

BEGONIA CHATTER



<p>Astro Branch 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> DATE: August 7, 2022 TIME: 2:00 P.M. PLACE: Plants For All Seasons PROGRAM: Plant Swap</p>
<p>August 2022 Issue</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>

PLANT SWAP

The August 7, 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.

Our Program for this meeting is our annual “**Plant Swap**”. This is one of our most popular programs. Each member that wishes to participate may bring up to two plants and the container size should not exceed 12 inches. Each member will be given a raffle-type ticket for the plant you bring in. After the business meeting, we will have each member introduce the plant(s) they brought for the Plant Swap.

We would like you to tell us what you know about the plant along with its name and how you grow it. The drawing will last until all plants have found a new home. For this program, we would like only potted plants.

Our refreshment hostesses for this meeting will be Cheryl Lenert and Janet Carpenter. Members are requested to bring their preferred liquid refreshment to quench their thirst if they wish for something other than water

We look forward to seeing you there!

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

August

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

September

<u>1st & 2nd</u>	<u>Scorpio</u>
<u>6th & 7th</u>	<u>Capricorn</u>
<u>10th & 11th</u>	<u>Pisces</u>
<u>14th & 15th</u>	<u>Taurus</u>
<u>19th & 20th</u>	<u>Cancer</u>
<u>28th, 29th & 30th</u>	<u>Scorpio</u>

*******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. amphioxus

AUGUST 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 August.

Our temperatures and precipitation will be near normal. Our temperatures should average from 78 degrees in the North to 83 degrees in the South.

Our coolest August temperatures will be August 1, 6th-7th, 13th-15th, 20th-21st, and 28th-29th.

Our warmest August temperatures will be August 3rd-4th, 9th-12th, 17th-18th, and 23rd-26th.

There is a good chance for showers and thunderstorms at 4-day intervals. The heaviest precipitation will be along the Gulf. Hurricane chances increase during the last week of the month.



B. Lime Royal

Contained Atmospheres by Leora Fuentes – Notes by Mel Babb

The Begonia society was delighted to have Laura Fuentes, a Blue-Ribbon winning begonia container expert and connoisseur from Fort Worth talk to our group describing plants that she had brought to our March 2022 meeting.

Here are some of the things she told us about and showed us for successful growing of these tiny, beautiful plants.

When you use fluorescent lights, get one each cool white and day light. Using led all-in-one fixtures and lights may be your only choice since fluorescent bulbs and fixtures are being replaced by them.

For potting mix first sterilize sphagnum moss by heating it to 140°, cool it and squeeze most of the water out of it. Be sure to wear gloves when handling the moss. Mix 1 part fertilizer with 1 part moss.

Use the right size container—one that is about one inch wider than the diameter of the plant. Remember begonias don't need deep pots. Put charcoal in the bottom of the pot unless you are changing the plants every 3 to 4 months. Label and date your plants.

Water with a turkey baster in the middle of the soil.

If showing the begonia in a show, use saran wrap and cut around it to fit the rim of a clear globe to seal it.

To label it: species are all lowercase, cultivars in quotes, first letter cap.

A Uxxx-numbered species indicates an unidentified species. When its species is finally decided it is named usually by the person who found it.

Good resources for plants are at www.myhomenature.com a site with an eye-popping array of rare plants and exotic pets. www.etsy.com/market/begonias.plants_live. More begonias for you to long for.

Leora Fuentes at times sells her plants on eBay. To search for her plants:

1. Type eBay.com in Google search or Microsoft Edge.
2. Click advanced (to the right of the blue search button.)
3. Click "By Seller" on the left side of the page.
4. At top of right side of page check "Only show items from".
5. Next to "include" type lefue38 and press enter (or click Search at bottom left)

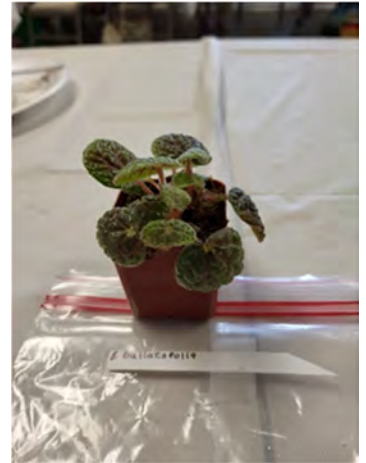
If nothing shows up, then she has nothing listed to sell at that time.

[photos of some of the plants she brought are on the next page]

B. 'Pink African Violet'



- B. koksunii
- B. metallicolor
- B. bullatifolia



- B. dracopelta
- B. U012
- B. U632



- B. roseopunctata
- B. amphioxus
- B. blancii



CULTIVAR CORNER



Begonia 'Persian Brocade'

A Begonia That's Good for Beginners as Well as Exhibitors

By Cynthia Mueller, College Station, Texas

The rhizomatous begonia 'Persian Brocade' is a good choice for a beginner's plant. It combines good looks, a healthy constitution, a mannerly growth, and is very forgiving notwithstanding a few errors in care such as overwatering, letting the leaves touch the glass of the terrarium, or letting droplets fall on the leaves during the watering process. And because the leaves of B. 'Persian Brocade' are thick and tough, they are an exhibitor's good choice for a specimen capable of surviving the stress of being packed up for a trip to the show hall.



One of 'Persian Brocade's best features are the bright green star-shaped leaves, edged in black, with a black blotched pattern. Younger leaves offer the contrast of being almost an acid yellow-green with patterns. It is available for purchase commercially. (Photo by author)

A leaf with attached petiole can root easily in a glass of water, immersed in a soil/sphagnum moss mixture, or even as cut leaf pieces held down on the surface of the rooting medium with hairpins. If its rhizome begins to grow outward in the wrong direction, snip off a segment and plant directly into a pot of well-chosen medium, where it will soon be rooted. Stabilize the new plant in its container by inserting some slender bamboo sticks or other lightweight props to keep it in place.

'PERSIAN BROCADE' - CONTINUED

When the growing tip of a rhizome touches a surface such as the glass wall of the terrarium, a cluster of roots will soon form that hold the top-heavy spray of new leaves in place. It won't be bothered by coming into contact with the glass.

This begonia may be grown in a typical loose, well-draining potting soil with some added perlite, with or without the addition of short bits of sphagnum moss. Water carefully when the surface of the media appears dry.

'Persian Brocade' was hybridized by Mrs. H. E. Dillard, Kansas, USA in 1961 as a result of crossing *B. bowerae* var. *bowerae* and *B. 'Maphil'* (which is cited as being a seedling of *B. bowerae* var. *bowerae*, itself). (*B. bowerae*, originally found in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, was introduced to begonia lovers by Rudolf Ziesenhenné in 1950 and was the popular parent of many attractive begonias. It's a member of the Section *Gireoudia* and has 28 chromosomes.) Ms. Dillard was the proprietor of Tropical Paradise, where she created a number of smaller begonia varieties that were meant for collectors to keep in smaller spaces such as windowsills.

Leaves are relatively thick and have good substance. The flowers are pink and typically appear in winter and spring. A bright shade will encourage good coloring of the leaves.