

Carolina Camellias



Astronaut

My Father, Dr. H.G. Mealing, Sr.

Diddy Mealing Thompson, North Augusta, SC



My father was a most multi-faceted person. His intellectual curiosity was boundless. His major fields of interest were: medicine, camellias, orchids, Bible scholarships, photography, genealogy, herpetology, history (especially local history), antiques and their restoration, geography and travel. He also dabbled in archaeology.

He was an avid reader, and became quite expert in all his fields of interest, often lecturing on them to organized groups.

He originated so many camellias that I could not begin to give you a number. I am most familiar with those named after local friends and family members, the best known being my namesake, 'Diddy Mealing' and its variations, 'Pink Diddy' and 'Diddy's Pink Organdie'. A few others are 'Buddy Boy', 'Patricia Mealing', 'Lee Baby', 'Edith Alexander', 'Bob Mealing', 'North Augusta', and 'Look Away'.

He was a 1922 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia and an M.C.G. associate clinical professor emeritus, having taught for 30 years there. Prior to this, he taught laboratory techniques at Johns Hopkins from 1925 to 1927. He was a member of the Presidents Club of M.C.G., a special giving club that acknowledges donors who give more than \$50,000.00.

Being a supporter not only of the Medical College, but also the community where he lived, he made many contributions. He was an army veteran of World War I, a member of the First Baptist Church of North Augusta, a member of the Richmond County Medical Association, and Georgia Medical Society. He was a past president of the North Augusta Lion's Club, past commander of the North Augusta American Legion Post, and a life member of the Acadia Masonic Lodge in North Augusta. He was a member of the Richmond County Historical Society, Richmond County Genealogical Society, and the North Augusta Historical Society. He was an accredited Camellia Society judge and a member of local and national camellia and orchid societies.

My father was instrumental in starting the first rabies clinic in North Augusta, innoculating dogs for the cost of the vaccine only. He was also a staunch supporter of the North Augusta Red Cross Blood Bank, being one of their most faithful volunteers until health reasons slowed him down last summer. He kept his office open until a month before his death on October 1st, 1981, at the age of 83.

In addition to all this, my father was a devoted family man and was never too busy to answer our needs. You can see that I loved him, and am touched to know that he was loved and appreciated by so many others.

Carolina Camellias

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Editor's Page



Since the editor doesn't have any gems of wisdom to offer and no earth shattering horticultural revelations to share, and since he still has this page to fill, let him just talk about camellias for a moment.

Those who did not attend the ACS convention in Pensacola and did not get a chance to see Ab Abendroth's 'Rachel Tarpy' are probably still wondering: "Could this flower possibly be so beautiful as that picture in the Journal?" I can assure you that it is! If you haven't ordered your plant or scion from Ab, you ought to do it immediately. I expect that we'll see a lot of 'Rachel Tarpy' on honor courts in the future. This flower proves that it is still possible to get a japonica that is different from those we already have and well worth offering to the camellia community. I can't wait to see a plant with a half dozen open blooms on it like that flower in Pensacola!

In our last ACS Journal, there is a notice placed by Northern California Camellia Society that scions of the first 40 new reticulatas from China are available. The notice says "random selection." This would suggest that we will not be able to order specific cultivars. The reasoning for this probably is the belief that we are not familiar enough with them to be able to choose. However at Pensacola, Dr. Zhang Ao Lo, one of the Directors of the Kunming Institute of Botany, People's Republic of China, was on the pro-

gram. He lectured and presented a slide show of Chinese camellias. He showed slides of many of these reticulatas recently received in this country. Some were outstandingly beautiful. The four which appealed most to me, and which I will try to get as soon as I can are these: 'Superior Peony', 'Nine Hearts Purple Gown', 'Regret Sky High', and 'Baby Face'. The last one is white!

Dr. Herbert Racoff showed in Pensacola several old varieties which are seldom exhibited anymore. Too bad! Some of these were exquisite! In fact, I noted 2 or 3 that I thought I would like to try. I'm afraid that I have lost my list though, and will have to watch Dr. Racoff's flowers at the Spring shows to see if I can see them again.

'Dream Girl' has proved herself again this year. Today, December 28, the large plant at my front door looks like a Christmas tree with all the gorgeous, pink, rabbit ear blooms that literally cover the plant from the lowest branch to the highest. This plant does well every year if the hard freezes don't come too early in the year. Despite the fact that some years I do lose all blooms due to November freezes, it is worth growing outside for the years like this one where it performs well. Imagine having an abundance of reticulata-type camellias (though somewhat smaller) growing outside during the Christmas season.

HISTORY OF SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

The SCCS was organized in 1950 and simultaneously they launched their publications effort. It was called "Camellian" and the first issue, June 1950, had 26 pages. The editor was Frank Griffin, a successful real estate man from Columbia, SC. Mr. Griffin, more than any other person, is responsible for launching SCCS. In the words of Mr. Wendell Levi, one of the first directors of the society, "To Frank Griffin the society owes and will continue to owe its being."

Mr. Griffin had a marvelous command of the English language and a marvelous way of using this command to lay low anyone who dared to contradict him, criticize him or even differ with him in opinion. By the third issue of Camellian, he was already embroiled in controversy. Effective with the January issue 1953, Mr. Griffin exercised his right and cancelled his contract with the SCCS, and from that date until the final issue, March 1963, he published Camellian as an independent publication.

There is a period between January 1953 and March 1955 when nothing was published by SCCS. Presumably, most of the members continued to receive the Camellian.

Then in March 1955, a four page bulletin was published. It was published by their bulletin committee.

Starting with January 1956 and running through March 1958, a large (8½ x 11 inches) bulletin was published for the months of January, March and October. Mr. James R. Moore of Columbia was listed as bulletin director.

John H. Marshall of Rock Hill became director of publications and his first issue (October 1958) had a slick cover, 44 pages and was the size of the present publication. Mansfield Latimer, also of Rock Hill, took the title of director of publications with the 1962 Winter issue with Mr. Marshall as editor.

Together they made a great team which continued in charge of the publication until 1965. Their magazines were sleek, informative and very interesting which varied in size from 32 to 64 pages. The name of the publication was changed from Carolina Camellia Bulletin to Carolina Camellias with the 1962 issue and it has continued as such to the present.

It is interesting to note that the January 1959 issue of the Bulletin was designated Vol. X, No. 1. Where the other nine volumes are, has not been explained. It is worth noting, though, that the Camellian for the same date is also Vol. X, No. 1.

Carroll Moon of Columbia took over the job of editor with the 1965 Spring issue. He continued with three issues every year until 1973, for a total of 25 issues. His magazines were sleek and beautiful also, ranging in size from 28 to 48 pages.

Mrs. Pearle D. Cooper (now Mrs. Pearle Moon) took over as editor in the Fall of 1973, and published six issues. By taking this job, she added another first to her credit: not only was she the first woman to be president of SCCS, but she was the first woman to become editor of Carolina Camellias.

Rosemary Elliott became editor with the Fall 1975 issue and published eight issues. She gave up the job after the death of Dave, her husband, in July 1977.

Tita Heins of Charleston became editor and published four issues. Tita began several innovations which are being continued until today, among them is the use of a camellia drawing on the inside of the back cover.

The present editor took over the job in 1980.

Carolina Camellias, though primarily published for the members of South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia

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Presidents' Messages

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



I sincerely appreciate the honor of being elected to this office. I wish to express my thanks to everyone who was present at the Myrtle Beach meeting for their vote of confidence in my ability to serve as president of such a fine organization. In the coming year, please feel free to offer guidance and advice on how to improve and expand our society.

On behalf of the entire South Carolina Camellia Society, I would like to extend a "well done!" and "thanks" to Oliver "Buck Mizzell" for the outstanding job during his tenure as president.

I would like to encourage all of our members to give Jim McCoy any support that they are capable of doing in the publication of our fine magazine.

Details of the Spring meeting will be announced later.

I extend to all best wishes for a successful camellia growing season, and a happy and prosperous year.

Geary Serpas, President

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



Another year has passed into the sunset, and with it three of our best members and my most cherished friends: Ernest Aycocck, Clyde Dorrity and Marshall Rhyne.

Ernest loved my wife's crab dip. She says she doesn't feel like making it anymore

I pass Clyde's house three or four times a day and it just doesn't seem right not to see him puttering around the yard. Sometimes I would call him to tell him that I had a real nice bloom. He would say: "I'll see you in a little while." In about half an hour he would come, dressed to a Tee! I don't think that he ever left the yard when he didn't look like he was going to church.

I saw Marshall in San Francisco at the hospital the day before he left us. He acted like he felt better than I did. So it was a shock to me.

I hope that 1982 brings all of you the best blooms ever, and may each of you win best in show. I hope to see most of you at the early shows. If I don't, maybe I'll see you at the American Camellia Convention in Charlotte. I'm sure we'll have a big time. The North Carolina Camellia Society Board of Directors will meet on Saturday afternoon, March 6th. The exact time and place will be on the program.

Ed Liebers, President

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY



We in Virginia are bedding down for a cold winter and a chance to share a little cheer over the holidays.

Everyone enjoyed the fall show although the weather was not cooperating just prior to the main event. Bud and Lil Miller took the honors with Charlie Mason and Clarence Jones as usual among top winners.

In an effort to get away from the plastic cups, Julie Sears came up with an idea for glass show bloom containers. Julie contacted the Gerber people to find a source for their Junior size glass jars. This effort was unsuccessful, however, ingenuity paid off. The area Gerber representative offered his "out of date" shelf stock. You guessed it, she set me up in a production line of emptying baby food in a plastic bag while she washed the jars. They are all nestled in thin cartons ready for the Spring show. Good idea, Julie! Maybe others can use your idea. A little work, but it's free!

We are underwriting a research project on Camellia Petal Blight Control. Dr. Bob Lambe, Department of Plant Pathology and Physiocology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute has conducted a study on Azalea petal blight control with exciting success and believes a product still in the laboratories called Bayleton could possibly control this fungus. He begins tests in the Norfolk Botanical Gardens and Virginia Truck and Ornamentals Research Station in January 1982.

The Virginia Camellia Society is underwriting this research project and will forward periodic reports over the next year to the American Camellia Society as to Bob's success in containing this troublesome disease.

We pray the Holiday Season has blessed all of you and that our New Year is bringing much peace and happiness to all our Camellia friends in the Carolinas.

See you in Charlotte for our National Meeting in March.

Cecil E. Sears, President



scene along the wayside. . .

Los Angeles, California

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The Atlantic Coast Camellia Society held its 2nd meeting October 2 and 3, 1981 at Myrtle Beach. There were approximately 150 members present. It was definitely a fun weekend. The big event was the luau Friday night, but close behind it was president Hulyn Smith's and Janet's Bloody Mary party Saturday morning, the Georgia boy's party Saturday afternoon and the seafood banquet Saturday night. If you don't think they had a good time, take a look at these pictures taken by Marion Edwards: Top to bottom: 1. No wonder they call him "Lover Boy". 2. That famous pig. 3. A sedate gathering around the pool. 4. Still around the pool but not so sedate.



FOR THE BEGINNER

Regular Feature

Coming up soon is the most important season for growers and lovers of camellias. It's the Spring. Many things need to be done for your camellias both in the matter of culture and propagation. Also, it is the middle of the blooming season and show season.

For Spring culture and care, see *Carolina Camellias*, VOL XXXII No. 2 (Spring 1980).

In this issue, I want to tell you about one of the easiest, and in some respects, one of the most satisfactory methods of camellia propagation. I am referring to air layering.

Let's assume that you have a large plant of a variety that produces beautiful blooms year after year. Let's also assume that your aunt Maggie wants a plant of that variety, but can't find it in any nursery. Your neighbor also wants one, and your preacher admires it every time he comes around. Wouldn't you like to be able to give a nice, blooming size plant to these people? You certainly can! This is how: air layer the plant. April is the best month.

Select a nicely shaped branch (or several) that your large plant can spare easily. Usually these are found at or near the top of the plant. Come down anywhere from 12 to 30 inches and ring; or cut through, the bark in two parallel cuts around the limb. These cuts need to be about 1½ inches apart. Remove this ring of bark and scrape away or sand paper away **all** traces of cambium. Also, remove a slice of bark about 1 inch long on each side of, above, and terminating at the removed ring of bark.

Now you're ready to apply the rooting medium. Take some canadian peat, soak it for a half hour or so in a gallon of water to which a tablespoon of Captan has been placed. The Captan is not absolutely necessary, but it does seem to help prevent failures. Get a piece of aluminum foil about 12 inches square, take a handful of the peat and squeeze out all the water that you can. Place it on the square of aluminum foil. Take another handful and squeeze out the waer. Now you've got two wads of peat each about the size of a turkey egg. If you're not familiar with turkey eggs, they're about like a slightly flattened baseball. Now dust the exposed cut with Rootone. This is not a requirement, but roots form quicker and more abundantly. Now comes the tricky part. Apply these balls of peat, one on each side of the cut, held in place with the aluminum foil. It's easier to do if you can pull the limb down into more or less a horizontal position, and hold it under your arm. Twist the foil at the bottom and top in an attempt to get a water-tight closure. Press the peat tight around the exposed wood. Many use twistems at the bottom and top to hold the foil in place. It would be better to use three pieces of masking tape, one at the top, one at the bottom and one long piece completely encircling the ball in the middle.

This is it, unless you're bothered with birds or squirrels. If you are, an additional covering of kraft paper or even kitchen plastic will eliminate the problem.

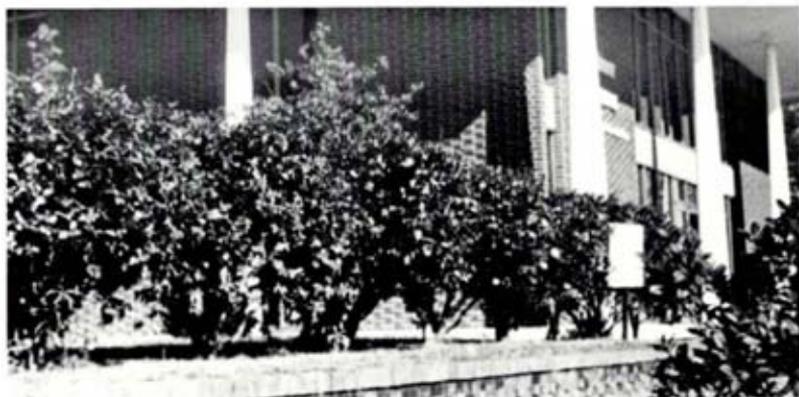
When the ball of peat gets hard as a

football, it means that the peat ball is full of roots. It may be removed and potted up. Sometimes this takes only about three months, usually longer.

Cut it off below the ball of peat. Remove the foil. Do not disturb the peat. Pot it up into a one or two gallon container. Use a friable mix of approximately half and half sand and pine bark. A little cottonseed meal may be added to the mix.

Place the pot in a shady place and sprinkle the foliage at least twice a day, and if possible more often, for about two weeks. After this, the plant can be treated like your other potted camellias, except for fertilizer. Go light on feeding for the first year. Nothing but cottonseed meal should be used.

The plant will bloom nicely come blooming season, and this is the time to make your aunt Maggie, you next door neighbor or your preacher happy by presenting them with their admired camellias, in full bloom.



newly planted camellias at a bank in Fayetteville

We Lost A Friend Today **Mary Lou Beacher Fayetteville, NC**

We lost a special friend today
And all our tears won't bring him back.
Now I sit and contemplate
What will our tomorrows lack?

But for me and my tomorrows
They'll hold precious memories of
yesterday.

His laughter, his smile, his helping
hand,
A whistled song composed his special
way.

Come spring, birds will nest in
The azalea and camellias rows he has
rendered.

New life will start and bless his heart
He provided their surrounding splendor.

They won't see him there anymore
Or answer his once soft call
But they'll feel safe and secure
In his lovely garden until fall.

This man and his lady will always remain

A very special part
Of my family and of my life
With what they gave from their heart.

So between my tears
And from my heart let me say
We lost a very special friend Today.

Ed. Note: A tribute to Clyde H. Dorrity

MAKING CAMELLIAS HAPPY MAKES YOU HAPPY

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

Professor and Ag. Sci. Asst. II,
Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29631

The longest journey begins with a single step. Thus it is with interest in camellias, the first step being to go to a camellia show or attend a meeting of the local camellia club. Once you see the end results you will want to learn how to grow camellias. Camellias are not hard to grow, particularly in the Deep South where they are well adapted.

Camellias make the ideal hobby plant because there is not too much work that has to be done in the summer. Notice that I said, 'has to be done'. Those who have grown vegetable and ornamental garden plants or shade trees and lawn plants know that much work can be done for any plant at almost any time of the year. For example, during the summer's sweltering days there is a need for irrigation and keeping the grass mowed, the weeds eliminated and the shrubbery pruned. The majority of the work with camellias, however, is done during the fall and spring months, and, for those who have a greenhouse, there is work that can be done during the winter months.

The camellia breeders of today have given us several beautiful new cultivars (varieties), and some of the cold cultivars, such as Adolphe Andusson, Ville de Nantes, and Mathotiana are still worthy of the attention of camellia enthusiasts. There are many new hybrids which have been released, such as Lasca Beauty, Valley Knudsen, Dr. Clifford Parks and Francie L. There are literally thousands of camellia cultivars from which to choose. The best approach is to go to a camellia show and decide which cultivars you find most attractive and then have a camellia enthusiast teach you how to graft. You can purchase scions of your choice from several growers who specialize in the sale of scions and who advertise in the *Camellia Journal*. For a

suitable understock any good **Camellia sasanqua** cultivator or seedling will be acceptable provided that it is not diseased with cankers on the stem. To me this is the best approach (ordering scions and doing your own grafting) since the cultivars available through the nurseries may not be your choice. If you only want one or two camellias, however, I would recommend Governor Mouton and Professor Sargent with which to start your camellia love affair. They are vigorous and hardy and will bloom profusely if given adequate light and water.

The obvious question arises, where will I plant my two camellias? For the beginner, I would place them clear of the eaves on the north side of the house. This will provide early morning protection from the winter sun while the plant is frozen which will help to assuage frost or freeze damage. Another good location is under a canopy of pines and preferably the overstory should not be too dense. Shade provided by hardwoods such as oaks, dogwood, maple and hickory is a no-no for camellia growth. For example, I have two plants of Cho-Cho-San, one under a loose pine canopy and the other under a pine-dogwood overstory. The camellia plant under the pine-dogwood shade is about one foot in height while the other is fully 5 to 6 feet in height and bloomed well last year. Needless to say, the other plant has not bloomed and unless it is moved soon, it will not survive the next hard winter. One important point to remember about planting is to provide good drainage. Camellias do not perform well in wet soils. If your soils are poorly drained, build up a spot with sand, soil, bark, and peat moss and set the plant so it is no deeper than it was originally in the soil, or, if it is a potted plant, allow 1/2 inch to 1 inch of the soil from the pot to be above the level of the soil in which

you are planting. Guard against the possibility of the soil settling by tamping the soil on which the plant will rest.

For the person who wishes to develop an extensive camellia garden I would recommend the following **Camellia japonica** cultivars for the Piedmont area: Adolphe Audusson, Betty Sheffield, Carter's Sunburst, Debutante, Donckelarii, Giulio Nuccio, Lady Clare, Mathotiana, Pink Perfection, R.L. Wheeler, Reg. Ragland, Sawada's Dream, Tiffany, Tomorrow, and Ville de Nantes.

I would also recommend the following fall flowering **C. sasanqua** cultivars: Bonanza, Chansonette, Cleopatra, Frank Persons, Hinode-Gumo, Leslie Ann, Mine-no-yuki, Pink Snow, Rosea, Setsugekka, Shichi-Fukujin, Showa-no-Sakae, Sparkling Burgundy, Star above Star, and Yuletide. For the Coastal Plains and the Coast, the above are also excellent, but all camellias do well in that area. For example, Alba Plena, Snowman and other white cultivars do well in the Charleston area.

Camellias need light, water, and minerals as well as carbon dioxide (CO₂) which is always present and apparently inexhaustible. The CO₂ enters the leaves through the stomates (pores). The minerals become soluble in water and are taken up by the roots. The minerals can be supplied in many ways such as from bone meal, cotton seed meal and literally dozens of other organic sources, or they can be supplied as inorganic minerals in commercial grades of fertilizer such as 10-10-10, 16-4-8, 20-20-20 (Peters fertilizer), etc. The advantage of the organic sources of minerals is that they are slowly available over a long period of time (several months) while a mineral fertilizer such as 10-10-10 is rapidly available, particularly the nitrogen and potassium. With the complete mineral fertilizers, it is better to make two applications, the first in March and a second one in June, so that (1) there will be less chance of "burning" the roots and (2) minerals

will be available to the plant over a longer time period. A fertilizer such as 16-4-8 is one that supplies part of the mineral component immediately while the other part is a slow release material that extends the time that the minerals are available to the plant.

We at Clemson recommend the use of 16-4-8, but fully appreciate that people get good results with other types of fertilizer. If you are currently satisfied with the amount of growth and the appearance of your camellias, continue your present methods of fertilizer applications.

It is necessary to control pests associated with camellias, such as scale insects, spider mites, diseases, and weeds. For weed control in camellias, a sharp hoe is recommended. Lawn mowers make wounds on the plant through which pathogens (disease producing organisms) can enter. Chemical control of weeds around a garden is risky since there are often many different families of plants represented and a chemical which will kill a weed oftentimes will injure or kill valuable horticultural plants such as camellias, roses, rhododendrons, and gardenias. Dimethoate, commonly sold as Cygon, does a good job in controlling many scale insects. Oils, such as Volck oils can be applied safely to camellias when temperatures do not go either above 90F or below 35F. April and October usually are good months for Volck oil sprays. The oil sprays supplement the dimethoate (Cygon) treatments for control of scale insects and mites. **DO NOT MIX DIMETHOATE WITH OILS.** Allow a two-week interval between spraying with oils and with dimethoate (Cygon). Concerning the application of dimethoate, some people have had good success by applying it with a small paint brush to the camellia stem about 4 to 6 inches above the soil line in a band about 3 inches broad entirely around the stem. Because of the hazardous nature of the chemical, however, Clemson University does not recommend this practice.

The major camellia diseases in the Southeast are root rot, contagious dieback, and flower blight. By grafting **C. japonica** scions onto **C. sasanqua** understock and planting the grafted plant in well drained soil, root rot is almost eliminated. Do not bring the flower blight fungus into your garden. It is a sound sanitation practice to pick up and destroy all fallen camellia flowers including shattered petals. Contagious dieback can be controlled adequately by raising your own understock and soaking the scions in a benomyl (Benlate) suspension (1/2 tablespoonful per gallon of water) for 30 minutes. Do not plant healthy plants near diseased plants since this pathogen is disseminated by splashing raindrops accompanied by wind.

We recommend pruning camellias by taking off the bottom limbs, so that sanitation can be improved (able to pick up flowers and shattered petals), and the unthrifty wood so that air can get into the plant. This pruning greatly facilitates spraying with chemicals.

That is, better coverage can be obtained.

Camellias do much better if irrigated during hot dry summers. Although they can tolerate some drought after they are well established (after 2 to 3 growing seasons in the final location they are well established), I tried to irrigate my camellias weekly with at least an inch of water last summer and so far this summer, and most plants responded well to irrigation. I personally try to keep an indicator plant around, such as hydrangea, and if it wilts I water other plants that fail to show stress that is easily recognizable. Take great pride in your accomplishment and teach one other person about camellias.

In summary, learn to graft; get plants that fit your needs; plant them in well-drained soils in filtered light; keep the weeds down and the plants pruned properly; spray for the control of scale insects and mites; soak scions in benomyl amended water at grafting time; keep the plants well irrigated.

A REPORT FROM SUMMERVILLE

Irene C. Blanton Summerville, SC

You ask for my favorite camellia -my family says, "All". I just love camellias. Some of the best for here are 'Rubra' family, 'White Empress', 'Lady Clare', 'Donc', 'Ville', 'Lady Kay', 'Pink Perfection', 'Debutante', 'Drama Girl', 'Miss Charleston' solid and varigated, 'Guilio Nuccio' solid and varigated, 'Tom Her-rin', 'R.L. Wheeler solid and varigated, 'Van Sittart' family, 'Dixie Knight Supreme', 'Elegans' family, 'Tiffany' (except for dieback), 'Sugar Daddy', 'Lila Naff' to treat sometimes, 'Dr. Tinsley', and 'Lady Velma'.

'Mrs. D.W. Davis' treats with gib real well early in the Fall, then blooms fairly late.

We do not have any luck with the

'Tomorrow' family. They grow but cold gets most of the blooms.

I have quite a few of the older varieties, which I find do fairly well most of the time and most of them treat real well. 'Nagasaki' and 'Pink Champagne' treat beautifully but do not bloom too well otherwise.

We treat our plants like we do our other yard plants. We fertilize after they bloom, have them sprayed by a nursery man or paint trunks with Cygon. We still have scale! We trim very severely when we can get to it. We have between 400 and 500 plants.

Sometimes I feel that all we do is plant the camellias. The Lord takes over and does the rest.

THOSE SNEAKY CAMELLIA PLANTS

James Grant

Santa Rosa, CA

As we indicated above, camellias are sneaky. Well, I am too. I didn't have an automatic camera to spy on them one moonlight night, so I hid a tape recorder in the lath house. The fun started with a moonlight sonata, and soon all got in the mood to do their thing. Ballet dancer, Janet Clark, donned her glad rags and invited Hulyn Smith, in his flaming youth, to her dream castle for a gay time. Dr. Tinsley gave old blue blood, Bob Hope, a bottle of "Eden Roc". Full of Christmas cheer, acting like a red hot tom cat, the gay boy, with a cherry glow, conned baby face, Miss Charleston, into Chang's temple. He was about to practice his canadian capers when high roller, James McCoy, hy ball in hand, arrived. Now Sunny Jim, the real McCoy, flipped four bits to big daddy to take his black heart to Alaska.

By this time, the whole house was in full swing. It was waltz time with a carolina moon, when Hody Wilson and Elsie Jury arrived in his DeSota in a blaze of glory and got a big applause. Guest of honor, lover boy Bing Crosby, made his debut with flower girl Jean Pursel, Carefree Anita, and "in the pink" Betty Gabriel for a fanfare.

At midnight, dixie belle, drama girl, dainty maiden and dimple darling came aboard and did a can-can.

Now, early dawn on Easter morn, the lady in red, for a curtain call, spanked baby Sweeti Vera shocking pink. Judge

Jackson called the FBI about a string of pearls stolen from Miss America. I kept the dark secret from the grand jury with anticipation of getting some sleep.

Editor's note: How many camellias can you find in the above? Turn to page 18 for correct number.



WHAT IS IT?

Turn to page 15 for answer.

There is a story from an authoritative but (understandably) unnamed source, that a red rose was entered in a recent camellia show as the camellia 'Cup of Beauty (United States)'. This is an old camellia listed in our official nomenclature book. This rose was awarded a second place ribbon by a highly regarded team of experienced camellia judges! "That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, but wouldn't necessarily win a camellia meet." Apologies to Shakespeare.

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA SOCIETY AND ITS PLACE AMONGST THE WORLD'S CAMELLIA COMMUNITIES AND SOCIETIES

John Alpen, New South Wales, Australia

We are all conscious of the many virtues and merits of the camellia - the qualities which go to make it the world's pre-eminent flowering shrub - the beauty and variety of its blooms, its handsome evergreen landscaping quality, the fact that little else is flowering.

These are just some of the reasons we publish magazines such as this. But when we look at the way camellia lovers around the world come together in their own societies and clubs, we are quickly reminded of one more important distinguishing characteristic of the camellia. That is its ability above that of all other flowers to attract devotees whose devotion impels them to go on and gather, and in turn spread, more knowledge of their favourite. And in so doing, they not only promote the camellia but they enjoy the company and friendship of each other.

What I am saying is that there is no other genus like the camellia to draw people together, and this at the local, the regional, the national and the international level. If you look around the countries where camellias are grown, you will observe a variety of form or degree of formality in which the camellia community has structured itself. Perhaps before we look at the particular niche of the I.C.S. in this community, we should make a quick review of some of those countries.

UNITED STATES. We see quite a tiering of society structures, which offers a comprehensive range of outlets for the gregarious American community of camellia lovers. The local societies and clubs have varying degrees of allegiance to regional and state bodies like the Southern

California Camellia Council and the Northern California Camellia Society. In turn, they all have their links with the American Camellia Society. The A.C.S. is, of course, strong and influential, with full time staff, its own wonderful headquarters property and so on. It's the camellia society with the biggest membership of all. It offers a co-operative facility which enables a co-ordination of the shows of other societies and clubs. One of the regional bodies in the U.S., the Southern California Camellia Society, has established a most significant position through its nomenclature publications.

JAPAN. Here the local and regional societies are fairly autonomous but the national society, the Japan Camellia Society, does have an influence beyond its own immediate location of Tokyo.

AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND. Both these countries have a central national body - both having sprung from what was originally the Australia & New Zealand Camellia Society. They both have branch structures across the respective nations, with the branches having a fair degree of autonomy. However, the branches of the Australian society seem to enjoy a much greater autonomy, as is to be expected in a much wider flung land. In both cases, the national body carries the responsibility for publications.

ITALY. Italy was the cradle of the camellia in its introduction to Europe. The revival of interest over the last 25-30 years has been generated through the one National society, *societe Italiana Della Camelia*, of which a true international, Dr. Antonio Sevesi, has been a guiding light.

BELGIUM. Within the last couple of years, the Belgian Camellia Society has come into existence and the ICS has been pleased to encourage its founder, Mme. Loos.

UNITED KINGDOM. When we turn to the U. K., we find a different picture again. Here, there is no formal national body at all and no camellia societies, as such. Instead, we find a large and devoted body of camellia lovers doing a remarkably fine job, and this in a land where camellia growing is not easy. They do this utilising the structure of the ICS itself, living at the same time in a "good neighbour" situation with the Magnolia and Rhodoendron Group of the R.H.S. The I.C.S. office bearers in the U.K. produce a fine newsletter regularly. Their annual "get together" usually in late April and always centered on a group of outstanding gardens, is a "must" for any camellia lover visiting England at that time.

FRANCE. Although there is no French Camellia Society, the presence of two notable personalities, M. Claude Thoby and M. Jean Laborey, creates a rallying point. They have a close association with the Horticultural Society of France while the ICS structure provides another point of contact for a growing French membership.

So we see a whole range of differently constituted bodies around the world, all doing their best to advance the interests of the Camellia. In retrospect, it becomes clear how grand was the vision of Professor Waterhouse and his co-founders of the ICS, the grand concept of a truly international body, working with, and living in amity with all the other bodies just mentioned. When we re-

flect on the stated objects of the ICS:

1. To foster the love of camellias throughout the world, and to maintain and increase their popularity.

2. To undertake historical, scientific and horticultural research in connection with camellias.

3. To co-operate with all national and regional camellia societies and with other horticultural societies.

4. To disseminate information concerning camellias by means of bulletins and other publications.

5. To encourage a friendly exchange between camellia enthusiasts of all nationalities.

It immediately becomes apparent that with the deletion of a few words (from objective No. 1, "throughout the world" and from objective No. 5 "of all nationalities") those five objectives must be identical with those of all the local and regional and national societies whether formally stated or not. In their own way, all the societies are seeking:

To foster the love of camellias.

To undertake research.

To co-operate with other bodies.

To disseminate information.

To encourage friendly exchange.

And the ICS is there to assist and supplement and to provide another vehicle for achieving all these aspirations. It has brought together in conference, people from many parts of the world, first in Italy, then in Australia, in England (every year there), in France, in the U.S.A., here in New Zealand, in Japan and this year in Spain. All this, together with the influence of its truly international publication, has in less than two decades engendered a mighty quantum of discussion and friendship and goodwill right around the world.

WHAT IS IT? - from page 13.

A dying camellia plant in a plastic tent in the greenhouse. As a matter of interest, it put out new growth, budded up and bloomed the next season.

SHOW RESULTS

MID-CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Columbia, SC

October 24 & 25, 1981

Grown in open:

- Best bloom over 5": 'Mathotiana', Donna & Bill Shepherd
- Runner-up: 'Drama Girl', Mrs. H.C. Scott
- Best bloom under 5": 'Compari', Mr. & Mrs. Gus Dubus
- Runner-up: 'Blond Betty', Mr. & Mrs. Gus Dubus
- Best White: 'White Empress', Mrs. H.C. Scott

Grown under glass:

- Best bloom over 5": 'Mathotiana', Mr. & Mrs. Louis Fetterman
- Runner-up: 'Rosea Superba', Mr. & Mrs. Louis Fetterman
- Best bloom under 5": 'Seafoam', F.N. Bush
- Best White: 'Gus Menard', T.C. Freeman

Best Miniature: 'Little Too', Mr. Albert Ewan

Best Hybrid Retic Parentage: 'Dr. Clifford Parks', Mr. & Mrs. Louis Fetterman

Best Hybrid Non-Retic Parentage: 'Charlean, Var', Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Robins

Best Seedling: Mr. W.T. Shepherd

Sweepstakes in open:

- Gold Certificate, Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman
- Silver Certificate, Mrs. H.C. Scott

Sweepstakes under glass:

- Gold Certificate, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Fetterman
- Silver Certificate, Mr. W.C. Robertson

Blooms Shown: 637

Show Chairman: Mr. W.S. McKinnon

WEST CAROLINA CAMELLIA SHOW

Greenwood, SC October 31, 1981

Best Bloom in show: 'Francie L', Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Racoff

Best Japonica:

- Unprotected: 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', Mrs. H.C. Scott
- Protected: 'Harriet Bisbee', Mr. & Mrs. Oliver Mizell

Best Reticulata Bloom: 'Lasca Beauty', Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush

Best Non-Retic Hybrid: 'Elsie Jury Var', William C. Robertson

Best Miniature: 'Cottontail', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard

Best Sasanqua Bloom: 'Narumi-Gata', Mrs. R.W. Hart

Gold Certificate:

- Unprotected: Mrs. H.C. Scott
- Protected: Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard

Silver Certificate:

- Unprotected: Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman
- Protected: Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

Best 3, Same Variety: Mrs. R.W. Hart

Best 5, Different Varieties: Mr. C.T. Freeman

Provisional Commended Seedling Certificate: No. 1, Donna & Bill Shepherd.

Court of Honor, Unprotected:

- 'Mathotiana Supreme', Mrs. C.H. Scott
- 'Fred Sander Var', Mrs. Herbert Racoff
- 'Mine-No-Yuki', Mrs. C.H. Scott
- 'Helen Bower', Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Timmerman

Court of Honor Protected:

- 'Tomorrow's Dawn', Mr. & Mrs. F.N. Bush
- 'Gus Menard', Mr. & Mrs. J.K. Blanchard
- 'Valentine Day Var', L.G. Wilhelm
- 'Hopkin's Pink', Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Hendrix

Number of Blooms: 501

Show Chairman: William A. Gardner.

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Virginia Beach, VA November 14, 1981

Best Bloom over 4½ inches 'Clark Hubbs', Grover C. Miller

Best Bloom under 4½ inches 'William C. Noell', C. Jones

Best Miniature 'Mansize', Mr. & Mrs. C.C. Mason

Best White 'Mary Alice Cox', Grover C. Miller

Best Hybrid 'Valley Knudsen', Grover C. Miller

Court of Honor:

- 'Betty Sheffield Sup.', Grover C. Miller
- 'Betty Sheffield Var.', Grover C. Miller
- 'China Doll', L. Wood
- 'Confetti', C.C. Mason
- 'Diddy Mealing', Parker
- 'Emmett Barnes', J.M. Habel
- 'Ethel Davis', Ira Hefner
- 'Erin Farmer', Grover C. Miller
- 'Grace Albritton', Grover C. Miller
- 'Louise Hairston Var', Grover C. Miller
- 'Little Ginger', J.M. Habel
- 'Mother of Pearl', J.M. Habel
- 'Magnoliaeflora', Taylor
- 'Pink Diddy', Parker
- 'Rena Swick, Var', Grover C. Miller
- 'Water Lily', M. Stallings

Number of Blooms: 266

Show Chairmen: Wm. Redwood & Lester Wood

COASTAL CAROLINA CAMELLIA SHOW

Charleston, SC November 21-22, 1981

Best Bloom Unprotected: 'Lady Kay', V.A. Boudolf.

Runner-Up: 'Tiffany', Bill and Molly Howell.

Best Bloom Protected: 'Tiffany', Mr. and Mrs. Jack Teague.

Runner-Up: 'Bea Rogers', G.M. Serpas.

Best Reticulata: 'Valentine Day, Var', Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Hackney.

Runner-Up: 'Butterfly Wings', Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Robertson.

Best Seedling: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson.

Best Novice Bloom: 'Carter's Sunburst', Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Bianchi, Jr.

Sweepstakes, Unprotected:

Gold: Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Timmerman.

Silver: Donna and Bill Shepherd.

Sweepstakes, Protected:

Gold: Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

Silver: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Teague.

Court of Honor, Unprotected:

'Helen Bower', Donna and Bill Shepherd.

'Dream Time', M. S. Edwards.

'Rena Swick', M.S. Edwards.

'Bill Stewart', Mr. and Mrs. Bill Watson.

'Ville de Nantes', V.A. Boudolf.

'Marie Shackelford', Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Timmerman.

Runner-Up:

'Virgin's Blush', Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Grace.

'Elegans (Chandler)', Mrs. M.S. Holland.

'Donckelarii', Bill and Molly Howell.

'Magnoliaeflora', Donna and Bill Shepherd.

'Mrs. Hooper Connell', Bill P. Mayer.

'Carter's Sunburst', Rupert Drews.

Court of Honor, Protected:

'Ville de Nantes', Annabelle and Lou Fetterman.

'Elegans Beauty', Annabelle and Lou Fetterman.

'Elegans, Supreme', Mr. and Mrs. Jack Teague.

'Mary Alice Cox', Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Blanchard.

'Mona Jury', Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Hackney.

'Tomorrow Var.', Mrs. J.C. Bickley.

Runner-UP:

'William Forrest Bray', Mr. and Mrs. S.H. Hackney.

'Anticipation', Mr. and Mrs. Jack Teague.

'Clark Hubbs', G.M. Serpas.

'Betty Sheffield, Dream', Annabelle and Lou Fetterman.

'Lasca Beauty', Mr. and Mrs. Stanley G. Holtzclaw.

'Ivory Tower', Mr. and Mrs. Wm. C. Robertson.

Number of Blooms: 900

Show Chairman: Charles Grace.

What I may enjoy most are the reactions of my customers. Most don't know what they (camellias) are, and many think they are artificial. They always gain more attention than any other plant that we have, and that includes rhododendron, azaleas and many other fine species.

Bob Klaben, Nurseryman
Syracuse, NY

HOW MANY CAMELIAS from page 13
The editor finds 68. Can you find more?

Soiless Mix For Potted Camellias

Esther G. Parker

Sherborn, Mass.

Camellias are not hardy outdoors in New England, with very few exceptions all are grown in heated shelters of some sort either planted in the ground or in pots. Some readers may not realize that camellias have been cultivated in the Boston area for many years; in fact the Massachusetts Horticultural Society held its 153rd annual camellia show in February, 1982.

With the proliferation of small hobby greenhouses in New England, interest in camellias has increased a great deal in the last decade or two and the Massachusetts Camellia Society came into being. Primarily founded to encourage entries in the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's midwinter camellia show, our meetings are well attended and enjoyable and provide an opportunity for exchange of ideas and methods of cultivation.

I am often asked about potting soils and the inquirer always looks baffled when I reply that I don't use any soil! All my camellias are in plastic azalea pots — uniformity facilitates watering — and the potting medium is a combination of unmilled sphagnum moss and perlite. I buy the sphagnum by the bale, by mail, from the Park Seed Company. The bale is bulky but very light to carry, and before mixing it with the perlite it must be thoroughly saturated. To do this, transfer the dried sphagnum by double handfuls to a strong plastic trash bag, then add about 3 gallons of hot water to a half full bag of sphagnum, close it tight, turn it over, and knead it a bit to thoroughly distribute the water; then leave it to cool before using.

When potting up, excess water should be squeezed out. Half a cup of perlite placed in the bottom of the pot mixed with enough sphagnum so it won't pour out the holes will insure adequate drainage. In the rest of the mix the proportion of sphagnum to perlite can be $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ or half and half; in-

dividual preference will decide this. The more perlite, the more watering will be needed, but also more essential oxygen will reach the roots.

This mixture is startlingly light and springy, almost too much so at first, and one has to resist the temptation to force it down around the roots with a stick or the end of the trowel handle. Hands and fingers are the safest tools to use in order that this material doesn't become overly compacted.

No fertilizer is added before the plants are potted up, but an organic fertilizer like liquid seaweed or fish emulsion watered in directly afterward minimizes transplanting shock and gets them off to a good start. I have tried several fertilizers in my more than thirty years of camellia growing, and for the last several years have consistently fed all my plants every two weeks all year. I use 5-10-5 "Hy-Trous", changing to liquid seaweed for the newly transplanted, for newly rooted cuttings and young seedlings. Iron chelates are used as needed, and a sprinkling of ground limestone twice a year.

Even if my camellias grew less well than they seem to, I would be reluctant to return to the clay pots I used to use. The weight of the bags of compost, soil and sand were difficult for me, as was the lugging of the heavy plants from greenhouse to conservatory and back. This sphagnum-perlite combination is unbeatable for lack of weight — so much so that I can now carry all but one of my sizeable collection of plants by myself!

There surely must be as many methods of growing camellias as there are people who grow them! These obliging plants appear to want to thrive no matter what, so if you are satisfied, why change? However, if you like to experiment, why not give sphagnum and perlite a try, and perhaps you will grow healthier plants with a lot less work, as I do.

THE INFLUENCE OF VARYING CONCENTRATIONS OF BENOMYL ON ROOTING OF CAMELLIA JAPONICA AND C. SASANQUA CUTTINGS

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

There have been reports at various camellia meetings suggesting that camellia plants treated with benomyl (Methyl 1-(butylcarbamoyl)-2-(benzimidazolecarbamate) do not root or graft properly. This paper deals with the question of the response of cuttings of *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua* to benomyl added to sand and rooted under intermittent mist.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Cuttings were taken from field grown seedlings of *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua* in August of 1980. They were stripped of the lower leaves (leaving 3 on *C. sasanqua* cuttings and 2 on *C. japonica* cuttings), dipped in Hormodin #3, stuck in builders sand in 1-gallon Lerio metal containers, and placed in the greenhouse. The misting system consisted of one misting period (30 second duration/period) each 30 minutes. Benomyl was thoroughly mixed throughout the sand before the cuttings were added at rates of 300, 600, 1200 and 2400 parts per million active ingredient. Benlate, a duPont fungicide which was used in this study, is 50% active benomyl. Sand without benomyl served as a control substrate, and it was also under intermittent mist. Five replications of each species, 25 cuttings per replication (total, 125 cuttings) were used for both *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*.

The rating system was based on a 0 to 5 scale: 0 = cuttings which failed to form any roots, 1 = cuttings which developed a very limited root system, and 5 = cuttings which developed an excellent root system. The cuttings were removed and rated on November 17, 1980, 3 months after placing them under the mist system. During the entire rooting period, the minimum greenhouse temperature was kept at 70F (21C).

RESULTS

The rooting responses of *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua* cuttings to benomyl are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

From the data in Table 1, adding benomyl at the rate of either 300 or 600 ppm to the sand, in which cuttings of *Camellia sasanqua* were placed for rooting, does not deter rooting when compared with controls. Higher rates of benomyl in sand (1200 and 2400 ppm) reduced rooting. *C. japonica* cuttings responded similarly (Table 2) to *C. sasanqua* cuttings except at the higher rates (1200 and 2400 ppm), where they were more seriously injured. It is considered significant that the control cuttings (without benomyl added to the rooting sand) were very similar to cuttings rooted in sand amended with benomyl at the rate of either 300 or 600 ppm. It has been reported that benomyl is toxic to *Camellia japonica* (or *C. sasanqua*), but using Benlate (50% benomyl) at rates of either 1/2 pound or 1 pound /100 gallons of water (1/2 lb/100 gal. = 300 ppm; 1 lb/100 gal. = 600 ppm) there was no measurable toxicity. There ap-

peared to be no obvious benefit from adding benomyl to the rooting substrate. However, it should be emphasized that healthy cuttings were used and the entire rooting operation was done with the best of sanitation practices.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Appreciation is expressed to the South Carolina Camellia Society and the American Camellia Society for partial support of this research.

Table 1. Rooting response of **Camellia sasanqua** cuttings in benomyl amended sand under intermittent mist in the greenhouse after 90 days. Controls rooted in sand without benomyl.

Rep.	Benomyl Concentration ppm ^a				
	300	600	1200	2400	Control
1	2.60 ^{**}	2.72	0.60	0.00	1.52
2	3.36	2.44	2.00	0.08	2.04
3	2.64	2.36	1.32	0.96	2.08
4	2.52	2.84	1.84	0.52	2.56
5	2.84	2.64	1.48	0.96	2.52
Avg.	2.79	2.60	1.57	0.504	2.22

^a Parts per million, active ingredient

^{**} Each value represents the average rooting of 25 cuttings (**Camellia sasanqua**)

Table 2. Rooting response of **Camellia japonica** cuttings in benomyl amended sand under intermittent mist in the greenhouse after 90 days. Controls rooted in sand without benomyl.

Rep	Benomyl Concentration ppm ^a				
	300	600	1200	2400	Control
1	2.08 ^{**}	2.52	0.72	0.00	1.72
2	2.24	2.56	0.56	0.12	2.40
3	2.56	2.68	0.60	0.20	2.72
4	2.16	1.80	0.88	0.12	2.20
5	2.00	missing	0.28	0.04	1.84
Avg.	2.20	2.39	0.61	0.10	2.18

^a Parts per million, active ingredient

^{**} Each value represents the average rooting of 25 cuttings (**Camellia japonica**)

IN AND AROUND THE GREENHOUSE

James H. McCoy Fayetteville, NC

There seems to be some misconception relative to the cold hardiness of *C. sasanqua* versus *C. japonica*. Many consider *C. sasanqua* more cold hardy. This is not thought to be the case among those who have had, and have taken advantage of, the opportunity to compare the two species under severe winter conditions. One of our most respected research horticulturists expresses his opinion on the subject as follows: "*C. japonica* as a group is more cold hardy than *C. sasanqua* as a group. When you get down to specific cultivars, there is considerable variation in cold hardiness within both *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*. Thus, there is some overlap; there are some tender *C. japonica* cultivars which are less cold hardy than some of the more hardy *C. sasanqua* cultivars."

Greenhouse growers of camellias who are not familiar with Emo-Nik need to be introduced. It is a nicotine based insecticide, distributed by Acme Division, Gordon Corporation, Kansas City, Kansas 66118. There is nothing like it for "touch-up" spraying for scale in the greenhouse. Mix it triple strength and spray it with a windex type sprayer on plants infected with scale and generally, the scale is gone the next day. With most sprays, the scale dies after passage of several days or weeks, but are still to be seen on the leaves - dead but still there. Not so with Emo-Nik. The scale drops dead almost instantaneously and the leaf is left clean. It has become very difficult to find these days. It may not even be manufactured anymore. If that is the case, we camellia greenhouse people are the losers. We found some recently in McQueen's nursery in Whiteville.

All of us have had grafts to fail, but the understock puts out healthy vigorous growth. What should we do

with it - regraft immediately, let the suckers grow and regraft next year, or throw the stock away. According to the late Ernest Aycock, and the writer is in complete agreement, you should regraft immediately. It will be years before that piece of root stock will be as good for grafting stock as it is when your first graft fails. If you regraft immediately, you might get a take and the graft will grow as well as it would have if it had taken the first time. If you save it till next year, or even the year after that, chances are good that if you do get a take, the resulting plant will be very slow to attain any size and vigor.

Have you noticed that your grafting takes come in bunches and your failures do too? Sometimes you'll get a group of scions from a grower and they all take, and scions from some other source will all fail. The grafting stock was the same. Both groups of scions appeared to be in excellent condition. The grafting procedure was the same. Why then did one group take and the other group fail? I can think of these possible reasons: the plants from which the scions were taken which failed were treated with a systemic insecticide or fungicide which caused the failure, or they were heavily fertilized, or the blooms from the plants from which the scions were taken were treated with gibberellic acid, or (forgive me for mentioning it) the condition of the moon wasn't right. If you can think of any other possible causes or if you agree that one of the above reasons is the answer, let me know and I'll pass the information along.

Have you been having trouble with your 'Elegans' family plants ('Supreme', 'Splendor', 'Champagne', 'C.M. Wilson', 'Hawaii', 'Kona', 'Maui') dropping buds? Many growers have. One correspondent believes that sprinkling the plants with water causes

bud drop. He assembles his 'Elegans' family in one spot in his greenhouse and does not sprinkle them at all. The test of this theory is not complete, but as of this date, it seems that you can minimize bud drop on these plants by refraining from sprinkling them.

Camellias come into favor and go out of favor in cycles, according to some prominent students of the popularity of the camellia. Others claim that they come into their own and vice-versa in response to certain conditions such as economics, number of babies born, etc. For whatever reason, camellias seem to be coming back into favor as landscaping plants. Every year I have a visitor from the State Department of Agriculture in my small, nothing-for-sale, nursery. This inspector told me in August that he sees more camellias in general use than at any time that he could remember. The owner of a small camellia nursery told me that he sold more camellias last year than in the preceding 14 years put together. On page 9 is a photo of 12 large camellia plants used in the landscape plan for a new bank in Fayetteville. Can it be that people are finally seeing the light!

There is a conviction held by many

growers here in the East that camellia plants brought in from out of state, barerooted, simply do not do well. One correspondent wrote, referring to out-of-state, bare-rooted camellias: "We buy a plant, graft it immediately, and consider the mother plant expendable." Another writes: "I buy these plants for scions only. I make several grafts, knowing full well that I'm going to lose the plant." Since I no longer have any trouble along these lines, perhaps some of you readers would like to try my prescription for bringing them around. Here it is: I try to have them delivered late in the Fall (I don't know why late should be better than early). I don't buy one year grafts. Two or three year grafts definitely take off and do better. I follow Payne Midyette's suggestion *that the roots be immersed in water for about six hours before potting up. They are then potted up into a mixture of about half and half sand and pine bark. I sprinkle the foliage at least twice a day, and preferably more often, for about two weeks. Absolutely **no** feeding, not even foliar, for one complete growing season. After that, they may be treated like your other plants.

*ACS Yearbook, 1972, pg. 59

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CAMELLIAS IN THE NORTHERN PIEDMONT

Lester M. Allen, Greensboro, NC

At the time my first camellia was acquired, there was very little information about their culture. In fact, camellias were almost unknown here in the Northern Piedmont area of North Carolina. My first camellia was acquired from a southern nursery which had sent me their catalog of beautiful full color pictures, one of which was a magnificent 'Mathotiana' camellia. When I saw it, I knew that I had to have that plant, even though nothing was known about the culture of the camellias. Neither was it known if they were hardy in our area. It was somewhat like getting married. There was almost no thought about what would happen later.

At the time of the purchase of the first camellia, there were only a few people in this area that knew what camellias were. However, there were acquaintances in the coastal areas of North Carolina. Some information was obtained from them. Then in 1958, several interested people who were scattered over the Northern Piedmont, got together and organized THE MEN'S PIEDMONT CAMELLIA CLUB.

From the beginning of the Club, it was said that Greensboro, N.C. was on the northern fringe where camellias could be grown outdoor successfully. Then there were those who said camellias would not grow well in the red clay soils. Well when I planted the first camellia, all of this was not known to me, so I just stuck it out there in that hard red ground and it grew beautifully and bloomed gorgeously. In 1956, the house and lot were sold and the new owner was always talking about how beautiful that camellia was.

After that first purchase, other camellias were bought and planted and when we moved, there were about a

half-dozen camellias all just stuck out in red clay soil, growing nicely. None of them were given much care and all were healthy. The first seed I harvested was from a 'Ville de Nantes'. It was planted and it came up, grew and bloomed. One of the blooms was entered in a camellia show and it won runner-up to the best seedling.

All red clay soils of the Northern Piedmont are not the same. Some of the soils do not "perk" well. It is a "must" that the soil where a camellia is to be planted, drains well. If the soil is so tight or compacted that water will not drain through it, camellias will not survive. If there is any doubt about it draining well, it should be tested. Make a hole in the ground about one foot in diameter and about fourteen inches deep. Pour a bucket full of water in the hole and note how long it takes to disappear. If it stands over night and has not drained out the next morning, don't plant a camellia there.

In selecting a place to plant camellias, it is well to find a place where the sun will not shine on the plant until about nine-thirty or ten o'clock in the morning. If the sun shines on leaves when they are covered with ice, the leaves will be severely burned. I have never seen a plant however, that I thought was killed by this. Sometimes the plant will be unsightly with the burned and dis-colored leaves and many of them may fall off. Sometimes a shade tree can be planted to shield the plant from the very early sun. Be sure to plant a camellia no lower than it was where it grew before it was taken up, and it is advisable to plant about an inch or more higher. Many plants are lost because of planting too deep.

Camellias bought in pots are sometimes a problem because of the medium in which they are planted. If the camellia is planted in a medium of

peat moss, sawdust, shavings or some other mixture with little or no soil, it is advisable to wash all of it, if possible, off the roots of the plant when planting in red clay soils. The mixture is so diverse that the roots will not grow into the red clay soil from it. Take the plant out of the container, lay it on the ground and with the water hose gently water off the mixture, being careful not to break any roots if possible. Mix with the red clay soil some peat moss, ground pine bark, or leaf mold and mix thoroughly. Fill in the hole to the right height so the plant will not be set too deep. In this partly filled hole, spread the roots out in all directions from the stem of the plant if possible and finish filling the hole. Be sure the plant is as high or higher than where it stood before, and water well. A mulch of pine needles or leaf mold about two to three inches thick and out eighteen inches or more all around the plant is a big help. Camellias should have about half shade.

When selecting camellias to plant in the Northern Piedmont, it is best to select a plant that is considered hardy. Many camellias have not been tested in out-door planting in this area. If there is a variety that you especially want and cannot find whether it has been tested for out-door planting, you might want to give it a try. Put it in a sheltered location if possible or plant one or two yews on the windward side for protection. Camellia Japonicas are generally more hardy than it was once believed. All of my sixteen Japonicas planted out of doors came through the severe winters of 1977 and 1978 with little or no damage. The 'Nagasaki' and 'Barbara Morgan' are a little tender for this area and need extra protection. The 'Dawn' (Vernalis) is very hardy and the 'Sparkling Burgandy' (Sasanqua) planted in full sun (except in the morning) was somewhat damaged, but recovered fully by the next year end. It is my belief that reticulatas would not survive out-doors here, although I have not heard

of anyone trying them.

A list of camellia japonica varieties that I have grown out of doors here in the Northern Piedmont would be too long for this article but the ones I am now growing in addition to the ones already mentioned, are 'Professor Sargent', 'Lady Clare', 'Greensboro Red', 'Ville de Nantes', 'Paulette Goddard', 'Kingyo', 'White Empress', 'Lindsay Neill', 'Mathotiana', 'Flame', 'Pink Perfection', 'Lady Van Sittart', 'Kumasaka', & 'Berenice Boddy'.

The buds of my out of door plants are usually treated with "Gib" the last day of August or the first day or two of September and there is quite a long period of bloom before cold weather. Then the buds that are not treated will come on and bloom in the spring. So there are two periods of bloom. If none of the buds are treated, perhaps there would be a chance bloom or two in the fall, but not many.



HISTORY

continued from page 3

Camellia Societies, has subscribers in most of the camellia growing states and overseas. It exists harmoniously with, and supports to the best of its ability, all other camellia publications. It enjoys the support of the other publications too. The board of the South Carolina Camellia Society is determined to maintain the quality of its publication despite rising costs and other obstacles. Subscribers are welcome from whatever area where people love camellias.

Carolina Camellias

HOW IN THE WORLD?

James H. McCoy Fayetteville, N.C.

"How in the world does she do it?" I don't know how many times I have heard this from my grandmother Gordon when I was little. It was more of an anguished wail than a question.

There was a sort of unacknowledged horticultural competition going on between my grandmother and Miss Alice. Each would send an arrangement of flowers up to the church every week for use on Sunday. Someone, I guess the minister's wife, would place them, one on the piano and one on the table where they deposited the offering. The arrangement on the offering table was considered the prettiest, and whoever got her flowers placed there was the winner for the week. My grandmother won at least half of the time, but never when it came to japonicas. Miss Alice would always send bigger blooms, with better color, and greener, glossier leaves. This was about to drive my grandmother crazy. I don't know why she never asked Miss Alice how she did it, for they were friends. I guess it was just something you weren't supposed to ask, like a lady's age. This is the account of how my grandmother found out.

When I was about nine years old,

Mary Wynn announced her engagement to be married. Mary Wynn was my aunt Lydia's roommate for the four years at Columbia College. She used to come home with aunt Lydia every now and then, and I was madly in love with her. Just a smile from her would render me speechless. Not only speechless, but I couldn't even walk right, stumbling over my own feet. It didn't matter that the smile she gave me was pretty much the same smile that she gave to everyone else, including the cook and the hands on the place.

Well, aunt Lydia planned a bridal shower for Mary Wynn and she wanted me to be in it. She planned for Mary Wynn to be seated with her back to the door, and when everybody had arrived and were seated, I was supposed to come in behind Mary Wynn with an umbrella. I would say, "Mary Wynn, I think it's going to rain," and open the umbrella over her head. Out of the umbrella would tumble small gifts all over her.

I didn't want to do this, mainly because I didn't want Mary Wynn to see me dressed up in the velvet knickers and lace shirt that aunt Lydia wanted me to wear. But back

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then, children didn't say "no" to adults, or at least, I didn't. So I agonized over this and looked forward to it like a condemned man looks forward to his execution. I did tell my grandmother that I wished aunt Lydia wouldn't make me carry the umbrella. But my grandmother just said, "Nonsense, it won't hurt you."

Then, about a week before the shower, I was thrown a lifeline, or at least I hoped it would turn out to be a lifeline. Miss Alice asked my grandmother if I could come up to her house and help her in the yard one afternoon. My grandmother said yes. Then she told me, "If you can find out what Miss Alice does to her japonicas to make them bloom so good, I'll tell Lydia to get someone else to carry the umbrella at the shower. But don't let on that I want to know." I could have jumped for joy over this slim chance for salvation.

So I went up to Miss Alice's house and she put me to work digging bulbs. She had sold 500 bulbs through an ad in the Progressive Farmer. After we finished digging the bulbs and spreading them under the house, she told me to go to the chicken house, get a wheelbarrow of chicken manure and throw it around her roses. I asked her if she wanted me to throw it around her japonicas too. She said, "No, I don't use chicken manure on my japonicas. I use liquid lot soil."

"What's liquid lot soil, Miss Alice?"

"Well, you take about a peck of stable manure, put it in a carbide can, and fill the can with water. Leave it set about a week."

"And then pour it around the japonicas?"

"No, not **around** the japonicas. Throw it on 'em. Get a dipper and wet 'em real good."

"Won't the rain wash it off?"

"Yes, but it doesn't matter. I do it every few weeks."

I couldn't wait to tell my grandmother. I thought that she'd be happy. She wasn't. She was furious! "So that's what she does! Well, she can

go on beating me. I wouldn't do that to my japonicas, not to save her soul!"

But true to her word, she told my aunt Lydia to let Gordon carry the umbrella. Gordon was my cousin, about my same age, named for my grandmother.

So when the day came for the shower, I watched from the doorway as my cousin slipped up behind Mary Wynn with the umbrella, said, "I think it's going to rain, Mary Wynn," and opened it over her head. A lot of small packages rained down on and around Mary Wynn. She broke into peals of laughter and said, "How precious!" She grabbed my cousin, pulled him onto her lap, and hugged and kissed him.

Watching from the doorway, I was overwhelmed with jealousy! I could have cried. I didn't know which I hated more, Mary Wynn or my cousin Gordon. I ran out of the house and wouldn't talk to Gordon for the rest of the day.

But the broken hearts of little boys are quickly healed. Gordon and I went fishing in the Savanna the next day. Mary Wynn left after the shower, got married and I never saw her again.

But as the weeks and months passed, I noticed on several occasions that my grandmother's japonicas looked strange. The leaves would have a greyish brown powdery look. I knew what it was but I didn't mention it to my grandmother. I had learned long before, when to twist the tiger's tail and when not to.

Then came that Sunday in February that my grandmother's vase of japonicas wound up on the collection table. She was so excited she couldn't sit still in church. On the way home she said, "I guess I showed her today she's not the only one who can raise japonicas."

"You showed her, all right," I said. I started to add, "and without throwing liquid lot soil on them." But I didn't. Everything was beautiful, just the way it was.

A SALUTE TO
The Oldies
Regular Feature

Lester O. Wood Virginia Beach, VA

The "oldies" in our yard are truly not very old, nevertheless, we have two which are our favorites, and there will always be an honored space for them. To be real favorites, they must have established their reliability and performance as well as their beauty over some considerable period of time, and so we go back to when we became active in our local society.

In 1959 the American Camellia Society's annual meeting was held in Norfolk. We, Muriel and I, sort of came into the convention by a side door, so to speak. Being on active duty then, I felt it to be an exceptional opportunity to provide the attending members with an orientation tour of the world's largest Naval Complex, located in the tidewater area. We took on a few other duties, but were able to get the tour in as a part of the official program.

As the convention proceeded, we were increasingly attracted to a couple whom we sensed were of some importance in the camellia world. Our intuition was correct and thus began an acquaintance and friendship which lasted many years with August and Inez Kramer. August was a partner of Kramer Brothers Nursery in California.

The Kramers exhibited some blooms in the show as well as attending the meetings. We took them on a couple of special tours and otherwise entertained them as is so often the case with newly made friends at Camellia Meetings.

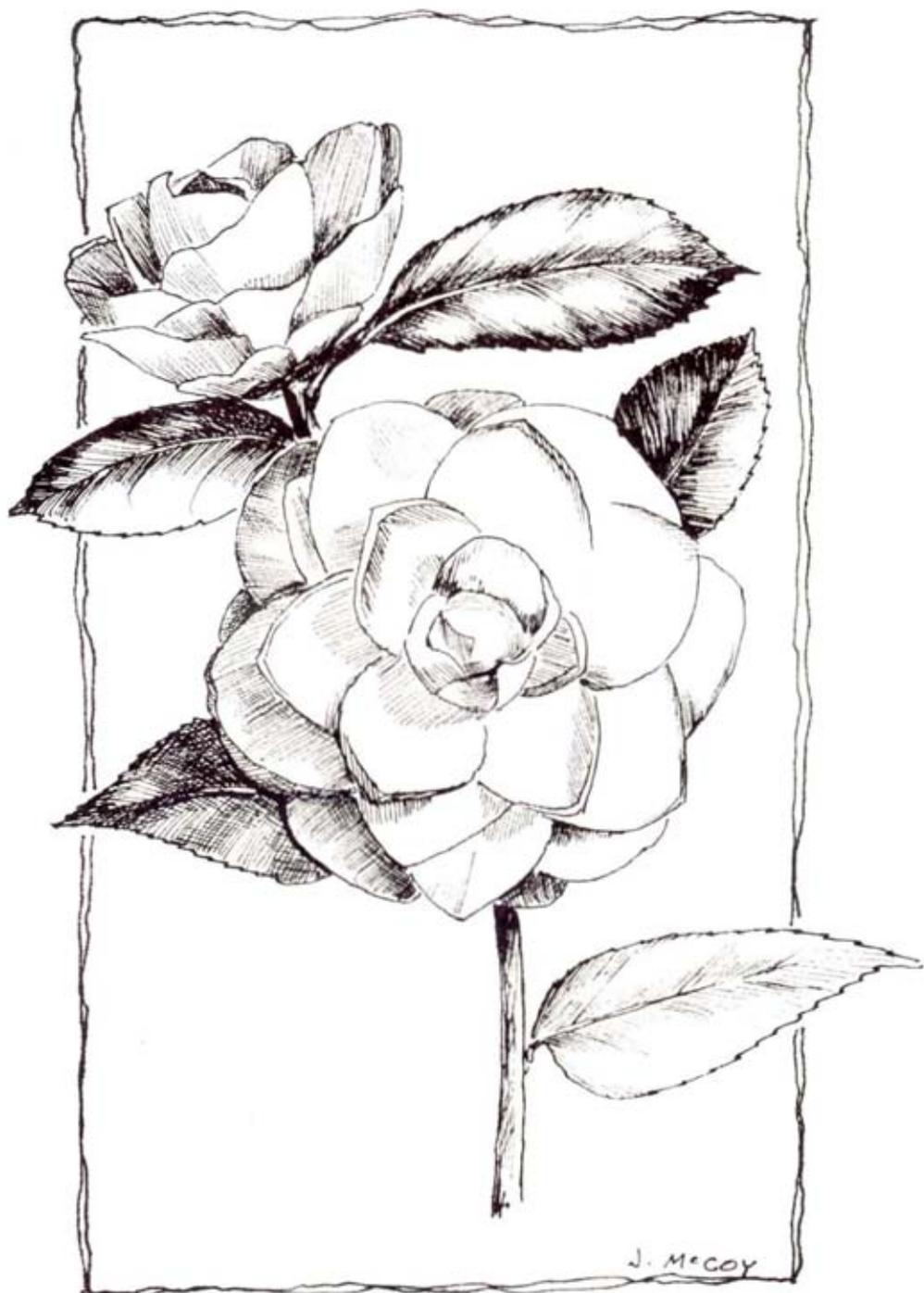
The convention closed and as we were taking them to the airport Mr. Kramer expressed his intention to send us some camellias for our garden. What would we like? At this show he had exhibited a particularly beautiful white seedling as yet unnamed and unregistered. As complete novices, and ignorant of the etiquette of naming and registering, we said: "One of the white seedlings please." He agreed most graciously but with the admonition not to give away any scions until his company had put the plant on the market. He sent us several varieties along with the white seedling, but we have kept only two from that shipment of over twenty years ago.

And so, today in our yard, and as a reminder of our friendship with the Kramers, our favorite "oldies" are the white seedling, 'Miss Universe' and the other which has performed equally well, 'Guilio Nuccio, Var.'



Only a fool would tell you how to water your plants if he doesn't know your climatic conditions.

Art Gonos, ACS Convention
San Mateo, CA



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