Hort Report September 2016

I used to grow a lot of Dahlias, but now I’m down to one clump of tubers. Ann Bryce gave me one tuber last spring. Because it’s hard for me to dig, I decided to plant this tuber in a pot. (Tubers multiply during the growing season.) This is an anemone type of Dahlia called Rock Star. This beautiful dark red specimen has a dome of elongated tubular disc florets surrounded by a row of ray florets. When fall came I decided to try to over-winter the whole pot. I cut the stalks almost to soil level, and had my son carry the pot to the basement. I forgot about it. About a month later, I noticed it had weak, anemic looking sprouts about a foot high. I threw a box over it to keep it in the dark, and didn’t look at it again until this spring. The sprouts were dead, and there was nothing showing above soil level. I carried it out to the patio, and watered it lightly. I didn’t water it again until sprouts came up, and come up they did! It grew into a healthy five foot multi-stemmed plant, with these lovely flowers. Good to know it could over-winter in a pot! I’ll try it again this fall after a frost kills it.

I brought cuttings to share from a huge Begonia that Gerrie Lunger gave me last fall. This Begonia is now about four feet high and six feet wide, so I won’t be able to bring it into the house again. I don’t know what cultivar this is, but it has large glossy leaves with rippled edges, dark green on top and red underneath. The flowers are pink and pendulous. Each cutting should grow roots in water, and then can be potted up. Enjoy!