

**VICTORIAN BEGONIA SOCIETY Inc No.A0018681J**

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### **A Word from Wayne**

Hi Everybody. We hope you are all well and if not get well soon. We hope to see you all soon.

It is time to tip prune your tuberous begonias and cut off the flowers and reduce the watering so the goodness will go back into the tuber ready for the next growing season. When the foliage has dried off the tubers can be taken out of their pots and stored in boxes or left in their pots until August. If storing in boxes out of the pot and clean the soil off the tuber and roots. Let the tubers dry out before storing in the boxes. Put vermiculite in the bottom of the box first, then put the tubers in on top of the vermiculite. Now sprinkle sulphur over the bulbs and place the boxes in a cool spot. Check the boxes for rot every fortnight.

For lunch this meeting please bring your own lunch.

There will be a Committee Meeting at 11-15am

Take care everyone. Wayne

### **Meeting Saturday 15th May, 2021**

at the Robert Clark Centre

Ballarat Botanical Gardens

11:15 am Committee Meeting

12:30pm **Bring Your Own lunch**

1:30pm General meeting

Speaker: **Lynsey Poore**

“Travels & Begonias from the U.K. to Paris to Costa Rica  
to Singapore”

All Welcome

### **Bits and Pieces**

**Timboon Excursion** What a great time that was! Many thanks to Stan & Alma and Michael & Kathy for opening up their collections and making the 30 folk who attended feel so welcome. Great to have folk from Maffra, Swan Hill, Portland, Kerang, Pheasant Creek, Warrnambool, Waurin Ponds, Colac, Broomfield and even Ballarat.

**Lunch at our meeting** Because of restrictions we ask you to bring your own lunch. Hopefully we will be able to provide tea and coffee.

**Begonia Australis** Rising costs have brought the decision by the Association of Australian Begonia Societies to only publish three magazines each year instead of four.

**Our Website additions** Check out the website section under “Videos” on how to pollinate flowers to collect seed.

## **Propagating Tuberous Begonia's in water** by Michael Williams.

Following a discussion with a fellow grower on propagating Tuberous Begonia cuttings in water in January of this year, where he was having some success; I decided to give it a go and see how it went.

I gathered together several small jars and placed some charcoal into each jar. I then collected some cuttings from several begonia plants and placed 2-3 cuttings in each jar depending on the size of the jar. Rain water was then added to a level of approximately half to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the jar – making sure that the base of the cuttings was in water. I maintained the level of water by checking it frequently and topping up if necessary. The jars were then placed in a position away from direct sunlight but where the light was good. (I can remember my mother doing this with African Violet leaf cuttings).



*Cuttings in the water filled jars.*



*Cuttings in 5" pots*

After about 3-4 weeks I noticed small roots had formed at the base of the cuttings. When the roots were about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1" in length I transferred the cuttings into 2" pots with a very moist Osmocote seed raising mix. The pots were then placed in a warm position for about a month, when I lifted a couple of the cuttings to see what was going on under the soil.

When there was plenty of root growth, I again transferred them, this time into 5" pots containing a well fertilized potting mix. I aim to grow these plants well into winter to form a bigger tuber before they go dormant. The few cuttings that I have taken this year have proved quite successful so far.....I suspect only time will tell.

I have also done quite a bit of searching the internet for hints and tips on successful growing of Tuberous Begonias this way....there are lots of ideas to be found.







Timboon Excursion photos



Nell and I enjoyed the day very much and meeting many of the Begonia enthusiasts. The flowers were stunning and impressive. Congratulations and thanks go to Michael and Stan for their wonderful displays. Warmest Regards, Ian and Nell Staff



## RHIZOMATOUS BASICS

**Rhizomatous Pinching:** To make your rhizomatous begonias grow fuller, you can pinch out the growing tips after the blooming season is over. In the first drawing you can see an older rhizome that is getting bare before pinching out the tip. In the second drawing you can see that after pinching, new shoots come out all along the rhizome. As mentioned, wait till after the blooming season is over to pinch or you may pinch out the future blooms.

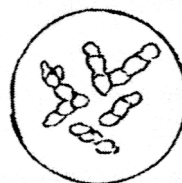
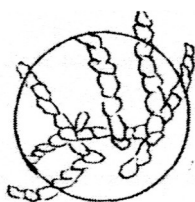


Pinch out the growing tip here

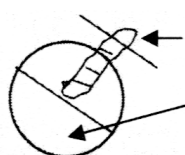


Side shoots forming after pinching

**Rhizomatous Pruning:** Yes, you can prune rhizomatous begonias to keep them full and confined to the pot. The drawing at left shows rhizomes growing over each other and over the edges of the pot. Prune back all the rhizomes that cross over another and over the edge. The drawing at right shows how the plant would look after pruning. Notice that the plant is now centred in the pot.



**Rhizomatous Repotting:** You should always repot rhizomatous begonias so they will end up centred in the pot. Recentre the rhizome so that the growing tip is set back from the pot edge. The plant will now grow in all directions ■

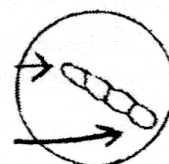


Remove the growing tip.

Remove the mix to the left of the line

Growing tip after repotting

Root end of rhizome



*The Begonian, March/April 1997 Begonia Australis September 2007*

