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AZALEAS

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Carolina Camellias

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About the Cover

'AZTEC'—A hybrid cross originated by J. Howard Asper, Escondido, California.

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



T. C. EVANS

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS

The Board of Directors has established a goal to increase the number of South Carolinians belonging to your Society by 50% during the calendar year. This is a realistic goal, and will be achieved if each of you make an effort to seek out and solicit people in your community who grow camellias as a hobby and do not now belong to the Society.

Take just a few minutes now to check the Fall 1971 issue of Carolina Camellias to see which of your camellia-growing friends are not members, and call them to ask if they won't give you the \$3.00 membership fee so you can send in their application. In addition, think of young people in your community who are landscaping a new home and donate them a gift membership. This is a great way to encourage interest in camellias and obtain the new members needed to perpetuate your Society. Both of these endeavors require only a small amount of your time.

Another more time consuming suggestion is to take it upon yourself to actively promote the genus camellia and your Society. This should include informing your local press of all activities involving camellias—meeting dates and times of the Society, people in your area who have attended camellia shows and won awards, people planning to attend camellia meetings, people who have been elected to office in S.C.C.S. or C.S., etc. Most newspapers welcome the opportunity to publish short items about local people and their activities, and your Society will thus become more attractive to the novice camellia grower.

Sincerely,

T. C. EVANS.

NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



FRED G. HAHN, JR.

DEAR MEMBERS:

Our spring meeting is now history. Our thanks go to Steve Wall and the Whiteville Camellia Club. Their hospitality will be remembered for a long time.

Their show was excellent and the blooms exceeded expectations. We certainly hope that the difficult growing season that is coming to a conclusion will not be repeated for many years.

As was expected, Dr. Luther W. Baxter, of Clemson University, presented an excellent program on "Dieback". Based on his research it appears there is hope for preventing the disease. I wish more of our members could have been present.

How long has it been since you've been to one of our meetings? We need your presence and ideas to help make our Society stronger. If you have any ideas we could use for a project, please let one of our officers or directors know.

Our friends in South Carolina have an excellent plan they use when their club is hosting a Society meeting. They invite out of state judges to judge their show, and this allows their members to attend their meeting. How wonderful it would be if we could do this.

Your officers and directors have approved the location of your fall and spring meetings. Our thanks go to these forward thinking groups, who by planning this far ahead benefit themselves and our Society. An excellent program will be presented this fall by a "camellia expert". His name will be announced later and you will want to be present.

Sincerely,

FRED G. HAHN, JR.

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



DR. ANNE LEE

DEAR MEMBERS:

In my previous message I promised the spring show to be a real occasion, but it apparently was not in the stars. After temperatures in the seventies for a period of time during January, the mercury fell to a chilling seven degrees above zero during the night. Drying winds brought the chill faster to well below zero. The effect was catastrophic. Overnight the entire garden turned into a uniform chocolate-brown landscape. How bad the damage will be cannot be evaluated until growth starts. The buds seem to be destroyed for this season on almost all plants. Nevertheless, we will have a Camellia display on the date of our planned standard show.

The planned show, after a good deal of deliberation, was cancelled.

There is an added lesson to be learned for us here in Tidewater. The fall show will become more important since the advent of gibberellic acid.

As true gardeners, we are never discouraged, but we look forward to another spring time with a wealth of Camellia blooms.

Sincerely,

DR. ANNE LEE.

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INTERNATIONAL CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Society is holding two Conferences in 1972. One at Stresa, Italy, at the invitation of the SOCIETA ITALIANA DELLA CAMELIA from 6th - 11th April, 1972, and the other at Brighton, England, from 21st - 23rd April, 1972. As the Camellia Competition of the ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY will be held in London on 18th and 19th April, this should prove a most interesting two weeks.

The Conference in Italy will coincide with the 8th International Camellia Show of the SOCIETA ITALIANA DELLA CAMELIA which will be held in the Congress Palace at Stresa. Visits will be made to:

VILLA TARANTO

ISOLA BELLA AND ISOLA MADRE

ROVELLI GARDEN

HILLEBRAND NURSERY

and other gardens on Lake Maggiore.

The date chosen is normally the peak flowering period for camellias in this region, and the Conference presents an excellent chance to see some of the old camellia specimens for which Italy is noted. First class hotel accommodation will be provided.

* * * * *

The Conference at Brighton, England, will visit several noted gardens in Sussex including:

LEONARDSLEE (Sir Giles and Lady Loder)

NYMANS (Countess of Rosse and National Trust)

SOUTH LODGE (Miss E. Godman)

HEASELANDS (Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kleinwort)

SUNTE HOUSE (Mr. G. Gorer)

BRIGHTON PARKS DEPARTMENT (Director, Mr. J. R. B. Evison)

In the evenings there will be illustrated lectures on various camellia topics.

The Conference Headquarters will be the Grand Hotel, Brighton, which has recently been extensively modernised.

The cost of the full Conference at Brighton will be £14.00 (\$34.00).

These two Conferences afford an excellent opportunity for all members, particularly those who may be visiting Europe, to see camellias in Italy and Britain. If you are interested contact Mr. C. E. Puddle, Bodnant Garden, Tal y Cafn, Colwyn Bay, Denbighshire, U. K.

MEMBERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY ARE WELCOME

Camellias and Gib

By HERBERT RACOFF, D.V.M.
Columbia, South Carolina

It is now over 8 years since the use of gibberellic acid was widely publicized and extensively tried on camellias in the United States. Treating camellia buds, or "gibbing" as it is commonly referred to, has continued each year to become increasingly popular, especially in the Southeastern and Gulf coast areas.

What Is It?

Gibberellic acid is a white crystalline powder. It is produced commercially by growing a fungus, *gibberella fujikuroi*, in a culture, a process similar to producing penicillin. The acid is a metabolite of the fungus. Gibberellins have been demonstrated to be normally present in many plants and seeds. They seem to be an integral part of the growth regulating mechanism of many plants.

Formulations Most Generally Used

There are at present two formulations most generally used by camellia growers, gibberellic acid (GA_3), and potassium gibberellate (Kgib). Gibberellic acid is insoluble in water and requires the addition of an alkali, to produce a salt, in order to put it into solution.

The writer prefers to use the ammonium salt, and believes it gives the best all 'round results consistently. Other camellia growers are of the opinion that the potassium salt gives just as good results. It does have the

advantage of being easier to prepare for use, but the potassium salt readily picks up moisture (hygroscopic) and unless stored in an airtight container, will result in one ending up with a brown goeey paste.

Freshly mixed solutions seem to work best. Solutions can be kept refrigerated for several months and continue to give satisfactory results. Solutions stored refrigerated more than 2 or 3 months require a longer time than do fresh solutions to produce desired results. The powder can be kept indefinitely if stored in tightly stoppered dark glass bottles in a cool place.

How to Prepare Powders for Use

Solutions of 16,000 to 20,000 parts per million of gib seem to give the best results. These can be prepared as follows: Take one gram of 81% potassium gibberellate. Divide it into 10 approximately equal parts (100 milligrams each) or weigh out 100 milligrams on a scale. To 100 milligrams Kgib, add 5 cubic centimeters of tap, rain, or distilled water (a syringe can be used to measure 5 cc. of water). Shake well before using. This will result in a solution of about 16,-200 parts per million. If one gram is divided into 8 approximately equal parts (125 milligrams each) each part when added to 5 cc. of water will result in a solution of 20,250 parts per million.

To use gibberellic acid 80% plus strength, divide one gram into 10 approximately equal parts, or weigh out 100 milligrams. To each part of 100 milligrams, add 5 cubic centimeters of water and then add household ammonia, with or without detergent. Shake between drops until the solution clears up and powder no longer settles to the bottom of the solution. The number of drops of ammonia added depends on the freshness of the ammonia, the size opening in the bottom of the dropper, as well as the particular batch of gibberellic acid. The dropper I use delivers 33 drops per cc. of water.

The writer prefers to use household ammonia with detergent. This has the advantage of increasing the surface tension of the solution so it tends to stay better where applied. It does have the disadvantage of foaming.

Gibberellic acid is quite soluble in 70% iso propyl alcohol. 100 milligrams of the acid can be added to 5 cc. iso propyl alcohol, and camellia buds treated with good results.

If one gram of gibberellic acid is divided into 8 approximately equal parts (125 milligrams each) and each added to 5 cc. of water, the resulting solution will exceed 20,000 parts per million gib.

The potassium gibberellate referred to above is 81% strength and by Merck and Co., Rahway, New Jersey. The gibberellic acid is item No. 7444, produced by Eastman Organic Chemical Co., Division of Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N. Y. Mixed solutions of gib acid and Kgib ready for use are available from many sources.

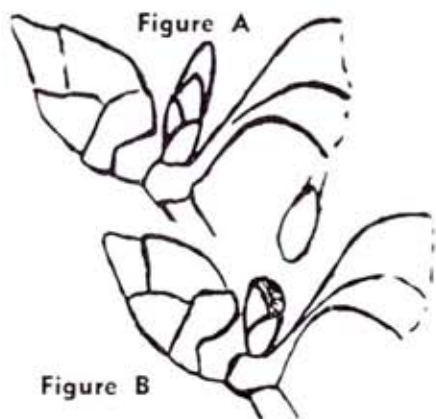
When to Gib Camellia Buds

Gibbing of buds can be started as soon as they are well developed and matured, depending on growing conditions, season, geographical location, and variety. This generally would be after August 1st. The writer prefers not to treat prior to September 1st in the Columbia, S. C. area to avoid blooming when the weather is still too hot. Hot weather causes the flowers to wilt and be short lived.

For outdoor growers it is recommended that one or more buds per plant be treated weekly beginning about September 1st, and continuing through October. Greenhouse growers can continue to treat as long as there are buds.

How to Gib Camellia Buds

Select a well developed bloom bud. The growth bud should also be well developed. Break out the tip of the growth bud as shown at Figure A. This will leave a cup as shown at Figure B. Fill this cup with gib solution.



Be careful not to let the gib solution run down the stem. There may be no

growth from this limb the following spring. If the growth bud at A, Figure 1 is small and not well developed, it maybe difficult to break out the tip, and damage to the attachment of the bloom bud to the stem may result. When this happens, the flower bud and leaf adjacent may fall off in a few weeks or the bud may break off as the bloom develops, due to the increase in weight on the weakened stem.

How Soon Can Blooms be Expected

Treated buds in many cases will be larger than untreated after one week. It is impossible to predict when any given bud will bloom. As a rule, one can expect 90% of the treated buds to bloom in from 21 to 90 days. One can expect at least half of the buds to bloom within 60 days. Varieties classified as early will generally be the first to bloom. Some buds treated in the greenhouses in September will not bloom until January or February.

How Many Buds Should be Treated Per Plant?

This question has been frequently asked and it is difficult to answer, since so much depends on the size and vigor of the plant and plant feeding practices. Camellias often set more buds than can mature into quality blooms, so disbudding is in order if one is to get good flowers following gibbing. On young plants 2 to 3 feet in height, it is suggested that only 3 or 4 buds be treated. On old plants 20 or more years of age, 200 or more buds have been treated without any bad effects.

It has been noted that when gibbing is done on plants, non gibbed buds, when they bloom on the same plants are often inferior to blooms expected of these varieties when non-gibbed.

Many greenhouse growers figure that a plant can produce about a maximum of 6 show quality blooms. They then disbud down to 6 buds and eventually treat all these buds.

After Treatment

Gibbed terminals should be pruned off after blooming or if buds have dropped. These terminals often make puny growth and sometimes do not grow at all. Most camellia buds are set on the first growth cycle. If too many terminal buds have been treated and pruned off, there may be a scarcity of bloom buds the following fall.

Plants that have been gibbed should be adequately fertilized with a balanced fertilizer in the early spring and summer to replace used up nutrients.

Use of Gib on Grafts

This year several grafts were callosed but the scions failed to grow off. On September 1st a drop of gib solution was placed on the terminal growth bud of the scion. In one week the growth buds began to stretch out and in two weeks new growth appeared.

Why Use Gib?

The use of gib makes it possible to get blooms before cold weather, even from those varieties classified as late bloomers. No longer does one have to wonder if a variety will bloom successfully outdoors. In most cases, the

flowers will be larger and prettier than those produced without gib. They will stay on the plant better and last longer.

In areas where petal blight occurs, fall blooms are not affected. Petal blight has not been reported as being seen prior to mid December.

Using Gibberellins is no longer experimental or confined to experts. If you enjoy growing and blooming camellias, gib is sure to add to your enjoyment and pleasure. Why don't you try some?

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

"A Complimentary Word"

I'd like to say here that people who love camellias and exhibit them are the finest folks in the world. Last November 1971, we had our first Camellia Show in Wilson, N. C. We gave out nineteen Silver Awards. All donated by local merchants except one piece which came from Pinetops, N. C. When Irene (my wife) sent out the silver to the winners, which covered all of N. C. and part of Virginia, she placed a little card inside the package stating who donated it. I want you to know every one of the donors received a note of thanks from the winners. Now I thought this was too good to go unmentioned, so I want to take this opportunity to thank all the award winners for being so thoughtful.

Sincerely,

J. O. "JACK" JACKSON,
Show Chairman,
Wilson, North Carolina.

North Carolina Camellia Society Invited to Washington, N. C. for Fall Meeting November 11, 1972

Marshall Richardson, with the assistance of our other members and The Ladies Garden Club, are planning a show for us. Mark this date on your calendar and start "gibbing" early enough for some early November blooms. This will be the week following A.C.S. meeting in Columbia, S. C. and that gives two shows to "gib" for. You will be advised later about where headquarters will be located.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Attention!

Members of the SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY please send your 1971 dues to:

P. D. Rush, *Secretary-Treasurer*
Box 177
Lexington, S. C. 29072

Members of the NORTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY please send your 1971 dues to:

M. G. Schnibben
617 Pine Valley Dr.
Wilmington, N. C. 28401

Members of the VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY please send your 1972 dues to:

Mrs. E. M. Worrell, *Secretary-Treasurer*
1341 Harmott Ave.
Norfolk, Va. 23509

The Camellia Species

By HUGO JOHNSON
Savannah, Georgia

The growing of the Camellia Species is an interesting and rewarding hobby.

What is a Species? The Dictionary describes it, "In the same or like manner." A Species is a term used in nomenclature to denote a group of plants that have similar characteristics, as to leaves, seed, and flowers. The cross between two species is called an Interspecific Hybrid.

There are more than 80 Camellia Species listed in the 1970 Camellia Nomenclature with more being discovered and classified since.

Most of the blooms are tiny; white or pink in color. It is the arrangement and the larger number of blooms, plus the most unusual foliage on some of the varieties growing in the woods, where the real charm of the Species is apparent. This is in addition to the almost endless possibilities of hybridization that these plants have to offer.

Successful cross pollinations have been made in mainly nine Species: Japonica, Saluenensis, Reticulata, Susanqua, Cuspidata, Pitardii, Oleifera, Heimalis, and Irrawadiensis. More current hybridizing is being tried with Granthamiana, Tsaii, Lutchuensis, and others. Recently, Reticulatas have been used as a seed plant in many cases.

The Species Fraterna, Tsaii, and Lutchuensis appear to be the most fragrant, and the Species Tsaii, Hongkongensis, Irrawadiensis, and Salicifolia the least cold resistant.

Hybrid camellias were little known

to the Western World until 1930 with the appearance of the Williamsi Hybrids.

In hybridizing for small foliage, use *rosaeflora*, *lutchuensis*, *fraterna*, and *cuspidata*; for open growth, *Granthamiana* and *reticulata*; for fullness of growth, *susanqua*, *saluenensis*, *rosaeflora*, and *fraterna*; for veination, *granthamiana*.

There is a greater percentage of good flowers from *reticulata* than from *japonica* seedlings.

Some difficult crosses can be made by repeated trials. What the camellia will do in one area, it refuses to do in another. Some sterile varieties will bear seed in a proper setting. When the temperature, humidity, and plant conditions are in balance, anything can happen.

The plant material of some of the hybrids are treated chemically to double the chromosome count and increase fertility of pollen and seed.

There are five plants reputed to have yellow flowers. Three are species from the Tonkin Province of Indo-China, namely; 'C. FLURY', 'C. TONKINENSIS', and 'C. FLEURY'. The fourth is a Species, 'C. LUTESCENS' from East Bengal India. Mrs. Witman of Macon, Ga. had a Japonica Seedling with yellow flowers that died.

The reason that some of these species are not used as seed parents is that the seed produced are deformed, producing fewer seedlings. Some of these are weak and either die or grow poorly.

According to an article from the 1968 Yearbook of The American Camellia Society, and translated from The Institute of Botany in Peking, there are 12 new Species and Varieties of Species in China. These are not available to The Western World at this time.

Two of the most interesting are *C. Chekiangoleosa* which has very beautiful and very large red flowers, and *Theopsis Chrysantha* which differs from all other Chinese Species because of its rather large fragrant yellow flowers, large capsules, and long narrow leaves. The Genus *Theopsis* is a Section under the Genus *Camellia*; and also includes such common American Species as *Fraterna*, *Luteuensis*, *Cuspidata*, and *Roseiflora*.

Species *C. Semiserrata*, including a white variety, and *C. Chekiangoleosa* seem closely related to *C. Reticulata* and should produce some interesting hybrids.

Several of these Species have very large fruits and are of considerable importance as a source of good quality edible oil.

Many of the various *Camellia* Species are not only excellent garden material in themselves, but will cross-fertilize with other Species, and in particular with the more elaborate flowering forms of *Japonica*, *Reticulata* and *Susanqua*. From these hybridizations, are now coming *Camellias* with new combinations of color, form and habit.

The crosses between two Species (*Interspecific Hybrid*), has barely

been touched; let alone the endless possibilities of many combinations would increase with every new Hybrid produced, so there yet remains an enormous field to be worked. As a recent example, the three famous *Asper Girls* (*Reticulata* and *Susanqua* crosses) could possibly produce an Autumn flowering *Reticulata*.

Other possibilities are; better and earlier flowering *Japonicas*, more resistance to heat and drought, yellow color, scented *Camellias*, better flowering and growth habit, dwarf growth with good flowers, and other desirable features. However, hybridizing should not overlook the overall performance in the search for desirable qualities.

In the last few years, the advancement in all fields of Technology has been rapid and remarkable. In the near future who can tell what the influence of some of these discoveries will be on Hybridizing? Namely, the laser beam, ultra-sound waves, biochemical products, and many others. It is possible in the next few years, that it will be difficult to recognize either the flower or the plant of the *Camellia* of the future.

The Species themselves are beginning to appear on the tables at *Camellia Shows*, indicating the growing Public interest in these plants.

Add to this knowledge, that there is always a good many unknown factors in hybridizing, the propagation of the Species should appeal to the Amateur Horticulturist who loves to play Poker, the Slot Machine, and other games of chance.

First Camellia Show In Wilson, North Carolina

By J. O. "JACK" JACKSON
Wilson, N. C.

I had been going to Camellia Shows for about fourteen years, but had no idea how one was put on. I had never even put a bloom out on the table—you see my wife, Irene, does all the work, like going on ahead and putting out the blooms, and I come later and pick up the credit and ribbons (or silver), if I'm lucky.

Then one night last June the telephone rang. Irene called, "Jack, it's for you." It was Ken Blanchard in Wallace, N. C., who at that time was President of the N. C. C. S. "Jack", he said, "how about being Chairman of the Show?" "What Show?" I asked. "The Show you are going to have up in Wilson this fall," replied Ken. Well, I didn't know whether to drop the telephone or tell him he must have the wrong number and hang up.

That was Thursday night and as I stood there thinking of something to say, Ken said, "Jack, I'll give you a little time to think it over. I'll call you back on Monday night of next week and get your O.K."

All that week-end I thought of a thousand reasons why I shouldn't be Chairman. But I talked myself out of all of them. So all that week-end I would go to bed and close my eyes and put on the most beautiful Camellia Show you've ever seen. Couldn't

sleep. Lost a pound or two. Then Monday night came and I wouldn't let Irene use the phone in fear that Ken might call and couldn't get me. He didn't call so I couldn't sleep again, I was afraid he had asked someone else to do the job. But Tuesday night he did call and I told him I would be Chairman. When he hung up the first thing that came to my mind was who in the world knows just how to put on a Show and stand by my side all the way through to tell me just what to do. Just then two names lit up in my mind (in neon)—ERNEST AYCOCK and JOE AUSTIN.

So I called a meeting with them at Ernest's home and laid out our plans. Joe said he would get the judges and help get up the list of names for mailing. Ernest said he would write and help word the letter for mailing. So, we all got busy. When Ernest had finished the letter his good wife, Sadie, being a school teacher carried the letter to her school and ran off seven or eight hundred copies to be mailed. Wilson had just finished building the prettiest Branch Bank Building in North Carolina, and since I happen to be one of their smallest depositors and they already knew I didn't have any money, the Bank let

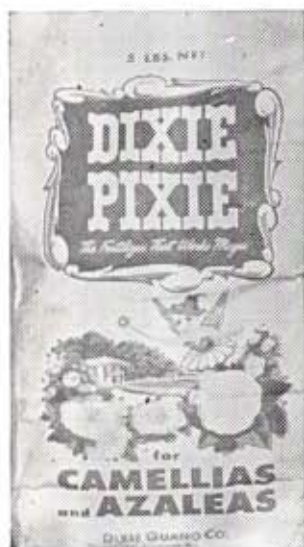
me have their top floor for the show FREE. Then there was the silver to get donated. I went first to several of the jewelers I knew would help and got their names on paper so I could show these names to some other jewelers. I went out every Wednesday (that's my day off) and got a piece or two of silver donated for prizes until I wound up with nineteen pieces!!

I was so proud of the silver that I laid it out on the dining room table and when we had company, I immediately took them in to see *each* piece. I even carried it thirty miles to Smithfield to show it to Joe Austin and Ernest Aycock and their wives.

Then came time to get the eight or nine hundred programs printed. So I went down to my good ole Baptist

Church and told the secretary what I wanted and she ran them off for me. *Everybody* was so cooperative. Why I even asked the weatherman here in Wilson to hold the freeze off until after the seventh of November and *he did*.

We had a beautiful show if I do say so myself. I think everyone enjoyed it. Maybe not quite as much as I did. But you see they didn't know how to count *my* blessings. Never before has one man had so much help in putting on his first Camellia Show. Sometimes now when I go to my back door and look down in my greenhouse at all the beautiful blooms hanging there—I think of the thousands upon thousands of friends they have made for me. And I say, "Oh, well, you're not so expensive after all."



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LAURINBURG, N. C.

South Carolina Camellia Society

Spring Meeting At Clemson

The South Carolina Camellia Society will meet at the Clemson House in Clemson, South Carolina on March 25, 1972. The one-day meeting will include a tour of the Camellia Test Gardens, camellia bloom display, a panel discussion with members of the Clemson University faculty, and a luncheon. All members are urged to make reservations early for the luncheon and to participate in the day's activities. In addition, bring your camellia-grower friends who are not now members of the Society.

Mr. R. F. Brownlee, P. O. Box 1170, Anderson, South Carolina 29621 is arranging the luncheon with the Clemson House and promises a very enjoyable time. He must make final plans no later than March 18 to insure adequate food for all. It is imperative that your reservation with a check made payable to Mr. Brownlee at \$3.50 per person reach him by that time.

All attendees are requested to enter camellia blooms in the display to be set up in the Clemson House Lounge. The blooms will be exhibited as either "grown without protection" (outdoors) or "grown under glass," and silver will be awarded to the best bloom in each classification.

During the tour of the Test Gardens and the panel discussion, there will be ample opportunity for each person to ask questions about camellia propagation, fertilization, protection from pests, cold hardiness, and all other phases of camellia culture. Jot down your questions as they arise, and come prepared to get first-hand, authoritative information about camellias. Don't forget to tell your friends to come too, since the Society would be very pleased to have guests at the meeting. The complete agenda follows:

- 10:00 A.M.—Assemble in Clemson House Lounge (enter camellia blooms)
- 10:30 A.M.—Depart for tour of Clemson Camellia Test Gardens
- 12:00 Noon—Depart for Clemson House
- 12:30 P. M.—Luncheon
- 1:15 P. M.—Welcoming Address, Talks, and Panel Discussions
- 2:30 P. M.—View Camellia Exhibit
- 3:00 P. M.—Business Meeting and Final Comments
- 3:30 P. M.—Adjourn

Summer Care of Camellias

By ANNE E. LEE, M.D.
Norfolk, Virginia

If scale of any kind are a problem in your garden, this procedure will surprise you with its effectiveness. It works on all scale, peony, wax and tea scale.

CYGON 2-E, a systemic insecticide is used full strength. Brush on the stem of the Camellia in a two-inch band completely encircling the stem. If there is more than one stem, paint each one.

Great care should be taken to wear gloves and avoid the vapors, if you can. I usually tie a moist handkerchief over my nose and mouth. The strip can be painted on at any height, according to the size of the plant.

This process is simple and certainly less work than spraying and has been a great deal more effective for me. I have used this procedure only once a season and my plants have been free of scale.

I have not noticed any ill effects on the Camellias.

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Plants Respond to Sound— *Ask Ann Landers*

DEAR ANN LANDERS: A friend of mine told me something the other day that makes no sense. I am troubled because she is a smart girl who usually knows what she is talking about. The more I think about what she said the crazier it seems—yet she was so sure of her facts I decided to write and ask for your opinion.

My friend says that when you pick a leaf off a tree, or when you pick a flower, the plant actually feels pain and lets out a high frequency scream which can be heard only with a special instrument. She also believes if you talk nicely to one plant and harshly to another plant, the plant you talk nicely to will do much better.

I hope you don't think this is too nutty to bother with. I would like very much to know the truth.—S. M. M.

DEAR S. M. M.: It depends on whose word you want to take. A man named Cleve Backster wrote an article for *National Wildlife* in which he described the results of his experiments. Mr. Backster wired plants to polygraph (lie detector) and subjected the plant to various stimuli which he interpreted as "fear, apprehension, etc." He concluded that the growth and general health of plants are indeed affected by the way the plants are spoken to.

A housewife in La Jolla conducted her own experiments for a horticultural group. She reported that her philodendron and sansevieria nearly

died when subjected to four hours of rock music in five days. These same plants recovered and flourished when she discontinued the rock music and switched to Debussy and Chopin.

Mr. Swenk of Morton Arboretum in Chicago said, "Others have tried similar experiments and have had the same results. There must be something to it."

Insofar as plants "screaming" when a leaf is plucked or a stem broken, sorry, this is fantasy. Plants don't have voice boxes.



An Unusual Program From "The Scion"

1/3 Sand. This will be the nitty-gritty after action report from Show Chairman Graem Yates. All aspects of the show will be covered including praises, criticisms, financial picture, successes and shortcomings. Chairman Yates will be open to suggestions for improving the show next year.

1/3 Light Soil. This will be an informal question and answer session on the light side. Fred Hahn will act as moderator and direct questions and discussions to various members of the club qualified to answer or comment.

Any questions you have you should come prepared to ask. These might include pruning, grafting, fertilizings, moisture, insect control, outdoor culture, greenhouse techniques, program suggestions, club operation, and you name it.

1/3 Manure. Pure B/S. Marshall Rhyne and Son Hackney will give a report on their experiences in California while attending the American Camellia Society's Annual Meeting. It promises to be informative and interesting.

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'APOLLO 14'

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'SNOWIE'

A truly beautiful miniature to small formal double white with rose-bud center. This is a perfect corsage type. Some blooms have shown a very delicate pink blush, 1- 2- and 3-year grafts.

We have a very good assortment in budded plants of both new and old standard varieties to choose from.

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Impromptu Showing of Camellias Is Great Fun For Branyons

By MRS. B. MCKAY JOHNSON

Impromptu it was, the gorgeous showing of camellias in the J. F. Branyon home last week end.

The unseasonably warm weather of these supposed-to-be winter days brought them all out. The camellias that usually make such a breath-taking display in the weeks Eastern Carolinians call early spring were, as dim Burns of WECT put it, fairly dripping

from the shrubs. Then the weatherman lowered the boom.

Mr. and Mrs. Branyon looked at the lavish display of bloom in their garden and listened to the weather forecast regretfully. They went to work. When they had cut eight trays of wonderfully beautiful flowers and had them safely inside, the idea dawned. Again they went to work.



CAMELLIAS . . . Camellias . . . everywhere, and really gorgeous ones, too! This was the exciting display that thrilled flower lovers who visited the J. F. Branyon home in Wallace on a recent weekend. (See Story.)

When this Mr.-and-Mrs. stopped for a deep breath next time there was a display of 39 varieties, all labeled, all arranged in small containers individually as in a formal camellia show and beautiful to behold. This was too much.

Once more they went into action, calling up friends to tell them of their home flower show, inviting them to come and bring others to enjoy the flowers.

The word spread. People came.

Other camellia growers brought different varieties from their gardens, other tables were set up and the showing grew. All agreed this was too good to be kept within a small group, so the invitation went on the air over Radio WLSE, the local station. The showing lasted two days, Saturday and Sunday, January 15-16.

In addition to the thirty-nine varieties grown by the Branyons, there were fourteen grown by Mrs. A. J. Cavanaugh, fourteen grown by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Blanchard and nineteen grown by Dr. and Mrs. C. F. Hawes of Rose Hill. Several other friends brought in two or three especially good blooms from their gardens to add their luster to the show.

After eliminating all the duplications from the count there were seventy-eight varieties shown.

Mrs. Branyon had added her own personal touch of tall pink candles on the table centering their "Florida" room and balanced the whole with longer stemmed arrangements of the abundant beauties about the rooms. In the hot-house off the den there were poinsettias tall ones, and hybis-

cus. Across the patio seen from the same vantage point there was a large Pearl Harbor camellia shining in the sunlight still loaded with bloom, as was several others in the garden.

Saturday night it came. The temperature dropped from a springtime 70 to 15 degrees and only black blobs on the ground was left of their radiant colors outside. Inside, they were still beautiful and friends kept coming in some on return trips to stare in serene promise of another blooming time.



Have I Had Bad Luck?
I'll Say! My House
Burned Down, I wrecked
My Car, Broke My Leg,
Lost My Business And
Now The Camellia Bug
Has Bit Me!!!

Rooting

By GEORGE M. WHEELER
Birmingham, Alabama



A rooted cutting will understandably take much longer to become a specimen plant than a graft. But it is a lot of fun and can be so easily done, so why not do both? Fifty or a hundred cuttings can be rooted in very little space, then be set out to grow among your other shrubbery. Any surplus can be given to friends who invariably appreciate them.

An ideal container is a box about six or eight inches deep with the bottom boards barely separated for drainage. A grape lug your grocer will give you does nicely, or a water bucket with a few holes punched in the bottom for drainage. Flower pots will do but must be very carefully watched since they are porous and dry out quickly. In short, any container can be used that will hold the rooting mixture and afford good drainage.

We have found the best rooting media to be half sand and half German peat moss, well mixed. This is placed in the container, wet thoroughly, then **PACKED DOWN**. This can be done with a brick, or by placing a board on the media and tapping it with a hammer. Cuttings will not root well unless the sand and peat mixture is well packed.

Cuttings are best made when the wood is semihard, usually about June. This can be tested by the wood offering resistance when bent, but before it is mature enough to break or snap.

Use only wood of the current year's growth and it may be almost any length. About six inches is ideal. The bottom leaves should be removed, leaving two to four at the terminal, depending on the length of the cutting. The base of the cutting, where

the roots will form, is best made at a leaf node, or where the current growth began. This should be made at an angle to provide more surface for callus to form, from which the roots will come.

Purchase an inexpensive can of Hormodin No. 3 from your nurseryman or seed store. This is a powder containing a very effective rooting hormone or stimulant. With this, cuttings root much more rapidly, will have a better root system, and give a much higher percentage of successfully rooted cuttings.

Now you are ready to begin the rooting. Dip the cut end of the cuttings in the Hormodin powder and tap any excess back into the can. So as not to unduly disturb the packed rooting mixture, punch a nail hole in

the sand and peat AT AN ANGLE, insert the cutting, and with your fingers pack the mixture tightly around the stem. Cuttings root more readily if placed at an angle . . . why, I don't know. Repeat this until the container is full, place in fairly dense shade, as under a tree, but where there will be a little spotted sun and good light.

All you have to do now is see that the mixture stays quite moist—with good drainage it won't become too wet. After a matter of some weeks—the time will vary—gently *pull* on a few of the cuttings. If they pull back, they are rooted. All won't root at the same time but those that have formed good roots can be removed and set out. Again firm around those left in the container and leave them until they too tug back at you.

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Camellia Learning— A Progress Report

By W. M. "BUS" WALKER

A recent letter from our esteemed Editor of "Carolina Camellias" wondered whether I had made any progress toward the "light," after my last report told of my fumbling around in the "darkness" of conflicting recommendations on potting mixes, types of fertilizer and feeding programs, etc., etc. Well, Mr. Editor, Hope Still Springs Eternal!

Actually, the Winter of '70-'71 was a sad one for me. My oil-fired furnace gave up the ghost in late January of '70, with a 13° temperature in Spartanburg. In this emergency, I installed two electric unit heaters that cost so much that now I can't afford to take them out. In December of '70, I installed a blower beside each heater, and my electrician said we would now have to use double pole thermostats (whatever that is). In mid-January, with these D. P. thermostats set on 40, I would walk into the greenhouse and find the temperature on 75 and the heaters still churning out the heat. When I received my power bill for \$80.00, it didn't take long to tear out

the blowers and double pole thermostats, but the damage had already been done. I had very small poor blooms, and all the petals flopped over—like they were ashamed to show their stamens!

Having written off last year as a complete failure, I decided that this year I would either get "with it" or get out. After talking to ole pros like Son Hackney and Buster Bush, I decided to get on with it.

I have finally settled on a potting mix of two parts coarse sand, two parts old sawdust, one part wood's earth, one-half part peat, one-half part pine bark, with a dash of cow manure for old times sake. During the winter months, I am using Son Hackney's blood meal feeding program. Based on a recent soil analysis, I feed March 15 and June 1st, using a 16-4-8 fertilizer. Using a PH meter, I find a few of my plants down to 3.5. Dolomitic limestone brings this up nicely.

I pruned very drastically this year—even broke out some of the new

growth that seemed excessive. I think I must now be doing something right, as my plants have never looked better, or been better budded. However, I do have more second growth than I would like. I have not had to spray for varmits this year; neither have I had any die-back on my new growth. Maybe the Dysiston I used two years ago and killed so many plants is now at a good toleration level.

The lack of humidity in my green-

house has always been a problem. After seeing Buster Bush's atomizer installation, I looked for three years for a second-hand air compressor. Unable to find one, I took the plunge this summer and bought a new one. I am now all piped up and ready for winter. In fact, I now look forward to joining my friends on the Court of Honor and Head tables this show season. Who says Hope doesn't Spring Eternal!

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How to Select and Plant Camellias

By GEORGE M. WHEELER
Birmingham, Alabama

When purchasing a camellia always select the healthiest, best plant available. You are doing this to complement your *home*, which costs many thousands of times the price of this *shrub*. No more *shapely* shrub, or with more beautiful glossy *foliage*, can be found than a CAMELLIA. This, without considering it can also produce many beautiful blooms as a bonus.

Camellias are relatively disease-free and seldom bothered by insects, and require only the normal care you would give any other shrub. Good size, vigorous camellia plants are not expensive, costing about the same as

any other ornamental shrub. But they are a lifetime investment, for they will eventually grow into *trees*. If field dug (that is, balled and burlapped), make certain the ball of dirt is sufficiently large to contain enough roots to support the plant. If it is a *grafted* plant, see that the union is completely healed over; or if it has not had time to completely heal, make sure the side *away* from the graft is alive—otherwise it will never heal completely.

Camellias prefer dappled or filtered sunlight, and under pine trees is an excellent spot for planting. Under other trees will be a satisfactory choice provided the shade is not too dense, but *evergreens* are preferable to provide winter protection. Surprisingly to many, the north side of the house is usually the best planting location. They will become *dormant earlier* and an early frost is not as likely to damage the bloom buds. If planted on the *east* side they should be shaded from the early morning sun and if on the *west* from the afternoon hot summer sun. But the nice thing about camellias is that they will do well wherever planted and give you, we believe, the most beautiful shrub available!

As the saying goes, don't place a \$7.50 plant in a seventy-five cent hole. GOOD SOIL will pay dividends for years to come. Dig a hole considerably larger than the plant ball and somewhat deeper. Discard this soil and place enough soil mix in the bottom to insure the plant resting several inches higher than the surrounding dirt. To be certain it will

not settle—*pack* the mix upon which the ball will rest. A mix we have found to be very good consists of 40% black loamy top soil, 40% German peat moss (not sphagnum moss) and 20% sand. After placing the camellia in the hole you have prepared, fill in with the soil mix around the sides to the level of the surrounding earth, making sure the top of the ball is above this level. Then water the mix in—*do not pack*. Add additional mix as this settles. If planting from a can, cut the sides of the can, making certain the soil is not too wet for it will then fall apart. Carefully lift the contents from the can and plant as above.

Camellias are not choosy . . . there are just two very important things to remember. (1) Provide good drainage and (2) Plant higher than they

were formerly. After planting, fertilize very sparingly the first year. Some advocate no fertilizer the first year, though I prefer a small amount (one half such as 8-8-8 and one half cotton seed meal). After the first year—a good program is fertilizing in late April, mid-summer, and perhaps a light feeding after cold weather has set in and the plant has become dormant. There is one true saying to remember when in doubt . . . a camellia seldom dies from neglect but it is so easy to pamper it to death.

So, select a good healthy camellia, plant it properly, water it only when the soil begins to dry, then water *thoroughly*, and fertilize occasionally in moderate amounts. Do this and you will be rewarded many times over, year after year.

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'PEARL'S PET'
'PINK SMOKE'
'STARLET'
'TINKER BELL'
'TINY PRINCESS'

Let's Pamper Our Exhibitors

By JAMES H. MCCOY
Fayetteville, N. C.

We are ones who thoroughly enjoy any camellia show. We approach one like mountain climbers must approach the Matterhorn, literally tingling with excitement. We attend as many as we can every year, traveling sometimes as far as 800 miles just to show a dozen or so blooms. The high point of our camellia season is our own show.

We make these remarks to establish our right to criticize the conduct of camellia shows, and to make suggestions for improving them. We think it must be that back in the early years of the camellia "renacimiento" someone published an article on how to put on a camellia show and it's been blindly followed ever since. Otherwise, how can you explain the almost total lack of attention and gratitude paid to out-of-town exhibitors. Have you, as an exhibitor, ever received a thank you note for exhibiting at a show? Have you ever found that out-of-town exhibitors were to be feted at a banquet? Have you ever had to pay to see a show that you provided flowers for? The answers to these

questions probably are "no," "no," and "yes."

What we are trying to say is that we should roll out the red carpet for out-of-town exhibitors. We should do everything possible to make them feel as appreciated and as necessary as they really are. Here are a few things that we think should be general practice relative to exhibitors.

Invite as many as possible by personal note. Send a program if possible. This is done by most show committees, but we don't believe that it is carried far enough. A roster of names could be prepared by examination of previous show records, by making notes of exhibitors at other shows and by referring to ACS membership list in the yearbook. We don't have to hesitate to invite camellia growers because they live several hundred miles away. These people don't care about distance.

Exhibitors should be advised, not only of the show location, but also how to get there. We almost missed getting blooms in a show last year because we went to the location specified in the Journal only to find that

it had been changed to a school on the other side of town, a full half hour away (if you knew how to go). We read of a west coast exhibitor who flew to the east coast to exhibit in a show and never did find the show. The Charlotte people last year included a most useful sketch of Charlotte showing major highways and exactly how to get to the show location.

At shows where there is an admission charged (or even a silver offering received) we think exhibitors should be given a complimentary ticket to the show at the time blooms are received. If tickets are not used, perhaps some other identification method could be devised. One should not pay to see a show he exhibits in. One should not have to verbally iden-

tify himself as an exhibitor. Columbia last year issued special tickets to exhibitors while they were bringing in blooms which could be used to identify exhibitors subsequently.

We would like to see shows make some arrangements so that out-of-town exhibitors could meet with and talk camellias with the local growers. Perhaps the judges could also be there. Each city where a show is held has it's camellia enthusiasts, it's camellia growers, it's camellia personalities. As we conduct shows now, unless you personally know these people and look them up, or unless you are lucky, you might exhibit in a show, attend the show and never meet the first local grower or one of the judges. We think of Wilmington's "Room 316" last year as the ultimate in the sort of thing

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'Charlean, Var.'	'Marguerite Sears'	'Luscious Lady'
'Sugar Daddy'	'Louise Hariston'	'Head Table'
'Lila Naff'	'Milo Rowell'	'Forty Niner'
'Suzy Wong'		'Tiffany'

Send for more complete list and prices

we're proposing. Of course, we all can't have our "Room 316," but perhaps we could come up with something that would serve equally well as a "meet and greet" facility.

And how about a luncheon for the out-of-town exhibitors? We believe most clubs which put on a show could do this. Maybe they could be entertained along with the judges.

And finally, we think all out of town exhibitors should receive a note of thanks from the show chairman. They, as much as any other group, are responsible for the success of a show. Can you imagine what a show would be like if there were no blooms brought in from other towns. This would entail two or three hours work (after the enthusiasm of the show is past) and several dollars in stamps, but would be of great value in good will generated.

So, we say, "Let's start pampering our exhibitors." Nothing but good could come of it.

—CAROLINA CAMELIAS—

Some people are like wheelbarrows—they don't go anywhere unless pushed. Some are like canoes—they need to be paddled. Some are like kites—keep a string on them or they fly away. Some are like kittens—more contented when petted. Others resemble footballs—no way to tell which way they'll bounce next. Then there are the balloons—full of air, ready to blow up. Some are like neon lights—they flash on and off. Then there are those few who are like good watches—open faced, pure gold, quietly busy, and full of good works.

The Golden Age

How do I know my youth is spent?
Well, my get-up-and-go has got-get-up-and-went
But, in spite of it all I am able to grin
When I think just where my get-up has been.

Old Age is golden, so I've heard said,
But sometimes I wonder, when I get in bed—
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table 'til I wake up.
'Ere sleep dims my eyes, I say to myself,
"Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?"
But I'm happy to say as I close my door,
My friends are the same people, even more.

Now when I was young my slippers were red,
And I could kick my heels clear over my head—
When I grew older my slippers were blue.
But still I could dance the whole night thru.
Now I am old and my slippers are black,
I walk to the store and puff my way back.
The reason I know my youth is all spent—
My get-up-and-go has got-up-and-went.
But really I don't mind when I think with a grin,
Of all the grand places my get-up has been.
Since I've retired from life's competition
I busy myself with complete repetition.
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the "obits".
If my name isn't there, I know I'm not dead,
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed!!!

—From *First Methodist Church-O-Gram*,
Baton Rouge, La.,
Dr. Dana Dawson, Jr., *Pastor*.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN
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American Camellia Society
Fall Meeting
Columbia, South Carolina

NOVEMBER 2-3-4, 1972

The Mid-Carolina Camellia Society will host the American Camellia Society Fall Meeting in Columbia, S. C. on November 2-3-4, 1972.

The Wade Hampton Hotel will be headquarters.

An interesting program is being planned with time for you to visit with your friends.

The Camellia Show on Saturday, November 4th will be at the New South Carolina National Bank building on Main Street on the same block with the Wade Hampton Hotel.

Why not meet your Camellia Friends in Columbia on November 2-3-4, 1972 and have fun.

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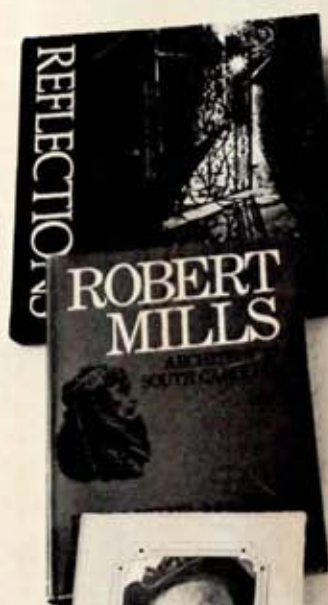
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