

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Jean's Unsurpassable'
Courtesy Gerbing Camellia Nursery and
American Camellia Society

Vol. 32

February 1971

No. 4

One Dollar

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

An organization devoted to the advancement of the Camellia for the benefit of mankind—physically, mentally, and inspirationally.

The Society holds open meetings on the Second Tuesday of every month, November to April, inclusive at the San Marino Women's Club House, 1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues: \$6.50.

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PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY, INC.

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Six issues per volume — October, November, January, February, March and May.

All manuscript for publication and correspondence should be sent directly to the Editor.

Republication permitted, if due credit is given the Camellia Review and the author.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Notify the Secretary at once. Magazines are not forwarded by the Post Office.

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THE COVER FLOWER

C. japonica 'Jean's Unsurpassable'

This month's cover flower was originated by Gordon W. Moughon of Birmingham, Alabama. It is a semi-double flower that has reached 5 to 5½ inches not gibbed, according to Ralph May, owner of Gerbing Camellia Nursery who are introducing it. It has reached 6 to 6½ inches gibbed. Color is blush pink with flecks of darker pink. The plant is a sturdy upright grower.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Southern California Camellia Society is pleased to announce the formation of an Information Bureau that will add to its many services.

Through enthusiastic board action this Bureau was organized to handle all questions directed to it concerning camellia culture, gibbing, propagation, growing, fertilization, and showing.

Members are encouraged to write their problems or questions to the Bureau, allowing time for a complete and satisfactory answer.

For the year 1971-1972, Bill Goertz will perform the duties of the Bureau with the hopes that this will prove to be a real and lasting service to all Camellia and garden lovers.

Please write your questions to: Mr. W. F. Goertz, 1835 Carlisle Drive, San Marino, California 91108.

We wish you all success in the forthcoming shows.



WILBER W. FOSS, *President*
Southern California Camellia Society



We are now in a period to which all camellia growers who plant seeds look forward: Some of our seedling plants are blooming or the buds are sizing up. What shall we do with them after we see the blooms?

Everybody of course has hope eternal that he will bring forth another 'Tiffany', which after all was originated by an amateur grower from only a handful of seeds. So it can happen to anybody. All of the camellia people whom I know, however, will be satisfied with something less than a 'Tiffany' and my question "what shall we do with them after we see the blooms?" goes to how far below the standard of 'Tiffany' we should go in retaining the plant. I can't answer the question for anybody but me, because this is a personal matter. I can give some ideas, however, which I have received from people who are in the business of growing camellias for other people.

It doesn't make any difference what you keep provided that you do not pass them on to other people. And this means all people, including your Aunt Jenny who would like to have it because it is your seedling and she thinks it is pretty.

Think carefully though if there is any chance that it will get into the hands of other people and particularly so if you are going to name it. Remember the following considerations:

1. Is the flower something new? Is it significantly different from all the thousands of named varieties we now have? The fact that it is a seedling does not assure that the flower will be different from all others. The bees are good but not so good that they guarantee a new flower from their activities. Joe and Julius Nuccio could name half a dozen "new" named varieties of recent years where the flower is a dead ringer of 'Tomorrow'.

2. If you have the slightest feeling that you may have something new, put the plant aside to hold. Make a couple of grafts of it. Then wait at least until the grafts bloom before you decide to keep it. Maybe this is all the testing you need or maybe another year for the grafted plants to grow will help.

3. Don't get itchy to see the flower and gib the buds, particularly if there are only one or two buds the first year. This only delays the time when you will really know if the seedling is any good. Gib it if you want to, after you know that the new seedling may have some merit.

4. Remember that seedlings make the best understock for grafting.

It is fun to bring forth a camellia seedling that other people want. I have done it once with 'Lulu Belle'. It first bloomed in 1961. I had an inner feeling of satisfaction last year when I learned that Nuccios had sold all the plants that they grafted with the wood I gave them in 1969.

Harold E. Oyler

A. C. S. ANNUAL MEETING IN PASADENA

All plans have been made by the Convention Committee of the Los Angeles Camellia Council, Caryll W. Pitkin, Chairman, for the Annual Meeting of the American Camellia Society which will be in Pasadena, California on February 25, 26 and 27, 1971. Convention headquarters will be the Huntington Sheraton Hotel, famous for many years for its atmosphere and facilities. This hotel was built in the early 1900's as a tourist hotel for people from the East who came to California by train to spend the winter. A block of rooms has been reserved for those who get their reservations in early enough.

Reservation starts Thursday, the 25th at 9 A.M. in the lobby of the Hotel. On Thursday evening all who are registered from outside the Los Angeles area will be dinner guests in the homes of local camellia people. This part of the program has been borrowed from the Sacramento committee that used it so successfully in connection with the 1966 A. C. S. Annual Meeting at Sacramento. Pre-registration, particularly by people who plan to arrive in Pasadena late in the day Thursday, will greatly facilitate the assignment of the registrants to the different homes for dinner. The local committee will call on California registrants from outside the Los Angeles area and who drive to Pasadena to assist in transporting the guests to dinner.

Friday will be spent in sight-seeing. The first thing in the morning busses with tour guides will take a short trip to places of interest in Pasadena, such as the Rose Bowl. Then all will visit the world renowned Huntington Botanical Gardens in adjacent San Marino. The Gardens are normally closed in the morning but Myron Kimmack, Curator of the Gardens, will have them opened on Friday morning especially for the guests of the Convention. About noon the bus-

ses will take guests to the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia where lunch will be served. The early afternoon will be spent touring the Arboretum by bus or by foot as desired. Many things of interest including plants from around the world will be seen.

Friday evening the new A. C. S. President, Judge Sherill Halbert of Sacramento, and A. C. S. Past Presidents will be honored with a champagne reception that will start at 6:00 P.M. Dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M. in the Huntington's beautiful Viennese Room. After dinner Milo Rowell of Fresno will talk about camellia judging, then David L. Feathers of Lafayette will talk about new trends in camellia seedlings and will show slides of some of the newest and best.

Saturday is the day for the big camellia show in Descanso Gardens, where the blooms will be displayed out of doors in this beautiful setting of California oaks. Guests will be bussed to and from the Huntington Sheraton Hotel. Judges will be entertained at breakfast at the Hospitality House of the Gardens. Others may visit local nurseries or gardens. Ladies will be taken to Pasadena's famous Lake Street for shopping if they desire.

On Saturday night the Southern California Camellia Society will host the cocktail party at the Hotel. Mr. and Mrs. Neville McMinn of Camellia Lodge Nursery in Melbourne, Australia have made a generous contribution to this party. The Viennese Room will be the setting for the traditional banquet that will follow the cocktail hour. There will be entertainment, a minimum of announcements and no long speeches.

The Huntington Sheraton Hotel has set a very special rate of \$19.50 per day for double occupancy of rooms.

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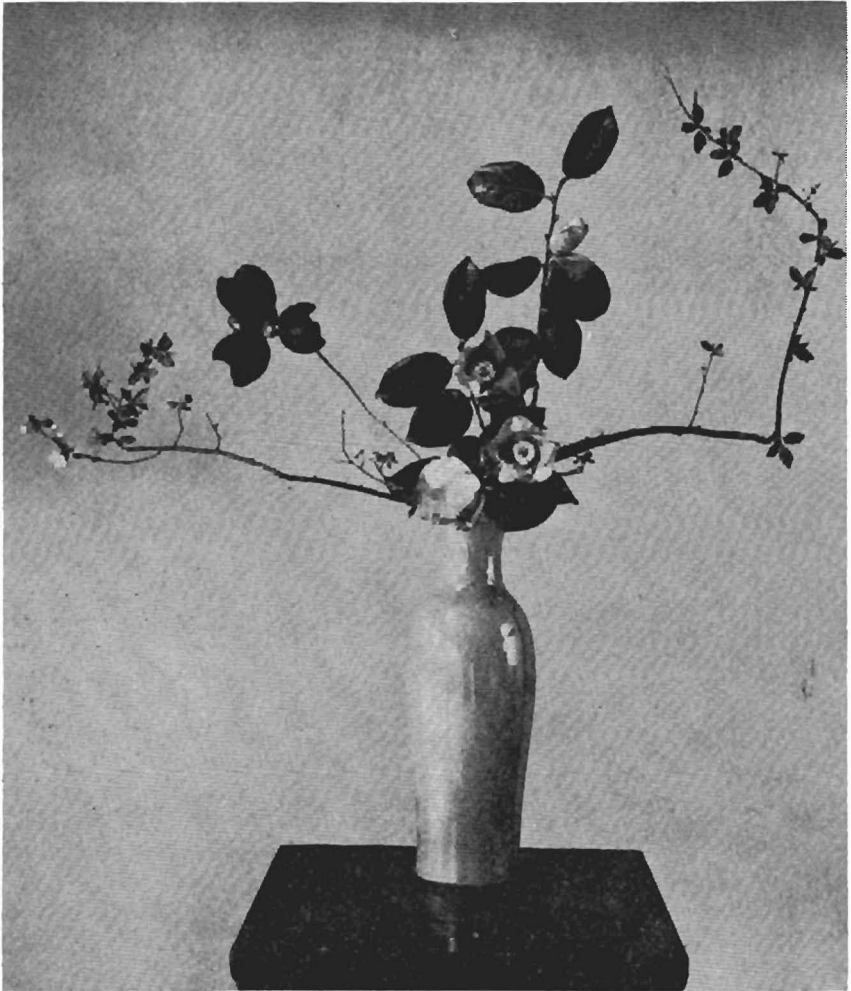
INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Mary Bernis Taylor
San Marino, California

An entrance hall of a French country house or a modernized Mexican hacienda, the lobby of an old inn in the Black Forest of Germany or England; any of these areas, as well as your own home, would be good locations for the arrangement of camellia and plum branches reproduced here. The casual appearance of this form in a tall container is a friendly, light hearted way to welcome guests. It is best appreciated if the arrangement

is placed on a table or chest against a wall. If the wall is plain, the lines and masses are more visible. Your guests will know that you planned the flowers for them.

The mottled white 'Dr. Max' camellia and its leaves were enjoyable to work with. We had the ready-made dramatic contrast of dark and light right in the blooms. The red variegations of 'Dr. Max' are surprising. The stems and leaves are beautiful in tex-



ture and the leaf placement on the strong but delicate looking branches is excellent.

The camellia blooms chosen showed the time development of the flowers. There is a fully opened blossom placed low. There are two half opened blooms placed higher and the promise of the future, a bud, placed highest.

The camellia material was arranged to be the focal point of the composition. The plum branch on the right, as you view it, is the primary line. The plum branch on the left is the secondary line of the design. Both primary and secondary branches or lines look toward the focal point — the camellia material or the tertiary grouping of lines. The placement of these materials in these groupings make a balanced design.

The type of container shown is a great assist in creating the look of unity. The tall graceful shape of the container, with the small opening, acts as a stem for the combined materials. This type of container or vessel has been used for hundreds of years. It is being reproduced in Taiwan today, and once in a while you can find its likeness here in America. When you find it, buy it. You may not have the opportunity again. The container will be a continuing joy, whether it is highly glazed or roughly finished. Your engineering technique, which any flower arranger has to develop in order to hold branches and flowers and grasses where she wants them, is easier in a container such as the ancient urn like form here shown. The walls of the container brace the stems nicely, if the ends of the stems are cut obliquely, so they can fit against the sides of the container. Also the smaller opening tends to let the branches and flowers hold each other in place.

Maybe your eye saw the imperfect leaves on the left side of the design. We put them there because the whole branch was just the size we wanted there to decorate the space. A small

imperfection in a leaf, if used in a design, has a philosophical meaning for students of oriental flower arranging and oriental culture. 'Life is not perfect and one must not expect it to be' is what the chewed leaves say to such students. An imperfect leaf gives character to the composition.

In previous discussions in the recent CAMELLIA REVIEWS we have emphasized the importance of making your arrangements three dimensional. In the picture here this design looks much flatter than it really is. The three largest camellia blooms thrust forward and the two highest branches are placed back of them. There is a small plum branch not seen behind the camellia material seen. The secondary plum branch on the left is placed farther to the back of the arrangement than the primary branch of plum on the right. Inexperienced arrangers make flat arrangements. Avoid this fault if possible. Look at all sides of your composition. Be sure your material reaches forward and back and up. Any art form must strive to suggest the three dimensions.

The freshness and simplicity of this design we think would be appreciated wherever people love flowers. In every country we have travelled we find all people love flowers. Flowers — fresh flowers — are always in the international scene. And especially flowers in tall containers.

Best Australian Bloom

Again this year the Pomona Valley Camellia Society will award a prize trophy for the best bloom originating in Australia. The Australian Camellia Research Society, South Australian Branch, has generously donated a lovely tray for this special division. Keep this category in mind when you enter your blooms in Pomona's Show at Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan building, February 20-21.

CAMELLIA CULTURE AS WE DO IT AT NUCCIO'S

Julius Nuccio

*Resume of talk at December 8, 1970 meeting of
Southern California Camellia Society*

When I started to prepare for this talk, I remembered that some years ago I wrote some articles for newspapers about camellia culture. I looked in my files and found that in 1948 I had written for the Pasadena Star News and in 1951 for the Los Angeles Times. I stated in these articles that camellias were easy to grow if given reasonable care — proper planting, not permitted to get too dry, some fertilizer three times a year. We used cotton seed meal for fertilizer then. We have gone out into left field from time to time in the years from then to now. We have experimented with fertilizers but are now on cotton seed meal as we were over 20 years ago. I could repeat tonight the outline of my articles of 1948 and 1951 and can still say that camellias are easy to grow with just a little attention to a few essential things.

I am asked which is to be preferred, a grafted plant or a plant on its own roots. Both are necessary in the nursery business. Grafting makes it possible for us to get the new varieties out quicker. Some varieties do not start well on their own roots and grafting is the only way to get them out in the quantity needed. 'Alba Plena' is such a variety. Some varieties are not happy on their own roots. Own root plants, when available, have two advantages over grafted plants. First, they cost you less at the nursery, about one-half as much. Second, they eliminate the possibility of an unsightly joint at the graft with the top outgrowing the lower part. I would choose the own root plant when it is available.

We use mostly seedlings for our grafting stock, which is natural for us since we plant thousands of seeds every year and only a very few of the seedlings are worth keeping. A

seedling plant must be healthy to produce a healthy grafted plant, which means it must have good roots. We have several opportunities to check the roots of seedlings as we report them and we discard those that do not have good roots as we detect them.

We grow camellias for all kinds of people — camellia collectors, people who plant camellias in their gardens, people who use hot fertilizers and those who do the minimum to keep the plants healthy. We use a soil mix that we think is satisfactory for all these different kinds of people. We use 50% silt that comes from back of Devil's Gate Dam in the Arroyo Seco, 25% peat moss and 25% ground fir bark. If the silt from the Arroyo Seco were not available, we would use in its place a sandy soil. We use the fine ground fir bark, called humus, because we have found that it mixes better than the coarser sizes. (In response to a question, Nuccio said the same situation applies in the case of peat moss.)

We are asked if plants purchased at our nursery should be repotted to the grower's own soil mix, having in mind that this step is frequently suggested. We do not think this is necessary, although a grower may want to do so in order to have a uniform soil mix for his container plants. When this is done we do not think that it is necessary to bare root the plant. A healthy plant in a one gallon container should be ready for a two gallon container after a year and there should be no concern about over-potting in such cases. As a general rule to follow, however, growers should guard against over-potting in containers because excess water does not run off the roots as it does in the ground and over-wet excess soil may adversely effect the roots. Assuming

that the ground soil drains properly, this problem does not exist when camellias are planted in the ground.

We are asked, "how often should I water camellias?" Nobody can answer this question for another person because the need for watering depends on needs of his own camellias. A little drying out will not harm camellias, in fact it will do them good if it is limited to a little dryness. Too much drying out, of course, is harmful. Likewise, keeping them too wet is harmful because the water in the over-soaked soil locks out the oxygen in the root system and causes the root rot that troubles all of us. The desirable rule to follow would be to water each plant as the plant dries out, which is obviously not practical. We water in sections in our nursery and water each section as plants in the section start to dry out. This means that some of them could wait a day or so longer, but under this system none of the plants will be too wet. A private camellia grower will often know his camellias well enough to know that certain of them will need more frequent watering than others will.

I have been asked whether camellias need more water when the buds are growing or are opening up. We are sometimes inclined to think that Fall has arrived with September and October and we can let up on the watering. We really have no Fall in Southern California, in fact, these may be our hottest months of the year, and we should watch the watering then as we do during the summer months. We should also remember that camellia flowers are about 80% water and that camellias must not get dry but should have the moisture around them maintained during the time of blooming.

Watering camellias in the ground is different from watering container grown plants. Here they should be given a thorough watering, then no more watering until they are dry. If

they appear to be dry on top but the soil below is still moist, a light watering will be sufficient until the plant is again ready for a thorough watering.

25 years ago we did not have the root rot problem so did not have to concern ourselves so much with watering schedules from the point of view of over-watering. Root rot is a problem today and we have found nothing to eliminate it.

Now to fertilizing. As I have said, we use cotton seed meal. We generally like to see people use a dry fertilizer because the fertilizer goes to the roots only as the plants are watered and it is almost impossible to over-fertilize unless a person tries hard. I know of one person who applied a couple of handfuls of dry fertilizer then watered heavily for several days to get it into the root system. That of course defeated the purpose of dry fertilizer which is to spread it out over the month or two between the fertilizing dates. This purpose is accomplished with us when the cotton seed meal is dampened so that it forms a cake and goes gradually to the roots as it dissolves. We suggest that this be done three times starting about when the new growth begins.

Some people like to apply initially a high nitrogen liquid fertilizer, believing that the plants thus get a fast start in the new growing period. Here we caution against applying too much of the liquid fertilizer at one time because it goes quickly into the root system and can be harmful. It also leaches out quickly when applied in correct amounts. When liquid fertilizer is thus used, we recommend that the last fertilizing be with dry fertilizer so that the value will be carried on as the watering dissolves it.

Some people like to fertilize throughout the year. In such cases the liquid fertilizer goes into the watering system in small amounts as indicated by people who know what they are doing. People can have

(Continued on next page)

trouble with a 12 months system unless they have a knowledge of chemistry or are guided completely by somebody who has such knowledge. We would not recommend that dry fertilizer be used in conjunction with a 12 months system.

I have been asked about late fertilizing to improve blooms, such as an 0-10-10 fertilizer (0 nitrogen, 10 phosphorous, 10 potash). We have not used this. If a person does so, he should wait at least 8 weeks after his last regular fertilizing, then give one or two feedings.

It might be well to remember that we have camellias in Pasadena that went through the depression in the 1930's and are still healthy and producing good blooms. If you make a mistake, do so on the under side of fertilizing rather than on the over side. We can kill camellias through kindness.

We are fortunate where our nursery is located in Altadena that we do not have a serious pest control problem that requires frequent spraying or dusting. We spray in March or early April before the new growth starts, and in the Fall before we start having blooms. We formerly used Malathion but now use Spectroicide. We spray if we have a heavy infestation of aphids but they are usually controlled by washing them off with water. We do not have much trouble with chewers. They are more of a problem in private gardens where there are trees and other shrubbery. If we have chewers in an area, we dust the plants in that area and the soil around them.

We have sprayed and dusted with Terraclor for petal blight but have given up. It controlled the blight but did not eradicate it. We have recently learned that Terraclor is now available in granule form and may try it again in this form. We believe that the most effective step for control is good culture and in keeping the fallen blooms off the ground. Years ago

when Harvey Short was at Coolidge's nursery in Pasadena, he brought in loads of shavings and spread them around the nursery, with good results in controlling the blight. The shavings had to be replaced every year, which, of course, is an expensive operation.

People say "I have done all these things, sprayed or dusted with Terraclor, picked up the flowers or picked them off the plant, and I still have petal blight. What can I do further?" The answer is that it takes every person in the area to work together. You may police your garden but it does you no good if your neighbor or others in the area do nothing and the wind blows their spores to you.

We do not do some of the things that you people do. We do not disbud. Our customers like to have buds on the plants they buy and to do their own disbudding if it is needed. When you disbud, be sure you leave on small as well as large buds to spread the blooming period. We do not prune as you do, chiefly because we do not own plants until their maturity. We prune young plants by topping them.

Now, who has questions?

- Q.** Is there any reason against washing off the plants a few days after spraying?
- A.** No.
- Q.** What do you do about grass hoppers?
- A.** Catch them. I know no other effective way.
- Q.** When is the best time to repot?
- A.** January, February and March.
- Q.** How long should we wait after repotting before we use a plant for grafting stock?
- A.** At least until the plant has become established in the new container, at least 90 days. (A person in the audience with broad experience said he waits a full growing season.)
- Q.** Should fresh fir bark be used in the soil mix?

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MICKE GROVE PARK

The February 1970 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW* carried an article by Helen Dobson Brown of Sacramento about the K. O. Hester Camellia Garden at Micke Grove, near Stockton, California. It is timely at the start of the 1971 camellia season in California that this garden be called to the at-

tention of camellia people who will be traveling Highway 99 between Los Angeles and Sacramento, because it is destined to be one of the fine camellia gardens in California and is now of such quality to be worth the short time it takes to drive the few miles
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The camellia garden in Micke Grove Park contains over 500 camellia plants, including a group of lesser and little known species of camellias that are seldom seen by most camellia growers.

BEGINNERS LUCK

Janet Meyer

Glendora, California

Now is the time for all good men to get a head start on the Camellia "pros" and shows this month. The camellia grower with ten plants in his garden has a very good chance of walking away with the best bloom in any division of any show. With a few plants to watch you can baby each one, watch each bud and hover over individual blooms as they open.

Equipment you should obtain during the blooming season is simple. A good set of pruning sheers and a bag of clothespins! Yes, clothespins. You have disbudded well and now must check for occasional leaves that, because of their proximity to the bud, could cause an irregularity in the formation of your bloom or, worse, bruise petals as the flower opens. If a branch or leaf is in the way use the pruning sheers and trim the branch back to the growth bud. You probably would want to remove this cross branch during pruning season anyway. If only a leaf or two is in your way take advantage of the clothespins. Pin leaves back to the plant's branches or to another leaf. They may even help to keep that flower from brushing against other leaves during a slight breeze.

When the blooms are open, select a flower true to its type (description in the Camellia Nomenclature) and as nearly perfect as possible in formation, color and substance. Examine it critically for any blemish, looking for irregularities in petal and stamen formation. Avoid the use of aged blooms that lack lustre and substance, or blooms where the colors have begun to fade, or even turn a little blue.

Flowers should be cut on stems of about two inches with one or two leaves and placed gently, with ample space between blooms to prevent bruising. Use a shallow tray, the bottom of which has been covered

with a layer of paper towels and shredded wax paper, to collect blooms in the garden. Early mornings and late afternoons or evenings are the best times to cut your flowers. Blooms picked during the heat of the day will be soft and floppy when picked and will be of poor quality by show time.

There are various methods of packing blooms for transport to the show. One of the simplest and most satisfactory methods is in shallow cardboard boxes. Printers and meat packers have such containers. Even Sears Roebuck may furnish such transportation. Be sure these boxes have lids. As you transport your blooms you do not want sun to shine on them nor do you wish to lose the humidity that will form in a closed container. The bottom of the transport boxes may be covered with fine paper as on the tray you used to carry blooms from the garden. Milk bottle caps make perfect cups to nestle among the paper in your box. About $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch of water in the lid will keep the base of your flower stem moist. A damp cotton ball in the milk lid will serve as well. You may have to trim your bloom stems before they will fit securely in the lid. Moisture in small amounts should be sprayed on the paper in your box before placing blooms. Humidity around camellias is a must.

After you arrive at the show with your few flowers your blooms are examined again, and damaged or aged stamens are carefully removed with tweezers. The foliage, if dirty or stained, is then gently cleaned with your finger or a very small piece of cheese cloth (slightly oiled). Avoid contact with the bloom at this time. White varieties seem to travel with less success, so don't be upset with a

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA JUDGING SYMPOSIUM

The judging symposium that was held on January 16, 1971 at Concord, California under the sponsorship of the Northern California Camellia Council had an attendance of about 70 people, from Sebastopol and Sacramento in the north to Fresno in the south. Discussion got under way about 10:30 in the morning and lasted until about 3:30 with one hour out for lunch. Jack Mandarich, President of the Council, opened the meeting and Bob Earhart was Chairman. Harold Dryden served as Moderator.

The discussion generally followed the pattern of the discussion at the meeting in Glendale on October 24, 1970 which was reported in the January 1971 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW* under the title "Guide-Posts For Camellia Show Judges". Some differences in views were expressed with regard to some of the conclusions at the Glendale meeting but these contrary views were not confirmed by the majority.

Exception was taken to the statement that in judging miniatures "no additional credit should be given for smallness of bloom," on the basis that the purpose of miniatures is smallness and that an exhibitor who attains this purpose should receive credit for doing so. The same exception was raised at Glendale.

The view was expressed that judges who know miniatures should be selected to judge the Miniatures Division, and that there should be no concern over the possibility that an exhibitor might be faced with judging his own bloom.

There was extended discussion regarding the use of a point schedule in judging, largely from the point of view of the mechanics of using such a schedule. Most of the people voted in favor of the following two items which were covered in a motion which was properly made and seconded: (1) A Show Committee may set up a schedule of points for the guidance

of judges and the schedule should be printed in connection with the Show Rules. (2) A person who accepts an invitation to judge in a show also accepts the responsibility of abiding by the Show Rules, including the schedule of points, that the Show Committee has set up. Discussion after the motion was passed emphasized the important part that the Chairman of Judges should play in pointing out that all judges should observe this admonition.

David L. Feathers of Lafayette discussed the significance of the two categories "Freshness and Substance" and "Condition" that are used in some of the point schedules of Northern California shows, with a maximum of 20 points for the former and 15 points for the latter. "Freshness and Substance" is intended to reflect the natural condition of the flower at the time of judging as influenced by the culture it has had and the effects of weather. "Condition" is intended to reflect the effects of blemishes, if any, that are due to contacts with other objects.

Several speakers pointed out the importance of camellia show judges knowing the varieties they are judging, and in the absence of personal knowledge of a variety, seeking information regarding usual size, form, etc. in the area from which the blooms in the show would normally come.

There was also discussion regarding blooms that have not stood up throughout the show, due in some cases to the blooms having been held for several days before the date of entry. It was agreed that the judge has the responsibility to judge a flower as it is at the time of judging and not to try to anticipate what might occur to the flower later. It was also agreed that a judge should be alert to any condition of the flower that might indicate that it has passed its peak of perfection.

CLASSIFICATION OF SEEDLINGS

David L. Feathers
Lafayette, California

The following paper was presented at the Judging Symposium that was held January 16, 1971 at Concord, California under the sponsorship of The Northern California Camellia Council

Editor's note: The Editor will welcome comments on Mr. Feathers' recommendation, for publication in subsequent issues of Camellia Review.

When I entered my first competitive bloom in a Camellia Show 25 years ago there were but 10 classes, all japonica — no reticulatas, hybrids or miniatures. The following year (1947) the single flower class was reduced to 6 but the same number of classes added for 3's as well as 2 classes each of 6's and 12's, making a total of 16 flower classes — a 60% increase! Two years later, the total rose to 22, segregated entirely according to form as before, irrespective of color — 8 classes each of singles and 3's, 4 multile flower classes and, for the first time, a class each for Reticulatas and Seedlings. Thus, in 4 years, the number of different classes to judge had more than doubled — from 10 to 22. It stayed this way until 1953, when we reduced to 20 classes, dropping the 6's.

In 1954, we abandoned the classification by Form which had prevailed for 10 years and adopted varietal classification for singles and 3's irrespective of species, plus 2 classes of 12's and the Seedling class, or 5 major divisions now but hundreds of sub-divisions. A year later we added 7's and segregated out the Reticulatas again, this time into singles, threes, sevens and twelves, as with japonicas. In 1956, we added both a Hybrids and a species class. Another class was added in 1962 when Seedlings were segregated into Japonica and Hybrids. Reticulata seedlings were added in 1963 and a Miniature class in 1964. Two Special Culture classes were added in 1965. In 1967, 3's in Boutonnieres and Hybrids, Show Judges' collections and another division of

Seedlings — Boutonnieres — were added, which continued in 1968 and is about our present arrangement. I cite this history of developments in classification at our Shows merely to illustrate to what considerable extent it has been found necessary to adjust to the progress in camellia development. Without these changes the situation today would be chaotic and the judging results meaningless. Because of this constant adjustment, the job of judging at a Camellia Show today is, in my opinion, much simpler than it was 25 years ago when the only segregations we had were according to form.

This awareness of the necessity of change in the named-variety classification has not, however, been accompanied by similar expansion and improvement in the classification of Seedlings. While some progress has been made, it seems to me there has been some reluctance to keep pace with developments in seedlings such as we have with the commercial varieties, notwithstanding that the task of judging Seedlings, which are thrown together irrespective of marked differences in size, form and color, is much more difficult than that of determining the best flower out of a group of the same variety. The only thing I can compare with judging of Seedlings is the job of picking the Best Flower in the Show. But even that is easier because all the judges know what an outstanding flower of that particular variety should look like. Consequently, it would follow that only the most experienced judges should be assigned to the Seedling table.

Getting back to the developments and improvements involved in classi-

fication of named varieties, on what principles have these operated? First, we merely segregated the flowers according to form, without regard to color, size or kind. Next we found it desirable to segregate out the *Reticulatas* — classification by species or parentage. The immense increase in available commercial varieties now dictated that we classify by variety in two main categories — *japonica* and *reticulata* (*sasanquas* also came in briefly). Then came the *Hybrids* — another main category segregated by variety. Finally, we found it desirable to separate the little ones from the big ones, giving birth to the first recognition that relative size is important — the *Boutonnieres* or *Minia-tures* were segregated. History has proved that, as the quantity and type of camellia exhibits increases, so does the necessity of keeping pace by increasing the amount of segregation. Thus, the evolution of classification has been from Form, to Type (Species) to Size.

Now, has the classification of Seedlings kept pace with the great changes in the classification of named varieties? Not at all, largely because the *volume* of Seedling exhibits has always been numerically much smaller, although the *rate* of quantity increase has probably been about the same. The original single class — Seedlings, period — was expanded only 9 years ago by separating the *Hybrids* from *Japonicas*, then 8 years ago a further division — *Reticulatas* — was added. Just 5 years ago, we recognized the Size-segregation principle by separating *Hybrids* into *With* and *Without* Retic parentage and reinforced this decision 4 years ago by providing a *Boutonniere* class in the Seedlings. Thus the principle of segregation of Seedlings by size has already begun. However, we still have no separation according to form or color as is the case with the named varieties. From here on, the growth or expansion factor will be vastly greater with Seed-

lings than with named varieties, for the simple reason that any increase in named varieties is largely dependent upon the selection of a few good ones from the many new seedlings exhibited. Thus the very area demanding the greatest attention has been receiving the least. To illustrate what is in the works, let me just say that practically every member of our 16-man Research Committee¹ is doing hybridizing and growing seedlings and from this source alone in the next few years will come thousands of new seedlings and hundreds meriting public exhibit. Many other members in our Society are growing seedlings, as well.

How do we prepare for what is obviously ahead of us? First, we must adopt the simplest but yet the most practical method of separating these diversified, previously unseen camellias into the least number of groupings that will provide a fair comparison and facilitate judging. On what basis should this be: Parentage, Form, Color or Size? Ideally, of course, and comparable with named varieties, the segregation would be on all 4 bases. This may come eventually, but at the present time the quantity of Seedling exhibits and space considerations do not justify it. Segregation by Parentage alone is no longer valid, because of the diversity of *Hybrids* (this principle has already been recognized), the difficulty in confirming hybridity and the further fact that we are now about to get very small *Hybrids* and *Reticulatas* which, if entered against the immense ones, would be ridiculous. Segregation by Form will not do either because of the Size disparity. How about Color? Desirable, but still not satisfactory because of the same Mutt and Jeff relationship. This seems to leave only *Size* as the controlling factor — a principle that has already been recognized and seem-

¹ Northern California Camellia Society Research Committee

(Continued on next page)

ingly giving satisfactory results. As a matter of fact, rightly or wrongly, Size is THE controlling factor in camellia popularity today. Size is the Great God we all bow low before — rabidly or reluctantly. All other things being equal, a big flower wins over a small flower. If you don't believe this, check the Honor Table some time. This fact is so well accepted that we now have separate Trophy Awards according to Size classes. Recognizing this as an established fact where named varieties are concerned, we cannot ignore it where Seedling classification is concerned. Your 3-inch bloom just hasn't a chance against the other fellow's 6" seedling, regardless of comparative beauty. This situation must not be allowed to continue.

Consequently, I recommend the immediate and universal adoption of the principle of segregation of all Seedling classes according to one criterion only — size of the flower — and the incorporation into the Seedling table of a scale in inches — 2 to 5 — so that the exhibitor can properly place his blooms into the correct one of either 4 or 5 sub-divisions, as follows:

- Miniature: not over 2")
- Small: Over 2" not over 3")
- May be combined into Small
3" or less
- Medium: Over 3" not over 4"
- Large: Over 4" not over 5"
- Very Large: Over 5"

My only other suggestion is that seedlings be given natural and adequate light, without which color comparisons are impossible.

(Editor's note: Just before going to press I received the following letter from Mr. Feathers. As he states, the letter is supplemental to the paper that he read at the Judging Symposium, and I am therefore running it immediately following that paper.)

My purpose in writing is to attempt to clarify and perhaps supplement

some of the thoughts set forth in the paper I presented on Classification of Seedlings, which you took with you. This was not prepared for publication and probably should have some amplification.

In discussing my proposals with others after the meeting, I made it clear that there was no attempt to advocate that all shows adopt the maximum 5 segregations set forth at the end of the paper. I felt, rather, that the number of segregations should not be less than three (Small, Medium and Large) nor more than five (Miniature, Small, Medium, Large and Very Large) the choice depending upon the judgment of each Show Committee based largely upon the number of entries customarily received (or anticipated) in the Seedling Class. For example, should the number of entries anticipated be 25 or less, no doubt the minimum number (3) segregations would suffice, but if 100 were expected, it would greatly facilitate judging to divide them into the full 5 categories. The Peninsula Show, both this year and last, uses the full five divisions. At our NCCS Show last year we used three divisions — Boutonniere, Medium and Large.

One point I neglected to mention in my paper was that consideration should be given to a separate Scale of Points for judging Seedlings. Carroll Reiners raised this question in his excellent article in the 1968 ACS YEAR-BOOK "Camellia Judging" (Page 81). Obviously, as he says "20 points across the board is not justified" in this matter. Very little should be awarded for Condition, which really has very little to do with the merit or lack of merit of a new Seedling. To a perhaps lesser extent, this is also true of Size. As Edwards Metcalf has long advocated, when it comes to Seedlings, Distinctiveness or Novelty must be regarded as the most important consideration. ACS rules that, in order to be eligible for a Provisional

Highly Commended Certificate, a seedling must be *likely to make some new and valuable addition to the genus Camellia*. For years, I have had a first class new seedling that I have never exhibited simply because it is too much like **GUILIO NUCCIO**.

I do not think, though, that the word "Distinctiveness" is completely appropriate as expressing the most important characteristic in a new seedling. Like our present use of the word "Condition" in attempting to describe Substance, Age and Damage, I feel that it is too all-inclusive. Certainly, new Color or Form or extremely heavy petal thickness would come under such a broad heading as "Distinctiveness". Perhaps "Originality" might be less broad but I really cannot think of a term — "Novelty", "Uniqueness" or whatever, that does not tend to duplicate what would normally be scored under Size, Form, Color, and Substance. The more I think about it, the more I am inclined to the view that the simplest way to adjust the scoring scale to Seedlings would be simply to drop the remainder of the scale entirely and award, on an equal basis, 25% each to Size, Form, Color and Substance, for that is really all there is to account for in a new camellia. If two seedlings score equally on this basis, then the award could be decided on the basis of Condition. However, Foliage quality would enter into it and, inasmuch

as all seedlings should have a leaf sample attached, perhaps there might properly be an added category, Foliage, which could get up to 10 points additional. Actually, Foliage has nothing to do with the merit of the Flower and is not scored as such in judging the named varieties but is used as a penalty where the show rules call for foliage and it is absent. If we start evaluating Foliage in judging the seedling Flower, we are getting on thin ice for then the Plant Vigor, Growth Habit, etc., should enter into it.

MICKE GROVE (Continued)

off Highway 99 to visit it.

Kenneth O. Hester of Stockton started the camellia garden on its way with a gift of 350 choice camellias to San Joaquin County for planting in Micke Grove Park. He has given additional plants to the garden since it was opened in 1965 and there are now over 500 camellia plants in the garden.

Micke Grove Park, a wooded area of 60 acres that is canopied by giant native oaks, is a part of the San Joaquin Park System. It is located about 10 miles north of Stockton and 38 miles south of Sacramento. To reach it, go one-half mile west off Highway 99 on the Armstrong Road turn off, then one-quarter mile south of Armstrong on Micke Grove Road.

RELEASING

NUCCIO'S GEM

'Red Emperor'

'Otto Hopper'

'Marc Eleven'

'Water Lily'

'Rob Roy'

'Valentine Day'

NUCCIO'S
NURSERIES

3555 CHANEY TRAIL
ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA 91002
Phone **794-3383**

CAMELLIA SHOW EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES -- 1971

Camellia people attend camellia shows to exhibit their own blooms, to see flowers that are grown by others, to associate with other camellia growers as they place their blooms on the show tables, and to attend the lunches and dinners that are increasingly being scheduled by the host societies. *CAMELLIA REVIEW* gives herein a resume of these "extracurricular activities" that are scheduled to be held in connection with 1971 camellia shows in California.

The California camellia season opens in San Diego and the San Diego Camellia Society will have their customary no-host dinner on Saturday night, February 6th. A large group from the Los Angeles area always attends this show. Most of this group stays at the same motel in San Diego's Mission Valley, and there is the pleasure of being together on Saturday afternoon after they have seen the show and at Sunday breakfast as the people drift into the dining room. There is always somebody in the Southern California or Pacific Camellia Society to coordinate the motel reservations.

The first Northern California show will be that of the Peninsula Camellia Society at Redwood City February 13-14. Following completion of judging, Mr. and Mrs. Charles O'Malley will host a luncheon (and personality improvement hour) for the show judges and other guests in their near-by Woodside home.

Social events at the time of the Descanso Gardens show on February 27-28 will be those which are related to the A. C. S. Annual Meeting in Pasadena. Plans for the Annual Meeting were covered in the November 1970 issue of *CAMELLIA REVIEW*.

two affairs in connection with their show on Saturday, March 6th. There will be a no-host luncheon following

The Bakersfield people will arrange completion of judging the show. Then in the evening there will be the usual no-host dinner. If former years can be a guide, this dinner will be in a Basque restaurant or will be a Chinese dinner personally supervised by Lee and Arlene Chow.

Fresno will have their usual no-host dinner on the Saturday night preceding the show. They also serve a no-host lunch on Sunday after the judging has been completed.

Modesto will hold a no-host dinner on the Saturday night of their show, March 20th. While the future is never certain, the E. & J. Gallo Company, on whose winery premises the show will be held, has in the past come forth with champagne which enlivens the evening.

The show season and the camellia social season end at Santa Rosa in connection with the show of the Sonoma County Camellia Society. A no-host luncheon and tea will be served on both days of the show in the Faculty Lunch Room of the Doyle Student Center. A no-host dinner will be held on Saturday evening, March 27, at the Los Robles Lodge, Santa Rosa.

BEGINNERS (Continued)

flower that was perfect on the plant and is a mess of bruises when you get it to the show.

Keep in mind the old adage "The early bird catches the worm." Get yourself out in the cold garden air about 6:00 A.M. Take your time selecting and transporting blooms as well as placing them in the show. You will then find that you will be on your way home about 1:00 P.M. with the sweet smell of success in your nostrils.

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE -- 1971

Date	Sponsor	Location
Feb. 6-7	San Diego Camellia Society	Conference Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego
Feb. 13-14	Temple City Camellia Society	L. A. County Arboretum Lecture Hall, Arcadia
Feb. 13-14	Peninsula Camellia Society	Veterans Memorial Bldg., 1455 Madison Ave., Redwood City
Feb. 20-21	Pomona Valley Camellia Society	Pomona First Federal Savings & Loan Assn. 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona
Feb. 20-21	Santa Clara County Camellia Society	Student Union Bldg., San Jose City College, San Jose
Feb. 27-28	Los Angeles Camellia Council	Descanso Gardens La Canada
Feb. 27-28	Delta Camellia Society	Pittsburg High School Pittsburg
March 6-7	Camellia Society of Sacramento	Memorial Auditorium 15th & J Sts., Sacramento
March 6-7	Camellia Society of Kern County	Mall of Valley Plaza Shopping Center, Ming and Wible Road, Bakersfield (new location)
March 7	Central California Camellia Society	Cafeteria, Fresno City College* E. Weldon at College Ave., Fresno (Change from January Schedule)
March 13-14	Northern California Camellia Society	Sun Valley Shopping Center, Concord
March 20-21	Camellia Society of Modesto	Palm Court of E. & J. Gallo Administration Bldg., Modesto
March 27-28	Sonoma County Camellia Society	Doyle Student Center, Santa Rosa Junior College, Santa Rosa

STRONG

VIGOROUS

SEEDLING

UNDERSTOCK

SASANQUA and JAPONICA

McCASKILL GARDENS

25 SOUTH MICHILLINDA AVENUE

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

CAMELLIA SHOWS -- AS OTHERS DO THEM

Harold E. Dryden

As final plans are made for the staging of the February 27-28, 1971 camellia show at Descanso Gardens, it is interesting to compare ourselves with the way the people of Sydney, Australia do it for their annual show in Sydney. Our show at Descanso Gardens is outdoors. The Sydney show is indoors, in an auditorium named Blaxland Gallery in a mid-city Sydney department store. We hold our show over the two-day week-end. The Sydney show is for the three days starting with Monday. Our purpose is to stage a competitive show, with the entries of flowers arranged by name of variety within divisions according to species of camellia. The show is judged to pick winners, by names of growers and of varieties. The purpose of the Sydney show is to present an artistic display of camellias, with named varieties grouped without regard to the names of people who have grown the individual glooms. The Sydney show is not judged, or at least was not judged in 1967 when I saw both the staging of the show and the final result.

For our show, the individual exhibitors place their own flowers according to the set-up of the show tables. In Sydney, individuals are assigned responsibilities to decorate the different tables, using varieties that a planning committee has designated for use table by table. The decorator uses his or her (mostly her) judgment as to how the blooms will be arranged and what other decorative material may be used to supplement the camellia blooms. On Sunday morning, the growers pick their blooms, possibly assisted by a group of "pickers" who go from garden to garden to help. The blooms are then transported to Blaxland Gallery, where they are sorted by variety. There are not as many varieties of camellias growing in Australia as there are in America, con-

sequently the job of sorting blooms is not as great as we might visualize it to be. There is one situation, however, that does complicate the problem: the blooms are not always identified by name when they arrive at the Gallery. The "decorators" obtain their flowers from this central point.

There is one other difference of significance. We open our shows by opening the door, or at Descanso, by removing the guards that block the paths along the show tables in the public operated Gardens. In Australia, however, camellia shows are "opened" with a formal ceremony that is attended by the people who have arrived for the show's opening.

The August 1970 show was a part of Australia's Bi-Centenary International Festival; consequently, the other camellia growing states of Australia (Queensland, Victoria and South Australia), and New Zealand furnished flowers for the show. To carry out the international flavor, varieties were grouped according to country of origin.

The local color of the show and of its staging can best be given by quoting from Eric Craig's article in the Australian Camellia Research Society's "Camellia News", titled "International Festival Was Prettiest Camellia Show Yet".

"The organising executive of the Society's second National Camellia Show was delighted with the result, and they had good reason to be. Fifteen thousand visitors packed the Blaxland Gallery in mid-city Sydney through the three days of our Bi-Centenary International Festival on August 3, 4, and 5. Despite unfavourable blooming conditions in Queensland and New South Wales, South Australia teamed with Victoria and New Zealand to air-express some magnificent camellias to Sydney.

"If there was one disappointment

for the organisers it was the fact that, despite widespread pre-publicity, our Bi-Centenary Festival and its associated camellia-season celebrations attracted so few camellia lovers from overseas. Perhaps some of our good overseas friends will write and tell us what Australia still has to do to win more of their interest? Perhaps the inauguration of 747 Jumbo-Jet service later this year will make our island continent of the South Seas a little closer for many Northern Hemisphere folk we would have loved to welcome on the occasion.

"Setting up the exhibition started shakily, when arrival of the bloom-holding dishes was delayed for over an hour by fine-weather Sunday afternoon traffic congestion. However, a great session of teamwork (and an invigorating "teatime" of chicken sandwiches and champagne) got things really moving.

"Members from South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and Illawarra gave splendid assistance to groups from New South Wales and St. George branches, who were responsible for the various international displays.

"Lists of blooms had been pre-sorted according to country of origin. Before long we commenced to see camellias grouped as we'd never seen them before — the Chinese camellias, the American camellias, the Japanese camellias, the European camellias, the New Zealand camellias, and the Australian camellias. It was something of a surprise to discover where many of our favourites had originally come from!

"About 8 P.M. Bloom Coordinator Len Bray and helpers triumphantly arrived with boxes and boxes of lovely blooms, air-expressed from Adelaide and Melbourne by Ansett Airlines. Thanks to expert packing by enthusiastic members in South Australia and Victoria, and "kid-glove" handling by Ansett, the blooms opened up in first class condition. They really gave "fin-

ishing touch sparkle" for completion of the opening day display.

"However, as anticipated, one of the greatest interest presentations was the display of fifty Bonsai camellia plants by Len and Edith Webber of Epping, N.S.W. Len is Australia's only official teacher of Bonsai horticulture in Australia. The beautifully shaped camellias were a revelation to us all. Some plants eight or nine years old were actually growing in pots as tiny as two square inches.

"The much-publicised husband and wife Official Opening for the Festival was thwarted by a Federal Cabinet call from Canberra for External Affairs Minister William McMahon. However, Mrs. McMahon did a superb solo job.* Her Monday morning speech to a packed gallery was knowledgeable, witty, and charming. After declaring the Festival officially open, Mrs. E. Utick, wife of St. George branch President, presented Mrs. McMahon with a gracious basket of 'Dr. Tinsley' camellias, which Mrs. Utick had grown and beautifully arranged. And for her growing collection of camellia plants, Professor E. G. Waterhouse presented Mrs. McMahon with a fine large plant of 'Dr. Tinsley', which we'd learnt was one of her favourites.

"Monday night brought another triumph for Len Bray's confidence in camellia people cooperation — boxfuls of really exciting blooms rushed across the Tasman from New Zealand by Australia's intertaional airline, Quantas. It was a heart-warming expression of interest by our New Zealand neighbours, a typical example of skillful fragile-freight handling by Quantas, and a bouquet for the courteous co-operation of the Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine
(Continued on page 21)

* I had the pleasure and honor of officially opening the 1967 show at Blaxland Gallery, a last-minute substitute for a government official who was prevented by duty from attending the ceremony.

BLOOM SEEDLINGS FASTER BY GRAFTING!

Jack Osegueda

Northern California Research Committee Member
Oakland, California

Growing hundreds of Camellia seedlings strictly as an amateur hobbyist, the writer has always grown his plants under natural conditions. Without the use of a greenhouse, heating cables, lights, etc. to accelerate the growth rate of seedlings, it usually requires 5 or more years for plants to bloom "in the open". With the acquisition of more growing areas and with retirement in sight, I plan a large glasshouse with all facilities in pursuit of my hobby.

However, in the past four years, to speed up blooming time of seedling Camellias and to preserve certain plants that might die in their struggle in open weather conditions, tiny seedlings have been grafted. Seed is planted about October and the resulting plants are 3" to 5" about March. The most promising hand pollinated offspring then "lose their heads". The tiny 1/2" to 1" tips of the seedlings with one or two leaves are carefully cut from the mother seedling. Painstaking cutting of the needle-size scion is like any other cleft graft but on a miniature scale. The use of a single edge razor blade has been found best in cutting the scion and in some cases the bark is just scraped off both sides of the soft wood.

Understock of about 1/2" is preferred, however it is thrifty practice to use multiple trunk understock with different seedling scions on each of the branches (all carefully labeled). On single stem understock if split down the center, use different scions on each side. Basic requirement is to place the tiny scion against the cambium layer of the understock and tie loosely with rubber grafting band, being careful not to crush the scion. A little study will indicate proper cutting and remember that a small portion of the cut scion must extend

above the understock so that the callus will knit over.

Sterile conditions are maintained. Clean off old soil at top of the container and add about an inch of sand, peat or sponge rock, then dust a fungicide such as Captan over leaves, cut and soil. Air tight plastic bags are preferred for covers instead of glass jars. In a glasshouse, callusing should start in a few weeks and within two months the scion will have knit firmly to the understock. In the colder outdoors it will take longer but it is usually safer. When using plastic bags as cover be sure to use short sticks or wire framework to hold bags above scion. Rubber band or string will hold the bag snug around the container. When callused, a small hole can be torn in the bag, enlarged later, then taken off completely. At this time the top cut of the understock is sealed with tree seal or grafting wax. Successful grafts result from good healthy understock, not sick plants. In containers they should be on the dry side. Soggy plants will usually die at the roots, the graft will knit, grow, dry up and you will find the cambium layer dead, yet the moisture allowed the scion to grow. If mold forms on fresh cut, wipe clean, air for several hours, dust with fungicide and return the jar or plastic bag, repeating if necessary.

Grafting from middle of February through March will result in 12" to 16" plants after growth occurs in the spring. In some cases (especially hybrids) flower buds will set in fall of the same year with blooms in winter. In other words, from seed to bloom within 18 months. Grafts not blooming the first season are sure to set buds the following year at which time plants will average 24" branched!

(Continued on page 24)

Rooting Camellia Cuttings

January 15, 1971

Mr. Harold E. Dryden
Editor, The Camellia Review
820 Winston Avenue
San Marino, California

Dear Mr. Dryden:

We would like to respond to Mr. Trehane's criticism (Camellia Review, January 1971 pp 22-24) of our November 1970 article in Camellia Review (pp 14-17). First let us point out that our studies are quantitative and are concerned with rate of rooting whereas Mr. Trehane's studies are more qualitative and are primarily concerned with whether or not the plants will root irrespective of the length of time required to obtain rooted cuttings. With this in mind the two studies agree quite well. We are certainly pleased that Mr. Trehane has taken the time to report his observations.

Mr. Trehane is concerned about our small sample size. It is necessary to mention that sample size is not as important as experimental design. We employed a balanced lattice square experimental design with 6 plants of each of 25 varieties in each of 6 treatments; a total of 900 cuttings. The data presented in our article were only representative of the total obtained. The fact that we have subsequently substantiated by larger experiments much of the data reported indicates that the preliminary data were reliable.

We were surprised that Mr. Trehane did not recognize the "virus" for what it really was, namely, salt accumulation which results from the interaction of intermittent mist and intense sunlight. This residue characteristically accumulates on the plant leaves rooted by the above procedure due to

the high salt content of our local water.

Sincerely,

George P. Hanson

George P. Hanson
Senior Biologist
L.A. County Arboretum

A. C. S. (Continued)

Convention headquarters will be the San Marino Room in the Hotel, where coffee and cookies will be served at all hours.

Transportation will be available on Sunday for visitors who will wish to visit local gardens and nurseries.

The registration fee is \$25.00 per person and will cover transportation, three dinners, two cocktail parties and the Friday lunch. The price is \$10.00 per person for the Saturday night cocktail hour and dinner for people who will attend only this affair.

Advance registrations should be sent to Mrs. Pat Novak, Registration Chairman, 6516 Murietta Ave., Van Nuys, Calif. 91401. Checks should be made payable to Los Angeles Camellia Council. Chairman Caryll Pitkin has asked that registrations be sent to Mrs. Novak promptly so that the Committee may have early indications of the number of people who will attend.

CAMELLIA SHOWS (Continued)

officers. Tuesday's Festival gained new appeal with the 'fresh from New Zealand camellias — never before seen in Australia'.

"After a Tuesday-night 'discard and replace' exercise by a small team of N.S.W. and St. George branch enthusiasts, Wednesday's showing was thought by many to be the best of the three days."

WHAT A GARDENER SHOULD KNOW ABOUT FERTILIZERS

Myron S. Anderson¹

Reprinted from *Lasca Leaves*,
publication of California Arboretum Foundation, Inc.

Fertilizer is a term that is not easy to define in such a way as to include all the materials sometimes added to soil for the improvement of plant growth. In the general trade, fertilizers for soil improvement fall into three groups, primary, secondary and minor constituents. The primary group includes constituents carrying the chemical elements nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Nitrogen is stated on the bag as the element N and is added to promote green plant growth. Phosphorus, stated as the oxide (P_2O_5), aids the health of plants, improves growth of roots and to a moderate extent hastens crop maturity. Potassium, also stated as the oxide (K_2O), helps the plant to make better use of sunlight and also improves root growth.

The secondary constituents include compounds carrying the chemical elements calcium, magnesium and sulfur. Calcium and sulfur are frequently included as a part of the compounds carrying the primary constituents. Thus some of the nitrogen may be in the form of ammonium sulfate that contains a substantial percentage of sulfur. Furthermore, a chemical compound may also have calcium and sulfur in its composition.

In some areas soils are deficient in one or more minor elements such as iron, boron, copper, zinc, manganese or occasionally a few others. This lack of adequacy of certain elements in the soil may sometimes be detected by characteristic abnormalities in the appearance of plant leaves. Lowered crop yield as measured by both quantity and quality often results. Misshaped apples due to boron deficiency is a well-known example of the latter. These minor elements are so-called because the quantities present and

needed are normally very small. Such constituents as compounds of copper and zinc, for instance, are usually stated as a few parts per million in a fertilizer mixture rather than by percentage as is the case with primary constituents.

A gardener should learn to recognize the chemical composition of a mixed fertilizer by the symbols on the bag or box. One of the very commonly used fertilizers of relatively low analysis is designated as 5-10-5. This means that five percent of the weight of the material in the bag is nitrogen. This nitrogen is present as a constituent of one or more chemical compounds in the mixture. The middle number, in this case 10, designates the percentage of the mixture that is phosphorus expressed as the oxide, P_2O_5 . This is not, however, the chemical form in which the phosphorus actually exists. The third number, 5, represents the potassium of the mixture. The five percent is actually the amount of potassium stated as the oxide.

In a 5-10-5 fertilizer, the total quantity of primary plant nutrients thus adds up to 20 percent. The remaining 80 percent is made up of several items. The plant nutrients are in chemical combination with secondary elements or with other materials of non-fertilizing nature. A high-grade fertilizer material such as ammonium nitrate contains about 40 percent of nitrogen available to plants when placed in the soil. The remainder is a chemical carrier, not plant nutrients. A fertilizer such as 5-10-5 also contains materials known as conditioners. These are added to improve the physical condition of the mixed goods, especially to restrain caking. Inert material of low cost, called

filler, is added to adjust the mixture to the total percentage stated on the bag.

Methods of fertilizer application vary somewhat with soil character, moisture present and kind of crop grown. In many places it is well to apply about 10 to 15 pounds of a mixed fertilizer such as 10-10-10 to one thousand square feet of area. This is plowed or spaded in and the soil properly conditioned for planting. When seeds are planted or small plants transplanted a small handful of perhaps 5-10-5 fertilizer per linear yard is placed in a shallow trench about four inches to one side of the plant row at a depth of four inches. When a second crop is grown without preliminary plowing the rate of application of fertilizer may be somewhat less than that used for the first planting.

Fertilizers of different grades are usually carried in garden stores. For best results a gardener frequently uses fertilizers of two or more grades. The 5-10-5 material has long been on the market and is widely used for growing many kinds of flowers and vegetables. The 10-6-4 grade is often recommended for use on lawns, while root crops usually respond well to 5-10-10. The 10-10-10 grade serves well to build up garden soil productivity.

Care should be taken to use proper amounts of fertilizer for the area involved. The method of application should be suitable. Commercial fertilizers *improperly* used may burn plants and cause poor germination of seeds.

Longevity of the usefulness of fertilizers added to soil depends upon the rate and quantity of water added by rainfall or by irrigation, upon the character of the soil, upon fertilizer constituents dominant in the mixture and upon the quantity of fertilizing materials absorbed by growing plants.

In many areas fertilizers may be purchased that are supplied with

minor element compounds in adequate yet safe quantities. In the case of tree-crops the appearance of young leaves sometimes give a clue to the likelihood of a deficiency of a certain element. Sometimes a minor element can be better supplied by sprays than in fertilizer applications to the soil. Absorption of a minor element through leaves is often adequate for a current season.

The fertilizer needs *vary widely from place to place*. A gardener should get as much reliable information as practical regarding the need of various constituents for different crops in the area of his garden. Some branch of a state university is usually in position to inform a gardener as to areas where minor element deficiencies are likely to occur and where other specific deficiencies may be expected. Sometimes this agency is in connection with the agricultural extension service, especially in the office of the county agricultural agent. The minor elements of fertilizers in a local garden supply store may provide some hint as to the likelihood of local deficiencies. One should read the chemical analysis on the fertilizer bag and buy the grade of goods that best suits the local garden situation.

¹ Dr. Anderson is a retired soil scientist with 40 years' experience, much of it with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, as researcher and author.

CAMELLIA CULTURE (Cont.)

- A. No. The bark we buy is usually treated but one should check to be sure this has been done. Fresh bark should weather.
- Q. When should one take cuttings?
- A. When the wood has hardened, in July for summer and in January or February for winter cuttings.
- Q. Do you find sasanquas good for under stock for grafting?
- A. Yes, very good.

New Rules For Temple City Show

One of the subjects discussed at the Judges' Symposium on October 24th in Glendale, California (see January 1971 *CAMELLIA REVIEW*, page 3) was the problem of judging varieties that have two recognized forms. Judges may have difficulty in subordinating their personal preferences to objective consideration of all the flowers of a variety on the table. It was suggested that the problem could be removed by having separate classifications of such varieties according to form. The Temple City Camellia Society's schedule for their show to be held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on February 13-14 provides for such classification in the Division for untreated single japonica blooms, as follows:

Exhibitors may enter two blooms, one under each form as indicated, of the following varieties.

- CARTER'S SUNBURST — semi-double and formal-rose forms
 DISNEYLAND — semi-double and anemone forms
 EMMETT PFINGSTL — semi-double and formal-rose forms
 GIGANTEA — semi-double and anemone forms
 GLEN 40 — semi-double and formal-rose forms
 GLEN 40 VAR — semi-double and formal-rose forms
 GRAND SLAM — semi-double and anemone forms
 JULIA FRANCE — semi-double and formal-rose forms
 MATHOTIANA — semi-double and formal-rose forms
 MATTIE O'REILLY — semi-double and peony forms
 MIDNIGHT — semi-double and anemone forms
 MRS. D. W. DAVIS — semi-double and peony forms
 PURITY — semi-double and formal-rose forms

R. L. WHEELER — semi-double and anemone forms

R. L. WHEELER VAR — semi-double and anemone forms

All varieties except those listed above are limited to one bloom.

Separate varietal name cards for the above named varieties will be found on the display tables.

BLOOM SEEDLINGS *(Continued)*

The original seedlings are about one-third this size without buds.

Growing in greenhouses, I have seen year-old grafts of seedlings with growth up to 3 feet with many buds. In any case, grown in the open or in glasshouse, you gain precious years speeding up blooming and you might save a rare cross if the original seedling dies but the graft carries on. On multiple trunk grafts, if all blooms are worthwhile, you will have many scions for further propagation, or if not wanted, just cut the unwanted grafted branches off the plant. As in case with all grafts, fertilize mildly after one year for sturdy growth.

Grafting of seedlings is fascinating! To see so tiny a twig grow into a robust plant and the expectation of having a new super-size bloom appear will keep you grafting seedlings whenever possible . . . always hopeful!

S. C. C. S. Meeting Competition

Following are the top 10 among the 21 exhibitors who have earned points in the first three meetings with flowers they have entered in the bloom competition.

Shuey	41
Reich	36
Goertz	36
Pitkin	27
Summerson	26
Reed	23
Gum	19
Perigan	16
Gunn	15
Rowe	12

Directory of California Camellia Societies

Societies with asterisk () are Affiliates of Southern California Camellia Society*

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY

President: John J. Fortenberry; Secretary: Lemuel Freeman, 209 S. Garnsey Ave., Bakersfield 93309
Meetings: 2nd Monday Oct. through Apr. at Franklin School, Truxton and A St., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY

President: Ronald Cowan; Secretary: Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 97205
Meetings: 1st Thursday Oct. through April at Altadena Savings & Loan, 2400 E. 17th St., Santa Ana

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO

President: Richard Ray; Secretary: Mrs. Frank P. Mack, 2222 G. St., Sacramento 95816
Meetings: 4th Wednesday Oct. through May in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Richard Pozdol; Secretary: Mrs. Jack Evans, P.O. Box 108, Ivanhoe 93235
Meetings: Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 17 at Mayfair School, Mar. 24 at Fresno State College

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Douglas R. Abernethy; Secretary: Mrs. Anita Abernethy, 2962 Boies Dr., Pleasant Hill 94523

Meetings: Second Thursday, October through April, in Room B, Sun Valley Mall, Concord

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Joseph H. Baker; Secretary: Mrs. Ethel S. Willits, 502 W. Pleasant Ave., Lodi 95240
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: George K. Bulk; Secretary: Mrs. Floyd O'Connor, 7518 Etiwanda Ave., Reseda 91335
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Mrs. Virginia Rankin; Secretary: Dr. J. Holtzman, 2987 Marshall Rd.,
Crow's Landing 95313

Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Dr. Fred Fisher; Secretary: Jules Wilson, 18248 Lamson Rd., Castro Valley 94546
Meetings: 1st Mon. Nov. through May in Claremont Jr. High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: A. Wilkins Garner; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr.,
Glendale 91208

Meetings: 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House,
400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Jack Mandarich; Secretary: Mrs. Charles F. O'Malley, 65 Robles Drive, Woodside 94062
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg.,
700 El Camino Real, Redwood City, Calif. 94061

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: John I. Tami; Secretary: Mrs. Janet Meyer, 744 E. Dover, Glendora
Meetings: 2nd Thursday October through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg.,
399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: William L. Gibson; Secretary: Miss Edna Francis, 615 W. Pennsylvania, San Diego 92103
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral
Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Abe D'Innocenti; Secretary: Miss Pat McIntyre, 1810 Olive Ave., Apt. 4, San Jose 95128
Meetings: 2nd Thursday at Willow Glen Branch, American S/L, San Jose

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: C. O. McCorkle; Secretary: Miss Joy Monteleone, 505 Olive St., Santa Rosa 95401
Meetings: 4th Thurs. Nov. through April, except Nov. (3rd Thurs.) and Dec. (to be decided) in
Multipurpose room, Steel Lane School, Santa Rosa

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY

President: Grady L. Perigan; Secretary: Mrs. Elsie Bracci, 5567 N. Burton, San Gabriel 91776
Meetings: Nov. 19 (Thur.), Dec. 17 (Thur.), Jan. 28 (Thur.), Feb. 24 (Wed.), Mar. 25 (Thur.),
Apr. 22 (Thur.) in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

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