Northern California Camellia Society

A Non-Profit Organization

Vol. 1, No. 4 **OFFICIAL BULLETIN** January, 1948

THE FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the Northern California Camellia Society will be held Monday evening, February 3, 1948, at Chabot School, Chabot Road and Patton, Oakland.

7:30- 8:00 p.m.—Exhibit of Camellia blooms grown by members. Please bring blooms by 7:30 or by 7:45 the latest.

8:00- 8:15 p.m.—Remarks and Announcements—President Harold L. Paige.

8:15- 8:45 p.m.—"EXHIBITING AT CAMELLIA SHOWS"—Mr. W. L. Stoeckle, assisted by his charming wife, Mrs. Nelda Stoeckle, winner of innumerable awards at camellia shows throughout California, including the Sweepstakes Award at our 1947 Camellia Show and at the 1947 Sacramento Camellia Show.

8:45- 9:00 p.m.—"CAMELLIA SHOWS OF THE PAST"—Kodachromes through the courtesy of Dr. Noble H. Logan and Mr. Herbert V. Mitchell.

9:00- 9:15 p.m.—Intermission.

9:15- 9:30 p.m.—"GRAFTING CAMELLIAS"—Mr. Vernon R. James, Elliot's Floral Nursery, Los Gatos, will conclude last month's forum on this subject.

9:30- 9:50 p.m.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—Time will be provided to answer your specific cultural and propagation questions.

9:50-10:00 p.m.—Drawing of DOOR PRIZE, a budded and well branched Kumasaka, donated by Camellia Hall Nursery, Sacramento, and EXHIBITOR'S PRIZE, a Ville de Nantes graft, donated by McDonnell Nursery, 5146 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland. The latter drawing is open only to members who are exhibiting blooms.

GRAFTING OF CAMELLIAS*

By O. E. Hopfer of Oakland

Assisted by a panel of experts:
Herman V. Allington, M.D., Oakland
Gordon Courtright, East Bay Nursery, Berkeley
W. H. Hall, Camellia Hall Nursery, Sacramento

Before getting into the matter of physical demonstrations, I would like to make just a few observations on the WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, and WHY of grafting, just to lay a little groundwork for the techniques which will be explained and demonstrated later.

Understock

First, WHAT kind of camellias do we usually use as understock for grafting? The answer is that we normally try to take advantage of the root system of an established plant which may have attained considerable size, but whose blooms are not of the quality which we consider fine today. Sometimes we get discouraged with the performance of a certain pink variety which consistently drops its buds, and finally we decide to cut its head off and graft a first-class scion onto the established root stock. There is no need to dig up and destroy an entire plant just because we do not like the quality of its flowers. It is much easier to cut it off within a couple of inches of the surface and insert several high-grade scions. If the plant is a large one, with a trunk say of 1½

*This forum was given at the January 5, 1948, meeting of the Northern California Camellia Society.

Grafting

to 4 inches in diameter, we often use the triangular notch graft which Dr. Allington will make for you later in the program.

Sometimes we have a lot of seedlings which we have grown to flowering size, only to find the blooms are inferior and not worth giving the plant garden space. Since we do not want to be horticultural wasters, we utilize the root stock by grafting onto it a choice variety.

Scions

Camellias which are very scarce are often used to supply scions for grafting; first, because of the paucity of new growth from which to make cuttings; secondly, because two or three scions can be made from the same amount of wood that is used for a cutting; and thirdly, because the single or two-eyed scion grafted onto a well-developed root system will grow much faster than a cutting on its own roots. This rapidity of growth, however, continues only until nature strikes a balance between the amount of roots and foliage. Thereafter a grafted plant will grow no faster than one on its own roots.

Grafted Plants

Sometimes we go to a nursery and a salesman shows us a small camellia, emphasizing that "This is a GRAFTED plant." In the past few years we have seen a great many two-year grafts from 4-inch pots, transferred to gallon cans and sold at fantastic prices. In such small plants there is hardly enough difference between the root system of the understock and the roots of a cutting-grown camellia to warrant buying such small grafted plants. I can see why a nurseryman would graft some of the very rare varieties; but when he tries to impress me by showing me a good

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THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
ANNOUNCES THE THIRD ANNUAL

CAMELLIA SHOW

IN THE AUDITORIUM OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CLUB
2716 DERBY STREET, BERKELEY
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 — 2 P.M. TO 10 P.M.
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 — 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

ADMISSION 50c MEMBERS ADMITTED FREE

THIRD ANNUAL CAMELLIA SHOW COMMITTEES

General Chairman	Harold L. Paige	OLympic 2-5040
Entries	D. L. Feathers	KEllog 2-4488
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Registration and Judges' Clerks	Barlow W. S. Hollingshead,	Orinda 2054
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Ticket Sales	Arthur J. Tucker	ANdover 1-7580
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Grafting

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common variety like Chandleri Elegans and chimes in, "This is a grafted plant," he is only kidding himself. In short, a camellia is not necessarily better because it is grafted. On the other hand, if you do not know varieties and you are buying camellias blindly, you might do better to purchase grafted plants, assuming that the nursery would not go to the trouble of grafting the more common varieties of which lots of cutting wood is available.

Combination Grafts

At my home we have grafted all kinds and sizes of camellias, from 4-inch pots up to trees 18 feet tall. Right near our front entrance, for instance, I had planted Jennie Lind which developed into a fine looking tree, but every year the flowers were miserable. Camellia fans would visit my home with high expectations, feeling that here they would surely see some fine foreign importations and the best in camellias — then, mounting my front steps, they would be greeted by

Jennie Lind. Well, we watched Jennie grow from 4 feet to 18, and it was such a nicely formed tree and looked so green and glossy we hated to cut it down and start all over. It was not good enough to keep, yet it was too good—just as a green tree—to throw it away. So, one Wednesday morning I called Dr. Allington and suggested that if he felt like doing a little surgery on his afternoon off, I would leave my office at noon and meet him at my home and we would cut down Jennie Lind and work her over. Doc is a whizzer with a scalpel and before we got through we had put in triangular notch grafts of Adolphe Audusson, Gigantea, and English Donckelari. Next year, when visitors come to our home during camellia season, they will see three of the choicest varieties immediately they set foot on the property.

Another tree that I worked over was a large LaPeppermint. I tired of the habit of this variety producing blooms which I could not pick. Every time I tried to twist off a bloom, all I ever got was a handful of petals. The blooms always shattered. One afternoon I cut it down and grafted eight choice varieties onto it.

Cutting off one of my large seedlings I grafted 14 choice white varieties, which some day may bloom into a regular symphony in white.

In grafting combinations of varieties onto understock, it is possible to conjure up many interesting combinations, all of which can be grown on one bush; but if you want to maintain a beautiful garden instead of developing a horticultural curiosity shop, you will need to use good taste and judgment in grafting. I have used the art of grafting primarily to do something useful with worthless seedlings and to correct some of my earlier mistakes in judgment when I was an avid camellia collector.

Whip Graft

While, like the nurseryman, I probably make more cleft grafts than any other type, I want to demonstrate to you my favorite method of grafting—the WHIP GRAFT. I like the whip graft particularly because, when well done, it is impossible to detect the graft union without minute examination. I use the whip graft whenever I find that I have a scion and an understock of the same diameter. I cut off the understock with a slanting, diagonal cut of perhaps 1½ to 2 inches in length. Then I lay the scion alongside the slanted understock and measure on the scion the exact length of the slanting cut I made on the understock. The length of the slanting cut on the scion must be exactly the same length as the slanting cut on the understock. After making the slanting cut at the base of the scion, I cut a tongue into the slanting cut on both the scion and the understock. When these two tongues are neatly fitted and the scion carefully wrapped, there are six junctures where the cambium layers are matched up—three on one side and three on the opposite side. Thus, if you are wearing bi-focals and some of your matching up is done by feel rather than by sight, you have six chances of matching with a whip graft as compared to two chances with a cleft or wedge graft. I believe that the whip graft is neater, stronger, and avoids all of the humps and bumps and other disfiguring evidence of grafting so characteristic of other more commonly used methods. But, as stated at the beginning, you must use an understock and a scion of exactly the same diameter.

Panel of Experts

This evening we have a panel of expert grafters, each with his own particular techniques and aptitudes, and I am going to ask Dr. Herman

Allington to show you how to make a triangular notch graft which is particularly adaptable to large understock. Then I shall call on Bill Hall of Camellia Hall Nursery in Sacramento to tell you how he and his famous father do their grafting and how they handle the grafted plants in grafting bins. Next, I shall ask Gordon Courtright, owner of the East Bay Nursery in Berkeley to reveal his secrets of grafting, laying particular stress on "after care." So, first we will hear from Dr. Allington.

TRIANGULAR NOTCH GRAFTING

By Dr. H. V. Allington, M.D., Oakland

A notch graft can be used on almost any size of understock. On large shrubs several scions can be fitted around the circumference of the understock without the need of splitting it.

I prepare the scion first, cutting so as to produce a triangular wedge tapering smoothly to a point. The "outer" side of the wedge is composed of undamaged bark and cambium layer.

A V-shaped notch is then cut into the understock to fit the prepared scion. This notch likewise tapers to a point. With care the notch in the understock can be prepared to fit the scion quite accurately so that the cambium layers on scion and understock touch all around.

The scion, or scions, are then held in place with rubber bands or with string or other binding material as desired.

GRAFTING OF CAMELLIAS

By W. H. Hall, Camellia Hall Nursery, Sacramento

Ordinarily we consider that the best root stock for grafting is a lush, well-grown plant, preferably slightly pot-bound. It is very important that the understock have a strong, sturdy root system.

If you have a camellia in your garden that you don't think much of, take better care of it before you graft onto it. I know definitely that the weak, the starved, and the unkempt camellia does not work well as understock.

Grafting Tool

A number of people have already told you that a good, sharp knife is important. That is definitely true. Amateurs who have learned to use a knife—country store whittling session—know that you have to use a good, sharp knife in grafting. To protect those soft hands that don't do the kind of work mine do every day in the week, it might be a good idea to save that right thumb by using several layers of adhesive tape to protect it from cuts.

Cleft Grafting

We prefer in our cleft grafting to use a slanting cut in cutting down the understock, since we have found that the slanting cut causes less of that unsightly bulge as the graft heals. Sometimes by the third, fourth, or fifth year, there is nothing more than a slight waver in the line of the trunk to show where the grafting was done.

We have also found that in cutting the understock it is best to pick a smooth side for the high side in which you produce your cleft so that there will be a nice even point for a union, rather than cut where a leaf came out. That particular area of the bark is irregular and the scion does not fit quite so well.

Like Mr. Hopfer, I prefer to use only two cuts in preparing the scion, but sometimes more than two are necessary.

In taking a scion I use only one eye, rather than two or three. In the

first place I am stingy with most scions if the wood is rare. In the second place, the grafted plant is "off the ground" before it starts to branch. If three leaf buds are used, the plant will branch close to the ground. If it is a prostrate or low-growing variety, the branches droop below the pot level and it becomes necessary to prune and reshape the plant after it is well on its way. However, if you are growing in containers, you may like to have an occasional plant that grows that way since it gives that kind of symmetry that the Orientals have been famous for for centuries. However, we have found that the prettiest plant is the one that gets off the ground a bit before it starts to branch.

When inserting the scion, be sure not to put it too far into the cleft. It has been my experience that you can get by, having the cambium layer just outside the cleft but not inside. If the cambium layer on the cleft is inside the cambium layer on the scion—the bark edge of the scion being out beyond the bark edge of the cleft—the graft may take sometimes; but never have I found one to take where the scion was inserted so far that the bark layer of the scion was inside the cleft.

Bind with red rubber budding strips so as to leave no gaps and thus exclude air from the area of the union.

Bins for Grafts

At Camellia Hall Nursery we do not use bottles to cover our grafts. We use bins entirely. These bins are identical in appearance and construction to cold frames but are deeper. The bins have ordinary "barn frames" on them — comparable to window sash frames. The front part of the bin is 36 inches high and the rear portion is 42 inches high. They are 16 feet long, with the exception of one which is 8 feet in length. The width is 30 inches from front to rear.

In the bottom of the bins, we have approximately 3 to 4 inches of sand which is kept moist before we insert the newly grafted plants. From then on it is only a matter of lifting the glass an inch at a time over the whole bin when airing and hardening the callous. When the temperature gets too high, we cover the bins with burlap, even after we have lifted the glass. In this way we can protect from sun without having to touch the plants.

The greatest advantage of the bins is that they may be opened for inspection without losing all of the humidity.

Our percentage of "takes" in bins has been as high as 93 per cent, which is considered to be extremely high for commercial grafting of camellias on a large scale.

NEW MEMBERS

During December and January the following 20 persons were elected to the Society, bringing the total membership to 131:

Dr. Philip N. Baxter, M.D., Piedmont
Mrs. George Davidson, Oakland
Mr. John Paul Edwards, Oakland
Mr. James E. Egger, Mill Valley
Mr. Wm. H. Hall, Sacramento
Mrs. Rhoda H. Head, Oakland
Mr. S. L. Hyman, San Francisco
Mr. Marion H. Kent, San Mateo
Mr. E. C. Kinsey, Manor
Dr. Paul McChesney, M.D., Berkeley
Dr. Thomas Reich, M.D., Piedmont
Mr. K. Sawada, Mobile, Alabama
Dr. Donald H. Rutherford, D.O., Oakland
Mr. George J. Teed, San Francisco
Mrs. R. G. Stapleton, Oroville
Mr. Gordon H. Otto, Walnut Creek
Mr. Dave C. Strother, Fort Valley, Ga.
Mr. Lionel Wachs, Piedmont
Mr. Roy E. Weaver, Turlock
Mr. J. C. Youngberg, Ross

We now have members from ten Northern California counties and from three states.

GRAFTING AND AFTER CARE

By Gordon Courtright, East Bay Nursery, Berkeley

One of the first things that I learned about grafting was the importance of practicing with a knife—not just once, but 20 to 30 times—on the same kind of wood that is to be cut in grafting.

Cutting Tool

The knife blade that I use is straight on one side and sharpened on the other—similar to a chisel.

Removing Mold from Understock

If the understock has any mold on the ground, it is necessary to clean off the top layer of dirt. For this, we use a broad, flat chisel or a board about 1½ inches wide and scrape off the mold as well as the top half inch of dirt.

Scion in Cleft Grafting

When using a two-eye scion, or longer, one bud eye should be set down into the cleft far enough to meet the cambium layer. The scion will take much faster if the eye is set into the cambium layer because there is about forty times as much growing tissue at an eye as on any other part of the cambium layer. It has been our experience that the graft not only takes faster but that it heals over more quickly.

Large Understock

When large understock — ¾-inch diameter or larger—is being used, it is necessary to keep the gap open while inserting the scion. I use a sharpened plant label as a wedge.

On very large understock—2 inches or so in diameter—the label may be left in the split to prevent the scion from being crushed. We have found that it is not necessary to remove the label from that size understock at all so long as the label is broken off flush with the understock after growth has started.

Tying the Graft

To tie the graft, I use string. Personally, I do not like budding strips. I believe callousing sets in faster when the wound is not entirely covered. Besides, we can watch the union between the scion and the cambium layer after it has been tied to see that it is still in the right place. Other speakers have mentioned that the graft should be covered completely to keep the air out; but I have not found this necessary, grafting in the greenhouse. We always use a jar to cover the graft and that seems to give enough protection.

Mulched Grafted Plant

After the plant has been grafted, ½ to ¾ inches of sand, leaf mold, or peat—or better, a mixture of all three —is used to keep the air out and make a good "seal" for the jar.

After Care of Grafts

All too many plants are lost after they have been properly grafted because of improper after care.

Since we keep our grafts in the greenhouse until August, we have no trouble protecting them on cold nights and our plants keep growing right through the season.

The plants are watered very thoroughly when they are grafted, but after that, as little as possible until they have gotten a good start. We water very little and keep the grafts on the dry side. After they have been in about a month, we watch them carefully and do not let them get too dry. I have seen many grafts ruined by too much water. Dampness tends to cause mold to develop.

If mold should begin to form, it must be taken off. We use a 15c water color brush and a 5% solution of white vinegar in water to remove the

mold. This treatment does not seem to injure the plants.

Shading the Grafts

We cover our jars in the green house with a long piece of cheese cloth to shade the plants and to prevent the glass jars from acting like a magnifying glass on bright, sunny days. After the jars are taken off, we still use the cheesecloth to shade the young plants for at least a month.

Removing the Jars

The jars are taken off the grafted plants after the callousing has taken place and as soon as possible after the plant starts to grow. We remove the jars during the morning to give the plants a chance to become accustomed to outside air before night comes. If there is any sign of wilting, we place the jar right back on for a few days—then we try removing it again.

NEW MEMBERS FROM AFAR

The Northern California Camellia Society is happy to announce two new memberships from the states of Georgia and Alabama.

Mr. Dave G. Strother of Fort Valley, Georgia, was elected to membership on December 19, 1947. Mr. Strother has been interested in camellias as a collector for the past 15 years, and has approximately 2,000 plants. He also takes an active part in the affairs of the American Camellia Society, and is a member of their Classification of Varieties Committee. You will note in the nomenclature book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," that a camellia has been named in his honor.

Mr. K. Sawada, Manager, Overlook Nurseries, Crichton Station, Mobile, Alabama, was elected to membership on January 13, 1948. Mr. Sawada has been interested in camellia breeding for the past thirty years. He reports having 500 varieties and one million plants. Mr. Sawada has a Life Membership in the American Camellia Society and has taken an active part in their organization. He has developed more fine white seedlings than any other camellia breeder. Among them are K. Sawada (Plant Patent No. 431), Robert Norton, Royal White, Victory White, White Empress, White Giant, Blush Hibiscus, Imura, Liberty Bell, Victory Maid, White Hibiscus, White King, White Queen, Queen Bessie, Frizzle White, Shiro-Botan, and White Pine Cone, many of which can be obtained at local nurseries.

You will recall the exquisite white camellia, Frizzle White, shown by C. Breschini of San Jose in our 1947 Camellia Show, where it won the special award, "Most Outstanding Flower in amateur classes." At the same time, the patented camellia, K. Sawada, won the blue ribbon in the incomplete double symmetrical white class.

Mr. Sawada has also developed some outstanding colored and variegated varieties. Mrs. K. Sawada (U. S. Patent No. 481)—a delicate pink, fully imbricated — was named in memory of the late Mrs. Sawada, who devoted much of her time assisting in the development of many of the new varieties. Other colored seedlings and sports developed by K. Sawada are Rose Mallow, Lurie's Favorite, Rising Sun, Sara-Sa, Pink Sara-Sa, Beauty of Holland (Hermesport), and Tricolor Superba.

NOMENCLATURE BOOK FOR SALE

The new 67-page book, "The Camellia, Its Culture and Nomenclature," is available to those desiring extra copies at $1.00 each, from Secretary-Treasurer Barlow W. S. Hollingshead, 12 La Cintilla Avenue, Orinda, Calif. The book will also be sold at our Third Annual Camellia Show on February 28 and 29, 1948 at the Twentieth Century Club in Berkeley.

TRANSPLANTING CAMELLIAS*

By H. V. Allington, M.D.

A discussion of transplanting camellias might well begin with the removal of a rooted cutting from the cutting box.

Transplanting Rooted Cuttings

It is satisfactory to transplant rooted cuttings when they have roots from 1 to 2 inches in length, providing there are several such roots. They can be conveniently placed in 3-inch clay pots at this time. If sand is used as the rooting medium, they come from the cutting box bare rooted. (I have had no experience with vermiculite as a rooting medium.)

Rooted cuttings should not, of course, be pulled roughly from the well packed sand. I find a putty knife a satisfactory tool for prying beneath and lifting them from the sand without breaking the delicate roots. At this stage the roots are turgid and they stand out stiffly in various directions from the base of the cutting.

After covering the drainage hole in the bottom of the pot with a flat stone or a piece of broken pottery, I hold the cutting with the roots in the center of the pot with one hand and sift the soil in between and around them with the other. The roots can thus be left in their natural positions and the danger of breaking them is minimized. The potting soil has to be fairly fine and not too wet in order that it should sift easily.

The pots can be tapped or shaken to settle the soil and then they are watered at once. Since watering will settle the soil, a bit more soil may be needed after watering, to cover the roots adequately. A half-inch or more of space should be left above the soil in the pot for watering.

I put the 3-inch pots in flats and surround them with peat moss, which is kept moistened. This treatment prevents the pots from drying out too quickly.

The box is then placed in a shady, protected place in the yard. I have no cold frame or greenhouse in which to harden them off. The majority of the rooted cuttings survive this abrupt change nicely. After a week or two they can be moved to a place where they will receive more light so that growth, when it starts, will not be spindly and weak. A lath house would no doubt be ideal, but as yet I do not have one.

On occasion I have neglected my cutting box until cuttings have grown roots much longer than two inches. I have potted these into 4 or 5-inch pots—or even at times, into gallon cans—directly from the sand in which they were rooted.

Transplanting to Larger Pots

Camellia cuttings vary greatly in vigor and rapidity of growth. Ideally, a rooted cutting should be transferred to a larger pot as soon as the root system begins to fill the pot in which it is growing. This can be determined by turning the pot upside down and tapping the plant out of the pot. The root system can thus be inspected directly.

One nursery, which specializes in growing camellias in containers, advises transferring a plant into a new pot containing no more than twice the volume of the one from which it is moved.

It is common practice, however, to move camellias from 3-inch pots directly into gallon cans. When this is done, excellent drainage must be provided by piercing several holes in both the bottom and the sides of the base of the can.

It is also recommended that up to an inch or so of gravel or crushed rock be placed in the bottom of the can to further insure good drainage.

As a rule, a camellia plant, transplanted from a 3-inch pot, may be left

*The above talk was given at the Dec. 1, 1947, meeting of the Northern California Camellia Society.

in a gallon can for at least two years before requiring further growing room for its roots.

Transplanting to Large Containers

If a camellia plant is to be transplanted to a large container, I believe a wooden container, such as a tub or a redwood or cedar box, is safer than a metal container or glazed pot.

Recently I have lost two plants and have had several others drop most of their leaves after being transferred from gallon cans to 5-gallon metal buckets. Although numerous drainage holes were put in the bottom and sides of the base of the buckets, I believe the soil stayed too wet and the roots got too little air. If I were to use metal buckets for this purpose again, I would fill them no more than half or at most two-thirds with soil.

I have had one similar, unhappy experience in moving a plant from a gallon can to a 10-inch glazed pot.

This emphasizes the fact that camellias are surface feeders and do not need a deep container in which to grow. The rule mentioned above that potted plants should be moved up into containers containing no more than twice the volume of the last is probably a good one.

Lining Out Rooted Cuttings

Many growers "line out" their rooted cuttings from the cutting box to beds or frames. These plants have to be root pruned as they grow and must be moved and spaced farther apart in order to encourage the plants to produce a compact ball of roots. A compact ball of roots is necessary for satisfactory lifting from the frames, balling for sale, or transferring to their permanent location.

Time to Transplant

Plants in containers can be transplanted without disturbing their roots and thus can be moved at any time. The ideal time for transplanting, however, is during the dormant season. This is during the blooming period and extends roughly from October to April, but varies some with the individual variety.

Transplanting from the Ground

For moving plants already in the ground, the ideal is to remove the plant with a sufficient ball of soil to contain the majority of the roots and to leave them undisturbed.

Small plants can be transplanted bare rooted, but this is not usually desirable.

The size of the ball required can be determined by beginning well out from the base of the plant and digging in toward it until the ends of the roots are encountered. A circle can then be cut around the plant with a shovel or a spade. (A relatively narrow, stiff and heavy spade made for root pruning can be bought.) Some of the soil outside this circle can then be removed so that the blade of a shovel or spade can be worked horizontally beneath the plant. Then, if the root ball is relatively small, it can be lifted with the shovel and carried on it to its new location. If the plant is larger, a helper can pry or lift simultaneously from the opposite side. In this case, the ball can be put down on a piece of burlap. This can be lifted by the corners to support and hold the ball of earth together and to carry it to its new location.

If the plant is still larger—too large to be lifted from the hole on shovels, the earth can be dug away outside the circle of roots. Then the root ball can be undercut and tipped enough that a piece of heavy burlap can be worked part way beneath it. The root ball can then be tipped in the opposite direction and the burlap pulled the rest of the way underneath. The ball can then be lifted from the hole in the burlap. If the plant is to be moved any distance, the burlap can be sewed or tied snugly about the ball of earth to support and prevent it breaking away from the roots.

In moving large and old shrubs or trees, trenches are dug and a heavy

box is built about the earth mass containing the roots. This, however, is a bigger job than most of us would undertake without help.

In transplanting shrubs which have been in the ground for some years, the roots may have extended for some distance from the plant. There may be no large mass of fine roots close in where they can be preserved in a ball of reasonable size. Under these circumstances it is well to anticipate the move months or even a year or more in advance. The roots can then be pruned with a sharp spade to encourage them to branch more closely to the base of the shrub. This can be done in successive stages, pruning only a part of the circumference at any one time. Excessive shock can thus be avoided.

Choosing and Preparing New Location

In transplanting a shrub from a container or from some other location in the ground, the general cultural requirements should be kept in mind in choosing and preparing the site.

The growth habits and special tolerances and intolerances of the individual variety with respect to sun and wind should be considered.

Heavy, sticky soils should be lightened by the addition of sand, leaf mold and/or peat moss.

Alkalinity should be corrected by the addition of aluminum sulfate, sulphur, or some other acidifying agent, if needed, in addition to leaf mold or peat moss.

Plants should not be placed beneath dripping eaves. Good drainage should be assured by lightening the soil, raising the level of the site, or even by subdrainage with gravel and tile, if necessary.

Transplanting to the Ground

It is unanimously agreed that camellia plants should not be planted deeply. Dr. H. Harold Hume in his book, "Camellias in America," states

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The regular monthly meetings of the Southern California Camellia Society are held the second Thursday of each month, November through April, at 8:00 p.m., at Odd Fellows Temple, 175 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California.

The February meeting, however, will be held Tuesday, February 17, 1948 (instead of the usual meeting date of February 12), at the Shakespeare Club, 230 Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena (instead of the regular meeting place). Dr. R. J. Wilmot, Secretary of the American Camellia Society and Director of the Camellia Trial Gardens at Gainesville, Florida, will speak on, "The Culture of Camellias in Florida." All the members of the Northern California Camellia Society and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

A list of officers and directors of the Southern California Camellia Society, Inc., follows:

PRESIDENT
Dr. Lloyd J. Taylor
810 Highland Ave., Flintridge

VICE-PRESIDENT
Dr. J. Walter Reeves
892 S. Gainsborough Dr., Pasadena

SECRETARY
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DIRECTORS AT LARGE
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SECOND ALL-CAMELLIA SHOW OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pasadena, California
January 6, 1948

Mr. Harold L. Paige, President
Northern Calif. Camellia Society
Oakland, California

Dear Mr. Paige:

Once again that glorious season is at hand! Camellia season! The time of year when all camellia lovers gain new and added enthusiasm over this queen of flowers which will soon be blooming in abundance.

Last year our Society held its first all camellia show, which was really an outstanding success. For many weeks after, we continued to receive words of praise from those who came to enjoy the beauteous flowers.

This year we are planning another show to be held February 21 and 22, at the Fanny E. Morrison Horticultural Center, Brookside Park, Pasadena. From the way the plans have started off—with a "bang"—it promises to be even bigger and better than last year.

We hope you will notify your members of our show dates, so that many of them can plan to attend and exhibit their plants and blooms. Members may exhibit individually, or if your Society would like to exhibit as a group, we will arrange to save space if you will so notify us.

A show schedule and entry blanks will be forwarded to you later.

We shall look forward to seeing many of you.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) C. ELMER PEAK
Secretary

Transplanting

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that planting too deeply has probably caused the death of more shrubs than all the other mistakes of transplanting put together.

The soil in the hole prepared to receive the plant should be firmly packed so that settling will not subsequently occur. The top of the ball of roots should be kept at the level of the surrounding earth. If the ball is encased in burlap it should be released about the surface but need not be removed.

Thorough watering should be done immediately after transplanting.

After transplanting, until the plant is well established, it may be well to provide extra protection from sun and wind and to spray the leaves frequently, besides keeping the soil well moistened.

Compensating for Severe Root Trimming

If it has been necessary to sacrifice a fair amount of the root system in the process of transplanting, it would perhaps be well to prune the top of the shrub in proportion. Many shrubs of considerable size will profit by pruning anyway, to remove interfering branches and improve the shape and symmetry.

The Use of Vitamin B_1

The use of thiamine chloride, Vitamin B_1, has been recommended to stimulate root growth after transplanting. This is probably not important if the soil mixture is right and contains a sufficient amount of natural organic matter.

PRIZE WINNERS

At the December 1, 1947 meeting of the Society, the DOOR PRIZE, a 3 to 4-foot graft of Mrs. Charles Cobb, was won by Mr. Gene Cooney of Piedmont; and the EXHIBITOR'S PRIZE, a graft of High Hat, was won by Mr. Ed. Carlson of Berkeley. Both plants were donated by Gordon Courtright, East Bay Nursery, Berkeley.

At the January 1, 1948 meeting of the Society, the DOOR PRIZE, Shin Akebono, was won by H. Raymond Hall of Piedmont; and the EXHIBITOR'S PRIZE, Shin Shioko, was won by Ernest Higgins of Berkeley. Both plants were unusual Japanese varieties, donated by Toichi Domoto Nursery of Hayward.