

Looking for

The Lost Hybrids of... Irene Nuss



Irene Nuss (1918-2011) in the November 1971 issue of the *Begonian*, with her award-winning *B. 'Kent Brandon'*. This seedling was from the cross of *B. 'Kentwood'* × *B. 'Lenore Olivier'* and named for Irene's son. Irene's hybrid *B. 'Kentwood'* was also highly awarded when it was released in the early 1960's. Irene received the Alfred D. Robinson Award for outstanding hybrids in 1970 and again in 1995.

Irene Nuss fell in love with begonias in 1959. She remembered exactly when, in an interview for the Los Angeles Times in an article entitled "Begonias & Beyond". She fell and she fell hard, by 1961 she was hybridizing in her home and a little obsessed with cane type begonias. She said in an article for the *Begonian* in 1971 "Somehow the canes have always seemed rather special to me. I like plants with showy blooms and find the canes very rewarding with their cascading clusters of flowers ranging in color from greenish white to white, pink, red, and brilliant orange, not to mention the various leaf shapes and coloring, especially in some of the newer hybrids. Oh yes, many have a delightful spicy fragrance about them."

By 1970 Irene was President of the Westchester CA Branch, 1970 recipient of the Alfred D. Robinson medal for outstanding *Begonia* hybrid 'Eunice Gray' and an active participant in ABS. She was honored, at 83 years old, in 2002 by the Huntington Botanical Gardens with a special recognition award. She shared the award with Brad Thompson and Rudy Ziesenhenne who were both friends as well as fellow hybridizers. All were known for sharing their knowledge freely and helping others to grow better Begonias.

Help Us Find These Hybrids!

To honor Irene Nuss, we are trying to find her missing hybrids. We want to find the following cultivars in order to get cuttings growing, and then make it possible for you to find the plants as well for your own collection.

Name	Plant Type	Origin
1. B. 'Bea Roberts'	Cane-like	1978
2. B. 'Catherine N'	Cane-like	1997
3. B. 'Chet Nave'	Cane-like	1973
4. B. 'Claire Christensen'	Cane-like	?
5. B. 'Concerto'	Cane-like	1998
6. B. 'Donna Marie'	Cane-like	1998
7. B. 'Easter Parade'	Cane-like	1978
8. B. 'Elsie Manahan'	Cane-like	1998
9. B. 'Flora Lei'	Cane-like	?
10. B. 'Glendora Champlin'	Cane-like	?
11. B. 'Goldie Frost'	Cane-like	?
12. B. 'Jackie Brookshire'	Cane-like	1989
13. B. 'Jana Ross'	Cane-like	?
14. B. 'Katharine Alberti'	Cane-like	1978
15. B. 'Laura Rokey'	Cane-like	1978
16. B. 'Linda Nuss'	Cane-like	1978
17. B. 'Marion Lindgren'	Cane-like	1998
18. B. 'Minuet'	Cane-like	1998
19. B. 'Pat McElderry'	Cane-like	1998
20. B. 'Peaches 'n Cream'	Cane-like	1998
21. B. 'Petaloons'	Cane-like	1998
22. B. 'Rain Dance'	Cane-like	2000
23. B. 'Regis Way'	Cane-like	1998
24. B. 'Rhapsody'	Cane-like	1978
25. B. 'Snowflakes'	Cane-like	1998
26. B. 'Staccato'	Cane-like	1998
27. B. 'Westchester'	Cane-like	1991

You can also look these up on the International Database of Begoniaceae: <http://ibegonias.filemakerstudio.com.au>

How to send us the hybrids you find:

1. Write the name of the cultivar and where it came from on a sealable sandwich bag using a waterproof marker.
2. Place a paper napkin, w/4-6 drops of water in the bag.
3. Pack each cutting (leaf or shoot) in the correctly named bag, seal the bag, and place the bag(s) in a shipping box

NOTE: A flexible shipping envelope increases risk of damage to the cuttings during shipping, so a rigid box or 2+ layers of bubble wrap will help to protect the plants.

BEFORE YOU SHIP – EMAIL: hybridpreservation@begonias.org