THE Camellia REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society

'Spring Fever'
Courtesy Nuccio's Nurseries

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One Dollar

Southern California Camellia Society Inc.

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

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

Application for membership may be made by letter to the Secretary. Annual dues: $6.00.

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THE COVER FLOWER

'Spring Fever', this month's cover flower, is one of Nuccio's 1967 introtructions. It is a Very Large flower, rose pink in color, semi-double to loose peony in form. It could be called a complicated flower because of the wavy petals that are in such complete contrast to its beautiful and artistic parent 'Jessie Katz'. This is a camellia collector's flower, to grow for the joy of having large flowers that bloom abundantly on the vigorous and upright growing plant.

THOUGHTS *from the editor*

The May 1967 issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW carried Bill Woodroof's annual evaluation of new camellia varieties on the basis of his own cultivation of these varieties at his home in Sherman Oaks, California (Vol. 28, No. 6, Page 19). Among the varieties evaluated were BRESCHINI'S PRIDE and PARTY DRESS, both of which were introduced by Mr. Caesare Breschini of San Jose, California. The evaluation of the former was "Good—same as PARTY DRESS" and for the latter, "Good—Same as BRESCHINI'S PRIDE". Mr. Breschini has taken exception to these evaluations as they were stated.

I wrote the material that was printed in CAMELLIA REVIEW, on the basis of hearing Mr. Woodroof's talk and of having his notes. Mr. Woodroof stated in his talk that the two were identical as to plant growth, foliage and bloom but that it was possible that one of the plants which he had was not the true variety. The similarity had been noted and commented on by others in Southern California because both had been entered in 1967 camellia shows, and I had this in mind as I wrote the article. It was not the intention of either Mr. Woodroof or me to suggest that Mr. Breschini had had improper motives in introducing two varieties that were sufficiently similar in appearance to cause comments that have been made.

One of the functions of a publication such as CAMELLIA REVIEW is to give, forthrightly and accurately, honest evaluations regarding new camellia varieties. This is done in the manner of Mr. Woodroof's annual evaluations, by listing the favorite varieties of known camellia growers, and feature pages about varieties. All this is done to help people to decide what varieties to select from the many new ones that are appearing every year, some often so close in appearance to others that only an expert can tell one from another, and not always then. We have the same situation in some of the sports that are being introduced.

I believe that every person who introduces a new camellia variety, whether he be grower or amateur, has the responsibility to make certain that the new variety is sufficiently different from all existing ones that there can be no possibility of confusion by people who know camellias. His own lack of knowledge of camellias cannot be considered to be sufficient reason for such occurrence, because competent nurserymen are always glad to advise in such matters. The responsibility to nurserymen is even greater, to the extent that when there appears to be similarity, the new one should be tested sufficiently to make certain that there is enough difference that it can be easily determined by the average camellia hobbyist.

Harold E. Dryden

CAMELLIAS—WHY, HOW, WHEN, WHERE & WHAT
A Primer on Camellia Culture

David L. Feathers
Lafayette, California

WHY? Because camellias provide flowers in winter and early spring, when little else is in bloom; are among the handsomest evergreen plants year around; are permanent and slow growing; are unsurpassed for cut flowers and corsages; are easy to grow provided their cultural requirements are underdstood; are relatively pest free.

HOW? Because camellias originated in an area of mild temperature, heavy rainfall, high humidity, excellent drainage, loose, humus-filled soil and protected by larger, overhead trees providing partial shade or filtered sunlight, these are the conditions under which they will thrive best in your garden. Therefore, strive to duplicate these conditions to the extent your situation will permit—by protecting camellias from strong winds and open exposure, taking advantage of wall, fence, roof overhang, tree, lath or other protection; by watering regularly, thoroughly washing the plant with strong spray of hose occasionally (when not in bloom), especially after a hot day; by insuring that water does not stand about the roots, but drains away quickly; by providing peat, leaf mold, ground bark or sawdust in the soil mix and straight bark compost or pine needles as a mulch; by moderate fertilizing with an acid fertilizer such as cottonseed meal or compounds containing it, or fish emulsion, hoof and horn, rotted manures that are not "hot" or just plain fresh leaf mold; by planting shallowly, roots barely below surface of the ground.

WHEN? *To Plant:* preferably between the months of November and April, the larger the plant and the more the roots are disturbed the earlier the better in this period; smaller, container-grown plants may be transplanted anytime before the hot weather begins, but in all cases the camellia should *not* be in new growth. *To Water:* immediately after planting and whenever the soil does not appear to be moist around the roots—*water heaviest during blooming and at time of spring growth,* but NEVER allow the camellia to dry out. *To Fertilize:* Always, and heaviest, just as growth buds start to swell in March, thereafter more moderately two months and four months later, remembering that camellias in containers require more frequent, but lighter, feeding than those in the ground. *To Prune:* best done during the dormant season, especially for large branches, to avoid bleeding—prune to shape the plant as you desire it to be and do not hesitate to cut two leaves with flowers—cut off rangy branches and twigs to make bushy, thin out weak and dead twigs, "cross-over" branches and those in center of plant. Prune top back to balance if major roots severed in transplanting. *To Disbud:* thin out buds in the fall so as to be no closer together than width of flower, or so that buds left on will be opposite each other on twig, thus permitting flowers to open without touching. For exhibition blooms, leave on only the terminal bud. For longer blooming period, leave on both large and small buds. *To Avoid Petal Blight:* Keep fallen blooms picked up and burn, bury deeply or place in garbage can. *Always* remove top two inches of soil from any new camellia to be planted out and dispose of similarly. *To Eliminate Pests:* Apply strong force of water from hose nozzle all over plant periodically after new growth hardens, working upward;

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spray in spring and summer with Isotox and Volck to eliminate aphids and scale if any remain.

WHERE? *To Plant:* In sheltered, protected place as indicated above, avoiding close position to new cement, plaster or brick work (lime damage) and to drains unless drainage is perfect (water-logging). Avoid proximity to maple, privet and other plants having competing shallow or invasive root systems. White and pale pink camellias should never be planted where morning sun hits them before the dew dries off, as this causes brown spots, ruining flowers. Camellias do beautifully in containers and are very decorative to patios and paved areas; they thrive in raised beds, as specimens, hedges, espaliers, ornament doorways, provide superb background material, accent lawn borders, combine well with azaleas, rhododendrons, heather, dwarf maples, dogwood and practically all of the bulbs. Keep separate from roses. *To Purchase Camellias:* From reputable nurseries; avoid so-called "bargain" deals and disappointment, remembering that the camellia is a permanent plant, priced acording to its quality and dependability—you get what you pay for.

WHAT? *Color Range:* is from white, through blush, pale pink, deep pink to rose, rose red to red and variegations of these colors, including stripes, striations and blotches of all sizes and intenities. *Form:* of flowers ranges from the simple singles (up to 9 petals), through semi-doubles (10 to 20 petals), rose-form doubles (open center), loose peonyform, peonyform (ball shaped), anemoneform (tuft of petaloids surrounded by larger guard petals) and full double, or formal (shingled), varying from high-centered or "rabbit-eared" to almost flat flowers. *Size:* ranges from miniature or boutonniere types up to high, massive reticulata blooms 8 inches or more in diameter. *Kind of Camellia You Should Buy:* depends entirely upon what your purpose is, how the camellia is to be used. For example: for a narrow space, a tall, columnar grower such as 'Flamigo' or 'Elena Nobile'; under a window—'Sweet and Low', 'Fragrant Star', 'Dainty Maiden', 'Elegans' or 'Elegans Pink' (top-pruned), Sasanqua 'Showa-No-Sakae'; for espalier, most sasanquas, 'Elegans' family, some reticulatas, hybrid camellia 'Donation', 'Gigantea', 'Lady Clare', 'Mrs. Bertha Harms' (and many other loose, rangy japonicas); for hanging baskets, 'Elegans' family, 'Showa-No-Sakae' sasanqua, 'Fluted Orchid' and other hybrids, 'Donckelarii', 'Dainty Maiden', 'Debutante', 'Marchioness of Exeter' and others; for glamorous flowers (disregarding plant) Reticulatas, 'Howard Asper', 'Tiffany', 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', 'Clarise Carleton', 'Adolphe Audusson', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Carter's Sunburst', 'Guest of Honor', 'Coronation', 'White Nun', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Tomorrow', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'R. L. Wheeler', 'Ballet Dancer', 'Grand Slam', 'Sawada's Dream' and variations of some of these, among others. *For Open Sun:* Reticulatas, many Hybrids, Sasanquas, relatively few japonicas but most reds take sun best, the white 'Elisabeth', the pink 'Rosary', pale pink 'Debutante' (to some extent), deep pink 'Mrs. Josephine Hearn', the 'Paeoniaeflora' family, 'Lallarock', 'Countess of Orkney', 'Fairest Day', 'Elegans' and 'Elegans Pink', 'Lady Clare' and a few others.

DO NOT: Over-fertilize -- Allow the camellia ever to dry out -- Plant with top of roots over 1" soil-covered -- Have heavy or water-logged soil about the roots -- Expose to alkalinity or lime -- Leave fallen blooms on ground -- "Buy" the flower — buy the plant, with green, healthy leaves -- Neglect container-grown camellias -- Fail to provide needed moisture when blooming (in extra quantity).

OBSERVATIONS ON CAMELLIAS AND CAMELLIA PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA

Harold E. Dryden

I should qualify myself before asking CAMELLIA REVIEW readers to pursue this further. I spent three and one-half weeks in Australia during their recent camellia season; namely, in July and August. I visited three of the four principal camellia growing centers: New South Wales (Sydney), Victoria (Melbourne) and South Australia (Adelaide). I met and talked with many camellia people. I was entertained in their homes. I saw gardens. I attended three camellia shows. I addressed and answered questions at one Branch Society meeting and attended another meeting. I visited more than casually the three leading camellia nurseries, one in each of the states I visited. What I shall miss in these observations will therefore be due to my own lack of powers of observation rather than to lack of opportunity to observe.

One more point. This is not an effort to tell about my stay in Australia or to name and tell about all the people whom I met. When I do mention a name, it will be for the purpose of describing a point. For my book, there are no top people in Australia unless one is to classify the entire group of camellia people as "top". Never do I expect to receive more gracious treatment than I received from the camellia people of Australia. I must add hastily that I received equal hospitality from the camellia people of New Zealand, about which I shall write for the November issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW. I stated on one occasion in Sydney when I was officially opening a camellia show that I was visiting Australia with two passports, one that was issued to me by my government and the other the fact that I grow camellias as a hobby. The former gets a person into the country but the latter is the key to what happens after he leaves customs.

Australia has only one camellia Society, The Australia Camellia Research Society, with 1000 members of which about half are in New South Wales (Sydney). The members participate through Branch Societies of which there are five. The officers and directors of the Society establish policy and administer matters that pertain to the Society as a whole, including publication of the magazine CAMELLIA NEWS. The Branch Societies hold meetings, put on camellia shows, conduct garden tours (they call them Field Trips) and generally operate in the manner of the many American camellia societies. The organizational situation in Australia might be compared with what we would have in the United States if all the local societies were subsidiary to the American Camellia Society. Australia Camellia Research Society dues are $3.00 U. S. per year and worth it for the publication CAMELLIA NEWS and the opportunity to know about a growing camellia area. Application for membership may be made and dues paid to the Southern California Camellia Society and the American Camellia Society.

The *garden* is the important consideration of most of the camellia society members, in contrast to the approach of so many of the members of American camellia societies toward growing specimen flowers, either for show entry or for their own personal satisfaction. Until recently most of the camellias have been grown in the ground, but container culture is sticking up its ugly head and one of these days some of the people will have to face the alternative of garden or plants. In fact, a few of them face it

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now. Tom Savige, President of the Society, is almost at the point that I face every year of making room for the new varieties by grafts and purchase and the prior year's growth of the others. Peter Duly, Chairman of the New South Wales Branch, faced it in building a new home by constructing a lath house for his containers and confining the landscaping to other parts, Jim Simpson, Secretary of the Victoria Branch, has also allocated part of his space to lath coverage, reserving that close to the house for his "garden".

This garden approach has caused 'Donation' to be the most popular variety that I saw, closely followed by 'Margaret Waterhouse' and other of the Williamsii hybrids. People in the United States might question why this would be, that is until they would see it. Nowhere at any time have I been so impressed by camellias as I was by these beautiful salunensis hybrids, at times eight to ten feet high, full of flowers of a shade that we do not see here, at least in California. The saluenensis hybrids as a class are popular because they do something for a garden that other camellias do not do—the density of foliage, the profusions of flowers and the delicate pastel colors. Too many of them might become monotonous, and Mrs. Dale of Melbourne told me while we were viewing a show there that there could be a trend away from this monotony. Her solution, however, was by going to other saluenensis hybrids with deeper color such as 'Leonard Messel'.

One sees plenty of japonicas in the gardens, the larger plants being the old Australia varieties such as 'Aspasia', 'Laurie Bray' (if it had bloomed for me as well as it does there I'd still be growing it), 'The Czar' (similar to 'Adolphe Audusson'), 'Jean Lyne' and sports 'Edith Linton' and 'Nancy Bird', and 'Lady Lock'. Since the purpose is mostly color in the garden, these japonicas are not disbudded and there is a profusion of color. Australia has not yet come forth with new seedling varieties that can compare with the many popular ones that dominate American camellia collections. I believe this can be attributed to the small amount of seed planting in Australia in comparison with the enormous number of seeds planted every year in the United States. The law of averages should begin to work as the people in Australia plant more seeds.

The camellia enthusiast, in contrast to the camellia gardner, is rapidly coming to the front, and to him "camellia" means mostly American varieties. Jim Fisher of Camellia Grove Nursery in Sydney (he was in the United States early in 1967 and many met him) has a display table which he keeps filled with fresh blooms to suit the varying tastes of all who visit his nursery. I watched some of his customers as they looked at the table and except for those who were garden minded only, the attention usually went to the American varieties. Most of the varieties that are popular in the gardens have had some years of popularity with us because there is a time lag in our new varieties reaching Australia. Names that I jotted down in my notes include 'Angel', 'Ballet Dancer', 'Barbara Woodroof', 'Betty Sheffield Supreme', 'C. M. Wilson', 'Drama Girl', 'Dr. Tinsley', 'Guest of Honor', 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Kramer's Supreme', 'Marie Bracey', 'Margarete Hertrich', 'Mathotiana Supreme', 'Mrs. D. W. Davis', 'Onetia Holland', 'R. L. Wheeler', Shiro Chan', 'Spring Sonnet', 'Tick Tock', 'Tomorrow' and 'Tomorrow's Dawn'. 'Reg Ragland', 'Clark Hubbs', and 'Sawada's Dream' have been introduced recently. All these varieties are doing well and the flowers compare favorably with those grown here. The semi-doubles have fuller centers than most of ours have. I saw plant after plant of 'Guilio Nuccio' with every flower large and

rabbit eared. 'Drama Girl' has the upturned petals in contrast with our frequent flat flowers. Their 'R. L. Wheeler' would provide competition for Fred Hamilton in our Southern California shows.

Reticulatas grow well and produce flowers at least on a par with ours in America. I saw a few promising reticulata seedlings. They are all grown in the ground and mostly in full sun.

I visited three camellia nurseries, all of which are well organized and will provide new varieties as fast as the trade will absorb them. McMinn's Nursery in Melbourne has the widest selection of varieties because of Neville McMinn's thirst to try out the new and popular varieties of which he reads in American camellia publications. He discards just as freely as he adds, after he concludes that a variety will not sell in Australia. Jim Fisher at Camellia Grove in Sydney is more conservative in his selection of new varieties for trial but has a full inventory of the varieties that have definitely established themselves in America. The third nursery that I visited was the C. F. Newman in Adelaide. Camellia culture in South Australia is just getting started in comparison with the Melbourne and Sydney areas and Roger Hall, Newman's manager, is conservative in his choice of new varieties. The plants in all three nurseries show the result of good culture.

Australia people generally do not like variegated flowers. I did not see one good variegated flower, with the variegation placed attractively all over the flower. Their variegation consisted only of white spots here and there which served only to make the flower less attractive. These are evidences of very little virus which is the cause of so much of our variegation. It occurred to me that the dislike of variegation might be due to the possibility that they have not seen such good variegated flowers as 'Guilio Nuccio', 'Reg Ragland', 'Tomorrow', etc. that win Best Flower in our camellia shows.

The general run of camellia people in Australia is not interested in competitive camellia shows. Of the three shows that I saw, one was competitive, one entirly display, and one largely display with a competitive section that attracted little exhibitor interest. In the competitive show most of the competition was by form of flower, with a division for varietal competition in designated varieties where the probable quantity of entries would be sufficient for competition. I would expect that varietal competition will increase as the quantity of American varieties increases.

The big show in the Sydney area is that which is held in the auditorium of Farmer's Department Store in Sydney. The show is largely decorative. It has a section for varietal competition for designated varieties. There was only minor interest in the competition and there were many blooms on the decorated display tables that were superior to the best flowers entered in competition. Their procedure for setting up the show is worthy of description. On the morning of the day preceding the opening of the show, teams call at the different gardens and pick flowers which are taken to the show site. A committee receives the flowers, sorts and places them, according to a schedule, on tables which are numbered to correspond to the numbers of the tables in the show room. Varieties are assigned to a table so that the colors will blend and the blooms of a variety may well be displayed on more than one table. The flowers are all in by the middle of the afternoon, at which time the people who decorate the tables go to work. The decorating of tables is done mostly by women, who I am told have superior abilities as decorators although I thought as I watched them at work that the men have done

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a superior job in passing the work on to their wives. The Farmer's show, as they call it, was the most attractive camellia show I have ever seen. I would guess that whenever competition in this show becomes popular, the tradition of attractive arrangement of blooms will be continued in some manner.

A final word now about some of the people who make the Australia Camellia Research Society tick. Professor E. G. Waterhouse, retired Professor of Languages, a sprightly man of 86 summers, must be named first. I spent one full day with him in the back seat of an automobile in which Mary Davis and Annette Riddle drove us to Camden Park to see the old camellia trees that were planted in the 1840's by MacArthur. I also spent a half-day with him in his garden. I shall be pleased if I am as alert and active at 86 as he is, both mentally and physically. He was one of the moving forces in the formation of the Australia Society and has recently completed a three-year term as President, is now President Emeritus. His "hot button", as sales people say, is nomenclature with emphasis on the proper use of priority names. I brought back his ideas for changes in the present CAMELLIA NOMENCLATURE to be passed on to Bill Woodroof. He is now studying Japanese so that he can better work toward the adoption of the Japanese names of some of the varieties that came from Japan but which have been named otherwise by the people who brought them into the United States or Australia. He is the recognized authority on the identification of the old Australia varieties. He loves camellias for their beauty, could not be less interested in a camellia just because of size or form. "Isn't it lovely" is his comment about the semi-double saluenensis hybrid that provides color to make his garden a veritable mass of color during camellia blooming time.

The new President of the Society is Tom Savige of Melbourne, a business man with an instinct for horticulture that caused several people to nominate him, to me, as heir apparent to Professor Waterhouse as the "brain" among Australia camellia people. He is also Editor of the Society's publication CAMELLIA NEWS.

The other active people in the affairs of the Australia Society are a cross section such as we find in American camellia societies. Len Bray, the General Secretary, is an importer, including material for hats. Hats on men are no more prevalent in Australia than they are in the United States but Len persists in reminding the public that they are still manufactured by wearing one. He met me at the airport on my arrival in Sydney. I had seen his picture and had decided that I could pick him out immediately by his hat. He double-crossed me by leaving it in his car. I recognized him immediately, however, by his mustache which is just as distinctive as his hat sets him off from the hatless ones.

Peter Duly, Vice-Preident of the Australia Society and Chairman of the New South Wales (Sydney) Branch, is an industrialist. Dr. Don Sidey, Chairman of the South Australia Branch, is an MD who with his family emigrated from England in 1950 for broader opportunities. Aleck (A. W.) Jessup, Registrar of the Society Council, is the retired Director of the Melbourne Botanical Garden, the man who has contributed most to the botanical garden that is one of the top if not the top in Australia. Eric Craig is Promotion Manager of Woolworth's which operates throughout Australia. Cecil Blumenthal is a painter and decorator in Sydney.

And so it goes. Australia camellia people are just like American camellia people and if one didn't talk with them he would not know the

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WHAT THEY DID THEN

George Ayling
Stanmore, Middlesex, England

At the time of the first world war (to end wars) we lived right in the centre of London. I was about nine years old and because food was short and nights disturbed by bombing and more by defensive gunnery I was sent to a village in Hampshire away from it all. Up to that time my knowledge of horticulture was confined to watching the progress of petunias and nasturtiums which my mother grew every year in a window box, but one of the maiden ladies with whom I was boarded was a very keen gardener indeed. Every fine evening she could be seen in her black dress and white apron tending her prize gooseberries, vegetables and roses. I was encouraged to take an interest in the proceedings and I loved it; I can still see those snapdragons and pansies in my mind. My mentor unearthed from the lumber room a book which to my delight she told me I could take home with me when the time came. It was "Favourite Flowers" by Alfred Gillett Sutton and was published in 1871. I read it avidly.

When I came to consider the growing of camellias many years later I remembered that in this book which I still had (and have) there was a section on camellias, and as I intended to grow these in a greenhouse it occurred to me that in 1871 they knew more about growing camillias under glass than we did because much of their knowledge has been forgotten or discounted in the eclipse of the plant. I therefore based my own culture on this book.

It reads as follows:—

January.—During this month we always hear sad complaints about the buds dropping off just when they ought to be coming into flower; This is in a great measure to be attributed to the irregular supply of water given; just give sufficient to moisten the ball of earth throughout, and then do not water again until the surface of the earth feels somewhat dry.

February.—The directions of the previous month must be followed out. The blooms as they fade should be carefully picked off, rememering the former advice with regard to watering.

March.—Any plants that have done blooming should be re-potted, using a compost of two parts loam and one of peat, a little rotten manure, and a little silver sand. They may be moved with advantage to the warmest part of the greenhouse, to induce them to make new wood. Generally speaking, many of the later kinds will still be very gay, and with reference to these we would simply repeat our former advice.

April.—Much more re-potting must be done this month. Allow the plants to get rather dry before commencing the operation, which should be done before the wood shoots break. Whenever the plants get fairly started, water freely, and use the syringe occasionally. I find an occasional dose of liquid manure to be beneficial; the latest varieties will still be gay.

May.—The plants that have been re-potted will now be making rapid growth. Give abundance of air, and shade when necessary. Those which have finished their growth, and formed the buds for the next year, will be benefited by being placed under an awning out of doors; of course it will be prudent to place them on some sort of a stand in order to keep them from being infested with worms: re-pot any that have not been attended to, using the same compost as before recommended.

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June, July, August.—Little can be done during these three months except seeing that the plants out of doors do not lack for moisture, and yet that they do not have too much.

September.—The plants must be carefully cleaned from dust, and placed in their winter quarters. The house may be cleaned previous to their introduction, for no time is so favourable during the whole of the year for inside painting and cleaning as September.

October.—Abundance of air is the best direction we can give—little else can be done.

November.—The leaves of the plants will be much improved by being sponged over.

December.—The bloom buds will now be swelling, and may have an extra dose of water, and a little manure water administered about twice a week. The following are the best varieties in cultivation.

White
Alba Plena
Alba Imbricata
Alba Insignis
Ochroleuca

Carmine, Crimson, or Red
Imbricata
Reine des Fleurs
Reine Louise
Beli
Melloni

Blush
Prince Albert
Americana

Pink and Rose
Beli Rosea
Munata
Henry Favre
Marchioness of Exeter
Wilderii
Triumphans

White Ground
Countess of Orkney
La Reine
Madonna
Mrs. Abbey
Jubilee

Coloured Grounds
Areoste
Comte de Paris
Jacksoni
Reine des Belges
Thomasini

In considering the foregoing, one very noticeable fact is that the recommendations cover culture in the greenhouse only. There is no suggestion that the plant could be grown outdoors which is in vivid contrast to the campaign advocating the culture of camellias outdoors which is being waged in this country today.

It would appear that the Victorians considered the camellia to be only a plant to bloom in the greenhouse and from the notes on flowering times it can be gleaned that they aimed to grow it in what must have nearly approximated to Californian conditions.

It is worth noting also that the compost suggested is very much the same as we use here for container culture at the present time but of course in America where newer materials have been discovered there have been great changes in this.

The last conclusion which one would come to and it might be taken as a warning is that even at that time the cult of the camellia was very much on the wane. This is quite definite from the few varieties which are recommended and also from the fact that in this book whereas the tulip, chrysanthemum, dahlia and even the hollyhock are allowed some twelve pages, the section on camellias is confined to two pages. The bit I like best myself, is that for June, July and August where it reads "Little can be done during these three months except seeing that the plants . . . do not lack for moisture". I wonder what sort of an effort they meant by "little" because with me, during those three months, watering is a full time job.

AMATEUR CAMELLIA HYBRIDIZER

Ted Alfter
Bakersfield, California

I'm writing this story especially for my camellia friends. The bug to grow camellias has certainly bitten me. I'm sunk, but maybe it's not too late for you to get out and stay away from camellias.

I always did go overboard on everything that I undertook. My first exposure was for a brief period in 1950. It was a book about Camellias and Azaleas. The book mildly interested me, but at that time I was much more interested in the pursuit of the almighty dollar, and that didn't leave much time to pursue the book any farther. As I recall, the person who gave me the book thought that I should take my work a little easier. In moving to an apartment in the city, I found the book while unpacking. A short time later, it was suggested that I retire. A doctor friend suggested that I find something to keep me occupied, something like gardening which requires light exercise. Being too old to chase cars and bark at tires, I remembered the book about Camellias. I became interested from the first page, and by the time I had finished the chapter on hybridizing, I knew I had to try this. It was something I could devote either full or part time to, and also it became quite a challenge to me.

I turned my business over to my son, and began to analyze myself. I forgot about my wife somewhere along the line, but she seemed to sense what was going on and was patient with me. I soon found that I didn't need to spend one whole day counting my money so I had a lot of time on my hands. I decided to devote those hours to growing camellias. First, there was much planning to do. I found a space 12′ x 25′ on our lot that had been used to park cars. I got rid of them and with the help of a carpenter, constructed the framework of a shadehouse. I was to fill it in later with lath or Seran. I got the bright idea of having a hot house in one corner of it. The man at the lumber yard suggested polyethlene (clear) to wrap the frame of the greenhouse, 6 mil is best and to be sure to use a double layer, with layers 2″ apart for airspace, which serves as insulation. I made the greenhouse about 6′ x 10′, complete with a walk in door and an electric heater that I could control from inside the apartment.

Now I thought it was about time to do some serious thinking about my wife's retirement. While constructing the greenhouse, I had covered her kitchen window, and she couldn't see out. But after all, this wasn't so bad after considering the guy who built the Tower of Pisa wasn't beheaded . . . or was he? I promised her a trip to Las Vegas at a later date and finally got around to fullfilling it. We try to go together as much as as possible. The little woman said she likes to sew, so I moved her sewing machine over by the window overlooking the shadehouse. Now this made for a cozy arrangement. While she is making something for the grandchildren, she can look out the window and watch me at my work of trying to improve on nature.

I have been told by experts on camellias that a rank amateur like myself has a pretty good chance of coming up with a good bloom if he keeps on pollinating and planting seeds. These thoughts alone keep one going on and on. I have this saying, "I don't know what I'm doing and I devote full time to it."

To report on this year's bloom in the seedling department, I have planted 3 to 4 thousand seeds in the last 4 years and of these approxi-

(Continued on next page)

mately 30 have bloomed, 2 have been held over and others were used for grafting named varieties. A large red semi-double has been crossed with pollen of 'Elsie Jury' and is now forming a fairly large seed capsule. Another one is a dark red 4" flower that has a crazy jungle of 4 layers of petals and stamens. If it were only a bigger flower, it might be beautiful. This one has also been pollinated with some pollen of 'Howard Asper'. Just imagine if you will, a cross with a dark red flower and the large beautiful bloom of 'Howard Asper' which is winning best of the hybrids in a lot of shows.

If you are going to dabble in hybridizing, you should get the best possible parents and start from there. I suggest producing your very own "breeder plants". You use those to set seed on. To produce "breeder plants," I would buy the seeds of saluenensis, reticulata, and select japonica. Grow these on up and bloom them, selecting only the best flower and seed setters of the lot. Saluenensis can be expected to bloom in 2-3 years, japonica and reticulata usually a little longer, 3-5 years. It is also possible to obtain plant breeders from other sources. Some large nurserymen can get one started on the right foot. I suspect one nurseryman is pretty tired of me by now, although he has never refused to answer my questions. I can't mention his name, but his initial is J and his brother's is the same.

I must find out about a bloom of saluenensis x japonica 'Drama Girl'. I can't understand its actions. It is unlike any others to date. It took a day or two to size up and it reached 6½". It was a pale pink. I was so excited about it and proud that I called my neighbor over to look at it, and to give his opinion. He knows camellias, as he is a consistent winner at the shows and has been at it about 10 years. He couldn't come over until evening and when he looked at it, it had closed up like a poppy. At first opening it is rather flat, then the center petals come up to rabbit ears on the 2nd and 3rd day and then that night and the next night closing up. The flowers finally settle down to a rabbit eared semi-double of pale pink. Next I will try to cross it with reticulata, the big ones, or maybe back cross it to the japonicas.

I have been dabbling with species Granthamiana. It is hard to set seed on. So far in 4 years I have a vigorous plant of the cross C Granthamiana x 'Berenice Boddy' crossed to 'Midnight', 'Flame', C Reticulata 'Crimson Robe', 'Buddha' and others. (Granthamiana is the seed parent on all these listed). All of the above are vigorous plants that should bloom in a year or two. Last season's seed set on Granthamiana was a total of one capsule, one seed in a cross with C reticulata 'Wm. Hertrich'. It has vigor and quite dark red foliage.

Last year's crosses are gallon size now and their foliage suggests an intermediate pattern of ½ granthamiana, ½ japonica or ½ reticulata. My good neighbor cross the street has let me put up a lathhouse in his back yard. It is 25' x 35'. It is full of seedlings from 4" pots to 5 year old gallons.

1967-68 blooms will tell me which way to go. The 2 fields of hybrids and reticulatas crossed with japonica seem to have the most vigor. Remember in hybridizing, you are trying to improve on nature's form, color, size, with good substance, ease of propogation, and sun, heat, and cold tolerance. If you have any seedlings that can meet these requirements, not all but maybe the most of them will set seed or if its pollen is fertile, you will have your own to make crosses with. Have fun and don't get too technical. After all the father is not always known.

My seeds and seedlings are exposed to light, frost and to 100° tempera-

tures. The little spindly ones do not survive, and would probably not mature anyway.

After my breeder plants start to set seeds, then I will decide how to handle breeding for fragrance, the white reticulata or the yellow flower.

Following is a synopsis of my history as an amateur camellia hybridizer:

1962

My neighbor gave a handful of camellia seeds to me ('Finlandia'). I joined Southern California Camellia Society. I requested information on Chromosome Numbers, and was promptly sent a copy of the CAMELLIA REVIEW, February 1960, containing the work of Chromosomes Count by Langley and Tourje. Mr. Harold Dryden sent the book along and informed me of the Society's seed for sale and the book *Camellia Culture* which I promptly sent for. (I planted approximately 50 seeds.)

1963

I joined the American Camellia Society. I went all out for seed planting this year (Carl Tourje system). 500 seeds were from the Huntington Gardens, 2000 seeds hybrids, saluenensis, pitardiis, and japonica. I also switched from clay pots to plastic.

1964

I joined the local Society in Kern County. I just couldn't wait for my seedlings to bloom, so I bought some blooming size plants budded up. Out of about 20 plants came a strong growing 5" white peony that sets seeds like crazy. Crosses easily with reticulata, pitardii, saluenensis, and japonica.

1965

I made 300 grafts on 'Debutante' understock. I planted approximately 200 seeds of hand crosses. I worked my first show as a clerk. I entered a 'R. L. Wheeler' and got a 2nd but the most important thing happened. I got to see the flower that took first. Now this was a real challenge. I knew that I was going to have to try a little harder to grow a better flower.

1966

I planted approximately 200 seeds of hand crosses. Made a lot of crosses this year and had a good seed set. Planted 750 'Reg Ragland' seeds. I took in two shows as Novice Judge. Only seeds of known crosses and pollinated by myself were planted this season and all were exposed to 26 degrees this winter and survived rather well. I pinched the radicals off February 15, 1967 and on March 13 potted in rich soil in lug boxes, exposed to 50% sun, adolescent leaves showing.

1967

So far, I've been to 3 shows as Novice Judge. This is the way to learn the varieties.

It must be understood that none of the crosses made by me have been verified. Anything I have said or written is only a suggestion and not

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THIRSTY CAMELLIAS

John Movich
Pomona, California

Twelve years ago last spring my wife and I purchased seven camellia plants, selected when in bloom. The camellias were planted for us under a simple lath cover on the north side of a south fence in our back yard. We were told to give the plants lots of water and if the weather should become dry to also spray the plants a number of times a day, using the spray nozzle on a hose. Our home at that time was south of Ontario, California, directly in the path of the Santa Ana winds. In September of that year there were twelve consecutive days with temperatures ranging from 105° to 112° and humidity close to zero. We watered heavily and sprayed the camellia plants five times a day. The following spring all seven plants had big nice blooms, so I called the nurseryman and asked to see more sample blooms. He said his plants had no blooms, the buds had dropped off because of the heat and dryness. He also expressed his regret for starting us with camellias in such a bad year and apologized for planting the camellias in the path of the drying winds. I was surprised and told him we had beautiful, gorgeous blooms. He then asked "What did you do to get those nice looms?" Our answer "We did exactly as you said."

Southern California has many periods in any season of the year when the humidity drops to a low point. Since camellias must be kept moist and must never be allowed to dry out, sufficient watering and humidifying become paramount in importance.

In our growing area the easiest way to both water and humidify is to use sprinklers. If camellias are grown in the ground, the sprinklers will humidify the atmosphere while watering the plants. If camellias are grown in containers under a shade structure, an overhead sprinkler system using lightweight plastic pipe can be fastened to the overhead beams by pipe clamps and turned on whenever additional humidity is needed. The containers will still have to be filled by hand.

Because of the high mineral content of Southern California water, the use of fine mist sprayers or foggers has not been practical. The fogger sprays a fine mist which on hot, dry days evaporates very quickly in the air or on the plant and deposits an unsightly (and sometimes harmful) layer of dry minerals. An overhead sprinkler or fogger opened to approximately light rain is more suitable.

If sprinklers are used extensively, and we heartily recommend that you do, the next step naturally follows: Install an automatic clock control system. Control devices are available from a single valve opener to multiple station control clocks and are within the price range of the amateur camellia grower. Detailed, complete and authoritative instructions on watering camellias can be found in CAMELLIA CULTURE*, published by the Southern California Camellia Society and edited by Carl Tourje, and in the Sunset book "How to Grow and Use Camellias," published by Lane Book Company, Menlo Park, California.

AMATEUR CAMELLIA *(Cont.)*

a direction. I still don't know what I'm doing but I devote full time to it. I have started to learn to smile a little. It was real dangerous at first, because of my face cracking, but I got by alright. Next, I am going to learn to laugh, so I can join with you people in the pursuit of Fun and Happiness.

* This book is out of print and is not available. This statement is made for people who have the book.

LOOKING UPWARD

Douglas G. Thompson
Los Angeles, California

There is a Japanese poetic form called Hokku, a seventeen syllable verse. And, there is one Hokku that ends with the couplet, "Looking camellia upward, we step forward."

Southern Camellia Society expresses the essence of this charming verse through the years of a remarkable revival of camellia interest in our generation. The past is nostalgic with wealthy collectors, great nurseries, large plantations and magnificent mansion gardens. In contrast, the modern Pacific Coast camellia-ite is a middle class collector, surrounded by container grown plants of all shapes and sizes on a crowded city lot.

The present day camellia society has emerged and evolved around harassed business and professional people in megalopolis areas, groping for expression in their own tiny gardens and needing to compare the fruits of their efforts with each other, hopefully with pride but often with dismay, on the tables of their meetings. For the most part the enthusiastic amateur has been led along the road of excitement and discovery. He has manfully matched his strides with the specialized nurseryman and the few dedicated folks who have had the time, energy and means to lead the rest of us.

Through 27 years, every meeting of SCCS has scintillated with revelation. I have seen long tables of unbelievably perfect flowers, possibly unrivalled in the world, at meeting after meeting, products of our desires to emulate and share. Isn't it remarkable when you consider the small intrinsic worth and fugitive quality of a flower.

It is interesting to remember that when SCCS began in 1940, there were less than 200 varieties of C. japonica offered for sale by names which, all too often, were inaccurate and fraught with duplications. For one measure of our progress consult the 1942 published list of varieties voted favorites by SCCS members: 'Alba Plena', 'Pink Perfection', 'Te Deum', 'Mathotiana', 'Herme' and 'Gigantea'. Twenty-five years later, how different would be our selections. From such modest beginnings we have grown sophisticated in our tastes and critical in our choices of varieties we deem worthy of our patience. Of course, there was the middle period when we ran after each new name. But we ran out of room. We found our climate unsuited to beauties from elsewhere. So we have become more selective. Perhaps, too, sophistry has bred a bit of boredom.

We can look back to many "firsts" at SCCS, in service to the camellia community:

1944—The garden committee
1945—The committee bulletin — later CAMELLIA REVIEW
1946—Registration of new varieties
1947—Camellia Nomenclature
1950—Margarete Hertrich Seedling Award
1950—William Hertrich Mutant Award
1958—Camellia Culture — 500 fact-filled pages
1959—William Wyler Miniature Award
1960—Edwards Metcalf Hybrid Award
1963—Frank Storment Reticulata Seedling Award

Our members pioneered show procedures, special treatment by gibberilin and, more recently, cut flower preservation by N.A.A. If there are any new wrinkles just around the corner, you may be sure we will help to get them going.

If there had been no camellia societies there would have been no 20th

(Continued on next page)

Century revival. It was around our society tables that we learned to graft, germinate seeds, hand pollenate, prune, feed and apply gib and NAA. The ribbon winners debated soil mixes, mulches, and fertilizing. Because of mutual interest and need to communicate, a flower gave us a delightful hobby and a wonderful circle of friends. We strode with the masters toward each new startling discovery. Do you ever reflect upon how far we have come?

With all of that, this modern camellia interest in which we have socialized a flower has, thus far, been a one generation affair. A look deep into the past makes one wonder whether there is a foreshadowning of waning interest. We need to encourage new collectors. There must be more to discover, newer varieties to develop, other challenges ahead. We can't have exhausted all the excitement. If the glamor should seem to be just a shade less vivid certainly it's not the camellia's fault. The 1960's are not like the old days. The pace is different. Gardens and nurseries are disappearing. Old-timers are dropping out. We have become too concerned with the size of the flower to the exclusion of the myriad more modestly endowed varieties. Newcomers are quick to emulate us in that, also.

Far from being able to relax and grow comfortably old, our camellia societies have a most important duty to perform. It seems to me that duty is toward those who joined the parade more recently. We need to move over and give a place to new camellia enthusiasts, and to coax their budding interest by every wile we know. Our job is to challenge another generation of city lot middle class collectors to share our excitement, knowhow and will to seek the newer, better camellias. Encourage them also to look upward and step forward to fun and lasting friendship.

California Camellia Show Schedule

Dec. 2-3, 1967
- L. A. Camellia Council Early Show at Descanso Gardens Hospitality House

Feb. 10-11, 1968
- San Diego Camellia Society at San Diego

Feb. 17-18, 1968
- Peninsula Camellia Society at Redwood City
- Pomona Valley Camellia Society at Pomona

Feb. 24-25, 1968
- Delta Camellia Society at Pittsburgh
- Temple City Camellia Society at L. A. County Arboretum, Arcadia

March 2-3, 1968
- L. A. Camellia Council at Descanso Gardens
- Camellia Society of Sacramento at Sacramento

March 9-10, 1968
- Camellia Society of Kern Couny at Bakersfield
- Northern California Camellia Society at Pleasant Hill

March 10, 1968
- Central California Camellia Society at Fresno

OBSERVATIONS *(Continued)*

difference. It is only when he hears and sets out to understand the accent that a visitor to Australia knows he is in another country. It would help if all the accents were the same. They are not, though, any more than the the talk of California sounds like that of a person from Boston or Atlanta. After three and one-half weeks, I decided that a little strain in listening was a small price to pay for the opportunity to know delightful people whose hobby interest is the same as mine.

EARLY SHOW DECEMBER 2 AND 3, 1967

The third annual early camellia show of Southern California will be held Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3, 1967 in the Hospitality House at Descanso Gardens with Tom Hughes as Show Chairman.

The purpose of this show is to display flowers whose blooming time has been advanced by the use of gibberellic acid. There will also be a division for untreated blooms, and with the unusual climatic conditions that we have experienced this season, there should be many untreated blooms.

There will be no limit to the number of varieties that may be entered in any of the divisions. Two blooms of a variety may be entered in the single bloom classes.

Trophies will be awarded for Best and Best Runner-up in all classes; also all Court of Honor blooms will receive trophies. There will be no Sweepstakes Award.

A new division has been added for groups of 9 blooms of different varieties. The blooms can be both treated and untreated for this entry.

Blooms may be entered between 7 A.M. and 10 A.M. on Saturday, December 2.

Tom Hughes says that Trophy Chairman Mildred Pitkin has selected outstanding trophies in cut glass.

The Show Committee includes the following:

Chairman
Tom Hughes

Assistant Chairman
Melvin L. Gum

Layout & Planning
Leone Summerson

Placement
Harold Dryden

Chairman of Judges
Caryll Pitkin
Al Dekker

Clerks
Mrs. Bayard Rhone

Information & Education
Jimmie J. Tuliano

Publicity
Mark Anthony

Registration
Ernie Pieri

Receiving
Warriner Lytle

Court of Honor
John Movich

Trophies
Mildred Pitkin

To those of you who need "gib", contact Tom Hughes. Price is $1.00 per bottle, shipped.

For rules and regulations, contact Ernie Pieri.

CALIFORNIA INTRODUCTIONS IN 1967

A. Wilkins Garner
Glendale, California

Frank W. Maitland, Lauderdale Gardens, 13159 Glenoaks Blvd., San Fernando will introduce six camellias that many people have been watching for several years. **POPE JOHN XXIII** is a very attractive Medium to Large white formal double that blooms January through April. Mr. Maitland has been growing this flower for the cut flower market where it has proved to be popular. He has been using gib to bring it in for the early season market.

The other five are seedlings with reticulata female parentage and unknown male parentage. Since the seed producing reticulata plants have been located among japonica plants, it is assumed that there is japonica parentage and Maitland has therefore designated the five as "reticulata hybrids". They will be marketed by DeFrance's Nursery, 1425 Rubenstein, Encinitas, California, where scions will be available this year and plants will be available in 1968. All of these hybrids are Large to Very Large, semi-double with irregular petals and rabbit ears. The plants are sturdy and more compact than our reticulatas. **SILVER MIST** is pale pink with iridescent petals and the appearance of having been sprayed with aluminum dust. It won an A. C. S. Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Certificate at the only show in which it was entered last year. **PINK SPARKLE** is light pink with the same iridescent petals and the sprayed aluminum appearance. **TEMPLE MIST** is rose pink with the same iridescent petals and the sprayed aluminum appearance. The fourth, not yet named but generally known as **Two Ton Tony** has a light pink center that shades to darker pink on the edges of the petals. It has the same iridescent petals and sprayed aluminum appearance. The fifth, not yet named, is the one that Mr. Maitland has called his **Dark Red.** This is for people who like Big Reds with lots of vigor and style. The people in Southern California who have had these five reticulata hybrids under observation will be glad to know that they are now available.

Kramer Bros. Nursery, P. O. Box 158, Upland, California will have available reticulata seedling **MANDALAY QUEEN** in late January 1968. This Large to Very Large seedling of female parent 'Tali Queen' first bloomed in 1961. The semi-double flower, similar in appearance to 'Frizzle White', has been 5¾ inches in diameter and 3½ inches in height. Color is rose pink to red with yellow anthers. It blooms February through April.

Harvey F. Short, 4280 Merritt Blvd., La Mesa, California continues to test and enjoy his beautiful seedlings. Two of them will be introduced this year. **BLACK HEART** will be available through Nuccio's Nursery of Altadena and Merle's Nursery, 11981 Canal St., Grand Terrace, Colton. It is a Small very dark red formal with extra good substance and will last up to fifteen days. It is reported to be non-shattering, will fall in one piece. **PINNACLE** is a 'Kuro-Tsubaki' X 'Lotus' seedling. Color when first opening is a rich maroon red that changes to a rich coral tone when fully open. The flowers are loose to full peony, 5 to 5½ inches when disbudded one to a terminal. It blooms mid-season to late, but responds well to gib for December blooming. It has good substance and does not shatter. The plant is a bushy up-right grower. It will be available this year at Merle's Nursery in Colton.

Alton B. (Al) and Vera Parker of Redwood Empire Camellias, 7949 Lynch Road, Sebastopol, California

95472 are continuing to make progress with their new nursery and this year will introduce three of the varieties they have had under test. **EL DORADO,** a Howard Asper seedling, is a Large pitardii X japonica 'Tiffany' hybrid. Color is "clear medium pink," form is rose form to peony. The plant growth is medium and compact. It blooms mid-season. **INNOVATION,** a Dave Feathers seedling, is a hybrid with 'William's Lavender' X reticulata 'Crimson Robe' parentage. It is Large, semi-double to peony form with twisted, fluted petals. Color is wine red with lavender overtones. Growth is vigorous, slightly open. It blooms early to late. **NANCY MANDARICH** is a japonica seedling originated by Jack Mandarich of Menlo Park, California, has been seen on California show tables. It is Very Large, anemone to loose peony in form with upright petals. Color is blush pink. It blooms mid-season. Plant growth is compact, upright.

Joe and Julius Nuccio of Nuccio's Nurseries, 3555 Chaney Trail, Altadena have several new names on their 1967 list. **SPRING FEVER,** a seedling of japonica 'Jessie Katz', is Very Large, rose pink in color, wavy petaled, semi-double to loose peony form. Plant growth is upright, vigorous. It blooms mid-season to late. It won first in the seedling Class in several California shows last season, with two A. C. S. Provisional Highly Commended Seedling Certificates. People who were privileged to view the plants at Nuccio's last season saw many flowers that were six inches in diameter. This is a flower for people who like Very Large blooms. **MATADOR** is a Large to Very Large japonica seedling, dark rich red, semi-double to loose anemone in form. Plant growth is vigorous, upright, open. It blooms mid-season to late. This is a flower for people who like them large and real red. **SCENTSATION** is a Large silvery pink japonica seedling, peony in form, with a definite sweet fragrance. Plant growth is medium, upright, compact. It blooms early to mid-season. **MASTERPIECE PINK,** a silvery pink sport of 'Masterpiece', will be available in limited supply. This sport was propagated in the South. **ELEGANT BEAUTY,** a Les Jury hybrid from New Zealand and very popular there, is being released after testing in the United States. It is a large, anemone form, glowing rose pink saluenensis X 'Elegans (Chandler)' hybrid. It blooms profusely on the plant, which is vigorous and upright in growth. It is particularly good for garden color. **ANTICIPATION,** also a Les Jury seedling from New Zealand and also popular there, is a saluenensis X japonica 'Leviathan' hybrid. Color is deep rose. The flower is Large, semi-double to peony in form that blooms mid-season to late. Plant growth is vigorous and upright.

Color Your Gib Red*

After wasting quite a lot of gib and experiencing extreme difficulty when treating camellia buds up high or down low on the bushes (wearing bifocals), I decided that if the gib solution were a bright color instead of the clear stuff that I was using, I just might be able to see it better.

If you are unfortunate enough to have to wear bifocals, try this with your gibbing: To each 3 C. C.'s of your clear gib solution, add one drop of just regular red food coloring. Shake well and apply in the usual manner. A small drop of this red gib will shine like a tail light on the green camellia bud. I can now operate without my glasses. This food coloring also seems to tend to stabilize the droplets of gib, making the solution stick better.

—Neal Cox

* Reprinted from Carolina Camellias.

PHYTOPHTHORA -- NEMESIS OF CAMELLIA GROWERS

A nemesis of camellia growers that generally is not understood, in fact is not known about by most growers, is Phytophthora, frequently called "cinnamon rot". A sign that it exists is failure of a plant to produce new growth during the growing season. A look at the roots in such cases will usually divulge that the roots are a dull brown, not white and active as in the case of a healthy growing plant. The recourse has been usually to discard the plant and nurseries in Southern California have discarded many plants per year for this reason. While all the causes are not known, Phytophthora has been attributed to over-dampness of the soil around the roots. This has been attributed by some people to the use of peat moss in the soil mix because of the characteristic of peat moss to hold moisture. Evidence that this might be true was that one of the growers who used no peat moss did not have the disease.

Jack Clark of Auckland, New Zealand was the first to talk about Phytophthora in Southern California during a visit to California. Joe and Julius Nuccio of Nuccio's Nurseries decided to try the use of fir bark in place of the peat moss in their soil mix, on the theory that fir bark dries out faster than peat moss and thus might avoid the excess dampness caused by the peat moss. The plants with which they used the fir bark showed such excellent results that they expanded its use and it has now replaced peat moss in their camellia soil mix.

Nuccios had knowledge at the time they started to use fir bark of a soil fungicide, known in the trade as ALCO 345, that was manufactured by a subsidiary of Shell Oil Company and was being used in the treatment of soil. They were told that three or four applications of this fungicide might eleminate the Phytophthora. They tried ALCO 345 on this basis but the results were not satisfactory so they abandoned it. They heard of its successful use in strawberry production and decided at the start of the 1967 camellia growing season to try it again, on a program of regular and proper application that would permit them better to evaluate its effectiveness. They destroyed none of their plants that were showing the effects of Phytophthora because they wanted to test the effectiveness of the fungicide under the most adverse conditions. They started about June 1, 1967 on a program of applying it not oftener than every seven days at the time of their regular watering,

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CAMELLIA PERSONALITIES -- K. SAWADA

Charles R. Butler
Mobile, Alabama

Although Mr. Kosaku Sawada will be 85 years old on his next birthday and the infirmities of age have drastically limited his activities, he still has the merry twinkle in his eye and the kindly manner of a gentleman of the old school.

Mr. Sawada was born in Osaka, Japan and his interest in horticulture came to him naturally as his father owned and operated an orange grove there. He graduated from Osaka Junior College where he studied horticulture. Following graduation, a family friend asked him and four other young Japanese to come to Houston, Texas to assist him in the operation of a rice farm.

About three months after their arrival the friend was killed in an accident, leaving the five young men, none of whom could speak, read or write English, to operate the farm. This continued with difficulty for two years when young Mr. Sawada left to work for Mr. Arai, a Japanese nurseryman in Alvin, Texas, raising Cape Jasmine.

After two years Mr. Sawada realized that if he were to get anywhere in the United States, he would have to learn English. He therefore went back to Houston and attended a private school for two years to study the language. He then returned to work for Mr. Arai in Alvin. Soon thereafter Mr. Arai decided to start an orange grove. Mr. Sawada sent back to Japan and otained scions from his father which were grafted on local understock. Several years later a hard freeze came along and wiped out over a quarter million trees.

Mr. Arai then obtained a contract from Grand Bay Land Company, a company formed by a group of midwesterners to buy and develop land in south Mobile County, Alabama, to plant a 2500 acre grove of oranges. Because of his experience Mr. Sawada was sent to Grand Bay to supervise this operation. Fortunately, when planting the oranges, it was decided to plant a pecan tree after every fourth orange tree. After several successful crops a freeze destroyed all the orange trees and again a second time after replanting, but the pecans survived.

In 1917 Mr. Sawada decided to go into business for himself and purchased the property on Moffett Road in Mobile where Overlook Nursery still continues. He started out by propagating and selling oranges and pecans and for his own enjoyment raised a few ornamentals. People around Mobile eventually gave up trying to raise citrus fruits and Overlook's business gradually changed over to the sale of general nursery stock.

In 1916 when the first Mrs. Sawada came over from Japan to marry Mr. Sawada, she brought with her a number of camellia seeds. It was from the seedlings grown from these that the cultivars K. Sawada and Mrs. K. Sawada were produced and from which his love of camellias developed.

All of us who raise camellias have read Mr. Sawada's many erudite articles on camellia propagation and culture which have appeared in many publications. He probably has developed more lovely seedlings than anyone in the business: MRS. K. SAWADA, K. SAWADA, IMURA, FRIZZLE WHITE, LURIE'S FAVORITE, QUEEN BESSIE, RISING SUN, SARA-SA, TRICOLOR SUPERBA, WHITE PINE CONE, BLUSH HIBISCUS, LIBERTY BELL, RED HIBISCUS, ROBERT NORTON, ROSE MALLOW, ROYAL WHITE, SHIRO-BOTAN, SMILING BEAUTY, VICTORY MAID,

(Continued on next page)

VICTORY WHITE, WHITE EMPRESS, WHITE GIANT, WHITE HIBISCUS, WHITE KING, WHITE QUEEN, the beautiful SAWADA'S DREAM and TINY PRINCESS, the first successful cross between Camellia fraterna and Camellia japonica. Also sasanquas: DAWN, CLEOPATRA, BRILLIANCY, AUTUMN BEAUTY, FLORIBUNDA, GULF GLORY, LAVENDAR QUEEN, PAPAVER, ROSY MIST, SLENDERLEE, SNOWFLAKE, SPLENDOR, VELVETY, VERSICOLOR, WILLOWLEAF, FRANK PERSONS, GULF BREEZE.

Beside camellias Mr. Sawada has also raised a fine family. His eldest son, Tom, is a graduate of Spring Hill College in Mobile and now operates Overlook Nursery. George, his next son, graduated from Auburn University, where he studied ornamental horticulture, and took a Master's degree at Cornell University in plant breeding. He now is head of the Parks Department for the City of Mobile. Daughter Lurie is married and living in Mobile and Ben, the youngest son, is a Minister in Gulf Breeze, Florida.

Mr. Sawada now lives happily in retirement in his comfortable home with his wife, the former Carrie Belle Nelson, whom he married following the death of the first Mrs. Sawada. He claims that his memory is failing, but to hear him discussing his camellias, you would never suspect it. If I should live to be 85 years of age, I hope that I may be able to enjoy life as much as Mr. K. Sawada appears to.

PHYTOPHTHORA *(Continued)*

mixing it with the water through a mixer they purchased for the purpose. Every plant in the nursery was systematically treated. This program was continued into September. In July there were signs of success. Most of the plants that showed effects of Phytophthora when the program of treatments was started had good green growth in July. As this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW goes to press, the plants throughout the nursery uniformly have good new growth, the best that has existed for years.

Nuccios are not yet ready to announce that this soil fungicide is the answer to Phytophthora despite the good indications. They will repeat their 1967 program in 1968. If the results are again good, steps will be initiated to make the fungicide available to amateur camellia growers. It is now available only in gallon lots at about $40.00 per gallon. They have used one gallon for every application in the nursery so obviously it will be necessary to have it packaged in small amounts for general use. Nuccios believe that Phytophthora is in the ground because they have found that in virgin soil they have had no trouble. This is just a theory and their further tests should help to answer the many questions regarding this nemesis of camellia growers.

OVERHEAD WATERING OF CAMELLIAS

A. H. Dekker
Glendale, California

It was in 1940 when we first began planting camellias on our hillside which is fully shaded by live oaks. Inasmuch as the rear property line is about twice as high as the roof ridge pole of our house, I decided to install an overhead sprinkling system before planting camellias to eliminate laborious hand watering. The camellias were watered twice each week by merely turning a valve. The plants grew and bloomed very satisfactorily and they still do today.

The level portion of our back yard was all put into lawn. As we collected more camellias we began planting in the level area on both lateral property lines. We soon found we were running out of space and were obliged to resort to container growing. During the past fifteen or more years all our new plants have been kept in containers, and have been watered by our expanded overhead watering system. For years most of the plants in containers did well. Of course many were moved up into larger red wood tubs.

During the last few years I began noticing that some of the container grown plants were not performing too well. This past fall and winter I began examining these plants and in nearly every case I found a heavy accumulation of finely matted roots close to the soil surface and in quite a few cases the roots toward the bottom of the container were dead or very nearly so. I went through our entire collection examining the root systems. Wherever necessary I bare-rooted the plant, rearranged the matted root system, trimmed away dead roots and pruned the top. Many of these plants are responding to this treatment and doing well.

I am still overhead watering the container grown plants twice each week but I am supplementing this once each week by watering every container with a hose and pressure reducing waterwand.

SCCS Will Collect New Zealand and Australia Dues

A reciprocal arrangement has been made with the Australia Camellia Research Society and the New Zealand Camellia Society under which the Southern California Camellia Society will collect the dues of American members of these Societies and they, in turn, will collect dues of S. C. C. S. members in Australia and New Zealand. Dues of the Australia and New Zealand Societies are $3.00 per year U.S.

Both of these Societies publish Bulletins that are highly informative with regard to camellia activities, thinking, and cultural procedures in these countries. The New Zealand Society has about 1200 members, the Australia Society about 1000 members. Membership is growing in both countries and the American camellia grower will find it interesting to keep abreast of camellia activities in the two countries by belonging to their camellia societies.

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
820 WINSTON AVE.
SAN MARINO, CALIF. 91108

PLANTS I KNEW IN JAPAN

Isamu Kawaguchi
San Diego, California

Reprinted from CALIFORNIA GARDEN,
publication of The San Diego Floral Association

Each one of us has memories which are associated with plants and flowers. In my case, the memories are of my country, Japan, where I was born, grew up, and which I left six years ago. Many little plants and flowers on the street, at flower shows, or in someone's garden remind me of the things I did ever since I was little—reminders so vivid, that they seem only yesterday.

The other day, a notice was mailed to me from a friend; it contained the schedule for the camellia show. The word "camellia" reminded me of a large camellia tree we used to climb when I was in grade school. The tree was about 20 feet high with two main branches, one branch bore pink flowers and the other white with pink stripes. When the trees were in bloom, we strung the flowers to make leis.

Camellias in Japan are used in many ways: The flowers are popular with flower arrangers, especially for those arrangements used in the tea ceremony. The seeds provide a good oil which is used in the better cosmetics as well as in cooking. The meat of the seed may be rubbed against the squeaky drawer or sticking door to make them work more smoothly; the large amount of oil that its seed contains, serves much the same purpose as beeswax, or a candle, in this country.

The camellia trees can be grown as a hedge or garden tree or even used for "bonsai." They provide color for the winter garden when everything else has died. On frosty, cold, wintry mornings, I used to walk to school along a hedge of "Sasanqua" camellias, a mass of delicate pink blooms. The petals fell as soon as the buds were open, but they kept blooming all winter long.

Another tree which belongs to the camellia family but which is not well known to us here is the tea tree, the young sprouts of which are used for making green tea. The flowers are creamy white of five petals, with long stamens just like the camellia. Youngsters gather the young, tight tea buds and use them as ammunition for their pop guns—what fun that was! Tea trees are usually grown as hedge on property lines or to protect the garden or crops in the field. They are kept very low by constant trimming; this frequent trimming encourages many more branches which, in turn, provide more young tea leaves. Tea leaves are picked twice a year—both times in the spring.

Then I remember the chrysanthemums of all kinds which were planted in our neighbors' and my father's garden; they were of all colors and sizes. The young shoots of chrysanthemums are edible after they are boiled. They have a spicy flavor all their own—one of my favorite greens. They are usually eaten in a clear soup or simply with the addition of soy sauce. They should be good in salad, too.

Have any of you ever visited a Japanese chrysanthemum show, especially the chrysanthemum doll show? Once a year, in the fall, many parks and gardens have mum shows or mum doll shows. Mum doll shows are the particular ones I would like all of you to see. They are a type of combination flower and doll show in which all the costumes and sceneries are constructed of mums of all sorts and colors. The dolls are life size, the base of each is constructed of straw. If you can imagine the Rose Parade in smaller detail and scale, all made out of mums, you can get some idea.

Some of these doll mum shows are open to visitors for as long as a month (the wilted blooms have to be replaced from time to time with fresh ones).

The flower known to all the Western World as the cherry blossom is another flower that brings back many memories to me. "Sakura," as they are known in Japan, bloom all over the country; blooming starts in Kyushu Island to the south as early as in December, progressing on up to the northernmost island, Hokkaido, blooming there in June. There are about 350 kinds of cherry blossoms, all of them known for the short life of the flower after opening. In Washington, D.C. scientists have succeeded to a certain extent in extending the bloom life of their cherry blossom trees by injecting a substance into each tree before bloom begins, but in Japan they are loved by many people for the short but colorful life of the blossom.

In order to increase the viewing period, blossoms to be used for flower arrangements are cut when they are in bud. These are arranged alone most of the time, or perhaps with pine or some green plant for a contrast in color.

The cherry tree leaves, after they are steamed, and then dried, are used to wrap rice cakes; they give a hint of cherry flavor—the delicate maraschino taste. Also, the blossoms are pickled in salt and dried, after which they are used for brewing a "cherry blossom tea." When hot water is added, the flowers open in the tea and color the water with pink. This tea was used for happy celebrations, but the custom is slowly dying out.

We used to go to view the cherry blossoms twice a year—once in December and again in April. There was a hot-spring, well-known to the Japanese, about 50 miles from where my family lived. The cherry trees in that hot-spring area bloomed in December

(Continued on next page)

because of its warm climate and the effects of the surrounding hot springs.

But the best season was in April where, all over the hills and fields, wherever there was a cherry tree, all was pink clouds mixed with the green of wheat and yellow of the "na-no-hana," a mustard type of flower that blooms on a kind of greens which belongs to the cabbage family. Even now I can visualize them clearly with snowcapped mountains in the background, and I shall remember forever the days I walked in the "blizzard of flowers," or, as the Japanese call it, "hanafubuki."

Many of the garden magazines and catalogs remind me of the abundant flowers of Japan. For instance, the *Lycoris radiata* (Japanese name, higanbana) is a wild flower which grows all over the country. It has those red lily-shaped flowers with unusually long stamens. The Japanese, especially the older folks, regard them as a poison flower so, of course I, as a little boy, was taught not to touch them. Here in this country they are sold as garden flowers.

The other day I saw an advertisement for an exotic thistle. It was a Japanese wild thistle; it grows on the sunny sides of hills and blooms all year round. It is one of our most disliked plants because of its prickly leaves and flowers. Often Japanese farmers hurt their hands on them when they are cutting grass in the rice fields and banks. Here in America they cost money to buy!

The hydrangea is another one of these wild flowers. They are very small bushes usually growing in the underbrush of forests or in very damp shady places of mountains. The flowers are poor in color as a rule, and florets of bloom appear only along the edges of the cluster of buds. After the florets on the edge die out, then the next row appears, and so on. They continue blooming until the end of summer.

Occasionally one will find a variegated-leaf hydrangea cultivated in a San Diego garden—this is a direct descendant of the wild one. The Japanese call this type "gaku ajisai" —namely, "framed hydrangea," for its flower formation. I always associate this variegated one with the places I used to frequent when in Japan: cool streams, groves of tall cryptomeria trees, and wild honeysuckle—which nearly always are found together.

Oh yes, speaking of "found together," the azalea is another flower which is often evidenced in those same places. From late June through July, one finds mountain azaleas, usually red in color, in most parts of Japan. When they are in bloom, the entire mountain side is red or sometimes pink. They do grow well in rocky mountain areas where they add immensely to the beautiful scenery. Often found with them are the blue mountain wisterias clinging to the tall pine trees or to the rocks and cliffs.

The red azalea has a very sweet taste in the bottom of the flower where the nectars are. I remember well the time when, as a boy, we kids removed all the flowers from father's prized red "bonsai" in order to suck the sweetness from the flowers. And, for doing so, I received a few good spankings and had to stay in the house for three days. This was the most expensive sweet I was ever to taste.

Wild red azalea blossoms are sometimes used in rice cakes to add color. The flowers are picked, then pressed between two thin patties of sweetened rice paste and the confection is then steamed. This process causes the pastry to become semi-translucent, revealing the azalea flowers. They are placed on a serving plate atop a few needles of pine and served with tea. The pastries pick up a hint of the pine scent and are delightful. This type of confection was introduced to

Japan from China, via Korea, not so long ago.

I mentioned cryptomerias above; many in this country are not acquainted with these trees. There are a few of them on Park Boulevard in Balboa Park, near the large magnolia tree. When I was five years old, my family was forced to move from the city and live in the country because of the war. It was truly in the country where there was no electricity, no water service, no newspapers, no movies, no shops of any kind. We considered ourselves fortunate to have been able to rent some wealthy family's summer house. In front of the house there was a cryptomeria forest, many of the trees being 60 feet or more in height. On cold winter mornings, we made our fires of the fallen twigs of these trees. Moreover, the lower branches of the trees had to be cut away to encourage growth, so my father cut off many dead branches from which we made good fires.

The cryptomeria in Japan is very versatile; it is used for house lumber and furniture and house ornaments which utilize its beautiful grain; and for wine-making tubs valued for the wood's aroma. Carved wooden bases for vases—the flower arranger's delight, soy tubs (popular among gardeners in America), all sorts of boxes for all sorts of uses, even "geta" the wood sandal shaped somewhat like "zori"—all these are made from its wood.

There are so many things the Japanese make from plant materials. The most important plant in Japan, probably, is bamboo. In the U. S. it is known as an exotic garden plant, but in Japan it is much more. It is famous for use in baskets, but is also widely employed in making furniture, toys, umbrellas, screens, lampshades, and fishing tools.

The bamboo sheds its "skin" as it is growing out of the shoot; these are collected by children as a rule, and later sold to processors. After being shaved paper-thin and cleaned, these are used as meat wrappers and lunch bags. They are pasted on cloth, paper, and wood to be used for many purposes. They make paper strong and semi-waterproof. They are used for gift wrapping papers, candy boxes, women's accessories, and rope. It is sad to think of all these unique articles being replaced by plastic, aluminum, waxed paper, veneer—all considered as advances of science.

Many of the wild plants I used to see when I was small are gradually passing from the peoples' lives as the villages grow into towns, and from towns to cities, to metropolises to megalopolises. Formerly, rice cakes were flavored with wild chrysanthemums, for instance, and wrapped in treated oak or cherry leaves; now they are flavored with artificial flavorings and wrapped in plastic "leaves" printed to resemble the natural ones. Swamps, where I used to go to pick pussywillows, cattails, and wild irises, are fast being changed into housing projects. It is the same everywhere—here or in Japan.

Some may call it industrialization, some may call it progress. Call it what you will, but to me something of the zest, something of the loveliness, something of the enchantment of life slips away with the passing of each of these associations with nature, and our lives, as a consequence, are left the poorer.

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MY EARLY EXPERIENCE WITH CAMELLIAS

Hubert S. Reeves
Pomona, California

(Based on talk to members of Pomona Valley Camellia Society)

When I was a student in Chaffey High School I took Horticulture and became interested in propagation of plants by cuttings. In the early spring of 1922 I noticed a bush in bloom in front of an old home on the southeast corner of Laurel and G. Streets in Ontario. I asked the owners about it and found out that it was a camellia and was very rare and difficult to grow. I asked if I could have some cuttings and they gave me three which I made into six. I found out that this variety was called 'Belle Jeanette', a rose red flecked white large formal double. I planted the cuttings in sharp sand in a nursery flat in the hot house at the High School. I was so thrilled with the camellia cuttings that I told some of the teachers about them. One of the teachers wanted some of the plants so bad that he had one of the students pot the cuttings before they were all rooted, and all but two died. I was in bed with a bruised leg and not able to look after them.

I heard of another camellia bush located on D Street and San Antonio Avenue and was fortunate in getting some cuttings of it. It was called 'Cheerful', a rose form and rose red.

I heard of Mr. Jordan on 9th Street and San Antonio Avenue in Upland. I rode my bicycle up to see him. He gave me some cuttings of both of his plants. We know one of them as 'Herme', a medium large pink semi-double with white rings, and the other as 'Jordan #2', a formal red with a small white stripe.

I went to Armstrong Nursery's sales yard and even in the early twenties they had a good collection of camellia plants for sale. I met Mr. J. S. Armstrong who I had known for over ten years. I asked him about his camellias. He told me about getting plants shipped in from France that were labeled pink, white, red and variegated. He also told me about selling the two plants to Mr. Jordan and how Mr. Jordan enjoyed the one plant so much that he named it 'Jordan's Pride'.

I had a cold frame built at my home in Ontario and in my spare time I tried to prapagate all of the different varieties that I could. I heard of camellias in Pomona so I took some paper bags for each variety and a potato sack and rode my bicycle to Pomona. My father had a Maxwell car but in those days boys of fifteen and sixteen years old didn't take their father's car out for rides unless they were chaperoned.

I met Mr. Whipp on North Garey just south of the old Lincoln School. When I told him that I had rooted camellias from cuttings he didn't believe me because he had been a grower of shrubs and flowers for years and had never been able to root a camellia from a cutting. He had a 'Purity', a 'Pink Perfection', a 'Cheerful', a 'Chandleri Elegans Variegated', a single pink which I called 'Pink Hybiscus', and a number of seedlings. He had bought these plants from different nurseries. I wrote the name or color on each paper bag, put the bags in my potato sack and rode my bicycle to Ontario. I sat up and made camellia cuttings until midnight.

I heard of Colonel Firey and Mrs. Firey and was able to get some cuttings from them. Mrs. Firey told me about Mrs. Hedlund's white camellia across the street. I met Mrs. Hedlund and she gave me some cuttings. I named it 'Leora Hedlund'. It was a

peony form. I sold Mr. August Kramer a plant of it about ten years later and he named it 'Mount Shasta'.

There were an 'Elena Nobile', a flame red rose form, and a 'Princess Baciocchi', red semi-double to peony form, on Main Street. Some of these people who had camellia bushes were told that they should not be cut because they wouldn't bloom the next year. We know different now, that thinning out the weak and crooked branches and letting the light in, the plant grows better and produces better flowers.

Later on I heard of Mr. White on East Kinsley so I went out to see him. He had the largest collection of large camellias of any one that I had met so far. He told me that his father had planted them when he was a boy. Some of them were at least fifteen feet high. One was a 'Nagasaki', a large semi-double rose red marbled white, very spectacular. Others were 'Pink Perfection', 'Purity', 'Cheerful', 'Herme', 'Alba Plena', 'Daikagura', and the first 'Monjisu' variegated that I had ever seen. About fifteen years later I bought this collection which I believe was at least seventy years old.

I also heard about the Phillips camellias on East Holt. I was surprised to see them growing on the east side of the house in the sun. The foliage wasn't as dark as camellias grown in the shade but they bloomed good anyway. They had two plants of 'Sarah Frost' or 'Clark's Red'.

I worked for Kramer's Nursery in my summer vacations and I told them about camellias. They finally bought some from Toichi Domoto in Hayward, California.

I heard of Mr. Youtz on West Green Street in Pasadena and I visited with him each year when his camellias were in bloom. He told me how he gave the name 'Emperor Wilhelm' to 'Gigantea'. It wasn't named when he bought it. Because of its unusual color and it was so outstanding, he named it after an emperor who admired pomp and splendor.

I met Vern and Billie McCaskill. They were just getting started in the camellia business.

I went to Coolidge's rare plant gardens in Pasadena and met Mr. Coolidge. He gave me a 'Christmas Cheer' when he found out how interested I was in camellias.

After high school I went to work for Kramer Bros. Nursery. They didn't have the camellia bug yet but as their plants grew they became more interested. They offered me the cut flower job in Oceanside and I moved my camellia collection there. I found out that some varieties such as 'Eureka Variegated' did much better near the coast than they did in Pomona Valley. Some varieties didn't bloom near the coast. For anyone starting a camellia garden they should find out if the variety they want does well in the locality where they live before they buy it. When the depression hit Southern California I moved back to Ontario but I did not give up my camellias.

In 1934 I bought some property on Foothill Blvd. in Upland and started a retail nursery. It was while I was in Upland that one of my seedlings bloomed. I thought it had a good form and good red color and I named it 'General Eisenhower'.

The interest in camellias seemed to be growing. The Southern California Camellia Society was started in Pasadena. I attended some of the first meetings but Pasadena was a long way to drive. I asked Mr. Greer of the Pomona Nursery, Mr. Dee Cothran, some other camellia enthusiasts Mr. Paul Hartman and Mr. Fred Sanders to come to my home in Pomona to talk about forming a camellia society in Pomona and calling it the Pomona Valley Camellia Society. We formed the Society with Mr. Dee Cothran as president.

CAMELLIA DIEBACK AND CANKER

Luther W. Baxter, Jr.*

Reprinted from CAROLINA CAMELLIAS,
the publication of the South Carolina Camellia Society

The flowering period of camellias during fall and winter is followed by a strong flush of new vegetative growth in early spring. The plants may have been carefully fertilized, mulched, sprayed, watered and pruned throughout the preceding year, but a few days after the spring growth begins newly developing lateral twigs wilt and darken and within a few more days the young twig is dead. Sometimes the young affected twig drops its leaves or under other conditions the dried leaves remain attached. The older the leaves at the onset of wilting the more likely they will dry and remain attached to the dead stem. Such are the symptoms of dieback and canker and such are the conditions under which the experienced grower has faced disappointments.

Dieback and canker is a fungus disease affecting many varieties of *Camellia japonica, C. Sasanqua, C. reticulata* and probably other camellia species. Within the species *C. japonica* most varieties are susceptible, but variation exists ranging from highly resistant ('PROFESSOR SARGENT') to highly susceptible ('VILLE DE NANTES'). A few other varieties, although susceptible to artificial inoculation in the laboratory, usually escape infection by some mechanism under natural conditions ('ALTHEAFLORA'). Infection results when viable spores (reproductive bodies of the fungus) contact a newly formed wound on a susceptible camellia variety when favorable environmental conditions for the fungus exist. Fungus spores, in extremely large numbers, are produced on diseased wood (cankers) during the early spring. These are disseminated by raindrops. It should be appreciated that spore formation coincides with the new growth period of the camellia. Wounds, resulting from moving, pruning, cultivation, insect feeding and frostcracking, or natural wounds, such as scars resulting from the falling of old leaves, provide entrance sites for the fungus. Under highly humid conditions and favorable temperature (65°-75°F.) these spores germinate and the threads of the fungus penetrate into the wood surrounding the wound and infection is thereby established. Leaf scars probably provide the most natural and abundant avenue for invasion by the fungus.

The time elapsing between invasion by the fungus and symptom expression in susceptible varieties (incubation period) varies with temperature, with the stage of development of the new shoots, and with the variety. At a temperature averaging approximately 70°F., a period of 7 to 10 days is required for symptom expression (wilting) on such susceptible varieties as 'TOMORROW', 'DONCKELARII', 'CLEOPATRA', 'DONATION', and 'CAPTAIN RAWES'. If the shoots have become woody at the time infection occurs, a longer period is required for symptom expression, while with very tender shoots wilting may occur within less than 7 days.

Usually infection occurs through fresh leaf scars at the base of lateral shoots which have arisen from buds in the axis of a leaf and stem. Terminal shoots are occasionally affected; however, the incubation period for this shoot is longer than for a lateral shoot. The reason for this is due to the differences in the vascular systems

* Associate Professor, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina.

servicing the two types of shoots. In a lateral shoot the vascular system is restricted to the side of the stem on which the shoot arises, while terminal growth is serviced by the entire vascular cylinder.

A second phase of this disease is canker formation. A canker is dead tissue on a stem surrounded by living tissue. In the dieback phase, infection kills the cells of the stem supplying the newly developing shoot and, as a result, the shoot dies. In the canker phase the fungus continues to kill surrounding cells. The surrounding cells that are not affected continue to grow. The result is the enlargement of the wood around the dead cells, giving the diseased area a depressed appearance. Usually, some lateral proliferation occurs partially compensating for the dead cells and this presents a swollen or flattened appearance. The resulting canker assumes a somewhat elliptical sunken appearance.

Cankers may occur on any above ground portion of the stem. When they occur on the main trunk near the soil surface they constitute a threat to the survival of the plant. Cankers occurring higher on the main stem, above one or more lateral branches, serve as a source of spores which are then disseminated by raindrops. Cankers can remain semidormant from year to year and this phase of the disease provides the survival mechanism of the organism.

The period of time that wounds remain subject to infection is usually less than a week in duration regardless of the nature of the injury. A possible exception is the injury sustained during grafting procedures. When one considers the highly humid and protected conditions provided the new graft, this is not surprising. In addition to the types of injuries previously mentioned, birds and rodents may cause injuries through which the fungus may gain entrance. It is probable that an injury sustained from any cause may constitute a portal of entry for fungus spores. One should keep in mind, however, that to have any disease development the following conditions must be met: spores of the fungus must be present; favorable environmental conditions for fungus development must exist; susceptible varieties must be available; and finally, raindrops or man's intervention for spore dissemination must exist.

Occassionally,infection of extremely tender young camellia leaves results under natural conditions but this is rare. Usually the affected leaves fall shortly after infection.

Infection results frequently during grafting procedures and this is a common cause of graft failure. Some varieties are so susceptible to dieback that incompatibility between scion and rootstock may be suspected. This is certainly true with various varieties of *Camellia reticulata* and with hybrids such as 'DONATION', particularly when grafted onto susceptible understock. It is not to be inferred that interspecific incompatibility does not exist but quick incrimination of rootstocks should be avoided.

Control of dieback and canker should be based on an understanding of the above information. When a control procedure is thus approached it can be effective. A control program should consider the following practices:

(1) Exercise care in the selection of cuttings, scions and understocks for propagation. Cuttings selected from the terminal portions of healthy, vigorous nursery stock and rooted in clean rooting media in benches isolated from other material will result in freedom from this disease when other accepted horticultural practices are followed.

(2) Extremely susceptible varieties, with a history of known

problems, should be isolated from the other varieties when propagating either by rooting or grafting.

(3) Practice dipping of cuttings and scions in a good fungicidal suspension. Submerge for 5 minutes in a suspension of a fungicide such as captan, 3 tablespoons per 1 gallon of water. In grafting procedures, dip the grafting instruments in the suspension and add a liberal quantity to the stump after top removal and stem splitting. After the scion has been prepared, but before insertion, dip again in the fungicide. Maintain cleanliness of hands and grafting instruments at all times.

(4) At the time of grafting inspect the stock for cankers. If any exist, cut well below the canker so that only healthy stock remains. If this is not possible discard the understock. This will prevent future problems. Insist on healthy understock when purchasing.

(5) If root rot is not a problem (where poor drainage and extremely poor soil are not present) use understock of either 'PROFESSOR SARGENT' or 'GOVERNOR MOUTON'. These varieties are highly resistant to dieback.

(6) Use seedlings as understock for more satisfactory varieties. The organism is usually not found in seed.

(7) Practice good thinning procedures to facilitate proper air drainage. This will reduce opportunities for fungus development.

(8) If space permits, do not crowd camellias either in the yard or greenhouse.

(9) Either destroy badly infected plants or practice surgery as earlier recommended. Avoid having badly diseased plants near healthy susceptible plants. Apply a good fungicide to the areas subsequent to surgery.

(10) Practice good horticultural management procedures such as fertilization, watering, pruning, spraying, mulching, transplanting, shading, etc.

(11) When exchanging scions give and accept only healthy scions.

It should be appreciated that as far as is known this fungus affects only camellia plants, although the fungus will rot various fruit such as apples. Therefore, do not be apprehensive about other diseased plants near camellias.

Directory of California Camellia Societies

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

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF KERN COUNTY
President: Dr. Leland Chow; Secretary, Melvin Canfield, 2709 Scott Pl., Bakersfield 93306
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through April in Police Bldg., 1620 Truxton Ave., Bakersfield

*CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF ORANGE COUNTY
President: Douglas Nowlin; Secretary, Mrs. George T. Butler, 1813 Windsor Lane, Santa Ana 97205
Meetings: 1st Thursday October through April in Orange County Farm Bldg., 1916 W. Chapman, Orange

CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SACRAMENTO
President: Dr. Roy O'Neal; Secretary: Mrs. Martha Derr, 6454 Oakridge Way, Sacramento 95831
Meetings: 4th Wednesday October through April in Garden & Art Center, McKinley Park, Sacramento

*CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Robert Kellas; Secretary, Mrs. Glenn S. Wise, 5493 E. Liberty Ave., Fresno 93702
Meetings: Nov. 16, Dec. 14, Jan. 25, Feb. 15, Mar. 22 in Mayfair School, Fresno

DELTA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: A. M. Patterson; Secretary: Mrs. Dorothy Blackard, 2707 Prospect St., Concord 94520
Meetings: 4th Tuesday October through April in School Services Bldg., 6th & G Sts., Antioch

JOAQUIN CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Karn Heortling; Secretary: Mrs. Eugene Chesi, 801 S. Pleasant St., Lodi 95240
Meetings: 1st Tuesday November through April in Micke Grove Memorial Bldg., Lodi

LOS ANGELES CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Karl M. Anderson; Secretary: Mrs. Joe L. Vendracek, 13176 Fenton, Sylmar
Meetings: 1st Tues., Dec. through April, Hollywood Women's Club, 1749 N. La Brea, Hollywood

MODESTO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Dr. Jake Holtzman; Secretary: Mrs. Hazel Grosso, 1424 Encina Ave., Modesto 95351
Meetings: 2nd Monday October through May in "Ag" Bldg. of Modesto Junior College

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Robert E. Ehrhart; Secretary: Carl W. Schroeder, 41 Van Ripper Lane, Orinda 94563
Meetings: 1st Monday November through May in Claremont Junior High School, 5750 College Ave., Oakland

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Albert H. Dekker; Secretary: Mrs. A. L. Summerson, 1370 San Luis Rey Dr., Glendale 91208
Meetings 1st Thursday November through April in Tuesday Afternoon Club House, 400 N. Central Ave., Glendale

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Louis J. Giomi; Secretary: Mrs. Pauline Moore, 80 Wheeler Ave., Redwood City 94061
Meetings: 4th Tuesday September through April in Hospitality Room, First Federal Savings Bldg., 700 El Camino Real, Redwood City

*POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Nelson R. Gatov; Secretary: Nancy McCormick, 568 E. Francis, Ontario 91728
Meetings: 2nd Thursday October through April in First Federal Savings & Loan Bldg., 399 N. Garey Ave., Pomona

*SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Samuel E. Foster; Secretary: Lewis Greenleaf, 4389 Copeland Ave., San Diego 92105
Meetings: 2nd Friday (except February which is 1st Friday) November through May in Floral Assn. Bldg., Balboa Park, San Diego

SONOMA COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Alton B. Parker; Secretary, Mrs. Inez Tryon
Meetings: 4th Thursday, November through April

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY
See inside front cover of this issue of CAMELLIA REVIEW

*TEMPLE CITY CAMELLIA SOCIETY
President: Laurence R. Shuey; Secretary: Mrs. Violet Shuey, 5813 N. Golden West Ave., Temple City 91780
Meetings: 3rd Friday of November and December and 4th Thursday of January through March in Lecture Hall of Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia

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