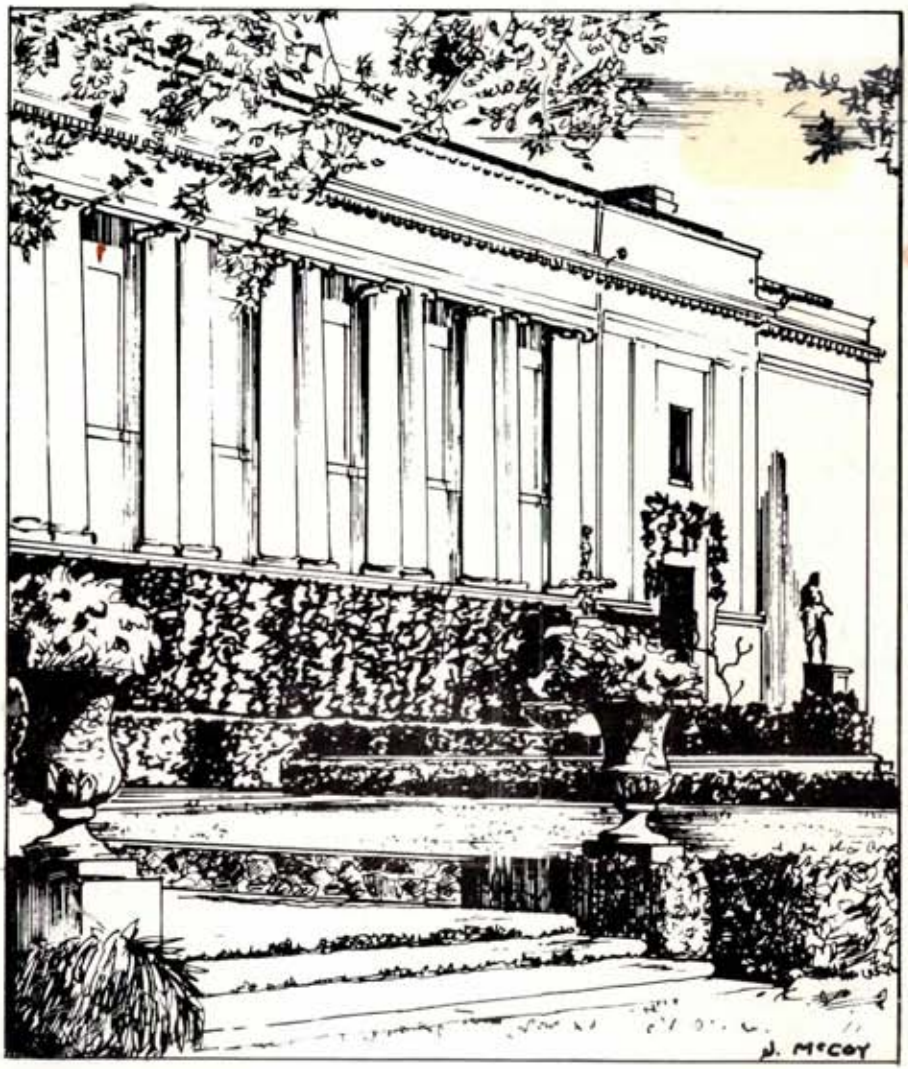
Atlantic Coast Camellias



Huntington Library

Vol. XXXVII Spring-Summer, 1985 No. 2

THERE'S STILL LIFE OUT THERE

An editorial by Luther Baxter

May beauty reign forever! When the going gets tough, the tough get going. The morning of January 21, 1985 was a chilly one; -4 F. With little pressure on the water-conducting vessels from transpiration and evaporation, hope lingered that the camellias (and other plants) might not have been too seriously injured. By mid-March, or even sooner, our hopes would be dashed on the rocks. Leaf after leaf would fall from plant after plant. Denuded twigs and branches stood tall, with their partially opened, dead flower buds still attached. Heavily budded twigs, those with 1 to 3, or more, buds usually were killed outright, the more open the flower the more likely the kill. Occasionally leaves would remain attached to the twigs, presumably because they were instantly killed, and thus these twigs, holding the leaves and flower buds, did not allow the leaves to form a natural abscission layer so that they would fall "naturally." At times there were young twigs, usually formed too late to form flower buds (usually second growth), which made it safely through the winter. However, if too much of the plant had died from the cold, the whole trunk died, and then the living young vegetative twigs without flower buds simply dried up.

Some **Camellia japonica** cultivars, particularly older plants that set flower buds prolifically, such as Betty Sheffield, Professor Charles S. Sargent, Roosevelt Blues, Tomorrow, Flame, Debutante, Ville de Nantes, Mona Monique, Valley Knudsen, some Dr. Tinsley and Rev. John G. Drayton plants but not all of them, and many other cultivars were killed outright. Other cultivars that normally do not set excessive flower buds, such as Governor Mouton, Kumaska, Rose Hill Red, Paulette Goddard, and Pope Pius IX survived without excessive injury. Some branches of Rose Hill Red died but these were associated with too many buds partially opened at the time of the freeze. Many young plants, without flower buds, of several cultivars survived, such as In the Pink, Dee Davis, Drama Girl, Rachel Tarpy and Show Time.

What caused this calamity? First, the very warm December, at times warmer than warm, caused flower buds to become active, and as they enlarged they did so at the expense of stored energy in the attending twigs and perhaps from even the leaves. Then, when the Siberian Express came roaring through, the swollen to partially opened flower buds, and the vulnerable twigs to which they were attached, froze before this colder than cold super-chilled airblast, leaving death in its wake.

But there were survivors! Through the years selection has been made for bigger and bigger flowers. The reticulata god and the reticulata-hybrid god said that bigger was better and we believed it. Now, we in the Southeast must go back to the beginning and once again be reminded that the mother plant is also important.

Thus we now have a governor (Governor Mouton), a professor (Prof. Sargent), a pope (Pope Pius IX), a Japanese aristocrat (Kumasaka), and a movie star (Paulette Goddard) that

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Atlantic Coast Camellias

The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society was organized September 13, 1980 at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The purpose was to extend the appreciation of camellias and to promote the science of camellia culture. Dues are $6.00/year for a single membership and $9.00 for a couple. Make payment to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, 1325 E. Barden Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226.

In This Issue

ABOUT THE COVER DRAWING

This is a drawing of a portion of the Huntington Library and Art Gallery in San Marino, CA. The botanical gardens in which this library is situated was begun in 1906 and the first camellias planted there in 1909. It is one of those **must** places for camellia lovers who visit the Los Angeles area. At one time, this garden held the most extensive collection of camellias in the country. It still has few peers.

Editor's Page

Would you camellia lovers who have recently gone under cover (Let's say "Gone to greenhouse culture". It sounds better),like to have some advice from an old pro? Anyone who has grown camellias in a greenhouse for more than 5 years is an "old pro," whatever that means. Anyway, to any new greenhouse grower who asks me for advice, the first and strongest warning I would give him is this: Do not rush to follow any grower's fertilizer program, no matter who he is nor how much silver he has won! I do not believe that any camellia grower would deliberately give a novice false information or lead him astray on purpose. But the truth is that too many variables exist in container culture of camellias for the same fertilizer program to give good results in all cases.

The best example I can recall of what could happen to you if you unthinkingly follow someone else's fertilizer program is the experience I had in 1967. In the Spring-Summer issue of Carolina Camellias was an article entitled "Fertilization for Greenhouse Camellias." I was relatively new on the camellia scene, and jumped at the chance to fertilize my plants just like this man did. I visualized blooms the size of dinner plates! I was sure that I would soon be famous throughout camelliadom as the number one camellia grower. I even chopped down the weeds around the greenhouse and raked the leaves in order to make a good impression on the flood of visitors whom I was sure would start coming by!

I bought all the various fertilizers he wrote about including granular A-C fertilizer, Uramite, liquid Azalea-Camellia food, Urea, Bloodmeal, Cottonseed meal and looked high and low for Nugreen. When I started my feeding program in March, I began to have an uneasy feeling. It seemed to me that a half cup of granular A-C fertilizer to a 3-gallon container was too much! And on top of that, I was to apply 2 tablespoons of Uramite! And this was just the first application! But, being new at raising camellias, I followed his schedule and formula exactly, even applying ⅓ of a half cup to a 1-gallon container. I checked Angie's "Charlotte Cook Book" and found that ⅓ of a half cup is 2 and ⅔ tablespoons full. That's exactly how much a 1-gallon container received,

and on top of that ⅔ tablespoon of Uramite. I wondered what amount to use when your 3-gallon container or your 1-gallon container was only half full. I decided to shave the measurements a little in a case like this.

Well, it didn't take long for the results of my new fertilizer program to become evident — about two weeks. The plants started dropping leaves. One day just a few leaves in the top of the container (along with the A-C fertilizer and Uramite), the next day a lot more. After 3 or 4 days, a totally nude plant, all the leaves in the top of the container or on the ground around it.

The sad truth is that I was too naive to realize what was happening until almost all my plants were killed! Some did recover after I bare-rooted them and repotted them into fresh soil — without fertilizer.

I wish I could say that I learned my lesson and never again rushed to follow anybody's fertilizer program. Such was **not** the case. I still read "fertilizer programs" whenever I see them in print, and more often than not, say to myself: "I wonder if I shouldn't be doing what this man's doing."

I wish also that I could say that most container growers of camellias are not so gullible, so naive, so easily led astray as I am, but this too would not be the case. I visited a camellia greenhouse in Columbia in early May, and saw a large collection of dead, dying and badly wounded camellias. This greenhouse belonged to a very well known camellia man who has been "at it" for decades. He had been following somebody's fertilizer program. He laughed and said that he would write me an article on how to kill camellias, as he was an authority on the subject.

Please Send My Valentine to the Funny Farm

Anonymous

I did it again, but I promise you, this is the very last time!! When we have our first day of warm weather, I guess I go a little crazy. I promised my camellia bug that I would stay home and we would work together to clear the yard and greenhouse. The key word is "together". Ha! It never fails. The telephone rings and he says there is a group of ladies without a speaker at their meeting. As we all know that he is the resident authority on anything green and growing, off he goes in coat and tie, to return several hours later reeking of hot chocolate and hummingbird cake. By this time, I have struggled with dead branches, broken jars, and tin cans. I don't smell good either, like he does! Not only that, but I've worn my finger nails down so short till I can't scratch the scratches I got from crawling under bushes dragging out trash.

The exterminator came by and told me our termite contract would be cancelled unless we did something about those cases of rusty tin cans under the house. They've been there for years and my husband can't understand him being so huffy now. As I drug those cartons out, a can rolled off, bringing memories of when I fed that can of baby food to our little girl. She's thirty-two now.

They say it's nice to have all your parts working. I know all mine work, they hurt. They have a place here for

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Message

from Our President

Dear Members and Friends:

By now, most of you have assessed the damage to your outside camellia plants caused by the near zero and below zero freeze of last winter. I hope that your plants fared better than mine. I don't have a great number of outside plants, but most of what I have are twenty years old or older and they are quite large. I should say that they **were** quite large! Most of them have been cut back to resemble fence posts. Even an old 'Professor Sargent' and a huge 'Elegans (Chandler)' are nothing more than large sticks, no leaves! A twelve foot 'Francie L, Var,' my pride and joy, is no more. Oldies such as 'Donckelaari', 'Alba Plena' and 'Magnoliaeflora' are either dead or, at least, severely damaged.

A few plants came through the freeze in good to excellent condition. 'Kick Off', 'Marie Bracey', 'Gov. Mouton', 'Paulette Goddard' and, best of all, 'Ville de Nantes', both solid and variegated, were hardly fazed by the extreme cold. These are the ones that I will graft next year for outside landscaping.

I'll not despair and neither should you, because of the loss of outside plants. Replant, choosing selected varieties known to be cold hardy and, sooner than you think, we will have warmer winters and excellent outside blooms again.

By the time you read this message, the spring meeting in Columbia of the officers and directors of the Atlantic Coast Camellia Society will be completed. I will not go into details of the agenda except to inform you of plans for the fall ACCS meeting in Myrtle Beach. I can report now that practically all of the plans for that special weekend have been firmed up already. If you have not made your reservations, I urge you to do so **now**. The address is: Holiday Inn, Box 405, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577. The telephone is (803) 448-1691. The motel is located at oceanfront at 12th Avenue N in downtown Myrtle Beach. The dates for the fall convention are 5-6 October.

On Friday evening the pot luck cocktail/buffet will be held around the swimming pool. Here is your chance to forget about your waistlines and enjoy the magnificent spread of goodies provided by our ACCS members. In addition, this party will have a halloween theme, so bring your face masks and outlandish costumes and join in the fun.

The Brogdens will host the Saturday AM bloody mary party; Lew and Annabelle Fetterman will host the Saturday morning brunch. the same caterer who provided us with a wonderful seafood dinner last year will again provide us with our evening meal before the speakers on Saturday night.

By the way, the Holiday Inn is giving us a special rate of $32.00 per night for two or three nights. If you desire to come early and enjoy the sights in Myrtle Beach, the price is only $30.00 per night. Two nights at the minimum charge of $32.00 are required, however. What an inexpensive vacation at the beach! The price is right so come early and stay late.

Elliott Brogden, President

A HORROR STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING

F.F. Becker II Brookhaven, MS

On Friday night, January 18th, 1985, temperature here dropped to 25°F. Saturday the 19th, I got sick enough to be in bed and not out in my greenhouse that afternoon. That night the temperature dropped to 5°F so I got my wife to go out and check my greenhouse. She reported that one of the doors on the north side had blown open and had to be propped shut. She turned on the 3rd space heater. I have 3 space heaters and a hanging heater controlled by a thermostat set at 40°, placed directly under it. Temperature dropped to 3°F Sunday night, January 20th.

Monday morning, the 21st, my friend Thomas Perkins, came by. He checked my greenhouse and reported all the containers frozen! This news threw me into a state of shock! I remembered reading an article in Carolina Camellias*, looked it up and re-read it. I got out of bed, bundled up and spent most of the day going in and out, flooding all containers with water, and checking them with a small bamboo stick to find out when they had become thawed out. These were Lerio containers, from 3½ inches to 17 inches. During the day I managed to get them all thawed out except one 13 inch container right in the north door. It was frozen so solid till it would not thaw out. I finally poured a bucket of very hot water on it. The next morning I found that it was still frozen solid in about 6 inches of the bottom. So I poured another bucket of very hot water on it and it finally thawed out.

As of today I have not lost a plant and all are out with unusual amount of lush new growth, including the 'Fashionata' which I had so much trouble thawing out.

My outside plants took a terrific beating, and I am still pruning out dead wood. I have cut some down to about two feet. Will not know the final results until fall. It is the worst I have had in my 25 years in the hobby. Of all the plants outside, approximately 100, none bloomed without damaged blooms except these three: 'Honen' a snow camellia, 'Cornelia Walden' and 'Ki-Fukurin'. These three had perfect blooms in late February and March.

*Fall 1984, page 19.

Yellow Camellia Cultivars - 1985

Barbara Butler Modesto, CA

For the past twenty-five years our California hybridizers have worked with japonica and species camellias listed in the Nomenclature book as having cream to yellow color.

The hybridizer, in his imagination, strives for the perfect yellow show flower; a large, full-formed flower of substance, sheen, and personality. Our best hybridizers, the bees, will still produce some of our best chance crosses.

Future research to combine the yellow genes of these species will allow the hybridizer to produce a more intense yellow color. The problem is that we do not always know the parentage of some of these yellow camellias, let alone the grandparents. Thus, the hybridizer must form a collection of camellia cultivars that do produce a yellow hued flower. This enables him to develop a selective breeding source that will give him the opportunity to mate certain plants to maximize the desired color factor and to eliminate the unwanted color factor. This process requires several generations of crosses. The range and depth of yellow color varies with the intensity of each individual genetic cross as influenced by the individual cultural practice and fertilizer program that each hybridizer may use.

It is from this genetic pool of yellow color factor among japonica, rusticana, granthamiana, and saluenensis species that on occasion, a yellow hue flower will appear as the result of certain crosses. That some of these yellow seedlings are of the formal type flower form might suggest that a cross of a semi-double flower with pollen from a more complex flower form was used.

This new genetic material in the hybrid yellow camellia cultivars will have the combined characteristics of both the desired and the unwanted traits of each parent used in a given cross. The pollen of camellia chrysantha will tend to produce the true tones of yellow, peach, orange, and apricot color so desired by the hybridizer.

Also, not to be overlooked, is the modification of plant structure and growth habits resulting from these crosses. The length of the blooming season, the tolerance of heat and cold, as well as the vitality of the plant may well be different from its parents. We want yellow camellia cultivars that will do well in our temperate climate. Plants that our nurserymen will be able to sell to all interested gardners, not just the camellia fancier. It is possible that these chrysantha crosses will become house plants just because of their beautiful, distinctive foliage. It is hoped that the florescence, vigor, and hardiness of our typical japonica camellia will prevail with these new golden hued cultivars.

The results of these new crosses bring an air of excitement to all hybridizers. Their years of work before the availability of chrysantha pollen, has created a basic genetic pool of yellow camellia cultivars; a foundation for future research.

The existence of just such a pool of yellow color factor appears to exist in the gardens of our most noted California hybridizers, as well as at

two major nurseries.

It is our hope that you will be encouraged to plant these existing and proven yellow camellia cultivars in your garden. In that way you can experiment on your own with these plants that are available to the interested gardner and hybridizer.

*Botan-Yuki - rusticana
*Brushfield's Yellow - Keith Brushfield
*Chrysantha (Species) - China
**Chrysantha - Tuyme - Sergio Bracci
**Chrysantha - Light Lemon - Woodford Harrison
**Creamy Yellow - Kramer Bros. Nursery
**Dave's Dirty Cream - David Feathers
*Elegans Champagne - Nuccio's Nursery
*Fallen Angel - Dr. Walter Homeyer
*Golden Gate - Houghton S. Hall
**Yellow Star - Kenneth Hallstone
*Gwenneth Morey - Dr. B.R. Morey
*Lemon Drop - Nuccio's Nursery
**Nuccio's Golden Anniversary
**Olympic Gold - Meyer Piet, Lee Gaeta
**Rusticana Yellow - David Feathers
**M41-(1) Yellow Seedling - Kenneth Hallstone

*Listed in Nomenclature book.
**New seedling.

DON'T CRY ON MY OSMACOTE

James H. McCoy Fayetteville, NC

There is absolutely no requiem sad enough to sing, no dirge dismal enough to play, no words woeful enough to express the sorrow, the helplessness, the hopelessness that grips the camellia community of outside growers in this area of the country. Most of us are senior citizens or separated from such status by just a few short years. We find it difficult to whip up the enthusiasm necessary for starting our camellia gardens all over again. That is exactly what we will have to do if we continue to grow camellias unprotected. Our camellia gardens are gone. Though each has his own sad tale to tell, I thought I'd relate my experiences and maybe some observation might be helpful to some other grower.

I have just finished reading a list of 10 camellias, compiled by a Greensboro, NC grower, of which he says: "These have been tested and found to be cold hardy and satisfactory for growing in the Piedmont." Of the 10 camellias, I have never grown 'Greensboro Red', 'Jarvis Red', or 'Sergeant Barrios'. I had the other 7 in my garden January 20, 1985 when the killer freeze hit. Most of them were quite large plants. 'Marjorie Magnificent', 'Lady Clare', 'Dr. Tinsley' and 'Professor Chas. S. Sargent' were killed. 'Kumasaka' and 'Berenice Boddy' were badly damaged; many dead limbs and almost completely defoliated, but may survive with severe pruning. Of the 10, only 'Governor Mouton' exhibited practically no damage. There was some damage to small branches, but hardly more than most camellias suffer every winter anyway. There was no defoliation. In fact, a cardinal has built a nest in it and the nest is well hidden. This variety, along with 4 or 5 others which I will mention later, truly deserve to be classified **tops** as far as the **plant's** ability to withstand cold is concerned.

I had five 15 year old plants growing

along the edge of my covered patio, under a 30-inch overhang. Four of the five were killed down to and including the roots. They were 'Nagasaki', 'Annette Gehry', 'Adolphe Audusson' and 'Oh Boy'. Only 'Marguerite Sears' survived, and it, like 'Governor Mouton' was not injured at all. Lost no leaves and is now, mid-April, covered with lush new foliage at every branch terminal. Therefore, it also wins the highest award for **plant** cold tolerance!

Only five more qualify for my Himalaya Hattie award. They are 'Starlet', 'Ilam Satin', 'Dr. Geechee', 'Mini-Pep' and 'Te Deum'. This award goes to the cultivar in my garden which showed no damage from the January 20 freeze other than blasted blooms and bloom buds. No defoliating other than that which is normal, no dead branch terminals, no split trunks, no damage, period! These seven cultivars are now in the flush of spring growth and will doubtless bud up satisfactorily when June and July roll around.

Though all plants of 'Elegans' that I have observed, including the sports, showed some damage to branch terminals and some defoliating, I have not seen **one** which was killed. All four of the 'Elegans' plants that I have are putting out new growth all over, and will require very little pruning or cutting back. Many other cultivars would fall in this category also.

If anything good could be said about this 1985 freeze, it would be that it has shown us beyond any doubt which are the camellia cultivars that best resist cold. Many which we considered to be cold resistant because somebody said that they were, were revealed to be **not** cold resistant! The best examples of this misconception that I can think of are 'Ville de Nantes' (four large plants killed), 'Lady Clare' (two large plants killed), 'Debutante', 'Pink Perfection', 'Mathotiana', Duchess of Sutherland', 'Dr. Tinsley' and 'Rev. John Bennett'.

I have tried to find some pattern, some observation which would permit me to say to those who ask me, "Don't do this" or "Do that", but I have not been able to. I have had large plants killed and small; plants killed on the north, south, east and west sides of my house; plants in shade, semi-shade and full sun killed; plants killed which were mulched as well as some which were not mulched. Single flowering camellias suffered as well as semi-doubles and full doubles. Dr. Luther Baxter came up with one observation which just goes to show the value of a trained eye in making plant damage observations. He says, and I find it to be true in my garden also, that the cultivars which normally bud heavily such as 'Lady Clare' were more susceptible to damage **and death** than the cultivars which normally are shy bloomers such as 'Governor Mouton'. But who wants a yard full of 'Governor Moutons'?

I had many, 25 or more, high grafts in my garden. I do not have a single one which survived! Even if the host plant survived, the high grafts kissed the mother plant goodbye. Some of these high grafts were precious to me. Especially mourned will be the graft of 'Apollo 14, Solid', the scion of which was given to me by Neal Cox himself. Also hated to lose the large plant of 'Mathotiana' with a thriving high graft of 'W.H. Rish', which came to me in scion form from Mr Rish.

We will survive this ordeal. In fact, we will derive a lot of small pleasures from it. What joy to observe a strong shoot emerge from your dead 'Brian' when you have dropped to your knees and found that it had come out **above**

the graft junction! Or the happiness when you see a new shoot come up from below ground on your dead 'Magnoliaeflora' and suddenly remember that it was not a graft, but an air layer! Yes indeed, the Alberta Clipper may have killed a few camellias, but not the camellia growers! They just got a few more grey hairs or perhaps another wrinkle or two.

By the way, do you know where I can buy some good grafting stock - cheap?

SHOW RESULTS

AIKEN CAMELLIA CLUB

Aiken, SC — January 19-20, 1985

Best bloom in show: 'Ruffian', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn
Best japonica grown in open: 'Mrs. Lyman Clark', Parker E. Connor, Jr.
Best japonicas grown protected:
- Large to very large: 'Tomorrow Park Hill Pink', M.S. McKinnon
- Small to medium: 'Nuccio's Jewel', Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Rish

Best white japonica: 'Elegans Champagne', Joe Austin
Best reticulata or retic hybrid: 'Lasca Beauty', Joe Austin
Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jury, Var', Joe Austin
Best Miniature: 'Tammia', Scott Coble
Best Seedling: Mrs. Alfred Bissell
Best Collections:
- Three, same variety: 'Elegans Splendor', Joe Austin
- Five, different varieties: Mrs. J.C. Bickley

Sweepstakes, grown in open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.
- Runner-up: Dot & John Thomas

Sweepstaks, grown protected: Joe Austin
- Runner-up: Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn

Court of Honor:
- 'Miss Charleston, Var', Parker E. Connor, Jr.
- 'Don Mac', Parker E. Connor, Jr.
- 'Tomorrow, Var', G.M. Serpas
- 'Helen Bower, Var', M.S. McKinnon
- 'Mandalay Queen', Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Robertson
- 'Granada', R. & Mrs. Wm. C. Robertson
- 'Susan Stone', Mrs. Wm. K. Laughlin
- 'Jessie Connor', Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn
- 'Man Size', Mrs. Alfred Bissell
- 'Mandalay Queen, Var', C.T. Freeman
- 'Miss Tulare', Joe Austin
- 'E.C. Waterhouse', Joe Austin

Number of Blooms: 1000 — Show Chairman: B.D. Kuhn

COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Charleston, SC — January 26, 1985

Best bloom grown in open: 'Betty Sheffield, Supreme', Parker E. Connor, Jr.
Runner-up: 'Tom Knudsen', Mr & Mrs Bill Watson
Best bloom protected: 'Tomorrow Park Hill', Mr & Mrs Oliver Mizzell
Runner-up: 'Elegans Splendor', Joe Austin
Best reticulata:
Grown in open: 'Mouchang', Mr & Mrs W.H. Rish
Grown protected: 'Cameron Cooper', Mr & Mrs F.G. Hahn
Best non-retic hybrid:
Grown in open: 'El Dorado', Parker E. Connor, Jr.
Grown protected: 'Elsie Jury', Mr & Mrs Oliver Mizzell
Best white bloom:
Grown in open: 'White Giant', T.W. Adams
Grown protected: 'Sarah Alice Ruffin', Mr & Mrs F.G. Hahn
Best 'Miss Charleston':
Grown in open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.
Grown protected: G.M. Serpas
Best seedling: Joe Austin
Sweepstakes, Grown in open: Parker E. Connor, Jr.
Runner-up: T.W. Adams
Sweepstakes, Protected: Joe Austin
Runner-up: J.K. Blanchard
Best Miniature: 'Hopkin's Pink', J.K. Blanchard
Court of Honor, Grown in open:
'Lady Kay', Albert V. Ewan
'Dixie Knight', Parker E. Connor, Jr.
'Tiffany', Parker E. Connor, Jr.
'Gulio Nuccio', Albert V. Ewan
'Charlie Bettes', T.W. Adams
'Ville de Nantes', Mr & Mrs Bill Watson
Court of Honor, protected:
'Valley Knudsen, Var', Joe Austin
'Seafoam', G.M. Serpas
'Rosea Superba', Joe Austin
'Charles R. Butler', Joe Austin
'Valley Knudsen', M.S. McKinnon
'Carter's Sunburst, Var', Mr & Mrs Oliver Mizzell
Number of Blooms: 704

MID CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Columbia, SC — February 9-10, 1985

Best japonica blooms, protected:
Large, very large: 'Elegans Supreme, Var', Joe Austin
Runner-up: 'Tomorrow Park Hill, Pink', Ann & Mack McKinnon
Small, medium: 'Doris Ellis', Ann & Mack McKinnon
Runner-up: 'Margaret Davis', Bonnie & Stan Holtzclaw
Miniature: 'Tammia', Lena & Harry Watson
Runner-up: 'Tootsie', Elliott Brogden
Best white: 'Swan Lake', Elliott Brogden
Best 'Valentine Day' (Solid or Var): Charles Hendrix

Best Collections:
Tray of three japonicas: Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
Tray of five japonicas: Joe Austin
Tray of three hybrids: Ann & Mack McKinnon
Tray of five hybrids: Joe Austin
Tray of three miniatures: Olin Owen
Best Seedling: Joe Austin
Best Reticulata or retic hybrid: 'Dr. Clifford Parks', Doris & Robert Fowler
Runner-up: 'Arch of Triumph', Doris & Robert Fowler
Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jury, Var', Joe Austin
Runner-up: 'Mona Jury', Joe Austin
Sweepstakes: Joe Austin
Runner-up: J.K. Blanchard
Court of honor, japonicas:
'Elizabeth Weaver, Var', Joe Austin
'Tomorrow Park Hill', Mr & Mrs Fred G. Hahn, Jr.
'Premier', Joe Austin
'Judge Marvin Mann', Dot & Jack Teague
'Elegans Splendor', Mr & Mrs Fred G. Hahn, Jr.
'Clark Hubbs, Var', Joe Austin
'Carters Sunburst', Elliott P. Brogden
'Jessie Connor', Mrs Ray D. Watson
'Mrs. R.L. Wheeler', Bonnie & Stan Holtzclaw
'Guest Star', Joe Austin
Court of honor, hybrids:
'Mandalay Queen', Ann & Mack McKinnon
'Cameron Cooper, Var', Joe Austin
'Jean Pursel', Joe Austin
'Dr. Clifford Parks', Dot & Jack Teague
'Elegant Beauty', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
Court of honor, miniatures:
'Fircone, Var', Mr & Mrs Fred G. Hahn, Jr.
'Little Too, Pink', Olin Owen
'Man Size', Mr & Mrs J.K. Blanchard
'Lemon Drop', Mr & Mrs J.K. Blanchard
Number of Blooms: 1000

Show Chairman: M.S. McKinnon

FAYETTEVILLE CAMELLIA CLUB

Fayetteville, NC

March 1-2, 1985

Best japonica blooms, grown protected:
Large to very-large: 'Elegans Champagne', Joe Austin
Medium: 'Seafoam', Fred Hahn
Small: 'Jessie Connor', Fred Hahn
Best retic or retic-hybrid: 'Redwood City', Joe Austin
Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jory', Joe Austin
Best Miniature: 'Tammia', Mr & Mrs J.K. Blanchard
Best Seedling: Mr & Mrs J.K. Blanchard
Best collection of 5 different: Bill Watson
Sweepstakes: Ray Watson

Number of Blooms: 950

Show Chairmen: Joe Austin, James McCoy

MEN'S PIEDMONT CAMELLIA CLUB

Greensboro, NC — March 9-10, 1985

Best japonica grown in open: 'Miss Aiken', Dot & John Thomas
Runner-up: 'Diddy Mealing', Dot & John Thomas
Best japonica grown under cover:
Over 5 inches: 'Elegans Champagne', Joe & Mabel Austin
Runner-up: 'Elegans Splendor', Joe & Mabel Austin
Under 5 inches: 'Guest Star', Joe & Mabel Austin
Runner-up: 'Nuccio's Jewel', Joe & Mabel Austin
Best White: 'Silver Waves', Ralph McVey
Runner-up: 'Swan Lake', Doris & Robert Fowler
Best Seedling: Mr & Mrs J.W. Holderby
Best Miniature: 'Tammia', Mr & Mrs J.K. Blanchard
Runner-up: 'Pearl's Pet', Lena & Harry Watson
Best reticulata: 'Dr. Clifford Parks', Doris & Robert Fowler
Runner-up: 'Lilette Witman', Joe & Mabel Austin
Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jury', Mr & Mrs Fred B. Hahn
Runner-up: 'Pink Dahlia', Joe & Mabel Austin
Best tray of 3 alike: Joe & Mabel Austin
Best tray of 5 different: Joe & Mabel Austin
Sweepstakes, grown in open: Dot & John Thomas
Sweepstakes, grown protected: Mr & Mrs Ray Watson
Runner-up: Mr & Mrs J.W. Holderby
Best bloom exhibited by a novice: 'Nuccio's Ruby', Samuel S. Dils
Number of Blooms: 974 — Show Chairman: C.S. Edmiston

LAKELAND, FLORIDA

February 2-3, 1985

Best bloom in show: 'Terrell Weaver, Var', Ruth & Marvin Jernigan
Best white bloom: 'White Giant', Ray Crawford
Winners by class:

Class 1 A	'Guilio Nuccio'	Ray Crawford
Class 1 C	'Tomorrow Park Hill'	Ruth & Marvin Jernigan
Class 2 A	'Valentine Day'	Ray Crawford
Class 2	'Arcadia'	Ruth & Marvin Jernigan
Class 4	'Fircone' (miniature)	Ruth & Marvin Jernigan
Class 5	Seedling (professional) #10001	Bob Wines
Class 6	Seedling (amateur) #338	Walter Homeyer
Class 7 A	Tray of three	Mr & Mrs D.D. Hall
Class 8 A	Tray of five	Reva McClurg

Sweepstakes, overall: Ruth & Marvin Jernigan
Sweepstakes, local: Mrs Betty B. Smith
Number of Blooms: 583 — Show Chairman: Mrs Peggy C. Brown

TIDEWATER CAMELLIA CLUB

Wilmington, NC — February 23-24, 1985

Best bloom in show: 'Dr. Harry Moore, Var', Joe Austin
Best japonica protected:
Over 5 inches: 'Elegans Splendor', Joe Austin
Under 5 inches: 'Feathery Touch', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn

Best miniature: 'Tammia', Lena & Harry Watson
Best reticulata or retic hybrid: 'Dr. Harry Moore, Var', Joe Austin
Best non-retic hybrid: 'Mona Jury, Var', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
Best white japonica: 'Swan Lake', Doris & Robert Fowler
Best seedling: EY-1, Graem Yates
Best collections:
Three same variety protected: 'Pink Frost', Mr & Mrs J.K. Blanchard
Five different varieties: Mr & Mrs Bill Watson
Sweepstakes, protected: Ray Watson
Runner-up: Joe Austin
Court of Honor:
'Mona Jury', Mr & Mrs J.K. Blanchard
'Margaret Davis', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
'Han-Ling Raspberry', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
'Silver Challice', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
'Elegans Supreme, Var', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
'Seafoam', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
'Tomorrow's Dawn', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
'Lucy Stewart', Mr & Mrs Fred Hahn
'Hody Wilson', Doris & Robert Fowler
'Cameron Cooper', Doris & Robert Fowler
'Dr. Clifford Parks, Var', Doris & Robert Fowler
'Elegans Champagne', Doris & Robert Fowler
'Harold Paige', Joe Austin
'Pharaoh', Joe Austin
'Rosea Superba, Var', Joe Austin
'Premier, Var', Joe Austin
'Silver Cloud', Joe Austin
'Louise Hairston, Var', Joe Austin
'Helen Bower, Var', Joe Austin
'Man Size', Lena & Harry Watson
Number of Blooms: 1009

I Save The Contessa

Anthony Heap Lancastershire, GB

When my wife and I were in Perry, GA in November for the ACS Annual meeting, your editor, Jim McCoy, introduced himself to us and gave me a copy of the fall 1984 issue of your magazine, Carolina Camellias. I devoured every page, as I do with everything connected with camellias.

In one article, he complained that you members were very reluctant to write articles for him. Little did I know that as I sympathised with him, I would be asked to write an article on camellias! I had told him a story, and he thought that you would be interested in hearing it.

It all started in September, 1982. I had called on one of my clients and we were in his garden. I asked him if he had any camellias.

"They are like hens' teeth around here," he said. "No, I don't have any, but they used to have some over on the Huntroyd Estate. If you go there and tell the estate manager that I sent you, you might find some."

The following Friday morning, I set off for "Huntroyd". It's a stately old house, built around 1532. It is set in approximately 400 acres of prime dairy land. I drove around for a while, looking for the estate office. As I had no luck, I knocked on the door of a cottage nearby. The door was opened by a fellow the size of a bear!

"Yes? What do you want?" he asked.

I explained what I was looking for.

"Well, you won't find the estate manager here," he said. "And if you do find him, he'll probably run you off the place. He might even set the dogs on you."

By this time, I had decided that the only way that I would get permission, would be to go to the old house and ask. So I drove down the drive, parked at the rear of the house and rang the bell.

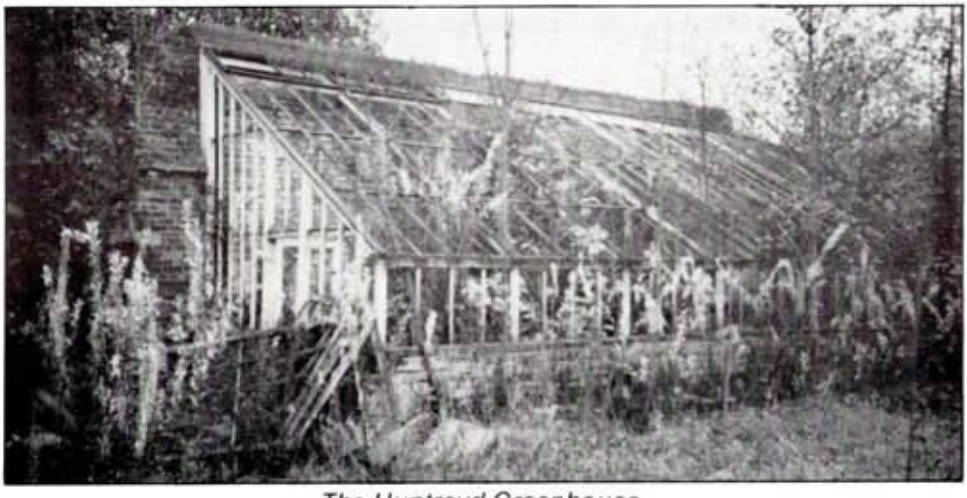
A quiet voice from behind me said, "Can I help you?" I turned and saw a lovely old gentlemen, wearing a tweed suit and a cap. "I'm looking for the man who owns the old mansion," I told him. "Well, you've found him," he replied, "but I'm not buying anything."

I explained that I was interested to know if there were still any camellias alive in the old camellia house, and asked for his permission to look around. He started to wave his hands around in the air. "It's been vandalised! It's all in ruins! But if you do find anything, you can have it."

He gave me directions on how to find the nursery. When I got there, my heart sank. What utter desolation! Beautiful old greenhouse, in ruins! There was one camellia still alive, so I took 16 cuttings. I have a friend who has a mist propagator, so we placed the cuttings in the bed and kept our fingers crossed. In April 1983, I potted up seven plants in 5 inch pots and in 1984, the first one flowered.

From All the information I can gather, the variety is 'Contessa Lavinia Maggi'. It is now February 1985 and I still have only a cutting with just two original leaves. No growth, but it is still alive. The old camellia house was a lean-to type, and half of the wall it was built against had collapsed. I think that when the wall crumbled, it released the lime from the old walls, killing the other two camellia trees. The one that is left is in a very sorry state, but we have at least saved it from oblivion.

You camellia lovers in Carolina and the other southern states, are lucky in having a climate that camellias can revel in. All my camellias are in a greenhouse, with the exception of one. This one is planted at the edge of my patio. The top half is pink and the bottom is white. It is a single. You fellows would have grubbed it out long ago, but I have had it for thirty years and it is still only four feet tall. I love it dearly.



The Huntroyd Greenhouse

APPLYING PRINCIPLES OF PLANT DISEASE CONTROL TO CAMELLIA CANKER, DIEBACK, GRAFT FAILURE, AND TWIG BLIGHT

Luther W. Baxter, Jr. and Susan G. Fagan

In the Southeast, particularly from the Coastal Plains of North Carolina to Texas, camellias are affected by canker, dieback, graft failure and twig blight, all caused by **Glomerella cingulata**, a contagious fungal pathogen (12).

TERMS:

The term dieback is used to describe death of a terminal branch or an entire plant, distal to a canker (Figure 2). In the case of dieback, only the camellia tissue near the canker is affected (killed) by **G. cingulata** (Figure 8). While this type of death (dieback) can occur throughout the year, it is most prevalent about August when cankers become large, and water demands by the plant parts beyond the canker are great.

Twig Blight usually is death of a young lateral twig which grew from a bud about May of the current year. Infection by **Glomerella cingulata** occurred through a newly formed leaf scar and caused twig blight on camellias (12). Figure 4.

Graft failure is death of a scion, and usually the stock, caused by **G. cingulata.** Infection occurs at the time of grafting (1) Figure 3.

Camellia canker is the localized death of tissue on a stem of a suscept (susceptible plant), as in camellia canker (12) Figure 1.

Benomyl is the generic term for the proprietary name of DuPont's fungicide, Benlate. Benlate is a wettable powder that is 50% benomyl.

Plant infection means, in this case, the time after the fungus spore has germinated and the infectious hyphal strand (germ tube of the fungus) has gained entry into and established itself within camellia tissue.

There are four primary means of plant disease control unless therapy, eradication of the pathogen from

Figure 1. Camellia canker.

Figure 2. Camellia dieback.

Contribution No. 2417 of the South Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station.

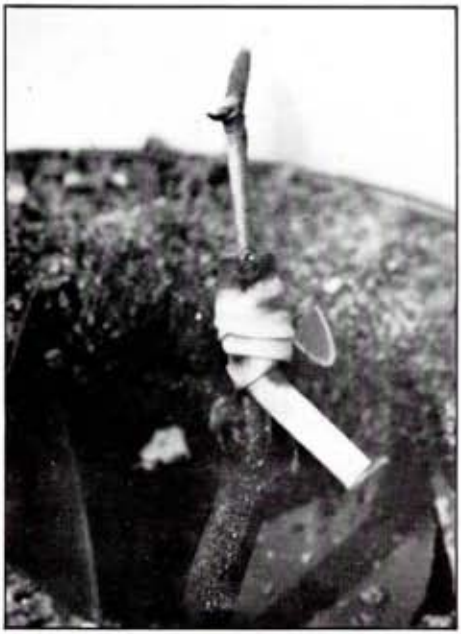


Figure 3. Camellia graft failure.

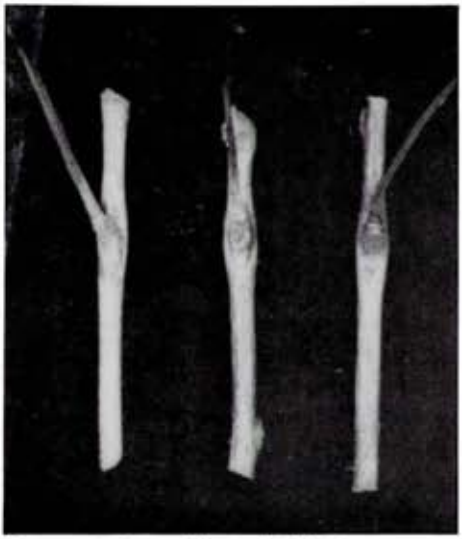


Figure 4. Camellia twig blight.

living plants by chemical or physical means, is separated from eradication in which case there is a fifth method of plant disease control. We consider therapy as a form of eradication. These four control procedures are as follows:

(1) Exclusion - to keep the pathogen out if it is not already present;

Figure 5. Cotton soaked in benomyl.

(2) Eradication - to get rid of the pathogen from the plant or from its environment if it is already present;

(3) Protection - to apply a barrier (physical or chemical) between the pathogen (cause of disease) and the suscept (plant susceptible to the pathogen);

(4) Development of resistance - to accomplish by selection of resistant types within the species, but interspecific crosses may be, and often are, necessary; this includes tolerance, which is considered a level of resistance that is only partial.

EXCLUSION:

What can be done for camellia canker, dieback, graft failure and twig blight, caused by the fungus, **Glomerella cingulata**? All camellia growers should know the symptoms of camellia canker, graft failure and twig blight (Figures 1-4) so they can buy only healthy plants and/or healthy scions. It has been our experience that apparently healthy camellia buds are sometimes infested with virulent **G. cingulata** spores (4,11) so it is necessary to do the following: at the

Figure 6. Benomyl soaked cotton wrapped with aluminum foil.

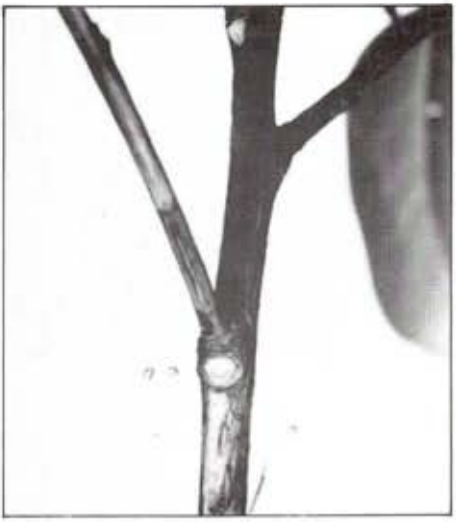


Figure 7. Fresh leaf scar left by recent leaf fall.

time of grafting, select canker free stock and scions, and soak them (scions) for 30 minutes in a benomyl suspension (½ tablespoon per gallon of tap water) (1,6,18). This factor is necessary, even to exclude the pathogen, unless California plants and scions are used. The dry atmosphere of California is unfavorable for this type of pathogen to become established since it is dependent on splashing raindrops for dispersal, and free moisture for spore germination and infection as opposed, for example, to the powdery mildew fungus which is dispersed by wind. Powdery mildew fungi require only moderate humidity for spore germination and infection (19).

ERADICATION:

Pruning out cankers, caused by G. cingulata, and removing old fallen leaves which can be infected by this fungus can also be helpful. This fungus can sporulate (reproduce) on cankers and fallen camellia leaves, and from them spread to other camellia branches or to other camellia plants. When cankers form on the main trunk (Figure 9), or on large limbs that cannot be sacrificed, then you may want to try that which is described next under protection. Keep weeds and grass cut so excess humidity will not enhance dieback and canker.

PROTECTION:

A new idea of plant (suscept) protection, under investigation, is to cover cankers and pruning wounds with cotton previously soaked in benomyl, and then wrap the cotton with heavy aluminum foil, as used in air layering of camellias, to prevent drying (Figures 5 and 6).

Even if the above procedure is adopted, spray plants with benomyl during leaf fall (Figure 7) which, in the Clemson, SC area, occurs during late April, May and early June (5). Soaking scions and cuttings in benomyl is effective for protection (8). Applying benomyl to freshly-made grafts will provide protection for them (6). If camellia plants are pruned in April as recommended, the fresh wounds should be covered with a protective benomyl spray (6).

Figure 8. Camellia tissue affected by G. cingulata *(only canker area). NOTE: All the camellia tissue above the canker dies (dieback) but its tissue is healthy. On the canker area is disease which cuts off the water supply by killing the xylem tissue of the camellia stem, the water conducting tissue.*

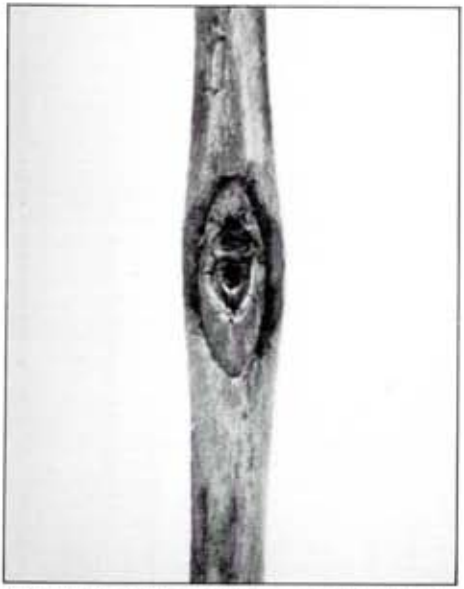


Figure 9. Glomerella canker on main trunk of camellia.

Proper ventilation of greenhouses will improve drying conditions which works to the deteriment of the camellia canker and dieback fungus (**G. cingulata**).

DEVELOPMENT OF RESISTANCE:

Some **C. japonica** cultivars are inherently resistant to **G. cingulata**, such as Governor Mouton (12). In general, **C. japonica** cultivars are more resistant than are **C. sasanqua**, **C. oleifera**, and **C. reticulata** (3,5,7).

It may be necessary to make certain interspecific camellia crosses, such as **C. reticulata** X **C. japonica** 'Governor Mouton', so as to incorporate the gene for resistance to **G. cingulata** from **C. japonica** 'Governor Mouton' into **C. reticulata**, especially if **C. reticulata** cultivars are to be grown in greenhouses. The atmosphere of greenhouses (warm and high humidity) is particularly favorable for **G. cingulata** to sporulate, and if irrigation is done by hosing, the splashing water can spread the fungus spores to other plants.

DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY:

With the practice of good sanitation and the application of benomyl to cuttings, scions, and plants at leaf fall, **G. cingulata**, that causes canker, dieback, graft failure, and twig blight, can be kept at a minimum (8,17).

Camellia plants grown in the cooler, drier areas of South Carolina, such as the Clemson area, are not as likely to become infected by **G. cingulata** as are the camellias grown along the coast where the humidity is higher and the temperature is usually warmer.

One other term, twig blight, is sometimes used to describe death of a newly developing bud (Figure 2). In this case, infection by germinating spores of **G. cingulata** occurs through a leaf scar (a temporary wound, Figure 7) and the young, developing twig that develops from the lateral bud just above this leaf scar area is killed (Figure 4) since the developing canker at the base of the young twig kills the vascular tissue supplying water to it (Figure 8). Spraying with benomyl

during the leaf fall period controls this problem since a protective film of fungicide is applied to this general region (17). Leaves most often fall during periods of rain which also redistributes the benomyl fungicide; the redistributed benomyl will cover the newly formed leaf scar areas which provides nature's way for the fungus (**G. cingulata**) to enter (Figure 7).

One inherent weakness in our control program for **G. cingulata** is the reliance on one fungicide, benomyl. Resistant strains of other fungi to benomyl are common, and we anticipate that resistant strains of **G. cingulata** will eventually appear. Efforts will continue in an attempt to find a backup for benomyl that will control canker, dieback, graft failure, and **that will** not injure camellias or man or beast.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Appreciation is extended to Dr. O.J. Dickerson and Dr. W.M. Epps, Emeritus Department Head and Professor, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiology, Clemson University, for reviewing the manuscript and to Dave Lewis and Jim Martin, Communication Center, for the pictures.

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Carroll Moon and Marie Dahlen at the May meeting of the Mid Carolina Camellia Society. Wish I could have heard that joke!

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JOE AUSTIN SPEAKS OUT

EVALUATING CAMELLIAS

This year I have won sixty-eight trophies. So this should give me some insight into what will or what will not go up. I love camellias, the friends I have found in this hobby, and going for the silver.

I've found one camellia that is one of the best I've ever seen. The name of it is 'Saimudan'. It's a whopper. I showed it to Les Marbury, one of our all time great camellia men and he flipped.

I am going to list some camellias that are beautiful, but have some fault, like bad stamens, flimsy, etc. These seldon make it to the head table, so I don't grow them:

'Janet Smith'	'Pop Homeyer'	'Elizabeth Astles'
'Vi Stone'	'Applause'	'Lowanna'
'Ada Sebire'	'Glowing Embers'	'Bill Johnston'
'Wandin Sebire'	'Pavlova'	'Rebel Lady'
'High Roller'	'Overture'	

Here are some that you should get if you don't have them. They are beautiful and capable of winning any show:

'Nancy Reagan'	'Arcadia'	'Julie Felix'
'Woodford Harrison'	'Harold Paige'	'Tomorrow's Dawn Bessie'
'Emma Gaeta'	'Our Kerry'	'Silver Clouds'
'Delta Dawn'	'Dr. Harry Moore'	'Elizabeth Weaver'
'Pink Dahlia'	'Showtime'	'Lacy Love'
'Robert's Jewel'	'Dick Goodson'	'May Westbrook'
'Roy Stringfellow'		

'S.P. Dunn' will be tops soon. It can have 7 to 8 inch flowers and 4 rabbit ears. I plan to variegate this one this year.

Continued on Page 24

IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy Fayetteville, NC

A camellia friend visited me in mid-February. He had several, perhaps as many as a half dozen, tiny white patches on the tips of his fingers. They were very small, almost unnoticeable, generally not larger than the eraser on a pencil. But my friend called my attention to them and explained. He said that they were tiny pieces of adhesive tape. That every time he did any grafting, the tips of some of his fingers would split. He went on to say that plain old adhesive tape would take away the pain and produce almost magical healing. This story of his would not have impressed me at all, and would not have remained in my memory more than 15 seconds if it were not for the fact that I had the same problem. Not only when I did grafting did the tips of my fingers split, but when I did any digging, planting, carpentry work or anything else. I blamed it on old age and didn't worry about it, but I surely did run through a lot of band aids. Band aids are anything but cheap, so I tried his adhesive tape remedy. It surely does work! And adhesive tape **does** seem to have some powerful healing quality.

Those of you who plant camellia seed and root-prune the little seedlings as soon as they have a few leaves and a few inches of height, may be interested in the following. More than 25 years ago, a camellia grower from Norfolk, VA, wrote that you should plant the seed in about 3 inches of sand on top of a sheet of galvanized metal or in a tin can. He said that this will eliminate the need for root pruning. When the roots grow down to the sheet metal, the tips will disintegrate and feeder roots will grow. He said that sometimes the ball of the feeder roots will be as big as your fist.

Why would anyone from Wisconsin join a camellia society! Well, I had a chance to find out. A lady from Wisconsin, Mrs. Mary Noll, came south in February and visited next door to me. The greenhouse was in full bloom and of course she came over to see the flowers. She was studying floral design, and when she saw these gorgeous small, medium, large and very-large camellias, she became as excited as a child at Christmas. She wanted to take some plants back to Wisconsin and grow them "in a sunny window" or something like that. We had to talk her out of that idea. But she fell in love with camellias. She said that she had heard of camellias but had never seen one before. When I mentioned Atlantic Coast Camellia Society, she gave me her check, and thereby became our first and only member from Wisconsin.

I have promised myself not to belabor any more the January 20 killing freeze. But there are still things that need to be said, so bear with me a little longer. Every now and then, someone will ask me (as if I were an authority on the subject) what should he do about his camellias, prune them, cut them back, dig them up or what. I always respond that nothing should be done till about the first of June. In recent days I have come to realize that I had been giving very good information. Camellias which appear dead, might not be. Branches without leaves are not necessarily

dead branches. There is no doubt that the plants do need to be heavily pruned, but there is no way to know how far to cut back until new growth has started, late April and May. One six-and-a-half or seven foot 'Debutante' in my yard appeared to be dead. I got a spade and plunged it into the ground all around the plant in preparation for pushing it over and cutting the tap root, if it had one. When I started to push, I noticed numerous little green buds coming out all up and down the trunk and major limbs. I stopped pushing. Today, mid-May, it is obviously very much alive and will make the debutantes' ball again, if not this year, then surely next!

Since we don't have in this issue the regular feature "Camellia Spotlight," let's talk about some camellias for a moment. I have had reports from several sources that the very lovely camellia 'Gypsy Rose, Var' is very difficult to graft. From personal experience, I can relate that I have made six grafts on two occasions and got only one take. This is not a good record but I would not say that it is difficult to graft from this record only. Others have told me that they are having trouble with it. One grower flat-out said that he didn't believe it was possible to graft it. So my advice would be to graft the solid with a scion of 'King Lear' on the same stock or buy a plant or 'Gypsy Rose, Var' if you hear of one for sale. There is no lovlier camellia

Another camellia which I think is a "sleeper" is 'Sun Song'. This camellia deserves to be grown and exhibited. The description in the nomenclature book would not excite anyone (nor is it supposed to), but to me, it is a very exciting camellia. It is one of those formal doubles which just stand out and beckon you to stop and admire it!

Last fall, I potted up all retic and retic hybrid grafts from the seedling patch. I had only 5 out there. They were 'Pike's Peak', 'Lady Kay', 'Arthur Knight', 'Len Bray' and 'Francie L. Surprise'. It never occurred to me to take up the non-retics and the japonicas. I thought that they could take whatever Mother Nature chose to deal out in North Carolina. How wrong can you be! I lost practically all of them. The ones I grieve over the most are the non-retics 'Adorable' and 'Nisha Gamlin' and several plants of 'Katie Kelly'.

Ray Gentry is planning to release six retics this year. They are 'Emil Carroll', 'Miss Houston', 'John Bell', 'Big Apple', 'Patsy Cline', and 'Blair Brown'. Get your order in early as first releases are always in somewhat short supply. Ray says that he will be releasing one soon that will knock peoples' eyes out. Its name, 'Maggie Bush'. Watch for its release, because Ray doesn't get this excited about just **any** camellia. When he says about a camellia, "You ain't seen nothing yet till you see this one," you had better believe that it's good.

If anyone knows anything about the camellia 'Raspberry Ice', I wish he would drop me a note and tell me. I am growing this camellia and have bloomed it for 2 years now. It is not listed in the nomenclature book, and I have no idea from whom I got the scion. I really cannot imagine a grower coming up with a camellia like this one, and not registering it and yelling its praise to high heaven! I surely would! I consider it one of the lovliest and most interesting camellias in my collection. It is a medium sized semi-double, white with a wide border of raspberry color on each petal. The

Continued on Page 24

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

Dr. Asa Barnes Fernandina Beach, FL

No late camellia shows for North Florida and South Georgia in 1985. Last year, the "Siberian Express" struck on Christmas Eve, resulting in heavy loss of outside stock and a loss of most blossoms. Many January and February shows were cancelled.

The 83-84 blooming season saw many cultivars with few or no buds. There were however, enough productive plants to make for good early fall camellia shows. Jacksonville and Island of the Beaches reported more than usual entries in their December shows.

In January 1985, disaster struck again in the form of the "Alberta Clipper". On January 19th, the weatherman began to warn that a "cold front" was on its way south. On the night of January 20th, the temperature in North Florida dropped to 7 degrees, a record for that date. This was colder by 4 degrees than the 11 degrees of December 24th, 1983.

The early warning allowed some camellia growers to protect some of their plants. Those growers who had plants in containers were able to move them into greenhouses, garages, sheds, houses and other inside protection. The cold was severe but only lasted about 40 hours, about half the time of the 83 freeze.

Ocala, Florida and several other cities cancelled their camellia shows for the second year. Plant loss was heaviest among the reticulatas and hybrids. Most japonicas lost were late plantings or had been damaged by the 83 freeze. The full extent of the damage will not be known until new growth is well along. We will continue to lose branches and even some plants during this next year. A local nurseryman says that the freeze went to a depth of 5 inches in the ground, causing extensive root damage.

Among my plants, only one bloomed well. A small three year specimen of 'Dr. Louis Pollizzi', a hybrid with reticulata parentage, bloomed late. It was the one bright spot in my yard. The plant is situated no different from many that showed damage and lost all buds. I have decided that it was just professional courtesy that caused it to bring such color to my life, from one doctor to another.

Very little grafting was possible in 84 due to the shortage of good scions, so rootstock was accumulated for 85. Now local scions are again in short supply. Some growers have been able to get scions by mail or from friends with greenhouses. If next year is another disaster year (some say that disasters run in threes), then many small growers will not be able to find the beautiful camellia to grow in his yard. Some of our camellia shows may suffer from lack of participation and loss of interest among these small growers.

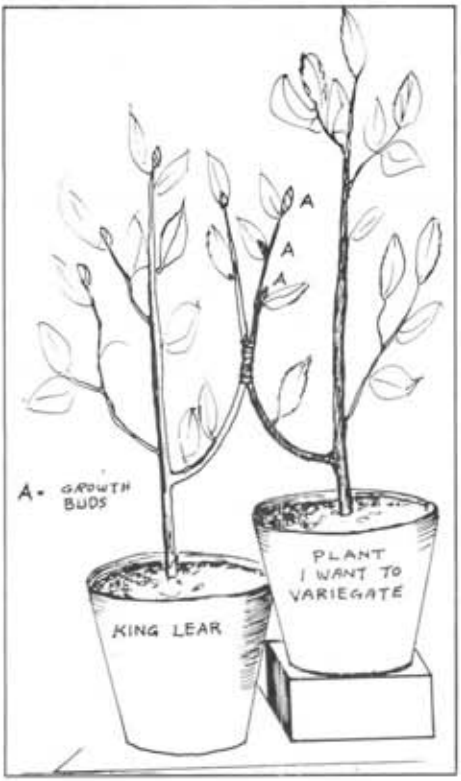
What can we do? When new growth is well established, plants should be pruned. Remove all dead and badly damaged wood. They should be sprayed and fertilized. We must freely share our knowledge with our neighbors, advise and assist them in securing good varieties to replace lost or damaged plants. Encourage interested people to start growing camellias. "After all," tell them, "This too will pass!"

JOE AUSTIN (From Page 20)

'Jean Pursel', one of the all time great camellias, will bloom nine different ways. I have never seen any flower like it! What is the Awards Committee waiting for? Frank Pursel is the best hybridizer that this country has, or any other country, in my opinion.*

VARIEGATING CAMELLIAS

I have tried for years to find the best way to throw the virus in a red camellia. I have tried 'King Lear', 'Mercury Var.' and 'Audusson Special'. For me the two best are 'King Lear Var.' and 'Mercury Var.' 'Audusson Special' the least effective virus thrower of the three. I have tried grafting red camellias with a scion of one of these on the opposite side and sometimes I get good results. You will always run up with some which are difficult to variegate satisfactorily like 'Harold Paige' or 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. I will try to show you how to always get a moired variegated plant with our editor's help. You do it by having 'King Lear Var.' or a 'Mercury Var' growing in a one gallon can. I set the can next to the plant I want to variegate. I use a bottom limb and cut a slice on the side of the 'King Lear' and a slice on the 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. The main thing is to get far enough back on the 'Dr. Clifford Parks' so you will have three or four eyes to graft the next season. The variegation, or the most of it, will go out, not back. Try this. You'll like the results.



*Editor's Note: 'Jean Pursel' was awarded the Harris Hybrid Award of the American Camellia Society at Mobile, January 1985.

FOR SALE

Complete set of ACS yearbooks, 1946-1985 inclusive. This is a rare opportunity. The first and second volumes, 1946 and 1947, rarely come on the market, and when they do, they are expensive. Cost of complete set is $200.00. Price does not include shipping. Make check payable to Atlantic Coast Camellia Society. Contact editor for further details.

IN AND AROUND (Con't from Page 22)

raspberry border is not at all uniform nor well defined. It could not be called a picotee. What sets it apart and gives it its charm, class, interest and just dazzling beauty is its fimbriated edges on all petals.

SOME DO, SOME DON'T

Paul Ludwig Victoria, Australia

THE PLACE: Greensborough, Victoria, Australia - 38°S.
CLIMATE: Cool damp winters; warm, hot, dry summers. Average rainfall: 28 inches. Average July maximum: 11°C (52°F). Average February maximum: 27°C (81°F). Extremes: -4°C (25°F) to 43°C (110°F). These extremes are experienced perhaps once every 5 years.
SOIL: Clay loam.
SETTING: Semi-shaded by larger trees, but plants are set in positions ranging from total shade to almost full sun.

In general, southern Victoria is well suited to camellia culture. However, it seems that some varieties like the conditions more than others. Of course these opinions are those of one grower, but many of the varieties mentioned do appear regularly at shows.

The camellia group that gets most attention is the japonica group. Japonicas grow into attractive plants and they provide the greatest variation in flower size, color and form. In addition, they have the longest flowering period of all the camellia groups. Best of the group is the 'Elegans' family. Varieties including 'Elegans Supreme', 'Elegans Splendor', 'Elegans Champagne', 'C.M. Wilson', 'Shiro Chan' and 'Elegans (Chandler)' all flourish. Their dense, dark green foliage makes them attractive garden plants and they flower over a period of 3 to 4 months. The first 3 varieties mentioned regularly produce flowers over 150 mm (6") which can be real prize winners. These 3 varieties regularly pick up blue ribbons for some fortunate exhibitor. Of course many families have their failures. 'Kona' and 'Hawaii' fall into this category. These two varieties are very slow growers and their flowers are subject to blemish, often while still in the bud stage.

Now it gets hard! There are many varieties that deserve a mention. The next best performer is one which is rarely heard of: 'Nancy Bird'. It always puts in a superb display in the garden, while producing many prize winning blooms. Others that regularly put in a good performance are 'Alta Gavin', 'Easter Morn', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'R.L. Wheeler', 'Fashionata', 'Tomorrow's Dawn' (despite the fact that it is subject to sunburn), and of course varieties such as 'Gran Slam', 'Wildfire' and 'Grand Prix'. 'Grand Prix' produces a sparse, scraggly bush but it, 'Easter Morn', 'Grand Slam' and 'Guilio Nuccio' are regular blue ribbon winners at Victoria shows. Amongst the more recent introductions, 'Nuccio's Pearl' has performed commendably, and 'Desire' shows promise of being the best japonica of all. This variety flowers for 5 to 6 months from mid-autumn to mid-spring, producing superb blooms over the entire period. Other great camellias are 'The Czar', 'Emperor of Russia' and 'Lady Clare'. All these varieties flourish in gardens all over Victoria giving their owners months of flowers.

The smaller flowering japonicas do not get so much attention, but a number of varieties have a place. One variety is involved in a love/hate relationship. 'Tootsie' is the best when it flowers, but it sheds its buds far too frequently. Other favorites are 'Mansize', a beautiful variety in every respect, and 'Grace Albritton', a new introduction to my collection, but a

variety that is very popular despite the fact that it is late and shy flowering.

Now for reticulatas and their hybrids. But first a few comments. This part of the collection is limited to about 35 varieties, because many are far too similar in color and flower form. Choice has been made on performance and distinctiveness. Top of the class is 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. Its massive red flowers appear over a longer period than most other varieties, and it stands up to the weather better than most. 'Lasca Beauty' is next, producing great flowers on an attractive plant. 'Howard Asper' is going from strength to strength. 'Miss Tulare' and 'Terrell Weaver' have also earned their places. 'Valentine's Day' and 'Purple Gown' continue to frustrate. Although two of the most beautiful reticulatas, the former has appalling growth habits, a general complaint by Victorian growers, while the latter variety just never produces blooms of the quality it is capable of producing. However, persistence may be eventually granted its reward. The color of 'Purple Gown' ensures its place, and blooms that are show stoppers are produced by other growers on occasions, which are far too rare. Three small flowered reticulata hybrids that do well are 'Black Lace', 'Barbara Clark' and 'Betty Ridley'. 'Black Lace' is an attractive plant with a beautiful flower that interests the general public. It is a popular choice, while 'Barbara Clark' puts on a superb garden display.

The non-reticulata hybrids do not do as well. The soil seems a little heavy and too prone to drying out in summer. Varieties like 'Waterlily' flourish, but its flowers often ball or open with transparent streaks through the petals. The most consistent performers are 'Mary Phoebe Taylor', which lacks substance however, 'Coral Delight' and 'Margaret Waterhouse'. All these varieties grow well, producing plenty of good flowers.

Of the sasanquas grown, only 2 are worth mentioning. 'Yuletide' is a beautiful single which flowers over a long period. In addition, it forms a compact bush. 'Bert Jones' is probably the biggest and best double. It is shy flowering compared to most sasanquas, but its flowers hold better. 'Star-Above-Star' is a camellia of a similar species which also does well.

Of course, there are failures. Most of them have come and gone. Varieties like 'Sawada's Dream', 'Spring Sonnett', 'Hikaru-Genji' and 'Spencer's Pink' simply refuse to grow. Other varieties grow successfully but fail on other criteria. 'Elsie Ruth Marshall' and 'Mrs. H. Boyce' flower too late and are very susceptible to sun damage. 'San Marino', 'Leonard Messel' and 'Milo Rowell' are reticulatas that can be replaced by better varieties. 'Pavlova', 'Elizabeth Astles' and 'Samantha' fail to produce flowers of quality.

MY VALENTINE (From Page 3)

folks who are a little crazy, and that's where I plan to spend next spring. I hear they don't let their patients have things like clippers and rakes and hoes. That's just fine with me. I plan to check in just as soon as the weather man forecasts the first warm day in February. Just wait till next spring!

LIFE OUT THERE (From Inside Front Cover) give us hope. Yes, they give us high hope that from out of the slaughter of our prized and beloved plants by the extreme cold, the nucleus is here for a new generation of camellias, along with the untimely lesson that ultimately comes; that nature is never predictable. We must continuously realize that the Southeast is not California; yet, we too can raise camellias, but we must be more selective in the choice of our camellias.

One important consideration to remember, we have enjoyed camellias for years and years. Why let a couple of bad winters, that most likely will never again happen in our lifetime, defeat us? Camellias can bring joy to the soul while they bring a touch of miracle too, tolling the bell that the long hard winter is past. I recall the words, "Amazing grace, how great the sound!" We in the Southeast are graced much of the time with weather that the North would gladly receive at any time. While we suffered from the weather colder than cold, did they of the North not suffer more?

Yes, even here at Clemson, the periphery of the camellia belt, we have survivors; they were not all casualties. With the help of plant breeders, and I'm confident that they can and will help, we will begin anew, with enthusiasm, with optimism, and with a great burst of gusto; yes, we can reintroduce this, our beloved plant, our venerable camellia, and let it take its rightful place among the living and not be found among the graveyards of pessimism. Have we not faced adversity before? Is it not when we overcome adversity that we get the greatest satisfaction of success?

Yes, I still have the hallowed ground that spawned the beauty of the camellia that was sufficient for the soul. that hallowed ground will grow yet other camellias; camellia plants selected also for cold tolerance, not just for the flower. There is whispering hope to a weathered but never beaten soul that camellias will come back as bright as the sun after the storm. The storm has passed; let us take our tools and bury the dead to make room for the living. And let our spirit of enthusiasm for our beloved camellia light the way for others. Can there be greater happiness than to share the beauty of your exquisite Kumasaka with a dear friend on a spring day? Yes, we've taken a beating but this is just the first round. Round two belongs to the victor who has heart. And who has more heart than camellia enthusiasts over the world? Yes, emphatically yes, we'll be back, walking amongst the evergreen winter roses imported from the Far East, some of which bear the names of great camellia souls! We may have lost our camellias, but we didn't lose our enthusiasm, our know-how to raise them, and our love for them. And, we didn't lose our camellia friends. I'll see you down the brightly-lit pike where friends of the camellia love to walk in unison; I look forward to our regrouping and then together we will face the future with spirited optimism. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. May beauty reign forever!

HELPFUL HINT

Do you have trouble finding a sharp knife to shape your scions when grafting? Ask your local barber or hair dresser for their used "hair shaper" blades. You will find them very sharp and they have rigid backs which make them easy to use.

A DECADE WITH THE SPECIE RETICULATA

Len Hobbs Victoria, Australia

Of course Capt. Rawes triggered it all off initially when he had the field of admiration all to himself. And indeed, even played hard to get for two years. This caused such a demand that the approach method of grafting could not cope, so today's mass production type of camellia grafting took over, just in time to accommodate and make sure of the twenty or more, previously unknown retics that found their way across the world from China.

About this time, the camellia bugs were potent, and thus ACRS gained another member who has hardly missed a Victorian Branch meeting since. This has been a rewarding association, participating in the aims of "Spreading the Wealth of Camellia Lore". Included in the events were meeting with, and listening to most of the Australian and some of the overseas personalities who were most knowledgeable on this subject. They freely shared their special knowledge with us.

Our library has bought, and thus made available to us, most of the available books written about camellias. Even some in Chinese and Japanese. The pictures in these are nice! So many books for just one horticultural corner! Commencing with the older books, and moving through the history and culture of the past, I arrived at the commencement of the Reticulata Era. This led into the search for and acquisition of the "Kunmings", and a collection of them for myself. At this time, reasonable grafting capabilities allowed a start to be made reproducing them. Like most members, there seemed to be a scarcity of understock confronting me. Especially scarce was quality understock to do justice to the important Kunmings.

The next obvious move for most of us was to get into raising seedlings. The available choice then was sasanqua or japonica. We managed to produce enough to be independent. No sasanqua seed was allowed to go to waste.

Most nurseries of that era in Victoria also multiplied by using whatever came to hand, including cuttings. So I make the point that early plants of the Kunmings had to be on roots other than reticulatas.

Then those forward looking people who introduced the Kunmings had a head start, and found themselves confronted with the amazingly large retic seed pods, containing large seeds. These became items of curiosity at our meetings, and still are. The precious seeds were extracted, and then taken back to base and propagated. In turn, these seedlings produced flowers leading into a rolling snowball situation. The eagerly awaited flowers, or rather the best of them, were seen, and the Registrar became busy. But increasingly the "no hopers" were truncated and became understock for reticulatas. It seemed the right thing to do, so it became "all systems go." Specie to specie, vigour, compatability, excellent callus, etc.

'Buddah', because of its profuse flowering and prolific seeding capabilities, almost monopolized the supply of seed, and its every seed was used. The surplus from any producer met a waiting list. Then gradually other retics also helped with a supply.

Probably because of the scarcity, almost a cult worship developed, and year by year the emphasis was on "retics for retics."

Now, prior to retic seedlings, the use of sasanquas and japonicas grafted over, produced plants good enough for all requirements. Most are still living and could now be called trees. They provide flowers of quality as in their youth. My enquiries from time to time regarding the discontinued use of sasanquas and japonicas for grafting stock for retic scions **has never been adequately answered.** The only answer of note seems to be the bottling accusation: It can inhibit the tree and it will die. I have yet to see a tree that has died from bottling, and my eyes are wide open looking for such complications. This argument therefore is not valid. However, when retic seeds were being handed out recently, mild warnings were issued: "If you can find others, don't use Buddha's, as they are hard to rear."

In print came advice from early hybridists: when you do raise seeds of valued controlled crosses, graft onto another stock as soon as possible to ensure the seedling's survival and growth! Not really a ring of confidence in the seedling's virility! I wonder how many had 'Buddha' as a seed parent?

Just open the nomenclature book and see how many registrations claiming 'Buddha' as a parent are there within. Just ponder awhile on the position of "parents unknown" group. Keep in mind the probable quantity of 'Buddha' seeds available, probably causing a preponderance of magnitude, but never able to be calculated. But so many seedlings flower as they front up, face up to the statement: **so much like 'Buddha'!** Haven't you heard it?

Moving on from the first cross category, and given the passage of years, if there is an inherent weakness genetically, and capable of being passed on, how far are we down the line, as to reticulata specie. Unfortunately, it may not be stopping there, as the specie borders have been crossed and the highly valued discoveries of recent retic x japonica crosses may be clouded too?

Where is all this preamble leading too? Well, it is into my personal experience into this subject. Marj and I have been, and are, heavily into raising of seedlings of many species and hybrids. Every seedling of interest whose seed parent is named, carries that identification until it flowers. Then it is kept for evaluation or swiftly becomes understock. Unfortunately, there are some that don't reach the flowering stage. I know we are not alone in this regard.

Handling the plants, particularly those in trouble, in search of the obvious problem, the labels directed it 'Buddha', directly or through her descendents, but not necessarily exclusively, parents unknown are an addition, and some odd others, a minority. Sasanquas and japonicas however, breeze through the same conditions of growing and cause no concern at all.

Summing up, if the desire for understock is the major purpose, why bother wasting time, materials and effort on the retic front for this purpose.

Already Sydney seems to have faced this problem, and the growers there have only a short list of reticulata cultivars available to them. Sasanquas are the chosen understock for them. Probably that

Continued on Back Page

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IN LINNIE'S YARD

(with apologies to John McCrae)

In Linnie's yard the violets grow
Between the labels row on row
That mark our places, and in the sky,
The robins bravely singing fly
Scarce heard amid the tears below.
We are the dead; short months ago
We lived, felt rain, saw sunshine glow,
Admired by all and now we die
In Linnie's yard.

Protect us please from sleet and snow
To you with dying limbs we throw
This plea. If you don't hold it high,
If you break faith with us who die
We shall not sprout though violets grow
In Linnie's yard.

A DECADE (Con't. from Inside Back Cover)

city's climate creates a different and larger problem for enthusiasts in the East Coast Central New South Wales region.

In conclusion and for the record, our method of raising seedlings has been one of survival of the fittest, encouraging weaknesses to appear, and then eliminating the also rans, rather than have them linger on and cause losses later. We have a collection, as yet untouched, of the latest sanitary chemicals, bought as they were released.

Editor's Note: Comments from readers concerning the use of sasanqua and/or japonica understock for retic grafting, or any other point brought up by this contributor would be appreciated.