

**THE TUBEROUS
BEGONIA: ITS HISTORY
AND CULTIVATION**

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The Tuberous Begonia: Its History and Cultivation by Brian Wynne

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BRIAN WYNNE

**THE TUBEROUS
BEGONIA: ITS HISTORY
AND CULTIVATION**



THE LATE RICHARD PEARCE.
Introducer of the Tuberous Begonia.

THE
TUBEROUS BEGONIA,
ITS HISTORY AND CULTIVATION.

Illustrated.

BY CONTRIBUTORS TO "THE GARDENING WORLD."

EDITED BY B. WYHNE, F.R.H.S.,
MANAGER OF "THE GARDENING WORLD," MEMBER OF THE FLORAL COMMITTEE OF THE
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, HONORARY MEMBER OF THE CERCLE
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P R E F A C E .

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE GARDENING WORLD having decided to issue a series of popular books on subjects directly connected with gardening, and which, while published at popular prices, shall be of an essentially practical and useful character, we selected as the subject for the first volume of the series the Tuberous-rooted Begonia, first, on account of its remarkably popular character as a garden flower, and secondly, because we felt there was a want of a useful guide to its cultivation and further improvement. As to how far in the present treatise we have met that want, we must leave the generous flower-loving public to decide.

While aiming in the main to be practical, we have endeavoured to give some additional interest to the work by recording so much of the history of the modern Begonia as we have been able to glean, and though very imperfect as this portion of our subject undoubtedly is, we would fain hope that it may prove of some value as a basis for a record more completely worthy of the subject. For many of the facts relating to the history of the earlier varieties, and for the whole of the illustrations of the same, we are indebted to the courtesy of Messrs. James Veitch and Sons, to whom the honour belongs of having laid the foundation of a race of plants which Mr. Laing and others have brought to such marvellous perfection. To Messrs. Cannell and Sons our thanks are also due for the use of several of the woodcuts which we have selected to illustrate some of the modern types of the flower; and we desire also to tender our best thanks to Mr. W. E. Gumbleton—one of the first amateurs to recognise the merits of "the coming flower"—for many valuable hints; and to Mr. B. C. Ravenscroft, for the cultural articles which constitute the greater portion of the work.

B. W.

JULY, 1888.

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