

BEGONIA CHATTER



<p>Astro Branch</p> <p>American Begonia Society</p> <p><i>4513 Randwick Drive</i> <i>Houston, Texas 77092-8343</i> <i>(713) 686-8539</i></p>	<p><i>Next Meeting:</i></p> <p>DATE: July 11, 2021 TIME: 2:00 P.M. PLACE: Plant for All Seasons PROGRAM: Transplanting Seedlings</p>
<p>July 2021 Issue</p>	<p>www.begoniahouston.org</p>

TRANSPLANTING BEGONIA SEEDLINGS

The July 11, 2021 meeting of the Astro Branch of the American Begonia Society will be held at **Plants For All Seasons**, located at **21328 State Highway 249** (on the feeder road). Their telephone number is **281-376-1646**. We have the meeting from 12:00 to 4:00 P.M. All are welcome to come early to help set up for the meeting or to shop for some more beautiful plants for your home or garden.

Our Program this meeting is "**Transplanting Begonia Seedlings**" presented by Cheryl Lenert. As you recall our program at the June meeting was "**Begonias From Seed**". Cheryl Lenert demonstrated and explained how to sow begonia seed for best results. At this meeting, Cheryl will demonstrate how to carefully transplant your seedlings from their community pot to a pot of their own where they can grow into beautiful and mature begonias. Tom Keepin has two pots of *B. lunaris* seedlings that will be used for transplanting. *B. lunaris* is from the Atlantic

Forest - Rio de Janeiro state, can grow to 39.37 inches (1 meter) tall, is easy to grow, was collected in shady areas, and has orange blooms. Each member is requested to bring a plastic container to carry his *B. lunaris* plant home. The container can be the same size you brought last month or a bit taller.

Our refreshment hostesses for this meeting will be **Irene Bragg** and **Brenda Andrews**. Members are requested to bring their liquid refreshment to quench their thirst during the meeting if they wish something other than water.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Until Then Happy Growing!

PRUNING, PLANTING AND TRANSPLANTING

July

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

August

1 st & 2 nd	Taurus
5 th , 6 th & 7 th	Cancer
14 th & 15 th	Scorpio
20 th & 21 st	Capricorn
23 rd & 24 th	Pisces
27 th , 28 th & 29 th	Taurus



Begonia 'Decker's Select'
From *Begonia Portraits* by Alice M. Clark

**** **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.

(*This Pruning, Planting and Transplanting guide was taken from the **Harris Farmer's Almanac 2021***)



Begonia 'Valeta'
from *Begonia Portraits* by Alice M. Clark

WEATHER FORECAST FOR JULY, 2021

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

Our temperatures will be slightly above normal and our precipitation will be near normal. Our average temperature should average from 82 degrees in the north to 86 degrees in the south. Our coolest July temperatures will be July 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 25th, and 26th. Our warmest July temperatures will be 5th thru 8th, 12th thru 15th, 21st thru 23rd, and 28th thru 31st.

There will be wildly scattered showers and thunderstorms over most of the region at about 3 to 5-day intervals. Showers will be most numerous near the Gulf. Hurricane potential increases July 23rd thru 31st.

(*The weather forecast for the month of July was taken from the **Harris Farmer's Almanac 2021***)



Begonia lunaris

Habitat: Brazil's Atlantic Forest

Plant size: up to 1 meter high

Flower size: 3.5 cm

Plant is found growing in mid-shaded places.

Cultivation:

Degree of difficulty : easy.

Substrate suggestion:

Sand, chopped leaves, and plant fiber, in equal parts, in clay pot with perfect drainage.



photo by Julie Vanderwilt

Begonia kellermannii C. DC. by Morris Mueller

B. kellermannii was discovered in Southern Guatemala in 1809 by William Kellerman who was a fungi specialist at Ohio State University. The plant was described in 1919 by Casimir DeCandolle. It is listed under the Section Gireoudia along with about 65 other species from Mexico and Central America.

This begonia is classified as a shrub. It branches moderately and sends up new stems from the soil as well. The thick leaves and stems look as if they were cut from felt, as they are covered by short, woolly, silver-gray fuzz giving them a greenish gray color. Leaves are peltate (joined to the leaf near the center away from its edge, much like a water lily). The leaf margin is slightly wavy. The flowers are very pale pink, almost white and not very large. It has never flowered for me so I have no idea the time of year it blooms.

B. kellermannii is closely related to *B. kuhlmannii* and *B. peltata*. The differences with these two are that *B. kuhlmannii* is covered with brown hair and the leaves of

B. peltata are larger than *B. kellermannii*.

All three plants grow best when kept on the dry side as too much water causes rot. The planting mix should be light and fast draining. They are all hard to start from cuttings because of the rot problem. They can take more sun than most other begonias (I have found *B. peltata* for sale in a cactus nursery!). Higher light increases the density of the fuzzy hairs. This fuzz is easily brushed off revealing a smooth green leaf underneath. It also withstands more cold than many other begonias for me.

There have been quite a few hybrids using *B. kellermannii*. It was used nine times as pollen parent and six times as seed parent. Most of these hybrids are not easily found, if they still exist at all. *B. 'Mish'* by Rudy Ziesenhenné is still available. It is registered with the ABS as #444. *B. 'Notre Dame'* is a hybrid of Leslie Woodriff.

The Thompsons in their book **BEGONIAS: The Complete Reference Guide** list it as For the Collector. I have found it easy to grow (if kept dry).

