

The *Camellia* Journal



'MAYOR WEBB HART'

A.C.S. Reg. No. 1715

This unusual *C. hybrid* (hybrid 'Donation' x *C. japonica*) blooms a rare fuschia pink in seven rows of 24 large petals in a semi-double form. Bright yellow anthers rest on pink stamen. The large bloom is 5½ inches x 2½ inches untreated and over 6 inches when gibbed. A fine outside grower. It is a seedling of Ferol and Sam Zerkowsky of Tammia Nursery, Slidell, Louisiana. It has won awards as *Best non-reticulata hybrid* whenever exhibited. Scions are now available. Propagated by Tammia Nursery. See ad on page 3.

SPECIAL ISSUE — OUTDOOR GROWING

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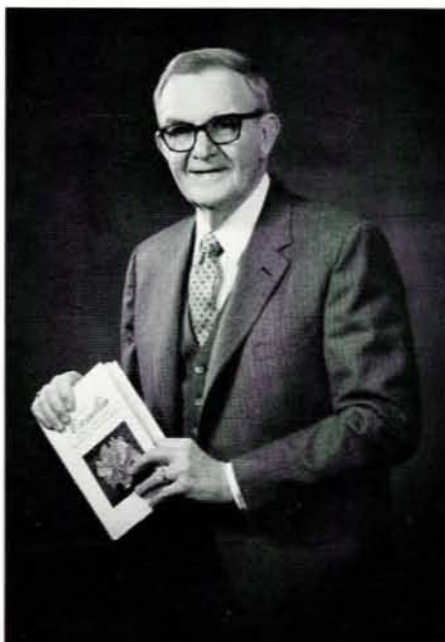
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President's Message



THOMAS C. EVANS

I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who responded to my request in the May issue to write me if you had questions about the day-to-day operations of your Society, and particularly if you had suggestions on how we can improve. Each of these will be studied by the appropriate committees of the Governing Board and acted upon in forthcoming meetings of that group. Now that a new blooming season is approaching, and each of you experience a renewed interest in camellias, you may have further thoughts about your national camellia organization and wish to share them with us. If so, please write to me promptly.

Our total membership continues to decline in spite of acquiring in the vicinity of 500 new members each year. Most of the attrition results because former members elect not to rejoin. As in previous years, each State Director was provided a list of delinquents from his territory last spring with a request that he follow up to see if the persons involved failed to send in their dues through oversight. Where such action was completed, the

results were very gratifying. As of September 10, 209 renewals were submitted by the Directors and Directors-at-Large. I'm sure this number would increase substantially if each of you would contact a friend that you suspect hasn't renewed his membership or a camellia grower not currently a member and urge him to do so. *Let's all work at the job of keeping our organization viable.*

As I'm writing this in late August, I've heard a lot of talk about getting ready for the fall shows by gibbing buds starting in mid-September. In our area, the plants have experienced good growth and have set a lot of buds, so we have our work cut out for us to insure a good supply of show-quality blooms. Speaking of shows, I've also heard expressions of concern from some local camellia clubs that they will be unable to hold their show this year because their major financial sponsor is withdrawing a part or all of that support. This is distressing because I know of *many clubs who have never relied on a major sponsor to underwrite the cost of the show and yet have had successful shows year after year.* They do this by requesting small donations from many local businesses, private citizens and club members. I suggest this be thoughtfully considered before making a decision to deny the public an opportunity to enjoy camellias the way we do.

Our friends in Pensacola are doing everything possible to provide us a memorable Fall Meeting and we are looking forward to it with great enthusiasm. Dotty and I are hoping to renew old friendships and start many new ones during this occasion. See you in Pensacola!

Sincerely,

T.C. Evans

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The Camellia Journal

WORLD'S LARGEST PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO THE GENUS CAMELLIA

Volume 36

Number 4

November, 1981

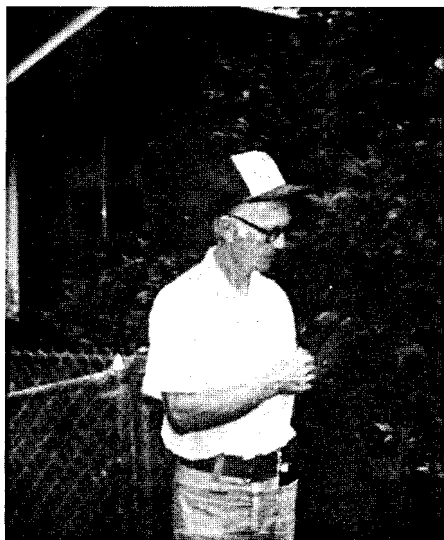
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A FEW WORDS FROM THE GUEST EDITOR



JAMES MCCOY

When the Executive Secretary asked me, as Chairman of the Publications Committee, to suggest a subject for a Special Issue of the *ACS Journal*, in all innocence, I suggested a special issue on outside grown camellias, as we had a very fine special issue on greenhouse culture in 1975. He replied immediately: "Fine, would you be guest editor?" The fish that doesn't open his mouth doesn't get caught.

Seriously, all members of the Publications Committee were contacted and all agreed that the need existed for such a Special Issue. They were supportive in contributing articles and suggesting others to contact for articles.

As Editor, I am pleased with the result. We have articles covering outside culture from almost all geographical areas of the country where camellias are grown. We have at least three articles from areas outside the generally accepted camellia growing areas of the country. Perhaps some who read these articles will suddenly realize that it is possible to grow camellias where they live, albeit with the expendi-

ture of a little more work and more careful selection of varieties.

We have articles by some of the most knowledgeable camellia people in the camellia world. There might be some who have said to themselves: "If I knew how Mr. So-and-So does it, maybe I'd try it." That's all we ask anyone to do—just try growing camellias.

None but the most avid camellia lover would claim that the camellia is the loveliest flower in the world. But the camellia has a mystique like Scarlett O'Hara; and like a lovely southern belle, has the ability to change a chance encounter into a lifelong relationship. The camellia can slightly interest you one day and possess you the next.

For some unknown reason, camellias have gained the reputation of being difficult to grow—requiring much care and knowledge. One goal of this issue is to convince the skeptics that *camellias are not difficult to grow*. Quite the contrary, camellias are very easy to grow and require considerably less care than many other horticultural subjects. We hope that they will be convinced that camellia culture is very little more than the application of common sense and a few guide lines.

If we can succeed in this goal, we will consider the effort to have been worthwhile.

JAMES MCCOY

GET A NEW MEMBER

In Memoriam

Marguerite (Mrs. T. J.) Smith
died suddenly, Oct. 5, 1981.

Just a Chat About This and That

DAVID L. FEATHERS

Lafayette, CA

Now that we have available at least two forms of the yellow camellia, *C. chrysantha* Hu (*macrophylla* and *microcarpa*), another color dimension has at long last become available not only in the flower but in the foliage as well. The flower I have yet to see "in the flesh", but the mahogany-colored foliage is in itself both remarkable and beautiful. As far as I know, we have as yet no absolute proof that this exciting new species will cross readily with *C. japonica* or *C. reticulata*. However, there would not appear to be any reason it will not; in fact, it has been reliably reported that the Chinese botanists accomplished the cross with *C. reticulata* years ago, although this writer has not been fortunate enough to have seen evidence of the result. Unfortunately, this combination does not appear to have yielded anything outstanding and the more logical cross with *C. japonica* was not undertaken because this species were not then available to them. Consequently, we await with great impatience the availability of viable pollen of the yellow camellia and the tremendous potentialities that would open to us. The writer knows of two different attempts in this country at crossing *C. chrysantha* Hu with *japonica*, *reticulata* and hybrids last year, but unfortunately the pollen used was said by the sender and upon receipt visually appeared to be too old to be useful, so that all attempts subsequently proved to be fruitless. Until we are able to obtain viable pollen, therefore, the greatest experiment in camellia hybridization since the *C. reticulata* became available remains in abeyance.

Meanwhile, other interesting developments and objectives have sur-

(Continued on page 36)

SCHEDULE & PROGRAM

American Camellia Society
Fall Meeting, Pensacola, FL

NOVEMBER 5-7, 1981

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1981

- 1:00 - 6:00 P. M. Registration (Lobby—Sheraton Inn)
2:30 - 4:30 P. M. Governing Board and Board of Trustees Meetings at
Seville Quarter
Evening Informal Dinner, Bay Side

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1981

- 8:00 A. M. Registration (Lobby—Sheraton Inn)
9:00 A. M. Tour: Old Fort Barancas, Key to Harbor Defense
System/NAS Museum of Naval Aviation/NAS
1:30 P. M. Educational programs: New techniques in propagation
Update on camellia tissue
propagation
5:00 P. M. Hospitality Room
6:00 P. M. Dinner with Pensacola Club Members

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1981

- 8:00 A. M. Registration (Lobby—Sheraton Inn)
8:00 - 11:00 A. M. Enter flowers in Camellia Show, Cordova Mall
11:30 A. M. Luncheon
1:00 - 3:00 P. M. Judging Show
5:00 P. M. Hospitality Room
7:30 P. M. Banquet

Camellias, Planting and Care*

SITE

Most camellias grow and produce better flowers in partial shade. Plants in a northern or western exposure, or otherwise protected from intense winter morning sun, will usually stand more cold weather than those in an eastern or southern exposure.

Choose a planting site with well drained soil. Do not plant where shade trees with shallow root systems will compete with camellias for nutrients and water.

* From "The Camellia and its Culture," Circular P-94, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service, Auburn University by Ronald L. Shumack, Extension Horticulturist and Raymond L. Self, Plant Pathologist in Charge, Ornamental Horticulture Field Station.

The Largest Selection—Choice Camellias—Growing in Metal Containers

TAMMIA BLUE RIBBON WINNERS—2 to 10 Yr. Grafts—In Our Special Soil

Due to price changes we have not sent our Price Lists in several years. We have encouraged all to visit us and choose their own camellias. Many have come to see and enjoy the largest collection under Protection and thousands of Outside blooming camellias.

If you cannot come—mail your list—we will reply by return mail. In our 37 years we have introduced many beautiful camellia varieties. Scions are now available on all of these. A partial list follows:

'Mayor Webb Hart'	'Sam Zerkowsky'	'Dr. Louis Polizzi'	'Julia Hamiter'
'Marguerite Sharp'	'Dorothy Zerkowsky'	'Grant Black'	'Lila Nuff'
'Lisa Buono'	'Ferol Ilene'	'Dick Ward'	'Morgan Whitney'
'Donna Buono'	'Dorothy Hills'	'Babette'	'Tammia'
'Vernon Mayo' S & V	'Carolyn Adams'	'Martha Israel'	'Josh Sprott'
'Dr. James Brown'	'Frances Black'	'Mayer Israel'	'Commander Mulroy'
'Blonde Betty'	'Funny Face Betty'	'Betty Sheffield Dream'	'Chapel Bell'
'Wylmer Pool'	'Mary Jo Gheems'	'Janette Habas'	'Elizabeth Cooper'
'Leon Benson'	'Brenda Ann Hart'	'Judge Richard Hill'	'Katherine Maryott'
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SOIL PREPARATION

Camellias will grow in most well drained, acid soils. A soil pH (degree of acidity or alkalinity) of 5.0 to 6.0 is best. Have a soil test made before planting; get instructions and supplies at your county Extension office. The test can be made at the Soil Testing Laboratory at Auburn. It will tell you what is needed to bring the soil to the desired pH and fertility level. Lime is used to raise the soil pH level on extremely acid soils. However, do not apply lime unless it is recommended by a soil test.

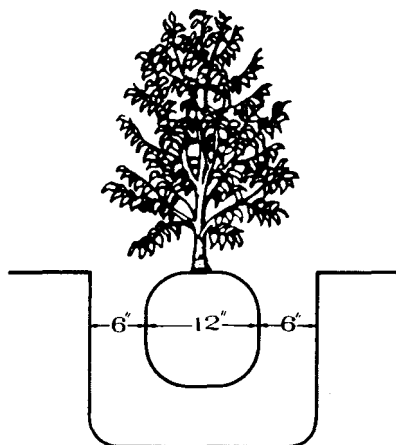


FIGURE 1. The diameter of the ball of soil on this plant is 12 inches. The diameter of the hole should be a minimum of 24 inches.

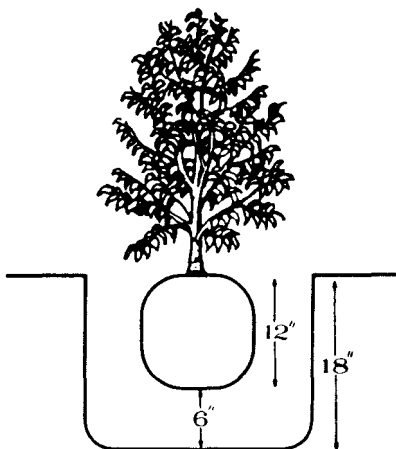


FIGURE 2. Depth of the hole is also important. Minimum depth should be 18 inches. This will vary with the depth of the ball of soil or the depth of the root system. The hole should be at least 6 inches deeper than the ball of soil or root system.

Practically all soils need additional humus or organic matter before planting. About 2 to 4 inches of peat moss, leaf mold, cow manure or sawdust worked 12 to 18 inches into the soil improves it greatly. At the same time

organic matter is mixed with the soil, add fertilizer and lime as recommended by the soil test and mix this in the top 12 to 18 inches of the soil. If a soil test is not made and you think the soil fertility is low, mix a complete fertilizer such as 8-8-8 into the soil. Apply the fertilizer at a rate of 2 to 3 pounds per 100 square feet of area. If you think the soil fertility level is high, apply 1 to 2 pounds of 16-8-8 or 12-6-6 per 100 square feet.



FIGURE 3. Fill the bottom of the hole with 6 inches of a loamy, well drained and aerated soil high in organic matter.

PLANTING

Camellias may be set any month of the year if they are properly planted, watered and cared for. However late fall through early spring is considered the best time for transplanting them in Alabama. There is adequate moisture during this period, and water is an absolute necessity in transplanting. These periods are also best because the plant is dormant or is approaching dormancy (above-ground parts of the plant are not growing). The root system continues to develop during dormancy which allows the plant to become well established in the soil. The newly developed roots will then provide enough moisture and nutrients for the plant to start growth when spring arrives.

Space camellias according to their habit of growth; some varieties spread while others grow upright. Allow a minimum of 5 feet between plants and preferably more.

The size of the hole should be determined by the size of the ball of soil on the root system, size of container, or the spread of the roots on a bare-root plant. Many plants do not grow

properly because they are planted in holes that are too small. The general rule is to make the diameter of the hole at least 12 inches greater than the diameter of the root system. Working up entire beds or areas would eliminate the need for large individual holes.

rule is to make the diameter of the hole at least 12 inches greater than

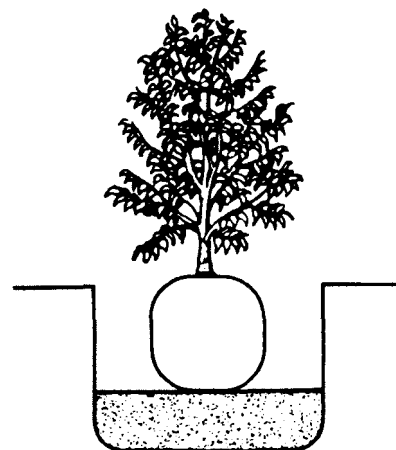


FIGURE 4. Place the plant in the hole. Adjust to the correct position and depth by removing or adding soil. The top of the ball of soil should be slightly above ground level. By doing this, the plant will then be near ground level after it settles. If planted too deeply, camellias will grow poorly and may die.

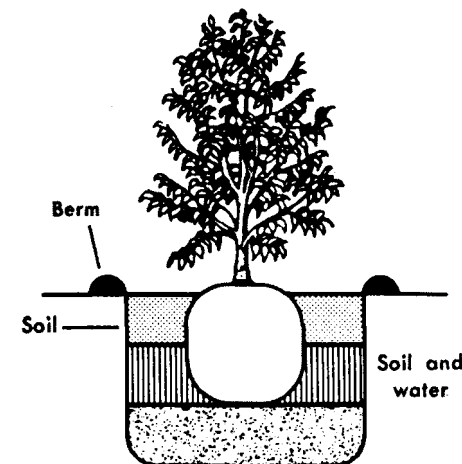


FIGURE 5. Fill the hole full of soil and water thoroughly. Finish filling with soil. Build a berm, or small terrace, around the plant to help retain water. Thoroughly water the plant.

PRUNING

Although camellias require very little pruning, some may be needed to keep certain varieties at the desired shape and size. Pruning inside limbs back to another branch or lateral will reduce the height and increase air movement without making the plant look unsightly. Prune plants early in the spring at the end of the dormant

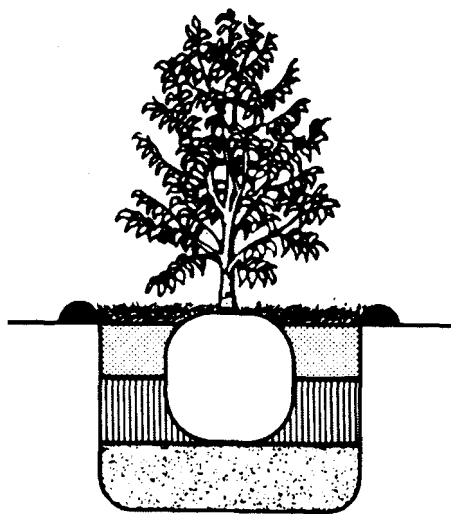


FIGURE 6. Mulch the surface of the soil around the plant with 2 to 4 inches of pine straw, sawdust, peat moss, bark or some other form of organic matter. Mulch holds moisture, keeps the soil cooler, makes weeding easier, and almost eliminates the need for cultivation.

season. Cutting blooms with longer stems (4 to 6 inches) reduced the need for severe cutting or pruning.

WATERING

There is no set rule for watering; however, the soil should be wet to a depth of 14 to 18 inches with a hose, soil soaker (porous hose) or sprinkler. When watered to this depth the application may last for 10 days to 2 weeks—even during periods of dry weather. Clay soils require less frequent but heavier waterings than sandy soils.

—ACS—

Extending the Range of Fall-Flowering Camellias Northward

WILLIAM L. ACKERMAN*

Fall blooming camellias add color to the autumn landscape during a time when few other woody ornamentals are in flower. Unfortunately, their potential has not been fully utilized. This has become especially true in recent years because of the heavy losses from winter injury of cultivars of *C. sasanqua* and *C. hiemalis* throughout the mid-Atlantic region beginning in 1976-77.

* U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, DC 20002.

The relative plant hardiness of *C. sasanqua* and spring-flowering *C. japonica* has been questioned for many years. Although *C. sasanqua* was once considered the more hardy of the two species, this is not true. As a group, cultivars of *C. japonica* are more cold hardy than those of *C. sasanqua*. However, there is considerable variation in hardiness within both species causing some overlap. Thus, there are some tender *C. japonica* cultivars which are less hardy than some of the more hardy *C. sasanqua* cultivars.

Three successive devastating winters in the Washington, DC area beginning with the 1976-77 season made us seriously question the reliability of most *C. sasanqua* cultivars as long-term landscape plants. However, plants of *C. oleifera* at the National Arboretum and north of the city, in Maryland, showed no winter injury during this same period. These observations led us to intensify the testing of our *C. oleifera* hybrids and to use the proven hardy strains of *C. oleifera* in our breeding program. Although *C. oleifera* has flowers of little ornamental value, it grows wild over a very wide range in the People's Republic of China, including regions climatically similar to New England.

Camellia oleifera hybrids developed in the late 1960's indicate that the best traits of both parents show up in the progeny—ornamental flowers, good plant form, and superior cold hardiness. During the spring of 1977, plants of 37 interspecific hybrids involving *C. oleifera* as one parent were planted in the vicinity of the Arboretum's *C. sasanqua* collection. During the following two winters, no injury was observed among the hybrids of *C. oleifera*, with either *C. sasanqua* or *C. hiemalis* as the other parent. Hybrids of *C. oleifera* x *C. miyagii*, a very tender introduction from Okinawa, were badly injured but not killed. Yet, comparable-sized *C. sasanqua* cultivars planted at the same time were,

with few exceptions, killed. Evidently, our *C. oleifera* introduction is not only extremely cold hardy in itself, but also conveys a high degree of hardiness to its hybrids with other species.

Two of the *C. oleifera* hybrids developed in the late 1960's have shown considerable promise for their flowers, plant form, and cold hardiness. These two selections have been named and registered as 'Frost Prince' and 'Frost Princess.' 'Frost Prince'; *C. hiemalis* 'Shishi-gashira' x *C. oleifera* Pl 162561 (Figure 1) has survived several severe winters out-of-doors at the National Arboretum and in Maryland, showing little or no damage despite temperatures as cold as -5°F (-20°C). Last year, when several hard freezes occurred during its blooming period, most unopened flowers were unharmed. A very floriferous cultivar, 'Frost Prince' has deep pink flowers, single to semi-double and about $3\frac{1}{2}$ " across. The flowering period frequently lasts up to six weeks, from mid-October to late November in Maryland. Plant form is upright, with branchlets spreading and some drooping at extremities. Leaves are glossy, dark green, elliptic, about 2" long, 1" wide, and of a thick, leathery texture.

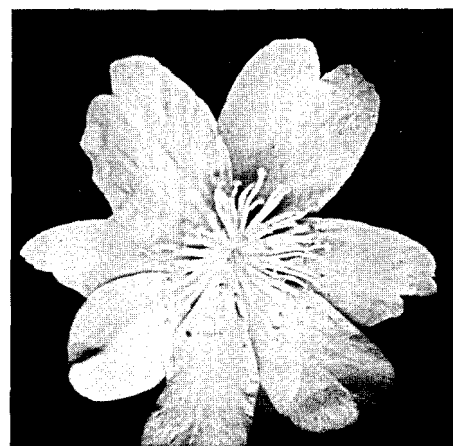


Figure 1. Flower of *Camellia* hybrid 'Frost Prince'

(For color picture see ACS Yearbook-1981.)

WILL YOU SUPPORT A
HORTICULTURIST?

'Frost Princess'; *C. hiemalis* 'Bill Wylam' x *C. oleifera* Pl 162561 (Figure 2) is of comparable cold hardiness to 'Frost Prince' but differs in plant and flower characteristics. Specifically, the plant form is more spreading, the branchlets more pendulous, and the leaves slightly smaller but of the same thick leathery texture. 'Frost Princess' has lavender-pink flowers, semi-double to anemone form about 3" across. The flowering period extends from late October to late November in Maryland.

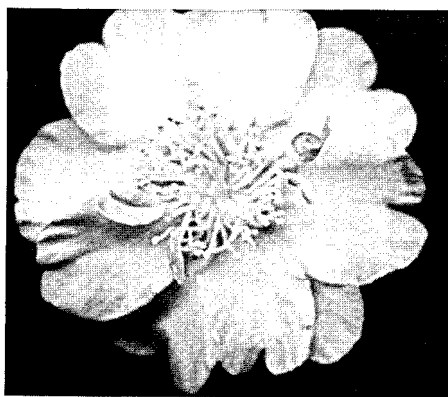


Figure 2. Flower of *Camellia* hybrid 'Frost Princess'

(For color picture see ACS Yearbook-1981.)

During the seasons since 1978, a wide range of crosses have been made involving our Chinese introductions of *C. oleifera*. In addition to crosses of *C. oleifera* with cultivars of *C. sasanqua* and *C. hiemalis*, sib crosses among the F_1 hybrids and back-crosses of hybrids with all three species have been made. This has resulted in some 1,100 hybrids from 1978-79 crosses and 500 hybrids from 1979-80 crosses. Grown in the greenhouse, the first scattered flowering took place during the autumn of 1980. The first outdoor planting in Maryland for winter testing was begun in 1981. It remains to be seen just how much cold these hybrids will tolerate.

Cold hardiness in *Camellias* appears to be an expression of the plant as a whole. It is not enough to say that the branches and leaves of *C. oleifera* and its hybrids are more tol-

erant of cold temperatures and winter desiccation than those of *C. sasanqua*. The root system apparently plays a very important part in plant survival. It is well established that the root systems of many, if not most, plants are more tender to freezing temperatures than are the upper portions of the plant. Since the root system is the "unseen" portion of the plant, it is frequently overlooked in its role of determining winter hardiness.

Since grafting is a major propagation method for *Camellias*, it is quite possible to negate the advantages of a cold hardy cultivar by grafting it on a tender rootstock. Our own early experiences may serve as a very good example of this type of oversight. For many years, we have utilized our culled seedling progeny for rootstocks. These are seedlings from our breeding projects which were discarded because of inferior flower qualities. In most cases, they are healthy vigorous plants, perfectly suitable for rootstock purposes. However, they are a "mixed bag" in parentage and background. Many of the seedlings resulting from our breeding for floral fragrance contain germ plasm of *C. lutchuensis*, one, two, or more generations removed. None-the-less, *C. lutchuensis*, introduced from sub-tropical Okinawa, certainly would be a liability concerning cold hardy rootstock. Yet, some of these seedlings were used years ago to propagate 'Frost Queen'. It was not until we observed that many grafted plants of 'Frost Queen' were winter-killing while 'Frost Queen' propagated from rooted cuttings were surviving without injury, that we realized our error. This mistake set us back several years in our proper evaluation of the merits of 'Frost Queen' regarding its adaptation to the northern fringes of *camellia* culture.

HELP SUPPORT AN
HORTICULTURIST

Thus, rootstocks do greatly influence the performance of the plant, which again proves the point that we must always deal with plants in their entirety. Our propagation of 'Frost Prince', 'Frost Princess', and all future cold-hardy selections will be based primarily on their establishment on their own roots (from rooted cuttings). When we do graft, we use seedlings of *C. oleifera* or other known cold hardy forms.

—ACS—

You Can Grow *Camellias* Outside in Syracuse, NY

ROBERT KLABEN

Syracuse, NY

I have just returned from Laurel Lakes Garden at Salemburg, NC, with a trailer load of plant material, of which 50 were three-gallon size *Camellia japonicas*. These plants were just slightly advanced over my plants wintered at Syracuse. I sell *camellias* here but only if I can talk to that particular customer myself. The *camellia* is the most beautiful plant in the nursery and I have a small list of people who are sincere in trying to grow them as I recommend.

The key factors for growing camellias outside here and in other areas with this climate are as follows:

1. Well drained, moderately acid soil with some humus.
2. Plants must not be over fertilized and regular acid plant fertilizer seems to be sufficient. This might invite bark splitting which is the only over-wintering problem one should have, and then only if plants are soft.
3. *Camellias* here must be protected from *Taxus* weevil larvae which can be fatal as it causes defoliating. Chlordane is best for control.
4. They should have about 30% to 40% shade in spring to mid-summer to prevent leaf burn because of low humidity.

5. They are covered with one or two layers of polyethylene sheeting early to mid-November. White is better than clear as this reflects more infra-red light. (Fig. 1.)



FIGURE 1. Note poly (prior to uncovering). Also note that since bed is in winter sun, poly is painted white to retard blooming. These beds are not heated except by geotherman and limited solar radiation.

- a. Polyethylene must trap geothermal heat.
- b. Excessive winter heat build-up can be reduced by:
 1. ventilation.
 2. White polyethylene.
 3. Polyethylene tents on north wall or in shaded areas.
- c. Polyethylene against a building might or might not provide enough winter heat. You might have to ventilate more.
- d. Polyethylene tents with geothermal heat have wintered camellias down to -20 degrees F., 3 or 4 times.
- e. Remove polyethylene around 1st of April. For more dormant plants, you may remove polyethylene earlier. (Fig. 2.)
6. Polyethylene can also be used as a quick protective measure against

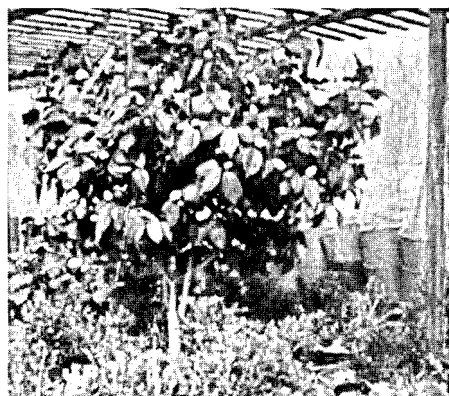


FIGURE 2. March 25th to April 1st.

late spring freezes if one wants perfect blooms.

7. Utilizing late blooming varieties eases the problem of over-wintering.
8. Plants should be pruned lower and spreading to facilitate covering.

All varieties of *C. japonica* are perfectly satisfactory if grown under above conditions. Older and more established plants (not succulent) are even easier to winter. Growth may be shorter but intensity of bloom color is greater because of closeness of flower buds.



FIGURE 3. Six years in field (oldest plant) 'Debutante' in early April in bloom and other buds opening.

I have actually covered the plants November 1st, gone to Florida, and returned about April 1st to open up the polyethylene houses and got away with it, even though buds of some varieties had begun to open.

I usually plant in the spring, but if the plants are perfectly hard, I think they could survive if they were planted in the fall. All viable buds usually open. If camellias are brought north after they are active, it is better to plant them after the date of the last frost in the spring. This is especially true of plants from Florida. Also, the bigger plants are better to transplant.

I am vrey anxious to open up a bed of 1-year transplants to study bark splitting. These plants could supply most data I need. My older plants are never a problem.

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'Glowing Embers'
'Happy Days'
'High Roller'
'Hulyn Smith'
'James McCoy'
'Janet Smith'
'Jessie Conner'
'Judge Jackson'
'Lacy Love'
'Margaret Hilford'
'Mary Stringfellow'
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Growing Camellias in Unfriendly Climes

PHILLIP KADISON

White Plains, NY

I must preface this article by stating that I am simply an amateur camellia grower in White Plains, NY. There will be no technical terms, no appeal to the higher elevations of camelliadom, no nothing except how I have managed successfully to bloom plants in an unfriendly environment. Much of what follows will be familiar to most, but perhaps there will be something of value to assist those who have similar problems in these northern climes.

Ever since high school days when it was required to deliver a flower to one's date for a dance, I have refused to present anything but a camellia to her, but I never thought of growing the blossoms myself. Until a friend of mine, quite out of the blue, literally brought me a plant on her flight from California.

Without the foggiest notion of what to do with it, I left it in a sunny room all winter and watched the buds dry out, one by one, and drop off. That would hardly do.

I quickly, or relatively so, realized that humidity was required. So I cut open a number of plastic milk containers, filled them with water and left them strewn all about the plant, and, later enclosed same in a sizeable area bounded by thin, clear plastic, top and sides. The plant remained in my sunny room which has a WSW exposure and is shaded to some degree by trees.

Well, in time I managed to get one very large flower, five or six inches across. Mind you, I never had any trouble by this time with buds appearing, because the plant was left out as soon as the weather showed signs of no more frost or below, and was brought in again in late fall. But, once again, the buds either be-

gan to swell, giving much hope, and then dropped before development, or opened halfway and dropped, or just plain dropped, save for a very few semi-successes. (The large flower, I am convinced, was a lucky result of proper gibbing, quite by accident). Well, some progress, in any event. So encouraged was I that I began to order plants from a California nursery, which at first arrived in their dirt-filled containers, but as time went by I discovered that bare root shipping was cheaper and worked as well.

The plants always arrived with plenty of buds and promise, but despite all the milk cartons and constant spraying with water (I have hardly ever been bothered with any kind of bugs, but if so, Malathion has very quickly taken care of the problem for good), I subsequently learned never to spray the buds when color began to show because the petals would become stuck together and wouldn't open for that reason. Despite enlarging of the inside "greenhouse like" area, still enclosed in plastic, and even with the addition of growing lights for the dark days, the total blooms for one year rarely aggregated more than eight or ten out of a dozen plants. See above paragraph for fate of buds, hardly good enough.

Another brainstorm occurred. I would take the plants out of their containers, sink them in the ground for the warm months and then re-pot them when it got cold, and back into the house. Splendid idea, except the roots grew furiously and naturally were disturbed when re-potted. Still, the procedure was better than leaving them above ground all summer, constantly drying out. And the number of winter blooms more than doubled. In fact, 'Elegans' ('Chandler') was awash with flowers.

Now, I think I have licked the problem at last. I bought an inexpensive humidifier, with a capacity of 1½ gallons, late this flowering season, but early enough to discover fantastic results. One plant which recently was brought to me by my California friend, and which had many buds, flowered every one. On another, I had at least a dozen at one time, and later on, many more. A third flowered for the first time, and so it went. I still have a dozen or so plants, every one of which produced blossoms of various sizes and at different times on the same plant. The humidifier is left running all day and until bed time.

To summarize, where plants cannot be left out all year, HUMIDIFIER! A reasonably sunny room, no radiator heat and HUMIDIFIER! By the way, the humidifier also solves the problem of the circulation of air around the plants, especially when they are crowded as mine are. A clear sheet of plastic in front of the plants will provide a pretty viewing scene and will also retain moisture. Further, I did experiment briefly by turning off the machine for a few days. The remaining buds dried up quickly, those that remained after the bigger ones flowered. Water spraying seems to be optional, as is growing lights, except for prolonged periods of dark weather, or a less sunny room.

This summer, I have dug the plants, *in their containers*, into the ground, and I look forward to an even more rewarding winter blooming time. Just to add to the record, I do fertilize properly, and disbud when appropriate. I expect no further trouble from these fussy beings, and in truth, after 10 years of fighting, I do not deserve any.

A B C —A BOOSTER OF
CAMELLIAS

THE USE OF MICROFOAM

KITTY and BILL ACKERMAN
Ashton, Maryland 20861

During the autumn of 1979, the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley, Washington, DC, had as its guest speaker, Dr. Francis R. Gouin, professor, Department of Horticulture, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Dr. Gouin discussed his experiments in protecting broad-leaved evergreens, including Japanese Holly, American Boxwood, Cherry Laurel, and Dense Cotonaster, from winter injury through the use of Microfoam plastic thermo-blankets¹. Although Dr. Gouin's tests did not include Camellias, the same principles of temperature and desiccation protection were involved. Thus, this method appeared very promising and worthy of testing on Camellias by several members of the Society.

Microfoam is a plastic, spongy-like sheet material manufactured by the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Co. (Inc.), Film Department, Wilmington, DE 19898. In 1979, it was only available in rolls $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, 6-feet wide, and 200-feet long, which sold for \$106.00. The nearest supplier was Baltimore-Warner Paper Co., Industrial Division, 1201 67th Street, Baltimore, MD 21237. Following a discussion at the Society's next board meeting, President William Settee arranged for the purchase of a roll of Microfoam, which was then divided and re-sold to interested members at cost. More recently, Dr. Gouin has indicated that the DuPont Co. was arranging with nursery supply dealers to handle distribution.

Dr. Gouin tested four treatment techniques using the same types of plants in each treatment for comparisons. Of the treatment techniques used, Dr. Gouin found that his un-

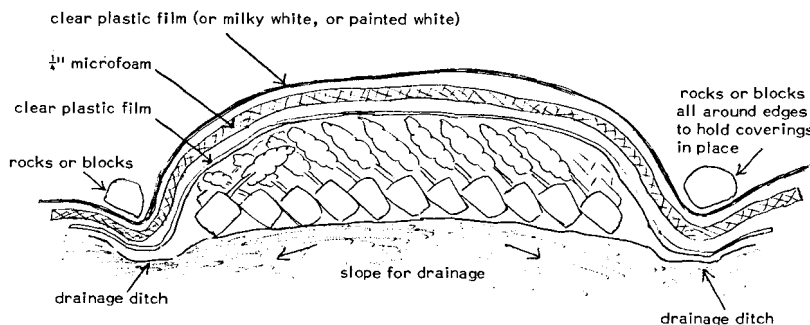
structured thermo-blanket technique was far superior to the others. This method (the unstructured thermo-blanket technique) has been used successfully on Camellias and several other ornamentals by the Ackermans and the Irelands and is described as follows:

Container plants to be protected were thoroughly watered the day before placement under the thermo-blanket. An area on the north side of a large white pine tree was selected during late autumn 1979. A sloping section approximately 12' x 20' was cleared of an existing layer of pine needles and weeds, exposing the bare ground. A row of container plants was set on their sides pointing down the slope. A second row of plants was set on their sides pointing up the slope so that their trunks interspersed between those of the first row. Following this, successive rows of plants were set against each previous row in the same direction. Pine needles were scattered loosely among the branches and over the containers as the rows were stacked against each other. When all plants were in place, a shallow trench was dug around the perimeter. A sheet of clear polyethylene film was placed over the mound of plants, followed by a sheet of Microfoam and a second sheet of polyethylene (the Microfoam sandwiched between two layers of poly-

ethylene). Microfoam is easily punctured or damaged and the purpose of the two polyethylene sheets is mostly to protect the Microfoam. Under no circumstances should you use black polyethylene, for the plants, even though dormant, do need some light. However, direct sun during the period of storage can cause excessive heating of the plants. If an area of full shade is not available, it may be necessary to apply white paint over the outer layer of polyethylene. Since the area used by the Ackermans was 12' wide, it was necessary to run two, 6-foot-wide sheets of Microfoam down the length of the bed. These can be easily held together with plastic tape.

After the polyethylene-Microfoam-polyethylene sandwich was in place, the upper slope edge was fitted into the shallow trench, the edges weighed down with cinder blocks (or rocks), and covered with a layer of pine needles (soil, woodchips, or other materials can be used). The two side edges were weighed down and covered, gently pulling the blanket down slope and snug in the process. Finally, the lower slope edge was done, completing the job (Figure 1).

The plants should be fully dormant and have been subjected to a series of frosts before being placed under the thermo-blanket. In the Maryland area this was done between Thanksgiving and December 1. It is best to leave the thermo-blanket undisturbed throughout the winter. Normally,



SIDE VIEW

FIGURE 1

¹ F. R. Gouin and C. B. Link, 1979 Temperature Measurements, Survival, and Growth of Container-Grown Ornamentals, Overwintered, Unprotected, in Nursery Shelters and Under Microfoam Thermo-Blankets, Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 104(5) 655-658.

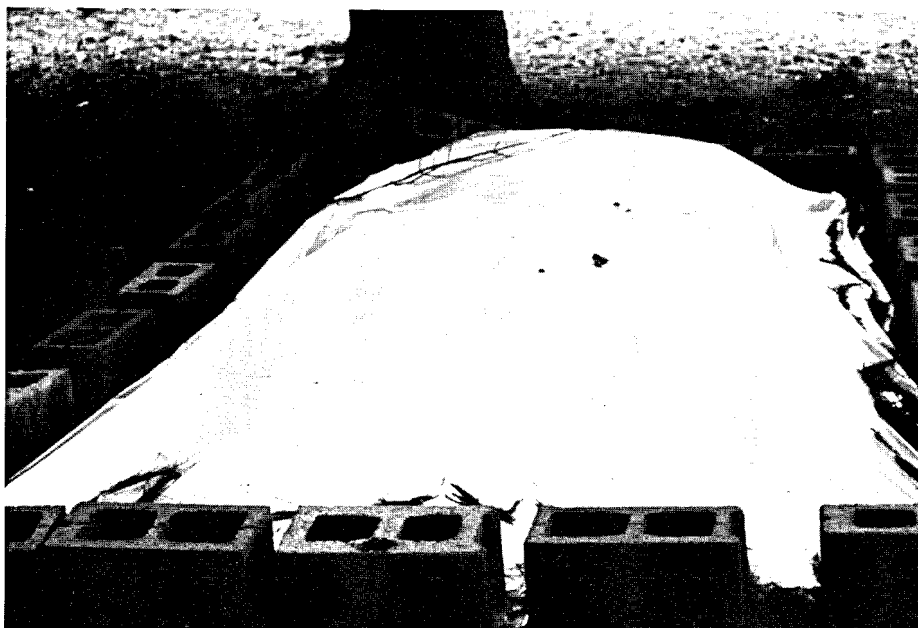


FIGURE 2

they will not need watering, but if there is a period of unseasonably warm weather in mid-winter, a brief inspection may be in order. The objective of the bare ground below the blanket is that as long as it remains unfrozen it will provide a certain amount of warmth to the plants above it.

During the 1979-80 winter, we made a trial of the technique using 35 camellias, 10 small seedlings, and 7 house plants. The area was not touched until April 1, 1980, when the blanket was removed, the plants set upright and inspected. The results were as follows:

Camellias—Almost perfect condition with an occasional broken leaf, perhaps broken in handling. Many camellias had fat buds, with a few showing color. A few flowers were open. Some of the buds opened and the blooms were entered in the Washington and Baltimore shows.

Gardenia jasminoides—Dropped all of its leaves which then mildewed. Only a small portion of live wood remained at the base.

Ardesia crispia (coral berry)—Perfect condition.

Rhipsalidopsis (Easter Cactus)—Large adult plant had just a few leaf tips damaged. Two small cuttings were killed.

Fig Tree—Leaf drop but buds alive.

Asparagus sprengeri and *Asparagus plumosa* ferns—lost most of their leaves and were in only fair condition.

Calamondin Orange — Very good shape with only 5% leaf drop.

Stewartia seedlings—Excellent condition.

Moisture conditions under the blanket were good, neither too wet nor too dry. The Microfoam was in perfect condition and was stored.

Mr. Philip Ireland, Editor of the *CSPV Newsletter*, used the same technique and procedure with several additions. On Thanksgiving 1979 he set about 30 young, and presumably tender, camellias and about 20 seedlings under the foam. Mr. Ireland placed 12 plastic jugs of water among the plants to help modify the temperature, and two packets of rodent poison. Also, he later painted the plastic sheet with white latex paint, as suggested by Dr. Gouin, to reduce sun exposure.

Mr. Ireland removed the thermal blanket and plastic on March 15, the day before he and Mrs. Ireland flew to the ICS Congress. All plants were in excellent condition, with dark green glossy foliage. Many plants had buds showing color. 'Marie

Bracey' was the only plant to have a fully open bloom. This bloom was worn by Mrs. Ireland from Dulles to Tokyo the next day on her way to the ICS Congress. The Microfoam was packed away for another season. All plants have been transplanted and with a single exception, 'Spring Sonnet', did very well.

On December 1, 1980, the Ackermans used the same site as the previous year, placing the thermo-blanket over 71 camellia plants, 1 to 5-feet tall, in the same manner as before.

On March 28, 1981, the covering was removed in the morning of a day that reached 70°. The 71 plants were set upright and examined. There were several blooms out in perfect condition, some spent blooms and many healthy buds ready to open. All plants survived in good condition. A dozen or so leaves that touched the edge of the south side were browned, which was the extent of the injury observed.

Most of the pots still had sufficient moisture, but a few were starting to get dry. The only clay pot in the group was very dry (although the plant was in good condition). In the future we will not use clay pots. The plants were next given a good soaking and misting. Unfortunately, we did not follow up on this procedure on all of the plants after their initial misting. Approximately half of the plants were moved to a sheltered patio and were watered and misted regularly. These continued to look good and have grown normally since. Because of many other spring chores, the remaining plants were not moved for several weeks. Although these were watered, they were subjected to drying winds and severe desiccation occurred on many of the outer perimeter plants. Apparently, plants protected over winter under thermo-blankets where the relative humidity is quite high, are very susceptible to drying out when first released from their confinement.

(Continued on page 11)

Pine Beetle Damage?

We have heard several people complain that they have had pine trees killed by pine beetle. We have asked a tree expert if such damage could be considered as a tax deduction. Pine beetle mortality of trees as a tax deduction was ruled on in one case. If you have had such damage it might be worth your while to contact an IRS expert and refer him to Par. 68,035-TC Memo 1968-35, Herbert H. Nelson and Elizabeth Nelson, Docket No. 3735, 2-27-68 and to Rev. Rul. 79-174, 1979-23, IRB 9.

This is not to infer that you should make such deductions, but to check before doing so. We hope that this service will be of some value.

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1982 DUES ARE DUE

(Continued from page 10)

If one takes the proper post thermo-blanket precautions of regular misting, the techniques described here appear to present an excellent method for protecting container-grown Camellias in the Washington-Baltimore area. The method not only protects from winter injury, but since it is essentially care-free, it would be an excellent storage method for people who go to Florida for the winter. Also, our blooms for both years were well timed for the Washington and the Baltimore Spring shows.

'FIR CONE'

Rhodelia Nursery advertised from West Linn, Oregon in the 1945-49 Oregon Camellia Society booklets—Otto Schwabe, owner. By 1947 the booklet listed Schwabe's son-in-law as owner. It is assumed that Schwabe died in 1946-47. By 1950 Rhodelia Nursery was not advertising in the booklet, and is presumed by old-timers to have gone out of business, perhaps even flooded out by disastrous high waters on the Willamette River at that time. If it was out of business by 1950, when registration of camellias began, nevertheless, the camellia "Fir Cone" was in the trade by that time.

Several older members remember the flower. Mary (Mrs. Al) Johnson of Salem, OR has a red plant in her yard at 1865 Brookside N.W. She is quite ill at this time. Olan Wills, Portland, OR has a red plant in his yard. Ed Lewis, Bellevue, WA, past director for Washington-Oregon district, ACS, has the variegated form in his garden. He purchased his plant from Nuccio's in Calif.



Ed Lewis, immediate past Director of ACS, displays a plant of 'Fir Cone Var.' in his garden in Bellevue, Washington. Photo April 15, 1981.

The site of the old Rhodelia Nursery is now occupied by a new bridge across the Willamette River and a freeway interchange for Interstate 205 through West Linn.

Mr. Schwabe introduced several new camellias to the trade. Old-timers recall "Fir Cone" and "Florence Loudon", particularly.

'Fir Cone' and 'Fir Cone Var.' are the most consistent Show winners in the miniature class—and has even won Best-in-Show regardless of size.



Left to right: F. C. Ratliff, ACS Director for Washington/Oregon, reviews the ACS Registration Form for the miniature C. Japonica 'Fir Cone' with Allen Brickley, Mayor of West Linn, Oregon, and Andrew Sears, President of the Oregon Camellia Society. 'Fir Cone' originated with Rhodelia Nursery in West Linn. Photo April 8, 1981.

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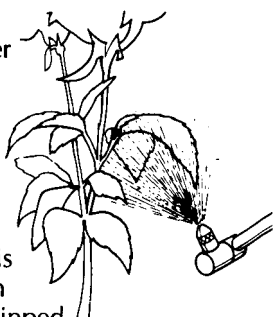
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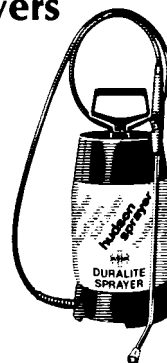
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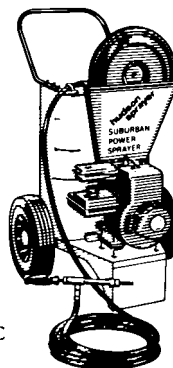
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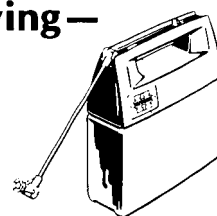


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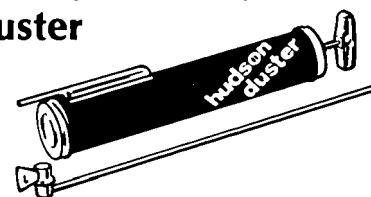


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'Tom Knudsen Var.'	'Barbara McBride'	'Dr. Clifford Parks Var.'	'Jim Rivett'	'Midgett Wheeler'	'Pink Dahlia'
'Tomorrow's Lisa'	'Barbara Ratliff'	'Dream Boat'	'Katie'	'Mini Mint'	'Pride of California'
'Tony's Joy'	'Bloody Mary'	'Edith Hall'	'Kramer's Beauty'	'Miss Bessie Beville'	'Red Bird'
'Valley Knudsen Var.'	'Blue Bird'	'Fire Dance'	'Kramer's Delight'	'Mrs. D. W. Davis'	'Red Chief'
'Walker's Pink'	'Brother Rose'	'Fragrant Pink'	'Lasca Beauty Var.'	'Special'	'Red Dahlia'
'Webb Stanley'	'Camelot'	'Improved'	'Les Berg'	'Mrs. Hugh White'	'Red Garnet'
'Wedding Cake'	'Campari White'	'Frances B. Homer'	'Lilemac'	'Nan S. Dodd'	'Ruffian'
'Zell Boyce'	'Capitan'	'George Stewart'	'Linda Gilmore'	'Oscar Elmer'	'Sabrina'
'Alabama Tide'	'Carter's Sunburst Blush'	'Goggy'	'Little Aggie'	'Our Betty'	'Sarah Hall'
'Al Gunn'	'Cucamonga'	'Gone Again Blush'	'Love Boat'	'Overture'	'Sara Oliver'
'Ann Blair Brown'	'Curtain Call'	'Grace Albritten Blush'	'Marie Mackall'	'Pat Gurnsey'	'Silver Cloud'
'Ann Clayton'	'Debut'	'Graceland'	'Marvin Sowell'	'Pavlova'	'Steve Blount'
'Applause'	'Dolly Dyer'	'Han-ling Snow'	'Mary Fisher'		

GROUP NO. 2—\$2.00

'All American', R & V	'Dolores Hope'	'Highlight'	'Little Ginger'	'Music City', R & V	'San Marino'
'Allene Gunn'	'Doris Ellis Pink'	'Hishi-Karaito'	'Little Man'	'My Choice'	'Sarah Lee Cannon'
'Alyson Pollard'	'Dorothy Copeland'	'Honey Bee'	'Little Poppy'	'My Ernestine'	'Sheila'
'Angel Wings'	'Douglas Potter'	'Hopkin's Pink'	'Little Ruby'	'My Louise'	'Show Time'
'Ann Day'	'Dr. Charles Thompson'	'In the Pink Var.'	'Little Susie'	'Myra D.'	'Splash of Pink'
'Anna Gramlin'	'Dr. Clifford Parks'	'In the Red'	'Lois Shinault'	'Myrtle A. Cannon'	'Sugar Babe'
'Anticipation Var.'	'Dr. Fred Lee'	'J. M. Haynie'	'Look Again'	'Nathan Humphrey'	'Sunsong'
'Aquarius'	'Dr. Lillian Hanchey'	'J. Morgan Sprott'	'Lucy Stewart'	'Var.'	'Swan Lake'
'Arch of Triumph', R & V	'Dream Time'	'Janet Clark'	'Mandalay Queen'	'Noble Pearl'	'T. C. Patin'
'Ariana Hall'	'Elegans Champagne'	'Jean Clare'	'Margaret Crutcher'	'Nola Firth'	'Tama Noura'
'Baby Face'	'Elizabeth Dowd Rose'	'Jean Pursel'	'Mary Golombiewski'	'Notre Dame'	'Tedesco'
'Bart Colbert Var.'	'Elizabeth Dowd Silver'	'Jeffrey Hood'	'Mary Love'	'Nuccio's Jewel'	'Terry Gilley Var.'
'Betty Ridley', R & V	'Evelyn Poe Blush'	'Joyce Connell'	'Massee Lane Var.'	'Nuccio's Pearl'	'Thirty Drops'
'Black Knight'	'Evelyn Poe Pink Var.'	'Julia Hamiter Blush'	'Maui'	'Nuccio's Ruby'	'Tiny Bell'
'Bob Hope', R & V	'Fallen Angel'	'Just Darling'	'Maxine'	'Ole'	'Tiny Princess'
'Broadwater'	'Fawn'	'Kathryn Funari'	'Melody Shepherd'	'Otto Hopfer'	'Todd Gilley'
'Bumble Bee'	'Featherly Touch'	'Kewpie Doll'	'Men's Mini'	'Peking'	'Tom Thumb'
'Campari'	'Flamenco Dancer'	'Kim MacGowan'	'Mi Linda'	'Petite Rosine'	'Tomorrow Park Hill'
'Cap'n Brooks, Var.'	'Flaming Youth'	'Kishu-Tsakasa'	'Ming Temple'	'Pharaoh'	'Pink'
'Capricious'	'Flo-Adrian'	'K. O. Hester'	'Miss Adeline'	'Pink Doll'	'Trinket'
'Capt. Rawes'	'Florence Kirby Var.'	'La Sandra'	'Miss Bess'	'Pink Jewel'	'Tonya'
'Chang's Temple'	'Flossie Goodson'	'Lady Ann'	'Miss Lucy'	'Pirates Gold', R & V	'True Echols'
'Charlene Lee'	'Four Winds'	'Lady Laura'	'Miss Tintytot Princess'	'Polly Heaton'	'Valentine Day Var.'
'Cinnamon Cindy'	'Fragrant Pink'	'Lady Velma Var.'	'Miss Tulare'	'Purple Gown'	'Valley Knudsen'
'Confetti'	'Fran Homeyer'	'Lasca Beauty'	'Moody Bozeman'	'Raspberry Delight'	'Veiled Beauty Var.'
'Confetti Blush'	'Full House Pink'	'Laura E. Greggs'	'Mrs. D. W. Davis'	'Raspberry Ice'	'Very Cherry'
'Coral Delight', R & V	'Garden Glory'	'Leah Homeyer'	'Descanso'	'Red China'	'Wendy'
'Cornelian'	'Gee Homeyer'	'Lerling'	'Mrs. Marion Mayfield'	'Rob Roy'	'William Jackson', R & V
'Cornelia Walden'	'Golden Gate'	'Lion Head'	'Mrs. Paul Gilley'	'Royalty', R & V	'Zing'
'Descanso Mist'	'Gone Again'	'Little Dixie'	'Mrs. R. L. Wheeler'	'Ruth Seibels'	
'Desire'	'Helen Boehm'		'Pink'	'Sandy Sue'	

GROUP NO. 3—\$1.00

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'Alberta Marie'	'Clark Hubbs', R & V	'Glen 40 Special'	'Leonora Novick'	'Mrs. R. L. Wheeler'	'Sugar Daddy Var.'
'Allie Habel'	'Commander Mulroy'	'Grace Albritten'	'Little Slam', R & V	'Nashville'	'Susan Johnson'
'Amabel Lansdell'	'Crimson Robe'	'Granada', R & V	'Lulu Belle'	'Neal Armstrong'	'Susan Shackleford'
'Ann Swinton'	'Debbie'	'Grand Prix'	'Luscious Lady'	'Nuccio's Gem'	'Susan Terzian'
'Anne Jackson'	'Diddy's Pink Organdie'	'Grand Slam'	'Magic City'	'Omega'	'Suzy Stone'
'Apollo 14', R & V	'Dixie Knight Supreme'	'Gus Menard'	'Man Size'	'Pago Pago'	'Taffeta Tutu'
'April Lynn Poe'	'Donation'	'Gwenneth Morey'	'Margaret Davis'	'Pat Nixon'	'Tali Queen'
'Arthur Gayle'	'Doris Ellis'	'Harriet Bisbee'	'Margaret Weems'	'Pearl's Pet'	'Tamzin Coull'
'Barbara Colbert'	'Dorothy James'	'Hawaii'	'Margaret Wells'	'Pink Extravaganza'	'Taylor's Perfection'
'Bea Rogers'	'Dr. J. V. Knapp'	'Holly Blades'	'Mark Alan', R & V	'Pink Frost'	'Teen Age Queen'
'Benjo'	'Drama Girl Var.'	'Honeyglow'	'Maroon & Gold'	'Pink Magic'	'Thelma Dale Blush'
'Betty McCaskill'	'E. G. Waterhouse Var.'	'Howard Asper', R & V	'Martha Norwood'	'Pink Smoke'	'Thomasville Beauty'
'Betty Sheffield Coral'	'Easter Morn'	'In the Pink'	'Mary Agnes Patin'	'Premier', R & V	'Tick Tock Blush'
'Betty Sheffield Dawn'	'Ed Combatalade'	'Ivory Tower'	'Mary Beth'	'Ragland Supreme'	'Tiffany Var.'
'Betty Sheffield Dream'	'Eddie Gilley Var.'	'Jackie Mann'	'Mary Boyce'	'Ramona'	'Tinsie Var.'
'Betty Sheffield Supreme'	'El Dorado'	'Jennifer Wright'	'Mary P. Taylor'	'Rena Swick Var.'	'Tiny Me'
'Betty Sheffield White'	'Elegans Splendor'	'Jerry Wilson'	'Mary Paige'	'Richard H. Clere'	'Titirangi'
'Black Lace'	'Elegans Supreme'	'Jerry Wilson Pink' & Var.'	'Mary Taylor Blush'	'Richard Nixon'	'Tom Cat Var.'
'Black Tie', R & V	'Elizabeth Dowd'	'John Taylor'	'Mary Taylor Pink'	'Rose Parade'	'Tom Knudsen'
'Blond Betty'	'Elizabeth Haynie'	'Johnny Reb Pink'	'Mcvey's Nuccio'	'San Dimas'	'Tomorrow Crown Jewel'
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'Bon Bon Blush'	'Ella Ward Parsons'	'Judge W. T. Ragland'	'Memento'	'Sarah Alice Ruffin'	'Tomorrow Park Hill'
'Bon Bon Red'	'Elsie Jury'	'Julia Wilson'	'Midnight'	'Scotty Forbes'	'Tomorrow's Queen'
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'Carter's Sunburst Var.'	'Fire Chief', R & V	'Kitty'	'Miss Lu Ann Var.'	'Silver Triumph'	'Twilight'
'Chameleon'	'Flame Var.'	'Kona'	'Miss Mandie Supreme'	'Silver Waves'	'Valentine Day'
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'Charlie Betties'	'Fran Mathis Var.'	'Lady Ann'	'Mouchang', R & V	'Snowman'	'Verna Halbert'
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Show Dates

(ACS Cooperative Shows)

Place, Location and Sponsor	Date
Columbia, South Carolina, (In conjunction with South Carolina State Fair), Mid-Carolina Camellia Society and S. C. State Fair Association	October 24-25, 1981
Washington, D. C., U. S. National Arboretum, Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley	October 31, 1981
Pensacola, Florida, Cordova Mall, Men's Camellia Club, Inc., (In Conjunction with ACS 32nd Annual Fall Meeting)	November 7-8, 1981
Savannah, Georgia, Men's Garden Club of Savannah	November 7-8, 1981
Fort Valley, Georgia, Masee Lane Headquarters of ACS, Middle Georgia Camellia Society	November 14-15, 1981
Greenville, Alabama, Greenville Camellia Society	November 14-15, 1981
Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Hattiesburg Camellia Society	November 14, 1981
Shreveport, Louisiana, R. S. Barnwell Art Center, 501 Fant Pkwy. Shreveport Camellia Society	November 14-15, 1981
Valdosta, Georgia, Garden Center, First State Bank & Trust Co., and Valdosta Camellia Society	November 21-22, 1981
Gulfport, Mississippi, Gulfport Area Camellia Society, Inc.	November 21-22, 1981
Charleston, South Carolina, First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 34 Broad Street, Coastal Carolina Camellia Society	November 21-22, 1981
Jacksonville, Florida, Regency Square, The Camellia Society of North Florida	December 5-6, 1981
Tallahassee, Florida, Lively Vocational-Technical School, 500 Appleyard Drive, Tallahassee Men's Camellia & Garden Club	December 5-6, 1981
Albany, Georgia, Midtown Mall, Men's Garden Club of Albany	December 5-6, 1981
Pineville, Louisiana, Twin City Camellia Culture Club	December 5-6, 1981
Slidell, Louisiana, Municipal Auditorium, Ozone Camellia Club	December 5-6, 1981
Brookhaven, Mississippi, Main Office of Brookhaven Bank & Trust Co. Brookhaven Camellia Society	December 5-6, 1981
Houston, Texas, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive, Houston Camellia Society	December 5-6, 1981
Gainesville, Florida, First Florida Savings & Loan Association, 515 N. Main Street, Gainesville Camellia Society	December 12-13, 1981
Moss Point, Mississippi, Merchants & Marine Bank, Moss Point Camellia Society	December 12-13, 1981
Panama City, Florida, Municipal Auditorium, Camellia Society of Panama City	January 2-3, 1982
Beaumont, Texas, Southeast Texas Camellia Society	January 9, 1982
Orlando, Florida, Colonial Plaza Mall, Camellia Society of Central Florida	January 9-10, 1982
Pensacola, Florida, Municipal Auditorium, Men's Camellia Club, Inc.	January 9-10, 1982
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Baton Rouge Camellia Society	January 9-10, 1982
Warner Robins, Georgia, Houston Mall, Middle Georgia Camellia Society	January 16, 1982
Ruston, Louisiana, Holiday Inn, Ruston Men's Camellia Society	January 16-17, 1982
Mobile, Alabama, Springdale Plaza Mall, Camellia Club of Mobile	January 16-17, 1982
Metairie, Louisiana, Lakeside Mall, Camellia Club of New Orleans	January 23, 1982
Dallas, Texas, Dallas Camellia Society	January 23, 1982
Fort Walton Beach, Florida, Santa Rosa Mall, Fort Walton Camellia Society	January 23-24, 1982
Aiken, South Carolina, Aiken Camellia Club	January 23-24, 1982
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, West Alabama Camellia Club, Inc.	January 30-31, 1982
Palos Verdes, California, South Coast Botanical Gardens, South Coast Camellia Society	January 30-31, 1981
Houma, Louisiana, Terrebonne Garden Club	January 30-31, 1982
Shreveport, Louisiana, R. S. Barnwell Art Center, 501 Fant Pkwy., Shreveport Camellia Society	January 30-31, 1982
Charleston, South Carolina, The Charlestowne Square Mall, Coastal Carolina Camellia Society	January 30-31, 1982
San Diego, California, Balboa Park, San Diego Camellia Society	February 6-7, 1982
Savannah, Georgia, Men's Garden Club of Savannah	February 6-7, 1982
Jackson, Mississippi, Plaza of Walter Sillers Building, Jackson Camellia Society	February 6-7, 1982
Birmingham, Alabama, Eastwood Mall, Birmingham Camellia Society, Inc.	February 13-14, 1982
San Mateo, California, Santa Clara Comm., Santa Clara Camellia Society	February 13-14, 1982
Columbia, South Carolina, Columbia Mall, Mid-Carolina Camellia Society and Columbia Mall Association	February 13-14, 1982
Tyler, Texas, Citizen's First National Bank and Tyler Camellia Club	February 14, 1982
Redwood City, California, Veterans Memorial Building Peninsula Camellia Society	February 20-21, 1982
Fort Worth, Texas, Fort Worth Camellia Society	February 21, 1982
Waycross, Georgia, First National Bank, Federated Garden Clubs of Waycross, Inc. and First National Bank	February 24-25, 1982
Moraga, California, Campolindo High School, Delta Camellia Society	February 27-28, 1982
Monroe, Louisiana, Northeast Louisiana Camellia Club	February 27-28, 1982
Chattanooga, Tennessee, Eastgate Mall, Chattanooga Camellia Club	February 27-28, 1982
Fayetteville, North Carolina, Fayetteville Camellia Club	February 27-28, 1982
Charlotte, North Carolina, Sheraton, Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte (In conjunction with ACS 37th Annual Meeting)	March 4-6, 1982
Macon, Georgia, Macon Mall, Middle Georgia Camellia Society	March 6-7, 1982
Bakersfield, California, Aram Adams Memorial Gardens, Kern County Camellia Society	March 6-7, 1982
Concord, California, Willows Shopping Mall, Northern California Camellia Society	March 6-7, 1982
Sacramento, California, Convention Center, Sacramento Camellia Society	March 6-7, 1982
Fresno, California, Fashion Fair Mall, Central California Camellia Society	March 7, 1982
Modesto, California, Gallo Administration Building, Modesto Camellia Cavalcade	March 13-14, 1982
Nashville, Tennessee, Lawn and Garden Fair, State Fairgrounds, Middle Tennessee Camellia Society	March 13-14, 1982
Santa Rosa, California, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma County Camellia Society	March 28-29, 1982
Washington, D. C., U. S. National Arboretum, Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley (In conjunction with ACS 33rd Annual Fall Meeting)	October 30-31, 1982
Fort Valley, Georgia, Masee Lane Headquarters of ACS, Middle Georgia Camellia Society	November 13-14, 1982

—ACS—

FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE ACS

November 6-8, 1981	Pensacola, Florida
March 4-6, 1982	Charlotte, North Carolina
October 29-31, 1982	Washington, D. C.
February 10-12, 1983	Dallas/Forth Worth, Texas

The Nation's Capital and Camellias

ARTHUR A. MARYOTT

The historical background regarding camellias grown in Washington metropolitan area during the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth centuries is meager and poorly documented. There is a report that a few scattered plants of *C. japonica* were growing outdoors in the District of Columbia around the turn of the century, with at least one dating back to about 1860 and still living in 1954 (1). This report also states newspaper accounts in Baltimore indicate that there was an active camellia organization with about four hundred members in that city in 1847. Records show that camellias were used at entertainments at the White House for various administrations during the nineteenth century. It is likely that these were grown in local greenhouses since greenhouse culture was common in the cities of the northeast.

The revival of interest in camellias which began in the south during the 1930s did not have much impact here until after World War II. The prevailing impression was that camellias generally were not adaptable to our cold winters. Several nurseries and other organizations deserve much of the credit for counteracting this impression. Many of the camellias now growing the gardens in Bethesda, MD, a northwestern suburb of Washington, dating back 30 years or more and owe their existence to the early plant sales of the Glenwood Road Garden Club aided by Ed and Lucy Tolson. Hill's Camellia Gardens in Arlington, Virginia, and later Stadler's Nursery in Silver Spring, Maryland, also introduced many *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* cultivars that bloomed and grew well. In 1949 a number of *C. sasanqua* were planted on the grounds of the National Arboretum under the supervision of Dr. Francis De Vos who was Deputy Director at that time. This collection grew rapidly into several hundred plants consisting of about ninety cultivars and soon became a featured attraction at the Arboretum. In 1954 the collection of *C. japonicas* was initiated. This collection now contains well over three hundred cultivars including a number of species and hybrids as well as some seedlings. These plantings did much to promote public interest in growing camellias. They demonstrated that the basic cold hardiness of both *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* was adequate to survive our usual winters without significant damage to plants, donated by Tom Dodd's Nursery, Semmes, AL.

In the spring of 1954 one of the local garden clubs, the Takoma Horticultural Society in Takoma Park, Maryland, included

a division for camellias in its annual show. Encouraged by the quality and quantity of blooms, one of the exhibitors, Milton Brown, took the initiative to call a meeting of camellia enthusiasts of the area. Thus, the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley (CSPV) was born on January 18, 1955 in historic Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, Virginia. Over one hundred people attended the organizational meeting and Brownie was elected the first president. In April the Society held its first annual spring show in cooperation with the American Camellia Society. About 400 blooms from 97 cultivars were displayed. In October the first issue of the *Newsletter* was published with John Koehne, Jr. the editor. By the end of 1955 membership in the Society had grown to 128. In the following year our sister society in Baltimore, the Pioneer Camellia Society of Maryland, was organized. The two societies have worked in close cooperation with each other ever since and share a common goal in encouraging the culture of camellias on the cold fringe of the camellia belt.

The CSPV grew rapidly in size and in the scope of its activities. Membership reached 200 by 1960 and has remained more or less at this level since that time. For the past twenty seven years the *Newsletter* has been a primary source of information for those growing camellias in colder climates. It has received both local and national awards of merit. Milton Brown became the second editor and served from 1961 to 1971 when he and Ann left the area for an assignment at the American Embassy in London. From that time to the present the *Newsletter* has been edited by Philip Ireland, who also manages to find the time to serve on the Board of Directors and as Chairman of the Horticulture Committee of ACS.

In the early days of CSPV there were quite a few greenhouse growers within about 200 miles north and south of Washington. For the most part, these protected camellias were bloomed out by the time of our show in mid-April. Therefore, beginning in 1957 a second show to be held in early March was added to accommodate these growers and to stimulate more interest in greenhouse culture locally. The CSPV then became the only society holding an ACS cooperative show just for underglass and protected blooms. Response to both shows was good. In 1960, for example, a total of 1669 blooms from 71 exhibitors were displayed at the Outdoor Show, whereas, despite heavy snows preceding the show, there were 450 blooms from 26 exhibitors at the Underglass Show. The spring show for outdoor blooms has been cancelled only twice in 27 years. The first time was in 1961, not because the winter had been too cold but because of an unseasonably hot spell that ended the blooming prematurely. In 1971

extensive cold damage to dormant flower buds led to cancellation. Most plants came through that winter, however, without serious injury.

Floral arrangements in accordance with the ACS schedule have been an annual feature of the spring show. Members still recall the remarkable success of our arrangers in the 1969-70 national contest—first place in all classes entered and Best Arrangement in Contest, First Runner-up, and Second Runner-up. The Society decided to avoid cancellation of any further shows if at all possible. The winter of 1976-77 was the worst since the CSPV was organized and almost all flower buds were killed or badly damaged. The spring show was held as scheduled but made non-competitive and supplemented by special displays, talks, and demonstrations on culture and propagation.

Eventually participation in the annual show for underglass blooms began to fall and in 1972 it was replaced by a fall show featuring *C. japonicas* treated with gibberellic acid and *C. sasanquas*. Over the years this show has averaged about 350 entries from approximately 30 exhibitors. The Eleventh Annual Fall Show will be held in 1982 at the time the Society hosts the Fall Meeting of the ACS in Alexandria, Virginia.

A major activity of the Society for many years was entering a camellia garden in the annual National Capital Area Garden and Flower Show in which up to 100 plants of cold hardy japonicas in full bloom were displayed. This show no longer exists but the Society enters a less elaborate exhibit annually at the National Botanic Garden. The CSPV has encouraged and contributed to various public plantings of camellias in the area. Best known, perhaps, was the planting of azaleas and camellias that the Society gave to the Corcoran Art Gallery located a few blocks from the White House. This planting was maintained in excellent shape for many years by one of our members, Royal Murphy, until he retired and left the area.

Any reference to camellias in Washington would not be complete without mentioning the contributions of Dr. John Creech and Dr. William Ackerman. Dr. Creech, while in charge of the Plant Introduction Station at Glen Dale (U. S. Department of Agriculture), made several plant explorations to Japan and other countries of the Orient in which he brought back camellia species and certain wild forms new to the western world. Some of these species, *C. fraterna*, *lucheuensis*, *rusticana*, have been used extensively by Dr. Ackerman and others in hybridizing studies. Dr. Ackerman's research is well known throughout the camellia world. He was recently made a Fellow of ACS in recognition of his basic study on interspecific hybridizing and species compatibility and his subsequent research on

Additional Judges Appointed

GEORGIA

Morven:

Howard D. Dumas

TENNESSEE

Nashville:

James S. Lively

Mrs. James S. Lively

TEXAS

Dallas:

Frank T. Bailey, Jr. (Nov.)

Houston:

Mrs. Alfus O. Johnson (Nov.)

improving fragrance, cold hardiness, and other characteristics of camellias.

There are advantages as well as limitations in growing camellias out-of-doors in the mid-Atlantic area. Diseases and insect pests appear to be less of a problem than in warmer climates of the camellia belt. Tea scale and camellia scale, especially troublesome in the south, do not survive our cold winters and any initial infestation will disappear in a year or two. Although there are scattered locations where wax scale is prevalent on certain trees and shrubs, it has not proved to be a significant problem with camellias. On the other hand, peony scale is a serious problem. It is persistent, highly cold tolerant, and rather inconspicuous particularly in early stages of infestation. Peony scale evidently first got a foothold in some of our local greenhouses and later spread to outdoor plantings. On small and intermediate sized plants this scale can be controlled by cygon painted full strength on the main trunk and branches. Although questions have been raised about this method of application, the author has treated both container-grown and outdoor plants extensively without noting any harmful effects. For large plants the most effective way to eliminate peony scale appears to be drastic pruning followed by cygon treatment.

Dieback caused by the fungus, *Glomerella cingulata*, and characterized by the distinctive bark canker is rarely observed on plants that have been growing here for several years. This observation applies to both container-grown and outdoor plants. It is not unusual, on the other hand, to find dieback on plants recently acquired from southern growers. It seems likely that the fungus is not very prevalent and that those cases of dieback are usually associated with prior infection.

The most serious disease, flower blight, is caused by the fungus *Sclerotinia camelliae* Hara and commonly occurs in spring and late winter in the southeast and west

coast. In past years flower blight has not been evident on outdoor plants in this area, an observation based mainly on close examination of the blooms at the mid-April shows. In view of the fact that many of the older plants were obtained from areas later found to have had petal blight, this result is rather unexpected and suggests some incompatibility with our blooming period. In 1981, however, symptoms strongly suggestive of petal blight appeared on scattered blooms from both Maryland and Virginia suburbs. As yet no positive identification of the pathogen has been made.

Despite our hot and often dry summers, camellias ordinarily require little, if any, attention during this period. The heat moderates in time and the clay soil holds moisture well. The sustained cold of winter has both its good and bad points. Plants become dormant during the winter months and usually during the latter part of autumn and do not bloom at this time. Significant cold damage to established plants is quite infrequent. On the other hand, new plants can be slow to acclimate and may need extra, artificial protection for several winters. The blooming season for *C. japonicas* is short and centered around the month of April. So-called early blooming varieties, such as 'Daikagura', 'Debutante', and 'Yohei Haku' produce few blooms before the onset of cold weather and the flower buds are not sufficiently cold hardy to give good results in the spring. Most varieties of *C. sasanqua* do bloom earlier and give a good display before cold weather sets in. Exceptions are late bloomers like 'Mine-No-Yuki'.

If the cold weather comes gradually so that plants have hardened off, most cultivars of both *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua* can withstand temperatures around 0° F. without significant damage to the plants. Flower buds of many *C. japonicas*, especially semi-doubles or simpler flower forms, are also undamaged by brief periods of comparable temperatures. Severe winter damage and loss of plants has occurred only one during the 30 or more years that camellias have been extensively grown here. This was the winter of 1976-77 which was exceptionally cold over a long period (ca. six weeks) and also very dry. The ground froze deeply and plants became extremely dehydrated. Many *C. sasanquas* were killed, including much of the old established planting at the National Arboretum. *C. japonicas* fared better but there was considerable damage to plants and some loss of plants. For example, the seven choice specimen plants of 'Ville de Nantes' at the Arboretum were killed back to the understock.

Treating camellias with gibberellic to promote early blooming has proven worthwhile. The advantages, however, are more limited than in warmer climates except, of course,

for plants growing in greenhouses or other protected structures. Many cultivars of *C. japonica* do not respond rapidly enough to bloom before cold weather sets in. For those that do respond the season is usually very short and confined to two or three weeks in October and early November. The best response comes from the early blooming varieties. This is unfortunate since these varieties are not satisfactory under normal conditions and are not grown extensively out-of-doors. Since 1967 members of CSPV have been gibbing the japonica collection at the Arboretum, which does contain many early blooming varieties. Results have been good and have complemented nicely the autumn display of *C. sasanquas* each year.

It is evident, in conclusion, that fringe areas such as ours would greatly benefit

from a real breakthrough in cold hardiness. Population growth and younger families with gardening space are concentrated in the outlying suburbs which are exposed and cold enough to discourage growing the camellias presently available. Also needed are hardy hybrids with *C. japonica* quality flowers that will bloom consistently as early as the *C. sasanquas*. It is of interest to note that research towards both of these goals is in progress under Dr. Ackerman at the National Arboretum.

LITERATURE REFERENCE CITED

- (1) M. G. Coplen, "About Some Old Camellias in Washington", *Newsletter of the Camellia Society of the* (1956); *ibid.* No. 7, p. 2.
Potomac Valley, Vol. II, No. 6, p. 4

—ACS—



Front Cover Camellia

MAYOR WEBB HART

The beautiful camellia 'Mayor Webb Hart' is a *non-Reticulata* hybrid in unusual fuschia pink with 24 large petals in 7 rows. It is a fine outside growing camellia. It is named for Mayor M. W. Hart who has been active in public life for many years serving on the Police Jury which runs St. Tammany Parish. In 1978 he was elected Mayor of Slidell. He has helped steer this area through its growth as one of the fastest developing in the whole U.S.A.

"Webb," as he is familiarly called by all, is friendly and helpful. A good family man he and his wife and 4

sons are very fond of camellias and lend their support to help in every way to promote camellia shows and camellia culture.

The Hart's son, David Alan Hart, was the Consort for the lovely camellia show and festival in Slidell last December. His picture with the Queen of Camellias, Suzanne Plauché Hautot, was on the May 1981 issue of *The Camellia Journal*.

—ACS—

Growing Camellias In The Norfolk Area

C. C. MASON
Norfolk, VA

In order to give true understanding of our camellia garden, we will start at the beginning, November 1945. At that time, neither my wife nor I had any idea what a pretty camellia was. However, one of the large nurseries here was called in to re-landscape our home. In the landscape plan was one camellia plant about five years old called "Tricolor (Siebold) Red". In the spring of 1946, this plant had several nice blooms on it and John Gettle persuaded us to let him take a bloom to Suffolk to a show. That bloom was voted second best flower in the show. That did it! From then on, I thought that I had to have them all. Very shortly after that (several

years) our lot of 100 by 100 feet was full of camellias and azaleas. Our mistake was buying and grafting varieties that were not cold hardy. So since about 1955, we would cut down and graft on everything that did not produce good flowers. Today, 1981, I am still doing the same thing.

Naturally our stock has improved to the point where 95% of our plants, about 400, are cold hardy and produce flowers of show quality. Our plants average about 3 feet apart and with severe pruning and air-layering, none is over 5 feet tall and there is room to walk between them. We have found that with severe pruning by air-layering, our plants are kept under perfect control. You really cannot truly appreciate a flower if you have to look up to see it.

Camellias must have semi-shade. Our garden is covered with pine trees which gives us a four inch mulch of very essential pine straw. Our professional sprayer does a good job, and we have no scale. During blooming

season, we pick up the blooms twice daily. Four shallow wells give us plenty of water and our overhead sprinklers run almost continuously during June, July and August.

Our fertilizing program is very simple: a moderately heavy application of 8-8-8 immediately after blooming and a light application of 0-14-14 first week in June. We have a program in Virginia Camellia Society of members fixing air-layers. These are sold later by the Society. In our garden, I air-layer about 900 every year which helps me in my pruning program.

After heart trouble in 1968 and retiring in 1975, the camellias have truly kept me alive. If anyone reading this wants a list of our cold hardy varieties, we will be glad to send it to him.

To name a few, the following are very cold hardy: all the 'Betty Sheffield' family, all 'Tomorrows', 'Carter's Sunburst' and kin, 'Drama Girl', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Charlotte Bradford', and 'Thelma Dale'. We also have about

50 formal doubles that do real well, and about 50 hybrids that do fairly well. We also have about 75 miniatures that stand the cold hardiness test.

For our fall flowers, we "gib" August 20 to September 10. For our spring flowers, we "gib" December 25 to January 10.

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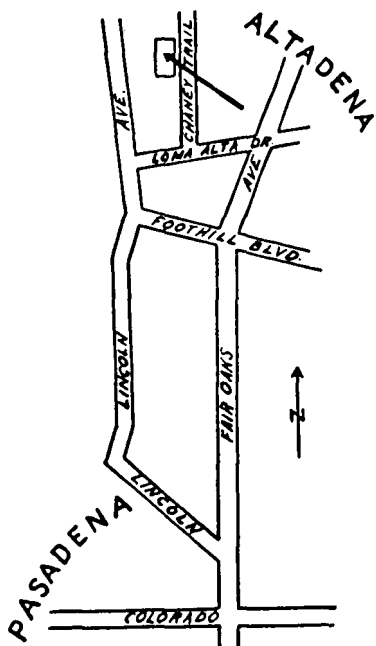
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GROWING CAMELLIAS OUTDOORS IN PIEDMONT CAROLINAS

ALLEN W. KEMP
Mooresville, NC

Growing camellias outdoors in the Piedmont Carolinas presents many problems, but there are many advantages. An outside grower should consider the advantages and also the problems, and then make up his mind whether he wants to attempt it. There is just no way that you can obtain show quality, greenhouse type blooms, on outdoor grown plants in this area. *You can get good blooms by careful selection of varieties and proper care.* One of the distinct advantages of outside grown plants is the *beautiful plant* that you get all year round, un-crowded, well shaped—a *thing of beauty!*

Piedmont Carolinas is a fairly large crescent shaped area across the two states, bounded on the west by the foothills of the Appalachian mountain range, and on the east where the rolling area begins to flatten out, on the north by Virginia, and on the south by Georgia. The climate is moderate with winter temperatures between 25 and 50 degrees F, with occasional dips to the lower teens or even lower. Summer temperatures vary between 70 and 90 degrees F. with occasional variations. Spring and fall are out of this world! Average rainfall is about 45 inches, reasonably well divided.

In selecting varieties for this area, there are early bloomers such as 'Hight Hat' and 'Daikagura' which bloom in the fall and are practically free from cold damage. There are also late bloomers such as 'Pink Champagne', 'Duchess of Sutherland', 'Kumasaka', and 'Mathotiana', which do not usually open their blooms until most of the cold weather is over. Then there are the mid-season bloomers which catch the brunt of the cold weather, but even these have their importance. If the

weather warms up for just a few days, their buds will immediately start opening up, and what is nicer than going out in the yard and finding a pretty camellia bloom in mid-winter? There are also varieties such as 'Lady Clare' and 'Governor Mouton' that occasionally open a bloom or two all season long (from fall to spring), but save the bulk of their blooms for spring.

There are also the *Camellia sasanquas* which should not be overlooked. They bloom in the fall. Cold damage in Piedmont Carolinas is practically nil. Beautiful plants and beautiful flowers. Their only drawback is the fact that the blooms do not last as long as other camellias. Do not sell them short, however.

The varieties of *Camellia japonica* are almost unlimited, and who could tell someone which ones to purchase. A plant that does real well for one, may not do at all well for another. Camellias seem to have a mind of their own. My long time choice of four is as follows, and I grow over one hundred varieties: 'Lady Clare', 'Governor Mouton', 'Kumasaka' and 'Duchess of Sutherland'.

Camellias require a well drained and porous soil. In our area, the addition of sand or perlite to the soil is needed to make the soil porous enough. Peat moss or leaf mold will make it soft.

The old saying, "Dig the hole twice as wide as the ball, and twice as deep" is excellent advice. Fill the hole with the above mixture, and pack it down well so that when the plant is put in the hole, the top of the ball will be about one inch above the surrounding soil. Pack the mixture around the ball. Water thoroughly. Cover with mulch. Keep moist, but do not overdo watering.

The optimum time for planting is November and December. The reason for planting at this time is that

the roots continue to grow all winter and by spring, they are well established enough to sustain the plant in the hot and dry weather. Camellias can be planted much later in the season, but you will have to spend more time in watering, and you will not get nearly the amount of growth for the first year.

Camellias will do their best under thinned out pines where they will get filtered sunlight. They like some shade. They can even be grown in full sun, however most varieties do better in part shade. They can be used effectively in foundation plantings or as specimen plantings, or in mass plantings.

To keep these plants healthy requires some spraying, but not a great deal. The major pest is scale. I spray early in the spring and late in the fall with a combination of Cygon, Captan, and Benlate. Other spraying is done during the growing season as need arises. I sometimes paint a band of Cygon around the trunk near the ground to control scale.

The best time to fertilize is just after the peak of the blooming season. Use an azalea-camellia fertilizer that includes trace elements. A good additive would be cottonseed meal, provided it is not included in the fertilizer. Use a moderate amount. Repeat in about 30 days in a decreased portion. Do not overdo your fertilizer program.

Pruning is not a big problem with camellias. The main idea is to clear out the centers so that air will circulate through the plant. If you let the foliage get too thick, you are inviting trouble with scale and other insects. Prune immediately after the blooming period.

Very few growers of outdoor camellias use gib. This is a mistake. It is not so effective on outdoor plants as it is on greenhouse grown plants, but it can be used on outside plants to a definite advantage. If you select the early or early-to-medium varieties and gib them in August or as early as you can distinguish the bloom bud from the growth bud, you

can get a lot of good blooms in October or early November. This is a bonus!

It is my opinion that every grower of camellias should learn to propagate some of his plants. It does something to you, and I suggest some of these propagation methods: seeds, air-layering, ground-layering, cuttings, and grafts.

After all is said and done, there are two main reasons for growing camellias, love and more love. A third is joining the American Camellia Society.

The following camellia varieties have performed exceptionally well for me: 'Berenice Boddy', 'Daikagura', 'Debutante', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Duchess of Sutherland', 'Governor Mouton', 'High Hat', 'Kumasaka', 'Lady Clare', 'Mathotiana', 'Pink Champagne', 'Pink Perfection', 'Rev John Drayton', 'Ville de Nantes', and 'White Empress'.

—ACS—

Horticulturally Speaking

(Prepared by the Horticulture Committee)

WINTER AND SPRING

As noted in previous "Horticulturally Speakings" one of the occupational hazards in preparing camellia care suggestions and recommendations for the winter and spring seasons for *The Camellia Journal* is the difficulty of the Committee members, working in the weather usually prevailing in July and August in the camellia belt, to concentrate on conditions existing in the coming winter and spring.

Nevertheless, here are some ideas and recommendations which, we hope, will be of interest and service to the readers of the *Journal* during the coming months.

OVERWINTERING

To camellia growers in the North East and in some sections of the mid-Atlantic states, winter care for outdoor camellias is basically that of insuring the survival of the plants during the winter or, in the language of the U.S.D.A., of a successful overwintering. Success may come in one of two methods but more probably in a combination of the two: concentration on growing proven cold-hardy plants and of providing extra-special care of the plants.

The former imposes limitations on the scope of varieties which may be grown, notwithstanding the fairly long list of hardy varieties based on the experiences of the Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley, of the Pioneer Society of Baltimore, and other societies, and of the development of cold resistant hybrids, as 'Frost Queen' and 'Frost Prince' developed by Dr. William Ackerman.

Growers naturally wish to have the beautiful blooms of plants which are not cold-hardy. Such growers, willing to gamble against great odds, must use all available means to bring their plants through the winter, including protection of the plants from strong winds and the sun. Some growers have used burlap windbreaks, others have used electric light bulbs under burlap. Still others have tried misting their plants with water on the hope that the slight film of ice would prove to be protective. All have had varying degrees of success. More effective has been a method which some CSPV members have used. This has been to surround plants not over 3½ feet in height, with cylinders of chicken wire mesh, loosely filled with leaves, preferable oak leaves.

Some North East growers have successfully used for their plants in containers an overwintering method already practised by commercial garden growers. This involves covering the containers lying on their sides, with the front of a container resting on the container in front, with styrafoam sheets, covered in turn by sheets of plastic, painted white. The edges of the whole are weighted down by earth. This is done in late November and it is not uncovered until middle or late March. For readers wishing more information, a business sized SASE sent to the Committee Chairman, will bring it. (Also, see Kitty and Bill Ackerman's article elsewhere in this issue.)

For growers in more temperate climates, winter can be a period of comparatively relaxed cultivation except for preparing for the late January and February shows. Thus, James McCoy of Fayetteville, N. C., outlines the winter care of his outside camellias: "My outside camellias get no winter care. They just do their thing. I never water outside camellias, winter or summer and I don't gib outside buds. I don't prune, spray, fertilize, or disbud during the winter months. Mulching has already been taken care of. I spend more time on my outside plants in the spring than at any other season. But I don't make a fetish of it even then."

MOISTURE

Although camellias in most growing areas require less water in winter than at other seasons, they should go into the cold season well watered. North East growers, as related in earlier columns, have learned to their sorrow, that outdoor plants entering

winter without adequate moisture fare badly in prolonged periods of freezing. Growers with sandy soil as well as those growing plants in containers, both outdoors and in greenhouses, will want to inspect their plants throughout the winter for moisture requirements.

In spring, camellias will require increasing supplies of moisture, accompanied by adequate drainage.

MULCHING

The subject of mulching has been stressed in earlier "Horticulturally Speaking" and these columns covering winter and spring will be no exception. Mulch, increased for the winter, can help in maintaining soil at an even temperature, in keeping down weeds, in preserving moisture, and in creating humus by its deterioration. The kind of mulch is a matter of its availability and individual choice.

Some growers believe it to be advantageous to pull the mulch back slightly from the trunks of the plants in winter to permit the bark of the trunk to dry and to prevent freezing of the bark and consequent splitting.

FEEDING

The Committee is aware that most growers of camellias evolve and adopt an individual pattern for feeding camellias, indoors and outdoors. Many growers, however, observe the dictum that in climates where new growth cannot be hardened in time to withstand damage from freezing weather, feeding should fall off as winter approaches. Thus, Harold Rambath of Sacramento comments that for him and fellow growers in northern California "the winter season starts with the last feeding in the fall . . . usually a non-nitrogen fertilizer such as 0-10-10 . . . applied in October in northern California after the 15th when the weather has cooled." In other parts of the camellia belt the date of the last feeding may vary from the middle of August to late October.

SPRING

As spring approaches, feeding begins again for outside plants. Many growers have found cotton seed meal-with or without the admixture of a commercial fertilizer as experience has proven the addition to be useful. Some exhibitors have found that feeding during blooming enhances the colors. Others hold off feeding until the blooms are finished. Thus James McCoy writes, "Immediately after blooming, I start to work. (on the outside plants) I fertilize, but I use no special fertilizer. I just use 8-8-8, the same thing I use on the lawn. There is no way of estimating the amount to use. On a well established plant four feet tall, I would probably throw about two hand-fuls of fertilizer around the plant. A little

more for a larger plant and of course less for a smaller plant. A camellia that has been planted out for less than two years I would not feed at all".

With regard to greenhouse plants, McCoy says, "Last year . . . I used only cotton seed meal because I had become convinced that my considerable plant loss every year was due to over fertilization. I did not have nearly the number of fatalities the past year, so I will continue to stay away from commercial fertilizer except for foliar feeding in the winter. I do apply a small amount of cottonseed meal, perhaps a tablespoon to a 3-gallon container every two months, beginning in March. Sometime in the spring I will give them a shot (like pepper on an egg) of FRIT. This is the trade name for a minor elements mixture manufactured in Alabama. I might not wind up with any 8-inch blooms . . . but the plants remain healthy and my plant loss will be small.

Dr. "Bif" Berridge of Fort Walton, Fl., comments on his feeding program, "I use Nursery's Special (12-6-6) plus cotton seed meal. First feeding is after blooming; second and third feedings about two months apart. I take pH reading and adjust original feeding to maintain a 6.5 pH level. I have used this for two years. It is well to water plants before and after fertilizing."

In this connection, growers, in the view of the Committee, would benefit if they took the pH reading of their soil frequently, correcting it with Dolomitic lime if too acid and some form of acid producing element if too alkaline.

It appears that more and more growers are turning to slow release fertilizers, such as Osmocote, not only because it is proving a satisfactory fertilizer but also because the slow release aspect relieves the grower from a considerable degree of effort. Thus Harold Rambath confesses that he relies heavily on Osmocote because it has proved to be a satisfactory feeder but also because it saves his back.

SPRAYING

To most successful growers, one of the spring chores to be taken seriously is that of spraying against pests in general and against scale: tea, wax or peony. Some growers find the oil sprays—Volck or OIL-1-CIDE to be effective against scale on outside plants if the opportunity to use a spray comes before the temperature hits 85°-90°. Others have found Malathion and Cygon useful against scale and as a general spray. Thus, Louis Squyres of Tyler, Texas uses both OIL-1-CIDE and Cygon 2E in his spraying program.

Still others have found that painting an inch wide band of undiluted Cygon around the trunk near the ground level does the job.

(Continued on page 21)

TENTATIVE AGENDA—ACS ANNUAL MEETING CHARLOTTE, N. C., MARCH 4-6, 1982

THURSDAY—MARCH 4

- 9:00 A. M. - 8:00 P. M.—Registration (Lobby—Sheraton Center)
- 2:00 P. M.—ACS Board and Committee Meetings
- 2:00 P. M.—Busses leave Sheraton Center for escorted tour to Cannon Mill's Fashion Shoppe and the Cannon Museum.
- 8:00 P. M.—Opening session of Convention.
Featured speaker: Dr. Kevin J. Soden
Subject: "CAMELLIAS—AN ALTERNATIVE TO STRESS"
- 10:00 A. M. - 2:00 P. M. &
4:00 P. M. - 6:30 P. M.
Hospitality Room Open

FRIDAY—MARCH 5

- 8:00 A. M.—Registration
- 7:30 A. M.—No-host continental breakfast in Convention Center Lobby.
- 8:30 A. M.—Shuttle busses leave for *Southern Living* Show at the Charlotte Merchandise Mart.
- 11:00 A. M.—Busses return from *Southern Living* Show
- 12:00 Noon—Buffet luncheon at Sheraton Center
(Included in registration fee)
- 1:30 P. M.—Camellia Seminar with panel of Camellia experts. (You MUST attend this session to qualify for TV sets!)
- 2:45 P. M.—Break (coffee, soft drinks)
- 3:00 P. M.—Second Session of Seminar
- 6:00 P. M.—Cocktail Party (No host)
- 7:30 P. M.—"TARHEEL TEARDOWN"—Sheraton Center featuring Carolina country ham, grits 'n red-eye gravy, black-eyed peas, and all that good eatin' you find in Tarheelia!! Appalachian cloggers perform! *Very* casual dress—bring your overalls!
- 10:00 A. M. - 12:00 Noon &
4:00 P. M. - 6:00 P. M.
Hospitality Room Open

SATURDAY—MARCH 6

- 1982 Men's Camellia Club Annual Camellia Show. (The show will be held at Eastland Mall, one of the South's finest shopping malls. Shuttle busses will run from the Sheraton Center to Eastland from 11:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M.)
- 9:00 A. M.—Registration
- 7:30 A. M.—No-host Continental Breakfast
- 1:00 P. M. - 4:00 P. M.—Complimentary Deli-buffet luncheon.
Have lunch to fit your schedule!
(Included in registration fee)
- 6:00 P. M.—ACS President's Cocktail Party
- 7:00 P. M.—ACS Convention Banquet.
Featured speaker will be Dr. Tom Haggai, one of America's—and the world's—most requested speakers.
Nationally broadcast radio commentator on "Values for Better Living," and a Tar-Heel by choice!

Although Men's Camellia Club of Charlotte began in 1953, this is our first opportunity to welcome all of you to Tarheelia. We remember the great times we've had in your city at past ACS conventions—East Coast, West Coast, or in between. So we know we have a lot of "catchin' up" to do. We'll try awfully hard to please you.

Historically in Tarheelia we have worked hard. But we play hard, too! So we've included in your visit a trip to a famous Tarheel textile manufacturer's fashion shop—to see what hard work can produce. And at the "Tarheel-Teardown" you can get a first-hand look at how hard we play.

With the exception of the Camellia Show, all convention activities will be at the new Sheraton Center, on Independence Boulevard. It's easy to find and has plenty of free parking.

Bring your blooms. Refrigeration will be provided.

So don't wait. Now's the time to mail your reservations. Y'all come on down to "Tarheel Territory," for the best bloomin' time of your life!

REGISTRATION FEES (per person)

On or before Feb. 1, 1981 After Feb. 1, 1981

Full Convention	\$90.00	\$95.00
Friday & Saturday Only	75.00	80.00
Saturday Only	50.00	55.00

—ACS—

(Continued from page 20)

Thus, James McCoy comments on this method, "I can do all my plants in a fraction of the time spraying would take. I can even use full strength Cygon on small seedlings, just touching the pencil or match stick size trunk with a cotton swab on a stick. I am very sure that I have never hurt one by doing this and they are kept clean of scale."

The Committee Chairman has used this method but counsels that care should be taken in choosing the brush with which to apply the Cygon. Some synthetic bristles are completely solidified by the pure Cygon.

In connection with the use of Cygon on camellias, Dr. C. D. Scheibert of Nashville, Tenn., has raised the question whether growers generally have noted the directions on the Cygon 2E manufacturer's label and conformed to them: "Do not use on ornamental stock plants grown as a source of

(Continued on page 39)

Photograph Contest Winners

We were pleased at the response to our Contest, but disappointed that there were no entrants in Category II, black-and-white pictures. We asked the Cosmopolitan Camera Club of Portsmouth, Virginia to judge our entries. This is a most active club made up of both professional and amateur photographers, many of whom are top prize winners in state and national competition.

The Secretary of the Club wrote, "The slides were judged strictly on photographic quality since our judges were not qualified to consider the technical aspects of camellia blooms. There were no entries in Category II (black and white glossy prints). So the judges decided to select first, sec-

ond, third, fourth and fifth in Category IA considering the large quantity of slides submitted. In Gregory IB first and second place winners were selected and in Category IC only one was chosen since the number of slides submitted was so limited." After listing the winners, he said, "It was a pleasure viewing the slides and we congratulate your winners. We were impressed with the overall quality of the slides in Category IA, and we thank you for allowing us the privilege of judging your slide competition. Yours truly, James A. Henkel, Secretary."

Mr. Henkel in an informal letter wrote in part, "Cat. IA was quite different, however, and we had a difficult job deciding on them. There were many good shots and here are some of the reasons we had for selecting them. No. 1, sharp focus, fitted the frame with the subject, great background, plenty of zip and impact and, all in all, a very, very good flower slide. No. 2 had all of the above but because of the flower being cut off a little we did not think it was quite as good. No. 3 shows originality, bloom is perfectly placed for impact and the Oriental figure compliments the bloom and vice versa. No. 4, pretty bloom, nice sharp focus, well exposed and the background did not detract and the frame was well filled with the subject. No. 5 shows imagination and planning to present a little different slide, bloom is in sharp focus but is ½ to 1 stop under exposed. However, as you know this should produce a very good print for your publication."

The winners are:

Category IA (Slides of Individual Bloom)

First Place Winner: 'Clark Hubbs' by Gary Schanz

Second Place Winner: 'Dr. Clifford Parks' by Gary Schanz

Third Place Winner: 'Mathotiana Supreme' by Lois Boudreaux

Fourth Place Winner: 'Premier Var.' by Marion S. Edwards

Fifth Place Winner: 'Kick Off' by Lois Boudreaux

Category IB (Slides of Bush or Bushes in Bloom)

First Place Winner: 'Charlean' by Gregory E. Davis

Second Place Winner: 'Simeon' by Lois Boudreaux

Category IC (Slides of Gardens Showing Camellias in Bloom)

First Place Winner: Boudreaux Gardens by Lois Boudreaux

We add our congratulations to those of the Cosmopolitan Camera Club for the outstanding slides sent as entries. We will have the set of slides made available to local, state or regional societies for a program.

—ACS—

In Memoriam

CAROLINE COLE

Caroline (Mrs. Boynton) Cole died suddenly on August 2. Caroline and Boynton have been members of ACS since 1949 and both were Life Members. Caroline was very active for many years in assisting to put on the outstanding camellia shows in Atlanta and for years she has greeted the thousands of people who came to the annual camellia show at Massee Lane Headquarters.

Caroline will be sorely missed by her host of friends in and out of the camellia societies. She is survived by her husband, Boynton of Atlanta, GA, a daughter, Caroline Cole Gordy, and her five children in Columbus, GA.

ERNEST O. AYCOCK

Ernest O. Aycock of Smithfield, N. C. died on July 26. Ernest and his wife, Sadie, have been members of ACS for over 20 years. He was also active in the Fayetteville and North Carolina Camellia Societies, having served at one time as President of the North Carolina Camellia Society.

Ernest was honored in 1976 when he was made an honorary member of the Royal Horticultural Society, an honor said to have been given to only 200 during our Bicentennial year.

He is survived by his wife, Sadie, of Smithfield; two sons, Sam of Morganton, and Tom of Smithfield; two sisters and two grandchildren.



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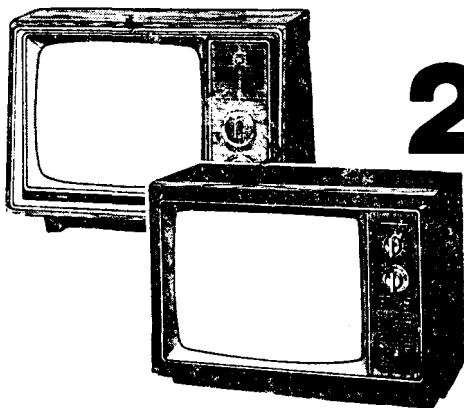
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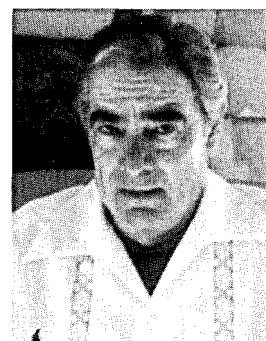
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GROWING CAMELLIAS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

LUTHER W. BAXTER, JR.

Camellias have been grown in South Carolina for literally hundreds of years, particularly at Middleton Place and Magnolia Gardens. They are adapted to all sections of the state with the exceptions of the high mountainous parts of the three north-west counties. Whether a person has one camellia or hundreds, the principles of camellia culture are the same. *The objective of this article is to reassure prospective new camellia enthusiasts that camellias are easy to grow and they are long-lived plants that will provide years of enjoyment.*

Selecting the Site

Camellias do best in partial shade such as that provided by a pine canopy. They do not perform well under dense shade provided by hardwoods (dogwood, oak, hickory, etc.). Another good location is on the north side of a building (home, garage, etc.). Poor drainage can be a problem which encourages root rot caused by the soil borne fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. Camellias need good soil drainage and medium shade for best performance.

Conditioning the Soil

Before the plant is purchased, the soil should be tested for mineral composition and pH. A pH of 5.5 to 6.5 provides good growing conditions for most plants provided the soil composition is satisfactory. Any soil can be conditioned by the application of sand, peat and bark (or similar materials). A good method is to use a rototiller and plow the soil deep where the plant is to be set. Then sand, peat, and bark should be added and rototilled thoroughly into the soil. By adding about 4 gallons of each of these materials, the soil is built up. The plant can then be set so it is slightly higher than the surrounding soil which will provide good drainage. The soil under the plant should be tamped so that the plant does not settle.

Selection of the Plant

Most camellia cultivars do well in the South Carolina Coastal Plains and along the coast. In the Piedmont, however, the singles and semi-doubles do better than the formal doubles. For the beginner in the Piedmont the following cultivars are recommended: 'Adolphe Andusson', 'Betty Sheffield', 'Donckelarii', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Drama Girl', 'Julia France', 'Debutante', 'Governor Mouton', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Lady Clare', 'Pink Perfection', 'R. L. Wheeler',

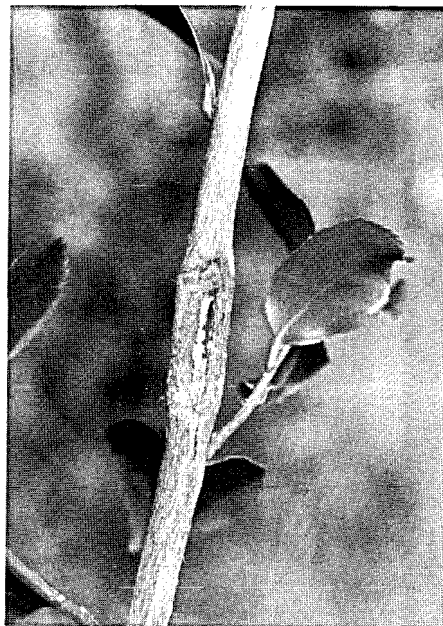


Figure 1.

'Reg Ragland', 'Ville de Nantes' and the hybrid 'Donation'. For the beginner along the coast and in the Coastal Plains, the following can be added to the above list: 'Alba Plena', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Elegans', 'Magnoliaflora', 'Mathotiana', 'Sawada's Dream', 'Snowman', 'Tiffany', and 'Tomorrow'.

The plants should be healthy and vigorous, free of cankers (Figure 1). An excellent, vigorous cultivar (variety) with which to start is either 'Lady Clare', 'R. L. Wheeler' or 'Guilio Nuccio'. These cultivars bloom well, they have beautiful green foliage, they are vigorous, and they are cold hardy.

Another consideration that will help to insure success is to purchase grafted plants when possible. Most *C. japonica* cultivars are susceptible to root rot caused by the soil-borne fungal pathogen, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. The *C. sasanqua* cultivars are tolerant to this root rot disease and by grafting a *C. japonica* cultivar, such as 'Guilio Nuccio', onto a *C. sasanqua* cultivar, such as 'Setsugekka' or 'Maiden's Blush', this problem (root rot) is largely avoided when adequate drainage is provided as mentioned earlier. Figure 2 illustrates a plant suffering from root rot. Note the nonaffected *C. sasanqua* growing in



Figure 2.

with the root rot affected *C. japonica* plants. (Figure 3) Generally it is characterized by sparse yellowish foliage, and poor growth. It is sometimes difficult to distinguish between root rot and other problems, such as acute mineral deficiency, improper irrigation, and cankers at the base of the plant caused by the fungal pathogen, *Glomerella cingulata*.

Time of Transplanting and Care of the Camellias After Planting

The most critical issue, after selection of the cultivar and site has been made, is proper (thorough and continued) irrigation. The new plants have roots which are either pruned severely (balled and burlapped plants) or else they are very restricted because of being grown in pots. The time required for the roots to grow out and become widespread throughout the soil is years, not days, weeks, or months. The best time to transplant camellias and other plants in South Carolina is either during the October-November period, or the spring period, February-March. Regardless of the time of transplanting, special watering is critically needed, at least



Figure 3.

weekly, during the interval May 1 through October 31 for a minimum of two years. Personally, I water all newly established camellia transplants twice weekly and each time I give them a liberal application. **REMEMBER**—the new transplants have a *very restricted root system*. For the first year or even longer, the roots are essentially the size and shape of the pot from which they came. During dry, hot, windy times, the plants should be watered twice weekly.

Propagation

Camellias can be propagated from seeds, cuttings, or by grafting. Plants originating from seeds do not breed true and thus a seedling of 'Guilio Nuccio' will not necessarily have the characteristics of its parents.

A. Seeds—Seeds should be collected in the fall (September for *C. japonica* and October for *C. sasanqua*) and placed in sand. One way is to place the sand in gallon cans and to add about 25 seeds per can. Allow these seeds to stay in the cans until about May the following spring and transplant them singly into 1-gallon containers which are filled with a sand-soil-bark-peat mixture (1-1-1-1 by volume). Apply a soluble fertilizer such as Peter's 20-20-20 soluble as needed.

B. Cuttings—Make the cuttings in August and place them in 1-gallon cans con-

taining sand, 25 per can. Score the lower end of the stem on one side and then dip in Hormodin/3. Add one level tablespoonful of benomyl (Benlate) per 1-gallon container of sand and mix thoroughly. These are then transplanted when needed (anytime from November until the next May). Cuttings should be taken from healthy plants, free of scale and mites. Experience reveals that *C. sasanqua* cuttings root easily (about 95 to 100%) while some *C. japonica* cultivars root poorly.

C. Grafts—Grafts can be done inside greenhouses during December if the temperature is maintained at about 70 F. Grafts can also be made out-of-doors during late February and early March in the Piedmont and earlier along the coast. Healthy scions and understock are essential. Dip all scions in a benomyl suspension (one level tablespoons of benomyl per 2 gallons of water) for 30 minutes. Using the cleft graft method, it is preferable for the understock (*C. sasanqua* or *C. oleifera*) to be about the size of a lady's little finger. Scions can be purchased from several sources which are advertized in *The Camellia Journal*. Consult various articles in the *Camellia Yearbooks* on grafting techniques.

Fertility

Fertility is essential for young plants because of their small root size and slow development in the soil. Add a good slow-release fertilizer, such as 16-4-8, to young plants twice yearly, the first time about 21 March, and the second time on or about 21 June. *Do not overfertilize young plants*. One level tablespoonful per plant in year-old plants is adequate. More fertilizer is required for larger plants. Some people prefer to add a third application on or about September 21 but in this case one should use a fertilizer with a composition such as a 0-10-10, 0-15-15, 0-20-20, etc. That is, do not use a fertilizer with nitrogen in it either for fall or winter fertilization. Remember that fertilizers have to be in solution before they can be taken up by the plant, so proper irrigation is essential for adequate nutrition.

Pruning

Remove dead branches, stems with cankers, weak branches and lower limbs during the fall, winter or spring. Keep the branches thinned out so that plants can be sprayed more easily for the control of scale insects, aphids and mites.

Mulching

A mulch of pine needles or bark applied to bare soil under camellia plants is recommended. This makes picking up fallen flowers

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and shattered petals easier and helps to conserve moisture and keep the roots cool. It also aids in irrigation since it helps to prevent runoff and erosion.

Insect and Mite Control

Scale insects, aphids, and mites can be very destructive. Generally, insecticides or pesticides are necessary for their control. Aphids can be controlled with the same treatment that provides controls for scale on camellias (camellia scale, tea scale, peony bark scale) such as acephate (Orthene)—1½ tablespoonsful/gallon, malathion—2 teaspoonsful/gallon, or dimethoate (Cygon)—2 teaspoonsful/gallon.

Mites can be controlled with dicofol (Kelthane), 1½ tablespoonsful/gallon. Treat when mites are first noticed and again five days later. Repeat as needed. Dicofol is not systemic and therefore some of the material must either come in contact with the mite at the time of spraying or leave an adequate deposit so that when the mite walks across the leaf, it will get a sufficient dose to kill it. Dicofol does not kill eggs and thus a second application is advisable within about 5 days so that the young mites will be killed by contact with dicofol before they mate and the female lays eggs.

Weed Control

All vegetation should be removed from the soil under the camellia plants. To make this practice easier, prune off the lower branches so that removal of vegetation can be easily accomplished. Camellias are regularly grown with many other ornamentals nearby such as azaleas, daphne, cleyera, roses, etc., all of which are sensitive to herbicides. Therefore, we recommend a hoe and a lawn mower for weed and grass control. By keeping down all vegetation under plants, sanitation is more easily accomplished and air drainage is improved. As will be evident later, sanitation is important for the control of flower blight caused by the fungus, *Ciborinia* (= *Sclerotinia*) *camelliae*.

Disease Control

There are three major diseases of camellias in South Carolina; root rot caused by the soil borne fungus, *Phytophthora cinnamomi*; dieback and canker caused by the fungus, *Glomerella cingulata*; and flower blight caused by the fungus, *Ciborinia* (= *Sclerotinia*) *camelliae*.

A. *Root rot*: This disease is controlled in one of two ways: (1) the use of resistant understock, such as *Camellia sasanqua* or *C. oleifera*, in which desired cultivars can be grafted, or (2) provide excellent drainage for the plant; excellent drainage prevents fungus development. Following proper cultural practices during planting will help curtail the serious effect of root rot. The best practice is to

use grafted plants (*Camellia japonica* or *C. hybrid* scion onto *C. sasanqua* understock) and proper planting practices.

B. *Dieback and Canker*: This is a disease that primarily affects the woody part of the plant. All ages of wood are susceptible. The pathogen spreads from plant to plant by (1) splashing rain and (2) insects while the plants are wet. Crowding greatly encourages the spread of this pathogen (*Glomerella cingulata*). This fungus enters camellia stems through leaf scars and wounds where it either causes a canker or kills the entire stem if the camellia cultivar is susceptible. Humidity and rainfall are high in South Carolina which favors dieback and canker. The diseases are very serious during grafting, particularly when grafting is done in greenhouses. For control, soaking of scions for 30 minutes in a benomyl (Benlate) suspension (one level tablespoonful per two gallons of water) is recommended. We have had good success making the grafts during December in greenhouses maintained at a minimum of 70 F. The understock must be free of cankers. Add some of the benomyl suspension to the stock at grafting. The fungus is not transmitted through the seed so keeping the young seedlings away from diseased plants insures healthy stock for grafting. Cuttings should be taken from disease-free plants. Thoroughly mix one level tablespoon of benomyl per gallon of sand used for rooting cuttings. Dieback and canker can be managed satisfactorily but the above controls must be applied to avoid death of grafts and young plants.

C. *Flower Blight*: Since the camellia plant is grown primarily for its flowers, this is the most serious disease of camellias in the United States. It is caused by a fungus, *Ciborinia* (= *Sclerotinia*) *camelliae*. This camellia pathogen has been in South Carolina for over two decades but it is not universally present. If you don't have the disease, avoid bringing the pathogen into your garden (or into your community). This fungus attacks only flower petals; it does not affect leaves, roots, stems, or fruit. The fungus can survive several years as specialized organs (sclerotia) in or on the soil (at least 5 years). The fungus can only multiply on camellia flowers so if you pick up all flowers (including shattered petals) for 5 years, and your neighbors throughout the community do likewise, you can either eradicate the pathogen or, at least, knock the pathogen population down to a very low level. Other things which can be done are as follows: (1) Apply PCNB (Terraclor) to the soil in late December or early January as directed

(1 cup in enough water to thoroughly wet 100 square feet of soil); (2) apply black builders paper under the plants which will prevent spores (seed) of the fungus being discharged forcibly into the air and thus carried to open flowers; (3) spray the flowers with protective fungicides (now being thoroughly investigated by Dr. Gordon Holcomb at LSU); (4) use the above methods in combination. Camellia flower blight is a serious disease. Don't treat it lightly—*treat it thoroughly*.

—ACS—

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Deep in the South of Florida

D. D. HALL

Draw a latitudinal line from Tampa-St. Petersburg on the Gulf of Mexico to Vero Beach on the Atlantic. On the up side you have part of our country's camellia belt; on the down side, South Florida, a land as ripe today for camellia missionaries as darkest Africa was a century ago for Christian conversion by David Livingstone.

South Florida dreams of matching South Carolina and South Dakota some day with a state government all its own. Why? Its northern extremity is nearly three hundred miles from the capital city, Tallahassee, and its lower extremity, Key West, is six hundred fifty miles by road. But secession is actually remote.

The northern and central portions of Florida are great camellia country. One or two shows are held each year in Fort Walton Beach, Gainesville, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tallahassee and Pensacola. Conversely, South Florida has none, and the possibility of staging one seems almost as remote as secession.

This is unnatural habitat for camellias. Along the seacoasts the air is salty, and the interior is a broad, flat, semi-tropical expanse of sand, palmetto and everglades. The sand is as pulverized as dust; it is not light, permeable and aerated, and the pH is generally neutral, not slightly acid. Sun pierces the land all year, heats it in winter, and withers the vegetation in summer. Prevailing humidity may be good for plant life but it weakens humankind. Frost seldom occurs. Winter is most often dry, summer wet. When the rain comes, it rarely dribbles, it usually deluges. The growing season is long, permitting only brief dormancy.

The man on the street will tell you that you can't grow camellias. Newspaper garden editors back him up. We found one editor who agreed that a gardener might succeed if competent and truly determined, but he would not say so in his column for fear that most of those attempting this would prove incompetent and irresolute, consequently failing and blaming him. Nurseries don't stock camellias, except for one that sells no varietal names, just reds, pinks and whites. Anyone calling on a county agricultural agent for advice on camellia culture is doomed to disappointment.

The City of West Palm Beach boasts a three-acre horticulture and dendrology demonstration lot which is named Mounts Garden in honor of a former exception-

ally knowledgeable agriculture department head, but the poor condition of its few camellias would dishearten a potential grower. If old Mounts were still alive, we think the plants might be captivating and the tract rack in the adjoining headquarters would have at least one pamphlet on how to raise camellias. Furthermore, the efforts we made to lure someone in his department to talk and come-see our plants in bloom would not have turned out an exercise in futility.

Every word written so far belies our optimism as to the future of camellias in South Florida.

We spend two-thirds of the year in Maryland, raising camellias outdoors on the northern fringe of the camellia belt, and one-third in Delray Beach, between Palm Beach and Miami. There, again, the challenge to grow camellias where conditions appear unfavorable struck us hard. We began with seven plants in the winter of 1975-76 and five more the following year, all purchased from a Central Florida nursery. Two Florida members of A.C.S., Jay Ellis and Geddes Smith, gave us three more. All were planted a measured distance from sprinkler heads in the lawn which shower them for forty minutes three times a week. During our eight months absence, you see, survival depends upon Mother Nature and the automatic sprinkler system.

In '79 we acquired four more plants upstate and in '81 imported another four from California. Of these twenty-three, we have lost but two, a *C. japonica* (from tree root robbery) and a *C. sasanqua* (cause unknown). Still alive and producing are sixteen *C. japonicas*, one *C. reticulata*, four hybrids, one *C. sasanqua* and one *C. hiemalis*. We do a lot of gibbing from Thanksgiving through January and get good results within two to five weeks. Star performers have been 'Dr. Clifford Parks', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Mrs. Hooper Connell' (which made the honor court at the Orlando '79 show), Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Rosea Superba', and 'White Nun'. Our most sanguine expectations have been realized, and our neighbors appear admiringly envious. (The envy softens when we present them with lovely flowers not born of their sweat.)

The results we have obtained prove that South Floridians deeply desiring to grow camellias there can really do it, despite natural obstacles and the present lack of cultural information and publicity. The great need is for camellia fans everywhere to participate in the necessary missionary work.

The garden shops offer the materials for proper soil mixes, such as peat moss, pine bark, dried cow manure, perlite, vermicu-

lite, and sulfur. Safe fertilizer like cotton seed meal can be found if patiently searched.

A tougher job is to locate suitable planting sites. Protection is needed against a burning sun and against thieving tree roots which rob nutrition from the ideal camellia setting. Because the region is flat and very close to sea level, and tree roots don't want to rot, they avoid thrusting deep. They prefer spreading outward near the surface and far beyond their own drip lines. Hence, when a plant site is chosen even beyond the drip line of a shade tree, it becomes advisable to circle the bush annually with a sharp long-bladed spade to sever invading roots.

Although the semi-tropical climate brings fifty percent more rain to South Florida than the national yearly average, the soil leaches badly; and weeds are prolific. So, heavier feeding and mulching is recommended than in other states. And, when rain fails and there is no automatic sprinkling, regular hosing by faithful gardeners becomes a must.

Thus it is clear that camellia growers to be successful in South Florida should have both the know-how and those characteristics stemming from love of the flower which consist of enjoyment of challenge, devotion to work, and perseverance in the face of difficulty. These attitudes are not prevalent in the local population, presumably because native shrubs generally thrive on inattention. Dig a hole, stick a plant in the ground, nature does the rest. However thousands who have never been able to rely solely on nature have been moving into the area. Many of them like the oleanders and ixoras which everyone has but also want something different and more exciting. They will spend TLC on camellias if "the yen" can be instilled.

We had an exhilarating experience this past spring, owing to our first visit to the recently opened Morikami Park at Delray Beach. Three quarters of a century ago when land six miles inland from the beach could be bought for a song, a Japanese immigrant farmer settled there. His land holdings gradually increased to a thousand acres. He died a very wealthy man, bequeathing two hundred acres for public use, now operated by Palm Beach County as its ninth park.

In appreciation of the source, a Japanese-style house has been erected as a museum surrounded by a small garden of similar inspiration. About three dozen 1-to-3 ft. camellia bushes have been planted in almost full sun. A nice tribute, yes; but what an unfortunate site selection!! There was just one thing we could do: seek out the person in charge and suggest improv-

ing the situation. Believe it or not, the man in charge turned out to be as pleased as punch to receive our call.

The camellias had been planted by a landscape contractor on order of the museum board and our new friend had suddenly been confronted with the duty of upkeep, having had no experience with this genus. He had looked in vain for helpful publications and was itching for information. So he beat a path to our door to see what we were doing. It was truly fulfilling for us to find someone so eager.

After ninety minutes of questions and answers and a completed A.C.S. membership application, he left with enthusiasm to rejuvenate the Morikami camellias. We anticipate seeing good results on our return to Delray Beach this winter, if the County Department of Parks and Recreation has been able to retain so promising a young man on its staff.

In February 1979 we and the Frank Teutons of West Palm Beach were significantly honored by the U. S. National Arboretum to which Congress more than fifty years ago assigned the task of research and education with respect to plant and tree life. Together we were entrusted with two dozen well-rooted cuttings of interspecific hybrid camellias developed at the Arboretum by crossing Southeast Asian cultivars of the *C. miyagii*, *C. kissi*, *C. oliefera*, *C. rusticana* and *C. sasanqua* species. The objective was to test them for heat resistance outdoors on our respective properties and to render progress reports. In consideration of space limitations, the Halls took ten plants and the Teutons the remainder.

In the subsequent twenty-eight months, eight of our own ten have prospered while two have not survived for reasons unknown. Progress reports have been submitted regularly, using the code numbers by which the several varieties of hybrid were recorded at the Arboretum, no varietal names having been assigned. To illustrate, the Arboretum had shipped eleven crosses of *C. Sasanqua* x *C. Kissi*. Four of them were clones of the same variety within the two species. All four were coded 9-252. Then there were two clones of a different variety of the two species, both clones coded 9-253; and five more of a third variety coded 9-255. The Halls got two each 9-252's and 9-255's, and one numbered 9-253; the Teutons, the rest.

We did not collude in preparation of the periodic reports, yet a striking similarity appeared, enough to form a basis on which the authorities at the Arboretum could declare a variety of interspecific hybrid, *C. Sasanqua* x *C. Kissi*, to be resistant to extreme heat and light intensity. The variety 9-255 was chosen to be recommended for

cultivation in the warmest parts of the U.S.A On August 12 the Arboretum registered this new camellia with the American Camellia Society under the name 'Two Marthas', thus appropriately recognizing the valuable part played in the testing project by Martha Teuton and Marsha Hall.

Someone should warn ooleanders and ixoras and all indigenous South Florida flowering shrubs to prepare themselves for the close competition almost certain to follow the propagation and distribution of this beautiful new hardy camellial

—ACS—

Slide Programs Available 1981-1982 Season

Our program of upgrading slides and slide programs has continued apace and we have several key interesting ones available for use in programs of local, state or regional camellia societies or garden clubs or service clubs. We list requests as received—first-come-first-served basis. The slides are sent First Class Mail about ten days prior to your meeting. We ask that they be returned First Class Mail the day after your meeting as we often have a waiting list for the programs.

We have two color movies available also. These are available for a set fee of \$15.00 because of their cost and the cost of handling and postage. These must be returned Insured Mail, of course. They are:

1. *Camellias in Aiken*, 16 mm, sound, about 28 minutes in length.
2. *The Boehm Experience*, 16 mm, sound, about 25 minutes in length.

For the slide sets listed below in the number we list them we have been forced to ask for a *donation to The American Camellia Society to cover the increased costs* of handling and postage and duplication of slides. The donation should be enclosed with the slides when they are returned. All slide sets are sent with a text. The numbered sets of slides follow:

3. "Hybridizing is Fun", 40 slides plus a text.

4. *Camellias For the Garden*, about 60 slides.
5. Illges, Sewell, Harris, Peer and SCCS Award Winners, about 90 slides.
6. *Diseases*, about 30 slides with text by Dr. Mullen.
7. *Potpourri of Massee Lane*, about 80 slides of interesting things to see at Massee Lane.
8. *Award Winning Artistic Arrangements*, 40 to 80 slides as requested.
9. *Gibbing*, about 20 slides with three timely articles and diagram.
- 10-A. *Grafting: Cleft Grafting and Cutting Grafts*, 23 slides and two articles and diagrams.
- 10-B. *Grafting: Cleft Grafting and Grafting the Big Ones*, 40 slides and two articles and diagrams.
11. "The Judges Have Spoken", about 60 slides of varieties at 1978-79-80-81 shows.
12. *Newest Varieties*, about 60 slides. This set is constantly being updated as new slides are received.
13. *Camellia Families*, about 70 slides showing offspring of well known camellias.
14. *Camellia Personalities*, about 40 slides showing well known camellia growers, past and present.
15. *Camellias in the Antipodes*, about 50 slides of Australia and New Zealand flowers, plants and people.
16. *American Camellia Society Hall of Fame*, slides showing the camellias named in the ACS newest award.
17. *Camellias in Other Media* (prints, paintings, stamps, wood, etc.), 60 slides with text.
18. *The Stamp Day Ceremony in Fort Valley depicting scenes of the "happenings" at the High School and at Massee Lane*. About 60 slides with text.
19. *Winners and other entrants in the ACS Photograph Contest in 1981*. About 40 slides.

GROWING CAMELLIAS OUTSIDE IN NORTH LOUISIANA

G. F. ABENDROTH

In order to be successful in any undertaking, whether it be running a multi-million dollar plant, a plantation, drilling an oil well, coaching a football team, or growing camellias, one must have a system or game plan. I have tried to do this with my camellia patch and would like to summarize my game plan as follows:

SELECTION OF SITE

The first step is to select a site which is suitable for growing camellias. Broken shade is essential because camellias do not like direct sunlight as roses do. They also need to be protected from wind because the bloom will become damaged by brushing against leaves and branches during blooming season.

Furthermore, it is my feeling that camellia plants are susceptible to the chill factor in cold weather the same as we are; that is to say, one can withstand much colder weather in a protected area than when exposed to high winds.

Drainage is very important because camellias cannot live with their roots standing in water during a wet season. They should be planted on the side of a hill where excess water will run off. In areas where the ground is flat the bed should be built up 10 to 15 inches above the ground level to allow proper drainage.

PLANTING

A soil mixture that will allow water to seep through slowly is necessary. A good mixture of one-half partially decayed pine bark, one-fourth top soil, and one-fourth coarse sand is recommended. We are fortunate in northwest Louisiana to have plenty of pine bark available.

A hole should be dug 12 inches larger than the diameter and six inches deeper than the height of the plant's roots. Fill the hole with the above mixture to where the top of the plant's roots will be two to two and one-half inches above the ground level. Then fill in around the roots

with the mixture. Place two to three inches of pine straw or bark over the soil mixture as a mulch before watering.

FEEDING

My feeding schedule is simple. All a plant needs is nitrogen for foliage growth, phosphate for bloom bud development, and potash. The potash serves as a catalyst to make the nutrients available to the root system. Some trace elements are also needed.

For nitrogen I use Rapid Grow (23-19-17) in the spring right after the last freeze. The Rapid Grow is mixed one pound to 45 gallons of water and applied to the foliage using a regular lawn spray. About one gallon is applied to a small two year old plant, two to three feet high; two gallons applied to a four year old plant, four to five feet high; and three or four gallons to larger plants.

Cottonseed meal is applied every three months; in January, April, July, and October. One good size handful is applied to a two to three year old plant, two to three feet high; two good handfuls to a four year old plant, four to five feet high; and three to four handfuls to larger plants. The cottonseed meal is raked into the pine straw mulch before watering in order to prevent it from caking. Cottonseed meal is slow in breaking down; therefore, the plant is fed every time it rains or is watered. Also, you cannot burn a plant by overfeeding with cottonseed meal as I have done using commercial fertilizers.

Carl Pool BR-61 (9-59-8 + trace elements) is used starting in May when bloom buds start forming and is applied every month through December. Carl Pool is a water soluble granular fertilizer similar to Rapid Grow and is applied in the same manner (see above) except I use one pound to 30 gallons water. This gives the plant sufficient phosphate.

For potash I use the wood ash removed from my fireplace and mix it with my April cottonseed feeding; by volume one part wood ash to six parts cottonseed meal.

Almost everything I use for my camellias (except the wood ash) tends to decrease the pH of my soil. Therefore, I use dolomitic lime to counteract this when needed. A pH of six to six and one-half is most desirable.

PRUNING

Pruning is one phase of growing camellias that helps produce good blooms and is an area often overlooked by camellia growers. I think it is more important than a good feeding program.

When I started growing camellias I was told that I should prune 25 to 30 percent of the foliage each year. I just laughed because I knew that there was no way that I was going to cut my little new plants back that much. However, with my feeding program the plants grew rapidly and within three to four years had grown above my head. The high bloom buds could not be gibbed nor could the blooms be protected or cut properly. I then realized that I had to start pruning.

At first I cut the top of the plant off about shoulder high. I soon found that this was not the right thing to do. The new growth buds that formed where the branch was cut off resulted in healthy, vigorous growth and would grow above my head within a year or two.

Based on this experience I now prune the lowest large branches as close to the main trunk as possible. New growth buds develop around the wound. I let them grow and thin them out one year later leaving the best two or three branches. At the same time another large low branch is cut off. This process is repeated each year and in three to four years I have all new growth beginning just above the ground.

After a large branch is removed, all small unhealthy branches of the remaining plant are pruned to where air can circulate freely through the branches.

I inspect each branch when it is

cut off. If the center, or core, of the branch is brown I continue to prune back further until a good healthy center is reached. A brown center indicates dead tissue which could be caused by a number of things such as dieback, canker, or cold weather.

I sterilize all of my pruning tools with a solution of two tablespoons Benlate per gallon of water. Using a sponge and rubber gloves, each tool is wiped off after pruning each branch. This prevents the spreading of diseases from one part of a plant to another and from plant to plant. Each wound caused by pruning is painted with a stronger solution of Benlate.

I start pruning in the spring as soon as a plant is bloomed out and try to be through by April 15. After the growth buds on the plant slip and start growing in the spring, I prune my plants further by snapping off growth buds leaving only two or three on each small branch.

I try to shape a plant by removing the new growth buds that will interfere with one another when they grow larger. On a healthy plant approximately 50 percent of the buds will be removed in this manner. Snapping off growth buds at this time makes for good growth on the buds that remain. The strength of the branch intended for the six or seven original buds is now available for the two or three buds that are left. Each growth bud not needed and removed more than likely eliminates a bloom bud that would have to be removed later. In addition, it eliminates a

small branch that would have to be pruned the next spring.

DO'S AND DON'T'S

I start disbudding about August 1. Of the bloom buds that will ultimately be removed, I begin by removing one-half of them and then two weeks later remove the remaining half. I also continue disbudding periodically because there are a number of varieties that will set new buds until the first of December or later.

I start gibbing the first week in September and gib regularly every week or 10 days until every bud has been gibbed.

The plants are watered regularly using a sprinkler system. When the humidity is low, the sprinkler system is turned on five to ten minutes after dark, just enough to wet the foliage. This will keep the humidity high all night.

All blooms that fall off are picked up regularly and the stem from which it falls is cut off behind the third leaf, or further back.

Isotox is used for insect control when needed (two to three times a year).

Oil-I-Cide is used as a preventive measure for tea scale each year in the spring.

For the past four years I have painted the trunk of my camellia plants with Benlate to combat dieback. I use a mixture of one part Benlate to one and one-half parts water and apply it with a brush, like whitewash, to the trunk of the plant from the ground up six to eight

inches. It seeps into small cracks and crevices on the trunk eventually treating the entire plant systemically.

Each plant is painted periodically, particularly during March, April and May. During these months scars caused by old leaves falling and growth buds slipping are more numerous and provide wounds susceptible to infection.

Crawling insects are prevented from spreading to diseases to these wounds because when they crawl up the trunk of the plant through the dried Benlate, any spores on their feet or body will come into contact with the Benlate and be destroyed.

I started out on approximately 25 plants that were almost lost and saved about one-half of them. This success prompted me to start treating every plant in my yard. As a result, dieback has practically been eliminated in the past four years.

—ACS—

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The New Orleans Camellia Scene

WILLIAM F. LAROSE

New Orleans, LA

CLIMATE

When we compare New Orleans winter climate to some others in the Camellia growing areas we must say that it is mild. The average winter temperature is 58.6 degrees and normally we experience very few hard freezes. Our summer temperature normally averages 81 degrees.

We do however have many days when frost is heavy enough that plants grown without any protection (natural or lath) will have damaged flowers.

We are very fortunate however in that we enjoy a very high normal humidity which enhance the blossoms. The average humidity for winter being 62.5% and summer 53.5%.

SOIL

Some sections here enjoy very fine soil conditions. This condition is the result of sand pumped in from Lake Pontchartrain which provided wonderful drainage when added to the natural humus present in that particular area. Other sections are so poor for planting that the clay type soil must be removed and a proper mixture put in its place. Even so most plants in these particular areas are raised somewhat above ground level because although the soil may now be conducive to good growth the water table is high and can be a problem.

Many gardens that have Camellias are raised somewhat as a result of this water table level.

RAINFALL

Normally our rainfall is abundantly adequate. The winter monthly average being 4.50 inches and the summer 6.0 inches. For those whose plants are in the ground the need for watering is a sometime thing but container grown plants require much more attention. Since *our* plants are

all in containers and under a lath arrangement I am particularly aware of this constant attention. Being in a reasonably light soil, watering is a must at least 2 to 3 times weekly. We have finally realized how time consuming it has been and are now installing a watering system.

FERTILIZING

Fertilizing like watering is so very different for those plants in the ground and those in containers.

The most successful grower in New Orleans (in my opinion) whose plants are in the ground, fertilizes after blooming and only once again in early summer. Because we water our container grown plants so often we find it necessary to fertilize more frequently, hopefully once a month but in very small applications. We use a home made mixture that we have used for a long, long time. So long ago that I don't know who recommended it. For any one who is interested, this is its make up: 5 pounds cottonseed meal, 3 pounds phosphorus, 2 pounds potash.

—ACS—

MULCHING

We do not mulch any of our plants feeling that because we water often that it is not necessary. However, those in the area that do mulch use their own favorite material, particularly pine straw which is easily attainable and usually free.

SPRAYING-PRUNING

We have not found it necessary up to now to spray more often than once at the end of the blooming season. We have consistently used oil and made sure of a good application. However, we expect to use Cygon also this year as a second application just to test its efficiency against other reoccurring pests.

We have been very fortunate in that we have not noticed any petal blight in our yard. True, there are not many plants grown in our neighborhood but also to try and prevent its entry we do not allow blossoms to remain on the ground and any plants brought into the yard are mulched with crumpled newspaper which when wet forms a mulch and great seal to contain any spores so that they cannot infest any flowers and eventually it will eradicate itself.

Notes On Camellia Culture In Texas

ROSAMAY L. DAVIS

Houston, Texas

Second thoughts about a request to do an article on camellia culture in Texas prompted me to accept the challenge. My husband and I had just returned from Japan where we saw camellias thriving on Oshima Island in volcanic dust; in seeming neglect along the streets of Tokyo; and in pots set out along city sidewalks. Horticulturally speaking, I was ready to regroup. Perhaps interviews with successful area growers would provide the key to improved camellia culture in our own climate on the Gulf Coast. So I set about visiting growers in Houston, the Port Arthur-Port Neches area, and the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

Let's draw a line through Tyler, Texas southward through the Trinity River at the Gulf of Mexico. This is about 60 miles from Louisiana. Mrs. Temple Bowen reported the sentiments of many growers that this marks the western edge of the southern United States camellia belt. As we Houstonians drive into Louisiana or Mississippi to buy our

grafted camellias, the sight of roof-high *Camellia japonicas* growing happily beside abandoned shanties is not lost on us. Like Avis, camellia growers west of this line must simply try harder.

We will start in Houston where I visited three camellia growers. The C. E. Nadeaus (Chuck and Madelin), with 24 years' experience, grow most of theirs in (really *on*) the ground on a "standard size" city lot. Many are on the north side of the house where they enjoy protection in a plastic greenhouse assembled for cold weather from November to March. Mrs. Nadeau said that many of their best camellias grow on a raised mound under an oak tree without other protection. They grow grafted plants but claim the camellias on their own roots that are grown from cuttings or seeds are stronger. In this respect the Nadeaus are in a distinct minority with maybe one other grower. Currently, their interest is in propagation of these seedlings and cuttings. In the future the Nadeaus plan to grow more *C. sasanquas*.



Charles Zagst shows his 'Leucantha' on the raised mound. The plant was moved to Houston from Shreveport 30 years ago. (Photo by Greg Davis)

The C. O. Zagsts (Charles and Marie) are on an acre and a half fortunately situated on sandy loam soil in a pine forest. Almost all of their camellias are planted in the ground in *raised beds*. The Zagsts are now able to protect a portion of his collection by assembling a winter greenhouse for the *C. reticulatas*, the white bloomers and the less hardy varieties. They have several hundred of their collection attractively incorporated in the landscape with other plants. On a natural mound resides a spectacular 'Leucantha' about eight feet tall and eight feet across brought from Shreveport in a move thirty years ago. Zagst is also becoming more interested in *C. sasanquas*, especially mass plantings, as evidenced by his 'Yuletides', 'Pink Snows', and 'Shishi-Gashiras'. Like Nadeau and most all Texas growers, Zagst claims poor luck with *C. reticulatas* and *C. Reticulata hybrids*, the exception being 'Lila Naff'.

On an 85' x 120' lot, the Alfus O. Johnsons have a collection of about 200 blooming size plants: *C. reticulatas*, *Reticulata hybrids* and *C. japonicas* of all bloom sizes. Apparently suffering from Hulyn Smith's "Retic Fever", Alfus is doing more experimenting with "retic" culture and hybridizing than anyone in Texas. He keeps his "retics" in large clay or plastic pots that are under a pecan tree or on his shaded patio. Most of these are moved into his small greenhouse for winter protection. His collection of *C. japonicas* remains outdoors in containers or in pinebark-mulched beds raised some 8 to 12 inches.

Difficult weather is a problem we face growing camellias in Houston (indeed, in all of Texas). Last summer Houston and much of the Gulf Coast experienced six straight weeks of temperature over 100° F. with no significant precipitation. The problem was compounded by severe city watering restrictions. This last February a recording thermometer reading showed

72° F. at 4:00 P.M. one Tuesday. The following morning at 7:00 A.M. it read 21° F. This is a 51° F. drop in fifteen hours. Consider that these "blue northers" may hit several times during our winter, which is considered to exist from about January 1st to February 15th. True, most are not this severe, but there is usually fluctuation between shirtsleeve and light coat weather. More than once we have seen redbud trees bloom at Christmas only to be frozen back a week later. If we are confused about how to dress, the camellias are downright frustrated about when to bloom and put on growth. There is little beauty in brown-edged blooms fooled into opening too soon. Perhaps growers in other areas will understand better why most of us use gibberellic acid. We enjoy blooms in the fall before the freezes of late December.

If we have droughts, we may also have excessive rains. January and February can provide weeks of sunless days. Houston and Port Arthur are credited with annual precipitation averages of 45.95 and 53.09 inches, respectively (Texas Almanac, 1968-69).

Another problem for most of us in Houston is the *soil*, usually black, heavy gumbo. The advice of the Houston Camellia Society is "First, do NOT dig a hole". With the clay-like gumbo a hole acts like a wading pool and does not provide suitable drainage. We build beds up as high as possible. Many are using treated pine landscape timbers to shore up beds 4, 8, or more inches.

Our task is also to devise a *planting medium* that provides excellent drainage during rains yet does not dry out too rapidly in our droughts. Although the mix recommended by the Houston Camellia Society is a good one: 1/3 sand, 1/3 leaf mold, and 1/3 pine bark, I have yet to find a grower who uses it, including the Davises. The Nadeaus use 1/3 sand loam top soil, 1/3 sand, and 1/3 of their own compost with the addition of superphosphate and bone meal. The Johnsons use a mixture of finely ground, composted pinebark, with sandy loam top soil and sheep manure, to which he may add sand and cotton seed meal. On his lot with sandy soil Zagst manages to do nicely with nothing but a pine bark medium around his plants that are also placed high for drainage. The only firm agreement among these growers is that *mulch is very important*, especially in sunny areas according to Johnson. Whereas he uses pine bark, Nadeau and Zagst use leaves (mainly oak and pine needles). Charles Zagst, ever the entrepreneur, claims success with an occasional "six-pack" in obtaining leaves from garbage trucks of his 6" mulch.

With his more extensive collection of "retics", Alfus Johnson is one of the few Houston growers who prefer to keep their most important plants in containers. Over large decorator bark chips placed in the containers, he uses the same mix reported earlier.

To say the least, *fertilizing* programs in this area can differ greatly. Johnson bases his program on that of A. B. Abendroth, who reportedly claimed that if his plants died, the cause would never be starvation. In January and April Johnson uses cotton seed meal. In March he sprays with Miracle Gro. Monthly from May through the rest of the year BR61 is applied. He emphasized the importance of feeding consistently, a *little at a time to avoid over feeding*. In March and June Nadeau feeds a mixture of 3 parts cotton seed meal and 1 part a combination of manure, bloodmeal, superphosphate and bone meal. Later, if he must spray for pests, he includes some Rapidgro. Although Zagst has managed great blooms with "only a handful of cotton seed meal whenever he thinks about it", preferably every six weeks, he is now going with some BR61 and trying bloodmeal. (Dudley Boudreaux, whom we will meet in Port Neches, said he has not fertilized in 2½ years.)

Most local growers must rely on city water, chlorine and all. Yards I visited in Houston had ground and overhead sprinklers, except for the Johnson yard. For the present, a water wand and yard sprinklers are sufficient for his numerous container plants in his small back yard.



Alfus and Bertha Johnson stand in their raised beds. (Photo by Greg Davis)

Yes, the growers admitted having to deal with *pests*. When the question of insects was mentioned, the first response was



Harold Showalter of Port Arthur, TX showing 'Kramer's Supreme'. (Photo by Greg Davis)

invariably "Malathion for scale". This also takes care of aphids, a greater problem for the Davises. Zagst will also spray with Isotox. Occasionally he will paint affected branches with Cygon. Nadeau will spray with a Malathion-Diazinon mixture which also includes some trace minerals. Others in Houston hit scale with Oil-I-Cide. The only other pest mentioned was leaf rollers which Johnson dispatches most effectively by crushing them.

No one seems as confident in dealing with *dieback*. All will agree that this has been a bigger problem this year. Consensus is that the best remedy is simply to cut out the diseased portion and paint with a paste of Benlate. If dieback is too advanced or if one pruning does not help, then "sun the roots", as they say. Some of us are now trying Hulyn Smith's technique we heard recently in Mobile: Apply a Benlate paste to the damaged area then wrap the branch with foil and tape to seal it airtight. Chuck Nadeau reported the most innovative treatment learned from Bob Waters: Cut out the diseased part of the plant and apply *aloe vera* gel regularly. When he tried it once, Nadeau felt it was helping, but something prevented his continuing applications. I presume the plant was lost. Johnson reports spraying with Benlate (1 tablespoon to a gallon) and spraying with Cocide 101 in the spring every two weeks when new growth is appearing.

Pruning is part of everyone's camellia maintenance. Most do major pruning in the spring with minor pruning occurring all year. Alfus Johnson prefers to do all pruning in February and March before weather is really warm.

Houstonians grow mostly *C. japonicas*, some few "retics", and probably more *C. sasanquas* than we realize. Many tend to overlook the fact that *C. sasanquas* are part of the camellia family. I am glad to hear more interest developing in them. As a group they are credited with a root structure sturdier than that of *C. japonicas* and "retics" that enables them to withstand our more extreme conditions of drought or rain. There is almost unanimous agreement among Houston Camellia Society members that camellias perform better here grafted on the *C. sasanqua* understock (Exception: the Nadeaus). 'Apple Blossom' and 'Daydreams' are the preferred root stock.

Most camellia growers here claim to have poor luck with the "retics." Even so, they probably admit to having 'Dr. Clifford Parks' and 'Lasca Beauty', perhaps 'Lila



Dudley Boudreaux of Port Neches, TX among his collection of several hundred plants all about this size or larger. (Photo by Greg Davis)

Naff' and 'Valentine Day' also. Johnson claims good luck with 'Mouchang' and 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. I shall inject that the Davises find 'Francie L.', 'Milo Rowell', 'Chittagong' and 'Masse Lane Variegated' good outdoor plants.

Nadeau, Johnson, and Zagst reported the following *C. japonicas* to be good yard performers:

'Carter's Sunburst'	'Leucantha'
'Don Mac'	'Mathotiana'
'Fashionata'	'Mrs. D. W. Davis'
'Grace Albritton'	'R. L. Wheeler'
'Jeffrey Hood'	'Tomorrow'
'Kramer's Supreme'	

Traveling from Houston eastward 90 miles, we reach Port Arthur and Port Neches, adjacent cities just west of the Louisiana border. This area has about the

same average temperature as Houston, a fraction higher humidity, averaging 91% at 6:00 A.M., and about 7 more inches of rain per year with 51 inches. Port Arthur is 6 feet above sea level.

The Harold Showalters live in Port Arthur, which was the home of Tom Eagleson. Actually, with their gumbo soil on their city lot, their growing conditions are like most of ours here in Houston. The Showalters' yard has everything green that Noah (*sic*) might have plucked from the Garden of Eden if he had been there, and it is all growing spectacularly well. Their *camellia beds are raised high* with a topsoil and compost mix. In June these tree-shaded beds also contained over 1500 caladiums of all varieties planted among the camellias. Beds receive a yearly mulching of two to three inches of composted oak leaves and some fertilizer when the caladiums are removed.

After growing camellias for twenty years, the Showalters have several hundred plants, most of which are *C. japonicas*, and only those whose blooms do not shatter. All spent blooms are picked up from the yard. They also grow and root *C. sasanquas* of all kinds. Most of these are for grafting stock. Their favorite camellia varieties include 'Red Giant', 'Kramer's Supreme', the 'Betty Sheffields', 'Woodville Red', and the 'Tomorrow' family. 'Dr. Clifford Parks' and 'Lasca Beauty' are their favorite hybrids.

The Showalter *fertilizing* program includes the use of half cotton seed meal and half commercial fertilizer with high sul-



The Temple Bowens stand by their 'Eleanor Hagood' in their Fort Worth, TX garden. (Photo by Greg Davis)

phur and high phosphorus content. During the summer the camellias also enjoy foliar feedings that are meant primarily for the caladiums.

About ten miles away live the Dudley Boudreauxs in Port Neches. Their average-size city lot is a long block from the Neches River. Surely Mr. Clean and the Jolly Green Giant must be the yard men here. The Boudreauxs specialize in camellias and bromeliads. At four to eight feet of height, all of their several hundred camellia plants are in the ground outdoors in neat rows. When the beds were begun in 1956 rice hulls were added to the existing soil. Excellent sandy loam and good drainage made raised beds unnecessary. Water is from his own well.

Dudley Boudreaux reported that it has been two and one-half years since he applied fertilizer, a blend of cotton seed meal and Reliance Camellia Blend. Plants receive a twice-yearly spraying of Oil-I-Cide mixed with Cygon for scale. Orthen is used for other insects. Dieback does not seem to be a problem here.

The Boudreauxs grow predominantly *C. japonicas* of all bloom sizes. There are several *C. sasanqua/hiemalis* plants, such as 'Chansonette' and 'Miss Ed'. Dudley is now going to a few *C. reticulata* hybrids, now that he feels that some better ones are available. Some of his good performers have been the 'Mathotiana' family, 'Mrs. R. L. Wheeler', 'Betty Sheffield', and 'Valentine Day'. The lighter 'Tomorrows' are better left for greenhouse culture.

Two hundred fifty miles to the north and lying west of the camellia belt is the Fort Worth-Dallas area. Weather conditions here make camellia culture even more challenging. On August 15th in Fort Worth, "where the West begins", a bank thermometer flashed 107° F, although 102° F was the official reading. Here winters are colder but still variable, and humidity is much lower. Mrs. R. L. Arnold said readings of 18% humidity are not uncommon in winter.

I quickly learned that the Temple Bowens of Fort Worth had the most significant planting of outdoor camellias. Growers here invariably keep all their show-bloom plants in containers which are moved into a greenhouse about the first of November. Because I was charged to write about Unprotected Culture, much of the information from Jack Greenberg, Mrs. Paul (Lucille) Harkey, the Arnolds, Dr. R. P. McDonald and the Temple Bowens is not germane and will be omitted.

Dr. McDonald grows only about one-fifth of his collection in beds at ground level around his hilltop house. His plantings include 'Yuletide', 'Mrs. Charles Cobb', 'Professor C. S. Sargent', 'Marie Brace', and 'Donation'. He prefers camel-



Tommy Weeks stands in front of his new home in one of his camellia beds—near Conroe, TX. (Photo by Greg Davis)

lias grafted on *C. sasanquas* or on *C. japonicas* of sturdy root systems. Dr. McDonald fertilizes heavily with cotton seed meal in March and April. Potash is applied in late August, and a light cotton seed meal feeding is given in October. His outdoor plants were lightly mulched with pine bark.

Although the Arnolds are considered "protected" growers, I found it interesting that they grow all plants in large, unglazed clay pots. They feel that the low humidity creates an evaporative cooling effect benefitting the root system. Besides, they must water once or twice daily anyhow. No mulch is added.

The Temple Bowens east of Fort Worth are fortunately situated on a tree-shaded lot on very good, soft, sandy loam with excellent drainage. There is no need to raise beds. Their plants are attractively incorporated with other plants in an informal landscape design. Their 8-foot plus plants of 'Morning Glow' and 'Eleanor Haygood' were bought from Armstrong 37 years ago. When planting a camellia, a hole is dug three times the size of the ball. Soil is removed down two feet. In the bottom a mound is fashioned over which the roots are spread and covered with a mixture of the Bowens' own compost, vermiculite, peat moss, dairy loam, and top soil. No mulch is used.

The Bowens claim more success with plants with their on roots in beds but grafts are also used. For their grafting program only 'Daydream' *C. sasanquas* are used for understock. The Bowen yard has vigorous plants of 'Simeon', 'Lindsay Neill',

'Faith', 'Mathotiana', etc., including a 'Professor Sargent' at least 10 feet tall.

Their fertilizer program includes use of cotton seed meal and azalea-camellia fertilizer, half and half, Osmocote, and additional foliar feedings with the azalea-camellia food. Malathion takes care of insect pests. Pruning and Treecote take care of what little dieback is encountered.

Most of the 600-plant collection of camellias is kept in pots that winter in their greenhouse. Among these I noticed quite a few *C. reticulatas* or *Reticulata* hybrids, including several newer varieties ('Curtain Call'). Mrs. Bowen is proud to have one of the largest collections of miniatures, 30 to 40.

"I decided that the ideal place for my camellias was on about five acres in a pine and hardwood forest with a thick layer of sandy loam, good natural drainage, well water that smells like rain, and an abundant supply of pine needles or bark for my 6" mulch. Here I would enjoy camellias in a natural setting and still have space for others planted in rows in the ground and covered in the winter. There would be room to experiment with the newer hybrids and the curious-leaved varieties the Stones introduced. I would have a *C. sasanqua* collection, raise the *Higos* and my *Dubia*, and learn why *Granthamiana* has not grown well here. There would be room to grow grafting stock and care for my 70 or so grafts each year."

News is that the Thomas C. Weeks (Tommy and Sandra) beat me to all of this. The above describes their place and activities out of Conroe, four miles north of Houston. The camellia world will hear more of the Weeks. They are young, tireless workers who have already been showing winning blooms for some time. Keep in touch.

Back in Houston gazing over our three hundred camellias perching close together over our black gumbo, I am trying to review the lessons learned. For one, camellia culture in Texas would surely collapse without cotton seed meal and Malathion, used by everyone interviewed. In Houston drainage and mulch are of prime importance. Soil mixes, fertilizers, and planting levels can vary so long as excellent drainage is provided.

In the past we have not paid much attention to mulching, but probably will be dispensing six-packs, too. Our plants will surely enjoy the more uniform moisture level and the insulation from the heat afforded by the mulch. Already I have added some composted pine bark mulch. This fall I will search for leaves.

Finally, I concluded that the growers I visited are all very experienced, very knowledgeable, and very generous with their time and help with camellia culture.

Just a Chat

(Continued from page 2)

faced which, while certainly with less spectacular potentialities, nevertheless should merit the serious consideration of the camellia enthusiast. Of particular interest is the development of slow-growing, dwarf-type camellia hybrids which have tiny foliage and flowers—a much-needed type which, while not as yet widely distributed, would seem to merit the interest and exploitation of camellia nurserymen. I say this because of the fact that, due to the tremendous increase in the cost of space in general and land in particular, slow growth and compactness are very desirable. The space a *C. reticulata* would require will accommodate two or more of the dwarf or extremely compact types, while the flowers of the latter lend themselves to greater flexibility in flower design and personal adornment. This would apply particularly to those who grow camellias primarily in containers, where neatness, compactness and the great advantages of not outgrowing the situation nor having to be repotted for years would make one wonder whether the problem would not be one of supply rather than demand. Such a camellia would seem to have far greater application and popularity than a bonzai, for example, besides being more natural and requiring less care. Some seedlings of the highly regarded *C. williamsii* hybrid 'Donation' have, rather surprisingly, exhibited these desirable characteristics, with many large, salmon-pink semi-double flowers of most pleasant form and hue. While cold-testing is not possible here, the fact that the female parent is one of the most highly regarded for cold resistance would certainly offer that prospect as well.

Another aspect of camellia culture that I should like to touch upon is the tremendous importance of blooming early in the season. Here in California no petal blight occurs

usually before mid-February, so that the *C. sasanquas* normally are not affected by it. Consequently, the fallen petals do not require cleaning up because they are through blooming before the petal blight spores release and, in any case, disseminate so thoroughly as to dry up before they can do any damage. If the blooming season of the camellia does not coincide with the ripening of the petal blight spores, its flowers will not be affected. I am sure that camellia hybridists the world over are conscious of the great desirability of an early blooming habit for other reasons, but do not recall that the resulting immunity to petal blight has been highlighted.

On another and possibly related subject, to the best of my knowledge, no one has come up with a solution to the persistent decline in membership and interest being suffered by just about all camellia societies and nurseries in the country over the past few years. This may be due to natural attrition and the failure to sufficiently interest young people so as to offset the loss of the older members, but I am wondering whether the real explanation is not really that old and difficult problem, petal blight. Perhaps a survey should be made by our people in order to ascertain whether this loss of interest is concurrently affecting overseas societies as well. For if it is not, then the cause here is almost certainly due to a factor that is not universal. Meanwhile, any progress we can make toward control or eradication is going to be extremely important and our hopes have been raised materially in this regard recently by the report that an effective control has been developed for azalea petal blight.

In the meantime, perhaps we should give more attention to a very reliable species that I have sometimes referred to in the past as the "stepchild" of the camellia world—*C. sasanqua*. While it offers little if anything to the person whose great-

est interest in camellias is exhibiting them in the shows (at which time *C. sasanquas* are usually out-of-bloom in any case) nevertheless the *C. sasanqua* is the easiest of all camellias to grow, tolerating poor soil, drought and lack of attention generally, yet performing satisfactorily as a garden plant. For mass blooming effect, it has few if any peers and it is easily the most popular early-blooming species we have. As an espallier, it is an excellent subject and when used as a hedge, it is far superior to almost anything else. While the flowers have a short life, they are so numerous as to give a very desirable effect as well as a spicy scent, and they possess an ethereal and oriental quality that is most attractive as a garden subject.

—ACS—

From The Desk Of The Executive Secretary

First of all, I wish to compliment James McCoy for his excellent job as Guest Editor of this issue. We feel certain that you, as we, feel this is another milestone in ACS publications. Also, this edition should prove worthwhile in our efforts to obtain new members seeking knowledge about camellias.

Life Members

Once again, it is our pleasure to announce further Life Members and Patron Members to keep alive our long-running series of *Journals* in listing these members. Since our last issue Mr. George V. Upchurch of Athens, GA and Dr. James D. Dixon of Yoncos Island, S. C. have become Life Members to bring our total to 256. We now have 14 Patron Members with the addition of our newest, Mrs. Ronald Reagan of Washington, D.C.

We hope that we will start the 1982 series of publications with further Life Members. Perhaps you know of someone who would like to become a Life Member. Please let us know.

Living With Camellias and Enjoying It

HELEN D. BROWN

One of the exciting things about camellias is the fact that they can be grown out of doors in such a variety of climates, locations, and exposures—if the conditions of their native habitat can be approximated. In this respect, the successful grower seems to be the one who cares enough to accept whatever challenges are present—and indeed uses them to advantage.

The ACS *Yearbooks* give many examples of this—showing how it was done, even in areas thought to be completely unfavorable except for greenhouse culture. In some cases, the grower created what might be called a “micro-climate” especially for his camellias.

Here in Sacramento, California, climatic conditions are particularly favorable to growing camellias out of doors. Coupled with the great versatility of the plants themselves, homeowners are provided with almost limitless landscape possibilities—and millions are grown here, making winter and early spring, perhaps our most colorful seasons.

It's helpful to understand that the hot days and nights of summer in the Sacramento valley, are among the reasons camellias do well in this area. Weather conditions, however, which encourages lush growth and good bud set, make the choice of location vitally important. This new growth is extremely vulnerable to sun burn and permanent damage.

Because of this, lathhouses, pergolas, and various type lath structures have been popular here for years. They can create an ideal exposure for camellias and other shade plants, in a spot otherwise totally unacceptable. Jim and Jackie Randall of Sacramento, whose interest in camellias turned them into full time hobbyists, proved just that.

To introduce them: Jim, an engineer (also an ACS judge), has served twice as president of the Sacramento Camellia Society as well as the Sacra-

mento Camellia Forum—and for at least six years has been Show Chairman of the Sacramento Camellia Show. All the while Jim and Jackie (also very much an enthusiast) have kept piling up ribbons and trophies at Northern California shows. Here is the lathhouse which helps them to do it—and how it came about. I'm including quite a bit of detail—since there are ideas worth copying.

Some eight years ago, when buying a new home, a section of the garden in complete sun, was immediately pinpointed for a lathhouse—and planned on paper accordingly. The resulting lathhouse is twenty by twenty-seven feet—eight and one-half feet high—flanked on the east by a rear section of the house—and on the west, by one side of a building used as a playroom.

Grapestake fencing, six feet high closes off the north and south sides—with lath above that allows 50% light and shade. Star jasmin covers the outside of the grapestake fence facing north—completely hiding the lath-

house from view when in the garden proper or on the patio porch.

Twelve four by four, eight foot long uprights were used, supporting the three, two by six inch stringers to which the overhead plastic screening (also giving 50% light and shade) was attached. Stringers of old telephone wiring, every couple of feet, further supports the screening. Redwood, which is resistant to moisture, was used throughout.

Pea gravel, used on the floor, provides good drainage for excess water from plants—and comfortable walking for the grower.

There is an overhead sprinkling system, NOT used, however, to water the camellias—but to refresh the plants and create humidity on hot summer days. Generally it is turned on mid-afternoon for just a few minutes whenever temperatures are high.

Jim prefers an unusually porous soil mix, necessitating frequent root watering—about every three days during warm weather—and as needed throughout the year, including the winter months. He also likes to fer-



Part of a lath structure in an otherwise very sunny garden. It may be seen from patio and house. Note daffodils in bloom along side of camellias. (Photo by Helen D. Brown)

tilize every four to six weeks, starting with fish emulsion following the blooming season—then alternating with cotton seed meal and two applications of commercial products containing trace elements. (In all cases these are very small amounts—as recommended for container plants.)

Almost all the Randall's camellias—about 200 plants plus 100 seedlings—are kept in the lathhouse. Having them together in an exposure getting lots of light, but protected from full sun, helps Jim and Jackie to concentrate on their cultural needs—resulting in the show blooms which have captured so many awards. Some of their favorites are *C. japonicas* 'Tomorrow Park Hill', 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', and 'Elegans Splendor'—with 'Valley Knudsen' and 'Lasca Beauty' among the hybrids.

The objective of this lathhouse is to grow show blooms. But the possibilities for any grower and homeowner are almost limitless. A lath structure, for instance, open on one or more sides, often can enhance a garden—becoming part of it.

Dick and Joan Ray, of Sacramento, did something very unusual along this line. Like the Randalls, they have won their share of trophies and blue ribbons at Northern California Camellia Shows—and Dick was twice president of the Sacramento Camellia Society, as well as several times, Show Chairman.

A new home, Tudor style, was planned from the start with their col-

lection of camellias in mind. A pie-shaped lot on a cul-de-sac, thirty-five feet across the front and one hundred and forty at the back, inspired a unique use of sloping terrain in the rear, which was too sunny for camellias.

The Rays wanted all their camellias planted in the ground—to enjoy them as evergreen winter blooming shrubbery (still loving the flowers) though not wishing to focus exclusively on show competition as they once did. Fifteen favorites are located across the front of the house and entrance way—an ideal exposure, facing east, and getting morning sun and afternoon shade. But it is the lath structure at the rear which is so original in design as well as proportion.

It is 100 feet long, flanked by a six foot high grapestake fence along the west property line—and open on the east side facing a ten foot terrace which runs the full length of the house. Built in nine sections, eight feet wide, it rises to eight feet at the tip of the overhead pitched beams. A two foot wide overhang also carries out the angular design.

Thirty of the Ray's camellias and forty azaleas are planted in this structure, which is four steps lower than the terrace and is divided from it by a five foot walk which its full length. Each camellia is planted individually in a mix combining sandy loam and one-third fir bark and commercial mulch. A sprinkling system is to be installed—not overhead, however.

This structure shields the camellias from full sun during our hot summers—and breaks the impact of winter storms. From the terrace or from windows in the house, the Rays can enjoy a changing picture—greenery the year around—and a special show of color during the camellia and azalea blooming season.

For anyone considering such a structure, Dick recommends making a scale drawing, using lumber lengths most readily available—thus eliminating a good deal of sawing. He used merchant grade redwood, doing the work himself.

Thinking about the subject of camellias in any comprehensive way, I always find a bit "mind boggling". And I realize that in telling you about these interesting lathhouses, I've scarcely opened the door on even this one aspect of camellia culture. I hope, though, you've found a new idea or two.

— ACS —

The Campaign For American Camellia Society Endowment Fund

The following members and friends have "joined" one of the clubs or made additional contributions to them since the August issue of the *Journal* (Information as of September 1, 1981).

Booster Club

Mrs. Boynton Cole
Mrs. V. F. McFall

Guardian Club

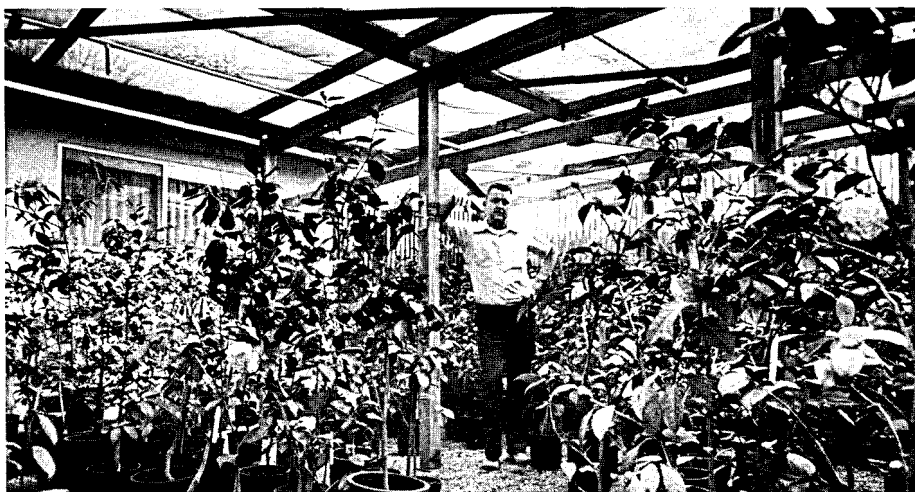
Dr. Asa Barnes
Mr. and Mrs. Alfus O. Johnson (2)
Judge E. Hulyn Smith
Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Sansing, Jr.

Challengers Club

Dr. Kenzo Iriyama

President's Club

Dr. C. David Scheibert



Jim Randall in his lathhouse. (Photo by Leilani Hu, The Sacramento Bee.)

**GET A NEW
MEMBER**

Horticulturally Speaking

(Continued from page 21)

propagation material, such as cuttings, root stocks or scions for grafting or budding." In this connection the label does not distinguish between the use of Cygon as a spray or a systemic.

Dr. Scheibert suggests that Cygon should not be used on any camellia plant from which material for propagation will be taken in any way within six months. (See article on page 18 of August *Camellia Journal*)

DISBUDDING AND PRUNING

Disbudding has been compared to pruning since both are directed to removing material considered by the grower not to be essential.

In winter, only obviously dead wood need to be pruned but come spring, pruning can be undertaken in earnest before the new growth begins: to shape the plant, to increase access of sun and air, to eliminate weak or crossed branches, and to stimulate new foliage and floral growth. At the same time, growers will be checking their plants for dieback. Since no certain cure for dieback has been discovered, all signs of it should be eliminated, beginning at the tip of the branch and cutting back, bit by bit (with sterilization of the knife or clippers between every cut) until good cambium is reached. The new end should then be painted over with some protective material.

Disbudding is rationalized as being necessary if one wants superior blooms for shows in contrast to leaving the buds to flower for masses of blooms for garden or house display. Budding, therefore, is entirely discretionary, depending on the grower's objective. If the former, the grower is counselled to disbud severely, leaving comparatively few buds on the plant, preferably terminal buds and these pointing down, if possible, to avoid possible damage by rain. Disbudding can be planned and carried out over a series of weeks with the objective of providing a series of blooms for successive shows.

Disbudding can be partially accomplished by gibbing. This process can be undertaken on outside plants from the time that the floral buds are fat and mature until the prospect arises that the buds, from the time of gibbing until freezing weather, will have insufficient time to blossom. For inside plants, gibbing can continue as long as buds are available and the desire and need for blooms exist.

One camellia lover has suggested that if any of the grower's camellia plants are located where the blooms can be seen from the street, such plants should be sparingly disbudded in order that people passing by might have the pleasure of enjoying the blooms.

PROPAGATION

With the coming of spring comes also the desire of the camellia lover to increase his or her store of varieties, either by propagation or by purchasing additional cultivars which have been seen and admired elsewhere as at the various shows.

The variety of methods of propagating in the spring-grafting, rooting of cuttings, or airlayering provides the grower with a choice of means. With regard to grafting, it can be suggested that it can be done with success from December to March with greenhouse plants. For outside stock, the grafting can be undertaken almost any time after the danger of frost has disappeared and the desired scions are available.

As for methods for successful grafting and of rooting and the care of the grafted plants and rooted cutting, these have been comprehensively presented in past *Camellia Journals*, *ACS Yearbooks* and pertinent sections of *The Camellia* which may be studied with profit. Grafting and rooting of cuttings have the additional merit of providing the opportunity for the exchange of scions and cuttings with camellia growers on a world-wide basis, which, surely, is one of the many rewarding aspects of camellia growing.

It is the impression of the Horticulture Committee that airlayering is becoming in-

creasingly popular, notwithstanding the merits of other methods suggested above. Airlayering is not only a means of thinning out heavy growth, particularly at the top of one's plants, but also provides a method of giving a headstart over grafting and rooting to new plants which, if protected during the following winter, should provide blooms the next spring.

In adding new varieties in the spring to one's garden, camellia lovers will seek out sturdy healthy plants and then care for them well. It would seem unnecessary to urge camellia growers to buy only good plants but Herbert Brown of Chattanooga, Tenn., in a letter to Dr. Berridge, says that he is amazed at the number of people who buy "bargain" plants from discount and department stores and who then have given up trying to grow camellias because the plants fade away or fail to produce flowers.

Perhaps this is where a little missionary work by local societies can be done among garden clubs in spreading the word that good plants, well started and well cared for, are essential, whether in a small or large garden, if camellias are to be able to respond with their lovely flowers and bright year around foliage to the care and attention which camellia lovers give them in all four seasons of the year.

—ACS—

The Basis of Outdoor Camellia Culture

RUDY MOORE

Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens

In writing about camellia culture, you should consider all phases and steps of growing camellias such as landscaping and planting in the ground. One proper step makes another easier no matter how much attention is given to your plants. If you don't plant them properly they will never do their best.

Camellias need a semi-acid and well-drained condition. Peat moss is recommended to acidify and obtain moisture and redwood bark or forest humus type material to aerate and create good drainage. What you use and the amount you use will depend upon the type of soil that you have. A good measure would be about 50% peat and 50% forest humus. Spread about 6 inches over soil and work into top twelve inches with tiller. Then, add 50% more mix to each planting hole for camellias, making the hole about 3 ft. across to 2 ft. deep.

Untangle the roots before planting so that they can start to grow in their new planting hole or container. Tamp the soil down lightly and always plant with the

crown a few inches above ground so that it will be at least an inch or so above after it settles. I like to leave a mound around my new plantings to direct the flow of water to the root ball. That's the most critical part of transplanting camellias. Keep the root ball damp until it is well established. Sometimes the ground around the plant will look wet but the ball can be dry.

Once your plantings are established, you can pull the mound away and resume a normal watering program. Don't try to get away with "watering at 10:00 Tuesday mornings, rain or shine". Water as your plants need it—don't let your plants dry out nor keep them too wet. At the Gardens, I keep a close check on the weather and humidity and I check the soil to tell me when and how much water to use. Knowing the plant's root system also helps, especially in containers. In California, we like to drench our plants about every 4 to 5 weeks. It washes out the sodium salts we get in our water.

Most camellias need a semi-shade location. Even though *C. Sasanqua* and most *C. Reticulata* and *Hybrids* and some *C. Japonicas* will take, for the most part, full sun around a lawn where humidity is pro-

vided or where large trees make the air cooler, they still need some protection until they are well established. I can suggest a few trees that you can plant on the south and west side or in and around your landscape to provide protection from the hot afternoon sun . . . and a few that you should not include. Your local nurseryman should have the ones that do best in your locale.

I have good luck with *Jacaranda Mimosifolia*, one of the most popular flowering trees in California because of its beautiful clusters of lavender blue tubular flowers that bloom from May to July. Its lacy fern-like leaves provide an excellent filtered shade. *Albifolia Julibrissin*, one of my favorites, starts the summer with fern-like leaves and later produces a soft pink puff of a flower. It has widely spreading flat branches providing excellent filtered shade for young plantings. It is hardy and does well in most climates. The *Magnolia Soulangiana* is becoming a popular tree for the camellia garden. Young trees grow rapidly to begin with, giving protection to small plantings of shade plants. Additionally, they provide a beautiful array of color in the spring. There are many varieties from which to choose. Some of the trees I would not choose are *Shamel Ash*, *Campor* and *Elm* for they give too much shade and lots of root competition. Young camellias, however, should not be planted directly under your trees. They should be located about 10 feet or so away from the trunk of most shade trees or around the drip line.

In landscaping with camellias, it's easy to plant them too close, trying to cover the ground; if you want your camellias to grow into trees, you should fill in with plants that will "tie in" with your landscape and give a finished look to your garden. Choose plants that will grow sufficiently the first year to protect the camellias and other shade plants until your shade trees get large enough. There are many plants in the *Malvaceae* family, *Albutilon Hybridum*, commonly called "flowering Maple", that do quite well in California. They bloom in several different colors, white, pink, red and many shades of yellow and orange. They have a bell shaped flower and bloom in California the year around. They can easily be removed if need be once the camellias have matured.

You should give a good deal of thought as to the proper location of each plant in your landscape such as some of the newer Reticulata Hybrids require plenty of room to grow. Then, use some members of the Elegans family for espalier against a fence or between wall and walkways. Also, *C. Sasanqua* can be used in this type location and some of the lower growing varieties

can be used along driveways and walkways, etc. The proper placement of your plants can save you countless hours of work in your pruning program in the future.

Pruning camellias is about the same as pruning any other tree or shrub in the sense that your first steps are the basic fundamentals of pruning. First would be to remove all dead branches and next all twiggy growth. Then, remove all branches that cross or interfere with other branches making sure that you leave the strongest one and/or the one that will give your plant a better form. For plants that are in the ground, you should remove the lower branches that hang down because the flowers on them usually aren't seen nor will they be clean enough for showing. Your first branches should be strong and upright. Now that you have performed the basic fundamentals of pruning, the rest is entirely up to you and what you want of your plant, considering of course, the different growth habits of all the camellia species and varieties and they do all have different growth habits. So, remember this when you purchase a plant and tell your camellia nurseryman what type of plant you desire and where in your landscape you plan on putting it.

Will it be against a fence for an espalier, in a hanging basket or in a corner for a tall upright grower. . . also, how much sun or shade will the plant be getting. Selecting a plant with the proper growth habit for each location in your landscape will help you considerably in your pruning program in the future. The basic pruning fundamentals are still important to keep your plants cleaned out so they get the proper light and have room for the flowers to open which is very important if you plan on picking your flowers for the shows. Your plants for show flowers can be broken down into 3 categories, small, medium and large. Varieties that produce large flowers should be pruned and disbudded heavily to get the maximum size and also to have room for the flower to open without being scarred from close branches or the form being distorted from being too close to another bud trying to open. Most camellia hobbyists leave one flower bud per branch on the large and most medium varieties. Your plants that produce medium flowers should be pruned between light and heavy and your small varieties should be pruned light. Do this by cutting off the terminal growth buds, going back to a good strong lateral growth bud that will grow out and up and will give you a symetrically shaped plant. I would not, however, recommend cutting out the terminal growth bud of the main trunk until your plant has reached the height you desire. Make all cuts close with

the cutting blade next to the bud you are leaving. This will give you a clean cut so the limb can heal over. All large branches should be covered over with a tree seal of some kind. The best time to prune is right after your camellias finish blooming and before your new growth starts. You can always spot-prune throughout the year cutting off any undesirable branches or sucker growth.

The time to start disbudding is as soon as you can tell the flower bud from the growth bud. You won't need to disbud too much on your small varieties unless they tend to set too many buds as in clusters. Then, disbud them down to one bud per leaflet or one every other leaf, depending on whether they are for show flowers or not. In any case, if they set too many buds don't be afraid to thin them out. Make sure you twist or cut them off because if you pull or flip them, you stand a chance of taking off the growth bud and this may allow the hot air in and will dry out the bud you left and/or damage your growth for the next year.

Now, for the big controversy in camellia culture, fertilizing. Some people still seem to think lots of fertilizer makes for healthy plants and large flowers. It's my opinion, if you practice all phases of culture, you will achieve both. *I've lost more plants by over-feeding than by under-feeding.* Cottonseed meal is about the mildest fertilizer you can use. Some hobbyists use up to a hand full in a 5 gallon container. I use several hand fulls on a young well established plant in the ground. Spread it around the drip line and sprinkle with a water nozzle so that it cakes. Then, each time you water, you feed. Just remember, camellias are basically light feeders, so don't overdo it. Any commercial fertilizer is suitable, however, most growers and camellia hobbyists I know including myself, use cottonseed meal and a stabilized iron compound with a chelating agent, three to four times yearly starting in April or right after your camellias finish blooming. Feed about 6 weeks apart through September.

I hope I've said a few things in this article that might help you with your camellia garden. *Happy Gardening!*

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The beautiful Boehm porcelain 'Julia Hamiter' donated to ACS by "the Friends of Tom" is greatly appreciated by Dotty and me and we extend our sincere thanks to the donors.

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Classic Camellias 1970-1980

BARBARA BUTLER
 Modesto, CA

Camellias have long faced rejection as a major outdoor landscaping plant. Landscape designers and home gardeners favor substituting less desirable planting material when planning a garden. It is this failure to consider the merits and the advantages of growing camellias outdoors that is unwarranted. The public is not aware, nor does it realize, that these unique camellia species and new hybrids will give excellent design qualities and year round beauty to any home garden. *Hybridizers and nurserymen need to publicize and to promote the advantages of these new improved camellia varieties.* These camellias provide fragrant flowers, new colors, and different leaf form and plant structure. I once heard a

landscape designer say he seldom if ever planted a camellia; and when he did, his only choices were 'Pink Perfection' and 'Alba Plena'. It is this rejection of camellias as well as unforeseen cultural difficulties that prevent a greater use of camellias.

It makes one wonder why today's hybridizers keep on working to introduce new hybrids and better blooming plants, if none of their work ever reaches the general public, let alone the professional garden designer. The prevailing logic is, that if it is easy to grow and cheap to produce, that is what the general public will find at their local nurseries, super markets, and garden shops. The sad part is that the public will purchase this limited range of camellia plants in large numbers and then wonder why these blooms do not win ribbons at

the local camellia shows. The nurserymen, the camellia buyers, and the local camellia societies are the losers. The opportunities are there to help each other profit from raising and planting a greater variety of different species of camellias.

The following list of camellias is *but a small sample* from the wide choice of available camellia species and new camellia introductions of the past decade. This list of some sixty camellia cultivars are those that do well in outdoor culture. I urge everyone to plant and enjoy these camellias. After all, at maturity, camellias are really trees that have a varying growth habit, floral color, and leaf form.

LANDSCAPE CAMELLIA LIST 1970-1980

<i>Hybrid Camellias:</i>	
Dwarf compact growth:	
'Snippet'	1971
Slow compact growth:	
'Coral Delight' and Var.	1975
'Utsukushi-Asaye' and Var.	1979
Medium compact growth:	
'Angel Wings'	1970
'Jury's Yellow'	1978
'Nuccio's Ruby'	1978
Vigorous compact growth:	
'Muriel Tuckfield'	1974
Medium spreading growth:	
'Fragrant Pink Improved'	1973
'Fallen Angel'	1974
'San Marino'	1975
'Wirlinga Princess'	1977
Vigorous open growth:	
'Tulip Time'	1978
Medium upright growth:	
'Pharaoh'	1971
'Ack-scent'	1978
'Friendly Skies'	1980
Vigorous spreading growth:	
'Harold Paige'	1972
'Pavlova'	1978
Vigorous compact upright growth:	
'Debut'	1977
Vigorous upright growth:	
'Otto Hopfer'	1970
'Wilbur Foss'	1971
'Dr. Clifford Parks'	1971
'Lasca Beauty'	1973
'Valentine Day Var.'	1975
'Miss Tulare'	1975
'James McCoy'	1975
'Francie L Surprise'	1980
Vigorous open upright growth:	
'Lillette Witman'	1973
'Cinnamon Cindy'	1973
'Arcadia'	1979

<i>Japonica Camellias:</i>	
Slow spreading growth:	
'Elegans Champagne'	1975
Vigorous spreading growth:	
'Feathery Touch'	1971
Vigorous compact upright growth:	
'Swan Lake' (Jap)	1971
'Silver Cloud'	1980
Medium open upright growth:	
'Grace Albritton'	1970
'Frost Queen'	1971
'Raspberry Ice'	1979
'Pink Jade'	1979
'Eleanor Waltz'	1980
Vigorous bushy upright growth:	
'Fawan'	1973
'Desire'	1977
Vigorous compact upright growth:	
'Nuccio's Pearl'	1977
'Katie'	1979
Vigorous upright growth:	
'Tama-No-Ura'	1978
<i>Higo Camellias:</i>	
Comparatively dwarf growth habit:	
'Niio-Fubuki' (fragrant)	
'Kumagai Nagoya'	
<i>Species:</i>	
Kissi	1820
Tsaii	1838
Fraterna	1862
Lutchuensis	1900
Granthamiana	1965
*Chrysantha	1980
Rusticana—'Botan-Yuki'	
Sasanqua—'Bonanza', 'Hugh Evans'	
Vernalis—'Hiryu', 'Egao', 'Shibori Egao'	
<i>Variegated Leaf Forms:</i>	
Pink sport of 'Yirgella'	
'Fukurin-Ikky'	
'Kawae'	
(and many others)	

Basically, every homesite is oriented to the four compass points. Therefore, it is just as easy to design a house plan to provide the vista and habitat for a camellia garden. In colder climates, an atrium could provide an ideal spot to grow camellias. The plantings of trees, shrubs, the addition of soil amendments, and the use of simple garden shelters will provide the necessary micro-climate to grow camellias outdoors. It is not necessary that the garden of an avid camellia grower look like a miniature nursery with rows and rows of five gallon containers.

Climatic conditions are ideal about once every five years. These condi-

tions will then produce a garden that will be a horticultural delight. Every flowering annual, bulb, tree, and shrub that is planted in the fall will bloom simultaneously. The garden will be picture-perfect. *Camellias* on the other hand, with their annual show of beautiful and abundant bloom, *very rarely disappoint the gardener.*

We started our camellia garden in Modesto thirty-one years ago. The house faces west; the driveway is to the south; the neighbors are to the north. The largest land area is to the east. The ranch style house has three foot wide eaves. We had enjoyed camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons in our bay area home and wanted to continue raising them. We noticed that some of the older homes in this city had large camellias that were doing very well planted on the north and east exposures. These camellias were planted around the turn of the century. The local nurseryman said we were just a might crazy to try to grow them all here. But, he offered the usual red, white, and pink selection of 'Professor Charles S. Sargent', 'Kumasaka', 'Blood of China', 'Lady Clare', 'Mathotiana', and 'Finlandia'. These camellia trees are now above the roof line. Every year, armloads of blooms are pruned from these trees as gift bouquets. To protect these camellias from the north wind and to screen out the neighbors driveway, Akebono cherry, Blireiana plum, and tri-colored beech trees were planted along the property fence line. To the west, Modesto ash, pin oak, red oak, and ginkgo trees make a filtered canopy for the Japanese red maples and azaleas. To the south, a variety of dwarf citrus provide the shade. To the east, beyond the lawn and the roses, are planted more *C. japonica*, *Species*, *C. reticulata*, and *Hybrid* camellias. These camellias are sheltered by Japanese green maples I raised from seed.

The new hybrids and species camellias are planted both in the ground and in containers. This group of camellias much prefer being planted in the ground. It is possible

to produce a succession of prize winning blooms and a wonderful show stopping mass of color year after year with very little effort and maintenance.

I enjoy the species camellias; especially, the delicate beauty and fragrance of *C. lutchuensis*; the charm of *C. tsaii*; the floral sprays of *C. fraterna*; the grandeur of *C. granthamiana*; and the variegated foliage of *C. yirgella*. All of these camellias make ideal garden design material.

For a dramatic impact, nothing can outdo a planting of white camellia cultivars. A careful selection of white camellia varieties can extend this joy from November to May.*

If I had planting room for only six camellias, I would be tempted to select only one variety, 'Elegans Champagne'. Its lovely pale cream flowers and excellent plant growth make it an outstanding camellia.

'Tulip Time', that perky charming fragrant single, is also a must camellia. It can be used in so many ways, as a ground cover, a covering vine for a shaded arbor, or as a hanging basket specimen.

A very secluded private garden will include 'Angel Wings'. Used as a formal tree standard in combination with a mass planting of 'Angel Wings' in its regular form is truly a beautiful sight.

My very special outdoor planting of camellias would be an all fragrant camellia garden. I would locate this garden in a patio near one's living quarters. The use of fragrant camellia varieties would provide enjoyment of fragrance throughout the long camellia blooming season.

Very little comment has been made about night lighting a camellia garden. Surely, the inclusion of illumination to highlight both the camellia plant, as well as the bloom, would be an addition to any garden. Lovely old stone Japanese lanterns or modern electric fixtures would serve to enhance our joy of camellias grown outdoors.

* See "In Defense of the White Camellia" Barbara Butler, ACS Yearbook, 1979, pp. 177-179.

* Seeds only of this species came to U. S. in 1980. No history of plants growing outside; none have as yet bloomed in this country. It is a yellow flower described in previous ACS publications.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: For some additional reading see:

1. "Sasanqua—The Step Child Camellia", David L. Feathers, ACS Yearbook, 1976.
2. "Sasanquas Are Exciting Landscape Shrubs", Helen Brown, ACS Journal, Nov. 1980.
3. Several articles on winter and cold hardy camellias in ACS Yearbook, 1977.
4. "Camellia Species for the Garden", Leslie Riggall, ACS Yearbook, 1975.
5. "The ABC's of Camellia Growing", Rex Murfitt, ACS Yearbook, 1975.
6. "Some Good and Bad Garden Camellias", Leslie Riggall, ACS Yearbook—Vol. II, 1974.
7. "Growing Camellias Out of Doors in Southern Connecticut", Denver C. Warner, ACS Yearbook, 1973.
8. "Camellias in the Northeast", Walter H. Burden, Jr., ACS Yearbook—Vol. II, 1974.
9. "Establishing Camellias and Maintaining Camellias in Western North Carolina", Robert E. Shull, ACS Yearbook—Vol. II, 1974.
10. "The Camellia Collection at Barnard's Inn Farm and How It Came to Be", Mrs. Julian W. Hill, ACS Yearbook, 1979.
11. "Effects of Drought in Summer and Cold in Winter on Camellias", Dr. James A. Smart, ACS Yearbook, 1979.
12. "Camellias, Planting and Care", Dr. Raymond L. Self and Dr. Ronald L. Shumack, ACS Yearbook, 1980.
13. "Landscaping with Camellias and Their Semi-Shade Loving Companions," F. (Rudy) Moore, ACS Yearbook, 1980.
14. "The Yellow Camellia Story—An Yun-nan Report of Camellias", Dr. Takasi Tuyama, ACS Yearbook, 1980.
15. *The Camellia, Its History, Culture, Genetics and a Look Into Its Future*, David L. Feathers and Milton H. Brown. This comprehensive book covers all aspects of camellias. Still available from ACS, P. O. Box 1217, Fort Valley, GA 31030 for only \$12.50 postpaid in U.S. or U.S.\$14.00 postpaid in overseas countries. There are 476 pages of text and 25 pages of color pictures and many black-and-white pictures and drawings.

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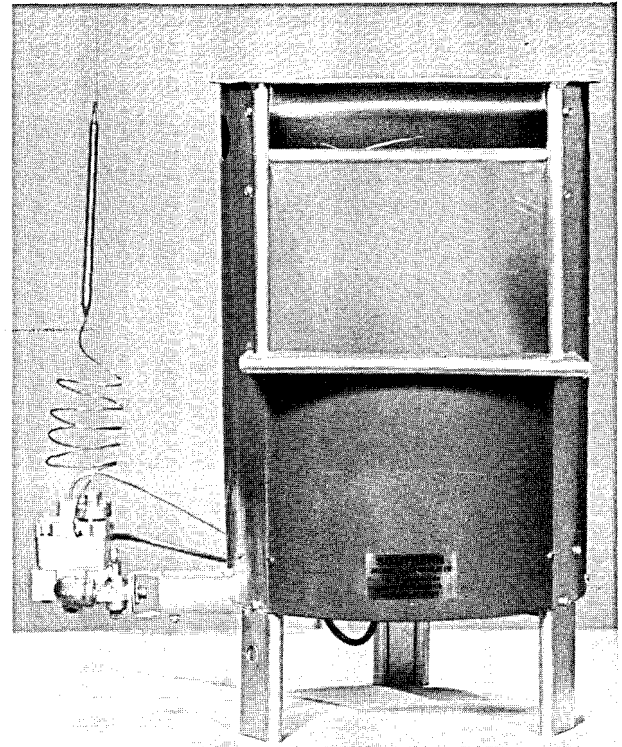
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'NANCY REAGAN'

This lovely porcelain creation of the 'Nancy Reagan' camellia was made by the Edward Marshall Boehm Studios. The first of this limited edition porcelain camellia was presented to Mrs. Reagan while she was in California recently.

The *C. reticulata* hybrid chance seedling, ACS Reg. No. 1721, was originated by Willard F. Goertz from San Marino, CA and is being propagated by Nuccio's Nurseries for release in 1982-83. It is a very large, medium rose pink, semidouble and first bloomed in 1975 as an 11-year-old seedling. After admiring the lovely blooms for a few years, Bill Goertz decided to name it 'Nancy Reagan' after having obtained her permission through a mutual friend to name the flower for her. This lovely porcelain camellia can be purchased from fine shops throughout the country that sell Boehm porcelains. We have been informed that Mrs. Boehm will make a generous contribution of one of these porcelain camellias to the ACS collection.

The *Camellia* Journal

WORLD'S LARGEST PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO THE GENUS CAMELLIA

Volume 36

Number 4

November, 1981



'RACHEL TARPY'

ACS Reg. No. 1717

This chance *Japonica* seedling blooms 4½ to 5" in diameter and 3" high when treated. The color of this medium to large flower is white, shaded to blush pink with occasional red lines or dashes. The 35 to 40 petals are wavy, concaved with ruffled edges. There are many yellow stamens interspersed with wavy crinkled petals and petaloids. The long lasting blooms have excellent texture. A very early blooming flower especially when treated. This seedling was originated by Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Abendroth and is named for their six year old granddaughter, Rachel Abendroth Tarp, and was photographed by Mr. Norman Parker.

This unusual camellia formation and color first bloomed in 1976 and has won Best Seedling every time it has been exhibited. It has won four Highly Commended Treated Seedling Certificates, one of which was at the 1980 Fall Meeting of the ACS at Charleston, South Carolina.

Proceeds from the sale of scions and plants are to be donated 50 percent to ACS and 50 percent to Shreveport Camellia Society. Scions are available for \$5.00 each and a limited number of one year grafts on good understock for \$35.00 each. Scions will be mailed but plants will have to be picked up in Shreveport. Make checks payable to G. F. Abendroth, 335 Millicent Way, Shreveport, LA 71106.