

Rex begonias are a popular foliage begonia strain, best grown as a pot plant. They bear heat-shaped leaves that appear off-centered. Thick rhizomes creep over or under the soil surface.

A relative, the rieger begonia, is raised for its flowers. It has single or double camellia-like flowers with thick fleshy roots, rieger begonias are easy to propagate.

Gardeners can raise a new Rex begonia plant merely by snipping a leaf or two from the mother plant. The Rex begonia has cells capable of rooting in the veins of its leaves as well as ın its stems.

Choose a mature leaf, because young, tender leaves wilt too easily and old damaged leaves invite insects and disease.

Be sure to start out with a clean container. Any shallow pan that can hold a few inches of sand will work well for propagation, a clear plastic sweater box with a transparent lid works

particularly well as a minigreenhouse.

Using a sharp knife or razor, cut off the leaf at the base of its stalk. Slice the leaf into wedges. Each wedge hould have a vein in its center and a piece of the sinus (the place where the leaf and the stalk meet) at its tip. Dip the narrow end in the rooting hormone. Sink the wedge into the sand so that a third of it is buried and the remainder stands upright like a sail. Gently firm it into place with your fingers. Place the wedges about 1 inch apart to allow room for growth.

Cover the box and set it on the sill of a bright east or west window. Maintain a day and nighttime temperature of about 65 degrees F. Water when the medium is dry to the touch. In a few weeks roots will begin to form. In about 2 months, several leaves per wedge should begin to emerge.

When the leaves on the plantlets are about the size of your thumbnail, repot it into a 2 ted plants in a warm east window. a humid environment, and water when the soil surface is

dry. Even with care, Rex begonias tend to be short-lived. They often last one year under ordinary room conditions.

Propagators often grow the rieger begonias from seed. Six months is required from seed. One they start blooming they bloom for a long time. Look for 16 flower colors including rose, pink, orange and red. Non-stop orange and non-stop red are popular hybrids.

Avoid growing in extremely low light. Grow indoors in a shady spot. The plants stop growing especially during winter months. Allow the soil to dry only slightly between waterings.

If plants stop blooming, restart it by cutting back to within 3 inches of the crown.

Any questions regarding the above article can be addressed to Tom Becker, Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 840-7408.

watched as Danny Held, first baseman for the Barons was victorious in the pre-game milking contest and shortly thereafter delivered a home-run for his team.

"Homer Hankies" bearing the Got Milk logo were distributed by local Dairy Princesses to all fans and were much in evidence each time they approved of the Baron's on-field performance. Got Milk signs greeted all comers and the message was flashed repeatedly on the scoreboard throughout the game.

Eileen Murphy, Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess, delivered the first pitch and was on hand to greet fans at the front

**Baseball Players Find Cows Got** gate. Dairy T-shirts were awarded throughout the evening to holders of lucky number tickets.

Cows for the milking contest were provided and led by Roger Sherwood and his family of Long Brook Farm, Meshoppen.

Other milking contestants were Rob Neihart of WARM Radio, Tony Barrien of the Red Barons and Greg Reis of the Columbus Clippers.

A ninth inning hit by the Columbus Clippers concluded the game with a two-run loss for the Barons leaving them believing the entire team should have milked the cows and consumed the milk for better luck!

## Cook's Question

### (Continued from Page B8)

ANSWER — Eileen Greenaway, Somerville, N.J., sent in these recipes in answer to the reader who had trouble making cream pies. Eileen suggests using a plastic spatula when stirring constantly becauce it covers a bigger area than a spoon. Vanilla Cream Ple

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup plus 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2% cups milk
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

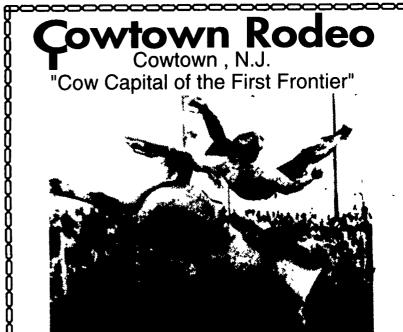
Combine sugar, flour, and salt in medium saucepan. Add milk, stirring until smooth. coover over medium heat, stirring constantly until thickened and bubbly.

Gradually stir one fourth of hot mixture into beaten eggs; add to remaining hot mixture, stirring constantly. Cook two minutes or until mixture thickens. Remove from heat and gently stir in the butter and vanilla. Pour into a baked 9-inch pastry crust, chocolate or graham crust. Chill completely. Garnish with whipped cream and fresh berries or pineapple if desired.

### **Chocolate Cream Pie**

1½ cups sugar 1/2 cup cocoa 1/2 cup flour 3 eggs, beaten 1½ cups evaporated milk 1½ cups water 3 tablespoons butter 11/2 teaspoons vanilla 1 cup whipping cream, whipped

Combine sugar, flour, and cocoa in heavy saucepan. Combine beaten eggs, milk, and water and gradually add to cocoa mixture. Cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture thickens and comes to a boil. Cook one minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add butter and vanilla, stirring until butter melts. Pour into a nine-inch baked pastry shell. Chill. Garnish with whipped cream.





A crowd of over 7,000 1/2-inch container using a light soilless mix. Put the newly pot-

CLARION (Clarion Co.) -

Pennsylvania Dairy Princess

and Promotion Services, Inc.,

the Pennsylvania Department of

Agriculture, WARM Radio and

the Scranton Wilkes Barre Red

Barons teamed up recently for a

successful Dairy Night at the

Ballpark.



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