AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

NEWS-LETTER



July 1947

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American Camellia Society News-letter
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The material for the 1947 Yearbook is on its way to the printer. If you want extra copies this year, please send in your order as soon as possible so we will know how many to order to take care of the demand. There will be a series of articles on propagation, greenhouse culture, culture in containers, history of old American varieties, and the results of the variety poll, along with other features. Through the courtesy of the advertising nurserymen we will have about 8 colored plates to lend interest to the book. We would like to publish colored plates of the new varieties, as they are put on the market but the cost would be prohibitive unless some other use is to be made of the plates. The plates from which a four color cut is made cost about $350. to prepare and unless this cost is subsidized they are out of our reach.

There seems to have been some misunderstanding about our dues. Membership, according to the Charter and By-Laws, runs by the calendar year and dues are payable January 1 and become delinquent March l. A large number came in late in the year of 1946 because they had just become aware of the formation of the Society. Even though they came in late in December they were furnished with back issues of the News-letter and a 1946 Yearbook, the total benefits of a year's membership. These late Yearbooks, by the way were of the second printing and went out in early May. If yours was not received, please let us know at once.

We went into January with a membership for 1946 of 1749 and are entering July 1 with a membership of 2188, 672 of whom are new members. Only 195 members neglected to renew by July 1 at which time they were dropped from our roles according to the By-Laws. A great many of the new members took advantage of the $2.00 offer for the 1946 Yearbook that they might start with the first one issued. We still have others on hand should anyone like to have a copy.

The membership should be interested in the following award:

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE GARDENCLUBS awards the Purple ribbon for Horticultural Achievement to Mrs. Gragham B. Smedley of Austin, Texas, for an important contribution to Horticulture.

Through extensive study, research, and experiment, Mrs. Smedley has overcome the obstacles of unfavorable soil and climate for the successful growth of Camellias and Azaleas in her section of the State of Texas. With her own beautiful garden as an example, and with generous sharing of acquired information, through lectures and classes she has stimulated the planting and successful culture of these plants, adding much to the beauty and enjoyment of gardens.

The National Council also accepts with much appreciation a beautifully compiled Scrap Book containing invaluable information and photographs.

The Yearbook of the Oregon Camellia Society which contains cultural information lists of varieties, and their membership is available at 25 cents plus 5 cents for postage a total of 30 cents. Send orders to Clyde P. Bradley, 4045 King Road, Milwaukie 2, Oreg., or Morrie L. Sharp, 2222 S. W. Broadway Drive, Portland, Oreg.

It will be soon be time to take cuttings again. According to experiments carried on here at Gainesville, the last week in July and first week in August produced the largest percentage of rooted cuttings. It was also found that dipping the cuttings in solution of Copper A 0/3 oz. to 1 gaL water), Fermate (2/3 oz. to 1 gal. water), or Spergon (2/3 oz. to 1 gal. water) not only cut down on damping off of the cuttings but when used in conjunction with Hormodin #2 increased the percentage rooted.

Some growers reported that they followed the suggestion last year and put in summer grafts successfully.

It should be pointed out that the time of taking cuttings is based on the maturity of the wood and will vary from season to season and place to place. The grower will have to gain his own experience as to the best time for his location and season and use a critical eye in the selection. It may also be pointed out that cuttings taken at times other than indicated above may root and any opportunity should not be

neglected if an unexpected lot becomes available.

A simple method is to fill a pot with clean coarse sand, plunge it in the ground in a shady place, insert a half a dozen cuttings in it, and invert a fruit jar over them.

Our new Chairman of the Exhibitions Committee is Mr. W. T. Wood, 564 Mulberry St., Macon, Ga. Please send him the dates of your contemplated shows for next winter so that he can furnish list of dates to the various horticultural magazines. The names and qualifications of judges should also be submitted to him.

A commercial grower in California comments as follows: "Camellias of some varieties are not obtainable. Very few nurserymen are willing to sell liners. Most growers seem to be developing a back-log of stock plants anticipating an enormous demand during the next few years. A recent trip-coast wise, by a local expert gave him the impression that "too many camellias are being grown for the possible market demand.

These two things do not fit together but are worthy of careful thoughts. Certainly the market has been unstable on this coast since "Pearl Harbor" but equally surely a stabilization will occur within 2 or 3 years, as supply and demand are better understood. I do not think that the present status is an unhealthy condition.

Another California nurseryman who felt that there was an overproduction of camellias there made a trip East and after seeing the quantities in production around Mobile asked himself "Where in the world are all these millions of plants to be sold or distributed." He returned home feeling that it would be some time before the saturation point would be reached.

It is very evident that the demand is good because in our last News-letter in AMERICAN CAMELLIA YEARBOOK order to be of some constructive help to our nurserymen it was suggested that excess stocks could be listed in this office. Only one replied and he more out of courtesy than necessity. It is the wish of this office to offer any reasonable service to the nurserymen compensate for the extra amount they pay as dues and suggestions as to what this service might be would be very acceptable.

We would like to prepare an article on the camellia nursery business for the Yearbook and one or more of the trade papers so if you receive a questionnaire sometime in the near future please give it your prompt attention. It is of interest to note that F. Gagnepain, a French botanist, writing in "Notulae Systematicae, H. Humbert", a publication of the Museum of Natural History, Paris, France, November, 1941, described 12 new species of camellia from Indo-China and in Supplement ITA la Flore Generale de Indo-Chine, H. Humbert", March, 1943, he gave a list of 30 species of which one is new, growing in Indo-China. He states that one of them, *Camellia amplexicaule* is used about pagodas for its beautiful flowers. All of this goes to prove that in eastern Asia there are Native camellias still unknown to botanical science.

A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PERIODICAL CAMELLiA LITERATIURE (1900 -)

Claude Chidamian and R. J. Wilmot

Many of our members are interested in camellia literature so we are going to publish a list of the titles that have appeared in periodicals, in serial form from time to time as space permits. Only the more important items will be included. There may be other items **in** publications that we have not seen and we will be glad to have them called to our attention.

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