

BEGONIA CHATTER



<p style="text-align: center;">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: October 4, 2020 TIME: PLACE: CANCELED PROGRAM:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER 2020 ISSUE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">www.begoniahouston.org</p>

MEETING CANCELED

Happy Fall! Before we know it Halloween will be here and the Trick or Treaters will be ringing our doorbells. Hopefully we will have some color change starting then as well. Once again our scheduled meeting is canceled. There is hope on the horizon though...I have reached out to our contact at the West Gray Multi-Service Center to see if there has been any word on when they will be allowed to open for meetings. The reply I received stated that the target date is November 6, 2020 but is not set in stone. The caveat is Mayor Tuner still has final say and has been very cautious thus far. We will need the positivity rate to continue to fall for his consideration.

All we can do at this point is hope for the best.

Please continue to stay safe and well. Please pick up the phone and call your begonia friends or send them an email. Everyone loves to hear how other begonias are growing. You can even make someone jealous by including a picture or two.

Happy Growing!
Tom



B. Halloween
from Kartuz Greenhouse.

WEATHER FORECAST FOR OCTOBER 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 October.

Our temperatures will be near normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our average temperature should range from 62 degrees in the North to 68 degrees in the South. Our coolest temperatures for October will be October 1st & 2nd, 13th thru 17th, and 25th thru 29th. Our warmest temperatures for October will be October 4th thru 7th, 10th thru 12th, 19th thru 23rd and 31st. The best chance for a few showers and thunderstorms, especially in the North will be October 11th thru 15th and 24th thru 26th. Otherwise there will only be isolated showers and thunderstorms. The hurricane potential will be moderate at the start of month and low for the remainder of the month.

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

Happy Birthday To You!

Happy Birthday wishes to all our members born in October.

Diana Bukey	October 31 st
John Cole	October 1 st
Virginia Ledford	October 11 th
Kathleen Murphy	October 3 rd
Sandra Rigsby	October 30 th
Johnny Williams	October 10 th

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

"Happy Birthday"

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

October

2 nd & 3 rd	Pisces
7 th & 8 th	Taurus
12 th & 13 th	Cancer
20 th & 21 st	Scorpio
24 th , 25 & 26 th	Capricorn
29 th & 30 th	Pisces

November

4 th , 5 th & 6 th	Taurus
9 th & 10 th	Cancer
18 th & 19 th	Scorpio
22 nd & 23 rd	Capricorn
26 th , 27 th & 28 th	Capricorn
31 st	Taurus

*** 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..

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

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE!

Our friend and Astro Branch member Johnny Williams is very ill and has been in Methodist Hospital since August 23rd. Donna has been visiting him daily and says he's in good spirits and often jokes with her. On the other hand there are those other days. It would be greatly appreciated if you could send Johnny a fun card(s) to lift his spirits and to let him know we are thinking of him. It would also be nice to send an encouraging card(s) to Donna. Their address is:

**Donna or Johnny Williams
8619 Blossom Bell
Missouri City, TX 77489**

Thank-you! Please keep Johnny & Donna in your prayers.

New Cultivar

Begonia 'Tuti Siregar' No. 1001

Begonia (*B. listada* x *Begonia acetosa*)
'Tuti Siregar'

This shrub-like cultivar reaches a height of 18" at maturity. It has brown-green, ovate leaves with silver hair above with a broad light yellow center stripe. The leaf underside is red-maroon with pinkish hairs. They are 6" by 4" with serrulate margins. Leaves have 7 main veins with overlapped basal bases. Leaf tips are truncate. Petioles are 4", red with lanate hairs. Stipules are red and 1½" in length and 1" in width.

Flowers have ovate tepals, white above and white with pinkish hairs on the underside. Both male and female flowers have 4 tepals. Clusters have 27-30 male flowers and 5 female flowers. There are many clusters in December in Bali. Flower peduncle is 6" long.

This unique cross has both leaves and blooms that are unusual.

This cultivar has been recommended for registration by W. Scott Hoover, New England Tropical Conservatory, Vermont and by Ching-I-Peng, Biodiversity, Academia Sinica, Nangang, Taipei 115 Taiwan.

This cultivar was developed by Hartutiningsih-M. Siregar in 2005, it first bloomed in 2006, and was first distributed in 2006.

It was registered on August 20, 2008

(This article was taken from **the Begonian** volume 75, November/December 2008. *New Cultivars Official International registration 1001 Gene Salisbury, Nomenclature Director*)



Begonia "Tuti Siregar"



photo by Julie Vanderwilt



photo by Laurie Gray Bounsall

Begonia 'Gene Daniels'

by Paul Tsamtsis

Begonia 'Gene Daniels' was hybridized by Rudy Ziesenhenné in 1975. It was registered with the American Begonia Society as #482. It was a seedling of B. 'Frieda Grant.' The male parent is unknown. The Thompsons in their book *Begonias: The Complete Reference Guide* classify it as shrub-like, bare-leaved, large-leaved. It blooms from January through July with flowers that are an unusual rose pink. The ovaries are bright red.

The leaves are olive-green on the obverse, and a brilliant red on the reverse. The stems are also a bright red. This is the only begonia I have grown with sap that is red also.

For me it tends to be a slow grower for the first

year or so, but then starts to grow fast and vigorously. It can easily reach heights of 4 to 6 feet. It can be rangy in its growth pattern, so staking to control the direction of the branches is recommended.

This plant does not get mildew and is really not bothered by mealy bug, so that adds to its ease of culture. Good strong light adds to the intensity of the color and substance of the leaves.

Interestingly, as different as this plant is, there is no record in the ABS database that it has ever been used in hybridizing.

B. 'Gene Daniels' is more unusual than many other shrub-like begonias and should be given a try.



Joan Coulat - Sacramento Branch, American Begonia Society, March 2007