THE Camellia REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

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Two dollars

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.

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THE COVER FLOWER

The cover flower is a beautiful new reticulata — granthamiana hybrid named 'SHANGHAI LADY.' The seed pod came from 'China Lady' which had been back crossed by 'Buddha' pollen by Nuccio's Nurseries and the seedling was given the number NX 072-4. The cultivar bloomed for the first time in 1974. The plant has one-fourth granthamiana and three-fourths 'Buddha' and it blooms very early as a result of the "granny" blood. The bloom is a very large semi-double, light orchid pink with irregular petals. The camellia was introduced in the Fall of 1981. Photo, courtesy of Nuccio's Nurseries.

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THOUGHTS
from the editor

A few months ago Jerry and I happened to see one of Phil Donahue's T.V. Talk Shows. He had Carol Burnett and Charles Grogen as his guests. They were trying to explain all about their new National Organization which they are trying to launch. Anyone can join. There are no dues; no officers; no by-laws; and no meetings. The only qualification to become a member is to be nice to your fellow man! The name of the organization is FRIENDLY. What they are trying to do is to promote kindness among all Americans. In other words, smile; say hello; use restraint in dealings with others. Let the other car go through. Pass along a compliment. Light a candle. If someone else wants to create dissension, to push and shove, to create a rumpus, or to be nasty, don't be pulled into his circle. Just turn the other cheek, so to speak, and go on about the business of being friendly. If someone wants to be a jerk, that's his problem. You don't have to be a Pollyanna. Just don't get caught up in a vendetta of retaliation. How can you tell if someone is a member of FRIENDLY? Chances are he is wearing a smile on his face!

I got to thinking about that FRIENDLY ORGANIZATION. Why wouldn't that work in our Southern California Camellia Society? Why wouldn't that work in all of our camellia societies? Here we have a hobby which we all love and in which we hope to find enjoyment. Sure, we have a bias; a craze; a partiality; an infatuation; a real blind spot. But the blind spot is for camellias and for the love of camellias. When it comes to the people in the camellia hobby we should all try to be friendly, tolerant, and benevolent. What are some of those old proverbs? "A Soft Answer Turneth Away Wrath" — "If At First You Don't Succeed, Try A Little Ardor" — "Decency, Honesty, Modesty — These Three Traits Win Friends." Let's all join this new organization FRIENDLY and combine it with our camellia hobby. What a wonderful society we would have.

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CAMELLIA LODGE NURSERY, NOBLE PARK, AUSTRALIA

A brief history by Neville and Erica McMinn

Since the early 1950's Camellia Lodge Nursery has been located on the Princes Highway (Route 1) some 28km southeast of Melbourne at Noble Park, which is now virtually a suburb of Dandenong, a large industrial city some 4½ km further east.

It was originally started by Neville McMinn with the help of his father, Roy snr., some years earlier in 1945-46, just at the end of World War II, from their large family home "Oakdene" in Dandenong which at that time was only a small semi-rural residential and market town. Roy McMinn snr. had only just purchased this property early in 1944 after retiring from his own business, due to ill health caused by poison gas, as a soldier in France during World War I.

The extensive gardens had been badly neglected prior to and during World War II and Neville, then only just 20, and having no previous horticultural experience, set to with nothing but determination and hard work to clean up the old place and re-furnish the gardens with as many Camellias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons and other ornamental shrubs and trees available at that time. The building of many large trellises and pergolas when sufficient material could be "scrounged" or purchased second hand from wrecking jobs, was carried out in his spare time, weekends and holidays as he was still working full time as a cadet Engineer and draftsman. Roy snr. was able to help out during the week by locating much of the material required and saving valuable time. This "hobby" style of work became more intense and a general love of plants and landscaping developed as the work progressed.

Very few correctly named varieties of Camellias were available at that time, most plants tagged simply to color or a brief description as "double red" or "single white" and even then were often wrong. It thus became necessary to purchase them in bloom to make sure of color and type, rather that wait 1 or 2 years and then be sadly disappointed!! Most of those being sold were of European, Japanese, Australian and New Zealand origin. This situation was basically the main reason and challenge that started Neville on the path to "specialise" and study deeper into the field of Camellia culture, including nomenclature, and origin, besides the collecting, growing and eventual commercial production. A great deal of this earlier knowledge was gained with the generous and endless co-operation of several older friends such as Professor E.G. Waterhouse, Walter Hazlewood of Hazelwoods Nurseries, both of Sydney, and Arthur Bolten of Melbourne, all with a great many years of wide and proven experience in their field and a common love of the genus. Sadly, these men have now passed on, as many others also, who were of great help and encouragement at that early stage.

By the start of 1950 the garden was well developed and some small plants and flowers (for the florist trade) were being sold in small quantities. Realizing the potential for a future commercial project on a larger scale and if successful, becoming a full-time nurseryman, Neville and his father purchased, late in 1950, a 2-acre site out along the highway from a poultry farmer friend. Sinking all his savings into this new venture with high hopes, but with added experience, knowledge and determination to succeed.

Gradually the shape of the new nursery emerged, including the start of his own home on the site for the added security of living there during construction. However, these were still "early days" and building materials were in short supply due to the huge postwar

boom in subdivision and building development. During this period many of the older stock trees were moved from the Dandenong garden and replanted in the display gardens and driveways and are still featured there to this day. The building, shifting plants and planting was all heavy work and went on continuously in all the spare time Neville could muster, but on the other hand he was very fortunate in having his old job to help pay the way, even drawing up house plans at night to help earn extra money.

It was while still working as a draftsman at Australian Paper Manufacturers, at their Melbourne head office, Neville met his wife to be, Erica Manley, a secretary and stenographer, also working there and having the same interest and love of horticulture and outdoors life style. Their romance "bloomed prolifically" and they were married in December 1953 and moved straight into the unfinished house after a brief honeymoon. Erica loved this new venture and while Neville still kept at his job, she and her father-in-law kept the nursery work going during the week.

By 1954 the basic nursery was well under way, with 2 large shade houses, a propagating house almost finished and a potting shed and two large greenhouses on the drawing board. The nursery was officially registered as a business name and address and "Camellia Lodge Nursery" was "born" that same year. With the nursery and business now well established, Neville finally gave up his engineering work early in 1956 when their first child, a boy, Phillip, was born. (Phillip now works in the business with his parents.) After 10 long, hard years the "hobby" had finally developed into a full-time business. By now Roy snr. had also built a smaller home on the property for himself and Mrs. McMinn snr. and the old "Oakdene" home was sold.

Right from their start together, Neville and Erica were promoting and advertising the Camellia cult with lectures, trade displays at Camellia Shows and other commercial outlets spread all over the state. Their family also increased with a daughter, Robyn, born in 1958 and another son, Malcolm, in 1960. By the mid-60's it was evident that the nursery was going to eventually run out of space with the ever increasing production of plants to satisfy demand. With this in mind they purchased another block of land in North Dandenong close by, as their existing site had been completely surrounded by new houses. So Neville set to again and planned a complete new "growing" nursery for wholesale and retail propagation, the older nursery to be retained primarily for display and retail sales. This stage 3 project was

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commenced in 1971 and is now in full operation spread over 4½ acres. Unfortunately, Roy snr. died in 1970 and did not live to see this come into operation.

The importing, test growing and evaluation of new varieties has been continuous since the early 1960's and the nursery has maintained one of the largest ranges of varieties available in the world — both for camellias and azaleas. The current catalogue lists over 400 varieties of camellias and 300 varieties of azaleas. Their plants have been exported since the 1960's to England, Japan, New Zealand and U.S.A. Unfortunately, these exports have been curtailed the last 5-6 years owing to the heavy Australian demand.

Despite the long years of hard work and dedication they look forward to continuing their work together promoting, growing and helping to spread even further the popularity of this beautiful genus.

CHRISTMAS TREES

By Keith Monroe

Ed. Note: Reprinted from the Fedco Reporter Vol. 27, No. 12 December 1980

For one of our most cherished Christmas customs, we can thank an obscure German monk in a medieval town of three thousand souls—as well as an ambitious inventor who staged a promotion stunt at Christmas in 1879, and a small American manufacturer who made a $25 sale in December 1880.

The devout monk, Martin Luther, wanted to simulate a starlit sky at Christmas in his home. So he installed the first candlelit tree, probably in December 1511. Other Germans liked his idea and copied it. This came naturally, since tree worship had roots deep in German history. In pagan times trees were revered as renewal symbols because their leaves sprouted after winter. Maybe this led directly to Christmas trees becoming symbols of Christ's resurrection. The familiar conifer was probably chosen because it was green at the right time, and its shape resembled a church spire.

Anyhow, the Christmas tree with candles became a custom throughout the upper Rhineland. Trimmed trees were first seen in the U.S. during the Revolution, as homesick Hessian soldiers tried to recreate here the holiday of their homeland. Naturally Americans scorned their enemies' folkways—but a half-century later, when kindly well-educated German emigrants and the "Pennsylvania Dutch" became populous here, their Christmas trees (now hung with cookies and candies and other small gifts) became popular. England didn't take to the idea until a fad for German fashions followed Queen Victoria's marriage to Price Albert of Saxe-Coburg in 1840. By 1850 most English and American families had a candlelit Christmas tree.

The next big changes in Christmas trees started in 1879 and 1880. Thomas Edison, a young promoter, wanted to advertise his new "electric candles" as a cheaper, better substitute for gaslight. No man to hide his lights under a bushel, Edison announced that Menlo Park, New Jersey, would be illuminated by his marvelous new bulbs in Christmas week. Crowds flocked to see them. The lights strung through evergreens impressed them less than the amazing fact that they could be turned on or off instantly. Christmas-tree lights wouldn't hit the market until some years later, but the seed had been planted.

Meanwhile in 1880 young Frank Woolworth, who had opened his first five-and-dime store in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, reluctantly took $25 worth of a new product: Christmas tree ornaments. Within a few years the manufacturer who produced them was selling $800,000 worth every December to Woolworth alone, and millions more elsewhere.

The trees themselves became big business too. The Christmas tree was officially recognized in 1923 when the

President began the practice of lighting a tree on the White House lawn. By 1948 about 28 million Christmas trees were brightening the U.S. each December, and the 100,000 acres planted with the trees were yielding a crop valued at $50 million a year. Raising trees became more profitable with the invention of a clever technique of "stump culture" by which the tree is cut above live-branch whorls, leaving a pruned number of these to grow, in turn, into trees for the next season. Today the business that Martin Luther launched in 1511 is so huge that nobody knows its total size or value.

CAMELLIAS MAKE FRIENDSHIP EASY

by Harry Cave, N.Z.

Earlier this year my wife, Vonnie and I travelled to USA for 3½ months. For two months of that time we had the privilege and pleasure of being with camellia people, the friendliest and most hospitable people anywhere.

I have always loved camellias. My mother's garden contained several old plants put in by my grandfather before 1900, and I planted my first camellia when I was 16, Sodegakushi, that lovely white, which I learnt later was also called Alba grandiflora, Lotus or Gauntletti. I joined the young but very active N.Z. Camellia Society 20 years ago to learn more about camellias, a happy decision indeed. Initially I learnt how to grow them and saw new varieties which became desirable. Gradually, however, and inevitably under the friendly leadership of Roland Young, it became the people as much as the flowers which made the Society live, and some of its members have become our closest friends.

Roland Yound had been to USA in 1960, and his engaging personality had given him a wonderful trip and left him with a host of friends with whom he corresponded until his death in 1973. Some of his friends from USA came to NZ and the first contact Vonnie and I had was with Dave and Lauretta Feathers and the late Milo and Agnes Rowell in 1962. Dave showed some closeup slides of new camellias in the States. I can still remember Matador and Sunset Oaks among them. I was impressed with the friendliness of these important people and the new camellias shown, while Vonnie, as a comparatively novice photographer, enjoyed the closeup slides as an extra bonus.

Since that first encounter with American camellia growers, we have met a number of others who have travelled to NZ, with larger parties coming in 1976 and two groups to the ICS

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Conference in 1979.

Between times Vonnie and I have travelled to Australia and the camellia magic has been apparent. Hospitality and friendship have overwhelmed us in Perth, Melbourne and Sydney and we have come to realize that growing camellias is an international occupation with friendship as a part of that hobby.

When we visited parts of the South this year, the different ways of growing camellias in heated glass houses or under pine trees impressed us. Our own methods of planting in open ground with some deciduous trees providing summer shade would not do there — not enough protection from the summer heat or winter freezes.

We don't use gibberellic acid in NZ as all our shows come in a short period of about six weeks in the spring, but after seeing the results of gibbing in USA, we feel that it could be used to advantage in NZ for good early blooms in some of our colder districts. Dieback is known here, but not in the epidemic scale seen in the South. Thankfully petal blight has not appeared in NZ yet, and we hope that with care and common sense that it never will. Our troubles in showing good flowers are different. Mild winters sometimes mean that we always have chewing caterpillars and other insects operating on our choice buds. When the flowers open, we have some pretty little birds called Waxeyes, which use the bottom petals for a ladder while they investigate the possibility of any honey in the flowers.

Few people disbud to any extent, because a fine garden display is more important than a few show quality blooms.

Different classes at the shows are seen, but the competition is keen everywhere, and good fellowship prevails in all countries.

The NZ Camellia Society is celebrating its 25th year in 1982 and a tour party from America, led by Hulyn Smith, is coming out to join in the occasion. A short look at Australian camellias precedes the Convention at Rotorua, and a coach and plane tour round some of the gardens and other scenic areas of NZ will follow. Camellia growers in NZ will be hoping to see a large party arrive.

Those, like Vonnie and me who have been in America, will welcome the opportunity to offer a little hospitality in return.

JAPANESE CAMELLIAS — THE IMPERIAL COLLECTION

by Bill Donnan

Perhaps you would be interested in reading about the fantastic book which recently came into the possession of Julius Nuccio. He had seen a copy in Japan but was told that it could no longer be purchased since it was printed in 1965 in a very limited edition. Later, on a trip to Australia and New Zealand, he saw a copy in the possession of Dr. Bob Withers. Withers indicated that he had purchased his copy in Japan and that there might be several more copies left for sale. Julius contacted Ceiji Tarada and asked him to look for a copy. Tarada finally found one and sent it to the Nursery in Altadena. The book is in two volumes and is, in fact, a reproduction in actual size and color, of the entire contents of an ancient book of paintings of camellia blooms in the possession of the Imperial Household Agency of Japan. For an account of the fascinating history of this book I am quoting from an English language "Introduction" to the book which was written by Takeshi Watanabe.

> "Rumors had been rampant among camellia lovers in Japan that the Imperial Household Agency was in possession of a picture book containing drawings of a number of species of this flower. But there was no one

who could verify these rumors or say with certainty what the contests of the book were or even whether the book actually existed. After World War II, I was commissioned by the Imperial Household Agency to make a survey of the medicines used by the Japanese people in ancient days, which were in the treasure-house of the Shoso-in Repository in Nara. I spent several years engaged in this work. During this period I had numerous opportunities to come in contact with the Books and Paintings Department, as well as the office of the Shoso-in Repository. Because I had also heard of the rumors concerning the existence of the picture book on camellias, I decided to see for myself whether the rumors were true. I approached Mr. Gunichi Wada, then head of the Shoso-in Office, and finally managed to find out that the book did exist. It was in the middle of October, 1961, that I obtained permission to have a look at the picture book."

Mr. Watanabe was granted permission to take some color photos of the paintings in the book. These were published in several articles in the Japanese gardening magazines. This created additional interest. Finally through the kindness of the Imperial Household Agency and with the help of Kodansha, Ltd. (a publishing firm in Japan) the entire book was reproduced in actual size and color. Quoting again from Mr. Watanabe's "Introduction":

"It is impossible for me to give a detailed explanation of all the data collected in this book. It is also not within the province of a mere natural scientist to discourse on the artistic merits of the sumi and color paintings in the book. I have intended this rare collection of paintings of the camellia as a book for both research and appreciation and have limited my explanations to a minimum, indicating only how the book should be used. I shall be happy if this book provides a key to scholars and researchers in classical botany, gardening, and the fine arts."

As I have stated, the book is in two volumes of 180 pages each. There is also a 64 page booklet which tells in both Japanese and English about the book and its history. The volumes are 10 inches by 14 inches in size with two color paintings of camellia blooms on each page. The blooms are identified in both Japanese and English at the bottom of each page. While there are some duplications in the 720 separate camellia blooms depicted, it is estimated that there may be between 500 and 600 different cultivars shown in the two volumes. While it is not known when the original book was compiled, the style of the paintings, the original names of the flowers, and the species depicted, suggest that it was compiled prior to the middle of the Edo Period. (Possibly 1200 to 1300 AD)

The book's two volumes are each compiled in a fold-out configuration. Thus, as you leaf through the book, each page folds out and folds back onto its preceding page. The two volumes and the accompanying booklet are housed in an elaborate decorated, hard-board box. One could say that this work is truly a collector's item.

SOUTHERN CAL CAMELLIA SOCIETY SENDS SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS 'ROUND THE WORLD

PREPARING CAMELLIA BLOOMS FOR SHOWS

Dr. Leland E. Chow

ED. NOTE: REPRINTED with minor changes from Vol. 25, No. 3, January 1964 CAMELLIA REVIEW.

Instrumentarium:

Q-Sticks
Tweezers
Rose Cutting Shears
Hemostats
Camel Hair Brushes
Clothes Pins

After reading the above list, it sounds like an instrument tray being prepared for a major surgery operation! In a small way, preparing camellias for a show is an "operation"! It takes infinite care, an immeasurable amount of time and unwavering patience to carry out this sort of "operation."

Like all hobbies, many "tricks of the trade" are learned through the observation of other experts. My listing of instruments is a combination of borrowed knowledge from my good camellia friends, and an assortment of things from my dental shelves. I'm sure that each one of you has your favorite implements.

Show time is the time when we truly display the results of an entire Camellia Year. Therefore, we must prepare the blossoms to reveal their excellence for a show. A combined effort of work in the garden and the proper use of effective instruments can help show off your winners. Here are some of the things I do.

Four days before display time, I suggest that you walk through your garden and check possible buds, size of buds and color. Then pin back the leaves of promising buds. Use *clothes pins* for pinning leaves. This gives the bud a better chance to open without interference. When buds start to bloom, if at all possible pick out only two blooms of the best plant for single entries. Then, of those two blooms, pick out only one for display. Use rose shears for cutting. Eliminate or pass up extremely mud-splattered flowers. White blossoms with very "dirty faces" should be rejected. It takes too much time and energy to clean these. Sometimes the results are not rewarding.

Grooming camellias before packing is essential. Use a *camel hair brush* to dust off dirt. If dirt is stained in the bloom or mottled, use a wet *Q-Stick* to gently "wash off" petals. Then use a dry *Q-Stick* to dry off moisture. Brush off disturbed pollen from petals with a *camel hair brush*. Larger particles of dirt and foreign matter can be removed with *tweezers*.

There has always been a question of whether refrigerated blooms should be displayed. I refrigerate a few of the blooms, but mostly not. Whether you bring refrigerated blooms or not, always groom each blossom!

A few days before a show, line your boxes with shredded paper (excelsior). When you are ready to travel some distance (like we do) place each flower gently on the damp excelsior. After you place a bloom on the shredded paper and decide to move it to another position in the box, try lifting it gently with a *hemostat*. Your fingers and coat sleeves are never slim enough to lift a flower without bruising another one. Let the *hemostat* replace your fingers.

Now that your blooms are packed for traveling, extra care should be taken to keep the temperature down. I place 3 or 4 ice cubes in between flowers in each box. I then use "liquid ice" (canned ice which can be re-frozen) and place it on top of all the boxes. With an old blanket I cover boxes for insulation. Now your cool blossoms will be fresh for display.

Grand finale to all your efforts is placing your flowers for the judges. Before placing flowers on the table, give them the "once-over inspection." You'll find that your *brush* will come in

handy for cleaning a speck of dust which may have been overlooked. Another last minute grooming suggestion is the leaves. They deserve your consideration too. Leaves are an accessory which enhance the beauty of any flower, so clean them and shine them with margarine on your thumb and finger.

All these processes are mechanical techniques in picking, packing and traveling. Aside from these tangible instructions, the most important "instrument" is *Your Attitude!* We are all lovers of the beautiful camellia. Accompanying this love should be great enthusiasm of showing off these winning beauties. Take lots of time to pick and groom your flowers. Don't count the hours you are taking for this job. Chalk it all up to work in presenting the fragile debutantes of the floral world for the eyes of Lovers of Nature.

I BEG TO DIFFER

By Margaret Macdonald

When this writer gets a rebuttal from readers, she is delighted. She not only knows that someone has read what she has written, but their difference of opinion may produce another article.

So when a camellia hobbyist said in substance, "I have read your article on 'Cold Hardiness of Northwest Camellias' " in the *Camellia Review* and "it ain't necessarily so" — I was intrigued.

For purposes of anonymity we shall refer to him as OCH (Oregon Camellia Hobbyist), my theory being that if this lad wants to break into print, he can write his own article. He is surely capable of doing so.

Now OCH has grown camellias in Salem, Oregon for thirty-four years. He claims that "they grow like weeds." The fact that he uses a chainsaw to prune them shows that his culture has been successful.

Our town lies almost exactly on the 45th parallel (halfway between the equator and the North Pole) in a fertile north-south valley, protected by mountain ranges from both the sea and eastern cold, and is about 55 miles south of Portland.

But then let OCH tell you in his own words about the weather in Salem between 1947-1981. "During this period there have been two cold periods, 1949-50 and 1971-72. The last period giving all time lows for the Salem area around minus 12F. Probably my garden with fair air drainage escaped the extremes by 5-6 degrees. Most of the extremes were in the 12-18 degree range, with perhaps one third of the winters in the 20-25 degree range. The warmer winters seem to allow damaged plants to recover."

The following camellias survived the minus 12F temperatures of the winter of 1971-72 (all were grown unprotected, outdoors):

Chandleri Elegans
Cheerful
Conflagration
Covina
Finlandia
Gosho-Guruma
Governor Mouton
Grandiflora Rosea
Hiemalis (hybrid)
Hugh Evans (Sasanqua)
Julia Drayton (also known as Mathotiana)
Kumasaka
Louise Maclay (also known as Grandiflora Rosea)
Mary Christian (Saluenensis x Japonica cross)
Magnoliaeflora
Pink Ball
Pink Perfection
Purity
Professor Sargent
Princess Nagasaki (also known as Nagasaki)
Tricolor Siebold
Vedrine

In addition to the above varieties OCH has the following camellias growing outside, all planted since the 1971-72 cold spell.

Jean May
White Dove
Yuletide (the three above are all sasanquas)
An Olifera hybrid
A Hiemalis hybrid
Daikagura Red
Marie Bracey
Betty Sheffield Supreme
Gigantea

His list reveals that the hardy ones were almost all Japonicas — mostly older varieties.

Oregon Folk are very conservative people. They cherish the tried and true things of life. So when they find a camellia that is pretty, grows well in their garden and survives occasional very low temperatures, that is the variety they grow. There are a great many older plants of "Cheerful" here. "Mary Christian" is another favorite.

The Oregon Camellia Society probably looks upon me as something of a maverick. I insist upon trying to bloom varieties that other members won't try. They were astonished at the blooms of Reticulatas "Lila Naff" and "Kohinor" that I brought to the camellia show in April. (I have five other reticulata hybrids that are also grown out of doors.)

Right now, my ambition is to introduce as many hybrid camellias to this area that I can, so that hobbyists might enjoy these fine flowers as I have. Our northwest camellias could stand some new blood lines.

I'd love to hear from any other camellia grower who has had good fortune growing any of these beautiful new hybrids in our northwest climate. I won't even mind a "I beg to differ with you" letter.

POINSETTIA

By Mary Vanaman O'Gorman

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The plant that grows a festive crown in time for Christmas has been bred to give up its leggy ways and find contentment in a flowerpot.

Poinsettias, the Western Hemisphere's contribution to the celebration of Christmas, are as much a symbol of the holiday season as Europe's Christmas tree. In fact, in their native Mexico, poinsettias are called *flores de la Noche Buena* — flowers of the Holy Night.

Poinsettias were cultivated by the Aztecs long before Cortez landed in Mexico in 1519 and were well known to the Spanish missionaries who followed. The plants were brought to this country in the 1820s by Joel R. Poinsett, the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico and an avid amateur horticulturist who kept his home and plantation greenhouses in South Carolina supplied with exotic plants gathered during his extensive travels. According to one account, the husband of a granddaughter of famed Philadelphia naturalist John Bartram saw the Mexican natives in Poinsett's Charleston greenhouse and had some shipped north to Philadelphia, where they were first exhibited by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society in 1829.

The plants, with their inconspicuous flowers surrounded by brilliant red bracts, were a sensation, and Robert Buist, a local nurseryman of some repute, began growing them to introduce to the trade. Buist is generally credited with naming the plant for Joel Poinsett, and poinsettia has served as both genus name (*Poinsettia pulcherrima*) and species name (*Euphorbia poinsettiana*) at one time or another. The German taxonomist Karl Willdenow placed the plant squarely in the spurge family, Euphorbiaceae; his designation, *Euphorbia pulcherrima* ("very beautiful euphorbia") is still used by some today. Poinsett's name is perpetuated

in common usage.

The Mexican native prized by Joel Poinsett created considerable interest throughout the U.S. in the 19th century, as cuttings or plants were sent to botanists and growers. Early in the 20th century, Albert Ecke, a German immigrant to southern California who ran a cut-flower growing business, saw poinsettias blooming and added some plants to his inventory. He became so fascinated by them that he, and ultimately his son and grandson, devoted full time to poinsettia breeding. Today the Ecke poinsettia fields spread over vast acres of sandy loam north of San Diego, and a fourth generation of the family is preparing to carry on the work. In spite of the short, seasonal market for poinsettias, the business of plant breeding, supplying other growers and preparing the next season's crops goes on year round.

The velvety leaf bracts so familiar in crimson now come in shades ranging from deepest red to lush coral, as well as a creamy greenish white and a splattered white on pink or red. The bracts surround the clusters of the actual tiny flowers, which form within small green and yellow cyathiums, or cups.

In Mexico, poinsettias grow to a leggy 15 feet or more, but breeding has made them smaller, sturdier and bushier; they now retain their colors longer and are more tolerant of life in a pot. In fact, once the "bloom" has faded, the plant can be cut back to about six inches, kept in a bright window or put outdoors well past frost time. In summer, the growing tips can be pinched back.

To get Christmas-colored poinsettias in time for Christmas, the plant should be put in a light-proof box or closet 14 hours a day starting in mid-October, until the bracts begin to turn. (This takes about 70 days and the slightest deviation from the 14-hour dark period will retard or stop the reddening process.) Thus the Christmas-gift poinsettia need not be discarded along with the withered evergreen decorations, but can be coaxed to live and bloom to cheer yet another holiday season.

The showy crimson, coral or white crown of the poinsettia actually consists of bracts (modified leaves); the true flowers nestle inconspicuously in small cups called cyathiums. Poinsettia is a long-night plant, and requires extended periods of 14-hour nights for blooming.

MY TEN FAVORITE CAMELLIAS

By Jack Lewis

Some of the choices for my ten favorite camellias are not hard to make. I must confess that I have a big hang-up against variegated japonicas and I like them only when there is a definite break in color. Red is red and white is white. My friend Hulyn Smith and I have the same hang-up. With regard to the hybrids, I have not seen what I call good variegation. Very few hybrids that do have a good color break will hold the color. The color fades and becomes sort of washed out. With the japonicas, the earlier they bloom the better the variegation seems to occur. With 'Lady Kay' - my top favorite - it has the best "rabbit ears" when the weather is cold and the flower opens very slowly. I have two plants of 'Lady Kay' both of which are in the ground. This gives them a boost and they produce winners for me. Herewith is my list of the ten top favorite camellias. 'Lady Kay'; 'Adolphe Audusson Special'; 'Grand Prix'; 'Nuccio's Gem'; 'Elegans Splendor'; 'Francie L.'; 'K.O. Hester'; 'Dr. Clifford Parks'; 'Angel Wings'; and 'Valley Knudsen'.

* * * * *

A lion captured a bull and proceeded to eat it. Then, having finished eating he gave a loud roar. A hunter happened to be nearby and heard the roar. He promptly stalked the lion and shot it! The moral of the story is: WHEN YOU ARE FULL OF BULL, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.

THE AUSTRALIAN CAMELLIA RESEARCH SOCIETY, VICTORIAN BRANCH, STUDY GROUP

By Dr. R. M. Withers

In the year 1952, a group of Camellia enthusiasts in Australia and New Zealand founded the Australian and New Zealand Camellia Research Society.

The objects of the Society were to make and to encourage investigations and research on matters connected with the genus Camellia, to collect information thereon, and to publish and distribute its findings. In the early years of the Society considerable research was carried out on the subject of nomenclature to overcome the confusion which existed in regard to the naming of Camellia cultivars in cultivation in Australia and New Zealand.

Interest in Camellias steadily increased in both Australia and New Zealand, and in 1958, the New Zealand Camellia Society was founded as a separate Society from the Australian Camellia Research Society.

Research on various Camellia aspects, general culture, necessary soil conditions, nomenclature, etc. has continued throughout the history of the Australian Society, with nomenclature always being a subject of special interest.

In 1974, Mr. Ken Hallstone from La Fayette in California visited Australia, and was the guest speaker at the dinner held during the course of the Annual National Conference of the Society, which was held that year in Melbourne, Victoria. Mr. Hallstone spoke of the Camellia research group, of which he was a member, in California, and of aspects of research being carried out by the group, particularly in producing fragrance in Camellias.

The Victorian Branch of the Australian Camellia Research Society later decided to form a study group which held its first meeting on 26th October 1976. After much discussion it was decided to follow some of the trends in research that our American friends were attempting, mainly in regard to fragrance and improved colour, but also in our case increasing heat resistance.

It was realised that in any research or hybridizing programme the results take many years to achieve.

In the hope of producing japonica cultivars and hybrids with darker red colouring it was initially decided to use 'Fuyajo' and 'Kuro Tsubaki' as pollen parents, but later the group obtained flowering plants of Mr. Les Jury's 'Fuyajo' hybrids, 'Joyful Bells', 'Bright Buoy', 'Scarlet Buoy', 'Crimson Buoy' and 'Black Nite'. By using 'China Lady' and the 'Girls' as seed parents, it was also hoped to produce improved earlier flowering cultivars.

The following crosses have been made and their flowering is awaited with great interest, 'China Lady' x 'Fuyajo', 'Dream Girl' x 'Fuyajo', 'Cornelian' x 'Fuyajo', 'Brilliant Butterfly' x 'Black Nite', 'Dream Girl' x 'Black Nite', 'Dream Girl' x 'Bright Buoy', 'Edith Linton' x 'Black Nite', and 'Edith Linton' x ('Fuyajo' x 'Moshio' hybrid).

C. pitardii var. pitardii has also been crossed with 'Fuyajo' in the hope of producing dark coloured C. pitardii hybrids similar to 'Garnet Gleam' raised in New Zealand by Colonel T. Durrant.

As with our friends in America, interest has also centered on the development of yellow camellia cultivars. From the pink flowered cultiver 'Edith Linton', two chance seedlings have been raised in Australia with a creamy yellow petaloid centre. These are 'Brushfield's Yellow' and 'Gwenneth Morey'. They are being extremely hybridized in the hope of deepening the creamy yellow of the petaloid centre and spreading this colour to the outer petals. 'Jury's Yellow' also has similar form and colour, and has 'Edith Linton' in its genetic make-up.

From New Zealand, we have obtained the Les Jury breeder plants

'Grannie' (saluenensis x granthamiana) and 'Grandee' (granthamiana x 'Edith Linton'). Several of Dr. Walter Homeyer's granthamiana hybrids have also been imported. As these hybrids flower, they will be crossed with 'Edith Linton', 'Brushfield's Yellow', 'Gwenneth Morey' and 'Jury's Yellow' in the hope of producing deeper yellow petaloids and possible pale yellow petals on a variety of different type flowers. However, it is doubtful if any recombination of genes from these varieties will produce the perfect deep yellow cultivar.

Early in 1980 the group heard with great interest and anticipation that the yellow flowered species, C. chrysantha, had been introduced from China into Australia, America, and Japan. Here was a species reported to be golden yellow in colour, single in form and with a possible scent. If this is the true yellow colour we have been seeking, and if it is able to be hybridized with existing cultivars and species, then we can expect in the near future colours in camellia flowers in shades of yellow, apricot, peach and orange, and maybe perfume to rival that of the rose. I was very fortunate in being given a small seedling of C. chrysantha early in 1980. The seedling grew slowly, reaching a height of 3½ inches by January 1981, when the terminal 1 inch was grafted on to a large C. reticulata seedling understock. Union soon took place and after 3½ months, the graft had grown to a height of 10 inches. Members of the group are anxiously awaiting the time when C. chrysantha eventually flowers, so that its pollen may be applied to a selected range of seed parents.

Mr. Edgar Sebire has recently introduced a number of C. pitardii var. pitardii hybrids. The cultivar 'Sprite' is a lovely compact plant, free flowering and with good texture. This offers a new line of breeding into the existing japonica, reticulata, and hybrid cultivars in our efforts to produce compact, profuse flowering garden plants with good showy blooms. Although C. pitardii var. pitardii may be closely related to C. saluenensis, the cultivar 'Sprite' seems to have a better texture than many saluenensis hybrids and possibly may not be affected with some of the bad points of many saluenensis hybrids such as die-back. A big advantage with C. pitardii var. pitardii hybrids is also that their pollen remains fresh and golden even after the flower falls, in contrast to the pollen of many other cultivars which deepens in colour with age.

The possibility of highly perfumed camellias is becoming more of a reality every year as hybridists in various countries cross, then recross the most fragrant of the species and named cultivars, and then the most promising of the resultant seedlings with each other. In this field our group has made very little progress to date. We all grow the species lutchuensis, and 'Cinnamon Cindy' and 'Fragrant Pink Improved' have been grown for a number of years. 'Kramer's Supreme' and 'Odoratissima' are widely grown, and recently three of the 'Cutter Hybrids' have become available. Members of the group plan to make crosses between these cultivars in the coming flowering seasons, and hope to make some contribution in the field of fragrance.

We have read with great interest that Jim Finlay of New Zealand has produced a highly perfumed seedling by crossing 'Tiffany' with lutchuensis. The leader of our group, Ray Garnett, has repeated this cross on several occasions in the hope of creating a good large perfumed flower, but the seedlings have lacked vigour and have mostly perished. However, work is continuing with this line of breeding.

I have recently registered a reticulata seedling, with the name 'Suzanne Withers'. This has medium sized flowers, semi-double in form, coloured white in the centre of the flower, deepening to pale pink on the edge of the petals. This cultivar has been pollinated with pollen from 'Mrs. Bertha A. Harms', the white japonica cultivar

used so extensively by Dr. Cutter in producing his fragrant cultivars. The aim in this cross is to produce reticulata hybrids, both with flowers whiter in colour and with perfume.

In November 1978, I visited America and had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Meyer Piet and Dr. Walter Homeyer. From these two hybridizers I was able to learn of their work with irradiation of Camellia scions. During 1979 it was decided by our study group to also study the effects of irradiation on both Camellia seeds and Camellia scions. In April 1979 seeds of a number of cultivars were exposed to gamma rays at doses of 1500 rads, 2500 rads and 3500 rads. These seeds were planted by members of the group together with control seeds which were untreated. The majority of the seeds were successfully germinated. Some have produced growth that is very stunted and lacking the usual vigour that seedlings of the particular cultivars usually exhibit. One seedling of 'Edith Linton' produced a long distorted leaf on one side and a very small leaf on the other side. An irradiated seedling of 'Mouchang' grew more rapidly than the controls. Several F2 seedlings from 'Kuro Tsubaki' produced fishtail leaves. From these observations it seems that in at least some of the seeds, the irradiation has caused some unknown effect. It will be very interesting to see if the irradiation has had any effect on their flowers when they eventually flower.

In July 1979, a number of scions were irradiated with a dose of 2500 rads, of the cultivars 'D. Herzilia de Freitas Magaliaes', 'Gwenneth Morey', 'Jury's Yellow', 'Onetia Holland', granthamiana, 'Lois Shinault', 'Black Domino', 'Edith Linton', 'Bonanza', 'Bert Jones', and 'Rose Ann'. The majority of the irradiated scions died after grafting, but several have survived, including 'Brushfield's Yellow' and 'Lois Shinault'. The survivors, however, are stunted, with leaves smoother and smaller than normal. We at least know that in these cases, the irradiation has had some effect, and it is hoped that they will survive and eventually progress to flowering size.

Our study group has commenced a lot of projects. Only time will show if any worthwhile results have been achieved. Whether we will ever obtain a cultivar with perfume as strong as that of the rose is debatable, but always a possibility in the future. Maybe, now that C. chrysantha has been introduced into cultivation, we may be able to breed hybrids with such colours and hues as we see in the rose, and yet see golden-yellow and apricot coloured camellias.

Members of our group are bound together in mutual admiration of the flower that we love. Working together for our mutual pleasure and enjoyment, we hope to achieve results which we could not achieve working separately. One of my long time horticultural friends once said, "After all, is this not life: the creation of something new and more beautiful, and the pleasant company of one's fellows?"

THE HUNTINGTON SHOW

by Bill Donnan

The Huntington Gardens Camellia Show, sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society, the Huntington Gardens, and the San Marino League will be held on Saturday and Sunday, January 9-10, 1982. This year's show will be held in the Garden Terrace of the new $5,000,000 Friends' Hall which has recently been completed on the grounds of the Huntington Gardens. The San Marino League will hold a Flower Arrangement Exhibit in connection with the Show.

Due to the fact that there will be more space to stage a flower show at the new location, this year's show has been changed from an "open" show to one with divisions for both treated and

untreated blooms. Awards will be offered for untreated japonicas and species. There will also be a special award for the best formal double flower of the show.

The Huntington Show has always been regarded as a show to educate the public. To this end, demonstrations will be held covering the subjects of grafting, pruning, fertilizing and seed culture. The Chairman for this year's show is Warren Dickson, ably assisted by Sergio Bracci and Rudy Moore. The show will be set up on Friday so that exhibitors can bench their flowers beginning at 7:30 AM on Saturday morning. We often talk about "Fun and Culture" as an objective of our camellia events. How does this grab you? Bring your flowers and bench them. Help with the judging. Eat lunch. Return to the beautiful grounds of the Botanical Gardens. See the cactus, rose, herb, japanese, and world famous camellia plantings. Visit the world famous Library for an hour of browsing. Cross to the Art Gallery and feast your eyes on "Blue Boy", "Pinkie" and some of the other gorgeous paintings. Then return to look, once more, at your winning blooms. Talk about fun and culture! AND BRING A FRIEND.

IN MEMORIAM
MELVIN L. GUM
LESTER F. HARRELL

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
will host the

10th ANNUAL HUNTINGTON GARDENS CAMELLIA SHOW

SATURDAY and SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 and 10, 1982
at the

HUNTINGTON GARDENS, SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA

Sunday admittance is by ticket only. Obtain your free tickets through your local society or contact the Southern California Camellia Society. (Exhibitors do not require entry tickets.)

IRON DEFICIENCY IN PLANTS

by Lowell F. Locke and Harold V. Eck

Ed. Note: Reprinted from Home and Garden Bulletin #102 a release of the U.S. Department of Agriculture

Iron is an essential element for plant growth. Hence, all plants are susceptible to iron deficiency. Where the amount of iron available to plants does not meet their minimum needs, the plants fall into a diseased condition called iron chlorosis.

Iron chlorosis may occur anywhere in the United States, but is most likely to occur west of 100° longitude (roughly the western half of the country) and on the sandier soils of the southeastern part of the country.

Soil areas that produce chlorotic plants range from a few square feet to many acres in size.

SYMPTOMS

Iron chlorosis in plants is characterized by blanching or yellowing of the leaves. This change in the appearance of the leaves is due to failure of chlorophyll (green coloring matter) to develop normally.

Mildly affected plants become unsightly and grow poorly. Severely affected plants fail to grow, flower, or fruit. Very severely affected plants die from lack of iron.

In deciduous (leaf-shedding) plants, areas between leaf veins become light green, yellow, or white. The greater the iron deficiency, the paler the areas. The leaf veins ordinarily remain green. In very severe cases, the edges of leaves — or entire leaves — turn brown, and the plants often die.

In conifers, needles turn yellow; then, if the deficiency is severe, they turn brown and die.

Occasionally only a part of a plant is affected.

CAUSES

Iron chlorosis occurs in susceptible plants wherever and whenever iron is not available to them.

The condition is often due to high pH[3], which makes it possible for other elements to interfere with the absorption of iron, rather than to lack of iron in the soil. It occurs most often on soils that are high in lime. Thus it is more prevalent in the arid West than in the humid East, since high-lime soils occur naturally in arid areas.

But iron chlorosis is not limited to naturally occurring high-lime soils. It may be caused by actual deficiency of iron, or by application of excessive amounts of lime or phosphate to certain soils. It may be caused by overirrigation, poor drainage, bicarbonate in the soil or in irrigation water, and high levels of certain heavy metals in the soil (for example, manganese, copper, and zinc).

PLANTS AFFECTED

Iron chlorosis affects trees, shrubs, vines, field crops, flowers, grasses, and many types of vegetables. In the Western States and in four adjoining States (Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska), it has been observed in more than 250 species and varieties of plants.

Species of plants, and varieties of the same species, vary in their susceptibility to iron chlorosis. For example, sorghums show chlorosis where wheat does not — but if the iron deficiency becomes great enough, wheat will show chlorosis also.

CONTROL

If overirrigation or poor drainage is a possible cause of iron chlorosis, it should be corrected. Otherwise, the disease is controlled by furnishing soluble iron to plants, either through the soil or through the foliage of the plants.

Two principal types of iron-containing compounds used to furnish iron to plants are:

1. Iron chelates.
2. Inorganic compounds containing iron in soluble form. Ferrous sulfate (also called copperas) is such a compound.

You can buy iron chelates and ferrous sulfate at stores that sell garden supplies and fertilizer.

Iron Chelates. — Iron chelates are organic compounds containing iron. The iron remains available to plants when the chelates are placed in the soil.

The iron in chelates costs much more per pound than the iron in ferrous sulfate, but the amount of chelates required for control of chlorosis is much smaller than the required amount of ferrous sulfate, and the cost of treatment with chelates need not be greater.

Iron chelates are marketed under various trade names and in various formulations. Some are applied to soil, others to foliage. Some of those intended for application to soil are for high-lime soils and some are for iron-deficient soils.

If you decide to use an iron chelate, get one that has been formulated for your particular conditions and purposes, and follow the directions on the package.

Ferrous Sulfate — Ferrous sulfate and similar compounds that contain inorganic iron furnish soluble iron to plants.

However, when they are applied to the soil, much of the applied iron becomes unavailable to plants. Consequently, applications must be much in excess of amounts actually required by the plants. The iron is made unavailable by the same factors that cause iron chlorosis initially (high pH, interfering elements, etc.).

The sections that follow ("Treating Soil" and "Treating Foliage") refer to treatment with ferrous sulfate.

TREATING SOIL

Soil treatment is discussed below under the headings "Trees," "Shrubs and Vines," "Flowers and Vegetables," and "Lawns." Each section contains information that will enable you to determine the number of gallons of ferrous sulfate solution that you will need.

For *trees, shrubs, vines, flowers*, and *vegetables*, the solution is prepared by dissolving ferrous sulfate in water at the rate of 1 pound of the chemical per gallon of water. Thus, if you find that you need 25 gallons of solution, you will know that you need 25 pounds of ferrous sulfate. For *lawns*, the procedure is different, and is explained in the section on lawns.

Trees

Before treating the soil in which a tree is growing, determine how much ferrous sulfate you will need. A convenient way to do this is to measure the diameter of the periphery of the tree at the drip line. You will need 1 gallon of ferrous sulfate solution for each foot of the diameter of the periphery. For example, if the diameter is 25 feet, you will need 25 gallons of solution. *If the treatment is to be made during the growing season*, you will need ½ gallon of ferrous sulfate solution for each foot of the diameter of the periphery.

After obtaining the necessary amount of ferrous sulfate and preparing the solution, proceed as follows:

- Dig holes around the periphery at intervals of about 3 feet.

Note. — The number of intervals (and hence the number of holes) will be about the same as the number of feet in the diameter of the periphery, because the circumference of a circle is about 3 times as great (more accurately, about 3.14 times as great) as its diameter.

- Dig each hole deep enough to hold a gallon of liquid.
- Pour 1 gallon of ferrous sulfate solution (½ gallon if treatment is made during the growing season) in each hole; let it soak away.
- Fill each hole with water once or twice; let it soak away.
- Refill the holes with soil.

TREATING SLENDER AND SMALL TREES

Treatment holes around tall, slender trees should be 2 instead of 3 feet apart. Apply 1 gallon of solution per hole as for other trees.

To treat small trees, apply the solution in 6-inch-deep trenches around the peripheries of the trees (see illustration below), but dig the trenches no closer than 1 foot from the base of the tree.

The amount of solution required is determined as with larger trees except that the minimum dosage is 1 gallon per tree if treatment is made while the tree is dormant, and ½ gallon per tree if treatment is made during the growing season.

The summer after treating the soil, watch for symptoms of chlorosis. If chlorosis persists, take these additional steps:

- Spray the foliage once or twice to gain temporary improvement.
- Repeat the soil treatment when the trees are again dormant.

Shrubs and Vines

Dig a trench 4 to 6 inches deep around each shrub or vine, or dig four holes 6 to 8 inches deep.

In digging a trench, follow the periphery, or drip line, of the plant, but keep the trench at least 1 foot from the base of the plant.

In digging holes, place them at equal intervals around the periphery, but at least 1 foot from the base of the plant.

The amount of ferrous sulfate needed by a shrub or vine ranges from 2 to 5 gallons. The amount needed by a particular plant depends on the size of the plant.

Pour the solution in the trench or holes. After it has soaked away, fill the trench or holes with water once or twice, and let it soak away. Refill the trench or holes with soil.

Flowers and Vegetables

To treat the soil in which large flowers (annual and perennial) and vegetables are *growing singly*, dig a trench 2 to 3 inches deep around each plant; keep it at least 1 foot from the base of the plant. Pour 1 gallon of ferrous sulfate solution in the trench. After it has soaked away, fill the trench with water once or twice, and let it soak away. Refill the trench with soil.

To treat the soil in which flowers (annual and perennial) and vegetables are *growing in rows*, dig trenches 2 to 3 inches deep on both sides of each row and about 6 inches from the base of the plants. Pour ferrous sulfate solution in the trenches at the rate of 1 gallon per 10 feet of row — ½ gallon on each side of the row. The rest of the treatment is the same as for plants growing singly.

If either of these treatments is not fully effective, repeat it in 2 weeks.

TREATING FOLIAGE

Quick but short-lived results are obtained by spraying ferrous sulfate solution on the foliage of plants affected with iron chlorosis. The amount required is much smaller than that required for application to the soil. However, if chlorosis is severe, frequent applications to foliage are required to keep plants green and healthy.

Preparing Spray

To prepare 50 gallons of spray —

- Dissolve 2 pounds of ferrous sulfate in 50 gallons of water. (A stronger solution would burn some plant varieties.)
- Add 2 cups of a mild household detergent. (The detergent acts as a wetting agent and increases the effectiveness of the spray.)

To prepare 3 gallons of spray, dissolve 2 ounces of ferrous sulfate in 3 gallons of water and add 2 tablespoons of detegent.

Applying Spray

Spray treatments can begin any time during the growing season but are most effective when started early in the season.

Thoroughly wet the foliage of the plants with spray. If you spray large trees, you will need a good power sprayer. A compressed-air sprayer is

recommended for treating other plants.

Several treatments are necessary during a season. Spray at 2- to 4-week intervals until symptoms disappear; then spray whenever symptoms reappear.

If spray solution gets on flowers, it may stain and ruin them. To prevent this, direct the spray away from flowers, or spray when plants are not in bloom.

Early Spraying of Annual Plants

It is not necessary to wait until symptoms of iron chlorosis appear before spraying annual plants with ferrous sulfate solution.

If you know that annual plants of a particular species, planted in a particular area or plot, are likely to develop chlorosis, spray them within 10 days after they emerge from the soil. Repeat the treatment within 2 weeks. If chlorosis develops, spray chlorotic areas again; repeat in 2 weeks if necessary. This procedure prevents stunting of plants, and it prevents reductions in yield that would result from iron deficiency.

DONCKELARII

By Albert Fendig

Ed Note: Here is another in our series on "Old Favorites" taken from back issues of Carolina Camellias Bulletin

One cannot pick a more favored old favorite than DONCKELARII. Along with its mutants and seedlings, it undoubtedly has won more blue ribbons than any other cultivar in Camelliadom. Its large, perfectly developed, deep-red, semi-double flower, marbled, blotched and splashed with white is too well known to require detailed description.

Its name has been spelled with at least twelve different variations including both one and two of the letters "e", "a", and "i" and with and without the "c".

It is said that DONCKELARII was introduced into Europe from the Orient by Franz von Siebold in the year 1830 and named by him for Donckelaer, the chief gardener of the Botanical Garden at Louvain. It was described by Berlese in his iconograph volume 1 in 1841 and earlier by Morren in L'Horticulteur Belge in 1834.

DIFFERENT STRAINS

Depending upon the amount of variegation and size of the bloom, there are different named strains of this fine old cultivar including: TEA GARDEN; GEORGIA; PUMP HOUSE; CANTELOU; ENGLISH; and TALLAHASSEE.

In addition to its variable spelling, DONCKELARII has gone under the names of AILEEN, ALEEN, MIDDLETON #15, WINNIE DAVIS, MARY ROBERTSON, CAMELLIA-T, and DON KALEARE, and in Holland as ANGUSTIFOLIA.

Perhaps one of its most outstanding characteristics is the fine quality of its offspring.

MUTANTS AND SEEDLINGS

Its mutants include VILLE de NANTES, called DONCKELARII FRISE in Belgium and Holland, which in turn has sported a red form called VILLE de NANTES RED, and an irregular double or peony form called LADY KAY and LADY KAY Variegated. Seedlings of VILLE de NANTES include TICKLED PINK and STEWART'S WHITE SUPREME.

The red form of DONCKELARII is called ENGENE BOLEN and is one of the parents of the seedling, JUDGE TALBOT.

The earliest outstanding seedling of DONCKELARII is EUGENE LIZE, also called LADY JANE GRAY; DONCKELARII ENGENE LIZ; ARCHY McDONALD; ARCHIE McDONALD; and ANNIE Mc-

DONALD.

Other outstanding seedlings include JAMES ALLAN and its variegated form, MARY McKINNON, ALPINE GLOW and its variegated form, EDMUND B., and SATELLITE.

THE GARDENS OF POMPEII

by Frederick Meyer

Ed. Note: Reprinted from The Garden, Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Vol. 105, No. 11, Nov. 1980.

At Pompeii, the garden played a role in the ancient urban environment that, until now, had been totally unsuspected. Gardens are fragile and ephemeral creations easily destroyed. In the days before excavation reports and in the haste of most earlier excavations, in garden after garden, the soil contours, tree roots, and other details were routinely destroyed. Thus, a vast amount of valuable data on the ancient Vesuvian gardens was lost for ever. Yet not all was unrecorded and lost. Much evidence of value was still available, for the hunting. The weight of the evidence presented by Jashemski is nothing less than overwhelming, as it concentrates on the only sites in antiquity where such work could have been done.

In its day, Pompeii was typically Roman, a town of no great importance, with perhaps 12,000 inhabitants, some say more, some less. The city covered about 155 acres, 17.7 per cent devoted to gardens and open space. Ancient Roman towns may appear to be made of stone, brick, mortar, cobbled streets, and little else. Yet the thousands of root cavities found throughout the city testify to the importance of trees at Pompeii.

Indeed, Pompeii was filled with trees, meant to temper the hot Campanian summers. It is possible, thanks to relatively new techniques, to identify different trees through a root cast of concrete, a technique extensively used by Jashemski. Based on size of root casts, the largest trees at Pompeii were pine, walnut, plane, and cypress. Root casts of oriental plane, some nearly six feet in diameter (2m) in the Palaestra, were probably the largest trees in the city at the time of the eruption.

The garden gained greater prominence after the introduction of the aqueduct under the Emperor Augustus, when water became more readily available. Elaborate irrigation systems were then installed, many of which still exist. Pools and fountains became common. With a few minor repairs, the fountains at the House of the Vettii at Pompeii are now as functional as they were in antiquity.

Over 450 gardens have been preserved and catalogued at Pompeii, many more at Herculaneum, and still others in the neighboring villas and other populated sites. Gardens have been found in every part of the ancient city — private and public gardens, flower gardens that supported an ancient perfume industry, gardens attached to bakeries and fulleries, vegetable gardens, fruit orchards, tomb gardens, vineyards, gardens in restaurants, inns, hotels, baths, theatres, and palaestras. A garden was even found attached to a stable. Evidence exists that several gardens had night lighting. Many gardens had sundials. The love of beauty in flowers and plants, inherent in the Roman character, everywhere pervades the ancient Vesuvian landscape. Gardens were part of the cement that kept the urban environment alive, a place of work and play, and a place to worship the gods.

The ancient Pompeian garden was an integral part of the house, a feature that significantly affected the development of domestic architecture. At Pompeii, even the humblest house had a garden, sometimes no larger than a "professor's desk," that might have included a few vegetables and herbs mixed with a few flowers. The Italic trait of mixing flowers and vegetables together in a fruit orchard still prevails today in the Pompeii area. A few of the

ancient houses, together with their gardens, covered an entire city block. Roman gardens often included a peristyle, a concept borrowed from the Greeks, as the heart of the dwelling. While the Greek peristyle was always of beaten earth or paved, the Roman peristyle was always planted. Indeed, the peristyle garden was a splendid arrangement that offered maximum privacy to the residents, a concept that is all too lacking in modern gardens. In the House of Polybius at Pompeii, we have the first positive proof of trees being planted in a peristyle garden. Data of this kind is now difficult to come by, because in the excavated areas few sites are still available in which the original soil level has not been disturbed.

The ingenious Romans made extensive use of the wall painting to make a small garden appear larger and to create the illusion of distance. Even the smallest houses were often decorated with paintings that included birds, at times fish and animals, but most importantly plants, exquisitely and beautifully depicted. The oleander, myrtle, laurel, rose, laurustinus, ivy, cherry, apple, fig, plum, quince, and many others have been identified. Also common are floral motifs found in sculpture and mosaics.

The existence of commercial gardens within the ancient city had not been previously suspected. Excavations begun by Jashemski in 1966 revealed a vegetable garden, a market-garden orchard, a large orchard, and two vineyards at Pompeii. With this evidence it is now possible for the first time to study in detail the physical layout of an ancient garden, with contours, tree root cavities, and irrigation systems all in place exactly as they were in antiquity. The discovery of ancient pollen and fern spores in these open garden areas has proved highly useful in the identification of trees, such as olive and walnut and weeds that were growing in the site at the moment of the eruption. The larger vineyard, the first ever discovered, contained 2014 vine root cavities. The vines were planted four Roman feet apart, each with a stake, probably of chestnut, exactly as recommended by the Roman agricultural writers. Modern Pompeian gardens and vineyards, it should be noted, are remarkably like the ancient ones. Even the tools and method of cultivating have not changed in the 1900 years since the eruption in A.D. 79. An ancient hoe, *sarculum*, excavated in one garden matched exactly a modern *zappa* that belonged to Jashemski's foreman. Many ancient terra-cotta pots, the oldest on record, were discovered buried below the original soil level, some with the remains of small trees. One expert suggested that the ancient pots contained lemon trees, since the custom still exists in the Naples region, of planting lemon trees with their pots.

The carbonized remains of plants, insects, birds and animal bones, and shells, found in quantity, contribute evidence immensely important to the ancient garden legacy. The food plant remains — 24 species have been identified — and the recent discovery of an ancient hay mow full of carbonized hay, provide a truly unique record of ancient plants in a Roman site of the 1st century A.D.

Believing, erroneously, that the gardens destroyed by Vesuvius in A.D. 79 had already been adequately studied, the author's one-day stint at Pompeii in the mid-1950's quickly turned into a love affair that continues unabated. After nearly 25 years of scholarly devotion and many seasons of work in Italy, *The Gardens of Pompeii* bears witness as the first installation in a priceless two-volume series of immense value to the history of gardens. An appendix volume, still unpublished, will include a description and detailed bibliography of every garden of the area destroyed by Vesuvius and all garden paintings known in the Roman Empire. In a terse and highly readable text, profusely illustrated, we see the gardens described as they might have looked the day of the eruption — Julia Felix

admiring her fig trees and the proud owner of the House of Venus Marina tending to his fine garden. At Pompeii Venus, the goddess of gardens, is omnipresent.

The value of the book is immeasurably enhanced by the collaboration received from an international group of distinguished scholars and scientists — botanists, horticulturists, zoologists, and others in the natural sciences with technical expertise that helped to create a monumental work of noble proportions. The elegant photographs and other illustrations, without which the book could not exist, are nearly all by Stanley A. Jashemski, the author's physicist husband. Without the efforts of an extremely willing and sympathetic publisher, the book might never have seen the light of day, at least in its present form.

The Gardens of Pompeii, Herculaneum and the Villas Destroyed by Vesuvius by Wilhelmina F. Jashemski.

CHINA CAMELLIA EXPERTS TO VISIT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Through the courtesy of Dr. Bruce Bartholomew and Mr. Jack Osegueda, arrangements have been made for a visit, to the Los Angeles Area, of two camellia horticulturists from China. Professor Zhang Ao-luo, Director of the Kunming Botanical Garden and Professor He Shan-an from the Nanking Botanical Garden will be here in February. They will be accompanied by Dr. Bruce Bartholomew, Curator at the Botanical Gardens of the University of California, Berkeley.

Professor Zhang has agreed to present a color slide talk on the subject of: "CAMELLIA INTRODUCTIONS TO THE KUNMING BOTANICAL GARDENS — The Golden Camellia, C. chrysantha and The Yunnan Camellia, C. reticulata." This talk will be presented in the Hall of Environmental Education at the Los Angeles State & County Arboretum, Arcadia, California on the evening of Thursday, February 25, 1982. This is the regular meeting night of the Temple City Camellia Society and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance to see these beautiful color slides.

The visitors from China will also spend a day at the Huntington Gardens; a day visiting several of the camellia nursery establishments; and a day at the Descanso Gardens during the Spring Camellia Show on Saturday, February 27, 1982. Professor Zhang speaks good English and the people who have seen his slides and heard his talk indicate that it is an outstanding event. Every camellia hobbyist should mark his or her date-book for the evening of February 25, 1982 and plan to attend this meeting.

CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE CHANGES

The San Diego Camellia Society will hold its show on the usual dates — February 6 & 7, 1982 — but in a new location at Balboa Park, San Diego.

The Queen of the Valley Camellia Show will be held in the Veterans' Memorial Center, Atwater, California. The show is presented by the Atwater Garden & Camellia Society. The dates are — Saturday & Sunday, March 6 & 7, 1982.

The Sacramento Camellia Society will hold its Annual Show on March 13 & 14, 1982 at the Convention Center, Sacramento.

The Northern California Camellia Society will hold its Annual Show at the Willows Mall, Concord, on Saturday and Sunday, March 13 & 14, 1982.

The 41st Annual Camellia Show of the Oregon Camellia Society will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 27 & 28, 1982 at the Jantzen Beach Mall in Portland, Oregon. For further details write to Mr. Andrew Sears, Show Chairman, 10145 North Smith St., Portland, Oregon 97203.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND

The CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE ENDOWMENT FUND is now into its fourth month. All contributions are tax deductible and the FUND will ensure the continued publication of the NOMENCLATURE. The following list contains the names of contributors since September 15, 1981.

Mrs. Jessica Peterson — Cash Contribution
Mr. & Mrs. Ab Summerson — Contribution in memory of the Berkeley Pace's 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Pieri — Contributions in memory of: Byard Rhone, Roy Squires, Frank Storment, Dr. John Taylor
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The status of the Fund as of November 15, 1981 is $5026.59

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NEW ZEALAND CAMELLIA SOCIETY PRINCIPAL NATIONAL SHOW RESULTS

Best Bloom of the Show	*'Wildfire'*	Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Rolfe
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Best Japonica bloom	*'Wildfire'*	Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Rolfe
Best Australian origin bloom	*'Overture'*	Mr. & Mrs. H.B. Cave
Best American origin bloom	*'Wildfire'*	Mr. & Mrs. J.N. Rolfe

Directory of Other California Camellia Socieites

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY—President, Leland Chow; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Fred R. Dukes, Jr., 733 Delmar Drive, Bakersfield 93307. Meetings: To be announced.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY—President, Marsha Zembower; Secretary, Mrs. Frances L. Butler, 1831 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 92705. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through April, Santa Ana Fed. S & L Bldg., 1802 N. Main, Santa Ana.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO—President, Ann McKee; Secretary, Evalena Smith, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, 95816. Meetings: 4th Wednesday each month, October through April, Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Al Taylor; Secretary, Mary Ann Ray 5024 E. Laurel Ave., Fresno 93727. Meetings: 3rd Thursday, November through February in Smuggler's Inn Motel.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Edith Mazzie; Secretary, Evelyn Kilsby, 11 Tiffin Ct., Clayton, CA 94517. Meetings: 2nd Wednesday, November through March, Central Contra Costa Sanitary Dist. Treatment Plant, (Imhoff Drive) Martinez.

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Warren Dickson; Secretary, Mrs. Happy Stillman, 8159 Hollywood Blvd. 90069. Meetings: 1st Tuesday, December through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood.

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ron Kellogg; Secretary, Mrs. Helen Caputi, 800 E. Morris Ave., Modesto, Ca 95351. Meetings: second Tuesday, October through May, Downey High School, Coffee Road, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, David Hagmann; Secretary, Judith Toomajian, 18 Diablo Circle, Lafayette Ca. 94549. Meetings: first Monday, November through May. Chabot School 6686, Chabot Rd., Oakland.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Alice Neely; Secretary, Marcie Alltizer, 1253 Bruce Ave., Glendale, 91202. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November through April, Glendale Federal S&L, 401 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mrs. Chas. O'Malley; Secretary, Ali Henley, 1006 Sonoma Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, September through April, AMPEX Cafeteria, 401 Broadway Redwood City.

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ronald Braid; Secretary, Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 92504. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November through April, Pomona First Fed. S & L Bldg., 399 N. Gary, Pomona.

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Ben Woodward; Secretary, Mildred Murray, 467 E. Fulvia St., Encinitas, 92024. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October through April, Casa Del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Robt. Marcy; Secretary, Donna Hardy, 349 Condon Ct., Santa Clara 95050. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, September through April, Allstate Savings 1304 Saratoga Ave., San Jose.

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Woody Passinetti; Secretary, Mrs. Nona Passinetti, 295 Bloomfield Rd., Sebastopol 95472. Meetings: 4th Thursday, October through May, Piner Grade School, Santa Rosa.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Mazie George; Secretary, Mrs. Margaret Hanson, 3731 Linden Ave., Long Beach 90807. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September through May, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw, Palos Verdes.

TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY—President, Sergio Bracci; Secretary, Mrs. Alice Jaacks, 5554 N. Burton Ave., San Gabriel, Ca 91776. Meetings: Friday, Nov. 20; Fri. Dec. 18, Thurs., Jan. 28; Thur., Feb. 25; Wed., Mar. 25; Thur., April 22. At Lecture Hall Arboretum, Arcadia.

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