

Northern California Camellia Society



Volume I, No. 1

OFFICIAL BULLETIN

October 1947

THE OCTOBER MEETING

The October meeting of the Northern California Camellia Society will be held Monday evening, October 6, 1947, at Chabot School, Chabot Road and Patton, Oakland.

7:45 - 8:00 p.m.—Display of Camellia blooms grown by members. Please bring blooms.

8:00 - 8:30 p.m.—"Suggestions for a Camellia Collection"—Kodachromes by Dr. Noble H. Logan. Descriptive comments by Wm. B. Smyth, Smyth Nursery.

8:30 - 8:50 p.m.—"Camellia Seeds and Seedlings"—Louis J. Macchia.

8:50 - 9:00 p.m.—Intermission.

9:00 - 9:25 p.m.—"The Culture Factor Most Often Neglected by Camellia Growers"—Dr. Gordon W. Richmond, Chairman, Horticultural Research Committee.

9:25 - 9:40 p.m.—CAMELLIA KWIZ—Question and answer period. Three experts will attempt to answer all culture questions directed at them.

9:40 - 9:50 p.m.—Suggestions from members for future programs.

9:50 - 10:00 p.m.—Drawing of DOOR PRIZE, donated by retiring President O. E. Hopfer, and EXHIBITOR'S PRIZE, donated by a local nursery.

Membership dues are due and payable October 1, 1947.

Directions to Chabot School FROM SAN FRANCISCO: Take E train at Bay Bridge Terminal and transfer at Chabot Station to waiting bus. (Ask ticket taker in San Francisco for transfer.) Get off bus at Patton.

FROM EAST BAY POINTS: Go out College Avenue to Chabot Road, turn east and drive 6-tenths of a mile to Patton. OR drive out to end of Broadway, to Y-intersection of Patton and Broadway Tunnel Road, turn left on Patton and drive one block.

CAMELLIA CULTURE IN THE EAST BAY AREA

By D. L. Feathers

Vice-President, Northern California Camellia Society

As we all know, volumes have been written about camellia culture by recognized authorities, who have covered the subject from many angles. Since my own experience has been largely practical and limited to about ten years in the East Bay area, this is an effort to condense, simplify, and adapt cultural directions to this particular locality. The following, therefore, is offered, not as the best way to grow camellias, but rather to explain how it has been done successfully.

The fundamental method I follow in growing plants of any kind is to study the natural habitat of the plant

and then try to reproduce this environment under controlled conditions. In their natural state, camellias grow in a hilly, rainy country having relatively high humidity, where they are shaded by trees. This environment results in (1) **constant moisture**, (2) **good drainage**, (3) **acid soil**, (4) **partial shade**, and (5) **some shelter**. These, therefore, are what I consider to be the five essentials of good camellia culture.

Constant Moisture

Constant moisture means moist soil about the roots at **all times**, **never** allowing the soil to become soggy or

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*Mr. Feathers grows camellias to perfection. He was sweepstakes winner in the 1946 Camellia Show and runner-up in the 1947 Camellia Show of the Northern California Camellia Society.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
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Barlow W. S. Hollingshead (Orinda 2054)
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BLOOM DISPLAY

Harold A. Wescott (TR 2-5382)
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RECEPTION

Arthur J. Tucker (AN 1-7580)
6415 Ascot Dr, Oakland

OFFICIAL BULLETIN—**EDITOR**

Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead
(Orinda 2054)
12 La Cintilla Av, Orinda

The Northern California Camellia Society is a non-profit organization of camellia fanciers interested in the culture, propagation, and development of camellias. Meetings are held on the first Monday in each month from October to May inclusive, at 8 p.m., at the Chabot School Auditorium, Oakland. Membership is open to all those with a serious interest in the subject. Annual dues \$5.00. Membership application blanks may be obtained from Barlow W. S. Hollingshead, Secretary-Treasurer, 12 La Cintilla Avenue, Orinda, California.

THE OCTOBER MEETING

The Program Committee, comprised of D. L. Feathers, Chairman, L. C. Glaudon, F. A. Grimmelman, Dr. Noble H. Logan, Herbert V. Mitchell, and Alfred Stettler, are to be congratulated on the excellence of their October program.

The camellia kodachromes of Dr. Noble H. Logan—about 40 in number—have been selected to give a balanced assortment of varieties as to form, color, and blooming season. Such a collection of camellias would assure variety and constant bloom. As the pictures are shown, William B. Smyth, Smyth Nursery, Ross, will comment on the merits of each variety.

Louis J. Macchia of San Carlos, a founder member, who has had many years of practical experience growing seedlings, will talk on "Camellia Seeds and Seedlings."

Dr. Gordon W. Richmond, Chairman of the new Horticultural Research Committee, has done considerable

experimenting with the growing of camellias. His talk on "The Factor Most Often Neglected in Camellia Culture," is of such local importance that no member can afford to miss it. Other members of this committee are: Dr. H. V. Allington, Dr. Robert Cutter, and Dr. George W. Hahn.

KAMELLIA KWIZ is a question and answer period in which a panel of three experts, yet to be chosen, will attempt to answer all cultural questions directed at them. This panel will be composed of different persons from time to time, in order to obtain a variety of opinions.

It is planned to call for suggestions from members regarding the subjects they would like presented on future programs. Mr. Feathers hopes that this can be developed into a general Suggestion Period, during which all who have ideas for the betterment of the programs will bring them to the attention of the Program Committee. "Put on your thinking caps and let us have your ideas," says Mr. Feathers.

FOR THE RECORD

Since this is the first issue of the BULLETIN, there has been no written record to date, covering the activities of the Northern California Camellia Society since its founding in December 1945, other than the Minutes of the meetings and the Judges' Books for the First and Second Annual Camellia Shows. In order that the history of the first two years, including reports on the two shows, may be permanently recorded it is being covered in two installments in the first and second issues of the BULLETIN.

Founders' Meeting

Camellia enthusiasts in the San Francisco Bay area were called together on Sunday, December 9, 1945, at the home of Mr. O. E. Hopfer, for the purpose of considering and acting upon the proposal that an organization of persons interested in the cultivation of camellias be formed into a camellia society, with headquarters in Oakland, California.

Fourteen camellia fanciers were present at this founders' meeting, as follows:

J. D. Black, Piedmont
 E. L. Coleman, Oakland
 B. S. Ehrenpfort, Oakland
 David L. Feathers, Oakland
 Howard H. Gilkey, Oakland
 W. M. Griffith, Hayward
 Woodford F. Harrison, Berkeley
 O. E. Hopfer, Oakland
 Charles Jensen, Oakland
 Dr. Noble H. Logan, Oakland
 Louis J. Macchia, San Carlos
 Eugene T. Nebiolo, Oakland
 Harold L. Paige, Oakland
 Arthur J. Tucker, Oakland

Mr. Hopfer opened the meeting with a general statement of its purpose and suggested possible activities of such a society, including the sponsoring of an annual camellia show. At the roundtable discussion which followed, it was found that those present were unanimously in favor of forming such a society. Mr. Paige was then chosen Temporary

Chairman to preside over the organizational meeting.

First, a suitable name was considered. After discussion, a motion was carried to call the society the "California Camellia Society." (Subsequently, the name was changed to "Northern California Camellia Society," in order to eliminate any possible confusion with other California camellia societies.)

The Society was to be a non-profit organization, founded for the purpose of bringing together, as a group, persons genuinely interested in the dissemination and furtherance of the knowledge of growing camellias.

There followed an election of officers, resulting as follows:

PRESIDENT, O. E. Hopfer
 VICE-PRESIDENT, Harold L. Paige
 SECRETARY, D. L. Feathers
 TREASURER, Arthur J. Tucker.

President Hopfer then took the Chair and called for consideration of By-Laws. After general discussion as to the desirable scope of such rules, E. T. Nebiolo, Oakland attorney, was appointed to draft a set of proposed By-Laws, to be submitted to the members at their first regularly scheduled meeting.

In order to meet the necessary expenses of the Society, a motion was duly carried providing that each regular member pay as dues the sum of \$5.00 per year in advance. (Later, this was amended to add a provision that new membership applicants pay dues in advance, computed at the rate of \$1.00 per monthly meeting remaining in the fiscal year, but not exceeding \$5.00.)

Dr. Noble H. Logan was appointed Program Chairman to arrange for programs at the regular meetings of the Society.

Finally, the matter of a camellia show was considered. After discussion it was decided that the Society sponsor an Annual Camellia Show. Mr. Paige was appointed Show Manager. (Continued on Page 4)

For the Record—

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First Regular Monthly Meeting

On Sunday, January 13, 1946, the first regularly scheduled meeting of the Society was held in the quarters of the American Institute of Banking at 427-13th Street, Oakland, and seven additional members were elected, as follows:

Dr. H. V. Allington, Oakland
 Dr. Robert Cutter, Berkeley
 A. Ghiglieri, Oakland
 Dr. G. Myron Grismore, Oakland
 F. H. Mick, Oakland
 Herbert V. Mitchell, Oakland
 Dr. Walker Wells, Piedmont

By-Laws, under the title "Constitution and By-Laws of the California Camellia Society," drafted by Mr. Nebiolo, were discussed and duly adopted.

Dr. Walker Wells gave an interesting and informative talk on "The Historical Background of Camellia Culture," covering the origin, family groupings, and general historical background of the camellia family, illustrated by slides.

Second Regular Monthly Meeting

On Monday evening, February 4, 1946, the second regular monthly meeting was held and seven more members were elected, as follows:

E. L. Anderson, Oakland
 C. H. Congdon, Oakland
 George J. Helms, San Leandro
 John McDonnell, Oakland
 H. P. Nachtrieb, Berkeley
 Arthur E. Navlet, Piedmont
 F. G. Predmore, Piedmont

Vice-President Paige, who had been charged with the management of the First Annual Camellia Show, gave a progress report.

President Hopfer reported on the matter of programs and publicity relating to the show.

Mr. Woodford Harrison was appointed to look into the matter of obtaining suitable but inexpensive containers for displaying blooms at the

show. Mr. Harrison also provided rolls of gray paper to cover the exhibit tables.

Mrs. William J. Roth of San Francisco, guest speaker of the evening, displayed a number of camellia arrangements to illustrate her extremely interesting and instructive lecture on "The Use of Camellias in Home Decoration and Corsages."

First Annual Camellia Show

At last the great day arrived! The First Annual Camellia Show was held at the Twentieth Century Club in Berkeley on Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24, 1946, opening at noon on Saturday and closing at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Hundreds of visitors attended, oh-ing and ah-ing over the colorful display of specimen blooms grown by amateurs, the decorative camellia arrangements shown by amateurs and professionals, and the exhibit of rare and unusual varieties grown by nurserymen.

The Show was generally deemed to be outstandingly successful, for which major credit goes to Show Manager Paige and his committee of volunteer workers. Mrs. Herbert V. Mitchell served as Chairman of Registration, and the following members helped in staging the show:

Herbert V. Mitchell, Dr. H. V. Allington, Dr. Robert Cutter, D. L. Feathers, Dr. Noble H. Logan, Arthur J. Tucker.

Particular credit also goes to Mrs. William J. Roth of San Francisco whose array of camellia arrangements added materially to the artistic tone of the show.

Judges of specimen blooms were Frank Burns of San Rafael, B. F. Enos of San Leandro, and Alfred Stettler of San Francisco, under the direction of Prof. H. M. Butterfield of Berkeley. Judges of amateur camellia arrangements were Mrs. Herbert D. Bendheim of Oakland, Mrs. Charles C. Derby of Berkeley, and Miss Nellie Jacobson of Oakland.

CLASSES AND AWARDS

Specimen Group

1. Semi-Double white
 - 1.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Ethlington White)
 - 2.—Barlow Hollingshead, Orinda (Caprice)
 - 3.—O. E. Hopfer, Oakland (Not recorded)
2. Semi-double pink
 - 1.—Mrs. Warde Sorrick, Orinda (Grandiflora Rosea)
 - 2.—Mrs. W. A. Ballinger, Orinda (Grandiflora Rosea)
 - 3.—Woodford Harrison, Berkeley (Grandiflora Rosea)
3. Semi-double red
 - 1.—Louis J. Macchia, San Carlos (Waukaurora Red)
 - 2.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Flame)
 - 3.—Dr. Walker Wells, Piedmont (Flame)
4. Semi-double variegated
 - 1.—W. L. Stoeckle, Concord (Candida Elegantissima)
 - 2.—C. Breschini, San Jose (Not recorded)
 - 3.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Sara-sa)
5. Double white
 - 1.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Alba Fimbriata)
 - 2.—W. L. Stoeckle, Concord (Alba Plena)
 - 3.—Mrs. Warde Sorrick, Orinda (Alba Plena)
6. Double pink
 - 1.—W. L. Stoeckle, Concord (Francine)
 - 2.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Debutante)
 - 3.—Dr. Robt. Cutter, Berkeley (Sarah Frost)
7. Double red
 - 1.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Pope Pius IX)
 - 2.—O. E. Hopfer, Oakland (Not recorded)
 - 3.—Dr. Noble H. Logan, Oakland (Emperor of Russia)
8. Double variegated
 - 1.—W. L. Stoeckle, Concord (Peoniflora)
 - 2.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Bella Romana)
 - 3.—Dr. H. V. Allington, Oakland (Harlequin)
9. Six blooms of one variety
 - 1.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Julia Drayton)
 - 2.—Mrs. W. A. Ballinger, Orinda (Peoniflora)
 - 3.—Louis J. Macchia, San Carlos (Pride of Rosebud Farm)
10. Six to twelve blooms of different varieties
 - 1.—Louis J. Macchia, San Carlos
 - 2.—Dr. Walker Wells, Piedmont
 - 3.—O. E. Hopfer, Oakland
11. Best camellia bloom in the show
Mrs. Warde Sorrick, Orinda (Alba Plena)
12. Display of three potted camellias
 - 1.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Magnoliaflora) (Lady Jane Grey) (Countess of Orkney)

13. Best plant in container
 - 1.—D. L. Feathers, Oakland (Magnoliaflora)
 - 2.—Dr. Noble H. Logan, Oakland (Colonel Firey)
14. Best exhibit of rare blooms
 - 1.—C. Breschini, San Jose

Amateur Camellia Arrangements

15. Camellias with figurine
 - 1.—Piedmont Garden Club, Piedmont
 - 2.—Mrs. C. J. Wiemann, Berkeley
 - 3.—Mrs. Barlow Hollingshead, Orinda
16. Dinner table arrangement
 - 1.—Mrs. Anne H. Cobbledick, Oakland
 - 2.—Mrs. Noble H. Logan, Oakland
 - 3.—Mrs. C. J. Wiemann, Berkeley
17. Arrangement dramatized by foliage
 - 1.—Piedmont Garden Club, Piedmont
18. Arrangement for occasional table
 - 1.—W. L. Stoeckle, Concord
 - 2.—Mrs. Noble H. Logan, Oakland
 - 3.—Mrs. Anne H. Cobbledick, Oakland
19. Mass display of camellias
 - 1.—O. E. Hopfer, Oakland
20. Submerged display of camellia bloom
 - 1.—O. E. Hopfer, Oakland
21. Corsage of one or more blooms
 - 1.—O. E. Hopfer, Oakland
 - 2.—Mrs. Noble H. Logan, Oakland

Special Awards

Most outstanding flower arrangement, specimen, or plant. Prize: Potted Reticulata. Mrs. Anne Hathaway Cobbledick, Oakland (flower arrangement).

Meritorious Award for group of flower arrangements — Mrs. Wm. J. Roth, San Francisco.

*Sweepstakes winner — D. L. Feathers, Oakland (25 points)

*Runner-up — W. L. Stoeckle, Concord (11 points)

*based on specimen bloom awards

Non-Competitive Exhibits

Non-competitive exhibits containing several hundred blooms of rare and unusual varieties were shown by Burns Florists of San Rafael, Camellia Hall of Sacramento, McDonnell Nursery of Oakland, Smyth Nursery of Ross, and Toichi Domoto Nursery of Hayward.

For the Record—

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Show Program

A printed program, giving a schedule of exhibits, together with judging scales and show regulations, was distributed free, its cost being covered by an R.A.C. Fertilizer ad of the Pacific Guano Company.

Third Regular Monthly Meeting

On March 4, 1946, the third regular meeting of the Society was held and five additional members, who had exhibited in the show, were elected, as follows:

Floyd R. Bourlier, Berkeley
Charles W. Ehlers, Oakland
Ernest Higgins, Berkeley
Barlow Hollingshead, Orinda
W. L. Stoeckle, Concord

Mr. Tucker, Treasurer, reported that the expense of the show had totalled \$174.87, defrayed entirely by membership dues and one program ad.

Mr. Feathers, Secretary and sweepstakes winner, gave an informative, extemporaneous talk on his method of camellia culture and answered questions.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. Howard Gilkey, Manager of the California Spring Garden Show at Oakland. His subject was "A Critical Analysis of the Camellia Show." In Mr. Gilkey's opinion, it was an exceptionally fine all-camellia show. The gray background, he said, was particularly appropriate for exhibiting camellias, since the red, variegated, pink, and white blooms stood out vividly against this neutral tone, without the observer being conscious of the background color.

Fourth Regular Monthly Meeting

At the April 1, 1946 regular meeting, Mr. Stoeckle gave an interesting and instructive talk on his method of growing prize-winning blooms.

This was followed by a report on the Sacramento, San Francisco, and Santa Rosa Camellia shows by Vice-President Paige, and a report on the Glendale Camellia Show by Mr. Alfred Stettler.

President Hopfer showed colored motion pictures on the culture and propagation of camellias, which were greatly enjoyed by all.

Fifth Regular Monthly Meeting

The final regular meeting of the year was held on Monday evening, May 6, 1946, at which ten new members were elected, increasing the total membership to forty-three.

Gordon Courtright, Berkeley
James H. Cobbledick, Sr., Oakland
Harold A. Wescott, San Leandro
Dr. Gordon W. Richmond,

Richmond
Alfred Stettler, San Francisco
Thomas M. Wilson, Berkeley
Mrs. Sara S. Tuckey, Kentfield
William B. Smyth, Ross
Benjamin F. Enos, San Leandro
Mrs. Carmel H. Booth, San Anselmo

W. M. Griffith gave a talk on "Camellia Culture in the Deep South," covering his observations and experiences on a recent trip through the southern states, during which he visited a number of camellia gardens, such as Magnolia Gardens, Middleton Gardens, and Gerbing's Camellia Gardens.

Editor's Note: This is the first of two installments. The second will appear in the November issue.

WEST COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY NOTES

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY is a men's club. Its meetings are held on the second Wednesday in each month from September to April inclusive at the offices of the Agricultural Commissioner in San Jose, California.

PRESIDENT—T. J. Moniz.
SECRETARY-TREASURER—W. S. Follett
309 Princeton Road
Menlo Park, California.

SACRAMENTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY holds its meetings monthly on the fourth Wednesday in each month from October to May inclusive, at the Garden Center, 32nd and H Streets, Sacramento, California.

PRESIDENT—Arthur E. Mohr.
SECRETARY—Mrs. B. C. Erwin
2950 - 19th Street
Sacramento, California.

Camellia Culture—

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dried out. Consequently, camellias must be watered frequently, particularly in hot weather. During the summer, camellias should be given one good soaking a week. The foliage and top-soil should be sprinkled after sundown, **daily** if possible, or at least twice weekly. The frequency depends upon many factors, such as location, size of plant, composition of soil, drainage, and mulching.

In nature, camellias have a natural mulch of decaying leaves and wood about them at all times. This provides **constant** humidity, food, and protection from evaporation. The mulch may be leaf mold, pine needles, lawn clippings, hedge clippings, or peat moss; or it may be a living mulch, such as lawn grass. I consider annual or permanent mulching to be an absolute necessity. Specimen camellias do exceptionally well planted in lawn with the grass growing right up to the plant stem. Watering of the lawn takes care of watering the camellia and the green grass keeps the roots cool and moist at all times.

Drainage

The ideal soil composition is one that permits water to soak in immediately. This means that the soil must be loose and friable. The soil should not show mud when sprinkled, since the mud film seals surface pores and prevents necessary aeration.

Heavy soil should be lightened by the use of generous amounts of humus, such as leaf mold, peat moss, coarse sand, or even such coarse material as fine gravel, to make the mixture loose, light, and porous.

Light, sandy soil may be corrected by adding humus and loam until the composition is sufficiently rich and moisture retentive.

In planting camellias where the surrounding soil is heavy or has a clay base, the hole should be at least three times the width and depth of the plant ball or container. In order to provide adequate drainage, about

three inches of coarse rock or other permanent drainage material should be placed in the bottom of the hole. Soil of the right consistency for filling the hole around the plant may be had by mixing about equal parts, by volume, of loam, peat moss, leaf mold, and sand. In time, the two parts of humus will break down into approximately one-third of the total volume, giving a permanent ratio of about 1:1:1.

Where camellias are planted on a hillside, there will be natural surface drainage. This drainage will not be excessive if the soil mixture is right. In the East Bay area, where the typical soil is heavy clay or adobe, often underlaid by hardpan, proper drainage may not be afforded even on a hillside, if the hardpan is close to the surface. In extreme cases, where the hole for planting extends into hardpan, a trench should be dug, extending from the lower side of the hole for a distance of several feet, so that the outlet end of the trench is lower than the bottom of the hole. The bottom of this trench and the hole should be filled with coarse rock to a depth of about three inches to furnish adequate drainage.

Acidity

Acidity is the all-important factor in this locality. Since chemical analysis shows that the water of the East Bay system is relatively high in alkalinity and since a prime requisite for growing camellias (as well as azaleas, rhododendrons, and other acid-loving plants) is **acid** soil, it is absolutely essential that measures be taken to counteract this slow alkaline poisoning.

The first step is to use peat and leaf mold in abundance, to insure an acid soil medium. Even better insurance is attained by mixing a moderate amount—about a cupful to a wheelbarrow load—of agricultural sulphur to the soil mix before planting. This mixture will be improved if kept wet and allowed to mellow for a month before using.

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Camellia Culture—

(Continued from Page 7)

Even these precautions do not give permanent protection, for constant watering will in time leach out the acid elements, replacing them with the alkalinity of the water. It is necessary, therefore, to add some form of acid regularly to offset this condition by mulching with peat, leaf mold, or pine needles, supplemented by an acid fertilizer.

Yellowing or unseasonal dropping of the leaves and eventual blackening of new growth twigs indicate a critical stage of alkalinity. Corkiness on the underside of the leaves and browning of the tips are other evidences of lack of acid. A quick-acting antidote should be applied, in the form of a readily available, soluble acid, such as a tablespoonful of aluminum sulphate or cider vinegar (5% acetic acid) in a gallon of water, applied monthly until this condition is rectified.

Shade and Shelter

Unlike the three preceding "musts" one cannot make a general statement about shade and shelter, except to say that all varieties will thrive in diffused sunlight and moderate shelter, such as is provided by a lath house. So much depends upon the variety, size of plant, immediate surroundings, and moisture conditions, that a broad statement is impossible.

Open sun will make a better shaped shrub, and adequate sunshine insures prolific bloom, deeper flower color, and general plant health, thus discouraging pests. Excess sun induces thick, bushy growth, to create natural shade, but results in most cases in blanching or burnt foliage. Excess shade induces sparse growth, to let in more light, and reduces plant vigor. The happy medium is about half-and-half. Remember that sun, water, and food should be kept in balance. So give a plant in full sun more water and food than one in partial shade.

For garden planting, the preferred

exposure is East, North, South, and West, respectively, West being least desirable. Thus, morning sun and afternoon shade is preferable. There is, however, a wide range of tolerance between varieties, from those preferring sun, like Professor C. S. Sargent, to those preferring shade, like *Mathotiana Alba*. In localities having summer fog, a great many varieties will thrive in the open if well mulched and watered, provided the plant is large enough to cast some shade when set out.

Keeping in mind the camellia's natural environment, all varieties prefer some protection from the elements, particularly from wind, which has a drying or burning effect on the blossoms. Some shelter, therefore, is desirable—the side of a house, a fence, or other wind-break. But one should not go to the other extreme and provide excessive shelter since plants require free circulation of air.

Fertilizing

I use my own mixture, which consists of cottonseed meal, superphosphate, sulphate of potash, ammonium sulphate (or phosphate), aluminum sulphate, sulphur, and iron sulphate. The chemical analysis is about 4% nitrogen, 8% phosphorus, and 8% potash, and it is quite acid. I apply this mix monthly, beginning at the end of March and continuing through June, at the rate of about two heaping tablespoons to a three-foot plant. I do not favor fertilizers preponderantly heavy in nitrogen for the primary purpose of growing choice blooms.

A good rule for the inexperienced to follow is to fertilize **lightly** and **often**, which is safest.

Disbudding

As with other flowers, the fewer buds left on, the larger will be the camellia blooms. A happy medium is to disbud so as to leave one bud on each terminal, with other buds spread at least three inches apart along the branches. This will insure sizeable flowers and plenty of them, allowing the blooms space to open freely.