

Begonias are Colourful Decorations for Garden

by Gordon Lindsay Smith
It's possible, of course to develop a garden or build a house without some sort of plan, but there will be more satisfaction and pleasure if we do have one. And these garden plans can be as simple or as elaborate as we desire. Some people even go so far as to draw the whole thing to scale, fit plants into this layout

ther a flower is hardy or tender, and whether it grows a few inches or a few feet. The rest he can learn pleasantly as he goes along.

One of the most satisfactory flowers for brightening up dark corners is the tuberous rooted begonia and for a lot of really magnificent blooms the bulbs should be bought and started now. These bulbs are fairly expensive but with a little care they can be used over and over again.

For the average householder the best way to start is in a flat box about three inches deep or shallow four inch flower pots. Fill these with damp peat moss and keep damp and place bulbs root side down covering almost but not quite

completely. If one is not sure which is right side up for these bulbs he had better ask when buying. Keep the flat in a moderately lighted window, facing the east is best, and when new sprouts are well started transplant to individual five or six inch pots filled with good soil, and keep in these until transplanted outside after all danger of frost is over, which means June 1st in most of Canada. Care must be exercised in handling as the stems are very brittle. The flowers are of brilliant coloring and they face the same direction as the first permanent leaves point.

Begonias with brown or burnt leaves given too much direct sunshine. They do best in a sheltered place that gets direct

sun no more than four or five hours a day. Along an east wall or hedge is ideal but they will bloom and do well with a westerly or even northerly exposures and under trees.

After the first frost, the bulbs should be dug up, brought indoors and spread out somewhere to dry. After cleaning of stems and roots they should be packed in vermiculite or dry peat moss moistened very slightly and stored in a cool part of the basement.

Georgetown Bell Exchange Added 102 Phones in Year

The Bell Telephone Company for 1954 and 1955 also set report for 1955, mailed in February to shareholders in the Georgetown area, has facts and figures that may be interesting to customers and others as well.

Take the number of telephones added to the network last year, for example - 222, 475 including 102 in Georgetown. This is almost as many as across the entire Ottawa-Hull metropolitan area, and is the third time in Company history that over 200,000 telephones were added in a single year.

Company had 43 million telephones in service, reaching in virtually every office and an estimated 92% of households in Ontario, Quebec, Labrador and the Northwest Territories.

Year after year the proportion of telephones in homes has been creeping up, compared to those in business use. In 1954, for example, 70.6% of our telephones were in homes, compared with 70.5% in 1953, and 69% in 1952.

During the First World War telephone service was not considered the necessity it is today. Most people obviously didn't have telephones (though most businesses surely did) and the number of people you could reach was restricted. Today, of course, the pattern is changing. At the end of 1954, the Red Cross volunteer hospital visitors remember our hospitalized veterans by bringing them good cheer and companionship during regular bedside visits throughout the year.

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