



# AUSTIN AREA BEGONIA SOCIETY

A Branch of the American Begonia Society

Website: [http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs\\_index.html](http://www.kenfuchs42.net/aabs_index.html)



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NEWSLETTER

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*Nelda Moore, Ken Fuchs, Editors*

Due to scheduling conflicts, there will be **NO MEETING** in September.

## NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, October 27**

## INEVITABLE TECHNOLOGY

1205 Reed Dr.  
Lockhart Texas  
Tour from 10-11am

## Jim and Joan Estes' home

7620 South HWY 183  
Lockhart, TX 78644

From Austin travel to Lockhart. About 3 miles south down Highway 183 there is a cylindrical water tower on the right. A red sign on the left side of the highway just past the water tower has the Estes' address. Drive through the gate that will be open. Then go on the gravel road until you see the barn on the left and then their beautiful home.

Please bring a vegetable dish, a salad, or dessert to share for this event.



Hoya\_mindorensis

## A GREENHOUSE TOUR IN LOCKHART



INEVITABLE TECHNOLOGY is a large commercial plant and surplus greenhouse in Lockhart. They do tissue culture and vegetative propagation. ABS members will meet there at 10 a.m. on Sunday, October 27 for a tour of the greenhouse. After the tour, members will drive to Jim and Joan Estes' home in Lockhart for a barbecue dinner paid for by the club.



From their website, Inevitable Technology states, "Our seedlings begin their journey in our Clean Propagation units. Designed with the health of each plant in mind, our units provide consistent fertigation and broad spectrum light to each plant over the course of its growth cycle. Thanks to our climate-controlled grow environment and the efficiency of our units, our system and crops are also completely disease, pest, and pesticide free!"

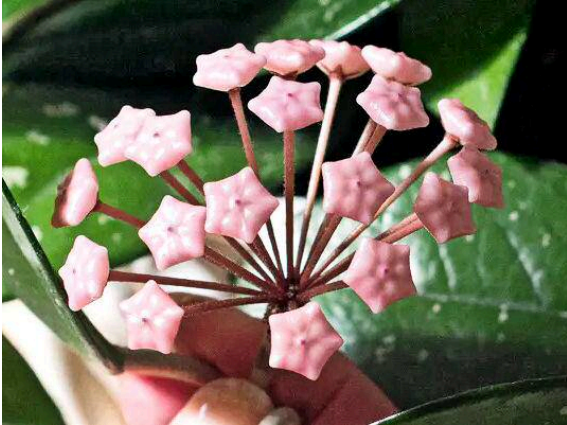


## WHAT IS A HOYA?



Hoya carnosa

Hoya (wax plant) is a tropical plant in the dogbane family. Hoya has a waxy dark green thick leaf that is most attractive when the plant is growing in a hanging basket. At a specific time the dangling stems have a darker end that can hold a cluster of flowers. Imagine a bunch of individual tiny wax stars with some red held by satiny velvet white flowers a little larger than the center. This is an unusual bunch of exotic beauty — like no other plant that you have grown.



This is hoya that is easy to grow from a cutting. In fact, it can thrive and keep growing or running and you can forget to look for flowers. It can live for many years. It can be 30 or 50 years old and still bring joy with those bunches of flowers.

## WHAT IS BEGONIA REX?



*B. rex* found in Assam-India in 1857 have rhizomatous rhizomes. Often half buried, creeping and hairy, these plants have large veined leaves that have a hairy edge. They are usually velvety dark green with a center band of silvery white. The underside is reddish green. It flowers in pink in spring and summer.



Rex Begonias or Rex Cultorum as they are often called must have favorable temperatures 21 degrees C or 70 degrees F and constant humidity at 50 % to grow.

They do not need full sunlight, but good light such as fluorescent is essential for brighter color on leaves.

They must have good air movement. Water them regularly to maintain a moist state. Fertilize in small amounts and often during the growing period.



Powdery mildew can attack them. Use fungicide spray to kill the mildew. Then regrowth can come with warm weather.

*Know Your Begonias* by Jack Krempin devotes 21 pages to Begonia Rex, a favorite cultivar that has a range of colors and leaf shapes that range in size from large to miniature, plain to spiral, and hairy to smooth. The seed trade also offers a wide range of colorful strains. The photographs are followed by descriptions such as these:



B. 'American Beauty' is a medium non-spiral with notched leaves of glistening silver to metallic red with blackish edging and center.



B. 'Hottentot' has large heavily spiraled hairy leaves of silver-gray, deep green veins and lightly blushed and edged with pink.

B. 'Helen Tuppel' similar to B. 'Helen Teupel' but of blackish-bronze with silver highlights between veins. blushed in rosy purple.



B. 'Helen Teupel'

### THE MOVING SALE!

The Begonia Collection within the Fort Worth Botanic Garden (FWBG) is moving! Not to worry, the collection is staying at the FWBG, but it is moving to a new greenhouse to make way for the future Baker Martin Family Garden.

This 'moving sale' is your LAST opportunity to get your hands on extremely hard to find Begonia Collection Specimens, not typically found in the nursery plant trade, for sale at great prices, between \$10 and \$50 (with few exceptions). Begonias are available on a first come, first served basis.

Sale Dates and Times:

Thursday, 10/3, from 2pm to 6pm (FWBG Members Only)

Friday, 10/4, from 2pm to 6pm

Saturday, 10/5 from 9am to 3pm

To attend the sale on Thursday, you will need to become a member of the FWBG and you may do so at the link below.

Becoming a garden member has lots of perks in addition to early access to the sale!

<https://fwbg.org/become-a-member/>



**DOUG'S PLAYGROUND**



**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

Best wishes to Rick and Syria Holley on their 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, September 15, 2024

