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Camellia

Journal



'Holly Bright'

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE
American Camellia Society

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Phones and Fax:

Office—(912) 967-2358

Gift Shop/Tours—(912) 967-2722

Fax Number—(912) 967-2083

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The *Camellia* Journal

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'Holly Bright' was introduced by Nuccio's Nurseries in 1985. It is a large, salmon red, semidouble *C. japonica* with crepe petals. The foliage is unique crinkled holly-like and the growth is upright and compact.



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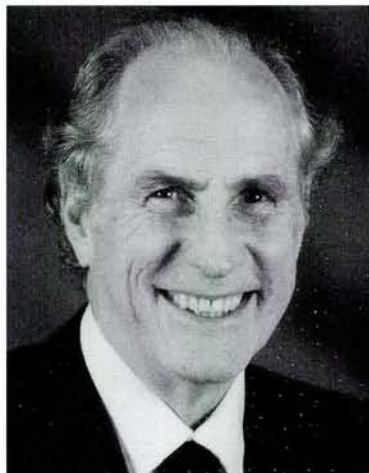
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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Robert E. Ehrhart

It was Bertha in July and Fran in September. Not in recent history have two hurricanes of such force scored direct hits on the same spot in the same year. Now the Myrtle Beach, S. Carolina and Wilmington, N. Carolina, Visitor's Bureaus have posted signs "Friendly Visitors Only, Please". We promise to be friendly when we visit Myrtle Beach in late September, for our board meeting and the Atlantic Coast annual meeting. Our ACS members and friends in those cities and in Virginia, have reported great damage to their gardens, and fortunately, little damage to their homes. We are pleased that all have survived the terrible storms.

It has been another hot dry summer with record heat waves in much of the Camellia regions of the nation. In California there have been many fires but fortunately, not in residential areas. There has been lots of leaf burn from Sacramento south to Los Angeles, because of sudden heat bursts of twenty degrees or more from day to day, but again, fortunately, little bud drop. If father winter is not too cruel this year, and early next, we expect to have beautiful large blooms come winter and early spring.

Leaving the weather for finances; the ACS 50th Anniversary Campaign presently is \$6,055.77 short of \$300,000.00 in pledges and contributions. We hope to report after the meeting in Myrtle Beach that we have passed the \$300,000.00 mark. I am happy to report that contributions are still coming into headquarters on a steady stream. We appreciate the great response that we have had from you the membership.

On the subject of membership, I am very happy to tell you that the current membership of 3,750, is higher than last year by 237 members, and that last years count is 35 higher than in 1994. This is the first time in thirty years that we have experienced a membership increase in two consecutive years, with an increase of over 250 members. Lets not have this be a temporary thing. History of our membership shows peaks in the years from 1959 through 1969 of 7,000 members, slowly declining until 1992 and 1994, when in each year we recorded lows in the 3450 range. We are now 300 members above this low and we must keep this turn around alive. We need your help in promoting your hobby and your Society. I believe that the lows of 1992 and 1994 will remain the low years and that the ACS will continue its new growth trend.

The economy is improving, the employment numbers are growing, and there is a new technology revolution afloat, we should capitalize on all of these to grow the American Camellia Society.

In closing let me wish each of you a very successful Camellia Season, a happy holiday season, and most importantly a healthy new year. I'll see you in Atlanta.

Enthusiastically,
Bob



BASICS

For The Beginner

Soils For Camellias

Betty Hotchkiss

Successful culture of a plant will depend primarily on the medium in which it is grown. This medium, known as soil, is composed of *inorganic* mineral particles derived from erosion of rock over a great many years and *organic* matter which is made up of decomposed plant and animal remains. Also found within the soil in high numbers are the microorganisms which are essential in decomposing organic matter. Water, containing plant nutrients and extraneous salts and air are found within the soil in addition to the above ingredients. The soil is an intricate and dynamic system which must serve several functions. Although soil provides mechanical support for the root system of plants, it, more importantly, is the source of life sustaining water, minerals, and air for plants.

Soils must contain all of the essential elements in order to provide good growth and health of a plant. Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P), and Potassium (K) are the three basic elements of nutrition. Soil must also contain trace elements in much smaller amounts including

iron, magnesium, copper, calcium, etc. However, almost any good soil containing humus would normally contain all of these elements. They must be replenished in the soil as they are utilized by the plant and are leached out through watering.

"The natural soil for camellias is one that contains a large amount of humus or woody matter making it of loose construction, slightly acid, moisture retentive yet well draining."

The addition of organic matter to the soil will replace these elements although they may be added in minute quantities through a commercial fertilizer. It is easy to overdo it with trace elements and damage or death of the plants can

occur if doses are too large. Always follow recommended rates.

Camellias are reasonably tolerant of widely varying soil conditions, including pH, but will grow best under the ideal conditions of a slightly acid soil which is well-draining and high in organic matter. These are the conditions that most closely mimic their natural habitat. In the wild the camellia is found as a slow growing tree protected by the shelter of taller trees. The climate is best described as temperate with a high humidity and ample rainfall. The soil is light with plenty of humus and the pH is slightly acid.

Soil pH is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. It is based on a scale of 1 to 14 with 7 as neutral. A pH below 7 is described as acid or "sour", while that above 7 is alkaline or "sweet". The pH scale is defined where a pH value of 5 is ten times more acid than a value of 6. Therefore a pH of 4 is 100 times more acid than a pH of 6. As you can see, small changes in the number reflect rather large changes in soil acidity. Most importantly, the pH level affects the fertility of the soil and the availability of certain

nutrients. Camellias traditionally have been described as acid-loving plants but more recently we have begun to realize that camellias fair best at a pH of 6.0 to 6.5. Although calcium is an essential mineral it is only tolerated by camellias in small amounts. In many parts of the world the soil is basically acid and camellias do quite well on their own. A soil test will easily show what the pH is and recommendations from your Extension Agent will help to amend the situation if necessary.

The physical properties of soil are very important and greatly influence the management of the soil. A management program which is satisfactory for one soil may not be satisfactory for another. Once a planting is established it is very difficult to improve the physical properties of the soil. It is much better to amend the soil before planting has been done.

Soils are composed of a mixture of solid particles and air spaces. Typically, when dry a soil may have about one-half solid particles and one-half air spaces. Classification of soils is generally based upon the size of the soil particles which may be called the texture. The smaller the particle size, the more surface area there is resulting in a greater ability to retain moisture due to water adhering to the surface of the particles.

The three basic classes of soils are sands, loams, and clay. Sand particles are the largest in size and clay particles are the smallest. Therefore less water is retained by sandy soils than by clay soils. In order for plants to grow the soil must contain some water. Since water occupies the same space as air a balance must be maintained because both are required for plant growth. Not all of the water in the soil can be utilized by the plant. When a plant reaches the point where it can no longer obtain water at a sufficient rate from the soil wilting occurs. Unfortunately for us as growers, camellias do not show wilting with the exception of soft young growth. Therefore it is easy to let the soil become too dry for camellias without realizing it. This is one way in which many newly planted camellias die as homeowners may forget to water them until it is too late.

The natural soil for camellias is one that contains a large amount of humus or woody matter making it of loose construction, slightly acid, moisture retentive yet well draining. The addition of humus (organic matter) to the soil will improve the texture and drainage of any soil type whether it be sand or clay. Clay soils tend to shut out aeration because of the very fine texture and will not be satisfactory unless heavily amended with

humus. The texture of the soil for healthy camellias needs to be loose so that the roots may "breathe".

In heavy clay or waterlogged soil the best answer may be to prepare raised beds for plantings of camellias. Beds that are raised 10 inches will have greatly improved drainage. A loose well-drained soil should be prepared for these raised bed areas. This will ensure that camellias do not have "wet feet", a sure invitation for root rot.

Growing camellias in containers is a different matter altogether than growing them in the ground. However, the same characteristics of a good soil hold true for container grown plants. A good container soil must be well drained. Many growers have been well pleased with the used of decomposed pine bark for a planting media. This may be amended with sand and pH adjusted. Proper nutrition can be achieved by the addition of fertilizers. The container grown camellia generally needs to be watered more frequently than those in the ground. Growers need to keep a watchful eye on plants.

Maintaining a plant with a healthy root system will result in a beautiful plant above ground with outstanding flowers. Understanding the soil requirements of camellias and providing them is the key to success. Healthy roots equal healthy plants. ♣



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Revised Schedule of A.C.S. Convention in Atlanta

February 19-22, 1997 Atlanta, Georgia

*Denotes schedule change

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

*9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Judging School \$15
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Registration
Lunch on your own
2:00 p.m. ACS Board Meeting
Shopping at Lenox Square or Phipps Plaza for those not attending Board Meeting
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cocktails, compliments of Embassy Suites
Dinner on your own - many of Atlanta's top restaurants are in the Buckhead area

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

6:00 to 9:30 a.m. Breakfast, compliments of Embassy Suites
9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. ACS Development Board Meeting
11:15 a.m. Leave hotel by bus for lunch at Mary Mac's Tea Room
*1:00 p.m. Board bus for tour of The Cyclorama
2:30 p.m. Board bus to the Southeastern Flower Show
5:00 p.m. Board bus for return to hotel
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cocktails, compliments of Embassy Suites
7:30 p.m. Dinner to be announced

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:00 to 9:30 a.m. Breakfast, compliments of Embassy Suites
8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Receive blooms and stage Camellia Show, Atlanta Botanical Garden

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Judging and Open Show
1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Lunch at the Atlanta Botanical Garden, Low Country Barbecue
2:45 p.m. Board bus for historic Underground Atlanta
3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Tour the World of Coca-Cola, a history museum of "Coke"
5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Tour the Historic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with Hospitality hosted by members of the North Georgia Camellia Society
7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Dinner at the Georgia Railroad Depot - building on the National Register of Historic Places
8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free time in Underground Atlanta
9:30 p.m. Board bus for return to Embassy Suites

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

7:00 to 10:30 a.m. Breakfast, compliments of Embassy Suites
9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Education Program
11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Board bus for lunch at the Swan Coach House
1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Tour the Swan House and the Atlanta History Center
3:00 p.m. Board bus for return to Embassy Suites
5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Cocktails, compliments of Embassy Suites
7:30 p.m. Farewell Convention Banquet with guest speaker at Embassy Suites

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A Comparison Of *Camellia* Flower Blight With Other Related Diseases

**Luther W. Baxter*

Camellia flower blight caused by a fungal pathogen was first reported in the United States in 1938 by two plant pathologists from California. Since then this fungus has been introduced into most of the camellia-growing areas of the United States.

The disease on its own cannot travel great distances, but sadly man has taken it by accident through most camellia growing areas in the United States. The disease may travel as infected flowers attached to the plant or detached from it, or as sclerotia in or on soil of container-grown or B&B plants. One sclerotia produced from a fallen infected camellia flower is all that is needed to start the disease process in a new location.

Accepting the fact that the disease-causing fungus has been distributed throughout the camellia growing areas of the United States, let us examine it along with four of its close relatives in order to better understand the nature of the disease. We will compare the following diseases:

1. Camellia Flower Blight caused by the fungus, *Ciborinia camelliae*
2. Azalea (Rhododendron) Petal Blight caused by the fungus, *Ovulinia azaleae*
3. Peach Brown Rot (and other stone fruit) caused by the fungus, *Monolinia fructicola*

4. White Mold of Bean (and many other plants including forsythia, alfalfa, and clover) caused by the fungus, *Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*

5. Botrytis Blight of Rose flowers and Rot of Strawberry fruit (and many other plants) caused by the fungus, *Botrytis cinerea*

The camellia flower blight fungus (*Ciborinia camelliae*), the azalea petal blight fungus (*Ovulinia azaleae*) and the peach brown rot fungus (*Monolinia fructicola*) are restricted in their host range while the other two fungi (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum* and *Botrytis cinerea*) are not. Although this characteristic has made some other diseases easier to control through crop rotation it has not helped with camellia flower blight since rotation is not an option. The camellia flower blight fungus attacks only species of the genus **Camellia**; the azalea petal blight fungus attacks only species of the genus **Rhododendron**, and the peach brown rot fungus attacks species of the genus **Prunus**. The white mold fungus (*Sclerotinia sclerotiorum*) attacks a wide range of plants including lettuce, cabbage, bean, forsythia, alfalfa and various clovers. It causes different symptoms including a flower blight of beans and forsythia, but causes a white mold on alfalfa and clover. The botrytis flower blight fungus (*Botrytis cinerea*) on roses causes a flower blight,

but on strawberries it causes a fruit rot. This fungus also has a wide host range.

The infective and survival structures of these five fungi are varied. Understanding the life cycle of the disease causing organism is important when attempting to find a control for the disease. At some point the life cycle of the organism must be broken for control of the disease to be effective.

- 1) The camellia flower blight fungus has only sexual spores (ascospores) as infection structures. The fungus survives from year to year as sclerotia with these spores produced when the sclerotia germinate. There is no flower to flower infection.
- 2) The azalea petal blight fungus has both ascospores (sexual spores) and conidia (asexual spores). This fungus survives as sclerotia formed on petal tissue. These sclerotia germinate at the time of azalea flower producing ascospores which infect the azalea petals. Conidia then form on the



** Dr Baxter, Professor Emeritus, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0377*

azalea petals which then infect other azalea flowers.

- 3) The peach brown rot fungus also has both ascospores and conidia as infection structures. The ascospores affect peach flowers from which cankers on stems occur. Conidia are then produced from these cankers and will infect fruit. There is also infection from fruit to fruit in peach.
- 4) The bean white mold fungus has only ascospores which affect bean flowers and other plants, but the sclerotia themselves can germinate and kill nearby bean, lettuce, or clover plants directly. There is no flower to flower infection but one or two infected green bean pods in the middle of a bean hamper can cause rot of all beans in the hamper.
- 5) The rose flower blight fungus (also called gray mold) has only conidia as infection structures by which there is flower to flower infection. However, it produces sclerotia in abundance which germinate to form structures on which conidia are produced. Wind can distribute these spores to nearby plants resulting in disease.

All five of these fungi are similar in that they form sclerotia which are the primary means of survival from year to

year. These sclerotia are very difficult to eradicate and may survive in the soil for up to several years. The peach brown rot fungus may also cause cankers on peach trees which serve as an additional overwintering mechanism.

The diseases caused by these fungi are difficult to control. Years of research and thousands of dollars have been spent in this effort. Cures of these diseases have not been achieved but a thorough understanding of the interaction between the plant and the fungus has aided in the various control methods which are employed today. In the camellia flower blight fungus millions of ascospores may be discharged into the air daily when environmental conditions are favorable. The disease is generally avoided in the fall as sclerotia generally do not germinate until later in the season. During dry conditions (10 to 21 days without rain) few sclerotia germinate to produce ascospores resulting in a reduction of infected flowers. Azaleas that flower in early spring put on an outstanding show with all flowers of a given variety flowering at approximately the same time. One to two applications of the fungicide, Bayleton®, at the time of flowering has given effective control of this disease. In the case of peaches, several timed applications of an effective fungicide are applied which give reasonably good control of the peach fruit. Spraying or treating the soil with fungicide has been the primary means of control against the white mold fungus.

Is the use of fungicides a viable option for camellia growers? It was widely felt that the advent of systemic fungicides would provide the solution for flower blight but this has not been the case. Although there have been some fungicides which do show action against the flower blight fungus it has proven impossible to get the chemical into the flower to provide the needed protection. Soil drenches and early sprays with systemics show that although the fungicide will move within the foliage of the plants it will not cross over into the flower bud to offer protection when flowers open. This has been shown time and time again and various methods of application have been tested. Camellia

growers must look to another method of application for protection against this dreaded disease. Tests over the past three years with a new fungicide yet to be released for ornamentals have been conducted at Clemson and Massee Lane by Dr. Luther Baxter, Charlie Thomas, and Betty Hotchkiss. This fungicide, to be known as Lynx, has shown control of the disease when used as both a dip for flowers or as a weekly spray on camellia plants during the bloom season. More specific information on these tests and their results will be described in the 1996 Yearbook. At the present time this fungicide is not on the market although it has been submitted to EPA for approval. When and if approval is achieved we will give this information in the Journal along with recommendations for its use on camellias.

Will the use of this fungicide CURE the camellia flower blight disease? The answer, unfortunately, must be no. However, as mentioned earlier, all of the plant diseases described in this paper also have no CURE. However, adequate control of the disease has been achieved in most cases when fungicides have been properly applied.

Sclerotia usually form within infected camellia flowers within 15 to 20 days depending on temperature and drying conditions. After formation, these sclerotia can survive outdoor conditions in camellia growing areas or in greenhouses for more than four years. Picking up infected blooms and destroying them, as recommended in years past, is still an effective method of reducing the inoculum.

By comparing the flower blight disease with other related diseases one can see that disease control is not a simple issue. Each disease must be carefully studied in an attempt to find the "weak link". With present methods, the flower blight fungus is impossible to control in the sclerotial state. Protection of the flowers appears to be the best option at this time. Although reports by Gordon Holcomb (May 1994 Camellia Journal) showed reduction of the disease by sprays with the fungicide Bayleton®, this new compound appears to offer even better results. Look for more information to come soon. ❀



NEW ZEALAND GARDENS

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Rules or Opinions

Jim Pinkerton

A couple of years has passed since I promised at least three people that I would write an article on judging Camellias. It seems unreal to me that the promise was made, since the request was made to get me to "tell it like it is" — I know of no other way. If you have published articles on this subject, please read no more — you will not agree with most of my comments and I hope to offend no one.

The articles that have been published in the various Camellia publications on this subject have been well written and full of great information. My problem - You can't separate American Camellia Society rules from the opinions of the writer. Almost always the opinions lead you to believe they are ACS rules. So often a remark is made that a fault disqualifies a flower. Show me in the rules where a flower, loose from the calyx, is disqualified. I have heard this many times. It is a fault and should be considered as such. Have you ever tried to transport an eight inch 'Hall's Pride', seven hundred miles over the broken concrete on I55, and keep it on the calyx?

So much for the rules and on to my OPINIONS on judging. Folks, we are judging beauty and nothing else. The most beautiful flower wins. In my opinion you could pick out a sixteen year old girl from the crowd and she could pick out the best flower as well as most of us. When you consider the points for judging, it should be very obvious that is what makes the flower beautiful. I have been told that some of the judging schools are spending a lot of time on

leaves. Forget it — we are not judging daylilies. Just remember that when you are passing down the final judging line, you are looking for the most beautiful flowers. Not whether they are typical for that cultivar, not whether they have a bug hole on a hidden leaf but what kind of beauty you see.

Now for a few opinions on judging teams. BEWARE OF THE JUDGES WITH NOMENCLATURE BOOKS. This remark is not all in jest. The more nomenclature books, the longer it takes to judge the show. The more often a judge looks up a flower, the more convinced I am that they should be judging other cultivars. This makes my point that protected growers should judge protected flowers and outside growers should judge outside flowers. I have been through this several times and have found that an exhibitor will not place his reputation on the line with anything other than fair judging.

All team captains should ask the team to scan the assignment before the judging starts. Head table flowers are not the same in all shows. Sometimes there are many, sometimes not so many. Be very selective because too many flowers sent up creates a Judging problem. I would suggest no more than eight flowers in each group.

I would encourage all shows to have a couple of outstanding judges as rovers. Only those who are afraid of their ability will object. I make mistakes, don't you? Please consider having teams vote together on the final vote. This helps on a fair vote. Never

allow a person to vote for his own flower. California friends have told me that they have so many judges, it makes no difference. Who are you kidding? How would you like to be behind 20 to 0 on weighted average votes or 4 to 0 on regular and the voting has not started?

If a judge has a flower in a category, neither he nor his wife should put a ballot in the box. This includes an X on the ballot. This removes you from any question of honesty.

The most important person in a show is the one responsible for placement of the flowers for the final judging. Flowers should be placed in two rows with the best on the front row. Nothing bothers me more than to see three rows of large flowers, ten flowers to a row and jammed together. California's idea of a team of outstanding judges sending the poorest back when the category exceeds eight to ten has a lot of merit. Just remember to place those two stud flowers side by side on the front row. The judges will get the best one.

Remember to never take issue with a judge at the site of the show. Get the Chairman of Judges to himself. After all he invited the judge. This brings up the issue of how judges are invited. They receive invitations in this order: The chairman's friends, the big exhibitors, the host of the various Friday night parties and if there is any openings left, the best judges. It has been this way since I started in 1955 and always will be... So make friends and show plenty of flowers! ❖

ADDITIONAL JUDGES APPOINTED AND RECERTIFIED JUDGES

Terms of Judges & Novice Judges listed herein expire December 31, 2001.

FLORIDA

Frostproof:
Mrs. Elizabeth Dedrick

GEORGIA

Thomasville:
Mrs. J. J. Crawford (Judge Emeritus)

LOUISIANA

Lafayette:
Lois H. Manuel

Lake Charles:
Jane P. Zerkowsky (Judge
Emeritus)

Slidell:
Denise F. Stanton
Robert D. Stanton

TENNESSEE

Nashville:
Sandra Stewart Frank (Novice)

JUDGING SCHOOLS

MASSEE LANE GARDENS – A Judging School will be held at Massee Lane Gardens on Friday, November 8 from 9:00 - 3:00 p.m. Registration is \$15 and will include lunch and all materials. The Middle Georgia Camellia Society will sponsor a show on Saturday, November 9 and those participating in the school will be encouraged to stay for this show and serve as runners, clerks, or judges. For more information call Betty Hotchkiss at ACS Headquarters.

ATLANTA – A Judging School will be offered on Wednesday, February 19 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in conjunction with the ACS Convention. Anyone interested in attending the School should register for the school while registering for the convention. The school will be held at the host hotel for the convention, Embassy Suites, Buckhead. Registration fee is \$15.

Horticulturally Speaking



The Most Important Recent Improvements to Me in Camellia Culture

This can be a purely subjective matter and can consist of either a single item or a collection of improvements. Some improvements are universal and benefit all Camellia growers, others are more specialized and/or local in nature. We are not thinking of such earth-shaking breakthroughs as a surefire eradication of petal blight, but merely improvements in camellia culture which have made life a little easier.

*"Plants placed under
blankets of Microfoam
(sandwiched between
layers of plastic)
from late November
to mid March,
was not only inexpensive,
it also freed the grower
of regular maintenance
for the winter period."*

Bill Ackerman, Ashton, MD

I believe the utilization of Microfoam insulation for winter protection of both ground and container grown plants in the Northeast has done more to further Camellia culture than anything else during the past twenty-five years. The severe winters of the late 70's and early 80's wreaked havoc on even 30 to 40 year-old specimens. People were discouraged from planting replacements. Membership in our local societies dropped to less than half in a matter of a few years. Those adventuresome individuals that did plant out new camellias soon lost them during subsequent hard winters. All in all, the early 1980's were a very discouraging time for camellia lovers.

About this time, Dr. Francis Gouin, Extension Horticulturist, University of Maryland, spoke to our society (Camellia Society of the Potomac Valley) membership on the advantages of Microfoam as winter protection for ornamental evergreens. That was the beginning of a renaissance in camellia culture in our area.

Microfoam first made it possible to carry container grown plants over winter without the expense and bother of heated greenhouses. Plants placed under blankets of Microfoam (sandwiched between layers of plastic) from late November to mid March, was not only inexpensive, it also freed the grower of regular maintenance for the winter period.

Growers were still interested in growing landscape camellias and here the construction of Microfoam tents over individual specimens provided the means of bringing plants through their first critical winters.

Even with the development of new cold hardy hybrids, Microfoam has played an important role in allowing the new plantings to become well established before facing the elements on their own. We all know that large, long established plants are hardier than small newly planted ones — undoubtedly due to the deeper root development below the frost line.

A second important improvement is the advance towards better growing media for container grown camellias. In the past we used such materials as vermiculite, sphagnum peat, composted

soil with little attention to the pH or acidity of the mix. Vermiculite tends to shrink and dissipate. Peat moss, unless properly balanced, makes for extremely acid conditions, as well as getting more dense with age. Even the best composted soil also tends to make a dense mix with poor aeration and drainage — all conducive to root rot.

Large camellia nurseries, through controlled experiments now use **WELL COMPOSTED PINE BARK** (not hard wood mulch which breaks down too readily), instead of peat moss. Perlite and/or sand instead of vermiculite. A close watch is kept on the pH of the mixture. Composted soil is great for ground grown plants, but repeated studies have found that soilless culture for container plants is a lot safer in the long run. Also, the many choices of slow release fertilizers, make it easier to grow healthy vigorous plants.

Jim Randall, Sacramento, CA

I think the most important improvement in camellia culture in the last twenty years is the use of shade cloth versus lath, regardless of whether the lath is the typical thin type or custom made 1" by 2". There are many advantages and benefits to camellia growers using shade cloth instead of some sort of lath or slat material.

In the first place growers do not have to worry about the orientation with the sun when installing shade cloth, where as with lath you had to be sure you had a north to south alignment. With shade

cloth you can just choose the percentage of shade you desire and not have to worry about determining the lath spacing to achieve the percentage shade desired when building your shade house. Shade cloth gives a nice uniform shade distribution and even temperature, therefore preventing leaf sunburn on extremely hot days when the temperature rockets to 105 to 110 degrees with 10 to 15 percent humidity. Along one side of my shade house I get sunburn on plants that are protected by lath, while the remainder of the area, protected by 43% overhead shade show negligible sunburn effects.

Shade cloth is much easier to install and is not nearly as labor intensive. Although, I have not compared costs I would believe shade cloth would be cheaper to install and still have longevity that approaches thin lath. I constructed my shade house twenty four years ago, and I am now at a point that I will be installing my third shade cloth, twelve years is not bad for the inexpensive material I used. Today's materials are much better and can give even

longer life to your shade house.

Another nice feature of shade cloth is the protection that it can afford your blooms. The first thing that comes to mind is the total protection from a hail storm which is an exhibitors worst nightmare. This phenomenon is not so uncommon here in the West during blooming season. Rainfall of all sizes and intensities is reduced to a fine mist when it passes through my shade cloth. The mist causes very little if any damage to blooms (except some white flowers) as long as the stamens are protected by having the bloom facing down. Also, during sunny days during the blooming season, scorching of blooms from direct sunlight does not occur as it could with some lath installations. If you haven't used shade cloth in your shade house, give it a try, you won't be disappointed.

Hal Showalter, Port Arthur, TX

As I write this, the Olympics have just concluded, but the "memory lingers on", and I find myself thinking in terms of the Games. Bill Ackerman's selected subject is, in my mind, the equivalent of the 'Camellia Culture Olympics'.

The other day I entered the behind-the-garage-gardening storage room. On the end of the sink cabinet hung an old obsolete, useless tool of yesteryear — a three-foot long scissors-shaped **CAN SPLITTER**. I wondered why I had not thrown it away. Ah, memories! Long ago, visiting the nurseries at Forest Hill, LA, I saw huge piles of metal cans, tops removed, some covered and others waiting to be dipped in asphalt. If one grew camellias and made lots of grafts, a can-splitter was a required tool of your hobby.

"Listen," Aline says to me as she stands by the open door. We hear the roar of the 250-foot flare at Star Enterprise's ethylene plant speak back to the approaching thunderstorm. How times have changed! Our camellia-growing began before all these giant chemical plants were born in our area. Texaco, Gulf, Chevron, Koppers DuPont, etc., all have installed these huge facilities. To do what? To make PLASTIC! That is the Gold Medal winner of the camellia culture during the 20th century.

"Plastic?" you say. Each of you measure the ways. Pots and pot-

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ting additives. Fertilizer — slow release, encapsulated in plastic. Gardening gloves and tools. Greenhouses and PVC manufactured from the gasses of the flare and the salt of the Earth. Oh, so many memories to you old-timers!

The Silver Award goes to Ralph Peer's efforts and the following hybridizing results of bringing *C. reticulata* varieties to our country.

The Bronze Award is a team Championship - Mrs. Hayes and all her 'Tomorrows', all the sports of 'Betty Sheffield'.

Finally I wish we had a no-show, failed-to-enter, disqualified, failed to qualify, etc. category for PETAL BLIGHT!

Fred Hahn, Charlotte, NC

I will discuss how I have improved my camellia culture since I began growing and exhibiting camellias forty years ago.

When I first started growing camellias I used a hose sprayer which really used a lot of insecticide. Then I started using a tank type sprayer. Now I use a Solo

"back pack" sprayer which is a great improvement and a lot easier.

Sprayers lead me to insecticides. Cygon, a systemic, really helps on most types of scale. Mavric and Pentac are great in controlling mites. I'll state here that our control of petal blight is dismal even with the new sprays that have been mentioned the last couple years. I think more research monies should be spent on petal blight research.

I laugh when I consider how I used to carry blooms to shows. My blooms were placed on Easter grass in flat cardboard boxes. Now I use orchid picks with Floralife solution and spray my blooms with Clear Set. I now use styrofoam containers with "cold packs" in the bottom of same, and place my blooms on polyester fiber.

Gib has helped me grow better show flowers.

Some really good japonica varieties have been introduced since I have been growing camellias, however; I believe that *reticulata* hybrids have improved even more.

Virginia Rankin, Modesto, CA

After thirty-five years of growing and showing Camellias in Northern California, I have seen many changes. Two that I have been impressed with are the following:

1. It no longer has to be "Big — no huge, — and Red" to win. That such varieties as 'Tomorrow Park Hill', 'Moonlight Bay', 'Swan Lake', 'Lady Laura', and many other non-reds go to the Head Table and win was a great joy.
2. We now appreciate the recognition of size as not having to be "Huge." I can remember having judges say to me, "Don't put me with those ugly little things!" I have not heard that complaint for many years, for who could not enjoy, 'Sugar Babe', 'Bow Tie', 'Confetti Blush' and 'Man Size'?

Now the table space allows for the buttonniere and the registered clearly increases every year. Finally people are seeing that "Huge and Red" has a partner in "Small and Pale." ♣



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Northern California Camellia Society Research Committee



History and Activities

*Gordon H. Goff,
Chairman*

This article presents information about a relatively unknown amateur group that has worked for almost 50 years for the betterment of our camellia hobby. This group is the Research Committee of the Northern Calif. Camellia Society (N.C.C. S.). The Research Committee is made up of those members, 16 maximum, who are so into camellias that they voluntarily joined this subcommittee of NCCS that is 100% devoted to advancing knowledge about camellia culture and propagation and to improving flowers through hybridization. These members devote a lot of time and effort to this endeavor which over the life of the committee has resulted in many outstanding accomplishments that have benefited the camellia world. The Research Committee members at the same time also have gained considerable camellia expertise. In these days of highly competitive shows it might be surmised that there is an incentive to join such a committee so as to be privy to advance information about new developments in culture and improved flowers.

The Research Committee had its origin in 1947, which was two years after the founding of NCCS. It was called the Plant Horticulture Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Gordon Richmond. Later it evolved into the Plant Experimentation Committee and then finally into the Research Committee depending on the name preferred by the membership at the time.

The reason for the establishment of this committee was expressed by Harold Paige, the chairman of NCCS and later a chairman of the Research Committee. He said: "A Research Committee is needed because many still unsolved mysteries remain to keep camellia growing a year-round garden and arm-chair sport. There are two types of horticultural research. One enlists the best brains and the best laboratory facilities available on the largest possible scale and we cannot have enough of it. The other is done on a small and more intimate scale. Here every man is his own technician and only a few plants (some for possible sacrifice), and an unquenchable curiosity and intense interest are needed to qualify one for membership. There is no essential rivalry between the two types of workers, any more than there is rivalry between the owner of a large estate who hires the finest landscape architect to produce a Magnolia or a Bellingrath Garden, and the owner of a small city plot, who knows intimately every one of the plants in his collection by doing all his own gardening. We do not have to duplicate the magnificent facilities of Caltech with its temperature-controlled hothouses and its trained research workers. Minutes away from the weather peculiar to the Bay Area are valleys ten degrees hotter in summer and ten degrees colder in winter, forming natural laboratories where all manner of small and highly important tests

can be carried on and every experimenter can be sure of an audience of interested co-experimenters to compare notes with him."

The original members of the Research Committee were enthusiastic about finding out everything they could about raising better camellias and went in all different directions as the mood suited them. We are still doing the same thing today with members picking their own area of interest to research or more usually just testing their ideas about the best way to grow the finest flowers. The general topic of most interest to the original Research Committee was why camellias tended to grow much better on the east side of the Berkeley hills than on the bay side. The members showed this to be true and gathered extensive data on specific varieties that did well in each area but they didn't know why. The scientific explanation was revealed to them several years later when basic research done by Dr. James Bonner of Caltech showed the effect of climate and temperature on camellia growing and flowering. Also from the beginning there were included more mundane topics such as soil mixes, watering, fertilizing, pruning, rooting of cuttings, grafting and selection of understock.

Improvement of camellias by breeding is undoubtedly the common interest that all current members share. Work in hybridization to create new varieties started slowly and developed momentum as Williamsi and reticulata hybrids became available and showed the potential. A major impetus to hybridization activity was having Dr. Walter Lammerts, a foremost professional hybridizer, as our consultant. Dave Feathers, in particular, became so taken with hybridization that he devoted his considerable resources to this activ-

ity and became widely recognized for his many camellia introductions. Others on the Research Committee also were active hybridizers who enriched the camellia world with their introductions. A partial list of our active hybridizer alumni includes: Dave Feathers, Harold Paige, Jack Osegueda, Dr. Robert Cutter, Ken Hallstone, Woodford Harrison, Frank Pursel, Houghton Hall, George Avery and David Hagmann. Current Research Committee active hybridizers include: Bob Ehrhart, John Wang, Don Bergamini, Jack Lewis, Jim Toland and Gordon Goff with other members indicating future interest in it. The breeding activity covers almost every aspect of camellias except cold weather hardiness which we leave to others. We have a wealth of genetic material to work with because of the large collections of camellias belonging to committee members which include many promising crosses resulting from earlier work by Feathers, Hallstone and Mandarich. In addition we keep in touch with developments of other hybridizers working outside of our group.

Research Committee members currently are working on many other projects beside hybridization. Status of all projects is reported on at each of our six meetings a year and the broad experience of the group is brought to bear on problems as required. Many projects are of a minor nature but their cumulative effect is to add to our body of knowledge. We have been criticized frequently for not publishing more of our work and the committee agrees that we should publish and actively encourages its members to do so. Rest assured that any major research breakthrough will be published eventually, but publishing of the usual small step forward on a timely basis is up to the individual involved.

The remainder of this article will highlight a few noteworthy accomplishments that probably would not have happened without an organization such as ours.

◆ Rescued a large number of unevaluated seedlings from Dr. Clifford Park's hybridization work at the LA arboretum after termination of the program. The seedlings were transported to Northern Calif. and distributed to the members of the Research Committee for evaluation. Two of the many fine camellias that resulted are 'Dr. Clifford Parks' and 'LASCA Beauty'.

◆ Were instrumental in the introduction of the Kunming reticulata cultivars from China to the US in 1979-83. We worked with U.C. Botanical Garden and furnished the money, manpower and understock. We shipped scions all over the world to distribute these plants. A major evaluation program over a nine year period was carried out and reported.

◆ A scion exchange program with China has been in operation since 1989. This has to do with receiving

japonicas and species from them in return for sending a collection of our varieties to them. We are not exclusive in this effort as the Chinese are also making similar arrangements with other organizations in the US and elsewhere. The Research Committee has propagated the plants obtained and is still in the process of evaluating them. Although the japonicas generally appear to have little value to us to justify registration in the US, the species are of some interest in hybridization.

◆ Registration with ACS of locally developed outstanding seedlings that have proved their merit over the years. These flowers apparently slipped down the crack because the originator never got around to registering them. The Research Committee is paying the fees and doing the paper work to correct this situation so that the flowers should appear in the next issue of the Nomenclature. ❁

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State Flower.*

Petal Blight Control

*"I wonder how many Camellia Growers can remember the good old days
— i.e., before 'petal blight' — JOHN K. EDWARDS, JR*

Before PETAL BLIGHT our Camellia Shows always had an abundance of blooms unless we had a hard freeze a few days before a show. On occasions there were so many blooms entered there was not enough table space to display the blooms, but since PETAL BLIGHT came on the scene, many shows have had a noticeable decline in the number of blooms that could be entered. In addition our show attendance has decreased. In the 1930's, 1940's, & 1950's, spectators would stand in line to see a Camellia Show; now there is hardly any waiting time to view shows.

In the beginning, we were told that the only known cure for PETAL BLIGHT was to pick up every bloom and petal and to destroy them, preferably by burning. We were also told that we should remove the top two inches of soil when purchasing container grown plants and that all out-of-state purchases from certain areas had to be shipped in bare root. Occasionally, chemical companies/manufacturers would select a camellia garden and treat the plants and soil with different chemicals trying to find a remedy for PETAL BLIGHT but nothing seemed to work. Picking up all blooms and petals will work providing you pick up every bloom and petal. Robert Sansing (Bob),

deceased, (Pensacola Grower) proved that picking up every bloom and petal will work. Bob hired a handicap person to pick up blooms and petals every day during blooming season and eventually did rid his garden of PETAL BLIGHT.

Now we have a chemical that shows great promise in controlling PETAL BLIGHT. In January 1996, I obtained a medium (chemical) that was recommended for control of PETAL BLIGHT. This formula was: 1 1/2 Teaspoons of the medium (chemical) per gallon of water plus a few drops of liquid soap to act as a sticker. This mixture (approx. 1 pint) was put into a round plastic container suitable for dipping buds in the solution. The latter part of

January 1996, I began dipping buds that had begun to show color and as the buds began to open, I dipped each bud two (2) more times. Prior to my treatment of the blooms, it was almost impossible to find a suitable bloom to enter in a Camellia Show. On February 9, 1996, I cut 35 treated blooms to enter in the Birmingham, AL Camellia Show and on February 10, 1996, all 35 blooms were entered in the show, and on February 11, 1996, not any of the treated blooms showed any sign of PETAL BLIGHT. During my test period, 96 Camellia Buds were treated on 20 different varieties and 44 buds on 12 different Retics and Hybrids. With very few exceptions

the treated Camellia Buds showed no PETAL BLIGHT when fully opened, but a few treated Camellia Blooms that had been open for several days did show signs of PETAL BLIGHT. The variety 'SHOW TIME' appears to be affected by PETAL BLIGHT in the very early stages of opening, and it was very difficult to pick a bloom at all; but after treating the buds I was able to pick quality blooms.

Dipping fully opened blooms is not very satisfactory as it ruins the stamens and pollen washes off into the medium. I tried spraying blooms that were completely open after having been dipped two (2) times, and apparently used too harsh a spray force which caused spots to appear on the bloom. Several fully opened, non-treated blooms with PETAL BLIGHT were

treated and placed in a container for observation. The blooms were observed for several weeks and found no sclerotia (PETAL BLIGHT) developing at the base of the bloom or on the individual petals.

Although the same treatment was used on Retic and Hybrid buds, the result was not as gratifying as on *camellia japonica*. The chemical (medium) did control PETAL BLIGHT but many blooms were damaged in various ways. The outer shell of the buds seemed to harden on some varieties and retarded proper opening. Varieties with pistil protruding at early opening stages turned black or were severely damaged. Varieties such as 'Hall's Pride' were difficult to treat. When the buds were dipped, the mass of stamens would not dry out causing the stamens to mildew and

turn black. Most treated buds fell off before fully opening.

The treatment of Japonicas, Retics, Hybrids and related species by dipping the flower buds in the chemical medium mixture to control PETAL BLIGHT appears to be a step in the right direction. The sooner the chemical medium material becomes available to all camellia growers the better information we will have on the results. It is not difficult to treat camellia buds but it does take planning to follow up after the first treatment. A system is needed whereby you will know which bud was treated and the treatment number.

The ultimate will be when a systemic chemical medium is perfected to control PETAL BLIGHT on all the buds on a plant. ❀

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The following listed Camellias were treated for PETAL BLIGHT:

<u>VARIETY</u>	<u>NO. OF BUDS</u>	<u>REMARKS</u>
'Wendy'	8	No Petal Blight
'Maroon & Gold'	6	No Petal Blight
'Julia France'	2	No Petal Blight
'Vulcan Var.'	8	No Petal Blight
'Lady Laura'	1	No Petal Blight
'Ville de Nantes'	4	No Petal Blight
'Helen Bower'	2	No Petal Blight
'Show Time'	9	No Petal Blight
'Magic City'	4	No Petal Blight
'Pink Magic'	6	No Petal Blight
'Carter's Sunburst Pink'	3	No Petal Blight
'King Size Var.'	14	No Petal Blight
'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	4	No Petal Blight
'Mike Witman Var.'	3	No Petal Blight
'Charlotte Blount Var.'	5	No Petal Blight
'Lady Kay'	4	No Petal Blight
'Mary Alice Cox'	3	No Petal Blight
'Tom Cat Var. & Solid'	6	No Petal Blight
'Snow Man'	4	No Petal Blight
<u>RETICULATAS & HYBRIDS</u>		
'Julie'	2	No Petal Blight
'Valley Knudsen'	3	No Petal Blight
'Mouchang'	4	Ruined Pistil (Protrudes Early) No Petal Blight on Fully Opened Bloom
'Hall's Pride'	14	Was complete failure. Stamens Mildewed Before Buds fully opened. Most Buds Fell Off
'Terrell Weaver'	4	No Petal Blight
'Emma Gaeta'	4	Shell Surrounding Bud Seemed to Harden and Would Not Allow Bud to Open Properly. No Petal Blight
'Delta Dawn'	2	No Petal Blight
'Miss Santa Clara'	2	No Petal Blight
'Dr. Clifford Parks'	2	Stamens Were Damaged, No Petal Blight
'Big Dipper'	3	Ruined Pistil. Shell Surrounding Bud Hardened and Would Not Allow Bud To Open Properly. No Petal Blight
'Graem Yates'	2	No Immediate Petal Blight. Bud Takes too Long to Fully Open
'S.P. Dunn'	2	Ruined Pistil. Buds Opened Poorly. No Petal Blight
'Harold L. Paige'	2	Some Stamens were Damaged, No Petal Blight When Fully Opened.

BOOKS FOR SALE

The following list of books is available at ACS Headquarters. They are for sale on a first-come, first-serve basis since we only have one copy of most of these. They are previously owned and all are in good condition. If you are interested in purchasing any, send your order to American Camellia Society, One Massee Lane, Fort Valley, GA 31030. We will bill you for the book(s) plus postage.

AZALEAS & CAMELLIAS H. Harold Hume, 1931, 90 pp.	\$10.00	GARDEN BULBS IN COLOR McFarland, Hatton & Foley, 1945, 216 pp. Text and many color photos.	\$12.50
AZALEAS & CAMELLIAS H. Harold Hume, 1953, 90 pp.	\$10.00	GARDEN FLOWERS IN COLOR Daniel J. Foley, 1949, 350 garden flowers in full-colored illustrations.	\$12.50
BEAUTIFUL CAMELLIAS OF DESCANSO GARDENS William Donnan, 1976, 96 pp.	\$12.50	GENETIC & CYTOLOGICAL STUDIES WITH CAMELLIA AND RELATED GENERA William L. Ackerman	\$3.50 postage only
CAMELLIAS E. B. Anderson, Blanford Press, London, 1961, 115 pp. This is the first book on camellia culture to appear in England.	\$20.00	MONOGRAPHY OF THE GENUS CAMELLIA Abbe Berlese. A reprint of the translation to English from the French by Henry H. Dearborn, 1838, 110 pp.	\$20.00
CAMELLIAS G. G. Gerbing, 1945, Series 2. Loose leaf binder with 37 color plates with descriptions.	\$45.00	PRACTICAL CAMELLIA CULTURE Robert J. Halliday, 1945 reprint.	Hardback \$8.00 Softback 5.00
CAMELLIAS Leslie Urquhart Press, 1964. Twenty reproductions of paintings by Paul Jones, size 7" x 9 1/2"	\$35.00	RHODODENDRONS, AZALEAS, MAGNOLIAS, CAMELLIAS AND ORNAMENTAL CHERRIES A. T. Johnson, 1948, 93 pp.	\$8.00
CAMELLIAS, KIND AND CULTURE H. Harold Hume, 1951, 271 pp. Color and black and white photos. Covers details of camellia culture and uses fairly completely.	\$25.00	RHS CAMELLIAS & MAGNOLIAS — 1950 Conference Report, 134 pp.	\$10.00
CAMELLIAS AND COMMON SENSE Claude Chidamian, 124 pp. Some color pictures.	\$20.00	THE CAMELLIA Translated from the Italian by Claude Chidamian, 1949, 70 pp. Black and white pictures.	\$12.50
CAMELLIA, ITS APPRECIATION & ARTISTIC ARRANGEMENT Choka Adachi, 1960, 278 pp. Many color pictures.	\$40.00	THE CAMELLIA TREASURY Mrs. Paul Kincaid, 1946, 203 pp., 104 plates. Growing, planting care and design of camellias.	\$25.00
CAMELLIAS ILLUSTRATED & HOW TO GROW THEM Oregon Camellia Society, 1948	\$10.00	TRANSLATION OF THE NEW ICONOGRAPHY OF THE CAMELLIAS Alexandre Verschaffelt, 1848-1860. Translation by E. A. McElhenny, 1945.	\$20.00
CAMELLIAS ILLUSTRATED & HOW TO GROW THEM Oregon Camellia Society, 1957	\$10.00		
DESIGN WITH FLOWERS...UNLIMITED Patricia Kroh, 1959, 141 pp. The way to never-ending variety in creating new designs of flower arranging. Illustrated with full color and black and white photos.	\$12.50		



Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation
(Required by 39 USC 3685)

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PS Form 3526, September 1995

(See Instructions on Reverse)

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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>Ann Blair Brown</i> Editor - Exec. Dir.		Date October 1, 1996
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).		

Instructions to Publishers

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2. In cases where the stockholder or security holder is a trustee, include in items 10 and 11 the name of the person or corporation for whom the trustee is acting. Also include the names and addresses of individuals who are stockholders who own or hold 1 percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities of the publishing corporation. In item 11, if none, check the box. Use blank sheets if more space is required.
3. Be sure to furnish all circulation information called for in item 15. Free circulation must be shown in items 15d, e, and f.
4. If the publication had second-class authorization as a general or requester publication, this Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation must be published; it must be printed in any issue in October or, if the publication is not published during October, the first issue printed after October.
5. In item 16, indicate the date of the issue in which this Statement of Ownership will be published.
6. Item 17 must be signed.

Failure to file or publish a statement of ownership may lead to suspension of second-class authorization.

PS Form 3526, September 1995 (Rev. 9-95)

50th Anniversary Campaign

(As of October 8, 1996)

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Oliver L. Jacobson
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River Branch Foundation
Douglas and Sally Simon
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Special Gifts

(As of October 8, 1996)

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honoring Donna and Bill Shepherd
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Fayetteville Camellia Club
Honorarium to Betty Hotchkiss

Curt Smith

Juan Perez-Valdes
Dr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan
Congratulations on retirement
of John Newsome

Atlantic Coast Camellia Society
Honoring Ms. Sadie Aycock
for Her Paintings

Dr. and Mrs. Daniel E. Nathan
Honoring Stuart Watson

Mrs. Ann Blair Brown
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Happy Birthday Dr. Daniel E. Nathan

Camellia Petal Blight Control



David Scheibert, M.D.

Introduction

Camellia flower blight due to a sclerotium forming fungus, *Ciborinia camellias*, remains untamed and continues to spread and advance its season of camellia plague since found in the U. S. 48 years ago. The scourge was found in New Zealand three years ago. Burning of blighted blooms, black plastic and Terrachlor have not been curative. Perhaps a newly discovered parasitic fungus that destroys the sclerotium of camellia blight may be the answer as described in a recent New Zealand Camellia Journal¹.

Review of Literature

Gordon Holcomb² has described his nine year study of Bayleton® for petal blight. One TBS of the fungicide in one gallon of water sprayed in the field on 13,126 blooms reduced petal blight by 44%. Of 351 flowers dipped in the lab for five minutes in the above solution, 10 developed petal blight in 3 - 5 days and 70% of controls developed the blight.

Baxter and Thomas³ in 1994 described some camellias sprayed with HWG (1608)(Lynx) as protected against blight and blighted-dipped blooms did not form sclerotium. Drench of roots of a camellia with HWG (1608) did not result in the chemical entering the blooms and drench did distort and stunt a few rose plants and red tips. Hotchkiss and Baxter⁴ in 1994 suggested adding 20 drops of Ivory dish detergent to the

*On many occasions
dipped blooms stayed on the bush
for two or more weeks
and maintained their color
without wilting.*

gallon of mix and an unspecified number of dipped camellias had no blight.

Baxter and Thomas⁵ reiterated 18 camellias protected from blight by dip and 18 blighted flowers not forming sclerotia with dip in 2 tsp. HWG (1608) in one gallon of water. Again, failure of a drench to reach camellia flowers through the roots was presented. Hotchkiss and Baxter⁶ presented 20 camellia blooms groups sprayed and dipped 1 or 5 minutes in 1 tsp. HWG (1608) with 45% of each group developing blight. Bayleton® didn't do quite as well and 50% of flowers treated with Bayleton developed sclerotium.

Materials

HWG (1608) is a 3.6 fungicide of Miles Corporation which lasts indefinitely unless frozen. One-half TBS was chosen to be mixed with one gallon of tap water and 20 drops of dish detergent such as Ivory. Agitate suspension frequently in a container for complete dipping of the bloom. Dipping gives superior wetting over a spray application. Bud and flower dip can be done on the bush and the whole flower cut at maturity, totally dipped face up and face down 1 to 5 minutes, drained, lightly shaken and stored for show or use. A white powder on edges of lower petals may be removed with wet swab or brush. Flower preservative spray has not been used yet, but

flower must be dry if sprayed. You may develop your own label system and keep accurate records of success and failure. The only bad dip effect has been blackening of stamens of *C. reticulata* 'Hall's Pride'. This can be prevented by carefully dipping the whole flower except the anthers in the fungicide. Use proper gloves.

Results

The treated flowers in seven shows January-March, 1996, were compared to untreated flowers in seven shows in January-March, 1995 as described below and in Table 1. Blooms dipped in 1/2 TBS HWG (1608) per gallon of water with no blight were stored in 100% humidity at 38° - 40° F for 1 to 7 or more

days before show entry. Of 411 treated 1996 blooms, 363 were healthy and 48 or 11% blighted. The untreated blooms for seven shows in January-March, 1995, numbered 426 with 138 or 33% blighted and 288 flowers could be put in the camellia show. We find that treatment increased the number of show blooms by 90 or at least 22%. This is felt to be worthwhile. If flowers were left on the bush in the greenhouse over 70% developed blight.

Comparison was also made in Table 2 with flowers dipped one time at cutting in January, 1996. The three dips of blooms in February-March, 1996, were done when bud shows color, is half open and at early prime cutting. In

TABLE 1

TREATMENT	HWG 1608 DIP			NO DIP		
Camellia Show Location	SHOW FLOWERS			SHOW FLOWERS		
	Total	1996 Shown	Blight	Total	1995 Shown	Blight
Warner Robins	112	96	16	—	—	—
Fayetteville	27	24	3	—	—	—
Nashville	112	101	11	51	31	21
Jackson	—	—	—	51	32	19
Birmingham	48	43	5	52	36	16
Gainesville	34	31	3	87	58	29
Tampa	28	27	1	—	—	—
Orlando	50	41	9	—	—	—
Tallahassee	—	—	—	70	52	18
Mobile	—	—	—	54	41	13
Tuscaloosa	—	—	—	61	39	22
TOTAL	411	363	48	426	288	138
%	100	88.3	11.7	100	67.6	32.4

TABLE 2

SHOW	NUMBER OF FLOWERS JANUARY 1996		
LOCATION	TOTAL	1 DIP	BLIGHTED
Gainesville	34	—	4
Tampa	28	—	2
Orlando	50	—	9
TOTAL	112	—	15
%	100	—	13.4

SHOW	NUMBER OF FLOWERS FEBRUARY – MARCH 1996		
LOCATION	TOTAL	3 DIPS	BLIGHTED
Birmingham	48	—	5
Nashville	112	—	11
Fayetteville	27	—	3
Warner Robins	112	—	16
TOTAL	299	—	35
%	88.3	—	11.7

January 1996, 112 clean flowers were dipped when cut and 97 could be shown with 15 blooms, or 13.4% blighted. In February and March, 1996, 299 clean blooms were triple dipped and 35 or 11.7% had blight at show time. Triple dipping in HWG (1608) may not be worthwhile but will be checked further.

Another study was dipping 300 blighted flowers one time that were then laid on the moist greenhouse floor. The disease process stopped, petal colors persisted for 2 or more weeks and turned a light brown. There was no gray moldy appearance at the base of the flower. After several months no sclerotia were found.

The last study involved a drench

of three potted plants. The same fungicide mix was used with three applications every three weeks beginning in early February 1996. *C. japonica* 'Faith', 3 feet high in a one gallon pot was given 75 c.c. three times with loss of the plant. *C.j* 'Rudy's Magnoliaeflora' in a two gallon can was given three drenches of 150 c.c. each and two later flowers were unblighted with a third showing a one-half inch rounded spot that never progressed. A six foot *C.j* 'Ferol Ilene' was drenched three times with 250 c.c. each of the same HWG (1608) 1/2 TBS per gallon of water. In latter March 1996, the plant in a 3 gallon can had its last eighteen blooms. Six were a dry light brown and 12 had been on the bush two

weeks and were still white without blemish. No sclerotia were found later. These results suggest the toxicity of the fungicide but indicates the systemic root absorption of HWG (1608) sufficient to prevent blight of a semidouble or formal double bloom.

The results speak for themselves and suggest that significant protection of show flowers from blight is possible with use of HWG (1608) 1/2 TBS per gallon of water with 20 drops of dish detergent. Treated flowers have not formed sclerotia. Three dips instead of one may be beneficial. Drench of a camellia plant for systemic effect on blight is strongly suggested and needs more testing. However, the possible toxicity

problem needs further address when plants receive root drenching. On many occasions dipped blooms stayed on the bush for two or more weeks and maintained their color without wilting.

The new fungicide is not yet registered as Lynx. Let's hope camelliaphiles are not too few to

allow registration. Bayleton® used as a dip needs further attention used as a dip and may prove to be as good as the elusive Lynx.

This next season the dose of HWG (1608) will be tried up to double that used in this article. I am indebted to those listed in the bibliography for paving the way.

P.S. John Edwards tried HWG (1608) on 140 camellia buds and flowers. He had not been able to enter a bloom in the Birmingham, Alabama show for four years. Last February, 1996, he entered 35 treated blooms at Birmingham. His Camellia j. 'Show Time' won best in show and best tray of 3. I have never seen John so excited and happy. ♣

CAMELLIA PETAL BLIGHT CONTROL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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2. Holcomb, G.E., 1994. Camellia flower blight. The Camellia Journal 49 (2): 9-13 also in The Camellia Yearbook, 1990, 169-173.
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4. Hotchkiss, B. and Baxter, Jr. L.W., 1994. Camellia Flower Blight Studies. The Camellia Journal 49 (3): 15.
5. Baxter, Jr. L.W. and Thomas, Jr. C.A., 1995. Control of Certain Camellia and Rose Problems. The Camellia Journal 50 (1): 24.
6. Hotchkiss, B. and Baxter, Jr. L.W., 1995. Camellia Flower Blight Studies using Lynx. The Camellia Journal 50 (4): 34-35.

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(Since the August 1996 Journal)

Walton & Walton
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(As of October 7, 1996)

Sinensis
Dr. Herbert Racoff



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SHOW DATES

(ACS Cooperative Shows)

Place, Location, Sponsor	Date
Chesapeake, VA; Chesapeake Square Mall; Virginia Camellia Society	November 2, 1996
*Fort Walton Beach, FL; Episcopal Church, St. Simons On The Sound; Fort Walton Camellia Society	November 9, 1996
Fort Valley, GA; Massee Lane Gardens; Middle Georgia Camellia Society	November 9-10, 1996
Beaumont, TX; Holiday Inn I-10 Midtown; Texas Camellia Society	November 16, 1996
Valdosta, GA; Valdosta Garden Center; Valdosta Camellia Society	November 16-17, 1996
Waycross, GA; Suntrust Bank of SE GA; Federated Garden Clubs of Waycross	November 20-21, 1996
D'Iberville, MS; Mississippi Gulf Coast Camellia Society	November 23-24, 1996
Brookhaven, MS; State Bank & Trust Company; Brookhaven Camellia Society	November 30, 1996
Jacksonville, FL; Mandarin Garden Club; Camellia Society of North Florida	December 7, 1996
Albany, GA; Cross Creek Mall; Albany Men's Garden Club	December 7, 1996
Slidell, LA; Slidell Municipal Auditorium; Ozone Camellia Club	December 7, 1996
Jacksonville Beach, FL; Jacksonville Beach Womens Club; Island of Beaches Camellia Society	December 7-8, 1996
Houston, TX; Houston Garden Center; Houston Camellia Society	December 7-8, 1996

Apopka, FL; Fran Carlton Center; Apopka Parks DepartmentDecember 14-15, 1996

Pensacola, FL; Wright Place; Pensacola Camellia Club.....December 14-15, 1996

Tampa, FL; Tampa Garden Center; Tampa Bay Area Camellia SocietyJanuary 11, 1997

Gainesville, FL; Oaks Mall; Gainesville Camellia SocietyJanuary 11-12, 1997

Tallahassee, FL; Tallahassee Mall; Camellia & Garden Club of TallahasseeJanuary 11-12, 1997

*Metairie, LA; Crescent City Baptist High School; Camellia Club of New OrleansJanuary 11, 1997

*Change in location of show.

Conroe; TX; First Christian Church, Loop 336; Coushatta Camellia SocietyJanuary 11-12, 1997

Mobile, AL; Springdale Mall; Camellia Club of MobileJanuary 18-19, 1997

Orlando, FL; Leu Gardens - Camellia Room; Camellia Society of Central FloridaJanuary 18-19, 1997

Aiken, SC; Aiken Mall; Aiken Camellia ClubJanuary 18-19, 1997

Thomasville, GA; Thomasville Garden Center; Thomasville Garden ClubJanuary 25, 1997

Charleston, SC; Citadel Mall; Coastal Carolina Camellia Society and Citadel
Mall Merchants' Assn.January 25, 1997

Tuscaloosa, AL; Tuscaloosa Middle School; West Alabama Camellia SocietyJanuary 25-26, 1997

Ocala, FL; Appleton Culture Center; Ocala Camellia SocietyJanuary 25-26, 1997

Lakeland, FL; Garden Club of Lakeland, 802 East Orange Street;
Lakeland Camellia Society.....January 25-26, 1997

Jackson, MS; Deposit Guaranty National Bank Plaza; Jackson Camellia SocietyFebruary 1, 1997

Deland, FL; First Presbyterian Church; Volusia County Camellia SocietyFebruary 1-2, 1997

White Springs, FL; Stephen Foster State Folk Cultural Center	February 1-2, 1997
Pineville, NC; Carolina Place Mall; Charlotte Camellia Society	February 1-2, 1997
Fort Worth, TX; Fort Worth Garden Center; Fort Worth Camellia Society	February 8, 1997
Birmingham, AL; Birmingham Botanical Gardens, Birmingham Camellia Society	February 8-9, 1997
Redwood City, CA; CAB Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue; Peninsula Camellia Society	February 8-9, 1997
Columbia, SC; Columbia Mall; Columbia Mall Merchants Association & Mid-Carolina Camellia Society	February 8-9, 1997
*Tampa, FL; Florida State Fair; Tampa Bay Area Camellia Society	February 8, 1997
West Monroe, LA; Glenwood Medical Mall; Northeast Louisiana Camellia Club	February 15, 1997
Wilmington, NC; Independence Mall; Tidewater Camellia Club	February 15-16, 1997
Atlanta, GA; Atlanta Botanical Gardens; North Georgia Camellia Society (In Conjunction with ACS Convention)	February 21-22, 1997
Warner Robins, GA; Houston Mall; Middle Georgia Camellia Society	March 1, 1997
Fayetteville, NC; Cross Creek Mall; Fayetteville Camellia Club	March 1-2, 1997
Fresno, CA; Fashion Fair Mall; Central California Camellia Society	March 8-9, 1997
Burlington, NC; Holly Hill Mall; Piedmont Camellia Club	March 8-9, 1997
Chesapeake, VA; Chesapeake Square Mall; Virginia Camellia Society	April 5, 1997
Slidell, LA; Slidell Municipal Auditorium; Ozone Camellia Club	December 6, 1997

* Changes since the August issue of *The Camellia Journal*.

(If your show date does not appear in this listing, send it to ACS Headquarters before December 1 st for inclusion in the February issue of *The Camellia Journal*.)

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By the time that you receive this issue of the Journal, the show season will have begun. According to our records at Headquarters, two shows are held in October. Both are held in conjunction with the State Fairs - Columbia, SC and Perry, GA. Although there are not as many blooms available this early in season, many thousands of visitors have the opportunity to see camellias. For many, it is a first time experience. The season for showing camellias begins full swing in November and continues until April. Do support your local society shows, not only by exhibiting but also in working to make it a success. One society has two or three members with big "Ask Me" badges on the floor after judging and throughout the show to answer questions concerning camellias. This is a fine way to extend camellia knowledge and may also help to get new members.

I am happy to report that The American Camellia Society and Massee Lane Gardens are on the Internet as of September 23. You can find us at [http:// www.peach.public.lib.ga.us/ACS/acs.htm](http://www.peach.public.lib.ga.us/ACS/acs.htm) on the Internet. Included are: The First Fifty Years, Looking forward to the Next Fifty Years, The Gardens, Porcelain Collection, Beauty and Solitude, Education, Publications, Research, Camellia Shows, Registration of Blooms, Some

Future Plans, A Calendar of Events, Camellia Links, Directions and a Map of Massee Lane Gardens. There are nine colored pictures for viewing. We are most appreciative of the cooperation from the Peach Public Libraries.

Although it was a very dry summer, our plants look great. At the moment, the *C. sasanquas* are putting on a good show and we have a few gibbed *C. japonicas* in flower. The perennial and annual beds are still beautiful and the chrysanthemums will come into flower in a couple of weeks. The four beds in the parking area behind the Fetterman Building are being reworked. Much topsoil has been added and the beds are ready to be planted. These new plantings will add much beauty to this area.

All plans have been finalized for the Camellia Festival February 8-12. Tuesday, February 11 will be a special day for Senior Citizens. Entertainment will be presented at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. and lunch will be served at noon. Tours of the garden and porcelain will be given. This is a new event and we already have several tour bookings.

We are again looking forward to the "Festival of Trees" and "Open House" on Sunday, December 8. Organizations throughout the area decorate 9 foot live Frazer Fir trees using a theme. The Massee Lane Staff and our Volunteers provide



Ann Blair Brown

delightful refreshments. They also decorate the buildings in holiday finery. There is special entertainment throughout the afternoon. There is no charge and it is open to the public as a "thank you" for continued support. Our guests linger over a cup of spiced tea and other goodies as they enjoy visiting and viewing the beautiful trees. Consider giving a Gift Membership to ACS. Just let us know and we will be glad to notify the recipient of your gift. Single membership for 1997 is \$25.00 and a joint is \$27.50.

In a few weeks, we will get together with family and friends for Thanksgiving — a wonderful time of the year. Shortly afterwards, we will be celebrating the December holidays. From all of us at Massee Lane, we wish you much joy and may 1997 be the best year ever for you and those dear to you.

Order Form

See Photos On Back Cover

ACS Gift Shop...

ITEM#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
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TEE SHIRT

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1314	LARGE	\$14.00	___	___
1315	X-LARGE	\$14.00	___	___
1316	XX-LARGE	\$14.00	___	___

SPORT SHIRT WITH BANDED COLLAR

1317	MEDIUM	\$25.00	___	___
1318	LARGE	\$25.00	___	___
1319	X-LARGE	\$25.00	___	___
1320	XX-LARGE	\$25.00	___	___

ITEM#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
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2045	CAMELLIA PLATTER	\$25.00	___	___
1083	SUNCATCHER	\$15.00	___	___
	CAMELLIA		___	___
	• DOGWOOD		___	___
	MAGNOLIA		___	___
	HUMMINGBIRD		___	___
1528	18" BRASS TUBE VASE	\$15.00	___	___
1529	12" BRASS TUBE VASE	\$12.00	___	___
1602	LICENSE PLATE	\$4.00	___	___
3009	CAMELLIA WATCH	\$20.00	___	___
	LADIES		___	___
	MEN		___	___

Total Order...

TOTAL MERCHANDISE PRICE	\$	___
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Make checks payable to: AMERICAN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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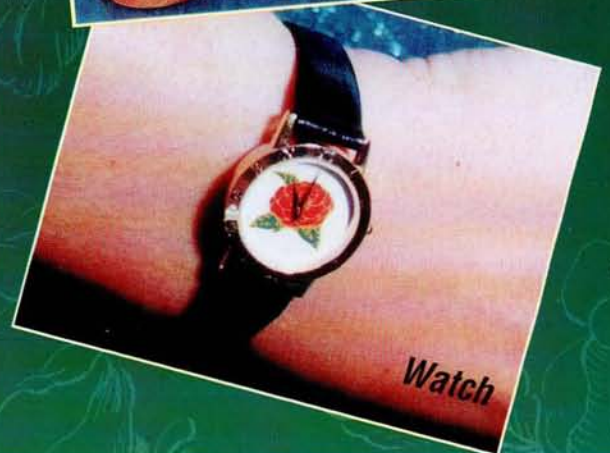
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