

Carolina Camellias



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Carolina Camellias

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About the Cover

'ELEGANS SUPREME', A mutation of 'Elegans' (Chandler) discovered on a limb which had been partially severed from an old plant. The 5½-inch deep pink to light wine red flowers have 21 ruffled petals and 20 to 30 petaloids which are deeply fimbriated, resembling tips of bird feathers. The leaves are deeply serrated and quite distinct from the leaves of 'Elegans'. Developed by W. F. Bray, Pensacola, Florida.

S. C. CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Page



JOHN A. TYLER, JR.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS:

Show time is now over and I hope all of you have been satisfied with the results, have enjoyed the beauty of the blooms, and picked out all the new ones you must have. While the freeze the last Saturday night in January played hob with the remaining outside blooms, most of us had had more than the usual number of blooms up to that time and therefore still enjoyed our flowers. And it has amazed me that so many of them have bloomed again after the freeze. It just shows how much cold they can stand if they have gone dormant when it hits.

I hope you have all gotten on all the new grafts and that they are beginning to take. I am sure that every greenhouse owner who did not already have it, has put on "Tomorrow Park Hill" which has caused more comment than any other new one I have heard from . . . unless it is that new seedling that is "yellow and smells like honeysuckle."

Start making your plans now to attend the meetings of the South Carolina Camellia Society next year . . . I am not sure of the exact dates but as of now there are tentative plans for a meeting in conjunction with the Fall show in Columbia with election of officers for the coming year, and in conjunction with the Spring shows at Charleston and Spartanburg . . . I hope to see all of you at these meetings . . . an active membership means a healthy society.

Remember EMGAM—EVERY MEMBER GET A MEMBER—Dues in the SCCS \$3.00 per year, send your dues to Mr. P. D. Rush, Treasurer, SCCS, Box 177, Lexington, S. C.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. TYLER, JR.,
President.

GEORGIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



STUART WATSON

DEAR MEMBERS:

As I begin my term as President, I hope this will be a fine year for Camellias in Georgia and that the membership of the Society will reach new heights. When Spencer Walden conceived the idea of a Georgia Society, the main purpose he had in mind was for the people who enjoyed camellias throughout the state to come to know each other as had those in South Georgia who have participated in the South Georgia Society since Spencer organized it about ten years ago. I think this original purpose has, to some extent, been achieved though a lot of camellia people are not availing themselves of the opportunity the Society affords to attend meetings in various parts of the state and get to know growers in other areas. After all, as beautiful as the camellia is, the best part of this camellia business lies in the fellowship we find with those who have similar interest. I hope more will attend meetings during the coming year so that this purpose can be furthered and so we can all find more enjoyment in a wider range of camellia friends in Georgia.

In the Society's second year, the Board of Directors felt the scope could be broadened and a real service rendered by affiliating with the Carolina and Virginia Societies to bring CAROLINA CAMELLIAS to the members. We felt this was a publication unsurpassed by any. It alone has brought each member value beyond his dues. In this connection, I was talking with one member at the meeting in Albany last week who told me she wasn't receiving CAROLINA CAMELLIAS. If any of you know of any member in good standing who has been left off the list, please notify our Treasurer, James A. Blissitt, 3193 Wynn Drive, Avondale Estates, Georgia. The bulletin is too good to miss.

We get far more than our money's worth from membership, so let's bring these values to others, especially to beginners as there are probably more articles on camellia culture in CAROLINA CAMELLIAS than in any other single camellia publication. Send names and addresses of new members with their checks for the annual dues of \$3.00 to the Treasurer, and if any of you haven't paid your dues for this year, that's the man to send them to.

Georgia has been the top camellia state ever since CAROLINA CAMELLIAS started compiling statistics to determine the best camellia state. This record has been achieved largely because we have more ACS members than any other state. Here, too, value far exceeds cost, so, when you sign up those new members for the Georgia Camellia Society, send a membership to ACS at the same time.

This is written just as the show season gets into swing. I hope I will see many of you during these shows and that the coming year will be the best camellia year in Georgia history.

Sincerely yours,

STUART WATSON,
President.

S. C. WALDEN, JR. *Owner*

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Visitors are always welcome at Camellia Farms!

N. C. CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



G. C. HAMPTON, JR.

On the eve of our March 5th spring meeting in Fayetteville I wish to thank J. R. Hooks, President, and all the other members of the Fayetteville Camellia Club for the aid they have given us in preparing for our meeting to be held in connection with the Fayetteville Camellia Show.

I am convinced that North Carolina will have a wonderful camellia season, and that North Carolina Camellia Society will have a very successful year. I have attended all our camellia shows to date and found them to be superior and well attended. Barring illness or disaster, I will attend the remainder of our shows. The other officers and the directors have assured me that they, too, will attend most, if not all, of our shows.

The least that we can do is to honor and support the great efforts of our local show groups by all of us attending their shows. Camellias are our love—camellia shows are our reward, and more, our gift to the advancement of beauty and culture in North Carolina.

And don't forget, after all the shows comes the preparation for next year. The blooms we enjoy today are the fulfillment of the tender loving care we gave our plants last summer and last fall. So back to work we soon must go.

And while we are having so much fun and pleasure with our camellias and our many rich friendships, let's sell this great experience to others, let's attract all of our friends into joining us and thereby let's make North Carolina Camellia Society a larger and greater force in The Old North State.

Sincerely,

GEORGE C. HAMPTON, JR.,
President.

VIRGINIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President's Message



HUGH L. VAUGHAN

Those members of the Virginia Camellia Society who could not come out on Feb. 8 missed a real fine meeting. You never can tell when some of the "Old Timers" are going to let you in on their secrets. "Gene" Worrell and "Preacher" Parsons really let their hair down and told everything. Now we know how to have the real winners. Thank you again, "Gene" and "Preacher," and thank you, "Les" Wood for planning such an interesting meeting.

There were some mighty pretty blooms at the annual exhibit sponsored by the Seaboard-Citizens National Bank and the Virginia Camellia Society at the Bank's main office on Feb. 12 and 13. "Preacher" and Mrs. Parsons ran away with everything—Best Bloom in the Exhibit—a 'Guilio Nuccio Varigated' (I believe the prettiest 'Guilio' ever shown in Norfolk). They also won Sweepstakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Urquhart displayed many beautiful blooms and won Runner-Up to Sweepstakes; they also won Runner-Up to Best Bloom with 'Seafoam', a white formal double; the formation and the shade of white in this bloom are truly magnificent.

Others winning blue ribbons were "Gene" and Mrs. Worrell, Bernhard Wolter, Claude Angel, Alan Hofheimer, Mrs. Fred Heutte, and Jack Cronin.

How good it is to see the beauties of spring and camellias after the severity and bleakness of winter—we certainly had a rough one this year. Yes, snow is pretty, too, and maybe it has done some good; it gave needed water, probably killed some insects, and, no doubt, provided certain elements for enrichment of the soil. A friend remarked, "Snow is the poor man's fertilizer."

The bushes certainly looked sick in the midst of it; mine suffered some broken branches and others were flattened pretty close to the ground. The strong survive; it's the law of nature. Why should nature destroy itself? It was a grand feeling to go out after all snow was gone and find the bushes looking as pretty as ever. Of course, we've lost some buds, but there will always be ample blooms left. So, the show goes on.

See you at the next meeting.

Best wishes to all,

HUGH L. VAUGHAN, *President.*

SOUTH CAROLINA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

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The Charleston Camellia Show

January 29—30, 1966

By JAMES SEELIG

The Coastal Carolina Camellia Society held its annual spring Camellia Show at the National Guard Armory in Charleston on January 29-30, 1966. In spite of some rather adverse weather conditions which had temperatures in the low twenties for the two weeks before the show and with freezing rains and snow in the upper part of South Carolina and a snow fall on the Tuesday before the show, a very successful show was held. Exhibitors displayed about 500 blooms grown in the open and about 1000 grown under protection, the number

would seem rather small under normal conditions, but weather prevented many exhibitors from even coming to Charleston especially from North Carolina. The roads from the North and Northwest above Columbia in many cases were impassible which resulted in many of our regular exhibitors not even leaving their homes, and many of those who did make it had to start home as soon as the judging was completed to avoid being stranded on the road.

The loyal support of Greenhouse growers in the Columbia and Aiken



—Post-Courier Photo by Brinson.

COURT OF HONOR—CHARLESTON SHOW, JAN. 29-30, 1966. Left to Right. (1st) Mr. John A. Tyler, Jr., Wagener, S. C. President, S. C. Camellia Society; (2nd) Mr. Emory L. Prevatte, Charleston, S. C.; (4th) Mrs. Emory L. Prevatte; (5th) Mrs. F. N. Bush, Columbia, S. C.; (7th) Mr. T. Neal Cox, Georgetown, S. C.; and Mr. F. N. Bush. The other two people in the picture are not identified.

areas made for a highly successful show.

Approximately 4,000 people visited the show over the weekend in spite of rain on Saturday and the lowest temperatures experienced in Charleston since the 1890's when on Sunday morning a record low of 11 degrees was reached at 7 A. M. Many people could not attend the show since they were involved in unfreezing water pipes, cars and repairing furnaces. The guest book revealed that visitors to the show had come from places such as Toronto, Canada; Manchester, England; Clearwater, Florida; Albany, Georgia; Louisville, Mississippi; Deer Isle, Maine; Charlestown, West Virginia; Ouekama, Michigan; Culpeper, Virginia; Decorah, Iowa; M u n c i e, Indiana, and some exuberant teenagers who signed the book with the names of the stars from "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." Napoleon Solo and Illya Kuriarkin. Admission to the show was free through the courtesy of the First National Bank of South Carolina.

Major Award Winners were:

Mr. Tom Evans of Aiken, South Carolina. The Julia S. Frampton Award for Outstanding Bloom in Show for a 'Miss Charleston, Var'.

Mrs. S. C. Hines of Wauchula, Florida. The Claussen Baking Company Award for the Outstanding Bloom grown in the open for a 'Vulcan, Var'.

Mr. Willis Shackelford of Yeamans Hall, S. C. The Birlant Award for the Runner-Up for the Outstanding Bloom

grown in the open for the 'Alba Plena'.

Mr. W. H. Rish of Winnsboro, S. C. The Hamilton Jewelers Award for the Outstanding Bloom grown under protection for a 'Clark Hubbs, Var'.

Mrs. Wm. K. Laughlin of Aiken, S. C. The Adams and Ortman Award for the Runner-Up for the Outstanding Bloom grown under protection for a 'Carter's Sunburst'.

Little Red Barn, Georgetown, S. C. Best Seedling and the Provisional ACS Commended Seedling Certificate.

Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Bush of Columbia, S. C. Runner-Up Best Seedling and the Provisional ACS Commended Seedling Certificate.

ACS Gold Certificate in Open and Belle Baruch Award—*Mrs. S. C. Hines* of Wauchula, Florida.

ACS Silver Certificate in open—*Mr. and Mrs. Robert Balding* of Georgetown, S. C.

ACS Gold Certificate under protection and Croghan Award—*Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Bush* of Columbia, S. C.

ACS Silver Certificate under protection—*Mr. and Mrs. John A. Tyler, Jr.* of Wagener, S. C.

We wish to extend our appreciation to all those who made the show a success; the exhibitors, the judges and last but not least the workers. The president of the Coastal Carolina Camellia Society is G. Simms McDowell, Jr. of Charleston, S. C. The show Chairman was J. J. Seelig of Mt. Pleasant, S. C. and Co-Chairman was R. E. Drews of Charleston, S. C.

Spraying and Feeding Camellias

By FREDERIC HEUTTE

Member of Virginia Camellia Society

As the saying goes "there are many roads that lead to Rome" and sometimes quite amusing to note the various methods recommended to spray Camellias and only topped by each individual's catering to their diet . . . being a professional gardener, I too have my pet approach to the two subjects, however I do not claim to be a "Camellia addict" and therefore classify camellias as I would the rest of the plant kingdom.

Spraying is of course a most important item in Camellia culture, but only as in other plants when needed . . . this periodic spray schedule as advocated by many of the garden services, in so far as I am concerned is un-warranted . . . you know the kind that visit you once a month, with a tank full of one spray for everything . . . I know and you know, that any chemical coating on any plant is not conducive to its normal growth, and should only be applied when needed.

Surely we can all recognize the danger signs, such as if we can see now at this time of the year the evidence of "SCALE" quite noticeable if we look on the underside of the foliage . . . especially well within the plant, as it seeks the dark corners, the reason that I always advocate judicious pruning of the plants, eliminating that superfluous growth within.

Of course the only thing left to do upon its discovery is to spray with

a good "miscible oil" such as Volck and as directed . . . any oils spray should only be used once during the season, so pick a good day when temperatures are over 45, and do a thorough job, by directing the spray to reach the under portion of the foliage.

I believe however that a delayed dormant spray is more effective than the one applied when the plant is completely dormant, which in this vicinity would be in the last part of March that is during their peak blooming or shortly thereafter as the new terminal growth commences. The adult scale are then much more vulnerable as would be overwintering red-spider and thrip eggs. . . . For instance an oil spray with a dormant application as recommended 1 to 15 parts water, would become 1 to 45 as delayed dormant, not only it becomes more economical but more effective.

Only blossoms which are $\frac{1}{2}$ or more open would be discolored or affected by the material. . . . Spraying against "Petal Blight" leaves me to recommend "Acti-Dione R.Z." as the most effective repellent, in this case we must anticipate, and spray whenever temperature rise above normal for the season (50 and above) in our section and accompanied by high humidity . . . then apply the fungicide as mist-like as possible having it descend on the blossoms, this should be done at

least every third day when these periods occur. Spraying the plants in the conventional manner is only a waste of material.

Again I approach the feeding of Camellias, not as a recommended diet, but rather as a general formula, following a diagnosis of their needs as the case may be . . . this of course would be entirely different under varied environments. Under good planting methods in an area where the soil is virgin and perhaps pine trees replenish annually the organic content . . . then all we have to worry about is to try to push in another centimeter of flower bud production, at a time when these are in their formative stage, in this section this means June to August, and vary with the individual variety . . . a straight across the board fertilizer such as 10-10-10 seems a logical conclusion and according to manufacturer's recommendation, under more adverse environments, I would start off the season with a liberal application of cotton-seed meal (April in our section). If the plants look anemic and assured that it is not through faulty planting . . . then you had better try some of the better concentrates of "minor elements" . . . fish emulsions are very promising.

My best recommendation on feeding Camellias, is to scrutinize what some of your better local growers are doing under similar environments as yours . . . of course may tell you, except for one little item that seems most unimportant . . . for instance adequate moisture . . . giving your plants a nice shower bath after the

heat of the day has subsided . . . pruning out those superfluous twiggy growth that only take added food . . . disbudding in time . . . giving them adequate mulch . . . these and others add up by the time show time comes around even discounting the use of Gibberellins. . . .

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Elizabeth Cooper (Mrs. A. B.) is garden editor of the *Nashville Banner* newspaper in Nashville Tenn., and President of the Middle Tennessee Camellia Society.

Mr. C. Wells Crawford is a successful camellia grower in Salisbury, N. C., also a director of the North Carolina Camellia Society.

Mr. Stuart Watson, a lawyer from Albany, Ga. has served as Secretary, Vice-President, President and on the Board of Directors of the South Georgia Camellia. During his term as president, the South Georgia Camellia Society initiated its gib project which has become widely known throughout the camellia world. The South Georgia Camellia Society also carried on the project for the distribution of the Gerbing Camellia Books. Mr. Stuart has been a director of the Georgia Camellia Society since its beginning and is now the President.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

NOTICE!!

Don't forget to send your zip code number to your State Society Secretary. Also, if you move, send your new address to your State Society Secretary. Carolina Camellias pays the postman 8 cents for each copy that is returned because of wrong address.

A Camellia Personality

Dr. W. F. Mathis of Moultrie is often praised for his achievements in the world of camellias. Very few people could be as deserving of recognition for contributions made to camellias in Georgia. Not only is Dr. Mathis a past President of the South Georgia Camellia Society and a Director of the American Camellia Society, but he has been a moving force in the camellia world by virtue of the tremendous number of sound ideas that flow from his fertile brain.

Perhaps the most widely known of the ideas conceived by Dr. Mathis is the gibberellic acid program which was first sponsored by the South Georgia Camellia Society. The South Georgia Camellia Society was anxious to promote the use of gibberellic acid on camellias to produce blooms outdoors on midseason varieties before the damage which is normally done by cold weather in this area in December. It was Dr. Mathis who suggested that the best way to promote the use of the acid would be to publicize the value in bringing camellias into bloom ahead of the cold and then to make the acid available to the general public at a price approaching the actual cost involved. Dr. Mathis, unlike many, not only had the idea but volunteered to do the work. He drew the ads, procured the attractive and practical plastic dropper bottles which were used so as to make application as easy as child's play, handled the preparation and mailing of the acid, and generally did a tremendous

job of making the program the outstanding success that it proved to be. As a result of his idea and labor, thousands of bottles of the acid have been mailed to all camellia growing states in the United States and to England, Australia, New Zealand, and possibly other countries of the world. The South Georgia Camellia Society, through this project and thus through Dr. Mathis, became one of the best known Camellia Societies. Many people who have been discouraged in growing the magnificent camellia have received added interest and encouragement because of his work and the blooms they have produced on their own plants and have seen in the fall camellia shows which were undreamed of only two years ago and which showed a quality of bloom from outdoor plants which was always impossible in midseason shows because of the retarding effect of cold.

Many other things could be written of Dr. Mathis such as the accomplishments of his tenure as President of the South Georgia Camellia Society, the ideas he has suggested and followed through with on the Board of Directors of the American Camellia Society, the part he took in assisting Spencer Walden in the organization of the Georgia Camellia Society, the assistance he has rendered to camellia shows throughout this area by exhibiting his outstanding blooms in those shows, the articles he has written for camellia publications to aid others in such projects as building

inexpensive greenhouses so they could enjoy quality blooms during the cold weather periods, the generous donation of his time and money in traveling to cities as distant as Charlotte, North Carolina and Birmingham, Alabama to judge in camellia shows, and the many other contributions he has made are too numerous to detail.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

North Carolina Camellia Society News

George Hampton, President of the North Carolina Camellia and his Board of Directors have going a most interesting program. It has several objectives namely:

To increase membership in the North Carolina Camellia Society by asking all show chairman to have an attractive membership booth open during the show.

To stimulate participation by offering a prize for the most attractive booth.

To request that each show chairman submit a report giving the winners in all divisions. From this list they will compile a list of the winning blooms in the North Carolina Shows.

This list will be valuable for the grower when selecting new varieties for his collection.

Carolina Camellias hopes to publish this information in the November 1966 issue—

President George Hampton reports


on the North Carolina Society meeting in Raleigh, N. C. on January 9th. The official publication CAROLINA CAMELLIAS was discussed and to make it more meaningful to the North Carolina Society the following committee was appointed.

Publicity—W. H. Robbins, Chairman, Burgaw, N. C.; Mrs. W. H. Robbins, Vice-Chairman, Burgaw, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Nixon, 1202 Tuscaror Ave., Elizabeth City, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rehder, Box 3166, Wilmington, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bradshaw, Box 658, Clinton, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Warren C. Wallace, 1502 Lake View Rd., Fairmont, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Pearsall, 1405 West Haven Blvd., Rocky Mount, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Lyles, Baden, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Clark, 4926 Eastwin Dr., Winston-Salem, N. C.; Mr. and Mrs. Wells Crawford, 731 S. Church St., Salisbury, N. C.; Mr. Larry Trammel, 128 Brooks Ave., Raleigh, N. C.

Advertising Committee — W. H. Robbins, Chairman; Thomas C. Clark; J. S. Howard

These committees represents camellia clubs and show groups in all sections of the State. It is hoped that the membership of the North Carolina Camellia Society will be on the lookout for interesting items or articles for CAROLINA CAMELLIAS.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It looks like the North Carolina Camellia is on the march to a bigger and better society and more material for CAROLINA CAMELLIAS.



Seasonal Reminders

Regular Feature

By F. W. CORLEY and R. R. MELLETTE

Outside—March and April

Remove old mulch, fertilizer and put down new mulch.

Fertilize at the end of the flowering season, using minor elements along with Camellia and Azalea fertilizer. About $\frac{1}{2}$ cup and one tablespoonful of minor elements per one foot of upright growth.

Spray Camellias for scales and other insects. Use Florida Voik and Isotox when temperature is between 45° and 90° . Cygon, which is a systemic insecticide, may be used any time. It is advisable not to use scions from plants that have been treated with Cygon.

Continue pruning to remove deadwood and weak growth.

When grafting use healthy understock and scions and a lot of loving care and tender kindness.

Continue to exhibit flowers and go to shows.

May and June

Make second application of fertilizer. This should be about six weeks after first application.

Continue your watch for scale and insects. Spray again if necessary.

Keep plants well watered as new flower buds are forming.

Check your grafts and replace those that did not take.

July through October

Keep plants free of scale and insects. Spray with Cygon if necessary.

Fertilize with a low nitrogen fertilizer.

Keep plants well watered.

Begin your gibbing in August and continue into early October.

Inside

Plants in the greenhouse are usually further along in growth.

Fertilize (with a light hand) spray and prune for deadwood, weak limbs and shape.

Most of the practices for outside plants apply to inside plants, however, remember all the roots are in a container and too much fertilizer can spell disaster.

When danger of cold weather is over move plants outside under semi-shade. Keep well watered and use your favorite fertilizer formula. Gib but don't over do it.

Spring Care in Georgia

By STUART WATSON

By the time this is published, the blooming season will be over in Georgia, the shows of this season will be pleasant memories, and we will be ready to sit back and wait for another enjoyable year with our camellias and camellia friends. Though this is largely true, we can't quite sit back in the full sense of the word. We don't have to strain and wear ourselves out, but the ribbons we win next year are going to depend on what we do between now and the time the fall edition of *CAROLINA CAMELLIAS* comes our way. Let's take a minute to look at a few of the things that must be done right now for a successful '66-'67 season.

The first thing we need to do is to look after the job of sanitation. So far, we have no petal blight in Albany, Georgia, and consequently sanitation isn't the problem here it is in those areas where all the mulch should be replaced with clean, fresh mulch for the summer. But even in petal blight free areas, a final check should be made to be sure your regular picking up of fallen petals was complete and that none are left around to serve as a possible source of infection. If you're lucky enough not to have that plague, you surely want to do all you can to keep it away from your community and sanitation is one of the keys.

Then, we need to get out right now and give our plants the feeding they need to greet the spring with the

hardy new growth that is going to bear the blooms we're going to brag on next year. Many articles have been written on this subject, and any number of programs of fertilization will work very well. I suppose most experts recommend that we fertilize now, a couple of months from now, and then again in the early fall. When I first started growing camellias, I was scared to death by the many articles that warned against the very real dangers of overfeeding. I went to some trouble with measuring amounts, moving mulch back, plugging the larger plants, and generally making a real chore of the job. Now I've changed all that and don't worry too much about anything except my mix and my timing. I want to be sure the first feeding gets to those roots in time for the first flush of spring growth, and I want my mix to contain enough organic material to avoid the damage that can come from the use of too much commercial fertilizer. I mix 1/3 regular camellia-azalea commercial fertilizer, 1/3 dried manure, and 1/3 castor bean meal. With this mix the quantity isn't too critical because there is little danger of burning. I used to use cottonseed meal, but moles came to my yard, killed one plant by digging around the roots, damaged a couple of others and generally made pests of themselves. I find the castor bean meal does about the same job as cottonseed meal and has the added advantage of driving the

moles away. You do have to be careful to keep it away from children because it's poisonous, but otherwise I've found no fault with it.

Castor bean meal is a little hard to find, but one of the small fertilizer manufacturers here uses it in his regular camellia-azalea fertilizer (Champion Brand for those in South Georgia), and when he hasn't had any on hand, he has always gotten it for me.

My fall feeding is a little earlier than most experts recommend, but I have found better results with the early gib flowers by giving a good feeding about the middle of August. For this feeding, I vary the formula by omitting the castor bean meal entirely and using a mix that's 2/3 dried manure and 1/3 0-14-14 commercial.

Here again the proportions keep me from having to worry about over fertilizing. The manure gives little nutrient and lots of good humus, and having it there keeps me from over-doing even though it does make the yard smell pretty bad for a day or so.

My manner of application is rather easy now. I no longer bother with plugging or with removing and replacing all the mulch. That's too much unnecessary work. I just spread it right on top of the mulch and let the rain wash it down to gradually feed the plant. Of course, if I happen to be running late on that spring feeding, I do wash it in with the hose to give the faster action necessary to get to the roots in time for the spring flush of growth.

Pruning is another job we often



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neglect, but it's a might important part of camellia culture. Early, before the first flush of spring growth, as I walk around the yard checking my blooms, I do a large part of my pruning because it can be done most easily at that time. Just today, I noticed that 'Don Mac' was loaded with growth buds in clusters of 3 and 4 at the terminals. So I pruned in the easiest way possible. I just pinched off the undesirable extra buds. It was easier for me, and the strength of the plant this spring will go in the direction I want it to go.

Gib is wonderful. This fall I saw shows that were better than midseason shows ever thought of being insofar as outdoor blooms are concerned. Since Gib has come along, I've had 6 and 7 inch blooms on plants that had never done anything for me before because we generally have the bottom fall out of the thermometer around the first of December—and when that happens I'll guarantee some of the best varieties will no longer be best unless they're in a greenhouse. So don't forget to order Gib from the South Georgia Camellia Society, P. O. Box 429, Moultrie, Georgia. Put your order in about the first of August and start gibbing a couple of buds on each plant each week from the middle of August to the middle of October or the first of November. The bottle can be used as an applicator, and instructions for use come with it. A dollar will get you enough to treat a hundred and twenty-five to a hundred and fifty buds, or for a dollar and a half you can get enough to treat from 200 to 240 buds. With Gib you'll get more

pleasure from your outdoor plants than you ever dreamed possible, but this marvelous Gib, the chemical that has done more for camellias outdoors than anything else, won't work for you without proper culture. One new aspect of proper culture brought on by gib is pruning the dead stump that's left where the terminal growth bud was removed for gib treatment. All these terminals should be pruned off. You got most of them when you cut that show bloom last fall, but you should make a final check now so no dead stub will be left to provide a passageway for the entrance of disease. And while you are doing this pruning do whatever else is needed to get rid of unwanted inside growth that impedes circulation of air through the plant and provides a breeding place for scale and other pests.

About April 1 in South Georgia (and before the danger of 90 degree weather but after the morning lows no longer reach 40 in other areas) you should spray with a mixture of Volck and Cygon, mixed according to instruction. I apply both at one time because Volck has been so good for scale for so long and makes the plants look so good I just like to use it. Cygon, being a long lasting systemic, will get any scale you miss with the Volck and will keep aphids off the new growth for about six weeks. But don't use Cygon as a drench on the roots of your plants even at the recommended rates. Some of my friends have had disastrous results from that.

If you have some varieties, like 'Julia France' a highly variegated

'Nuccio', 'Miss Charleston Variegated', 'Tom Cat', or the newest 'Sheffields', of which you want more plants or would like to raise some plants to give to your friends, you might save some of your pruning on these plants till after the new growth has had a chance to harden and put in a few cuttings as you prune. This is an easy and inexpensive way to get new plants and is a lot of fun as you watch the little cuttings grow into blooming size plants.

Now most of the work is done for a while, but all through the summer the plants must be watered during each dry spell. The buds that make the flowers you envied in the shows this year were the result of spring care, summer water, fall feeding, and disbudding. Do them all, and next

year your friends will be envying the blooms you place on the table of honor.

Finally, I want to say that the best thing you can do this summer is build a greenhouse. Gib has made it possible for us to have greenhouse blooms outdoors until the first freeze. If you'll build a greenhouse you can have them from September till March. And a greenhouse need not be expensive. Write Joe Pyron, Drawer C, Tifton, Georgia, for the greenhouse issue of the *Camellia Journal*. And while you're writing Joe, send him a check for \$6.00 for your membership in the American Camellia Society if you're not already a member. There's where you get more for your money than anywhere else in these days of inflation.

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Flower Arrangement

Regular Feature

Church Arrangements

By MRS. FRED J. HAY, Dillon, S. C.

"Flowers speak for man. Only flowers can express his deepest emotions", so says Buddy Benz in his book, FLOWERS: FREE FROM INTERPRETIVE DESIGN. Whether you agree or not, flowers *can* speak most eloquently and the arranging of them for the church can be a joyous service and an act of worship.

The use of flowers for the church is a fascinating and challenging study. The making of church arrangements is an art within itself, and should not be treated as just any other type arrangement. Certain liturgical churches have their own set of rules of flower arrangements, the style, the colors for certain seasons, and the containers, all of which, of course, should be strictly followed. But for those where no rules are given we might consider a few guiding principles.

Everything within the church has meaning and is there for a purpose. That purpose is to give glory to God. Flowers are placed to enhance and adorn the House of God, and therefore should be subordinate and not dominant. They should be arranged with simplicity and dignity. They

should be appropriate and proper for their setting. Here is where we should especially practice self restraint, never being lured into making bizzare or too stylized designs. Mrs. Adelaide Wilson speaks of four things to consider. These are: *Suitability, Availability, Durability, and Visibility*. Let us consider these briefly.

Suitability involves kinship with the kind of vases or containers as well as the plant materials. Suitable seasonal material is appropriate, but a word of caution in regard to special occasions. The church should be kept recognizable as such and not overwhelmed with decorations. Christmas and Thanksgiving offer wonderful opportunities to beautify our sanctuaries, but here again remember self restraint. If potted plants are used they should be beautifully grown, and their receptacles should be unobtrusive. If they are small, mass a number of them as they grow naturally. Mrs. Wilson says in general it is not considered good taste to use artificial materials or figurines in a church arrangement.

Availability. When flowers are

scarce, foliage arrangements are not only permissible but also can be very lovely and effective if arranged with care and good design. Rarity has nothing to do with beauty. The beauty of a church arrangement does not depend upon a profusion of expensive flowers, but rather on the correct use of the right flowers.

Durability. As most arrangements for the church are made on Saturday it is important to select plant material that will hold up well and remain fresh and beautiful throughout the services of the next day. Be sure that they have plenty of water and remove them before they show signs of wilting. In flower shows points are taken off for poor condition—how much more important it is to have our flowers at their peak and in perfect condition for church! Choose the best—no damaged or bruised material here.

Visibility of a church arrangement is essential. This limits to some degree the choices of materials and especially of color. Difficulty is sometimes encountered particularly in large churches or those with dim lighting. Backgrounds are very important. Against a dark background white flowers or those in pastel hues would be the better choice. Many times the boldness of a flower is enhanced by its color. A red, white, or yellow flower will be more pronounced than a blue, purple, or violet red. At only a short distance away these dark hued flowers become almost invisible. Keep in mind the carrying quality of color,

and try to use flowers of advancing colors. Warm colors unify an arrangement and are seen first by the viewer. Camellias are particularly beautiful in church arrangements. What is purer than a perfect white camellia? Their brilliant reds also, soft glowing pinks, and varying hues between, along with their exquisite texture combine to place them among the choicest flowers that we have for church adornment.

The interior of any church should be studied. When planning the arrangement it is important to keep in mind the type of architecture, the coloring, the style of furnishings, the light within the church, and the place where the flowers will be put. If the church is small and simple, with clean plain lines, the flower arrangement should be simple and suitable in all respects, and good proportion to the size of the sanctuary. If on the other hand, the church is spacious with high ceilings, massive pulpit and furnishings, then larger arrangements of bolder forms and colors will be appropriate, and naturally better seen. After placing your flowers go to the sides and rear of the church and check your arrangement. Does it appear balanced? Is it in good proportion and scale to itself and to the surroundings? Does it have the vitality which rhythm and contrast of line and color give? Does it have depth, so that viewed from the sides there is no appearance of a flat back? Does it dominate, or does it adorn and seem an integral part of a beautiful whole?

Do You Want Blue Ribbon Blossoms?

By RUSSELL MELLETTTE

What are good cultural practices of *Camellia Japonicas*? After visiting and interviewing several excellent growers of greenhouse camellias in Aiken, South Carolina, I arrived at one definite conclusion—there are no two individuals who follow the same cultural practices, such as: selection of plants, planting, grafting and control of insects. I did not find any two growers who use the same fertilizing methods.

For example, Allen Coward says: In early spring I apply a reliable

brand of camellia and azalea fertilizer, using a cupful to large plants and two teaspoonsful to small plants. Water after fertilizing. I also use cottonseed meal each month. One objection to cottonseed meal, it seems to attract snails to the plants.

Mr. Coward said: In addition to the above program, on Mr. Gaver's plants I use, beginning the first of September, Armour's Liquid fertilizer (10-8-7) as foliar feeding and repeat every two weeks during the blooming season. Care must be taken as too much



Governor and Mrs. James Byrnes discuss the winning blooms with Show Chairman James W. Smith during the Spring Show of The Men's Camellia Club, Columbia, S. C.

fertilizer will brown the leaves and the feeder roots.

Mr. W. Lee Poe said: I vary my fertilizer formulas. First, I have a soil test to determine the Ph. I like to maintain a Ph. reading of 6.0 to 6.5. This is important if you expect to produce good blooms.

Mr. Poe says: In the spring I use four to eight ounces of 4-10-6 or 4-12-12 non-acid forming mixture. Also cottonseed meal in mid-winter. In the winter months water with a solution made with one handful of good fertilizer in one gallon of water. Apply one half to one gallon of the solution, depending on the size of the plant once a month. In dry weather water the first day, apply fertilizer the second day and water in. For foliar feeding I use 20-20-20 liquid fertilizer.

Mr. W. P. Williams said: As soon as I could conveniently, I fertilized all plants outside the house with a liberal application of 4-12-12. Last year this was about the first of April.

About May first, I put a liberal application to all plants inside the greenhouse of the same 4-12-12, watering rather heavily in the meantime. I give those plants outside another application of the same fertilizer in July and in September I applied a liberal application of 0-10-20 on all plants, being sure there was ample moisture before the application and the next day or so after this application I gave all plants another watering.

In conclusion, you too may have prize winning blooms if you buy healthy plants, plant properly, water regularly, fertilize right, control insects, disbud and *love* camellias.

Spring Care of Camellias

By C. WELLS CRANFORD

Another Camellia season is drawing to an end and soon Spring will be here with all of its vim, vigor and vitality and all of Mother Nature's resources will be thrown into plant life from the edge of the lowest stream to the top of the highest mountains.

In our Camellia world and especially in the hundreds or maybe thousands of greenhouses throughout this beautiful land of ours, we, who have the privilege of owning one or more, have plenty of growth eyes already bursting forth with a beautiful emerald green that all who grow Camellias with pride and joy welcome this sight, because this fresh healthy growth means another Camellia season is just beginning.

I have always been very careful to keep old blooms picked up under my plants in the greenhouse or in the garden. This sounds to some people as a rather hard and tedious job. If there is anything that would dampen my spirits and cause me to throw up my hands in despair, it would be to discover that I had petal blight among my Camellias, so I will continue to pick up and rake up all old blooms that fall in order to prevent this terrible tragedy.

I'm sure that everyone growing Camellias wants to start the new growing season with every plant just as healthy and free of disease as possible. This can be done if we will only exert a little extra effort in main-

taining a clean tidy greenhouse and to keep our yards and *Camellia* gardens free from fallen *Camellia* petals and all old leaves.

Fertilizing Greenhouse Camellias in the Spring

Almost everyone who grows *Camellias* in the greenhouse have a special or pet formula for fertilizing their plants. Some growers that I have talked with tell me that they only feed their greenhouse plants once a year and that is in the Spring. I do not feel that one feeding a year is enough, and especially in the greenhouse because the growth usually starts much earlier than does the garden or outside plants.

Some growers that I have had the pleasure of visiting and seeing some of their huge blossoms in their greenhouses, tell me that they feed their plants about once a month the year round. The blooms seemed to verify and uphold their theories, but all will make it clear that these monthly feedings are light, whether they use liquid or dry fertilizer.

I have always been afraid to fertilize very heavy, for I think that you can easily kill a plant from over-feeding, but you cannot starve a *Camellia* plant to death by under-feeding it, providing it was planted in a good soil mix to start with.

Greenhouse *Camellias* have a great advantage over yard or garden plants, because they have been protected all winter from hard freezes, strong winds, and most greenhouse growers use some form of shade, either shade cloth or some form of lathe to keep the direct sunlight from their blooms.

Greenhouse *Camellias* on the other hand are more susceptible to aphids and red-spider mites, also to peony and tea scale, because of the high relative humidity. These can be licked with no problem if an oil emulsion and Isotox is used according to directions on the labels. I also understand that another fine product for this is Oil-I-Cide.

Fertilizing Outside Plants in the Spring

Garden or outside *Camellias* in the Southern or Gulf Regions can be fed much sooner than here in the Piedmont Section of North Carolina. In those states with warmer winters, the cycles which our beloved *Camellias* go through are far ahead of our plants in this Northern fringe of the *Camellia* belt.

Southern growers can fertilize in January and early February without any thought of frost damage to young growth unless it happens to be an unusual cold snap. We, here, know it would be foolish to fertilize our plants before March 1st.

The spray program in the lower South can be equal to our greenhouse program here, so after all, the feeding pruning and spraying program must be done according to each locality.

We must all remember that we fertilize our plants to:

- (1) Develop plant growth,
- (2) Assist in maintaining a healthy *Camellia*,
- (3) Help develop and set flower buds, and
- (4) To replace plant food used up by the *Camellia* in developing its

growth and blooms the previous season.

Pruning Our Camellias and How

Probably the most neglected phase of Camellia culture is pruning. When I first started growing Camellias here quite naturally I only had small plants and a few rooted cuttings that I had beginner's luck with, and I was so proud of these that I wouldn't have pruned a twig for the world. Since that time, some eighteen years ago, I have had, and still have, many plants twelve feet tall. Some of these plants are tall and straggly, some I have cut back and made nice, well balanced, bushy specimen Camellias out of them.

The best time to severely prune a plant is just before the new growth starts. Study the plants shade and limb locations before starting to cut or you might be sorry that you pruned certain branches where you did. Another thing or mistake that I used to do was when I cut a flower for a corsage, I would leave a long straggly twig where I cut the bloom in hopes that a new eye would form and I would have another branch or flower someday, but that is all untrue. Instead, I left a twig to die or just take strength from the plant. Always cut the small limb off smooth with the limb it grew from, this will soon heal over and make a smooth spot on the branch. Another thing to remember is to cut off long willowry branches that touch or nearly touch the soil. This wood is usually of a small weak type and so easy to touch the soil

causing tea scale to harbor and spread to the rest of the plant from this point.

In summing up these few remarks, don't be afraid to cut your plant, because cutting it back will tend to make a healthy, vigorous bush and especially getting rid of those small inner branches.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Birmingham Camellia Show

11 and 12 February, 1967
Municipal Auditorium
Birmingham, Alabama
Staged by: Men's Camellia Society
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—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

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—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Attention Members of South Carolina Camellia Society!

Mail your dues and address changes to Mr. P. D. Rush, P. O. Box 177, Lexington, S. C.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Attention Members of North Carolina Camellia Society!

Mail your dues and address changes to Mrs. J. F. MacGill, P. O. Box 3424, Fayetteville, N. C.

Old Favorite

Mikenjaku or Nagasaki

Regular Feature

By ALBERT FENDIG, Brunswick, Ga.

This cultivar was originated in Japan and imported into England where it was given the name 'Nagasaki' by the Caledonia Nursery, Island of Guernsey. Ralph Philbrick, of the Bailey Horatorium says that according to Minagowa in 1949, this camellia was published by Ito in Japan under the name of 'Mikenjaku'. It also has been called 'Empress of Russia', 'Lady Audrey Buller', 'Candida Elegantissima', 'Tenninkan', 'S. Peter Nyce Variegato Perfecto', 'Lou Jan' and doubtlessly by other names.

It has been confused with 'Princess Nagasaki' which is synonymous with 'Chiyoda-Nishiki', which, although similar, is different.

A meritorious "Old Favorite" generally is found under more than one name and 'Mikenjaku' or 'Nagasaki' is an excellent example of this rule.

It is meritorious. Its richly variegated blossoms ranging from red and white to deep pink with large white blotches and spots will attract attention in any garden. Sometimes it is beautifully moired. It opens wide and flat and many of the petals are frilled, twisted and often intermixed

with golden stamens. It will attain 4½ inches or better by 1¾ inches depth growing in the open without being gibbed. There usually are about 9 wavy petals 2½ inches long. The large, lustrous foliage also is outstanding. It is hardy, willowy and slow spreading in habit and generally blooms midseason.

'Veinveanne' like 'S. Peter Nyce' is a predominately white mutant. 'Marguerita' is said to be a solid red mutant.

So long as camellias remain popular, it is believed that this "Old Favorite" will adorn many gardens.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Attention Members of the Virginia Camellia Society!

Mail your dues and address changes to Mr. A. F. Schafhirt, 6018 Upper Braudon Place, Norfolk, Va. 23508

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Attention Members of the Georgia Camellia Society!

Mail your dues and address changes to Mr. James A. Blissitt, 3193 Wynn Dr., Avondale Estates, Ga.

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Allie Blue	Ed Anderson Var.	Mary Agnes Patin
Amabel Lansdell	Extravaganza	Mark Allen Var.
Anna Ray	Extravaganza pink	Mary Knock
Alyne Brothers pink (sport)	Elegans Supreme	Miss Mary
Betty Sheffield Speckled	Erin Farmer	Miss Charleston Var.
Betty Sheffield Blush	Ecclefield	Marguerite Cannon
Betty Sheffield Veined	Flora Dora Girl	Mark Culver
Betty Sheffield Funny Face	Goldwater Var.	Moonlight Sonata
Betty Sheffield Supreme	Grand Slam	One Alone
Betty Sheffield Supreme Blush	Guilio Nuccio Var.	Our Julia
Betty Sheffield Coral	Gun Smoke	Pink Passion
Betty Sheffield Special	Gus Menard	Pink Parfait
Ballet Dancer	Howard Asper—hybrid	Paris Pink
Blanche Graham	Judge W. T. Ragland	Pink Davis
Charlie Bettes	Judge Marvin Mann Var.	Pink Superlative
Clark Hubbs S & Var.	Juanita Smith	Rebell Yell
Coral Queen	Julia France	Rosea Superba Var.
Cajun Queen	Julia Hamiter—hybrid	Red Rouge
Christine Smith	King Size Var.	Richfield
Christian McSeveen	Kick Off	Sarah R
Coed	Kay Truesdale	Silver Chalice
Commander MulRoy	Luscious Lady	Sawada's Dream
Clarice Carlton	Lucky Thirteen	Tomorrow's Dawn
Carters Sunburst	Lady Velma Var.	Tomorrow Pink Var.
Charlean	Mrs. R. L. Wheeler	Tom Cat
Drama Girl Var.	Mississippi Beauty	Tom Herrin
Diamond Head—hybrid	Marian Harrison	Waltz Dream
Dr. Burnside Var.	Marianne Rankin Var.	Wonderland

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Camellias Move Up From the Deep South

By ELIZABETH W. COOPER (Mrs. A. B.)

Nashville Banner Garden Editor and President, Middle Tennessee Camellia Society

Truly it's a case of "the blind leading the blind" in the growing of camellias in Nashville, Tenn. Located just a little too far above the normal camellia-growing belt, the organization of the very young Middle Tennessee Camellia Society came about through the efforts of a mere handful of camellia lovers, most of whom were transplanted to mid-Tennessee from camellia country.

Some five years ago, my husband and I, both native Memphians, went by chance to the Birmingham Camellia Show. Returning to my desk at *The Nashville Banner* on Monday morning and needing a good lead for a garden column, I hastily whipped off an article headed "Camellias Move Up From the Deep South." This was published accompanied by a picture taken by a staff photographer from the cover of a magazine, which I now know to be "The Camellia Journal."

Following publication, I had calls from a number of interested people, who became the nucleus of our present society. A little later another local garden writer (perhaps needing copy in the dull February season) used a story on local camellia growers accompanied by a picture of the Henry Lochtes in their greenhouse. The Lochtes that very Sunday afternoon started out to visit the camellia-growers listed.

Thus our little group became ac-

quainted. We met together spasmodically for mutual support and on Feb. 17, 1963 at the home of Mrs. M. M. Hurst, a transplant from Augusta, Ga., we formed the Middle Tennessee Camellia Society with Hank Lochte as the first president.

During the ensuing two years the double handful of members (and they mostly husbands and wives) have shared what knowledge of camellia culture they had or were able to acquire through reading, through the publications of the American Camellia Society and through trial and error. There are no experts in the Nashville area to offer advice, not even so much as a nursery carrying plants or even understock for grafting.

Due to the vagaries of Tennessee weather, it has been proved that we cannot flower camellias without regular greenhouse protection of glass or fiberglass. Plastic-covered lath houses are just a little too flimsy for winters such as we are liable to have. Although there are quite a few greenhouses in Nashville, the orchid fanciers got here first and they are not easily converted. The cost of building suitable protection plus the unavailability of obtaining plants locally has somewhat hampered the society's growth. But we are encouraged at each meeting by the presence of a new enthusiast whom we promptly

enroll both in the ACS and the local society.

In spite of our smallness, we Middle Tennessee camellia growers have had what we consider phenomenal success in our shortlived efforts. Our members have gone for several years to nearby shows bearing blossoms and coming home with varicolored ribbons. We have been able to have flowers for ourselves and our friends to wear, for party decorations, for extending cheer and sympathy and for telling the camellia-story to a populous whose first reaction is to smell them.

In addition we have elicited public interest in camellias by three annual displays staged at the Tennessee Fine Arts Center and Botanical Garden at Cheekwood. The first in late February, 1963 was a small exhibit arranged in the foyer composed of blossoms and growing plants in containers. The next year we were more ambitious and arranged our non-competitive exhibit in one-half of the large Georgian Room at Cheekwood. Roberta Lochte converted the other half into an Old South garden using camellias in containers from our greenhouses, blooming azaleas and ante-bellum accoutrements. This display was opened in connection with Cheekwood's presentation of Dr. William Stewart of the Los Angeles Arboretum in a lecture and the reception given for the Stewarts. We would have fallen flat on our faces except for the generosity of camellia friends in Chattanooga, Birmingham and Mobile sending us blooms for the display.

Last year we followed the same pattern of exhibiting and did it with the blossoms of our own growers. Cheekwood's visiting lecturer was Dr. Leslie Laking of the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ont. and Mrs. Lochte arranged "Le Petit Jardin des Camilles" in keeping with the collection of 18th century French landscape paintings on loan from the Louvre in the Cheekwood galleries.

We had hoped for a judged show this February but still feel that we are not ready. Our display will be in place for Feb. 18-20 at which time Cheekwood is bringing as lecturer John M. Fogg, Jr., director of the University of Pennsylvania Arboretum. A Japanese garden will be arranged by Mrs. Lochte.

The wheels already have started turning for a real camellia show in 1967. Given time and a few more dedicated growers, the camellia world soon will begin to hear of the Middle Tennessee Camellia Society.

—CAROLINA CAMELLIAS—

Parsons Elected President of American Camellia Society

Mr. Alison J. "Preacher" Parsons of Norfolk, Va., was elected President of the American Camellia Society at the California meeting in March. The election of "Preacher" brings to the office of President an outstanding Camellia enthusiast who will be a credit to our national organization. He needs your support.

Auxins, Gibberellins and Kinins⁽¹⁾

By FRANK F. REED, Pasadena, California

In a recent article (2) we threatened to continue our use of Indoleacetic Acid (IA) and some other growth regulating concoctions on my camellias. Several references therein to include North's 1959 article (3) noted the necessity for Gib to interact with an auxin to be effective. Some of the results with IA and kinetin were not promising but these will be interesting to those who wish to play around with Nature's regulators and hormones.

Auxins (1)

During the current season to Dec. 10th, I used no straight Gib but employed aqueous solutions of Gib/IA in the approximate ratios of 12,000/350 and 16,000/250.

Using the first solution, 58 varieties involving 236 buds, were gibbed between Sept. 6 and Oct. 3. Only 56 of these terminals produced blooms in 75 days. Thirty varieties produced no blooms within the 75 day period after gibbing. Sixteen varieties did not bloom in 100 days. Most significant were 79 terminals that did not bloom in four months.

During the period Oct. 3-30, 82 varieties involving 304 buds were gibbed with 16,000 ppm Gib/250 ppm IA. 201 terminals bloomed within 75 days. Seven varieties failed to produce a bloom in 75 days. In both periods, we were trying to get blooms for the Dec. 4th show.

In the opinion of the judges at

meeting nights and at our Fall Show, my blooms were not as good as those entered by Goertz, Gum, Gunn, Pitkin *et al.*, who used straight Gib. We read this message "loud and clear."

It seems that the Indoleacetic Acid (IA) which can inhibit, did inhibit quite well in September operations. The plotted data showed the effectiveness of the October gibbings is comparable with good results obtained last year with Oct. 15 Gib/IA terminal treatments. Apparently my results are not as good as those that "G" guys got with straight Gib.

It would be interesting to know what conditions cause the long delays (4 to 12 months) in blooming at gibbed terminals. We could avoid these delays and make more certain of our earlier blooms. On the other hand, we could use the knowledge to obtain late blooms.

The continuation of the weed killer (2) with stronger solutions were quite conclusive. Ten terminals on each of the three varieties were treated with 5,000 ppm of 2, 4D and 2,500 ppm of 2, 4, 5T. (Incidentally, 2, 4, D is the most potent auxin.) 29 of the 30 bloom buds were browned off, most of them in 2 or 3 weeks. A few leaves fell off of the 'Alba Plena'. No more weed killer for my camellias!

Kinins (1)

A challenge appears in the jocose statement about Kinetin (6-fur-furylamino-purine No. 4226) in Calbio-

chem Corp's Catalogue that "at extremely low concentrations, the 25 gram amount should be enough to make every plant cell in America divide at least once. We hope that one or more of you will try this." That was where we came in and made a modest attempt to check if blooms were accelerated or enlarged.

We mixed a queous solutions of Kinetin in strengths of 10 ppm, 100 ppm, and 1000 ppm. All three were used on my camellias and 1,000 ppm used on the plants of Bill Goertz and the San Lorenzo Nursery (Shinodas). Usual technic for gibbing terminals was used.

The bloom buds utterly disregarded the two weaker solutions and it is dubious if any attention was paid to the 1,000 ppm except a few Purity blooms came out early.

Upon advice of Calbiochem, I used vinegar and then ammonia to get a 10,000 ppm solution. Probably only 60% of the Kinetin went into solution and there was as much vinegar and ammonia as water in the solution at the end.

Five terminals on each of 15 varieties were treated on Jan. 8, 1966 with this solution (and suspension). A few have bloomed but none seem to be particularly earlier nor larger than the normal blooms. Actually the five blooms on 'Elegans' were poorer.

You can't win 'em all!

Gibbing Growth Buds

At the suggestion of Bill Woodroof, I injected 10,000 ppm into five growth buds on each of 12 plants Nov. 7,

1965 using needles (or droppers) given to me by Racoff.

Growth action started in less than a week and leaves were out on a majority of the terminals in two weeks. These growth shoots were rather a sad lot and were not up to those on varieties like 'Guest of Honor', 'Magic Moments', 'Angel' and 'Debutante' which often sprout shoots throughout the year. The growth buds and leaves at the terminals of 'Buddha' fell off. A majority of the bloom buds adjacent to the treated growth buds, gave early blooms but with little, if any, improvement in the blooms.

The injection process involved clogging up the barrel of two needles and used far more time than if we had knocked off the growth bud and put Gib in the stump remaining.

We have no good word to say about gibbing growth buds.

Gib Cum Alcohol

For some time we had laid off ethyl alcohol solutions of Gib due to the North's recommendations (3) following some apparent damage to parts of camellia plants. We had some unfortunate results when infusing an ethyl alcohol solution into the vascular systems of some camellias (5).

The Abbott Laboratories Scientific Division recently reported they have been successful with their anhydrous iso-propyl alcohol solution of Gib used on camellias with no apparent damage to buds and plants. Abbott says that their 2% (20,000 parts per million) alcohol solution is stored at

ambient temperature for long periods with no loss in potency.

I cut this solution with distilled water to 15,000 ppm and have gibbed a few terminals on each of approximately 200 plants since Dec. 10 using a Racoff dropper.

Have had very pleasing results in obtaining earlier and larger blooms. Very few growth buds below the terminal have been damaged. This differs from previous experience when I used a cheap eye dropper which lets off large drops and occasionally lets off 2 drops. This procedure can cause liquid to get down to a lower leaf axil immediately or washed down later by water. This liquid can kill a small growth bud. On the other hand, the Racoff dropper has approximately 50 drops per cc and can be more readily controlled as to total liquid put at each terminal.

Removing Growth Buds

Even though we wrote the sage statement several years ago: "Old Chinese proverb say that knocking off the growth bud adjacent to a bloom showing color will result in an earlier and richer flower" (4), we have done no experiments to prove it. During 1960 we did remove growth buds and put Gib solution into the stump remaining. Results of this technic were published (5) soon after it was evident that it was a success.

Our quotation above may have been inspired by discussions with Les Marshal, Harvey Short and Ferol Zerkowsky.

Gill (6) did not find any benefit from removing growth buds without

gibbing. Some of our locals are trying to determine if the mere removal of a growth bud is beneficial to the adjacent bloom (7).

Damage Due to Gibbing

None of our camellias has apparently been damaged by normally gibbing technics even though some have been gibbed in 10 different years. Generally, our operations involve approximately 10% of the terminals or less. Some plants have been damaged with a variety of tests with different growth regulators and hormones but nothing was permanent.

The San Lorenzo Nurseries (Shinodas') has probably gibbed more blooms than any one during the last three seasons. They hit some 300 or 400 blooms per plant and total approximately 150,000 blooms per year. Their plants look healthier than yours. If there be any deleterious effects not now evident, they should show up soon here or in Howard Asper's Nursery where they are gibbing thousands for the cut flower market.

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1. Van Overbeek, J. "Love of Living Plants." *Vista of Science* 8, 1964 National Science Teachers Assn. Scholastics Book Services.
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4. Reed "Blooms the Year Round," *Southern Calif. Review* Jan. 1960.
5. Reed "Early Blooms with Gibberellic Acid." *Southern Cal. Review*, Feb. 1961.
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Did the Cold Get Your Camellia Buds?

By HERBERT RACOFF, D.V.M., Columbia, S. C.

In the fall of 1962 and spring of 1963 a group of Columbia, South Carolina, camellia growers introduced to the Southeastern U. S. the techniques of getting camellia blooms early through the use of gibberellic acid. This article is intended primarily for the outside non sophisticated grower who desires to obtain some early blooms of camellias. By early blooms is meant flowers during Sept., Oct. and Nov., even of those varieties which normally bloom in Feb., March, and April.

About 150 years ago, a disease was known in Japan which caused some rice plants to grow much taller than normal. This was known as the "foolish seedling" disease. The causal agent was not found until 1926 when a Japanese pathologist in Formosa extracted a substance from a fungus that produced growth stimulation in rice seedlings without producing any accompanying infection. In 1935 the Japanese isolated a crystalline substance which would produce this stimulation. It was named gibberellin after the fungus which produced it. Today, gibberellic acid, the product most frequently used by camellia growers, is produced by an infusion process similar to that by which penicillin is made.

In the Columbia area gibberellic acid solution ready for use can be obtained from the Purity Drug Store, 3707 Main, St., Columbia, S. C. Fifteen cubic centimeters are sold for \$1.50. This should be sufficient to treat from 225 to 600 buds dependent

on the size medicine dropper used. Gibberellic acid solution ready for use is also available in a squeeze bottle, enough to treat about 150 buds for \$1.00. This is obtainable from the South Georgia Camellia Society, P. O. Box 429, Moultrie, Georgia. 31768 for \$1.00 postpaid. Fifteen bottles are sold for \$10.00 postpaid. This solution is of stronger concentration than that sold by the Purity Drug Store.

It is anticipated that ready mixed solutions will be more generally available next fall.

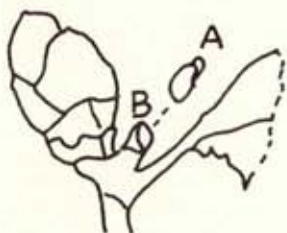
Use on Camellia Buds.

- (1) Treat buds each week starting the last week in August through the 3rd week in September.
- (2) Select well matured bloom buds. Break out tip of the growth bud which is adjacent to the flower bud.

Figure 1A. This will leave a cup, Figure 2B.



If immature buds are selected for treatment they will develop into long elongated buds and most of the developing blossoms will be malformed or fail to open properly.



- (3) Use a medicine dropper and fill the cup, shown on Figure 2B with gibberellic acid solution. This will take one or more drops depending on the size tip opening of the dropper you use. Do not overfill the cup so that excess solution will run down the stem. If this happens you may destroy the growth bud at Figure C, D, E and the other growth buds down the stem which come in contact with the solution.
- (4) Buds will show an increase in size within 2 weeks after treatment.
- (5) Many blooms can be expected within 30-70 days after buds are treated. Some buds will take longer to bloom.

Results

Gibberellic acid is not the panacea for getting show winning blossoms. Gibberellic acid when properly applied to mature buds on well grown, well fed, healthy camellia plants will help to produce the finest flowers of which the variety is capable. It is not

a substitute for sound cultural practices. Many of the blooms are larger and prettier. Some will be changed in formation and there may be some color changes, for example, purplish 'Prof. Sargents' and members of the Mathotiana family. In many cases the texture of the flowers is improved, they stay on the plant better and stay fresher longer.

The last few years in this area have shown an increase in the fungus disease of camellia flowers occurring each spring. This disease is known as petal blight or flower rot and can be most devastating. It is not known to occur prior to mid January so fall blooms are one way to avoid petal blight.

For those who desire more information about the use and effects of gibberellic acid the following articles are listed for reference.

1. Some Effects of Gibberellic Acid on Camellias by C. P. North—American Camellia Society Yearbook 1959.
2. Gib for Early Bloom by Frank Reed—American Camellia Society Yearbook 1965.
3. Treatment of Camellia Buds with Gibberellic Acid by Herbert Raccoff, Carolina Camellias, Spring 1963, reprinted, American Camellia Society Yearbook 1964.

Why don't you gib a few buds this year? You'll really get to enjoy your own blooms before cold weather comes and if the winter has been so severe as this one, at least you will have had some good blooms. If the winter is moderate there will still be the spring crop of blooms to enjoy.

Fertilizer Practice in Aiken

By RUFUS H. GADDY, JR.

A camellia plant with its root system confined in a clay, wood, or metal container is completely dependent upon the attention of its owner or guardian. The walls of the container will not permit the plant to send roots out and down within the earth in search of water and food. Consequently, the good health of your container grown plants is a direct reflection of the attention and care they have received.

The three basic requirements for the good health of any properly planted camellia in a suitable place are adequate water, scale eradication, and a good fertilizer program. Each of us can almost invariably look at a plant and tell when it needs water, although we cannot as readily detect wet root (root rot) symptoms early enough to save the plant. The need for treatment for scale is just as apparent as the need for water. If the top of the leaf is shiny and the bottom side of the leaf is clean with no white web or moss and no small brown spots, then we have no major problem with the most common forms of scale. This brings us to the third requirement for the good health of our plants—fertilizer.

In Aiken we have fifteen to twenty greenhouses devoted largely to camellias and another new greenhouse appears every year or so. The fertilizing programs used by Aiken growers vary greatly, yet each is based on a common-sense approach that has

proven highly successful for each of these enthusiasts. For a substance to be classified as a plant nutrient, the substance must be soluble in water so that it can be absorbed through the root system or through the leaves when foliage feeding is used. Since container grown plants require watering once or twice each week, it is quite evident that nutrients are constantly being leached from the small quantity of soil in the container. Unless these nutrients are constantly replenished it doesn't take exceptional insight to visualize the nutrients going right out the bottom of the container and very little of the nutrients being assimilated by the plant. Consequently, most of the Aiken camellia growers practice feeding once to three times each month. When three feedings per month are used, the plant food is first dissolved in an eighteen gallon plastic container and by use of an aspirator pick-up tube (ratio of 16 to 1) the plant food is added with the weekly watering. The plants are watered once or twice each month without the added plant food to eliminate the accumulation of salts. When dry fertilizers are used, several of the Aiken growers add about one-half to one tablespoon per month to a plant in a three to five gallon container. Somewhat heavier applications are made in April, June, and September. Always, of course, before dry fertilizers are used, the plants are watered the preceding day to elimi-

Betty Sheffield Is Supreme! . . . And Superb!

Webster defines supreme as "highest in rank, quality, character, importance; paramount; greatest" and camellia growers know these adjectives aptly describe the 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' as well as the originator of the parent seedling, Betty Sheffield of Quitman, Ga.

When the first 'Betty Sheffield' bloomed in the Quitman garden in 1949 Mrs. Albert Barksdale (Elsbeth Pannkoke) Sheffield did not realize she had a seedling which would, in a period of 15 years, develop more worthwhile sports than any other camellia developed to date. This parent 'Betty' was one of 100 seeds planted by Mrs. Sheffield in 1946, the seed from a small single flowered Mrs. F. L. Gibson which is white with an occasional pink splotch which occasionally sports pink and rose flowers. In 1949 when the seedling bloomed and a flower was carried to Mr. Sam Hjort of the Thomasville Nurseries he recognized the seedling as being outstanding and suggested the name honoring Mrs. Sheffield and registering it with the American Camellia

nate burning the leaves by too great an uptake of fertilizer by a dehydrated plant. The dry fertilizer may be 6-6-6 or 20-20-20 for the same feeding schedule and quantities given above. Light applications of trace elements such as Es-Min-El (Essential Mineral Elements) are made three or four times a year.

Society. He propagated and made this variety available to the public.

The originator of the ever popular 'Betty Sheffield' is one of Quitman's most beloved citizens. For the past 35 years she has been building for herself a monument of beauty which will far outlast marble shafts or inscribed placques. For more than 30 years she served as chairman of Quitman's Park Commission and in addition to her work in beautifying and maintaining the street parks she has planned and planted the grounds of industrial, school, church and private places. In her own lovely garden she is ever trying something new but gives valuable space to old favorites.

A pasts president of the Quitman Woman's Club, she was chairman of its Garden Department for many years. Active in church work she is also interested in cultural pursuits and she and her sister, Miss Marie Pannkoke, a talented musician who lives with her, spend much of their time in travel in the states and abroad and are fluent in four languages. A native of Wisconsin Elsbeth Pannkoke came to Quitman in 1917 to visit Mr. and Mrs. Pliny Sheffield where she first met her husband-to-be. They were married the next year and for the past 48 years Mrs. Sheffield has played an important part, in Quitman social cultural, religious and educational life.

Mr. Sam Hjort voiced the feeling of all who know her when he said recently "Betty Sheffield has set an example of radiant living and is just the

right kind of person to start a chain of radiant camellias!"

With more than 25 meritorious sports to the credit of the original seedling the 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' is probably the best known and most popular. A pure white sport with a picotee border of deep pink and sometimes red it was discovered by Mrs. Greene Alday of Thomasville, on a plant she had purchased from Thomasville Nurseries. This nursery, which has had the privilege of showing most of the first registered sports of the 'Betty Sheffield', propagated and distributed the 'Supreme'.

Sports of Camellia Betty Sheffield

1948—The original 'Betty Sheffield'.

1957—'Pink Betty Sheffield' (deep pink).

1958—'Blush Betty Sheffield'. (Where original 'Betty' is white with pink splotches and stripes, this is light pink, with deep pink splotches and stripes.)

1958—'Variegated Betty Sheffield'. (Where the original 'Betty' is pure white with pink splotches and stripes, this sport reverses the color pattern, is deep pink with white splotches, stripes.)

1960—'Betty Sheffield Supreme'. (A pure white sport of 'Betty', with a picotee border of deep pink, sometimes red.) Discovered by Mrs. Greene Alday of Thomasville. Distributed by the Hjorts.

1960—'Silver Betty Sheffield'. (A 'Blush Betty' without any stripes or splotches, discovered by G. C. Comstock, Beaumont, Texas.)

1962—'Betty Sheffield Blush Supreme'. (Where the original 'Betty Supreme' is pure white with deep pink border, this one is pale pink, with tiny deep pink veining and picotee border. This variety is a sport of 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', a sport of a sport!)

1962—'Pinkheart Betty Sheffield'. Sport of 'Silver Betty Sheffield', with deep pink center, lighter edges with same white border that characterizes 'Silver Betty Sheffield'.

1963—'Betty Sheffield Special'. A 'Betty Sheffield Variegated' with considerably more white than original. Thought to be identical with a sport known as 'Revere's Betty Sheffield'.

1964—'Strawberry Betty Sheffield'. A sport of 'Betty Sheffield Supreme'. The pink goes deep into the flower. Some flowers have the deep pink border, many do not.

1965—'White Betty Sheffield'. A pure white sport of 'Betty Sheffield' that has occurred at Thomasville, Mobile, Valdosta and Tallahassee. Grafted on other "japonica" stocks it usually reverts. Grafting on Sasanqua stocks has given better results.

1961—'Funny Face Betty Sheffield'. Light pink sport of 'Betty Sheffield' with occasional deep pink stripes. (From Mrs. Ferol Zerkowsky, Slidell, La.)

1961—'Charming Betty'. A 'Betty Sheffield' sport thought to be identical with 'Funny Face Betty Sheffield'. (From J. P. Geiser, Slidell, La.)

There are other sports, from Jackson, Miss., is 'Betty Sheffield Dream' and 'Betty Sheffield Dawn', which may be identical with other 'Betty Sheffield' sports at Thomasville and elsewhere. From Dothan, Ala., are so called 'Red Betty Sheffield' and 'Orchid Betty Sheffield', which may be variation of 'Pink Betty Sheffield'.

Most of these sports do a lot of sporting themselves, mostly throwing flowers like original 'Betty Sheffield', first 'Pink Betty Sheffield' and 'Blush Betty Sheffield'. We get 'Blush' sports on about every sizeable 'Betty' except 'Betty Sheffield Supreme' and 'Betty Sheffield Blush Supreme' do not produce them.

DEAR FRIENDS:

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped to make a success of CAROLINA CAMELLIAS. Those who have given so generously of their time to write articles for publication, our advertisers for their financial support, and for the many letters of moral support.

To the Presidents of the four-State Societies, I offer my heartfelt gratitude for your cooperation.

To Paul Rush, Secretary of the South Carolina Camellia Society; Mrs. J. F. MacGill, Secretary of North the Carolina Camellia Society; A. F. Schafhirt, Secretary of the Virginia Camellia Society and James A. Blissitt, Treasurer of the Georgia Camellia Society. Thanks for your promptness in sending the mailing labels.

I look forward to your continued support, and I'm sure our Bulletin will be more meaningful to the membership, and our Societies will grow.

Thanks,

CARROLL T. MOON,
Editor.

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