

Three Good Begonias for Hanging Baskets

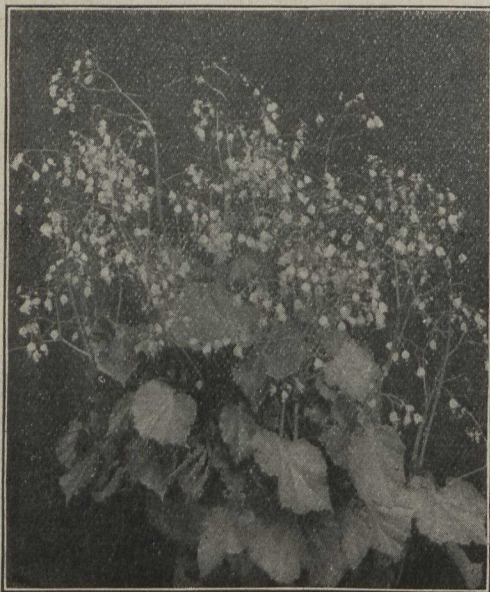
A. Alexander, Hamilton

IN this large genus of greenhouse plants, the three, of which illustrations are given, have been found very satisfactory for hanging baskets in an amateur's greenhouse. They are growing



Begonia, "Mary"

in wire baskets about 18 inches in diameter. The baskets are lined with sphagnum moss, and they are growing in a soil composed of equal parts of loam, rotted leaves and decayed hot-bed material and a few handfuls of



Begonia Manicata

clean beach sand, the whole put through a fine sieve. They were in bloom, as shown in the photos, from the middle of April to the beginning of June, and made a very fine display in the house.

I am not quite sure if "Mary" is the correct name of the one so called. Its leaves are nearly round, of a rich olive green on the upper side and reddish

underneath. It sends up an immense number of slender, delicate pink colored flower stems, each with great numbers of rosy pink blooms.

"Manicata," whose foliage is not so striking as its cousin "Manicata aurea," is a more profuse bloomer. Its habit and color of stem and flower is very similar to "Mary."

"Paul Bruant," which, when young has some tendency to adopt the upright habit, when growing in a basket seems to know what is expected of it, and gracefully leans over the sides with its very elegant foliage so beautifully cut and sends out its heavy bunches of bloom, which are beautiful in every stage of their development.

After blooming, these plants are hung outside under the shade of an

as near Toronto as Holland Landing and Bradford.

"The best success can be had with these plants by collecting them immediately after they are done flowering," said Mr. Manton, "or by marking the spots where the plants were located, and digging after October 1. Spectabile and acaule do not thrive under ordinary house culture. For forcing it is advisable to dig them in October and plant them in pans as close together as the crowns can be placed, or in pots well drained and containing an abundance of sphagnum moss. They should be put in cold frames where they can be got at when wanted. By putting them in the greenhouse two months before Easter, bloom can be had almost equal to the tropical orchids.

"These wild specimens do exceedingly well in the open garden if they are given plenty of moisture and leaf-



Begonia, Paul Bruant

apple tree during summer. About the beginning of September some fresh soil is added, and they are again hung in the greenhouse. The plants shown have been in the same baskets for two years.

Wild Orchids of Canada

"Orchids can be found in Canada by the thousands," said Mr. Thos. Manton, of Eglinton, recently to a representative of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. "Cypripedium spectabile, Cypripedium acaule, Cypripedium pubescens, and Cypripedium parviflorum," said Mr. Manton, "are very common in the valleys of the Trent river, in Muskoka, in the lagoon between Port Arthur and Winnipeg, in New Brunswick, and in Northern Quebec. They can be found

soil or sphagnum. It is advisable to have them shaded from the afternoon sun, but they need full light. Nearly every hardy plant nurseryman in England and in other European countries catalogs Cypripedium spectabile and Cypripedium spectabile alba, and offer them at prices that prove they can be grown successfully. Almost all collections of herbaceous plants in England contain specimens of these."

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST would like to receive photographs of unusually pretty window boxes, flower gardens, or plants and shrubs of unusual size covered with bloom. If you have any favorite spot in your garden that is worth photographing give THE HORTICULTURIST a chance to enjoy it.