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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

H. E. QUARLES, President

Men's Camellia Club, Mobile, Alabama

The annual meeting of the American Camellia Society will be held in Mobile, Alabama, on January 29-31, 1953. This will be a repeat performance insofar as the City of Mobile is concerned. It will be remembered that at the organization meeting held in Macon, Georgia, September 29, 1945, it was decided to hold the first annual meeting of the Society at Mobile early in 1946. Thus we will have the same Society, the same city and the same hosts, the Men's Camellia Club of Mobile (but, oh, with so much more experience). Before going into the details of the 1953 meeting, we would like to tell you something about the city and the hosts.

The popular notion held by many people who have never been here that Mobile is located on the Gulf of Mexico is not quite correct. Actually, the city is situated at the confluence of the Mobile River and Mobile Bay, some thirty miles from the Gulf.

Rich in history, Mobile was founded in 1519 by Admiral Alvarez de Pineda, the commander of a Spanish expedition sent into this locality. This was only twenty-seven years after Columbus first sighted America. Since that time the city has lived under the French, British, Spanish, Republic of Alabama and Confederate flags, in addition to Old Glory. The latter was unfurled after the famous battle of Mobile Bay.

The architecture of Alabama's only seaport city reflects the influence of many of its early conquerors. Picturesque old homes, festooned with iron lace balconies and railings, are to be found in the older sections of the city. Ageless, moss-draped oak trees completely arch many of the principal streets and provide shade for the antebellum homes. As for camellias, it is difficult to find a home of any stature without its camellias growing in the garden.

We believe that we can state without fear of successful contradiction that there are more nurseries devoted to the propagation of camellias within a radius of twenty-five miles from downtown Mobile than any other place in the country. In addition, there are many camellia growers and hobbyists whose collections enhance and promote our real interest, camellia culture. Mobile also proudly boasts about the famed Bellin-grath Gardens, "Charm Spot of the Deep South" with about one hundred acres of landscaped gardens which feature thousands of fine old camellias as well as other specimens of floriculture compatible to Mobile's gentle climate.

The Men's Camellia Club of Mobile was founded fourteen years ago by a group of business men who were interested in the culture of camellias. Their objective was to help one another through an exchange of knowledge and experience in growing camellias and to encourage others to become engaged in this fascinating hobby. The organization continues to be a strictly nonprofit one, and has been incorporated as such. The Club has about one hundred and fifty members. Dues paid by members are used to defray the necessary operating expenses of the Club, which includes the annual exhibit. The 1953 exhibit, incidentally, will be the thirteenth one held by the Club.

Please note the use of the word "exhibit" rather than "show." Each year, until

the present time, Club members have staged strictly noncompetitive exhibits. Does this seem strange? Mobilians do not think so. Well in advance of blooming time, members of the Club advised local camellia enthusiasts of the forthcoming exhibit and encouraged each one to enter blooms in the exhibit. With no competition, there was no embarrassment on the part of the small gardener in the event he chose to enter only a few blooms; nor was a small, well-arranged display overshadowed by the elaborate setups of the large-scale growers.

While these annual exhibits have entailed an enormous amount of work, this has always been regarded as a labor of love by Club members. Although the expense involved has been well-nigh ruinous to the small cash reserve of the Club, not one cent has ever been charged for admission. The members have always felt that this was a civic responsibility as well as a challenge to their community spirit in an endeavor to provide the City of Mobile with the finest possible annual displays.

This year, the Club, while continuing its local noncompetitive exhibit, will promote its first competitive Camellia Show. The rules of the American Camellia Society will prevail. Invitations to enter the competition have been sent to all the camellia clubs and growers located in this section. This has been done in order to encourage members of the American Camellia Society from other parts of the country to attend the annual meeting and see for themselves the splendid plants and flowers that are grown in this part of the Deep South.

The members of the Mobile Men's Camellia Club say: "Come, join us!"

Now that you have been informed with regard to Mobile and the Men's Camellia Club, let us tell you something about the program.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the Hotel Admiral Semmes. Managers of other leading hotels, the Battle House, the Cawthon and the LaCledde, are cooperating in the task of taking care of the guests. Just west of the city on Highway 90 are located some excellent motor courts, such as the St. Francis, the Sky View and the Winter Gardens. The Spanish Fort Motel is located east of Mobile on Highway 90. Standard rates will prevail at all of these places.

The registration fee for the Convention will be \$15.00, which will cover just about everything but your room and meals—it will, however, include the banquet and some refreshments.

The program for the meeting follows:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29th

3:00-6:00 P.M.—Registration
6:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hour

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30th

8:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.—Registration
9:00 A.M.—Bus Tour to Nurseries
2:30 P.M.—Welcome and Response
3:00 P.M.—Brief Lecture Series
8:00 P.M.—Annual Forum

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31st

9:00 A.M.—Tour, Bellingrath Gardens
3:00 P.M.—13th Annual Show, Men's
Camellia Club, Murphy High
School
6:00-7:00 P.M.—Fellowship Hour
7:00 P.M.—Annual Banquet
8:30 P.M.—Address, Clayton Rand, Gulf-
port, Mississippi
9:30 P.M.—Brief Report of President,
Introducing Officers
Adjournment

PROGRAMS AND TICKETS:—Programs, tickets and identifications will be distributed at time of registration, except that those who register in advance by mail are asked to call at the registration desks for envelopes containing them.

FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

President Seibels called a meeting of the Board of Directors on November 2, 1952, at Point Clear, Alabama. This fall meeting provided opportunity for your officers to review the operation of the Society for the year about to end and also to make plans for the coming year, as well as for the annual convention.

There was a good attendance at this meeting. In addition to the President there were the following members present: President Emeritus (Judge) A. W. Solomon; Vice-President Hoyt W. Lee; Directors-at-large Guy D. Beth  a, J. P. Illges, and D. C. Strother; M. J. Funchess of Alabama, W. T. Wood of Georgia and T. K. McKnight of Louisiana. Mr. Maurice Harrison held a proxy for M. B. Dawson, Director-at-large, and C. E. Chiles held a proxy for S. J. Katz, Director-at-large. Maxwell Murray held a proxy for C. N. Hastie, Jr., Director for South Carolina and T. S. Clower held a proxy for J. H. Price of Mississippi. Editor Arthur C. Brown, Associate Editor Austin Griffiths and Secretary Sam P. Harn were also present.

In reviewing the activities and plans of the A.C.S., the Directors found the organization operating on a sound and active basis. The change in dues rate which was reluctantly adopted a year ago has not materially affected the number of memberships. More than five thousand members were in good standing, and the Board approved the printing of six thousand yearbooks—the same as last year.

In anticipation of continued growth and interest in the Society, the Board approved the printing of a membership roster in July, 1953. This roster is a feature that had to be eliminated two years ago due to increased costs. Many people have said the list of members is quite important. To this we all agree, and the new dues rate makes it possible to renew this publication as a separate book. Members of earlier years will recall that about twenty percent of each yearbook consisted of the membership roster. These pages now are devoted to more camellia articles.

Another subject discussed and considered carefully was a continued improvement of the Quarterly magazine. This publication has had several "mutations" in the past seven years. It started as two mimeographed pages, then there were four printed pages, later we had eight pages with a different color picture on the cover of each issue, and now there are twenty-four pages with illustrations when needed. We are not at all complacent, and improvement is the goal. This can be attained with more interested members, more articles submitted, more advertising and more work. All of these points were discussed in detail.

Other matters discussed included revision of procedure for appointment of accredited judges, commercial memberships, test garden work, and the American Camellia Society Foundation. The groundwork was laid for action in the future.

The afternoon meeting was devoted entirely to a conference on plans for the annual convention scheduled for Mobile, January 29 to 31. Members of the host club joined with the Board at this session. Among those attending were H. E. Quarles, President of the Men's Camellia Club of Mobile County, George Sawada and Mr. Busby. Another story in this issue gives in detail the program which has been arranged.

NOMENCLATURAL NOTES - 3

AUSTIN GRIFFITHS, JR.

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INTRODUCTION

There are several camellia varieties in the American nursery trade about which little is known at present as to their proper botanical classification. Within this diverse group of plants there are two varieties that, in the author's opinion, possess many characteristics in common and form a unit of like material quite distinct from the others. These two camellias—Dawn and Hiryu—are generally listed and considered as varieties of *Camellia sasanqua*. This classification is most likely one of convenience only.

When considered as a taxon separable from *C. sasanqua*, Dawn and Hiryu are distinguished by their (1) greater hardiness, (2) later flowering season, (3) lack of "sasanqua-scent," and (4) fascicled stamens. This may be interpreted as suggesting the possibility that botanic distinction is justifiable. In any case, these two varieties are to be jointly considered in the following discussion. Many of the historical and nomenclatural details associated with these varieties are known; however, some particulars have remained poorly understood, and a relatively complete treatment should be recorded.

DAWN

The "sasanqua" variety known as Dawn has gained a well-deserved popularity and become widely disseminated since its introduction. As with many early sasanqua importations, the original plant came into this country along with other filler material in a citrus import shipment from Japan. The Alvin Japanese Nursery Company of Houston, Texas, had obtained the citrus stock and—it may be assumed—the camellia, as well, from the Nagoya district in Aichi-ken. When received in 1909, this plant was labeled Akebono.

During 1911 and 1912, Akebono and several other imported sasanqua varieties were taken to Alabama by K. Sawada and introduced to the trade. This camellia was first listed in the 1933 catalogue of Overlook Nurseries, when Mr. Sawada applied its English-name translation—Dawn. In following years this variety became known throughout the American trade as Dawn.

The camellia importations from Australia made during the post-war years, however, have introduced further details to the nomenclatural background of Dawn.

One of the Australian imports was received under the name of *C. vernalis*. When this import flowered in America, it was determined to be the same as our Dawn; therefore, Dawn and *C. vernalis* became recognized as synonymous names.

Camellia vernalis had come into Australia as an importation from Hakoneya Nurseries of Numazu-shi, Japan. This name, as such, was applied by T. Makino in 1918 when he published a brief note in which the plant was given specific rank. It had first received recognition taxonomically, however, thirteen years earlier—but only as a botanical variety of *C. sasanqua*. In the 1905 publication, Dr. Makino stated that this camellia was "probably" a hybrid between *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*, with characteristics of the latter parent predominating. He also provided a new Japanese name for it—Haru-sasanqua, or Spring-blooming Sasanqua. This name has not been located in other literature records; but it is known to be used by some growers in Japan.

The plant Dr. Makino reported on had been observed under horticultural cultivation in Musashi, one of the provinces in which Tokyo is situated, as early as 1896. Most

horticultural materials are named; and the fact that his *C. vernalis* was found in cultivation and yet provided with a newly-applied Japanese name, suggested the possibility of there being an earlier Japanese name, but one unknown to Dr. Makino.

As noted elsewhere in the discussion, one other Japanese name had been associated with this camellia—it had originally come into America under the name of Akebono. The Japanese list and describe both an Akebono and an Akebono-shibori as sasanqua varieties; but the descriptions of these two sasanquas do not agree with the camellia imported in 1909 as Akebono and now known here as Dawn or *C. vernalis*. It therefore became evident that the original import had been a misnomer; and an older Japanese name, if one had been applied, would have to be determined by other means.

In checking over the descriptions of Japanese sasanqua varieties, Mr. Sawada had noted the similarity between Dawn and Ginryu (Silver Dragon). He suggested this variety as the one most likely to provide the older synonymous name. According to importation records available, Ginryu had been imported from Japan in 1935 by E. A. McIlhenny of Avery Island, Louisiana. This import had not survived, however, and there was no other of record available for study in America. It was necessary, therefore, to contact authorities in Japan. Confirmation was obtained from K. Wada, of Hakoneya Nurseries, and Ginryu was thereby determined as the older and original name for Dawn. The first listing and description of Ginryu on record was published in the 1896 catalogue of The Tokyo Nurseries in Tokyo, Japan. Publication in this English-edition catalogue establishes the name Ginryu as being of earliest application to the variety under discussion. Ginryu is the name in general use by Japanese growers located in the more southern regions of Japan. It is quite apparent that the variety has been in the Japanese trade for many years; but no details on its origin are known at the present time.

In summary, then, the camellia we know as Dawn was originally named Ginryu; it was later named *C. vernalis* and Haru-sasanqua; it came into this country mislabeled as Akebono; and, finally, it was named Dawn when introduced to the domestic trade in later years. In spite of the fact that Ginryu was the first valid name application to this camellia, it has become known most widely as Dawn. The common application and acceptance of Dawn establishes validity and preference for this name—Dawn, it logically remains!

Nevertheless, it is well to be familiar with the synonymous names now known and here recorded.¹ It should also be kept in mind that this camellia is not to be confused with the two varieties of *C. japonica* known properly as Akebono Variegated and Akebono Pink but sometimes erroneously referred to as Dawn. These are both quite easily distinguished from the true Dawn.

HIRYU

A definition of the Japanese varietal names involved in the following account will be presented beforehand to clarify the references intended by nomenclature usage. Hiryu (Flying Dragon) is the name applied in Japan to a variety producing self-red flowers. This camellia is variable in both coloration and form, however, and flower sports have been selected and named by the Japanese. It thereby becomes evident that any discussion of Hiryu must of necessity include the known sport varieties. One variation in which the ground color is lightly flecked or spotted with white has been named

¹Abbot's Dawn is another incorrect synonym for Dawn that has been applied on occasion and should be noted. Propagations of plants obtained from Mr. Sawada were sold by one nursery to another which identified them as to their immediate source by the designation "Dawn (Abbot)." Upon distribution from this second nursery, the identification became corrupted to Abbot's Dawn.



Fig. 1. DAWN (*one-half life size*). The semi-double to incomplete-double flower is white and suffused with pink on the outer petals.

Hoshi-hiryu (Spotted Hiryu); and a second variation in which the ground color is heavily splotched and striated with white has been named Hiryu-nishiki (Brocade Hiryu).²

Information on the origin of Hiryu is not now available, but the variety is probably an old one in Japan despite the lack of early records. From evidence accumulated, it appears that Hoshi-hiryu was the first name applied to any sport of Hiryu. The use of Hiryu-nishiki to designate the more heavily variegated flower did not come into use until later years; in fact, some Japanese authorities continue to apply only the first name in reference to color variation in Hiryu. There is reason for this as the degree of variegation in sports of Hiryu has not been fixed, at least in domestic plants. Variegation generally ranges in degree from sparse to heavy on the same plant. This instability of variegation provides a most logical argument, and apparently one followed by many Japanese themselves, for the consideration of all variegated sports of Hiryu as a single variety under the one name—that of Hoshi-hiryu. The varietal names Hoshi-hiryu and Hiryu-nishiki and what they represent are accepted here as being synonymous, with priority establishing this use of Hoshi-hiryu as the name designating any variegated sport of Hiryu.

The "sasanqua" variety known as Hoshi-hiryu has been in this country for some time but recognition and distribution in the domestic trade have taken place only within recent years. According to information now available on its introduction, the original plant of Hoshi-hiryu was brought to America by the late Prof. E. Fenellosa in 1906, on his return from Japan where he had served for many years with the academic staff at the Imperial University in Tokyo. This camellia along with many others also from Japan was planted in the Fenellosa garden in Spring Hill, now a suburb of Mobile, Alabama.

Another large plant of Hoshi-hiryu is known to be growing in Greenville, Alabama. No details on the origin of this particular specimen are available, however, and it may possibly be a propagation from what is believed to be the original plant at Spring Hill. The writer is familiar with only one other large specimen of the variety; and that is in the stock collection at Longview, a nursery in Crichton, Alabama, until recently owned by R. O. Rubel. The Rubel plant is not an original import.

In addition to the above-mentioned plants, Hiryu and Hoshi-hiryu (also Hiryu-nishiki and Hitoe-hiryu) were imported from Japan by E. A. McIlhenny in 1935. This material was shipped by The Chugai Nursery Company, near Kobe, and duplicate importations were made in following years. One other importation of Hiryu is on record. It was made by T. Domoto of Hayward, California, apparently some time in the late 1930's. These importations, however, were all of relatively recent date.

Records on hand indicate that trade introduction, at least within the Southeast, may be traced to the Fenellosa plant at Spring Hill. In 1927, Mr. Rubel secured propagation material from this parent specimen and later released at least one plant. It was sent to H. L. Daunoy of New Orleans, Louisiana; and in 1936 the Daunoy plant came into the possession of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Katz of Covington, Louisiana. Apparently Mr. Rubel had not obtained the original material under a name for he released it as "Variegated, name unknown." Consequently, when brought into the Katz collection, this plant was arbitrarily referred to as "Variegata" for convenience. The variety thereafter be-

²Another variety listed by the Japanese may represent a third named sport—Hitoe-hiryu, which if related to Hiryu probably identifies a less doubled flower form than that of the parent variety.



Fig. 2. HIRYU (*life size*). The semi-double to incomplete-double flower is deep red; with age the plant becomes dense and columnar in habit.

came disseminated widely through this scion source, under the "Variegata"³ designation; and the Katz plant served to introduce this variety to the trade throughout the Southeast.

Strangely enough, it has been reported by H. H. Hume that the same variety was observed in 1948 at the Marchant nursery firm in England under the name of "Variegata." Nothing is known regarding the source of the Marchant material; but it was most likely a direct importation from Japan, and being an unknown or lost-label plant it was also designated "Variegata" purely by coincidence.

With the arrival of properly named plants of this variety in later Japanese importations, it was established that what had been known in the Southeast as "Variegata" was identical to Hoshi-hiryu, with the latter name having priority.

Details on the introduction of Hiryu to the trade are not clear. It is known that wide distribution of this parent form eventually followed the McIlhenny and Domoto importations of Hiryu. There is a good possibility, however, that its initial trade introduction may have originated from an earlier but presently unknown source somewhere on the West Coast. In any case, the variety was in California under the name of Red Bird in the 1940's or before. The name Red Bird was later determined to be synonymous with Hiryu.

These Japanese varietal names are frequently spelled incorrectly as Hiryo and Hoshi-hiryo (also Hiryo-nishiki, Hitoe-hiryo and Ginryo). This spelling corruption of "ryu" has produced additional nomenclatural confusion. The Japanese character for "dragon" may be phonetically represented in romaji, or romanized, as either "ryu" or "ryo"; and the Japanese themselves apply these two transliterations interchangeably. Japanese language students, however, follow a standard system of romaji. This accepted system transliterates "dragon" to "ryu." Hiryu and Hoshi-hiryu are the correct spellings for these varietal names.

Because of Hiryu being commonly spelled incorrectly as Hiryo, the importation of "Hiryu" from Australia (as reported by William Wylam in the 1952 Yearbook) was believed and so footnoted by this writer to be synonymous with Hiryu as known in America. When flowers of the Australian "Hiryu" were made available, however, it was evident that synonymy did not exist. The Australian "Hiryu" is distinct from our Hiryu and shows no relationship whatsoever. If our evaluation of Hiryu, as we know it, is correct—and all available evidence supports this view—then the Australian "Hiryu" is a misnomer and its proper name must yet be ascertained.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The preceding varietal accounts had as their goal an appreciation and understanding of the background and proper nomenclature of two camellias which have been generally considered as varieties of *C. sasanqua*. As suggested in the introduction to this article, it is entirely possible that Dawn and Hiryu are entitled to be recognized botanically as comprising a taxon distinct from *C. sasanqua*.

The Japanese botanists have followed Dr. Makino in accepting the specific category he established for Dawn. They regard Dawn as the type form of *C. vernalis*, a valid species which also includes Kamakura (or Kamakura-shibori) and Kyo-nishiki. These two varieties were imported to this country by E. A. McIlhenny in 1937 and 1935, respectively. However, they were never distributed apparently and are not known other than by description.

In Japan, these three varieties—Dawn, Kamakura and Kyo-nishiki—are considered

³ The name "Variegata" as applied here to Hoshi-hiryu must not be confused with the old *C. japonica* variety imported from China in 1792 and named *Variegata* in England.

under the botanical classification of *C. vernalis*, distinguished from *C. sasanqua* chiefly by the lack of hair along stems and petioles. Additional bases for distinction are hardiness, flowering season, scent and stamen connateness. Except for the presence of slightly pubescent stems, Hiryu agrees in all respects with the diagnostic characters of *C. vernalis* and appears equally distinct from *C. sasanqua*. In the opinion of the author, Hiryu would be more logically allied when considered as a variety of *C. vernalis* or botanic form of this species. Be that as it may, both Dawn and Hiryu are truly fine camellias and a welcome addition to American gardens.

SHARPEN UP THOSE RUSTY SHEARS!¹

C. NORWOOD HASTIE, JR.
Magnolia Gardens, Johns Island, South Carolina

Few of the camellia articles that have appeared in the last few years have properly emphasized the importance of pruning for the health and prosperity of the plants. The subject has been glossed over with a mild admonishment to remove weak and dead wood that might be unsightly. While this is certainly one phase of the question, it is a rather minor one compared to the benefits of intelligent pruning. I know that pruning camellias is not a cure-all, but it is important.

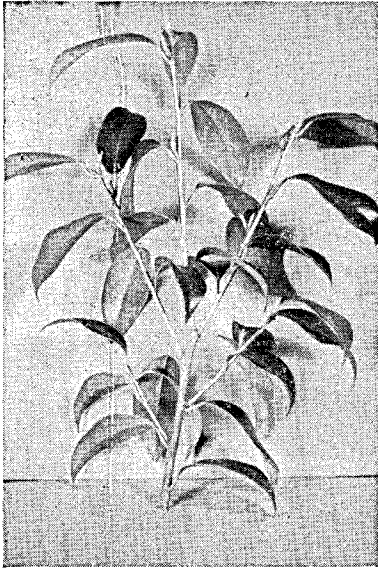
For the past several years I have been observing closely the results of pruning here at Magnolia Gardens. In the Gardens proper, there are camellias ranging from huge, century-old specimens to small own-root and grafted plants. Without exception, they have all needed pruning every year to restore the old ones to growing vigor and to keep the younger ones in good growing condition.

The greatest obstacle in spreading this gospel has been the hidebound attitude of the average camellia enthusiast. He simply refuses to believe that his plants are carrying wood without which they would be far better off. He agrees that dead wood ought to be removed, but he does not think it important to remove this wood three or four years before it is due to die. If he studied the growth of his camellias, he should soon be able to see which branches are assets and which are liabilities. Also, too often the terms "pruning" and "shearing" are considered synonymous. I consider "pruning" to be for the health of the camellia, while "shearing" is for the pleasure of the owner who desires some special effect. For the purpose of this article, I will not go into "shearing."

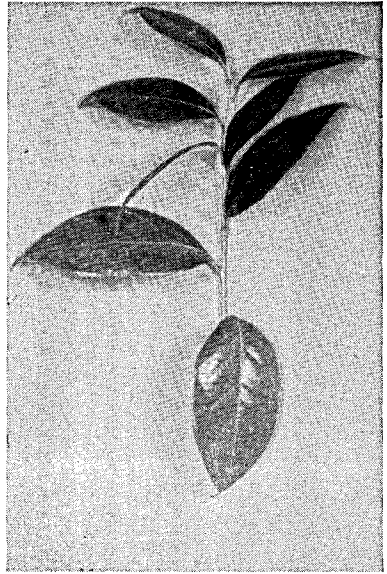
To prune properly, one must first learn to recognize the difference in the appearance of "good" and "bad" camellia wood. (I have photographed such specimens for your close study.) Walk up to one of your healthy specimen bushes and examine the twigs growing in its shaded interior; cut a few out and compare them with the vigorous shoots at the top of the bush. Notice the following differences:

1. The twiggy growth from the interior or shaded areas will be of smaller diameter (B and C).
2. The top shoots will usually have two or three well-developed terminal leaf buds and lateral ones along the stem, while the other will have at best only one weak terminal bud and no lateral shoot buds.
3. Often the length of one year's growth at the top will equal that of several years in the interior twigs. By close examination of any camellia branch you should be able to count the growth periods.

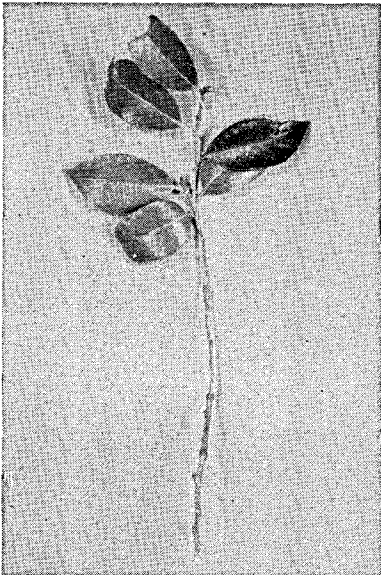
¹This article by Mr. Hastie, which appeared in the 1947 edition of the *American Camellia Yearbook*, contains so much pertinent information that we believe it desirable to again present it.—Eds.



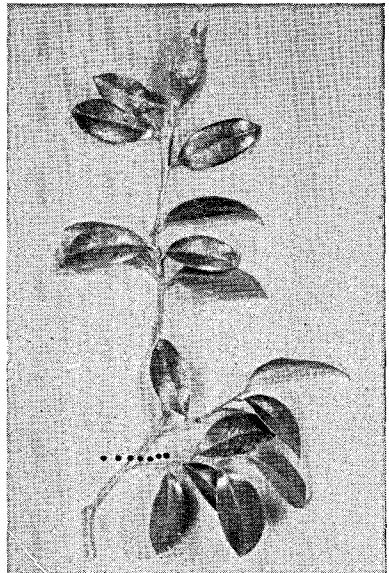
A. A VIGOROUS SPECIMEN OF CAMELLIA GROWTH. NOTE THE MULTIPLE TERMINAL SHOOT BUDS AND NUMEROUS LATERAL ONES.



B. THIS TWIG WAS REMOVED FROM THE INTERIOR OF A FAST-GROWING CAMELLIA. IT IS BEGINNING TO SHOW EFFECTS OF TOO MUCH SHADE, AS EVIDENCED BY THE LACK OF A WELL-FORMED TERMINAL BUD. THERE IS NO SIGN OF LATERAL BUDS.



C. A LONG KNOTTY AND STRINGY PIECE FROM AN OLD CAMELLIA. SEVEN YEARS' GROWTH IS CLEARLY DEFINED. IT WOULD BE PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE THIS SPECIMEN BURST INTO NEW GROWTH.



D. ANOTHER BRANCH FROM AN ANCIENT CAMELLIA. IT SHOULD BE PRUNED BACK TO THE DOTTED LINE, SINCE THE TWIG REMAINING IS THE ONLY VIGOROUS ONE ON THE BRANCH. THIS TWIG WILL GROW WELL WITH THE ATROPHIED PORTION REMOVED.

Fig. 3

CAMELLIA TWIGS, GOOD AND POOR

4. The color of the bark will show great contrast. That of interior twigs is dull brown or gray but the bark of vigorous apical shoots is shiny light brown.

5. Scale insects are usually more numerous on interior twigs.

With these five points in mind, go out and study the form of your plants until you can see at a glance that portions should be removed. This ability can be gained only by actually working with your plants.

Before you start pruning operations, check over your equipment. You need a pocket knife, pruning shears, and a small pruning saw. Any stout pocket knife will do provided it is kept really sharp, but I am very particular about the shears. Mine are the Snap Cut models made by Seymour Smith. This company makes two sizes, a Regular size and a smaller Ladies' model. I use both sizes, depending on the diameter of the material to be cut. The saw will be used for cuts too large for shears. Keep your tools sharp and in good working condition; it is impossible to do first-class work with third-grade tools. If your cuts are not smooth, check the shears for adjustment.

The ideally pruned camellia is one with an interior completely hollow and free of twigs and foliage, with lower limbs pruned clear of the ground. It may take some time to get your plants in this condition, so now is the time to start. I first saw camellias pruned this way some years ago at the home of Judge Henry C. Hammond in Augusta, Georgia. The Judge had entirely cleared the interior of his large plants, thereby inducing such vigor in the outer branches that the plants were almost perfectly symmetrical. One look at his plants convinced me that his method of pruning was the proper one, and the results of pruning here in subsequent years have further confirmed this opinion.

Now with an inkling of what to look for, let us go into various aspects of the pruning question.

Most collectors have comparatively young but vigorous camellias, so we will first discuss their particular pruning needs. It is hard to realize that a fast-growing camellia requires this attention, but a careful examination will disclose much inferior wood. Look into the interior near the ground; there will probably be a few entirely dead twigs on the main branch. Remove them, making the cut next the trunk. Do not leave stubs. Now look for twigs that are still alive but definitely detract from the plant; how to identify these weak twigs has been outlined previously. Work through the bush, removing the worst specimens first. If you are in doubt as to whether or not a twig or branch ought to come off, comparing the one in question with vigorous shoots at the top ought to show you.

Control of scale is closely tied in with pruning; you can see how scale is favored on branches near the ground and seems always to thrive on interior twigs. Removal of low branches and interior growth eliminates natural scale-breeding areas and makes the oil-spray insecticides far more effective. It is practically impossible to eliminate scale by spraying if your plants are so thick that the spray will not penetrate to all parts or if there are branches so near the ground that the under leaf surface cannot be sprayed. A plant badly infested with scale must be drastically pruned or much of your spraying effort will be in vain. Watch for and remove deformed, curled leaves; they harbor much scale.

Many people hesitate to remove low branches in the belief that too many buds will be lost, but I find that flowers near the ground never amount to much because they are usually ruined by dirt splashed on them when it rains. Branches or foliage less than 12 inches from the ground may be considered too low.

The next step is to remove wood that will be no future asset although it is in

good present condition. This sounds difficult, but it is rather simple in practice. As a general rule cut out branches that tend to grow inward, for they will certainly be shaded out in later years. Quite often a study of other branches above the one in question will reveal its future status; on each of these higher branches there will be many terminal and lateral buds that will themselves become full-fledged branches when growth starts. Thus when there is one branch now, many more will develop later, which will take up so much room that the twig under consideration will be shaded out. Under such conditions, remove it.

Restoration of an old camellia to vigorous growth can hardly be done without pruning, and severe pruning at that. When, through lack of attention and feeding for years on end, old camellias become a mass of long, stringy, knotty branches, an example of which is shown in illustration C, heavy feeding will do very little good unless this mass of poor wood is pruned out. A practical explanation seems to be that these branches have atrophied to such an extent that they cannot be made to put out new growth. Removal of these branches will force growth into new channels that will eventually dominate the plant. To prune an old camellia, examine each branch from the outer end and follow it toward the main trunk. Usually, somewhere between the tip and the trunk there will be a vigorous shoot—perhaps small—starting out. Cut the branch off at this shoot, leaving the latter to break out and grow. If a plant is in such poor condition that good medial shoots cannot be found, the only thing to do is to remove a large proportion of the poor branches and wait to see which parts will put out new growth. Portions that fail to respond to this treatment should then be cut back further.

The death of camellias through loss of roots can often be prevented by timely pruning. Some roots are usually lost by being cut off or injured in transplanting, or by rotting from excessive moisture in the soil. When this occurs, the balance cannot support the top. The balance must be restored by the only possible means, which is to cut the top back to where the root system can support it. Most of the cases I have observed required the removal of one-half to one-third of the top. It sounds drastic, but it will save camellias. Never worry about pruning too severely; if so much is taken off that the roots overbalance the top, new growth will restore the balance.

Occasionally certain slow-growing camellia varieties will put out many but extremely short twigs every spring. One of our grafts, a *Donckelarii*, did this to such an extent that the flowers could hardly open for lack of space. Also, the plant became full of scale and spider webs because its density prevented effective spraying. Wherever a branch had three twigs, one leader and two laterals, the two side twigs were removed. The following spring new shoots 10 inches long were produced whereas 3 inches had been the previous average. For the last three years, the new growth has continued long.

Picking flowers, taking cuttings, and cutting scions are associated. In each case,



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the principles of good pruning should be kept in mind. Remember this: your bushes will not be harmed by taking off flowers, cuttings, or scions if it is properly done.

1. Flowers can be gathered by merely cutting from the stem; as no stem is lost, there can certainly be no question of harming the bush in this instance. As a rule, flower buds do not form on the most vigorous shoots; they appear on the more mature wood.

- (a) If the flower is borne on a long stringy stem, as illustrated in C, take off the whole branch with the flower. The plant will be better off without it.
- (b) On more vigorous branches, cut the stem just beyond a leaf bud. If no such bud is present, cut the entire branch back to a fork. This is done because if the flower stem is cut back only to a leaf in the axil of which there is no bud, the stem will eventually die back to the nearest fork, providing an excellent site for fungous disease to enter the plant.

2. The above principles hold true with the taking of cuttings. Either take the cutting off at a lateral bud that will grow and take its place, or cut the whole stem back to a fork if a viable bud is lacking.

3. Scions for grafting are usually gathered from the most vigorous growth of all, that at the top of the plant. These apical shoots generally have many lateral buds, so it is an easy matter to leave one to replace what is removed.

When to prune? The time to start is now. If you wait until after the camellia blooms, you will be tempted to wait a little longer until you see what new growth appears; thus a year passes and no pruning has been done. Do not let the loss of a few buds deter you; think of the long-term gain.

How often is pruning necessary? It is necessary every year, every month, or in other words, whenever poor wood is discovered. Always be on the lookout for it.

The time will come when the camellia owner will be prouder of the condition of his plants than of the flowers they produce. It takes intelligence, skill, and hard work to keep camellias in good physical condition, but good flowers can be had by the most indifferent collector; bushes in sorry condition will sometimes bear superb flowers. This fact often gives the owner a false feeling of security. He reasons that he grows camellias for their flowers; and as long as he gets good flowers, why worry? By the time he realizes that his plant is looking sad, it is often in such condition that very severe pruning is necessary, and several years may be needed for it to recover its original stature. Many people think their plants are too small to prune, but regardless of size, poor wood must come off. If a \$25 graft has to be pruned down to a \$12.50 size, do it with the feeling that you are saving money.

Do not take my word that pruning is good practice. Try it out conscientiously on two or three of your plants and the results will speak for themselves. It has worked at Magnolia for us, and I know it will be effective for you.

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The systematic testing of new camellia varieties before they are introduced is to begin this year at seven sites in the South and Far West. Trustees of All America Camellia Selections, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the evaluation of new varieties of camellias, have announced the acquisition of official test gardens and the names of well qualified individuals who will serve as judges in each locality. The gardens, together with the names of the judges, are listed below:

Magnolia Gardens and Nurseries, Charleston, South Carolina. Judges: C. F. Prettyman, Summerville, South Carolina; Rudolph Siegling, Charleston, South Carolina; and Mrs. Paul Sanders, Jr., also of Charleston, South Carolina.

Fort Valley, Georgia, Estate of Dave C. Strother. Judges: D. C. Strother; Wm. T. Wood, Macon, Georgia; John P. Illges, Columbus, Georgia.

Semmes Nurseries, Semmes, Alabama. Judges: A. A. Hunt, Bellingrath Gardens, Theodore, Alabama; Hoyt W. Lee, Mobile, Alabama; R. M. Shackleford, Mobile, Alabama.

Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana. Judges: Ira S. Nelson; James A. Foret; H. K. Riley—all of the Southwestern Louisiana Institute.

California Camellia Gardens, San Fernando, California. Judges: Ronald C. Townsend, Huntington Gardens, Pasadena, California; Robert Casamajor, Pasadena, California; Cecil Eshelman, Sherman Oaks, California.

Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon. Judges: H. H. Harms, Portland; Dean Collins, Portland; Andrew F. Sears, Portland. Garden Director: David E. Thompson, Portland.

State Capitol Grounds, Sacramento, California. Judges: Jerry J. Olrich, Sacramento, California; Fred Wittsche, Sacramento; A. E. Morrison, Sacramento. Director: Jerry J. Olrich.

Mr. David Cook, Secretary of All America Camellia Selections, Inc., advises that anyone who has a new variety may enter it in these trials. Participants must agree to send two plants to each of the seven test gardens. The plants must be in the form of two-year-old grafts on at least three-year-old stocks, or three-year-old cutting grown plants. At the conclusion of each growing and blooming season, during which period each entry will have been judged and evaluated several times by the twenty-one judges, reports will be sent to the Secretary. These reports will in turn be presented to the Trustees of the All America Camellia Selections, Inc. at their next annual business meeting. The 1953 meeting, incidentally, is scheduled for next July. It will be held in New York, N. Y., in conjunction with the annual convention of the American Association of Nurserymen.

Participants in the trials will be notified of the first year's scoring, thereby obtaining a most valuable insight into the performance of their new hopefuls under a wide

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range of soil and climatic conditions. Those camellias which have consistently attained the highest scores for three consecutive years may be designated as winners by the governing jury of All America Camellia Selections, Inc. Provision is made for the protection of the rights of entrants through the utilization of standard test license forms. The test gardens are not accessible to the public.

Participants who may not care to become involved in the propagation of camellias that have demonstrated their value in these trials, may be relieved of this task by entering into agreements with one of the sixteen commercial nurserymen who are co-operating in these trials. Eight of these nurseries are located in the South and eight on the West Coast.

Camellia growers are reminded by Herbert C. Swim, President of All America Camellia Selections, Inc., that the trials of this organization offer them an opportunity that has never before been available. He invites anyone who has a new seedling or sport which they feel is outstanding to participate in the trials. Growers who are interested in this project should communicate with the Secretary, David Cook, 13531 Fenton Avenue, San Fernando, California.

IT IS TIME TO GRAFT

ARTHUR C. BROWN, Gainesville, Florida

By this time, many members of the American Camellia Society have sharpened the pruning shears, honed the grafting knife to a razor's edge, dug out last year's graft covers from beneath the compost heap, condemned certain camellias to serve as understocks, and planned moonlight forays into neighborhood gardens for the purpose of snitching choice bits of graft wood from coveted specimens.

We believe that these enthusiasts, be they experts or novices, will be interested in reading suggestions and recommendations pertaining to grafting offered by successful propagators located in different sections of the camellia belt. For information on West Coast procedures we have drawn freely from the reports of symposiums on grafting published in the June, 1952, Official Bulletin of the Northern California Camellia Society. Readers should be reminded that some of the California procedures pertain to container-grown plants or to greenhouse culture.

Gordon Courtright, East Bay Nursery, Berkeley, California, recommends that the operator, prior to grafting, practice with the pruning knife, not once but twenty to thirty times, on the same kind of wood that is to be used when grafting. The cutting edge of the grafting knife should be shaped like a chisel, straight on one side and sharpened to a keen edge on the other. When using a two-eye, or longer, scion, one bud-eye should be inserted far enough into the cleft to insure that it will make contact with the cambium layer. Mr. Courtright stated that if this practice is followed the

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scion will take much faster, as there is about forty times as much growing tissue at an eye than at any other part of the cambium layer and the union will heal over more rapidly. When large understocks, three-fourths inches or larger, are used, the split should be kept open when the graft is inserted. He uses a sharpened plant label for this purpose. On understocks two inches or more in diameter, the label should be left in the split to prevent the scion from being crushed. This wedge may be left in the cleft after growth has started, provided it is cut off flush with the surface of the stock. Mr. Courtright prefers to use string, rather than grafting strips, to tie his grafts. It is his opinion that string-tied grafts callus more rapidly. As the point of union is not completely covered and hidden from sight, it is possible to check the scion after it has been tied with string to make sure that it has not been moved out of position. After grafting operations are completed, he places sand, leaf mold or peat, preferably a mixture of all three, around the plant to a depth of one-half or three-fourths inches to serve as a seal for the cover-jar and to exclude air.

W. H. Hall, Camellia Hall Nursery, Sacramento, California, stressed the desirability of using lush, well-grown plants with strong root systems for understocks. He cuts the stock on a slant to reduce the risk of formation of an unsightly bulge at the union after the graft heals. Mr. Hall prefers to use scions with only one bud-eye. This provides for the most economical use of rare or choice budwood. If two or three leaf buds are present the plant is likely to branch close to the ground and eventually will have to be pruned in order to remove branches that droop to the ground. He pointed out, however, that in the case of container-grown plants, drooping branches may be desirable to provide the symmetry for which the orientals have been famous for centuries. The scion should not be pushed too far into the stock laterally. It has been his experience that he could "get by" by having the cambium layer of the scion just outside, but not inside, the cleft: If the cambium layer on the cleft is *inside* the cambium layer on the scion—the bark edge of the scion being out beyond the bark edge of the cleft—the graft may take sometimes, but never has he found one to take where the scion was inserted so far that the bark of the scion was *inside* the cleft. Mr. Hall binds the graft with red rubber grafting-strips so as to leave no gaps and thus exclude air from the area of the union. He does not use bottles to cover his grafts; the grafts are placed in bins. These bins are identical in appearance and construction to cold-frames, but are somewhat deeper. Three to four inches of sand is placed in the bottom of the bins. This is kept moist before the newly-grafted plants are inserted. His percentage of takes in bins has been as high as 93 percent, which he believes is extremely high for commercial grafting on a large scale.

Vernon James, a nurseryman of Campbell, California, soaks his stock plants about one week before grafting operations begin. He warned against watering the stocks immediately prior to grafting, as this will encourage the development of mold, the big bugaboo in grafting in that part of the country. Incidentally, several of the speakers at the symposiums commented on the need for preventing mold formation, or its elimination after it becomes established. Mr. James' remedy is to air the plants at the first sign of mold. On warm days an exposure of from one to one and one-half hours should be sufficient. If mold persists, he applies a 2 percent solution of white vinegar in water with a small water-color brush.

Mr. James begins to graft right after Christmas and finishes the task during the early part of February. The young grafts are kept on the dry side until the scions callus. If the soil becomes dry it is given only a light watering. The plants are placed under lath and burlap, preferably on the east side of a building where they can enjoy the morning sun. The plants should not be kept in complete darkness, but should be given more shade than is provided by the ordinary lathhouse. In the past he used tree seal

but he has found that it retards callus growth. The seal may be put on the bare wood after the cover-jars have been removed. On very large stocks the gap or split should be filled with tree seal.

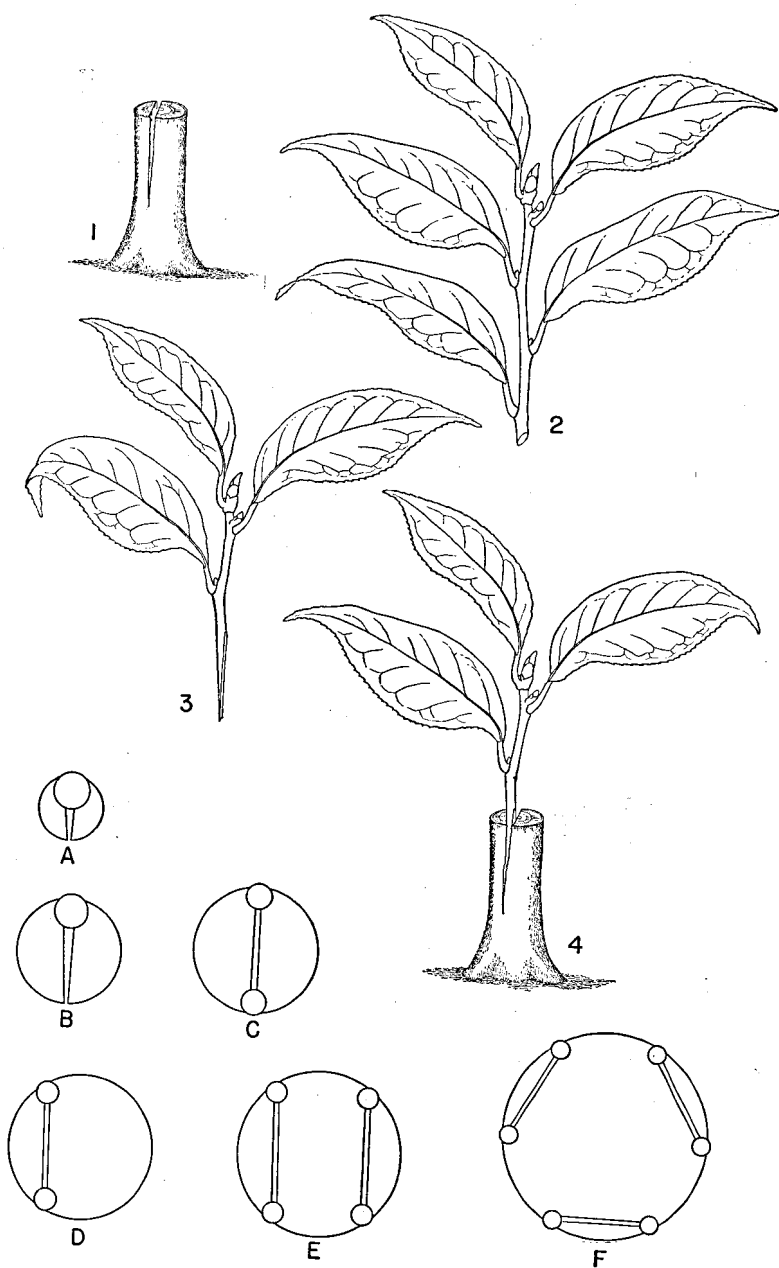
H. V. Allington, Oakland, California, discussed triangular notch grafting, a method that can be used on almost any size of understock. On large plants several scions can be fitted around the circumference of the stock without the need of splitting it. The scion should be prepared first, sloping it to form a triangular wedge that tapers smoothly to a point. The other side of the wedge is composed of undamaged bark and cambium layer. A V-shaped notch is then cut into the stock and shaped to fit the prepared scion. This notch likewise tapers to a point. When properly prepared, the scion will fit into the stock quite accurately so that the cambium layers on both stock and scion will touch all around. The scion, or scions, are held in place by wrapping with rubber bands, string or other binding material.

O. E. Hopfer, Oakland, California, prefers to use a whip graft when using scions and stocks of the same diameter. The stock is cut on a slanting diagonal about one and one-half to two inches long. The length of the slanting cut that must be made on the scion should be exactly the same length as the cut on the stock. This measurement may be made by laying the scion on the prepared stock and marking it at the proper point. A tongue is then cut in both scion and stock. When these two tongues are neatly fitted together and the scion carefully wrapped, there are six junctures where the cambium layers are joined, three on one side and three on the opposite side. Thus, if you are using bifocal glasses and do your "matching-up" by feel rather than by sight, you have six chances of making a perfect match with a whip graft to one or two chances with a wedge or cleft graft. Mr. Hopfer believes that the whip graft is neater and stronger than other methods and, furthermore, eliminates the bumps and other disfiguring evidence after grafting so characteristic of more commonly used methods.

Alexander Payette, Los Gatos, California, talked about miniature grafting. Grafting an understock that is smaller than a pencil is called miniature grafting. Scions and stocks of identical size are used. The diameter of both units may be measured with calipers. Make a square cut across the stock and, using an artist's knife, make a slit down through the center. Cut the edge of the scion to a V-shaped wedge and insert it in the slit. The use of this method for grafting provides for the contact of the cambium layers on both scion and stock. The graft is then wrapped with grafting bands and covered with a glass jar. If, when the cover is removed, the union is not completely healed, grafting wax should be applied to the exposed surface.

A grafting wax, one that never gets hard and rolls off the tissue as the callus forms under it, may be prepared by mixing together one pound of lamb fat, one pound of beeswax and one pound of powdered resin. The fat is rendered and the beeswax is gently stirred into it. While this mixture is boiling, add the resin. Boil until the resin has gone into solution, and then pour into small containers. (Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead, Editor of the Official Bulletin, injected a feminine touch into this particular discussion by suggesting the use of empty cold cream jars as containers for this mixture.) The addition of the resin imparts an adhesive quality to the wax.

William E. Woodroof, Valley Garden Supply Company, North Hollywood, California, in his article "Summer Grafting" which was published in the 1947 American Camellia Yearbook, recommends summer grafting to those who believe that winter grafting periods are too far apart. He stated that a bark graft is more satisfactory than a cleft graft due to the fact that during the summer growing period, when the bark is loose, a cleft graft generally results in the displacement of the bark on the understock. A bark graft will not only obviate this result but it will also allow the prepared scion to have full and complete contact with a solid cambium layer on the understock.



CLEFT GRAFTING

1. Cleft stock.
2. Typical scion.
3. Prepared scion.
4. Scion inserted.

A-F. Location of scions in different sized stocks.

Fig. 4

In selecting the understock, look for vigorous growth, soft wood and width of cambium layer. Ability to heal or callus quickly is also desirable. Stocks that have been transplanted, or fertilized just prior to time for grafting, should not be used. A slanting cut should be made on the stock and the surface smoothed with a sharp knife. The reason for the slanting cut is to drain off moisture that may collect on the surface. Using a sharp knife, make a vertical cut about one to one and one-half inches long on the high side, and then loosen the bark on each side of the cut at the top of the stock.

The scion should be taken from the last cycle of growth that has sufficiently hardened. A tip scion, with approximately three eyes and of a length sufficient to allow insertion in the stock to a depth of from one to one and one-half inches, is preferred. Remove all the leaves from the scion and make a bevel cut on one side from below the lowest leaf to a point at the bottom. Then the bottom end of the opposite side is shaped to form a sharp wedge. Insert the prepared scion, bevel side in, just inside the bark along the vertical cut made in the stock, leaving about one-eighth inch of the bevel cut in the scion exposed above the top of the understock. Then secure the scion in its proper position through the use of string or heat-treated rubber bands.

The completed graft should be covered with a glass jar, using one that is as small as possible without coming into contact with any part of the scion. The graft can then be placed under lath, or in a cold frame or glass-house.¹ A covering of cheesecloth or burlap should be placed over jar when the temperature rises to 75 degrees or higher; otherwise the hot sun will burn the scion and dehydrate the foliage. The graft should be kept on the dry side, but should not be allowed to dry out. When water is needed, a light application is sufficient. The graft should be uncovered when the scion has been securely joined to the stock through the growth of callus. In the summer this condition should develop in about four or five weeks. If growth has not commenced prior to the time to remove the cover, the jar should be tilted or slightly raised for a day or two before complete removal, and, if growth has started, the jar should be raised and removed gradually over a period of one week to ten days. Complete removal should be made on a cool day or late in the afternoon.

After the cover has been removed, seal the exposed portion of the understock with a good grafting compound so that the wood will remain alive until the stock is completely callused over. The string or rubber band should be removed when it begins to cut into the stock. The graft should not be fertilized for a period of two years at least, as the root system contains sufficient vigor to force all the growth the young top can accommodate.² The summer graft will not always make its first cycle of growth until the following spring.

¹Mr. Woodroof evidently uses container-grown plants.—Eds.

²It is probable that this applies only to container-grown plants.—Eds.

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So much for grafting procedures on the West Coast. For suggestions and recommendations pertaining to the South, we present excerpts from articles published in past editions of the American Camellia Yearbook. Mr. Walter A. Wilson, Fruitland Nurseries, Augusta, Georgia, in his article "How to Graft Camellias" in the 1947 edition, offered the following comments:

Grafting of *Camellia japonica* should start in January and terminate by March. The exact time will vary according to location and seasonal climatic conditions. If sasanqua is used as understocks, grafting may continue to a later date, as the sap rises much slower than in *C. japonica*. If grafting is done in January, the cover jars may be removed much earlier, during the cool weather of late April and early May. Grafting has been done at the nursery as early as October 23, and through November and December, with about 95 percent success. However, January is first choice and February second.

Any one of several methods may be used, but cleft grafting is the best for both commercial and amateur growers. The scion should be mature current season's growth taken from healthy plants. Large plump twigs are the most satisfactory and are more likely to make a union than unthrifty, spindly growth. On very large plants good scions may be taken from water sprouts or suckers that are to be found at times in the interior of the plants.

The scion should be prepared by making long slanting chisel-pointed cuts just below a vegetative bud. The cuts should be slightly slanted towards one another so that the taper is a little thicker on one edge. Cut the stock plant and split the stub. Pry open the split and insert the scion with the thicker edge on the outside of the cleft. This will increase tension on the scion and help hold it in the proper position. The scion should be tilted slightly to the outside of the stock. (See 1, 2, 3 and 4, Fig. 4.) Whenever possible, use stocks three-fourths to one inch in diameter so that the callus may completely cover the union in one season's growth, thereby reducing the risk of decay. Larger or smaller stocks may be used. If the stock is one to one and one-half inches in diameter, split it away from the center; if one and one-half to four inches in diameter, split away from the center on both sides and insert four scions, two on each side. For stocks from four to six inches across, set the knife in about three-fourths of an inch from the outer edge of the stock and make the split. Three such splits, properly spaced around the stock, should be made and two scions inserted in each one. Splitting large stocks in this manner will not expose the scions to the pressure that would follow if the stocks have been split through the center. (See A, B, C, D, E and F, Fig. 4).

Small scions should be used for small stocks and they should be wrapped. It is not necessary to wrap scions inserted in stocks one-quarter inch, or larger, in diameter. A small quantity of grafting wax should be applied over the split in the stock. Fine soil or sand is placed around the stock and scions to conserve moisture. Cover the graft with an inverted glass jar and place a piece of burlap or other material over the top

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of the jar, leaving the north side uncovered so that the scion will get plenty of light.

During dry seasons, begin to water the stocks about April 20. When the graft has grown two or three inches and leaves begin to unfold, the cover should be removed and the graft shaded for a period of about three weeks. The best time to remove the jars is after 4:30 p.m. or on cloudy days. Mr. Wilson's article terminated with a statement to the effect that 3500 grafts were made in 1947 and he expected that 3475 would "take."

Members of the Society will not only graft a number of plants at this time of the year, but will transplant established specimens to new locations. If they are short of stock plants for grafting, they may use pieces of roots that are left behind after the plant has been removed. The following information with respect to the use of root segments is taken from the article "Root-Piece Understock" by Ira S. Nelson, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana, which appeared in the 1947 Yearbook.

It is advisable to place the root grafts in an atmosphere that is near the saturation point. A closed glass-topped propagating box is ideal for this purpose. A tight greenhouse will prove equally satisfactory. Root segments may be secured in quantity after camellia plants have been dug. Pieces one-quarter inch in diameter or larger should be selected, washed, and cut into segments three to four inches in length. A simple cleft graft seems to be best adapted to this type of propagation. Before the scion is inserted, dip the wedge end in a rooting powder. Rooting powder should also be placed on the bottom end of the root segment. Occasionally it may be necessary to tie the union with raffia, rubber grafting strips or string.

Upon completion of the graft, place it in the propagating box so that all but the top inch of the scion is covered by a mixture of sand and peat. Grafts may be crowded in rows about half as close together as cuttings are normally spaced. They should then be thoroughly watered. Keep the propagating box or greenhouse as humid as possible. It is not advisable to ventilate because of the danger of reducing the humidity. While some shading may be necessary, care must be taken to give the root grafts plenty of light. Light is necessary for rapid callusing. Air temperatures up to 120 degrees F. are not too great, provided the humidity is near the saturation point. High temperatures are extremely damaging when the humidity is low.

The limited investigations indicate that early December is probably the best time for root grafting. Callusing of the union should be well advanced in thirty to forty days after the graft is made. Within another sixty days, new roots should be growing vigorously from the old root piece. Thus by March the root graft is ready to remove from the propagating box to soil. Care should be taken not to break the new roots at this time. The root graft is treated like a rooted cutting from this point on. It will grow much faster than a rooted cutting because of its large root system. There is every indi-

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cation that root grafts may be held for a season in the propagating medium, provided they are given a complete liquid fertilizer.

We were prepared to continue this discussion further but Secretary Harn has suggested that we bring it to a close in order that there may be room for routine matters that of necessity must be included in each issue of the Quarterly. We hope that these comments on grafting will be interesting and informative.

ACROSS THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Our friend Gordon Adams of New Plymouth, New Zealand, relates a sad story. He secured about a hundred new varieties of camellias from this country (in response to an advertisement in the American Camellia Society Quarterly). One day he had as visitors some friends with two small children. These youngsters developed a game of pulling up camellia labels and some ninety labels were gathered before the grown-ups discovered the damage. "Now," says Mr. Adams, "I cannot tell Adah Pearl from Joshua E. Youtz, and so on ad infinitum." We will not quote the next remarks about other peoples' children.

Increasing interest in camellias abroad is reflected in the report from the Right Honorable Lord Aberconway of England to his friend Ralph Peer. It is interesting to learn that the Royal Horticultural Society has established a combined Rhododendron-Camellia Committee. This is welcome news, for when the Royal Horticultural Society turns its attention to a subject one may expect important results.

Most of the mail these days consists of letters that say "Please find enclosed." This early response is most gratifying. A renewal blank has been enclosed for those who have not renewed up to the time of mailing this Quarterly. It is important that dues for 1953 be paid promptly. A membership directory will be distributed in July and only names of those in good standing can be included in this publication. We hope that your name will be found in this "Who's Who in Camellias."

Show Chairmen—Do not forget those reports that should be sent in immediately following a camellia show. Standard reporting forms have been supplied for your convenience. Editor Brown plans to feature show reports in the April Quarterly, so we ask for your prompt cooperation. Two or more good pictures can be used. You may wish to submit a good glossy print for this purpose—size 8 x 10 is best.

Dee Deffeyes, Caspar, Wyoming, will not let me alone. He is now trying to get involved in an argument over the value of the earthworm or "Garden Hackle." He thinks the American Camellia Society should take a stand on whether or not this is a friend or enemy. He puts forward a good case for this lowly, trodden-under-foot creature that eats only sand sandwiches. He tells us to "fish or cut bait." As for Dee, he cuts no bait for he uses the whole worm.

Incidental to opening renewal envelopes, we get the first look at comments and suggestions on the 1952 Yearbook. The vast majority of the members agree with the Secretary that this is the best Yearbook published to date. Hundreds of favorable remarks have been written that reach the extreme in one who says that a single article is worth his membership payment. We also agree that the new mailing carton is not as good as the other kind. That means we go back to the former mailing jacket. Neither do we approve of the manner in which the illustrations were "dislocated" from the articles of which they are a part. Several ask for still more color plates. That this suggestion is in accord with our own thoughts is evidenced by the fact that there were eight color plates in the 1952 Yearbook as compared to four in the 1950 and 1951 editions. These eight plates cost almost one thousand dollars. Any further increase in the number of color plates is dependent upon an increased revenue brought about by an expansion of our membership. Only three adverse criticisms have come in to date and we quote them in

full: (1) "Cut out the chit-chat and give us more cultural and scientific articles"; (2) "Do not burden the book with so much scientific stuff"; (3) "I am disappointed in the Yearbook and hope the next one is better."—Oh well, a score of 300 to 3 is not too bad!

Ralph Peer, 8159 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, desires to obtain a complete set of the News Letters put out by the American Camellia Society prior to Volume 4, No. 3. Anyone who has a set of the News Letters and wishes to dispose of them should communicate with Mr. Peer.

Mr. D. B. Lowndes, MacPenny Nurseries, Bransgore, near Christ Church, Hants, England, makes the following inquiry:

"As a member of the American Camellia Society, we are anxious to try and import cuttings of plants of some of the more outstanding camellias that you have in America; we are wondering whether you know of any way how this is possible. Our Government here will not apparently allow us to spend dollars on such luxuries, unfortunately."

It is suggested to members of the Society who are interested in obtaining varieties of camellias grown in England that they communicate with Mr. Lowndes for the purpose of entering into a "bartering" agreement.

1952 CAMELLIA SHOWS

DARLINGTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, November 15-16, 1952.

The South Carolina Camellia Society's show, sponsored locally by the Darlington County Camellia Society, was held in Darlington, South Carolina, on November 15-16. Mrs. J. M. Napier, General Chairman, has furnished some interesting information relative to this event. Approximately 3500 persons from all over this country, and even from Wales, Great Britain, attended this exhibition of 3044 blooms. The awards were as follows:

Best flower in show: High Hat, won by Mrs. J. Ed. Anderson, Timmons ville, South Carolina.

A. C. S. Gold Certificate: won by Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Levi, Sumter, South Carolina.

A. C. S. Silver Certificate: won by Mr. and Mrs. Calder Seibels, Columbia, South Carolina.

There were no entries for the best arrangement or for the seedling award.

The prize for the best flower in show, a silver teapot, was given by Mr. and Mrs. J. Ed. Anderson of Timmons ville, South Carolina. The second prize, a camellia plant (variety C. M. Wilson), was donated by Mr. Charlie Womack, Florence, South Carolina.

Members of the Society furnished a number of plants and containers which were given as door prizes. Six memberships to the American Camellia Society were obtained during the course of the show.

The judges were:

A. W. Solomon, Chairman, Savannah, Georgia

Mrs. Lawrence Mayer, Savannah, Georgia

D. C. Strother, Ft. Valley, Georgia

Maxwell Murray, Ft. Valley, Georgia

Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Johnson, Bloomingdale, Georgia

W. B. Jones, Augusta, Georgia

S. L. Marbury, Wilmington, North Carolina

James Ferger, Wilmington, North Carolina

K. Sawada, Mobile, Alabama

LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI, November 29, 1952.

According to information furnished in a letter from Mr. Jack McDill, show chairman, the first annual fall camellia show held by the Men's Camellia Society of Laurel, Mississippi, was a tremendous success. This was the initial effort of the Society and it was strictly noncompetitive. The degree of interest manifested by members and nurserymen is indicated by the fact that there was on display 3457 blooms and 34 blooming plants that represented 102 varieties of camellias and sasanquas. Particular interest was manifested in the new seedlings displayed by the Pensacola (Florida) Men's Club and Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Clower of Gulfport, Mississippi.

Original plans provided for the show to open at 2 P.M. and close at 9:30 P.M. By reason of inclement weather on the 29th, it was decided to continue the exhibition from 2 to 6 P.M. on the following day. Despite unfavorable weather conditions there was an excellent attendance. Visitors from six states were registered. Mr. McDill states that a formal report of the show will be made at a later date.

Members of the Laurel Men's Camellia Society have undertaken as a project the development of a portion of the thirty acre Mason Memorial Park that has been set aside for their use by the trustees of the Park. Another worthwhile endeavor is to actively solicit memberships in the American Camellia Society.

McCOMB, MISSISSIPPI, December 20-21, 1952.

The Men's Camellia Club of Pike County, Mississippi, was host at a "Camellia Hospitality Days" entertainment at McComb, Mississippi, December 20-21, 1952. Residents of four communities, McComb, Magnolia, Summit, and Holmesville, participated in extending hospitality to the many visitors from Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, Illinois, Tennessee, Georgia, and Arkansas.

Visitors enjoyed a wide range of camellia blossoms displayed at the headquarters in McComb. Despite the effects of a hard freeze the previous week, many excellent blooms were on display. Gardens and camellia plantings in the several localities were opened to the public.

Pike County's camellia history dates back to about 1825. Despite the loss of a hundred or more carloads of camellia plants sold by local property owners to wealthy residents of other communities during the depression days, the scope and beauty of the present plantings arouse increasing interest and attract visitors throughout the blooming season.

The Men's Camellia Club of Pike County has one hundred members. O. C. Cotton, McComb, is President, and E. R. Harlan is Secretary-Treasurer.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF JUDGES

The following are additions to the list of judges which was printed in the October, 1952, Quarterly:

ALABAMA	Montgomery	Fallbrook
Bessemer	Powers, Mrs. B. C.	Tompkins, Sterling S.
Mauldin, R. S.	CALIFORNIA	Glendale
Birmingham	Covina	Dekker, Mrs. Albert
Turlington, Dr. Lee	Viney, Mrs. William	FLORIDA
		Orlando
		Compton, Miss Mary

GEORGIA		OKLAHOMA	
Athens	Roberta	Stillwater	
Darden, A. F.	McGee, Miss Rosa B.	Thompson, Roger B.	
Bloomington	Savannah	SOUTH CAROLINA	
Johnson, Karl M.	Erdman, Robert Park	Cheraw	
Lyons	Valdosta	Wannamaker, L. C.	
Pope, Mrs. J. Ellis	Mederer, Mrs. L. J.	Darlington	
Macon	Whitehead, Mrs. R. B.	Napier, Mrs. J. M.	
Nowell, Mrs. John	Vidalia	Privette, Mrs. Wallace	
Montezuma	Warthen, Mrs. Ober D.	Florence	
McKenzie, Mrs. Oscar	LOUISIANA	Brunson, Mrs. Alex	
Quitman	Alexandria	Marion	
Glausier, Mrs. C. E.	Welch, Dr. James	Ellerbe, Mrs. Earle	
Reidsville	Shreveport	Timmons ville	
Beasley, Mrs. F. L.	Prescott, McIntyre	Holman, Mrs. D. O.	
	Rosenblath, Phil		

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF SHOW DATES

The following are changes and additions to the list of shows which was printed in the October, 1952, Quarterly.

January

Fitzgerald, Ga.	15
North Charleston, S. C. (changed)	17-18
Tifton, Ga.	21
Ocala, Fla.	22
Bessemer, Ala. (changed)	24-25
Ocala, Fla.	24-25
Albany, Ga.	24-25
Dublin, Ga.	24-25
Baton Rouge, La.	24-25
New Orleans, La.	24-25
McComb, Miss.	24-25
Marianna, Fla.	25
St. Simons Island, Ga. (changed)	28
Coleman, Ga.	29
Ft. Gaines, Ga.	29
Bainbridge, Ga.	30
Beaumont, Texas	30

February

Reidsville, Ga.	3
Cochran, Ga.	4
Florence, S. C.	5
Manning, S. C.	5
Montgomery, Ala.	7-8
Tyler, Texas (changed)	8
Temple City, Cal.	14-15
Marshallville, Ga.	25
Dillon, S. C.	25
Glendale, Cal.	28-Mch. 1
Greenwood, S. C.	28-Mch. 1

March

Suffolk, Va.	14-15
Portland, Oregon	27-28

GULF COAST CAMELLIA ITINERARY

JOSEPH H. PYRON, Reynolds, Georgia

Since many of our members will be attending the annual meeting of the American Camellia Society in Mobile, January 29-31, I believe they will be interested in visiting some of the camellia collections and collectors along the Gulf Coast. No doubt tours will be arranged by the hosts to visit the fine gardens and the many large nurseries in the immediate vicinity of Mobile so I will confine my suggested itinerary to those points on either side of Mobile.

Those coming from the east should not fail to see the Filo Turner and J. L. Kahn camellias at Gulf Breeze, Florida, across the bay from Pensacola, and just off Highway US 98. A few of their new varieties were described in the 1951 Yearbook of the American Camellia Society. Although they are comparatively young, the Turner plants are very large and floriferous. Mr. Turner has built up his soil which was originally pure sand. Shade is provided by large live oaks. In addition to a selection of the better older varieties, some of the fine newer varieties are also represented. Across the driveway are Mr. Turner's remarkable seedlings which grew from seed collected from his own camellias. These seed were produced from chance pollination. It is remarkable that at least a dozen of these seedlings are outstanding and are worthy of introduction.

Mr. Turner has several "wishbone" shaped sprinklers which fit around the trunks of his plants. These are made from a Y connection with two short lengths of arc-shaped pipe with rows of small holes drilled so that the water shoots up, wetting the underside of the leaves and at the same time soaking the soil completely around each plant. I have found this type of sprinkler very valuable in applying the new liquid fertilizers to foliage by siphoning a solution from a bucket by means of a "Hozon" attachment.

The Kahn camellias, a short distance from Mr. Turner's, are likewise very fine and Mr. Kahn has been extremely fortunate in the number of worth while seedlings resulting from his seed. There are other smaller but very fine camellia collections in Pensacola, including that of Mr. John Edwards, President of the Pensacola Men's Camellia Club.

Highway 89 from Pensacola to Mobile passes through Foley, Point Clear, Battle's Wharf and Fairhope along the eastern shore of Mobile Bay. This is good camellia country. Mr. B. A. Carlin has an extensive collection at Battle's Wharf and there are other smaller but interesting plantings in this area. Strain's Nursery and Silver Bay Nursery are well worth visiting. Ray's Best, an Adolphe Audusson variant, is a fine local favorite.

Should you approach Mobile by way of US Highway 90 there are several large nurseries, Azalea Glen and Flowerwood at Loxley, and Malbis, some 10 miles nearer Mobile.

Driving west from Mobile on US Highway 90 one must see J. S. Bradford's Wayside Nursery near Biloxi where the justly famous Mrs. Baldwin Wood, Thelma Dale, Charlotte Bradford, Crusader and other fine varieties originated.

Between Biloxi and Gulfport is the beautiful old home of Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Clower, Sr. Their extensive camellia collection includes their own seedlings, Simeon, Clower White, T. S. Clower, Sr. and Jr., Clower Red, Red Ball, and others.

Somewhat off the main highway to New Orleans but worth going miles out of the way to see is the extensive and famous S. J. Katz collection at Covington, Louisiana. Nowhere have I seen camellias used so effectively in landscaping, nor have I met more hospitable and enthusiastic camellia lovers than the Katzes. One of their beautiful

seedlings was named for their friend, Dave Strother. Be sure to see their "Emma" and "Hishi Karaito" which although not new varieties are not widely known.

When Mrs. Katz offered me scions of some varieties I especially admired I felt that I must decline the offer since it would be a week or 10 days before I would return to my home in Georgia and be able to graft. Mrs. Katz overcame this obstacle by explaining how she "cans" scions. The scions were identified by writing the names on the leaves with a hard pencil or nail. She placed a handful of wet sphagnum in the bottom of a half gallon jar, stuck the scions down in the moss and screwed the cap on. They were in perfect condition when I grafted 8 days later. Of fifteen scions so treated fourteen "took" when grafted. It would seem that a modification of this technique would enable one to air mail scions in a cellophane or plastic bag to almost any destination.

These are only a few of the many points of interest for camellia lovers. If you have not visited the Gulf Coast area you have a wonderful experience in store for you.

THE COVER

Prof. C. S. Sargent. This popular camellia is a complete double irregular flower, self turkey-red in color. The origin of this variety is unknown; but it is believed to be an old European introduction by P. J. Berckmans of Fruitland Nurseries, Augusta, Georgia, and named by him for Prof. Charles Sprague Sargent, formerly Director of the Arnold Arboretum. Correspondence is solicited from anyone possessing further details on the history of this cover variety.

We have requests for copies of the 1946, 1947 and 1951 Yearbooks, which are out of print. Anyone who wishes to dispose of their copies is requested to communicate with SAM P. HARN, SECRETARY—BOX 2398, UNIVERSITY STATION, GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, stating price.

Copies of the 1948, 1949, 1950 and 1952 editions are still available at \$3 each.

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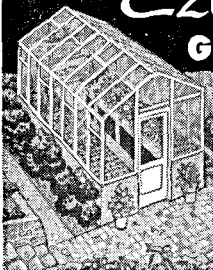
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