

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



Japonica 'Elegans Splendor'

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COVER PHOTO

Japonica 'Elegans Splendor'. Large to very large. Light pink edged white with deep petal serrations. Sport of 'C. M. Wilson'. Photo by Mel Belcher

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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



On many occasions I have on this page appealed for relevant articles to publish in *The Review*. Indeed, I am continuing to do that but want to express my deep appreciation for those authors who have submitted interesting papers about their experiences in the world of camellias.

It's a rare issue that Marilee Gray does not have one or more articles of immense value and always beautifully written. This issue is no exception.

I want to thank Marty Hammond for her "Blooms Every Day of the Year" article. She started out with 10 camellia plants then bought 17 more and then another 18 for a total of 45. I think most camellia hobbyists have traveled that same road. Most of us did not stop at 45 and my guess is that, within a year, Marty's total will have doubled.

Thank you, one and all, for your contributing to this your publication. Your input makes my job easy (easier).

This second issue is late getting out. My only excuse is that Bobbie and I have had a fantastic trip the last four months traveling around the United States in our motor home. Hopefully, the next issue will be more prompt

—Mel Belcher, Editor

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KING BECOMES PRESIDENT

Marilee Gray



As the recently retired president of Southern Cal, I am delighted to be introducing to you the newly elected president, Bradford King. Although a relatively new devotee of camellias, Brad has a multitude of interests and characteristics that combine to make him an incredibly qualified and respected leader, one who will provide the much-needed enthusiasm and guidance for the Society.

Many of the president's responsibilities deal with the involvement and management of people so that the right persons are secured for specific jobs. In this respect, Brad, by training and practice, is superbly qualified. He received his B.A. from Pennsylvania's Gettysburg College where he graduated cum laude in Psychology. He proceeded on to earn his M.A. and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Boston University. After graduation, he was employed for 20 years in the Counseling Center of Boston University and worked his way up to become the Director of the Student Counseling Service,

concurrently taught Psychology in Boston's Emmanuel College, and conducted a private practice. In 1985, the Kings moved to the West Coast where Brad became the Director of Student Counseling Service at U.S.C. He promptly set about gaining recognition and accreditation for his department so that interns could train in U.S.C.'s department of Psychological Mental Health Services. He sees a parallel in the growth and development of plants and people; each presents a challenge and requires certain conditions in order to prosper. In providing an optimum environment for growth, his gardening interest is a counterpoint to his practice of psychology.

Brad's love of horticulture came from his parents and grandparents. In his youth, he and his parents customarily spent weekends on his grandparents' Massachusetts farm. There, in this idyllic setting of big woods, ponds, and gardens, Brad developed an appreciation for plants, birds, and nature that would foster lifelong interests. Now, in addition to being an ardent gardener, Brad enjoys raising tropical fish (Presently down to only eight or nine fish tanks.) and all the tromping through woods that birdwatching entails.

In his pre-California years, Brad had followed his uncle's footsteps and specialized in daylilies that, with roses, provided most of his summer color. The only camellias he had seen were those in the eastern garden shows. Once in the West, however, Brad was taken with a whole new horticultural world and developed a real passion for the color and beauty found in the winter garden. He and his wife Lynn chose their home in

Arcadia primarily for the quality of plants and landscaping that surrounded it. Today their garden displays numerous plant collections in addition to camellias--cymbidiums, staghorn ferns, hibiscus, azaleas, succulents, epiphyllums, roses, begonias, clematis, roses, and, yes, daylilies. Lynn asserts that Brad never met a plant he didn't like, while Brad laments that his garden is so crowded that he cannot add a plant without removing something else. He is contemplating converting a row of six large 'Pope Pious' (seldom a show winner) to a row of strong, red contenders. His likely list of grafts includes 'Royal Velvet', 'Grand Marshall', 'Wildfire', 'Grand Prix', 'Harold L. Paige', and 'Dr. Clifford Parks'. As to which variety is his favorite, he shrugs and admits to being fickle; he likes best what is best at that moment.

Brad's interest in camellias developed through various avenues. He was told about Nuccio's Nurseries and promptly visited there. Brad admits standing in awe when Julius Nuccio readily named 14 of the 15 unidentified camellia blooms that he had brought from his garden. About this time, Brad and Lynn also happened upon one of my seminars at the Arboretum in Arcadia. And he

vividly recalls attending a camellia show with a daughter-in-law at which they both were dazzled by a winning 'Royal Velvet Variegated' exhibited by Bob and Alice Jaacks. These shows, he said, absolutely clinched his interest. From literature obtained at the shows, he learned of Southern Cal's existence. He attended his first meeting and joined the Society about six years ago and has been an active, learning participant ever since.

On the U.S.C. campus, Brad pushed for the renovation of a patio garden near his office. First came the installation of a new watering system. Then, at Brad's insistence, came the camellias. The very first, obviously, would have to be the floral tribute to the Trojans, 'Maroon and Gold'. Others were 'Adolphe Audusson Variegated' and, in sunny corners, two sasanquas--'Shibori Egao' and 'Yuletide'. Each year he commemorates the graduating class of interns with another carefully chosen camellia for the garden. So far, 'Nuccio's Gem', 'Carter's Sunburst', and 'Margaret's Joy' have been added.

After U.S.C.'s recent victory over Notre Dame, the Trojan flag was flying proudly at the King's residence. In a way, we share in their victory. Thanks to U.S.C., we have Brad here in Southern California.

CAMELLIA STATIONERY

Our beautiful camellia notecards (*back cover*) are still available in sets of eight for \$6.00 including tax and shipping. Folks who use them (and re-order) tell us how truly lovely they are. They make wonderful gifts for your fellow camellia lovers or those you are trying to get interested in this great hobby! You can even order them for your own use. They also look beautiful in frames.

Cards can be ordered through Dorothy Grier, 13229 Pipeline Ave., Chino, CA 91710 (909)628-1380, or through Southern California Camellia Society, 7475 Brydon Road, La Verne, CA 91750, (909)593-4894. In either case, make your check payable to SCCS.

If any camellia society would like to use these cards as "fund raisers," orders for 25 or more sets are priced at \$4.00 each, including tax and shipping.

BLOOMS EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR ROSES IN THE SUN, CAMELLIAS IN THE SHADE

Marty Hammond

(Editor's Note: Marty is a director on the board of the newly reinstated Orange County Camellia Society. She is also the editor of the Newsletter of the Rose Society of Saddleback Mountain. This article, that shares her newfound fascination of camellias with rose fanciers, first appeared in the October 1998 Newsletter and typifies the enthusiasm that exists with the new Orange County group.)

All who grow roses are well aware of the sun requirements for our roses. If you're serious about growing roses, as I am, your landscape centers around roses. However, we have quite a bit of shaded area; we designed our yard and covered patio in such a way so we can also enjoy many shade-loving plants. Just about everyone has some shade or filtered sun somewhere in their landscape, a spot in your garden where house walls, fences, hedges or large shrubs and trees provide sun and wind protection. There are many sun-loving companions for our roses; however, I want my shade plants to also compliment my roses. This last winter, my Amaryllis bulbs took the spotlight during December and January. I have them all in containers, and they are very rewarding for the effort spent in forcing dormancy and re-potting. I also had ten camellias, all but one in containers, which I have always enjoyed. The majority of camellias bloom from about November through February so, even though their blooming period is short, it's when the roses are dormant with few, if any, blooms.

I wanted to learn more about camellias, so I joined the Orange County Camellia Society. I was pretty ignorant about how to take care of them; at my first Camellia Society meeting, I learned

I wasn't ignoring them enough, and I was feeding them at the wrong time. Most camellias don't just die; they are killed by too much TLC. Upon seeing the beautiful display brought to the meeting, I was hooked. I had to have more of these very easy to care for shade-loving shrubs. The roses were pruned and, other than the ten camellias, daffodils and 60 different Amaryllis bulbs which don't bloom all at the same time, the yard looked pretty bare. I decided to buy 17 new varieties of camellias in one-gallon pots from the Green Thumb Nursery, and we enjoyed gorgeous blooms right away. I now am of the opinion that camellias are the "perfect" shade companion to my roses.

I did some necessary research in our RSSM (Rose Society of Saddleback Mountain) Garden Library to learn the do's and don'ts of camellia culture, and I talked to the experts in the Camellia Society. To my amazement, I learned that camellias are dormant when they are setting on bloom buds and blooming. Although there seems to be some disagreement on when to fertilize, the majority say you DO NOT feed them when they are setting on buds and blooming--from about September until April. I followed this advice and literally ignored my camellias. I kept those I had placed on the front walkway watered because the rain couldn't get to them but, other than that, I did nothing but enjoy their beautiful blooms. What a wonderful treat to have all those gorgeous blooms while the roses looked so barren!

If you plant camellias, you need to be aware of their needs. If planting under a big tree, set the plant at least six feet away from the trunk, or do as I have done--plant in containers which can be

moved as needed and will not be choked by tree roots. Camellias are one of the best plants for long-term residence in containers, and they are easy to grow. This does not mean they are void of any problems from insects, disease and fungus but, overall, I consider them easier to care for than my roses.

Camellias will get much larger if planted in the ground, but the ability to move them around is a distinct advantage of planting in containers. Most are slow growing and even the smallest plant I purchased, which was only 14" tall, gave me several very double blooms 4-5" across. One camellia I've had in a container for six years is now only about 3' tall and as wide, and it gave me about two dozen blooms in January and February. It just loves the lack of sun on our front walkway. Even though there is no sun, there is plenty of light in this area. I added nine camellias to this front walk area; the rest are where they get shade or filtered sun which is what they like the best. Some camellias do get rather large and, even though planting in a container will keep them smaller than if planted in the ground, you need to think about their eventual size. Another plus for camellias: their foliage is always very neat and dark green year around and with very little leaf drop. Camellias are excellent as cut flowers and make wonderful arrangements, or just a single bloom floating in a dish makes a delightful table centerpiece.

The dormant season (September through April) when they are setting on bloom buds and blooming is the best time to repot or plant in the ground. I potted my new camellias I had purchased in one-gallon pots up into two-gallon containers. I had very little pruning to do which, if any is needed, is done when they finish blooming. I started a feeding program in May with

fish emulsion, 1/2 recommended strength, followed up in June with a light feeding of Cottonseed meal, a slow-acting organic fertilizer. Then once a month in July and August, I fed 'Miracid', a liquid, acidic fertilizer, 1/2 strength, and I mulched them once. Some camellia experts believe you should not fertilize at all the first year, that a properly planted camellia needs no feeding whatsoever, other than a good mulch renewed annually. The experts seem to agree, "It is better to underfeed than to overfeed." If you feel you must feed, use cottonseed meal, which is unanimously recommended by Camellia experts, or an acidic fertilizer (1/2 strength) made expressly for shade plants. Now I ask you, how much easier can this be?

Flower buds started forming in August, so now I must decide whether to "disbud" or not. I really don't want to deliberately cut flower buds off my roses, and I have the same struggle when I go to twist buds off of my camellias. Most camellias will produce more than one flower bud at each point on a stem where buds form, and in some varieties there may be three to six buds in each cluster. The result will be plenty of color but smaller individual flowers. If you want larger "exhibition" quality blooms, then you will need to disbud. If you decide to disbud, leave one or two flower buds at the end of each branch and, moving back on the stem, leave one flower bud every 3 or 4 inches. Spare flower buds of different sizes; the smaller ones will mature later and prolong the bloom season. To remove a bud, grasp it firmly and gently twist it off. If you try to pull or break it off, you may accidentally remove the growth bud as well. This disbudding practice is a matter of personal preference, and depends on what you want from your camellia.

Camellias like a light, humus-rich

growing medium that is porous and moist and always well-drained. Sound familiar? Sounds like my mini Roses! I used potting soil especially for camellias and azaleas, however, I added perlite to the mix for better drainage. Ground bark is highly recommended for maximum aeration; use the 1/8 to 1/4 inch mesh. Using ground bark will require frequent watering, since drainage is excellent and the top few inches will dry out more rapidly than other mixes.

The rule for water requirements is to keep roots moist the year around, but not soggy. Insufficient water during the period when flower buds are developing will often result in failure of flowers to open properly. Apply enough water to dampen all the roots. If your Camellia is properly planted with good drainage, you run little risk of harming it by over-watering; the danger lies in under-watering.

There is more to growing good

camellias; I've touched on just some basics. Like growing exhibition roses, there are special steps to take to get those "perfect" blooms for the show table; however, that is not my goal. I want mass color in my yard, with lots of blooms. I suggest YOU consider some camellias in your landscape. I think you'll find, as I have, camellias are very enjoyable and easy to care for. I've added several more to my collection since my February acquisitions, (I now have 45) including some of the earlier blooming 'Sasanquas' that will start blooming this month. I'll begin repotting the Amaryllis bulbs the middle of this month, so I expect to have a bountiful, beautiful Winter season full of gorgeous blooms. I'm really looking forward to the winter blooms, just as I look forward to my roses blooming in the spring, summer and fall. I feel very confident, from now on, we and our neighbors will be enjoying "**blooms every day of the year.**"

INTRODUCTIONS FOR 1998-99

'Bunny Ears'—Nuccio's own chance seedling hybrid. To quote Tom Nuccio, "We believe it to be a roseflora hybrid. The color is medium pink. Form is semi-double. Good "rabbit ears" and miniature to small in size. The plant is vigorous, upright and bushy and is a profuse bloomer. Mid-late season.

'Frank Houser'—retic hybrid. Very large, rose-red, semi-double to loose peony, good rabbit ears. Typical retic growth. Virgorous, open and upright. Mid-season bloom.

'Sweet Emily Kate'—This is a fragrant Lutchuensis hybrid. Blush pink shading to pale pink in center. Small-medium, irregular loose peony. Slow pendulus growth. Mid-late season.

'Sweet Jane'—(Japonica x Transnokoensis). Pale pink at center shading to deeper pink on the outer petals. Miniature size, peony form. Virgorous upright, mid-season.

'Snow Drop Cascade'—A 'Snow Drop' seedling which is a Fraterna hybrid. White or almost white shading to soft pink near the edge. Miniature to small, single to semi-double. Spreading growth. Early to mid-season.

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CUTTING FOR SHOWS

Marilee Gray

If you are like me, you are anxiously checking your buds daily during the camellia show season. You watch excitedly as the buds swell and expose increasing amounts of color. You want them to be perfect for the judging the next Saturday, but what if they didn't get the message that they are to be judged on Saturday? Many buds apparently don't, because we hear lots of bemoaning about the Sunday, the Monday, and the Tuesday beauties that were a bit too late for one show and a bit too early for the next. How does one "harvest" blooms so that they are potential winners on Saturday?

First of all, blooms destined for a show should be picked at their prime, never past it. "Over-the-hill" blooms with their drooping petals and limp stamens won't get a second look beside a dazzling, fresh bloom. Colors fade and forms alter to become less striking with age. (Perhaps the same could be said about us.) With blooms, however, you may be able to put a hold on time and get most of your blooms looking pert at the Saturday show.

Blooms at their optimum on Thursday or Friday generally do not present a problem. If the temperature is cooperating, you should be able to cut blooms on Friday morning and have them looking fresh on Saturday even without refrigeration. Some growers successfully hold their blooms for a day or two by cutting them with long stems and placing them in a cool area in a bucket or tray of water that is topped with 1/2" wire mesh that will carefully hold and separate the blooms.

Most exhibitors, however, cut their blooms with shorter stems and hold them in covered, plastic transporting containers. A moistened paper towel in the bottom of each box is topped by a heavy layer of shredded wax paper or poly fluff to support and cushion the blooms. Most exhibitors add a floral preservative or a special kitchen concoction (7-Up, sugar, aspirin, bleach, etc.) to the water cups. Those few blooms that I consider the very best are similarly packed, but they rate refrigerator space; since that is limited, most Thursday-Friday blooms are held in boxes that are stored on a north porch, my coolest outside area. Since the humidity in Southern California is relatively low, watering down the concrete under the boxes and the towels or newspapers draped over them provides good evaporative cooling. The length of time blooms can be successfully stored without refrigeration is dependent upon the variety (their genes), their condition, the air temperature, and the humidity. Ideally, the interior temperature of the boxes should be around 44°F; that is considerably warmer than my refrigerator, but it is the temperature many consider optimum for holding blooms under refrigeration. That degree of coolness, however, is rarely achieved with evaporative cooling, and I am seldom pleased with blooms held this way for more than a day.

With refrigeration, you can greatly increase the number of show-quality blooms for Saturday's show. On Sunday, I begin cutting and refrigerating blooms for the next

weekend. I do not, however, waste precious refrigerator space on those varieties that will not hold together. 'Grand Slam', for example, will pop off the calyx in the frig even if it is weighted down. I understand some exhibitors use hair spray on the backs of problem blooms to keep them intact, but I cannot speak to its effectiveness. By experience, you will learn which of your varieties are not suitable candidates for refrigeration; unfortunately, they will only make a show if they present prime blooms for the weekend.

Assuming you have refrigeration available, the real problem becomes one of knowing when to pick a bloom. You need to know the potential for each variety so that you know when it has reached its most majestic form without going past its prime. Most blooms need time to mature, some more than others. Some particularly large and complex blooms like 'Harold L. Paige' and even the delicately fluttering 'Angel Wings' need a few days to extend and develop their good forms with beautifully high centers. Blooms of these varieties generally lack symmetry when they open, but usually become symmetrical as they mature. If a bloom is cut before it has developed symmetry, it will likely never develop symmetry, and symmetry is absolutely essential for good form. 'Carter's Sunburst', on the other hand, is one that tends to be symmetrical when it opens, but it needs time to develop the height in the center petals and make a winning form. Some of the large retics, in particular, may need to be cut before they have reached their ultimate size if, in aging, they begin losing brightness of color, freshness of stamens, preciseness of form, and overall sparkle.

With experience you will become quite precise in predicting each bloom's behavior. You will learn which blooms fall from the calyx or disintegrate into their many pieces almost immediately and which can be refrigerated successfully for days, that a refrigerated 'Royal Velvet' will probably fall apart when transferred to a show cup but will likely survive if it is staged and refrigerated in the cup in which it will be shown, that 'Ragland Supreme' will transform rather quickly from a regal ballerina to one with a drooping tutu, that 'LASCA Beauty' must be picked just before it reaches its peak if it is to have any chance of staying in one piece, etc., etc., etc.

Of all the bloom forms, I find the cutting time the most critical with the formal doubles. 'Valentine Day' is an exception because it shows exceedingly well either as an opening bloom with a huge bud center surrounded by a couple rows of petals or as a fully opened double and everything in-between. But for most formal doubles, the timing is more crucial. Formal doubles show best when they still have at least some remnant of a bud center for a focal point. 'Pink Dahlia' loses impact when it opens completely and loses its bud center. One strong plus for 'Nuccio's Gem' is that it almost always seems to retain something of a bud center. Formal doubles also show stronger before the outer petals turn downward; for some, curved outer petals contribute to the crescendo of a full, deep formal, but for most, lowered outer petals is a telltale of age. 'Pink Frost', for example, is less desirable when it ages and the outer petals assume an unkempt undulating pattern. Study each variety to determine when its form is the most perfect and then

cut, refrigerate, and pray. Most formal doubles stay as they were when cut, but some, unfortunately, continue to open. Generally, their behavior is consistent within a variety, but not always. Perhaps the temperature is partially responsible; a colder temperature near freezing would be more likely to hold a bloom in the same form than one that is warmer.

Rose-form doubles provide an interesting challenge to cut. They appear as a formal double until the very last when the bud center opens to show stamens. Consider the rose-form doubles of 'Alta Gavin' and 'Lady Laura'; they are beautiful with their fresh yellow stamens, but most judges prefer them holding a bud center. Experiment with your different rose-form doubles, and see if you can delay their opening process with refrigeration. Even if you succeed, chances are good that they will resume opening once they are placed on the table for judging. What you really need with these varieties is a bloom that is ready to cut on Saturday morning. If you find it, look around for the markings of a Bente leaf that says the gods have kissed you and your garden!

In general, the loose peony and full peony forms are the most successfully refrigerated. Most of the semi-doubles do fairly well also, with the notable exception of a number of semi-doubles with tubular forms that are temperamental and self-destruct. The formal doubles that are non-retic hybrids, like 'E. G. Waterhouse', can drop half of their petals in a wink. Whether enduring temperature extremes of refrigeration or heat, 'Betty Sheffield' and 'Margaret Davis' are notable for their endurance; there is something for

extended youth in their genes that all camellias should envy.

Certainly many will disagree, but I contend that some refrigeration improves most blooms. I believe my best show blooms have been picked on Thursday morning and refrigerated until Saturday. Closed in the cool, moist boxes, blooms respond by growing. Yes, some grow so significantly that they are hardly recognizable after a day or two in the cooler, and their increased size has to be taken into consideration initially when the blooms are placed in the box. An added benefit, refrigeration produces turgid blooms that will travel well.

One very unfortunate circumstance that will limit severely the successful holding or refrigerating of blooms is the presence of petal blight spores. In the fall and early winter, the dry, cool weather is not conducive to the formation of the spore-producing mushrooms. As increased moisture and warmer temperatures arrive, however, the air-borne spores become prevalent. The result is that blooms are much more successfully refrigerated in the early part of the blooming season than later. Refrigeration will help delay the spread of the blight on a bloom, but it readily appears and grows once it is tabled for judging. The conquest of petal blight will greatly expand the appreciation and the growing of camellias by the general public.

All of this having been said about cutting and refrigerating blooms, the best contenders at the show will be those blooms that can be cut at their peak of perfection in the early hours on Saturday morning. A good bloom that is fresh and still glistens with the morning dew will be very hard to beat!

1999 CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE

Art Gonos

The millennium is coming to a close with the 1999 edition of *Camellia Nomenclature*. The end of the millennium will also mark the close of my tenure as Editor. The last nine years—which have encompassed the *Camellia Nomenclature Supplement* and three editions of *Camellia Nomenclature*—have been a wonderful experience. However, I feel that it is time for a person with more computer expertise than I have to take over. The computer has allowed us (Southern California Camellia Society) to dramatically reduce printing costs by putting the "Book" on a computer disk and making corrections and additions to that same disk. Printing costs may be further reduced by also including pagination on the disk. But, alas, my computer cannot handle the pagination. David Trujillo, of Etiwanda, California, will succeed me and carry on the tradition that was begun by Bill Woodroof.

The 1999 edition has two new features. First, it had been noted that judges at times were not referring to the "Book" at camellia shows as it took too long to alphabetically find a specific cultivar. Therefore, we added vertical tabs at the right-hand margin of odd-numbered pages. These tabs are broken into four categories—japonicas, reticulata, sasanqua and non-retic hybrid—starting at the top of the page. Each of these vertical tabs is about 2 inches in length. The two letters at the bottom of each tab represent the alphabet from the first cultivar listed at the top of the left-hand page to the last cultivar listed at the bottom of the right-hand page. By using your thumb and flipping from A to Z or Z to A you can find what you are searching for in a very short period of time!

The second new feature is an

improved form of lay-flat binding. In the 1996 edition we added the American form of lay-flat binding and, while this was an improvement over the 1993 and previous editions, it worked only if you pressed down hard on a newly opened page. Even by pressing down hard it usually worked only part of the time. In the 1999 edition we are using the European form of lay-flat binding called OTA binding. The OTA binding is far superior to the American type. Now, if you press down lightly the page tends to remain open even after subsequent use. True lay-flat binding requires a book that is at least 7" x 10" in size and 2200 pages in length, but our "Book" is only 6" x 9" and 186 pages.

The "Book" remains the official nomenclature book of the American Camellia Society and includes all new varietal registrations of that society. We have also accepted all of the new registrations of the Australian and New Zealand national societies. Altogether there are 205 new cultivars in the 1999 edition.

As my last official duty as Editor, I need to acknowledge a number of people who have provided invaluable assistance to me. First, the current twenty-third revised edition of *Camellia Nomenclature* would never have been possible without Bill Woodroof who published the first edition a half century ago. Secondly, Bill Donnan served as my first associate editor and business manager in 1993 and his assistance and expertise were extremely helpful. Bill passed away recently and the 1999 edition has been dedicated to him.

I cannot say enough about Sergio Bracci who has served not only as the Associate Editor but also as the business manager for the 1996 and

1999 editions. Sergio, in addition to providing his tremendous knowledge of camellias, has helped me solve problems and at times maintain my sanity and, above all, has become a great friend!

The editorial board also includes Elsie Bracci and Bob and Alice Jaacks who reside in California. These folks, along with Buddy Cawthorn and John Newsome of Georgia and Alton LeFebvre of Mississippi have all read the printer's proof copies of both the 1996 and 1999 editions along with Sergio and myself. Alice Jaacks also prepared the entire *Camellia Nomenclature Supplement* on her computer in 1996. I should add that the *Supplement* may still be used with the 1999 and all subsequent edition.

Ann Brown, Executive Director, Jack Mandarich, Registrar, and Hulyn Smith, Advisor, have all provided expert technical assistance from the American Camellia Society. Vonnie Cave, New Zealand, and Ray Garnett, Australia, have both been very helpful as our foreign representatives on the Nomenclature Research Committee (NRC). All of the American members of the NRC have contributed to the quality of the "Book." The NRC

obviously cannot meet as a whole group since the members live great distances from one another. As a result, individuals or small groups of individuals have met with me or contacted me to discuss nomenclature concerns. Unfortunately, since the 1996 edition, three of our members—Elliott Brogden, Dr. Walter Homeyer and Jim Pinkerton—have all passed on and, along with Bill Donnan, they will all be missed.

I need also to acknowledge Marilee Gray, another NRC member, who has served as President of the Southern California Camellia Society during the majority of my tenure as editor. Marilee has offered support and guidance and has been very instrumental in obtaining Southern California Board of Directors' approval for the innovations and improvements that have been made in the various nomenclature books.

All of the members of the Nomenclature Research Committee are shown on the inside back cover of the 1999 edition. It is not possible to list all of their contributions, but I need to acknowledge them and thank them for all of the effort that they have put into *CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE!!!*

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW

1998 crop of camellia seeds from Huntington Gardens,
Descanso Gardens and Park Hill Estate

Japonica seeds - \$10.00 per 100 Reticulata seeds - \$.25 each
Sasanqua seeds - \$7.50 per 100
Minimum order - \$5.00

Southern California Camellia Society
c/o David Trujillo
13265 Catalpa, Etiwanda, CA 91739 (909)899-1650

THE WOMEN IN MY HUSBAND'S LIFE

Margaret W Lee

There's his mother, grandmothers and
sister, too

And OTHER girls, so I'm told,
But he chose me to share his life.
So I won the GOLD!!!

During our life together,
Fifty-five years, to be exact,
I've had to learn to share him
With others "after the fact."

First there were our daughters,
Deborah and Peggy Ann.
They were Daddy's little darlings
And he was their "main" man.

The girls grew up and soon left home.
Daddy really missed these two.
After a time of moping around
He knew what he had to do.

He got himself a 'Pink Champagne',
Went to 'Moonlight Bay'.

There he saw a 'Ballet Queen'
And a 'Star is Born' today.

Then 'Something Beautiful' came
along.
In fact, there were three—
'Jean Purcel', 'Edith Mazzei', 'Ruth
Hagmann'
All beautiful sights to see.

Then came 'Nancy', 'Lolita' and 'Marie'
And, of course, 'Sweet Sue',
'Judy', 'Julia', 'Cindy B'—
Just to name a few.

My husband has had a lot of loves
As you can plainly see.
But I give him a 'Standing Ovation'
Because he's always true to "Margie"—
that's me.

MANY THANKS!

THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS FRIENDS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION
TO OUR PUBLICATION COSTS:

Henry Watson
Bob & Delila Zimmerman
Pacific Camellia Society
So. California Camellia Council
Nell & G. Stuart Watson
Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Don & Marilee Gray

In memory of Glenn Smith
La Verne Smith
Barbara M. Curtis

In memory of Paul and Edna
McClelland
George & Frances Butler
Sergio & Elsie Bracci

In honor of Marilee Gray
Al Latham

Sustaining Members
Al Latham

Sponsoring Members
Julius & Dorothy Christinson
Shinichiro Kishikawa
Mayda Reynolds
Mrs. John H. Urabec
Theresa Piech
Robert & Ruth Marcy
La Verne Smith
Marjorie O'Malley

WHEN BUDS FAIL

Marilee Gray

Here in Southern California, the most frequently asked questions by the public concern their disappointment with the failure of their camellias to bloom. "Why won't my camellia buds open?" "Why do I have buds but no flowers?" "My camellia looks healthy, so why doesn't it set buds?" The reasons vary, so I will suggest a few possibilities, and let you decide if one of these might be your culprit.

Assuming the troubled camellia occupies a camellia-friendly location, here are some situations to analyze:

The camellia sets a multitude of buds, but only a fraction actually survive to bloom. Chances are good that the camellia is a small, formal soft pink called '*Pink Perfection*'. This bud drop is actually a fortuitous happening because '*Pink Perfection*' consistently sets far more buds than it can logically provide for in space and in energy. Even after the large majority have dropped, the plant still retains more buds than a competition grower would allow to remain. The excessive bud set is an undesirable characteristic, one that might have caused that first seedling to be chopped for understock were it to appear here today instead of long ago and far away. The bud set of new seedlings is part of the evaluation each is subjected to; we want neither too many buds that require tedious disbudding nor too few.

Conclusion: The grower is doing nothing wrong; the plant is merely following the dictates of its genes.

The camellia set terminal buds on most of its branches, but all or almost all drop before they size up.

The diagnosis here depends upon when the buds drop. Some of our large *Reticulata* hybrids, even if well watered, are prone to drop buds if we get some intense late September-

October heat; their pumping systems simply cannot maintain the needed moisture in the large buds. '*Curtain Call*' and '*Arcadia*' have shown this tendency most readily for me, while '*Harold L. Paige*' and '*Hulyn Smith*' have shown greater heat tolerance.

Additionally, if disbudding is done in warm weather, a bud may die because a nearby bud has been removed. Due to the heat, excessive moisture loss occurs through the open wound and desiccates the neighboring bud. If this happens, you have not one bud to bloom gloriously, but none. To play it safe, therefore, I delay disbudding heat-sensitive varieties until late October. I frequently do disbud in temperatures too high to be considered safe; however, I find that immediately spraying the open wound with water eliminates the secondary bud loss.

As with heat, camellias vary in their ability to withstand cold. After freezing temperatures, some varieties may shed all their buds (and perhaps even their leaves) without permanent damage to the plant, provided the trunk and major branches did not sustain vertical freezing splits. The most cold-tolerant varieties in my garden are '*High Wide 'n Handsome*', '*Royal Velvet*', and '*Nuccio's Carousel*'; their leaves and buds have survived freezes that have damaged all my other varieties in varying degrees of severity. If buds drop shortly after a freeze, don't be surprised. Buds of formal doubles may appear to have survived, but, if frozen through, their centers will fail to develop further, and the blooms will have incomplete, sparse, brown centers.

Various watering and fertilizing mistakes can also cause all the buds to drop. If camellias are not receiving

enough water, the buds may dry up and fall off even without temperature extremes. Many people fail to realize that, if we do not receive regular winter rains or if the overhead eves are so wide that the camellias do not get rain water, they will need winter watering.

Along this vein, particular attention needs to be given to camellias that have recently been planted in the ground. Until new roots have broken from the root ball and penetrated the surrounding soil, it needs to be watered like a plant that is still in a pot; it is not sufficient to have moist soil around the plant if the roots are still confined to a dry root ball. If a plant is allowed to go dry after the buds have set, they may drop; those that remain to bloom will have diminished size and quality. In addition, buds can also drop from too much water or from irregular watering.

If the camellia buds are developing, it follows that plants are in their dormant season (approximately September 1 to April 1 in Southern California), and dormant camellias do not tolerate fertilizers that contain more than 2-3% nitrogen. (Fertilizers containing higher nitrogen amounts can be used provided they are watered down or used so sparingly that the nitrogen application falls within the desired range.) Feeding their camellias heavily so that the buds will grow larger, many novice growers have sadly watched their buds dry and fall almost overnight. Unfortunately, if fertilizer is the culprit, chances are good that the bud drop is merely a precursor of leaf drop; before long, it will become obvious that the plant is, indeed, dead.

Another problem stems from the use of enriched potting soils. The introduction of a number of these enriched soils is resulting in an

increasing loss of newly planted camellias. One excellent commercial line boasts that its enriched soil will feed for seven months. Remember, however, that even if growing camellias can tolerate the amount of nitrogen contained in a particular product, their growing season in Southern California is generally only five months, after which the nitrogen needs to be reduced. Adding to this scenario, I advise that the optimum time for planting camellias is in October; that is generally after the summer heat and at a time when camellias are fully dormant and have the maximum time to adapt before the next growing season. Enriched soils, therefore, compound the stresses if they are used in October on dormant plants. As before, the dead plant with its nitrogen-scorched roots will have a sudden loss of buds and leaves.

Conclusion: Watch the watering; strive to keep the roots moist, but not soggy. Know what you are doing when fertilizing dormant camellias. Avoid the use of enriched soil mixes on camellias altogether. Do what you can to temper the effect of temperature extremes; mist to cool them in intense heat, and cover to protect them from freezing cold, but don't expect miracles. Pray.

The camellia has excellent leaf color, but it sets very few buds.

First of all, blooming is a plant's way of reproducing; plants that are blooming out of season are doing so because they are stressed and are trying to reproduce before they die. A camellia, therefore, that does not set buds may be doing so because life is too good, and it feels immortal and in no need to reproduce. If that is the situation, the plant needs to understand that it is, indeed, mortal, and more is expected of it. This is done by increasing the light intensity

until the plant responds. If it is deeply shaded under tall foliage, the remedy is merely to thin out the tree(s) and allow more light to penetrate. If the camellia is deeply shaded on the north side of a house with a wide, protecting overhang, you have a problem. You can choose either to let it remain as a lovely green foliage plant or transplant it to a place less coddling.

Camellia varieties vary in the amount of light required to get a good bud set. The most sensitive to light needs are the members of the *'Elegans'* family. These are often used as foundation plants because their height is easily controlled; prune the main lead once, and the growth is lateral from then on. This characteristic makes the *'Elegans'* good candidates to use under windows where most all other camellias would continue to challenge you and your pruners.

Conclusion: Be sure your camellia is receiving enough light to do its job, especially where the *'Elegans'* are concerned. One of the advantages of pot culture is that you are able to move the plant to achieve the desired light intensity--more when buds are setting, less when blooms are opening.

The camellia sets buds that appear to develop, but they never open.

The clue here is the word "never." Your camellias are not all alike; they have personalities as distinctive as ours. Some are prima donnas whose buds hardly ever open, and then only if they are growing in an area where the conditions are precisely to their liking. Furthermore, the conditions that are considered favorable are not the same for all camellias. For example, the formal doubles seem more prone to fail near the coast, while the *Saluenensis* hybrids fare better in the inland areas that are comparatively warmer and drier than most camellias like. These same inland areas,

however, do not favor the blooming of the *'Elegans'* family, particularly those with the ruffled petal edges--*'Elegans Champagne'*, *'Elegans Splendor'*, and *'Elegans Supreme'*.

As the bud grows, your expectations grow with it; however, if the bud becomes exceedingly large for that variety, your expectations will be dashed, for eventually the bud will burst at the base and drop. This occurs because the combination of temperature and low humidity have caused the outer petals to adhere so tightly to each other that the growth is confined to the inside. This tendency to "bullnose" or "bullhead" is a temperament that is determined by the genes.

Conclusion: Before selecting varieties, try to determine if they will bloom easily in your area. Don't fight the genes. You won't win.

The camellia sets buds that appear to develop, but only a few open spasmodically.

This situation says, unequivocally, that the variety is marginal for your area. Only when you have that occasional cool, moist day will the bloom be able to open; the rest bullnose. The most critical day for the bloom is the day it is trying to open. You can try to create an improved micro-climate around your plant by sprinkling the mulching bark around it, but don't expect too much success; you are combating the overwhelming influences of the weather--wind, humidity, temperature, and rainfall.

In my garden, the ruffled *'Elegans'* fall into this iffy category. The occasional bloom, however, is usually so fantastic that, to me, it is worth the wait. However, I do not recommend them to growers in this area unless they already have a number of camellia varieties and understand the additional challenge.

Conclusion: If you are satisfied with those occasional blooms, fine; if not, pick a variety you like from those that perform consistently in your area and graft it on to the existing root.

The camellia's foliage looks less than vigorous; the buds may or may not tend to develop, but they do not open.

The top of a plant is a reflection of the root. If the substance and color of the foliage is poor, the root is also struggling. A heavy infestation of phytophthora can make buds drop on any variety. Suspect this killer if the overall condition of the plant is wanting.

Conclusion: Avoid over-watering,

over-potting, and heavy soil mixes that promote the growth of phytophthora. Use "Subdue" or one of the surfactants to help control the damage from phytophthora.

In summary, some of the problems stem from poor culture, while others are beyond our control. What does remain with us, however, is the decision either to live with the problem or to take corrective measures. It has often been said that camellia foliage is so lovely that the plants needn't bloom. Perhaps not, but the fact that they can bloom so beautifully makes them the loveliest of Nature's brilliant, winter jewels.

1999 CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

From San Diego to Fresno

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| January 23 & 24 | South Coast Botanical Gardens, Palos Verdes
Hosted by South Coast Camellia Society |
| January 30 & 31 | Descanso Gardens, La Canada-Flintridge
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society |
| February 6 & 7 | Casa del Prado, Rm. 101, Balboa Park, San Diego
Hosted by San Diego Camellia Society |
| February 13 & 14 | Huntington Gardens, San Marino
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society |
| February 20 & 21 | Church of the Brethren, Bonita & "E," La Verne
Hosted by Pomona Valley Camellia Society |
| February 27 & 28 | Descanso Gardens, La Canada-Flintridge
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Council |
| March 6 & 7 | First Christian Church, Bakersfield
Hosted by Camellia Society of Kern County |
| March 13 & 14 | First Armenian Congregational Church
5673 N. First St., Fresno
Hosted by Central California Camellia Society |

CAMELLIA-RAMA XXIV MEMORIES

Mary Anne Ray

Three hundred fifty prizes—Door, Super Raffle and Awesome Drawing—were awarded Saturday.

SHOW WINNERS

Best of Show	'Buttons 'N Bows'	Art & Chris Gonos, Fresno
Species	'Star Above Star'	Bob & Alice Jaacks, San Gabriel
Large Japonica	'Junior Prom'	Sergio & Elsie Bracci, San Gabriel
Medium Japonica	'Jerry Donnan'	Skip & Carolyn Evans, Santa Clara
Boutonniere	'Kiko-Toji'	Julius & Dorothy Christinsen, Riverside
Reticulata	'Dr. Clifford Parks Variegated'	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Hybrid	'Buttons 'N Bows'	Art & Chris Gonos

COSTUME WINNERS—Theme "Kitchen Fantasy"

Best theme	"Aunt Jemima"	Edith Mazzei, Clayton
Runner-up	'Butcher, Baker & Candle Maker'	Bob Ehrhart, Walnut Creek Jack Lewis, Concord, and Linda Williams, Lafayette
Most Colorful	"Pantries" (Pan, trees)	Bill & Bev Allman, San Jose
Runner-up	"Pot Scrubber"	Virginia Rankin, Modesto
Funniest	"Mice & California Swiss Cheese"	Sergio & Elsie Bracci
Runner-up	"Galley Cook"	Tom Nuccio, Altadena**
Best Couple	"Tomato & Artichoke"	Hal & Deane Burch, Citrus Heights
Most Unusual	"Fly & Fly swatter"	Jim & Jean Toland, Concord

AWESOME RAFFLE WINNERS

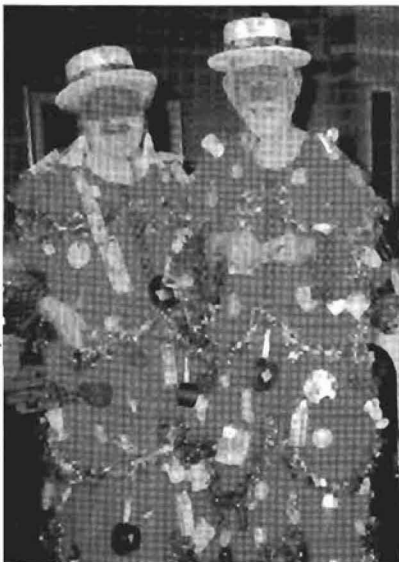
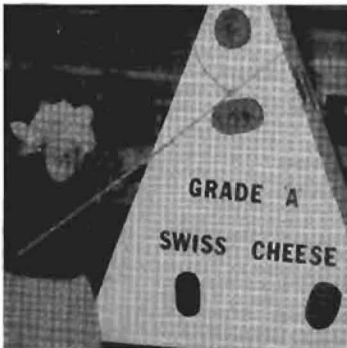
Donor	Prize	Winner
Betty Kellas, Fresno	Pink Sweatshirt	Janet Seay, Kerman
No. Cal Camellia Society	Camellia Book	Barbara Gobrecht, San Clemente
Jean Shoemaker, Fresno	Table Decoration	Edith Puckett, Fresno
Wilbur & Mary Anne Ray	Bed & Breakfast	Gordon & Barbara Goff, Lafayette
Jean & Jim Toland, Concord	Green Knit Sweater	Edith Puckett
Virginia Rankin, Modesto	China Plate	Bea Soehern, Sacramento
Central Cal. Camellia Soc.	Camellia Coasters	Carroll Rippey, Fresno
Edith Mazei, Clayton	Camellia Throw	Barbara Gobrecht
Robin Ray, Fresno	Herb Planter	Bob Logan, Fremont
	Camellia Platter	Dorothy Christinsen, Riverside
	Camellia "T" Shirt	Dick Pozdol, Fresno
	Camellia Sweatshirt	Janet Seay, Kerman
	Camellia Sweatshirts (2)	Don Bergamini, Martinez
	Camellia Tote Bag	Les Roth, Fresno
	Camellia Tote Bag	Tom Sherman, Bakersfield

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who participated.
CAMELLIA-RAMA XXV THEME IS "MARDI GRAS." See you in '99.

**"Galley Cook" nearly missed the Costume Parade. It seems Security Guard stopped him and told him, "Sorry we don't allow bums in here!" Galley Cook got in by saying he was with the camellia group. There goes our reputation!



*Above left: Baker and Galley Cook
Above right: Butcher and Candle Maker*



*Clockwise from left:
Mouse and Cheese, Raffle "Managers"
Don and Dolores Martin, "Chris"
Christinson, The Ray Family and
friends, The Pan-Trees*



GETTING TO THE HEAD TABLE—STEP 9

Pruning—Mel Belcher

Twelve steps to the Head Table is a useful frame work identifying separate functions that must be recognized and implemented in order to grow healthy camellia plants that will with certainty produce quality blooms worthy of being judged at the Head Table. The logical sequence of these steps, as presented in The Review started with the initial selection of varieties and will finish with blooms presented for final judging.

Pruning falls rather naturally after Step 8 "Disbudding." However, as important as it is, it is not as time specific as other steps in this framework. Pruning will be viewed from the perspective of why, when and how.

WHY

The amazing camellia is a hearty plant/shrub/tree that will flourish even if not pruned but when pruned properly will pay rewarding dividends in quality of blooms and an appearance that says, "Look-at-me-again!" Most public gardens have very large, tall plants in open spaces and, as impressive as they are, the competitive hobbyist wants something different. Disbudding could never be accomplished and bloom cutting would require a ladder. The hobbyist must realize that severe pruning is required to keep some varieties at a manageable height.

The beginning hobbyist often fears that the plant will be damaged if pruned. The truth is that within reason it is almost impossible to kill or damage a camellia plant by pruning. In fact, pruning promotes new growth resulting in a more healthy and vigorous plant.

Large landscape plants along side a house will invariably have interior small spindly and dead branches. This is a result of "smothering." Air does not

circulate and the sun doesn't shine. These plants will have a smile on their faces when the interior is pruned and the lateral branches are thinned so that butterflies and birds have freedom to fly. Camellia plants are not subject to many pests; however, aphids, spiders and mites are more at home in a crowded plant than in one that is open so light and air reaches the interior.

When camellia plants are appropriately pruned, less water, fertilizer and pesticides are required thus reducing the cost in time and dollars for this hobby.

WHEN

As mentioned earlier, pruning is not particularly time specific, but three seasons will be covered.

Post-blooming

It appears that most hobbyists prefer to prune and shape their plants immediately following the blooming season. One word of caution—this is also the time that new growth ("feathering") starts. This new growth is very fragile and breaks off easily. Therefore, hobbyists should finish pruning prior to the start of this feathering or use extreme care.

Pre-blooming

A minority position that I strongly recommend is to prune after the fall growth has hardened and an abundance of buds is present but prior to blooms appearing. Pruning at this time of year has several advantages over post-bloom season pruning. First, one does not have to contend with the fragile new growth. Second, pruning after the growth has hardened simultaneously helps with the disbudding job. Much less disbudding time is required. Third, by selectively removing specific branches, space is provided for choice buds to open without damage. Fourth, less

blooming fertilizer is required. Fifth, buds are more easily viewed and protected. I suspect that the buds appreciate more air circulation. Caution must be exercised: if pruning is done too early it appears that a secondary or tertiary growth mode is stimulated.

Any time

The two previous paragraphs cover seasons for major pruning and shaping of plants; however, most serious hobbyists carry pruning shears into the garden every time they go out. Cosmetic pruning can be done throughout the year. In my opinion, moderately heavy pruning can be done throughout the year provided caution is used during excessively hot weather.

HOW

The first question to ask is what do we want to accomplish. If the plant is an old, established landscape plant it may need to have its height reduced, congested interior limbs removed and exterior limbs shortened. This action will enhance the beauty and health of the plant. If planted close to the house, one might now be able to see outside through the windows and thus lighten the interior of the house.

For most hobbyists there exists an important question—how can I grow more varieties in the all too limited space available. For a constant planting area, fewer plants (varieties) will be allowed if the "funnel" shape pruning method is used; however, if more plants are crowded in, then a small "columnar" shape pruning method must be used.

Funnel shape

The funnel shape can best be accomplished by cutting off the "central leader" thereby allowing secondary branches to grow out and up resulting in an open center. This method presumes that a single trunk be initially selected to form the spout of the funnel. This funnel shaped plant will, of necessity, have a large diameter drip line and thus

require a greater area.

Columnar shape

Columnar shape can also be viewed as barrel shape. In San Diego lives one of my camellia buddies, Les Baskerville, who has limited horizontal space to grow his camellias so he uses a method, as I remember, that would allow an 18" diameter barrel slipped from top to bottom over the plant without bending the outer branches. This may be a slightly exaggerated statement, but it makes the point. Some varieties, such as 'E. G. Waterhouse' and the Elegans family appear to do better when pruned with the central leader unaffected. Even though the branches are shorter and the center cannot be opened up, it is important that space be provided between branches both axially and between layers.

Regardless of the method used it is recommended for all hobbyists that all low lying limbs be pruned. Any blooms from these branches are vulnerable to damage due to rain splash. As a general rule, camellias should be pruned so that the hobbyist can easily harvest any bloom while standing on the ground. An exception to this rule would be landscape plants that are used for a different purpose.

As stated in previous Steps, these pruning comments are presented to help the beginning hobbyist.

Recommendations submitted are based on my own observations and experience. It is recognized that other hobbyists may approach pruning somewhat differently and may have greater success, but I sincerely think the above information will help competitors get blooms to the head table.

As Editor of *The Camellia Review*, I don't want to promote controversy nor do I want to misspeak, so I would appreciate hearing from anyone who might possibly have positive comments that are different regarding pruning.

INSECT CONTROL

C. C. Bush

When I became interested in growing camellias my good friend and mentor, R. L. Brent, advised me that the only four needs of camellias were water, sunlight, nutrients and carbon dioxide. He also added that anything as beautiful as camellias would have something feeding on them and that, if you really want show-off blooms, you must feed the plants in addition to what nature provides.

While regular feedings with cottonseed meal and slaughter house tankage sometime bring investigations from the sanitation department as to the condition of your sanitary sewer system, feeding is not nearly as unpleasant as the continuing fight against the insect pests that feed on camellias. These insect and mite pests are real and, with a 5-10 day gestation period, they will increase and multiply until the plant is in distress if methods of control are not practiced.

My initial method of insect control was to spray with a pump sprayer; however, the sprayer was a constant source of trouble regardless of how well it was cleaned after each use. To maintain the pump sprayer, I was convinced, took the undivided attention of a practicing hydraulic engineer. In my case, I spent more time maintaining the pump sprayer than the time it took to actually apply the insecticides.

The use of insecticides is condemned by a great number of so-called concerned citizens and their voice in our government has made it increasingly difficult to eliminate some of our most damaging insect pests. Ants, aphids and spider mites were controlled successfully with

Chlordane and Kelthane respectively until these chemicals were pulled from the shelves and no alternatives have been offered to the camellia hobbyist. Recently, however, Kelthane has been made available and, in my experience, is the only effective weapon against red spider mites.

Recently Ortho introduced a hose-end sprayer. This sprayer utilizes Bernoulli's principle which has been "in the books" since the 1700's. By controlling the size of the orifice tube which is inserted into a supply of insecticide the insecticide could be diluted to a desired concentration. These hose-end dispensers were added to the application of liquid fertilizers as well.

With the old tank sprayer we were advised not to mix the chemicals because it would contribute to malfunction. However, with the hose-end sprayer, combinations of insecticides are feasible. A word of caution must be made. Before mixing any chemicals, first test to see if they are compatible. Put a few drops of the insecticide you plan to combine in a plastic or ceramic dish and mix with a toothpick. If a precipitation action (rapid change of color) occurs, do not mix those chemicals in your tank.

All insecticides are chemical compounds suspended in a vehicle, e.g., water, petroleum distillate, etc. These compounds are put in solution by the manufacturers. Once they are in solution, they may settle in the bottom of containers in a crystalline state. Once they have settled in the bottom there is nothing you or I can do to return the crystals to the original solution. In this case, the

bottom of the container appears to be thick. The only solution is to obtain new chemicals. One of the worst is Dimethoate (Cygon, X-ecute). The application of heat would end in disaster. A word of caution in when purchasing new insecticides, always examine the container to see if the bottom is thicker than the sides. If this is the case, visit another supplier. Dimethoate is very susceptible to precipitation due to near freezing temperature—40°. This occurs in the late winter while the chemicals are on the shelf. In case the chemical has gone out of solution, you are wasting your time and money to use it.

Spraying for insects can be done at any time. However, if you apply sprays during the blooming season, the blooms that are showing color will be damaged. Those in which the buds are tight will not be damaged except in the loose bud of 'Elegans Supreme', 'Elegans Champagne', 'Black Magic' or any other loose calyx. Application of insecticides to these plants will result in bud drop.

Personally, I do not spray during the blooming season as long as the plants are flowering. I enjoy the blooms whether I am going to a camellia show or not. When 95% or more of the blooms are gone, I apply my first insecticide spray. This is primarily to kill ants and aphids. The aphids damage the new growth and will remain on the plant until the leaves mature and drop. The insecticide Diazinon (25%) mixed with an equal quantity of water poured into the tank of a hose-end sprayer will give the correct dilution to effectively control ants and aphids. This will also kill any loopers that may have wintered over in your garden or greenhouse. The smallest application I use is four tablespoons

in the tank.

A word of caution. **Before** you attach the sprayer to the water hose and prior to applying any insecticide, be certain that you use protective clothing. Also, as soon as possible after spraying, wash any part of your body that has been exposed to the spray. Before I apply any insecticide, I use vapor proof goggles, vapor proof and gas proof respirator, a wide-brimmed hat, a long sleeved shirt, long pants and surgical gloves. When attired as outlined above, your dog will bark at you and your idolizing granddaughter will hide under the bed; nevertheless, it is absolutely imperative that protection be in place before you commence spraying. Animals should be removed from the area. Even after spraying is completed, the small areas of exposed skin not covered by the goggles or respirator on cheeks will become irritated if not washed quickly.

Diazinon is primarily applied to the ground but a certain amount will also get on the foliage. It will do no harm. The spray has a certain residual effect upon contact. When I spray I usually wait ten to twelve days before the second application. When I do not smell the Diazinon, I make the second application.

It is a constructive presumption that the use of insecticides is a necessary fact of life. So, in the application of insecticides, use as wide a spectrum as possible. When the first growth has hardened or almost reached maturity, it is time to apply insecticides to kill other pests such as scale, leafhoppers, borers and any other leaf eating or sucking insect. To control these insects, I have found that, after April 15, the following mixture applied in four to six week intervals according to the amount of

rainfall, is adequate: 8 oz. of 20% Cygon, 6 oz. 20% Lindane, 18 oz. of filtered diesel fuel. Filter the diesel through a piece of discarded nylon hose draped loosely over a plastic funnel to remove any gum balls or other trash usually present in diesel fuel. This prevents the orifice in the hose-end sprayer from becoming plugged. Set the dilution dial to four tablespoons per gallon of water or the equivalent and shake the tank.

All foliage in my yard is sprayed including the neighbors Ligustrum and azaleas and other plants in scope of the hose. The above mixture is used two or three times, depending on rainfall. Usually two applications will be sufficient; however, if insects appear such as imported katydids and large black grasshoppers, spray again. These insects are usually found on plants acquired from local nurseries or garden centers.

In late June or early July, the scourge of the camellia growers—red spider mites—appear. The only way to kill them and eliminate extensive damage is the application of the miticide Kelthane. Kelthane is a powerful chemical and, if it gets on your skin, it starts burning in short order. Be careful to use all the protective covering as outlined previously and perform the spraying operation as rapidly as possible.

To eradicate red spider mites, the

following mix should be in the hose-end sprayer with the dial set at 4 tablespoons per gallon: 8 oz. of 20% Cygon, 6 oz. of 20% Kelthane and 18 oz. of filtered diesel fuel. After agitating vigorously, spray all foliage.

Now you must use a little common sense. If you have a two inch rain in eight hours, you must reapply the insecticide. Torrential rains wash all the insect killing power away. In the past it has been my practice to include a wetting agent in my pump sprayer; however, with the use of diesel fuel a wetting agent is not necessary. The proportions as outlined above are not absolutely accurate as far as the concentrations recommended by the manufacturers, but they are within 5% to 10% on the plus side.

The use of a hose-end sprayer is possibly the easiest method for the application of insecticides. Possibly the only caution would be to always direct the spray downwind. I can't imagine anyone foolish enough to spray into the wind. The application of any spray should be on as calm a day as practical—but always spray downwind.

I trust you will have as good a results as I've had.

Editor's note: Thanks to Mr. C. C. Bush, from Jackson, Mississippi, for reporting how he handles the camellia pest problem.

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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Don Martin; Secretary—Joan Hill, 37341 Ave 17 1/2, Madera, 93638. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November-February, 7:30 p.m. Sheraton Smuggler's Inn, 3737 N. Blackstone, Fresno.

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Larry Pitts; Secretary—Edith Mazzei, 1486 Yosemite Circle, Clayton 94517. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November-March, 7:30 p.m., City of Pittsburg Environmental Center, 2581 Harbor St., Pittsburg.

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Helen Maas; Secretary—Charlene McAllister, 2018 Kingston Place, Bakersfield 93306. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (805)872-2188.

MODESTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Mary Jo Pinheiro; Secretary—Sue Kendall, 1505 Gary Lane. Modesto, 95355. Meetings: 1st Sunday, October-April, 1:00 p.m., 220-A Standiford Avenue, Modesto.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Don Bergamini; Secretary—Eric Hansen. Meetings: 1st Monday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Oak Grove School, 2050 Minert Road, Concord. Final meeting in May is a dinner meeting.

ORANGE COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Leonard Re; Secretary—Elaine Re, 9144 Helm Avenue, Fountain Valley 92708. Meetings: 1st Monday, October-April, 7:00 p.m. For meeting locations call Theresa Piech (714) 962-3380.

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Sergio Bracci; Secretary—Kathryn Korin, 1241 E. Calaveras St., Altadena 91001. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

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POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—David Trujillo; Secretary—Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Monday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Church of the Brethren, Corner "E" & Bonita, La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Jackie Randall; Secretary—Mary Louise Jones, 4454 Marley Drive, Sacramento 95521. Meetings: 4th Wednesday, October-April, 7:30 p.m., Studio Theater, 1028 "R" Street, Sacramento

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Jay Vermilya; Secretary—Lew Gary, 11419 Cabela Place, San Diego 92127. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Room 101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Walt Dabel. Meetings: 3rd Wednesday, October-April, 7:30 p.m., Lick Mill Park, 4750 Lick Mill Boulevard, Santa Clara.

SOUTH COAST CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Helen Gates; Secretary—Melita Johnson, 1251 10th Street, San Pedro 90731. Meetings: 3rd Tuesday, September-July, 7:30 p.m., South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Brad King; Secretary—Bobbie Belcher, 7475 Brydon Road, La Verne 91750. Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, on October 29, November 19, January 28, February 25, March 25, April 22. Note: No December meeting.



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