills.

B. 'Deco Darkness' is a cross of B. *deliciosa* X B. 'Midnight Magic.' Tim has a whole series of 'Deco' plants bred to do well in Miami's heat. I have grown a few of these in the Sacramento

Valley and they perform marvelously in our summer heat.

B. 'Deco Darkness' color is variable with pink, silver, and dark olive brown in various combinations. During the winter leaves grow out much more solidly pink than in summer. An interesting result is that during early spring and late fall the plant will have leaves with all sorts of color and marking variations.

The only insect problem I have experienced is an occasional mealy bug. It doesn't seem to be a plant that mealy bugs colonize and thrive on. Powdery mildew has not been a problem for me, either.

With its performance and looks this is a plant that I heartily recommend for growing in summer heat conditions that challenge rex-type hybrids.



Joan Coulat - Sacramento Branch, American Begonia Society, May 2008



## *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*.

