**Asian Begonias**

This program was presented at the Astros Branch meeting, April 2004.

There are two primary goals of this meeting:  
1). To view, handle, and discuss several unique begonias which originated in asia.  
2). To take cuttings and share these plants.

First, the Asian begonias currently in cultivation come from numerous countries. Examples are available from India (B. rex), China (B. masoniana), Vietnam ( U388), Malaysia (B. rajah) Indonesia (Scott Hoovers u numbers), New Guinea (B. serratipetala), Borneo (b. deliciosa), and the Philippines (B. tayabensis).

These species encompass the entire range of begonia growth habits, from canes to tuberous. Perhaps the most unusual growth habit is exemplified by B. *deliciosa* which has both a rhizome and upright stems. First viewing this plant, one thinks of a cane-like, or even a shrub-like growth habit. However, these upright stems are temporary, and will drop off every year, usually in the fall to winter, leaving the rhizome. This characteristic is carried over to all of the cultivars made from this species. Typical examples include B. 'Dale Sena' and B. 'Cynthia Bishop'.

Perhaps the best known of all of the Asian species is B. *masoniana*. This plant was found in a botanical garden in Singapore and brought back to the U.S. in the early '50s. The plant immediately became a favorite because of its pustulated surface and the unusual brown "iron cross' on the leaf upper surface. The plant was so popular in the ABS that for years there was special show class established just for this one species.

The U numbered Asian species are of particular interest because of their beautiful coloration. Plants such as U309 and U400 can go into anyone's collection and become a center of attraction. Plants such as U388 and U404 are especially beautiful, but can be a challenge to grow.

Many of these plants come from mountain stream areas, at high elevations and from longitudes near the equator This combination means the plants like cool and moist, and sometimes this can only be obtained in the home through the use of terrariums. Those commonly grown in terrariums are Begonias kingiana, leprosa, limprichtii, and versicolor.

There is much more to discuss, but let’s start sharing cuttings as we talk.

Asian species commonly seen in collections.  
(begonia name, author of name, year of name, country of origin)

**Rhizomatous Begonias**  
areolata Miquel 1857 Indonesia  
coriacea Hasskarl 1844 Java  
deliciosa Linden ex Fotsch 1933 Borneo  
goegoensis Brown NE. 1882 Sumatra  
hatacoa Hamilton F. ex Don D. 1825 China  
kingiana Irmscher 1929 Malaysia  
leprosa Hance 1883 China  
limprichtii Irmscher 1922 China  
masoniana Irmscher 1959 China, Malaysia  
muricata Blume 1827 Indonesia  
pavonina Ridley 1909 Malaysia  
rajah Ridley 1894 Malaysia  
rex Putzeys 1857 China, India  
robusta Blume 1827 Java  
serratipetala Irmscher 1913 New Guinea  
tayabensis Merrill 1918 Philippines  
U309 Miller D. --- Malaysia  
U334 Miller D. --- Malaysia  
U357 Miller D. --- Malaysia  
U383 Hoover S. 1999 Indonesia  
U388 Sizemore M. ~2000 Vietnam  
U400 Anderson T. ~2000 Singapore Botanical Gardens  
U404 Yamaguchi Y. 1998 China  
versicolor Irmscher 1939 China

**Shrub-like Begonias**  
amphioxus Sands M. 1990 Malaysia, Sabah  
bipinnatifida Smith JJ. 1906 New Guinea  
exotica New Guinea  
hernandioides Merrill P. 1912 Philippines

**Cane-like or Thick stem Begonias** dipetala Graham 1828 India  
U007 Johnson M. 1981 Philippines  
U074 Johnson M. 1983 Philippines  
U076 Johnson M. 1983 Philippines  
U168 Johnson M. 1985 Philippines  
U177 de Leon N. 1959 Philippines, Colombia

Asian cultivars commonly seen in collections.

**Rhizome at or below surface with upright stems** 'Caribbean Clown' Anderson T. ~2000 --- ---  
'Connee Boswell' Johnson M. 1985 palmata x palmata cross X diadema  
'Cynthia Bishop' Anderson T. ~2000 --- ---  
'Dale Sena' Anderson T. ~2000 deliciosa X 'Bob Cochran'  
'George W. Fuecks' Anderson T. 2003 rajah X carrieae  
'Holley's Charm' Holley F. ~2000 --- ---  
'John Fogarty' Anderson T. ~2000 deliciosa X 'Bob Cochran'  
'Little Brother Montgomery' Johnson M. 1986 one parent thought to be B. palmata  
'Spiderman' Anderson T. ~2000

**Rex cultivars** 'Bob Cochran' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Boom Boom' Kartuz M. , ~2001  
'China Curl'  
‘Comet Hale Bopp”  
'Comtesse Louise Erdody' Nemeczek , 1883  
'Deco Darkness' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Deco Dawn' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Deco Delight' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Deco Dervish' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Deco Twirl' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Deco Wonder' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Dejah Thoris' Anderson T. , 2001  
'Dewdrop' Lewis , 1947  
'Fairies Favorite' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Flash Dance' Anderson T. , 2000  
'Green Gold' --- , ---  
'Harbor Lights' Anderson T. , ---  
'Helen Lewis' Lewis H. , ---  
'Helen Teupel' --- , ---  
‘Hiro”  
'Ki Funjun' 'Lalomie' Jen V. , ---  
'Little Fantacy' Kartuz M. , ---  
'Little Rexy' Anderson T. ~2003  
'Marcus Auralius' Anderson T. , 2001  
'Marion Palmer' Anderson T. , 2001  
'Memory Bernice Ryan' Anderson T. , 2001  
'My Peace' Anderson T. , 2001  
'Peridot' Kartuz M. , 1981  
'Persian Swirl' Kartuz M. , 1976  
'Purple Snow' Antoon Hofnagale ~2003  
'Sexy Rexy' Anderson T. , 2001

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