



photo by Julie Vanderwilt

# Begonia 'Lady Clare'

by Morris Mueller

This shrub-like begonia was created in 1945 by Wynona Jensen and registered by the American Begonia Society in 1953. B. 'Lady Clare' is the result of a cross between *B. scharffiana* (f.) and *B. luxurians* (m.).

The Thompsons, in their **BEGONIAS: The Complete Reference Guide** classify it as shrub-like, hairy-leaves, wide-leaved. The flowers are described as white with hairs

The leaf shape is variable, but all are deeply lobed because of the influence of *B. luxurians*. The leaf surface is olive green and the reverse is flushed red and hairy. The white flowers are fairly small and appear sporadically in sparse clusters.

If grown side by side, there is a resemblance to *B. 'Rudy's Luxurians'*, *B. 'Lee's Luxurians'*, and *B. 'Stewart's Luxurians'*. (These three are virtually indistinguishable from each other except with the aid of being properly labeled.) *B. 'Mrs. Fred T. Scripps'* is also a 'look-alike' resulting from the reverse cross *B. luxurians* X *B. scharffiana* done in 1935 by Alfred D. Robinson.

Culture of all the aforementioned begonias is easy. They are cold tolerant because of their parentage. They also require less water than most other begonias.

All of them can get quite tall, so should therefore be planted in standard clay pots for stability in a typical loose planting mix for begonias.

