

THE
Camellia
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



'Ki No-Senritsu'
"Yellow Melody"

Southern California Camellia Society, Inc.

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

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THE CAMELLIA REVIEW

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COVER PHOTO: 'Ki No-Senritsu' (Yellow Melody)

A cross between Kiho and Camellia Nitidissima variety Nitidissima (C. Chrysantha) by Mr. Tadao Yamaguchi of Ishikawa, Japan. Mr. Yamaguchi has been one of the leading hybridizers to use C. Chrysantha to develop a yellow camellia. 'Ki-no-Senritsu' is a medium, light yellow ranging from loose peony to full peony form.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

The Southern California Camellia Society will welcome you as a member.

Annual membership — \$25.00 Includes subscription to *The Camellia Review* (four issues per year).

Each three years a revised edition of *Camellia Nomenclature* with over 150 pages describing more than 4,000 varieties is published. The 2003 edition is available at a cost of \$10.00 to members and \$15.00 for non-members.

Please send name, address and check payable to:

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

c/o Scott Drumheller, 4900 Glencove Avenue, La Crescenta, CA 91214

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Regular Member	\$25.00	Sustaining Member	\$100.00
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THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR



It seems that the questions most frequently asked, particularly from newer Society members deal with culture considerations. Whether we grow camellias for show or for landscape, the success of our endeavor depends on how we care for our plants—and that, in a nutshell, is camellia culture. Several years ago Marilee Gray wrote a concise fundamental paper on this subject. Regardless of your individual experience, you will benefit by reading or re-reading this reprint very carefully. You'll find it on page 14.

Thanks to Libby Lent and Don Bergamini for their articles for this issue of the Review and to Jim McQuiston for sending the article about gibberellin.

In previous issues of the Review, I have expressed the fact that we neglect appropriately recognizing the older varieties of camellias. The show schedule for the Pacific Camellia Society has a "new" category for "old" varieties. As a heads up, I'm listing a few Old Timers that I think could/should be entered in the Pacific Show on January 11, 2003.

'Alba Plena'	1792	'Finlandia'	1910
'Are-Jishi'	1891	'Gigantea'	1840
'Ballerina'	1948	'Hagoromo'	1886
'Bella Romano'	1863	'Herme'	1875
'Anita'	1940	'Kumasaka'	1896
'Archduchessa Isabella di Toscana'	1849	'Lady Vansittart'	1887
'Blood of China'	1928	'Mathotiana'	1840
'C. M. Hovey'	1853	'Pink Perfection'	1875
'Colletii'	1843	'Prof. Charles S. Sargent'	1925
'Daikagura'	1891	'Purity'	1881
'Debutante'	ca.1900		
'Donckelarii'	1834	Plus many more with interesting names.	
'Elegans (Chandler)'	1831		

You will notice that the pages following Marilee's excellent article are filled with information that doesn't exactly deal with camellias. But the thoughts there do deal with life. We may not be prize-winning camellia growers but, when life is good, that's what really matters.

—Mel Belcher

CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA RAMA

NOVEMBER 1-2-3, 2002

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1—We will begin late Friday afternoon with our usual Camellia Hospitality Room - there will be all kinds of snacks and drinks for your pleasure. This activity has turned out to be one of the features of this gathering. This is the time that hobbyists from both Northern and Southern California can get together—renew old friendships and make new ones—and exchange ideas and camellia information.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2—This is our Fun & Culture day. You may enter blooms in the Camellia Show room for an hour beginning at 8:00 a.m. This is an "Open" show and there is no limit to the number of blooms that an exhibitor may enter in Japonica, Retic, Non-Retic Hybrid, and Species classes. Don't forget the little ones—they compete in a special boutonniere class. There are six "Best of Class" awards and an additional award for "Best of Show." Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.—be sure to register so that you will be eligible to win a door prize.

The morning session of the "Camellia Symposium" begins at 9:30 a.m. and once again we have an outstanding group of speakers: Bob Ehrhart, Kathy Hall, Tom Nuccio, Bob Peterson, Theresa Piech and Jim Toland. Bob Peterson has been doing extensive research on propagation and will bring a number of plants allowing everyone to personally examine the results of his efforts. Theresa will bring her lap-top computer and demonstrate her program for printing head table cards and show results within an hour or less after the completion of the judging of a show. Bob and Theresa will be the first two speakers, and will be able to present hands-on demonstrations throughout the day during breaks and possibly at the end of lunch.

Hospitality champagne begins at 6:30 p.m. with all of the wonderful costumes that people bring. Don't worry if you are not in costume—costumes are optional and voluntary. This year's theme is "TV SHOWS and/or T.V. COMMERCIALS." Use your imagination—we have numerous prizes for a number of costume categories such as "most authentic," "funniest," etc. After the costume parade, we will have dinner and be entertained by Johnny Salatino and his partner. Dancing is optional, but it is certainly encouraged. The evening will end as usual with our traditional "World's Greatest Raffle" and "Awesome Drawing."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4 - The Smugglers famous Champagne Brunch begins at 8:30 a.m. so that everyone can get an early start to a safe journey home

**Start the 2002-2003 Camellia season in Fresno and enjoy
Camellia Fun and Culture**

CAMELLIA-RAMA REGISTRATION FORM 2002

FORM 1:

ENTIRE PACKAGE _____ @ \$58.00 each = _____

Registration _____	@ \$ 6.00 each	_____
Saturday Luncheon _____	@ \$12.00 each	_____
Dinner _____	@\$30.00 each	_____
Sunday Brunch _____	@\$20.00 each	_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please include checks with registration payable to CALIFORNIA
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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY

PROGRAMS FOR 2002-2003

The Southern California Camellia Society meets at the Los Angeles County Arboretum in Arcadia (S. Baldwin Ave.) on the fourth Tuesday of each month during camellia season (October through April), except November (meeting on third Thursday) and no December meeting due to the traditional holidays. The February meeting is traditionally held at the Descanso Gardens in La Canada-Flintridge.

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME TO ALL MEETINGS which begin at 7:30 p.m. with a camellia culture session, followed at 8:00 p.m. by the special PROGRAM for the evening. Refreshments and a camellia plant raffle conclude the monthly meetings.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 24: "Camellia Landscaping with Sasanqua Camellias", by Tom Nuccio from the internationally acclaimed NUCCIO'S NURSERY in Altadena, California. Tom is one of the most knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and lively speakers in the camellia world.

NOVEMBER 21: Workshop on Pruning Camellias by the Society's Best Growers— demonstrations for landscape and show camellias. Pruning as well as hands-on pruning will be highlighted. BRING A CAMELLIA TO THE MEETING TO PRUNE AND RECEIVE SUPERVISION IN SHAPING YOUR PLANTS . This workshop is recommended for all camellia lovers, and is FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

DECEMBER: No meeting **HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR!**

JANUARY 23: "The Art of Espallier as Applied to Camellias". Gary Jones, a talented and creative garden expert will be the guest speaker. Gary will illustrate with slides this gardening art form and its European-American history. Gary is regional marketing director for Armstrong Nurseries and well known as the recent owner of Hortus Nursery in Altadena, California. This program is a great opportunity to learn new and interesting techniques of gardening design.

FEBRUARY 20 at Descanso Gardens (1481 Descanso Drive, La Canada-Flintridge). Joint meeting with the Pacific Camellia Society to kickoff the Descanso Camellia Festival weekend. Pam Waterman, garden writer for the Pasadena Star-News, will speak on "Uses of the Camellia in Garden Design", with beautiful slides to illustrate. This program is for all home gardeners in Southern California.

FEBRUARY 25-26 at Descanso Gardens: The Southern Camellia Council hold its annual Camellia Show and Programs.

MARCH 28: "Shade Plants in the Landscape", by Shirly Kerins of the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino. She will discuss and show slides of shade plants like camellias, azaleas, and companion plants. This program will appeal to all gardeners, and especially those wanting to deal with the difficult shade areas of yard and garden in California.

APRIL 22: Pot Luck Dinner and Social Hour beginning at 6:30 p.m. A great time to meet new people and old friends who are Gardeners first and Camellia lovers second. Our Camellia season may be over for the year, but our Camellia friendships continue.....

SHOW SCHEDULE FOR 2003

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| January 4 | Descanso Gardens, La Canada
Camellia Judges' Symposium
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Council |
| January 11 and 12 | Descanso Gardens
Hosted by Pacific Camellia Society |
| January 18 and 19 | Roger's Gardens, Corona Del Mar
Hosted by Orange County Camellia Society |
| January 25 and 26 | Descanso Gardens
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society |
| February 1 and 2 | Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
Hosted by San Diego Camellia Society |
| February 8 and 9 | Huntington Gardens, San Marino
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society |
| February 15 and 16 | Community Center, La Verne
Hosted by Pomona Valley Camellia Society |
| February 22 and 23 | Descanso Gardens
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Council |
| March 1 and 2 | First Christian Church, Bakersfield
Hosted by Camellia Society of Kern County |
| March 8 and 9 | Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, Fresno
Hosted by Central California Camellia Society |

CAMELLIA STATIONERY

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

Cards can be ordered through Dorothy Grier, 13229 Pipeline Avenue, Chino, CA 91710 (909) 628-1380. Make your check payable to SCCS.

If any camellia society would like to use these cards as fund raisers, orders for 25 or more sets are priced at \$5.00 each, including tax and shipping.

MY FORAY INTO CAMELLIAS

Libby Lent
Pasadena, California

So we New Englanders bought the house and started becoming Californians. There was a lot of change from what we knew. Those glossy green leaves in front of the property were certainly different from that inevitable Bridal Wreath's "thinsy bushes," or the occasional seasonal forsythia that constituted foundation plantings in our home area of New England.

Transferring all one's "nature study," vaguely-learned points from a cold/hot climate into an "all year keep it nice" situation takes a bit of doing. I learned that those busy bright-eyed bushes were CAMELLIAS! Then I joined the Huntington Library just around the corner and found that people made pets of them and made special effort. "Just foundation plantings?" They were not.

My first camellia show was a real eye-opener. I hadn't known that there were THAT many varieties. I had poked about in some literature on the subject, but it had merely explained about the shapes, mentioned a few names and types and the temperature hardiness. I didn't know. I just didn't know what I was getting into when I asked questions of the show hostess. I came home with the data on the Southern California Camellia Society and information about how to become a true camellia fancier.

My old-style bushes (their names are in the fine Southern California Camellia Nomenclature—all sorts and kinds but almost all noted "old") did their best for me that first year. I got word of an upcoming show at Descanso. I'd been to some of the evening meetings. I had been inducted into membership and received a lovely starter award of eight little, spindly, newly sprung from seed camellia plants in special cradle pots.

I was on my way!

Dare I enter the show? Oh well, no

charge. No try—no learn! Here we go! I got out some glass pie plates, found some quilt fluff stashed away from earlier handiwork and went out and studied my blooms. One wing droopy—no take. Splotchy color—no way. Fat fluffy blooms. Whee! Let's go. Candy stripes – mouth watering – try it!

Off I went. Then "monkey see, monkey do." Everyone had little sauce cups and there was great scurrying about with cocktail trays getting blooms off to another site in the big room. Small neat nippers were making judicial cuts on the under sides of the leaves to hold the bloom JUST RIGHT in its cup. Someone was notching leaves. Leaves yet! I hadn't brought any. Finally I got organized and out in the show room a guide pointed me to "Novice" and I placed my simple little selection alphabetically by what someone had identified my blooms probably were. They were there among friends as other novices were braving the Big Time. I left until that tense moment when one may come and look at what the judges, bless their patient hearts, had approved.

Afternoon late was my next call. I had made out my cards and done placement carefully, but "Where were my blooms?" One of the kindly officers saw my puzzlement and heard my wail of dismay at the lost flowers. "Here, come with me." Off we went to the bright lights and there—there, right among all the important big gorgeous creations was my name and my flower! Best of novices!

I was—I am—hooked. I take earnest notes at the meetings. I have potted up all my tender little beginners from that first night (some didn't survive my ham-handedness or their menu). I've won and am coddling choice selections from that happy raffle series. I have asked a lot

of questions; I've tried to utilize the information for my small property of plants in the ground I've not yet even begun to contemplate BIG pots of BIG plants, but I gather seeds and put them in the big jar with what I trust is the right mix to nurture some real new beginnings. I keep showing. I have had pleasantly many blue stickers, even on my "old style" flowers. I've studied "gibberish" even though the ones I tried didn't take. I've added a couple of modern style adult bushes and all those raffle kids are going to bring me

into the modern camellia world. I love it.

Such handsome results. Such easy stuff to do and SUCH NICE HELPFUL PEOPLE ALL ALONG THE WAY. I'll never aspire to being a commercial or even a small time "ready to go to market" producer, but I can get under and into the bushes to clear out that wretched brown stuff, and I can understand what people are talking about. Now I have a hobby I can enjoy right on past a lot more birthdays.



MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

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Larry Thompson
Regan Nursery
428 Decoto Road
Fremont, CA 94555

WINNERS OF 2002

Don Bergamini Martinez, California

The winners of 2002 are presented below for all shows except Kern County show for which I received no results. The usual varieties were in the winner circle once again. Some of the newer winners were 'Elaine's Betty', 'Linda Carol', 'First Blush' and 'Lucky Star'. The multiples were dominated by the usual varieties, such as 'Royal Velvet', 'Pink Perfection' and 'Emma Gaeta Varigated'. It just goes to show that the good varieties stay around and continue to win.

Some of the varieties to watch this coming year, because they are beginning to show up as winners are 'Dusty', 'Melissa Anne', 'Edna Bass', 'Ethel Rhyne', 'Queen Diana', 'Tama Peacock', 'Sweet Jane', 'Tango', 'Renee Land', 'Ruth Jernigan', 'Sir Robert Muldoon', 'Super Star' and 'Autumn Jewel'.

I think everyone should be encouraged to go back after the judging is finished to see the new varieties that have been shown. This is a good way to stay current and know what the varieties look like and also refresh your memory of the older varieties as well. Make this one of the things to do at the show if you don't already do this. I wish all of you the best show year for 2003 and remember to stay current on your bloom identification.

Japonica Lg/VLg Singles

'Miss Charleston Varigated'	6
'Royal Velvet'	5
'Han Ling Snow.'	4
'Mary Fischer'	4
'Elegans Champagne'	3
'Royal Velvet Varigated'	3
'Swan Lake'	3
'Tomorrow Park Hill'	3
'Carter's Sunburst'	2
'Dusty'	2
'Elizabeth Weaver'	2
'Helen Bower Varigated'	2
'Junior Prom'	2

'Melissa Anne'	2
15 others with one each	

Japonica Medium Singles

'Elaine's Betty'	4
'Firedance Varigated'	4
'In The Red'	3
'Midnight Magic Varigated'	3
'Mrs. George Bell'	3
'Nuccio's Jewel'	3
'Cherries Jubilee'	2
'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	2
'Ethel Rhyne'	2
'Jennie Mills'	2
'Nuccio's Carousel'	2
'Nuccio's Gem.'	2
'Rudolph Varigated'	2
16 others with one each	

Any Species Small Singles

'Spring Daze'	5
'Maroon and Gold'	4
'Black Tie'	3
'Ave Maria'	3
'Irene'	3
'Little Babe Varigated'	3
'Black Tie Varigated'	2
'Demi-Tasse'	2
'Hishi-Karaito'	2
'Pink Perfection'	2
'Red Hots'	2
9 others with one each	

Any Species Miniature Singles

'Grace Albritton'	8
'Fircone Varigated'	3
'Lemon Drop'	2
'Man Size'	2
'Something Beautiful'	2
'Spring Festival'	2
16 others with one each	

Reticulata / Reticulata Hybrid Singles

'Frank Houser'	7
'Emma Gaeta Varigated'	5
'Linda Carol'	5
'Frank Houser Varigated'	4
'Ruta Hagmann'	4
'Black Lace'	3
'Larry Piet'	3

'Valentine Day'	3	'Lucky Star'	5
'Harold L. Paige'	2	'Pink Dahlia'	5
'Jack Mandarich'	2	'Elsie Jury'	4
'John Hunt'	2	'Waltz Time Variegated'	4
'LASCA Beauty'	2	'Pink Dahlia Variegated'	3
'Tango'	2	'Anticipation Variegated'	2
'W. P. Gilley Variegated'	2	'Julia'	2
22 others with one each		'Julie Variegated'	2
Non-Reticulata Hybrid Singles		'Kramer's Fluted Coral'	2
'First Blush'	5	'Julie'	2
		'Nicky Crisp'	2

.. .. .

SOME EFFECTS OF GIBBERELLIN ON THE CAMELLIA

James Bonner and James A. Lockhart, Pasadena, California

The gibberellins are a group of chemically related substances which are noteworthy because their application to many kinds of plants results in varied and often spectacular growth responses. Although public interest in these materials is recent they have actually been known for over thirty years. In 1926 the Japanese plant pathologist Kurosawa showed that filtrates from cultures in which the fungus *Gibberella fujikaroi* had been grown contained some material which, when applied to plants, brings about increases in height and other growth responses. Kurosawa did his experiment as one in a series of attempts to find out why this same fungus, when it infects plants, causes increases in height of its host and other growth symptoms. His experiment clearly established that the fungus produces a plant growth promoting material. Two chemically pure substances active in promoting plant growth were isolated by Yabuta and Sumiki in 1938. General interest in the growth promoting activity of gibberellins did not arise outside of Japan until approximately 1954 when two groups of workers, that of Stodola in the U. S. Department of Agriculture in the United States and of Bryan

Cross and others of Imperial Chemical Industries in England, re-isolated the materials and began further study of their biological properties. We now know that gibberellins are produced by plants themselves and that they play an important part in regulating growth in size and response of plants to temperature and day length. We know also that gibberellins appear to be produced in seeds and in growing buds. That increases in growth rate are achieved by the addition of gibberellin to a plant appears to merely reflect the fact that plants do not produce all of the gibberellins which they need for maximum growth rate. We know too that production of gibberellins by the plant is genetically controlled. Thus, for example, dwarf forms of corn, peas, beans and other varieties are even more limited by gibberellin and respond even more to added gibberellin than do the normal tall forms of these same species.

A great deal of work has been done in a great many different research centers over the world during the years 1955 to 1957 during which gibberellin has been applied to a wide variety of kinds of plants under a wide variety of circumstances. Generally speaking, it appears to have been

established that the addition of gibberellin causes increases in height of many kinds of plants. Generally speaking, and with plants grown under good favorable growing conditions, gibberellin additions do not cause increases in total weight of plant but merely increases in height. It appears to have been also firmly established that gibberellins have a specific and important role in the flowering of a great group of plants—those which we known as the biennial plants. These forms, such as sugar beet, garden beet, carrot henbane and many others, characteristically produce a fleshy root and a flat rosette of leaves during their first season. During the second season, and after an appropriate cool period, the biennial plant sends up a flower stalk and produces flowers and fruits. Application of gibberellin to such plants permits them to send up a flower stalk and flower during the first season in the field, that is, does away with the necessity for intervening winter treatment. Gibberellin application also has been reported to bring about the flowering of some long-day plants which do not require cold treatment but which send up flower stalks and flower in response to long days and short nights. This is true, for example, for the annual beet, the annual henbane, *Silene*, *armeria*, and others. In these forms rosettes of leaves are formed when the plant is grown under short days. Flower stalks and flowers are formed under long days. Here again gibberellin can in part replace the requirement for long-day treatment in flowering.

Doubtless many further growth responses to gibberellin will be recorded in the future. This paper is concerned with some preliminary experiments which have been done in order to find out something about the responses of the camellia to gibberellin.

It is already well known (see *Camellia Research* 1950) that the camellia is a long-day plant from the

standpoint of growth in height. Camellia plants grow when they are exposed to long days and short nights and fail to grow when exposed to short days and long nights. This is even though the camellia be maintained under short-day conditions and with temperatures favorable to vegetative growth. Our first experiments were therefore directed at finding out whether camellias could be caused to grow vegetatively under short days by application of gibberellin. For this purpose 60 two year-old specimens of *Camellia japonica* var. *Finlandia* were supply by Julius Nuccio, Altadena, California. They were removed from the nursery in November and were completely dormant. They were transferred to a greenhouse and 40 plants put under conditions of short day in which they received 8 hours of light daily and 16 hours of night. The remaining 20 plants were maintained in the same greenhouse but under conditions of long day in which the nature sunlight was supplemented with artificial light to maintain a daily exposure to light of 20 hours. The plants under short day were further subdivided into two groups. One group was maintained at a day temperature of approximately 70° F. and a night temperature of approximately 60° F, that is, a summer-like temperature condition. The second set was maintained under a day temperature of approximately 70°F. and a night temperature of 45° F., that is, an early spring or even winter-like temperature condition. The plants on long day were all maintained in the summer temperature condition of 70°F. during the day and 60° F. during the night. One half of the plants of each treatment were supplied with crystalline gibberellic acid dissolved in alcohol, one drop per plant, three times each week.

Within 4 to 6 weeks after transfer of the camellia plants from the field to the greenhouse under long-day

conditions, dormancy was broken and vegetative growth resumed, the plants treated with gibberelli acid commenced growth noticeable earlier than the untreated ones. Still, all of the plants did resume vegetative growth and grew vigorously. Those treated with gibberellin did not grow noticeably more tall than the untreated plants. The plants maintained under the short-day conditions and not treated with gibberellic acid remained dormant or essentially so throughout the course of the experiment, that is, for a period of 5 months. Those treated with gibberellic acid, however, resumed growth and grew approximately as rapidly as did those on long day. Even plants which received short day and low night temperature responded to gibberellin by breaking of dormancy and resumption of vegetative growth. The dormancy induced and maintained by short-day conditions in the camellia may be effectively broken by the periodic addition of gibberellic acid. Although the mode of application used in this experiment was that of periodic application of the material in alcohol (20 micrograms per plant per application), it is entirely possible that spray treatments with water solutions of the substance would also have been effective in the camellias as they are

with other kinds of plants with which it has been found that sprays containing gibberellic acid in the range of 1 to 50 milligram/liter are satisfactory for the causing of gibberellic acid responses. The results of this preliminary experiment suggest that gibberellic acid might possibly be investigated as to its suitability for replacing light supplementation as a means of maintaining active vegetative growth of camellia plants in greenhouses or lath houses during the winter months.

It has been shown earlier that the formation of flower buds by the camellia is also dependent upon long days and that flower bud formation fails to take place under short day. It would then be of interest to know whether the induction of flower bud formation might be achieved in camellias by substituting gibberellic acid for long days. Our experiment is not conclusive on this matter, but it does indicate that long days are very much more effective than gibberellic acid in inducing the formation of flower buds. Those plants which received five months of long-day treatment had, by the end of the experiment, formed abundant flower buds. Those maintained on short days, but caused to grow by the application of gibberellic acid, formed no flower

Join Australia and New Zealand Camellia Societies

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c/o Beth Stone
1997 Queensberry Road
Pasadena, California 91104-3351.

C. GRANTHAMIANA

E. C. Snooks
La Jolla, California

This rather recent introduction to our gardens was first found on the island of Hong Kong in 1955 and for many years the single tree from which the identification and propagation was made was believed to be the only one in existence. Since that time another tree has been located but at best it is rare in nature. Incidences such as this cause one to wonder how many plant species have vanished before they were discovered. Since most of the genus *camellia* is native to areas of rapidly increasing populations with the inevitable clearing of land for food production, the chances of the extinction of plant and animal forms increase. Fortunately for us this beauty was found in time and is now

widely distributed.

With the limited number of native plants discovered, it is difficult to determine its mature form but it is believed to form a small tree of about 16 feet with widely spaced branches and open growth. In the garden it forms a most interesting plant because of this open growth habit and the glossy but deeply veined leaves.

Once you see the plant it is impossible to confuse it with any other *camellia*. The flower is single in form with 8 or 9 petals and 4 to 5 inches in diameter. The center is filled with a mass of orange stamens with golden pollen arranged in a very uniform ball. This combination of colors and form has given rise to the nickname of "fried eggs."



Camellia New's

-12-

A. Twig showing flower & bud B. Gynoecium
C. Dehiscence fruit showing seed and persistent perules

Several other features are quite unique. The buds are encased in large, heavy sepals of a fuzzy gray color and, to the casual observer might be thought to be dead. After the bloom has withered the sepals tend to remain for long periods of time, even if a seed capsule form. The early blooms are a welcome addition to the camellia garden.

This species hybridizes readily with most common species and several of these hybrids have been introduced into the trade. Most exhibit

the characteristic leaves of *C. granthamiana* as well as the early flowering habit. From the hybridizer's standpoint, it is interesting to note that *C. granthamiana* is a true tetraploid. This feature should guarantee vigor to its siblings. For the homeowners, the growth habit, early blooming period and soft gray color of the older wood all are desired characteristics. When looking for something "different," consider *C. granthamiana*. It's a sure winner.



CAMELLIA CULTURE

Marilee Gray
Claremont, California

Camellias are the jewels of the shade garden that brighten the winter months with blooms of incredible variation and beauty. It is unfortunate, however, that many people consider camellias difficult to grow, when, in fact, they are very easy to grow once their needs are understood and met. Most camellias don't just die; they are killed by too much TLC or ignorance about what the camellia can and cannot tolerate. Knowing the characteristics of camellias makes all the do's and don't's of their culture readily understandable, so it helps to define their culture in terms of their characteristics.

1. Camellias are shade plants with the exception of the sasanquas that are also known as 'sun camellias.' They thrive in pots in the dappled shade under overhead trees or in the ground if the tree roots are deep and do not compete. If they are in a location where they get some hours of full sun, it is preferable that it be morning sun. Afternoon sun should be limited to the very late afternoon. Indirect light is sufficient for most,

but, if the plant is very green and healthy but does not bloom well, it might be that the light intensity is lacking; the *Elegans* family is notorious for this. A very acceptable substitution for natural shade is the artificial shade of lath or screen. Screen that gives 55% shade is generally used for most of Southern California. The hotter areas may do better with 60-70% shade. The shade screen that is knit, not woven, will last longer and be easier to install, so it is worth the extra expense.

2. Camellias need to be moist but not soggy. They are subject to phytophthora, or root rot, a fatal condition that develops from too heavy a soil mix and/or too much water. Phytophthora is almost certain to develop if a camellia is planted in too large a pot. It is virtually impossible to avoid overwatering if it is over-potted. Potting up means moving up to the next larger pot size, not skipping sizes.

Watering should be thorough and as infrequent as possible to keep the soil moist, and is determined by

prevailing temperature, humidity, rainfall, and wind. Wind is particularly injurious in that it rapidly draws moisture from the leaves and leaves a dehydrated root ball. Be attentive to plants under the eaves that may not be watered during rains or those that have recently been planted in the ground. Until roots have broken from the root ball into the surrounding soil, the plant is, for all practical purposes, still in a pot and needs to be treated like such.

The moisture retention of the soil mix is easily effected by adding peat moss, a material that will hold several times its weight of water. However, the finer textured peat, the kind that is most commonly available any more, rapidly deteriorates into a soggy mass that is detrimental. For this reason, limit its use to less than 15-20% of the mix, and buy the coarser peat, if available. Additives to make a fast-draining mix are discussed more under item 4.

3. Camellias need acidic conditions. The soil mix, ideally, should be about 6.5 pH. Since many areas of California have alkaline water and, therefore, alkaline soil, the acidity is an important consideration. Acidity is provided in the soil mix by such additives as peat moss and oak leaf mold. Only fertilizers that are formulated for shade, acidic plants (camellias, azaleas, and rhododendrons) should be used during their growing season. Miracid, a plant food and soil acidifier, used at half-strength, has shown very positive results. When plants begin to look sickly and do not respond to treatment it is probably soil alkalinity that is the culprit. At 6.5 pH, the absorption of essential elements is effected; just a little either side of 6.5, the absorption falls rapidly. Plants that show anemia should be treated with a product that contains chelated iron to both acidify and provide the needed iron. The anemia must be corrected before a growth-inducing fertilizer is used.

4. Camellia roots have high oxygen requirements. The soil mix is critical, but there is no magic formula, as long as the mix is 1) acidic and 2) fast-draining. One very successful nursery uses a simple mix of 4 parts sandy loam, 4 parts ground fir bark, and 1 part horticultural perlite. Others start with decomposed granite or sand and add peat moss, ground fir bark, oak leaf mold, redwood compost, perlite, or acidic planting mix to achieve the desired results. For certain, the planting mix will determine the watering frequency because of its moisture retention and draining properties, so gear the watering to the needs of the plant in your mix.

Planting camellias in the ground require that you take precautions to prevent the plant from settling and suffocating. Camellias that have been container grown will likely not have a tap root. Digging a hole 1 1/2 times the depth of the root ball is sufficient; the roots will not be penetrating deeply where air and oxygen will not be available. Make the hole at least twice the diameter of the root ball, and pack a cone of the natural, unamended soil in the bottom of the hole so that the top of the root ball extends about 2 inches above the ground level. With the plant in place, fill in around it with loose, amended soil. Use the leftover soil to build a watering basin, and fill it with a coarse, loose mulch, such as medium grade pathway bark. The packed cone prevents the plant from settling, and the raised crown assures plentiful aeration. If the location of the plant is such that it would be standing in water during rainy periods, elevating the plant above ground level is essential. Individual plants can easily be elevated by building a 2-foot square frame of 2 x 8 or 2 x 10 wood that will allow the crown of the plant to be lifted to a safe height.

5. Camellias are surface rooting. They are seriously injured by

cultivating around the roots. Mulching is necessary and will accomplish many things; it will control the weeds, keep the roots cool and moist in summer and warm in winter, and help disperse the fertilizers. Most growers frown on any ground covers around camellias, especially those that are vigorous feeders and invasive.

6. Camellias have a dormant season. About September 1st most camellias go dormant and remain so until after they have bloomed and begin the next growth cycle, about April 1st. This means that they are dormant while they are developing their buds and blooming. Dormant camellias are unable to tolerate fertilizers that produce growth, so it is during this time that many conscientious gardeners kill their camellias by fertilizing. The only type of fertilizer a dormant camellia can benefit from would be those with low or no nitrogen, something of a 2-10-10 or 0-10-10 (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) formulation, something intended to enhance blooming. These are not necessary for good blooming, but those who exhibit their blooms absolutely do use these bloom fertilizers because they do improve the size, substance, and color of the blooms. Such fertilizers are best used every 2-4 weeks and at 1/2 the indicated amount.

The dormant season is the best time repot or plant camellias in the ground. October is the very best time, because by then all the plants are thoroughly dormant and the summer heat should be over. Any time during the dormant season would be acceptable for repotting or planting, but the earlier in the dormant season, the better. Those done in October have several months in which to develop roots and adjust before the next growing season occurs.

7. Camellias are light feeders. This characteristic is another that is responsible for many failures of

camellia plants. Like all plants, camellias should not be fertilized when they are thirsty. Water thoroughly the day before fertilizing and prevent a sudden and excessive intake of fertilizer. The growing type fertilizers, those that would be used from about April 1st up to September 1st, are ideally and optimally only about 5-7% nitrogen. Several brands of granular, water-soluble fertilizers exist; however, half of the suggested amounts are recommended. These would be used two or three times during the growing period at 6 to 8 week intervals. Cottonseed meal is the choice of many amateur and commercial growers. It gives an acidic reaction and is ideally formulated for the camellia's needs. It would be also be used at 6 to 8 week intervals until 2 or 3 feedings had been accomplished and at the same feeding rate: 1 T/ gallon can; 2 T/2 gallon can; a tight fist full for an egg can; and proportionally more for those of size in the ground. Some growers give a boost to the spring growth with an initial application of fish emulsion, 1T/gallon of water. This can only be used early in the season before heat threatens, and is followed in 2 to 3 weeks with the regular cottonseed feedings.

Many growers have reported excellent results with Miracid, a plant food and soil acidifier. Its formulation is 30-10-10 and, when used as directed in strength and at two-week intervals, has proven to be too strong for many camellias in Southern California. Results have been very positive, however, when it has been used at half strength, 1/2 T/gallon of water. If Miracid were used, it would be in lieu of other growth fertilizers.

Now for some general comments on camellia culture. Camellias should not be fertilized or pruned during periods of extreme heat; delay such actions until the weather has moderated. If cottonseed meal is used for a growth fertilizer, the use of a chelated iron product will be anemia preventative and color enhancing.

Pruning is essential for all camellias, some more so than others. Pruning is done in consideration of the size and the weight of the expected camellia blooms. It is intended to create space for the bloom to open unobstructed and to develop branches of substance that will support the weight of the blooms. After inside and cross branches have been removed, it is often necessary to thin out the remaining branches. Camellias that have grown without pruning for several years will often have a green canopy over a leafless interior. Pruning to thin out this canopy will bring light into the main structure, activate dormant growth buds, and produce a more desirable plant.

Disbudding is necessary, to some degree, on most camellias to produce exceptional blooms. Sasanquas are prized for their profusion of blooms and are not disbudded. All others that have medium to large sized blooms are disbudded to one terminal bud. Even the small and miniature-sized blooming varieties may need to have

some buds removed so that the remaining buds have room to open properly. Varieties that s buds down the stem with the leaves can have a bud left on the third or fourth leaf down from the tip if the bloom is not excessively heavy.

Camellia growers in Southern California are fortunate to have in their own backyard one of the world's renowned camellia nurseries. Nuccio's Nurseries, 3555 Chaney Trail, P. O. Box 6160, Altadena, CA, 91001, has developed many of the most outstanding camellia varieties and has brought many species of camellias from the Orient in recent years. Their efforts have been welcomed by camellia hobbyists.

Information on camellia societies throughout California can be obtained from the Southern California Camellia Society, 868 Kent Drive, Claremont, CA 91711. Other good sources of information are the people named in the Directory of Camellia Societies in California located on the inside back cover of this Review.



17th Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself, that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales

of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint—some of them are so hard to live with—but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And, give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

Words of wisdom from Eleanor Roosevelt

Many people will walk in and out of your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart.

To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart.

Anger is only one letter short of danger.

If someone betrays you once, it is his fault; if he betrays you twice, it is your fault.

Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people.

He who loses money, loses much; he, who loses a friend, loses much more;

He, who loses faith, loses all.

Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Friends, you and me -- you brought another friend -- and then there were 3.

We started our group, our circle of friends and, like that circle, there is no beginning, nor an end.

Yesterday is history—tomorrow is a mystery —today is a gift.*



*and someone has said, "That is why we call it the present."

Just for Fun !

The Washington Post published a contest for readers in which they were asked to supply alternative meanings for various words. The following were some of the winning entries:

Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained.

Abdicate (v.), to give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

Esplanade (v.), to attempt an explanation while drunk.

Willy-nilly (adj.), impotent.

Negligent (adj.), describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightie.

Lymph (v.), to walk with a lisp.

Gargoyle (n.), an olive-flavored mouthwash.

Flatulence (n.), the emergency vehicle that picks you up after you are run over by a steamroller.

Balderdash (n.), a rapidly receding hairline.

Testicle (n.), a humorous question on an exam.

Rectitude (n.), the formal, dignified demeanor assumed by a proctologist immediately before he examines you.

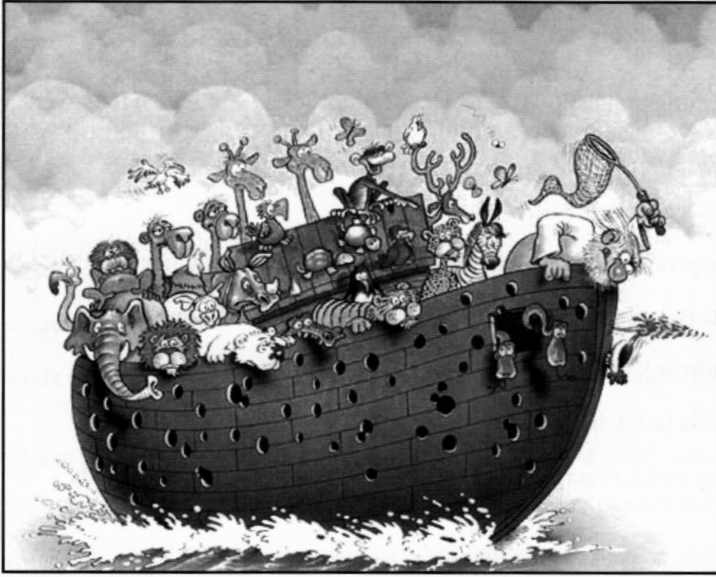
Oyster (n.), a person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddish expressions.

Circumvent (n.), the opening in the front of boxer shorts.

Frisbeetarianism (n.), The belief that, when you die, your soul goes up on the roof and gets stuck there.

And finally,

Pokemon (n.), A Jamaican proctologist.



Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

One: Don't miss the boat.

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six: Build your future on high ground

Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten: Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Editor's note: When Bobbie complained to Lucia Marino Pierpoint about the woodpeckers making holes in our house in the mountains, Lucia sent this picture/philosophy. We couldn't resist sharing it.

DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

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

KERN COUNTY, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Helen Maas; Secretary—Jane Brady, 7401-21 Hilton Head Way, Bakersfield 93309. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (805)872-2188.

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

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

ORANGE COUNTY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Linda Rodriguez; Secretary—Peggy Sheldon, 20151 Crown Reef Lane, Huntington Beach 92646. Meetings: 1st Monday, October-April, 7:00 p.m. Dept. of Education Building, 200 Kalmus, Costa Mesa

PACIFIC CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Elsie Bracci. Meetings: 1st Thursday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Descanso Gardens, 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada.

PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Barbara Coates Tuffli; Secretary—Nicky Farmer, 360 Santa Margarita Avenue, Menlo Park 94025. Meetings: 4th Monday, October-March, Veterans' Building Annex, 711 Nevada St., Rm. 20 (elevator available), Redwood City

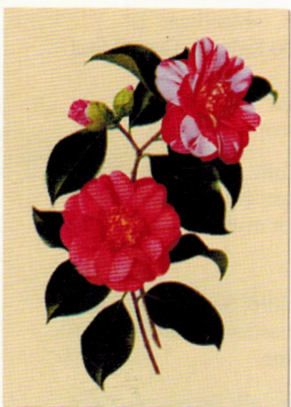
POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—David Trujillo; Secretary—Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Tuesday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., Lutheran Church, Corner Baseline and Wheeler, La Verne.

SACRAMENTO, CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Jackie Randall; Secretary—Gary Schanz, 1177 Cavanaugh Way, Sacramento 95822. Meetings: 4th Tuesday, October-April, 7:30 p.m., Studio Theater, 1028 "R" Street, Sacramento

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

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

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Brad King; Secretary—Beth Stone, 1997 Queensberry Road, Pasadena, CA 91104-3351. Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Call Marilee Gray for meeting dates (909) 624-4107.



Your friends will enjoy receiving your greetings on these new camellia note cards. They also make great gifts for your fellow camellia lovers or for those you are trying to get involved in this wonderful hobby! Cards and matching envelopes are packaged in sets of 8.

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