

THE  
*Camellia*  
REVIEW

A Publication of the Southern California Camellia Society



*C. japonica* 'Kazenzan'

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# 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

Mel Belcher, Editor

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*C. Japonica 'Kasenzan'*

Miniature, tubular single. Blush pink.

Prominent yellow stamens. Slow, compact, upright growth.

Profuse. M-L

Photo by Mel Belcher

## AN INVITATION TO JOIN

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Each three years a revised edition of *Camellia Nomenclature* with over 150 pages describing more than 4,000 varieties is published. The 2002 edition is available at a cost of \$10.00. Please send name, address and check payable to:

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## THOUGHTS FROM THE EDITOR

### Are we missing something?

A prominent California politician was known, among other things, for his position that “small is better.” Whether we agree politically has little merit but, after spending several hours with Jennifer Trehane’s book *Camellias* (Timber Press, 1998) I have a new appreciation for the beauty in many of the small cultivars that we classify as species.

Most of the readers of this Camellia Review are exhibitors in local and regional camellia shows. We know from experience that “large is better” is more politically correct as viewed from the winners’ table. This is supported further when we analyze the species winners for this past season as presented by Don Bergamini on page 4 of this issue. The predominant winners were ‘Egao’ and ‘Shibori Egao’, both large sasanquas as listed in the Nuccio’s Nurseries catalog.

Yet, this same catalog lists 45 different species and 105 varieties of these 45 species, excluding japonicas and reticulatas. This equates to approximately 150 varieties of “species” that can be purchased at Nuccio’s Nurseries

Why then does Bon Bergamini accurately list only two dominant varieties in our recognized species class? It seems to me that we exhibitors vote overwhelmingly for large size. This comment is not to suggest that the beauty of ‘Egao’ or ‘Shibori Egao’ is deficient. On the contrary, they produce beautiful blooms. However, if we refer to Jennifer’s book again, we would be easily convinced that there are many beautiful blooms from available specie plants even though many have small bloom.

It is obvious that many exhibitors have room for only a few plants, so, why bother with “losers” (interpreted “small blooms.”) At our new home in Murrieta we have about two dozen specie plants. They may be “losers” by the above description, but they certainly hold their own with the big boys for landscape beauty.

Are we missing something? I don’t know, but I certainly have a greater appreciation for the plants with strange sounding and difficult to pronounce names.

As a supporter of the “bigger is better” sentiment, ask George Harrison to name his favorite specie. Jennifer’s book is available through Timber Press as well as Amazon.Com. and will make a wonderful addition to your camellia library.

—Mel Belcher, Editor

## CAMELLIA STATIONERY

Our beautiful camellia notecards 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.

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# CALIFORNIA JUDGES HAVE SPOKEN IN 2005

Don Bergamini  
Martinez, California

The statistics below were compiled from all the shows in California with the exception of Modesto which was not received. They were counted if they won either a best or runner-up in the regular categories. Categories such as novice, members, yellow, fragrant, etc. were not counted.

The most wins by any variety this year was 'Junior Prom' with seven wins and one of those to go on and win Best of Show. 'Junior Prom' was followed closely by 'Red Hots', 'Larry Piet' and 'Island Sunset' with six wins each. These are all excellent varieties.

In the multiples categories, the big winner by far was 'Man Size' with nine wins. This was quite an impressive showing. 'Man Size' was followed by 'Royal Velvet' with six wins and 'Firedance Variegated', 'Emma Gaeta Variegated' and 'Nicky Crisp' with five wins each.

If you ask me what varieties should I get if I can only have about ten camellias, what better choices than the above top winners – 'Junior Prom', 'Red Hots', 'Larry Piet', 'Island Sunset', 'Man Size', 'Royal Velvet', 'Firedance Variegated', 'Emma Gaeta Vaiegated' and 'Nicky Crisp'. This in my opinion would be a great collection or a good start on a collection for a new grower. There are many others that you could choose from the list of winners, but these were the best in California in 2005.

Remember, many are brought to the shows, but few are chosen for best in their categories. Some other new varieties to look for are 'Red Devil' and 'White Bouquet'.

## SINGLES

### Large/Very Large Japonica

'Junior Prom'	7
'Miss Charleston Var.'	4
'Royal Velvet'	4
'Carter's Sunburst'	3
'Ivory Tower'	3
'Lady Laura'	3
'Royal Velvet Var.'	3
'Dusty'	2
'Elaine's Betty'	2
'Henry Huntington'	2
'Katie Var.'	2
'Tata'	2
'Tomorrow Park Hill'	2
13 others with 1 each	

### Medium Japonica

'Black Magic'	4
'Feathery Touch'	4
'Margaret Davis'	3
'Nuccio's Gem'	3
'Nuccio's Jewel'	3
'Betty's Beauty'	2
'Cherries Jubilee'	2
'Firedance Var.'	2
'Jennie Mills'	2
'Magnoliaeflora'	2
'Mrs. George Bell'	2
'Veiled Beauty'	2
16 others with 1 each	

### Small (Any Species)

'Red Hots'	6
'Ave Maria'	3
'Demi-Tasse'	3
'Hishi-Karaito'	3
'Spring Daze'	3
'Black Tie'	2
'Jackie D.'	2
'Little Babe Var.'	2
'Pink Perfection'	2
10 others with 1 each	

### Miniature (Any Species)

'Something Beautiful'	5
'Man Size'	4
'Night Rider'	4

'Lemon Drop'	3	<b>Medium Japonicas</b>	
'Ann Clayton'	2	'Firedance Var.'	5
'Botan Yuki'	2	'In The Pink'	5
'Little Michael'	2	'Margaret Davis'	4
'Sue Kendall'	2	'Nuccio's Carousel'	4
'Sugar Babe'	2	'Chie Tarumoto'	3
9 others with 1 each		'Haru-No-Utena'	3
<b>Reticulata Hybrid</b>		'Betty Foy Sanders'	2
'Larry Piet'	6	'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	2
'Frank Houser'	4	'Elena Nobile'	2
'Ruta Hagmann'	4	'Wildfire'	2
'Emma Gaeta Var.'	3	13 others with 1 each	
'John Hunt'	3	<b>Smalls and Miniatures (Any Species)</b>	
'Mary O'Donnell'	3	'Man Size'	9
'Queen Bee'	3	'Pink Perfection'	4
'Frank Houser Var.'	2	'Spring Daze'	4
'Lady Pamela'	2	'Little Babe Var.'	3
'Pharaoh'	2	'Maroon and Gold'	3
'Phyllis Hunt'	2	'Red Hots'	3
'Sir Robert Muldoon'	2	'Fircone Var.'	2
22 others with 1 each		'Peggy's Blush'	2
<b>Non- Reticulata Hybrid</b>		'Something Beautiful'	2
'Island Sunset'	6	'Spring Festival'	2
'Nicky Crisp'	5	17 others with 1 each	
'Julie Var.'	4	<b>Reticulata Hybrids</b>	
'Julia'	3	'Emma Gaeta Var.'	5
'Waltz Time Var.'	3	'Frank Houser'	4
'Buttons N' Bows'	2	'Valentine Day'	3
'Coral Delight Var.'	2	'Curtain Call'	2
'Delores Edwards'	2	'Dr. Louis Polizzi'	2
17 others with 1 each		'Frank Houser Var.'	2
<b>Species</b>		'Harold L. Paige'	2
'Egao'	5	'Larry Piet'	2
'Shibori Egao'	3	'W.P. Gilley'	2
4 others with 1 each		'W.P. Gilley Var.'	2
		8 others with 1 each	
<b>MULTIPLES</b>		<b>Non- Reticulata Hybrids</b>	
<b>Large/Very Large Japonicas</b>		'Nicky Crisp'	5
'Royal Velvet'	6	'Island Sunset'	3
'Elegans Splendor'	3	'Pink Dahlia'	3
'Royal Velvet Var.'	3	'Lucky Star'	2
'Carter's Sunburst'	2	'Waltz Time Var.'	2
'Han Ling Snow'	2	13 others with 1 each	
'Katie'	2	<b>Species</b>	
'Kramer's Supreme'	2	3 with 1 each	
'Lady Laura'	2		
11 others with 1 each			

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## CAMELLIA-RAMA 2005

Dear Camellia Friends,

The American Camellia Society rotates the fall meeting of its Board of Directors to different regions of the country. The November 2005 ACS Board will meet in Fresno in conjunction with the California Camellia-Rama that is hosted by the Central California Camellia Society. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Camellia-Rama. Who would have thought back in 1975 that we would still be celebrating this event thirty years later? We have decided to have a "30th Birthday Bash" to mark this milestone. Camellia lovers everywhere are invited to attend. All roads lead to Fresno in early November.

—Art Gonos

Here's a preview—

### California Camellia-Rama November 4, 5 and 6, 2005

**Friday, November 4**—Camellia Hospitality Room – all kinds of snacks and drinks. This is the time for hobbyists from throughout the county to rub elbows with camellia friends and exchange greetings and tips on camellia culture!

**Saturday, November 5**—Fun and Culture Day. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Blooms may be entered for judging from 8 to 9 a.m. This is an "open show" and there is no limit to the number of blooms an exhibitor may enter in japonica, reticulata, non-reticulata or specie classes. Little blooms will compete in a special boutonniere class. Six "Best of Class" and a "Best of Show" trophies will be awarded.

Morning symposium begins at 9:30 a.m. and speakers from the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific regions will be our speakers. A buffet will be served at lunch and everyone will have an opportunity to vote for the Best Bloom.

Hospitality champagne begins at 6:30 with, of course, all the wonderful costumes that people bring. Costumes are optional and voluntary. This year's theme is "Birthday Party" so use your imagination. We will have numerous prizes for a variety of categories. Live music and dancing will follow dinner.

**Sunday, November 6**—The Smuggle'sr famous Farewell Champagne Brunch begins at 8:30 so that everyone can get an early start to a safe journey home.

**Mail your Registration Form today and join in a fun-filled and informative weekend!**

On gardening —

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# NEW CAMELLIAS FROM NUCCIO'S NURSERY

## Bradford King Arcadia, California

As a child living in New England, my grandfather, father and I would read seed catalogues as we sat by the cozy fire while the harsh winter raged outside our farm house doors. Gram would be baking tasty pies. My mother along with my younger sister and brother would be playing board games to while away the time. There was no TV in those days to occupy the endless hours while we waited for winter to pass. Yet we were all hopeful, discussing and planning ahead for the spring planting of seeds and summer gardening ahead.

I miss those times! Gone, too, is the yearly/annual arrival of the Nuccio's Nursery catalogue. The last one published was 2003-2004. In that year 'Coral Bouquet', 'Hot Shot', 'Nuccio's Bella Rosa Variegated' and 'Frank Houser Variegated' were introduced as new offerings to their vast collection. While the Nuccio's will produce a new catalogue sometime in the future, this article will catch you up on what they have introduced since that publication. Four japonicas, one sasanqua and one specie are new.

### Japonicas

'Red Tulip' is a lovely dark red tulip-shaped, small to medium single bloom that darkens at the edges. The yellow stamens cluster tightly in the center. The dark red petals and yellow stamens contrast nicely with the dark green foliage. When I first saw it there was no name provided, so I thought of it as 'Nuccio's Dark Red Tulip'.

'White Bouquet' is another new japonica. The bloom is large to medium and semi-double in form. The color is white with touches of blush. The buds are pink. The golden stamens contrast with the white blush-rounded petals. The bloom is hose in hose making it a clean attractive flower.

'Aoi Sangosyo' is a small cup-shaped single bloom in a toned lavender red with darker purple veined petals. The overall effect is a pleasing lavender colored flower with a textured appearance. It is a medium to late season blooming Japonica.

'Red Devil' is a small dark red tubular-shaped bloom with pointed petals. It is a late blooming semi-double. It is a cousin of 'Red Hots'. The flower is smaller and a darker red with deeply creased pointed petals that bloom later than 'Red Hots'. It sets seeds more proficiently than 'Red Hots'. Tom Nuccio describes it as "one of the most striking seed pods" as it has a beautiful purple hue when mature. I have left several pods on my plant to enjoy watching this summer.

### Sasanquas

The new sasanqua is called 'Old Glory'. According to Tom Nuccio the flower reminded the Nuccio family of a "waving American flag"—thus the name 'Old Glory'.

This medium bloom (3" diameter) is white with a beautiful rose pink border on lovely wavy petals. The plant is an upright and bushy in its growth habit.

### Species

The Nuccio's are very enthusiastic about the development of fragrant camellias and azaleas. Jude Nuccios' eyes light up when he describes his version of a mass planting of fragrant blooming azaleas. Tom Nuccio energetically discussed and showed me their stock of *C. grijsii*. It is reported that this species was found in 1861 in China's Fujian Province by C.F. deGrijis, thus its name. The plant is an upright and medium growth in habit. The leaves are small, narrow and leathery in texture. The blooms are profuse. It is a mid-season flat single white with a cluster of upright

stamens. The flower has a nice fragrance. A mass landscape planting makes an attractive and fragrant display.

Nuccio's Nursery is introducing what they call 'Grijsii Select'. It is fragrant with darker foliage and has serrated leaves. The bloom is a small (2" diameter) single white with thicker more broad petals than other *C. grijsii* seedlings.

What will the future bring? Presently, the Nuccios are propagating new seedlings of japonicas,

sasanquas, reticulatas and other camellia species. Two species, *C. amplexicaulis* and *C. azalea* are expected to be offered for sale to the general public within the next few years. These species offer great potential to hybridizers to extend the length of the camellia blooming season.

As I look in my crystal ball I see a fragrant large red camellia with a picoteed border that blooms year round. What do you see?

## HOW TO HAVE CAMELLIAS IN THE METROPLEX Ray Bond Dallas, Texas

You want a plant that is evergreen and blooms when almost everything else in the landscape is colorless, drab and dormant. Camellias are evergreen; their leaves are a rich, lustrous green all year long. You want beautiful, large red, pink, white or combined colored blooms. You want camellias!

In spite of everything you may have heard, beautiful camellias can be grown in the Metroplex. There are several locations in the Metroplex where lucky people have a beautiful sandy loam soil and camellias thrive. But this is for the majority of us who don't have that soil advantage. True, Texas gumbo is not a good home for camellias, but it isn't a good home for azaleas, either. Just look at all the gorgeous azaleas we have around us each spring!

You must treat camellias almost like azaleas. The best azaleas are grown in raised beds or in areas where the Texas soil has been completely removed. Do the same for camellias. That is where the azalea similarity ends. Clear the area where you want camellias, dig out about six inches of the old dirt and raise a bed with ties,

timbers, rocks or bricks to a height of about two feet. I suggest you put down a layer of ground cloth to prevent weeds. Put your prepared soil on top of the ground cloth. Plant camellias.

Camellias like a well drained, slightly acid soil. A soil pH (degree of acidity or alkalinity) of 5.5 to 6.5 is best. A soil mix of 10% - 20% sharp sand, mixed with 80% - 90% fine pine bark mulch and 6 pounds of dolomitic limestone per 30 cubic feet of this mix provides almost perfect drainage. If you wish, add an organic fertilizer, such as cow manure or Milorganite®, or both, to this mixture at the same rate as the dolomitic limestone. Do not use peat moss! Good drainage is the "secret" to good camellias! Peat retards drainage and fills air spaces in this soil.

Leave a few top roots showing! Camellias like air. The top of the root ball should be slightly above the soil level, enough so that you can see a few roots. You might want to put a rock or brick pedestal under the root ball to keep the root ball from sinking. Do not use a concrete block or scrap as a pedestal for the root ball. Calcium in

the concrete is concentrated and can kill the plant. If transplanting a container grown plant, wash away some soil from the outside of the root ball with a water hose or rough up the outer roots with your fingers or a stick. This allows better and quicker root penetration into new soil.

Camellias grow and produce flowers in partial shade. Camellias in too much sun may suffer scald on the leaves or the leaves may appear yellow rather than deep green. Camellias located in full sun will burn up. In winter, camellias must be protected from our "blue northers" which come in from the north and west. So, what does this leave? Camellias make great foundation plants where they can be shaded or protected by large trees. They are beautiful in corners, on patios, as hedges and in atriums.

Camellias are generally planted in the fall or early spring, although they may be set out at any month of the year if they receive proper care. Adequate moisture is necessary until the roots are well established. When watering, do not "puddle." Camellias don't like wet feet! After roots become acclimated, new roots will provide moisture for the plant except in the very dry months. If new growth droops, the plant needs water.

When you plant your camellias, allow a minimum of 5' between plants, preferably more except for planting a hedge when a distance of 4-

1/2' is recommended. Use *C. sasanqua* for hedges. *C. Japonica* are excellent "stand alone" plants. Some of the new Winter-hardy camellia hybrids make excellent hedges as well as "stand alone." (Winter hardy camellias can withstand temperatures to -5°F and lower, with protection.)

Camellias prefer the soil to remain moist, not soggy, all of the time. When watering, the soil should be wet to a depth of 14" to 18". Mulch around the plant with pine needles or pine bark nuggets to help the soil retain moisture. Three to four inches of this mulch will do well. Other mulch materials such as leaves or hardwood barks can mat and prevent air from reaching the roots. Mulching helps keep the soil and roots cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter .

Camellias are easy to grow if these instructions are followed. Camellias have few diseases, most of which do not occur in the relatively dry climate of the Metroplex. *Phytophthora* root rot will attack *C. Japonicas* but not *C. sasanquas* or the new Winter-hardy hybrids. The primary insect threat is scale and it is easily eliminated. Plant your camellias away from any preferred host plant for any insect, such as euonomus, *photenia fraserii* (all for scale) and insects may not be a problem. Aphids will get on new growth and buds just like any other plant. They are very easily eradicated.

Enjoy yourself and have a great looking landscape. Plant camellias.

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# THE LOVE OF CAMELLIAS

Monique I. Peer  
Park Hill, Los Angeles

*Camellian, December 2950*

Husband and wife can find a perfect marriage in their love of camellias. After thinking things over for a long time, I know of no other plants or flowers which are conducive to such a real "partnership" as the devotion and admiration which camellias induce in man and wife.

Ralph and I had spent most of our lives traveling in foreign lands long before we became interested in camellias. We are, as one might say, citizens of the world. "The world is our home", and it is wonderful to feel that great truth.

I haven't seen a similar union of thoughts, ways and means like exists in camellia fanciers. Neither time nor distance, race nor creed, can alter the serenity of the person who loves, or who possesses, camellias. There is a distinct camellia language, which is as universal as the Universe. The idea of this camellia-world language has struck me so forcibly that I am speaking my thoughts aloud; I'll give you a few examples of how amazingly happy camellia-loving makes people. I wonder if any of you have noticed that the smiles on people's faces at the various camellia meetings seem to reflect the beauty of the camellia, which in turn reflects the real love in humanity.

In 1950, Ralph and I drove from Hollywood to the first meeting of the San Diego Camellia Society. The weather had been so hot that no camellia in Southern California could make a proud showing. That really did not matter, because nothing can mar their beauty. It's taken for granted in much the same way that we feel toward our children, coming home momentarily a little weary after a long, hot day's outing. More than 100 members and visiting friends assembled to do homage to camellias.

On our way back, we stopped at El Cajon to visit the Millers, and greater

devotees one could not find. I mention them particularly because they are a perfect example of true partnership in their love of camellias. They both took care of the large plants which landscape their gardens, and behind which they had a rather large twin-sized lath house—Mr. Miller devoting himself to grafting and Mrs. Miller devoting herself to the raising of seedlings. They got a constant thrill out of showing each other how this or that plant was coming along or worried together if some plant looked unhappy.

Another incident occurred in 1949 far across the ocean in Shanghai, during a dangerous period when the city was being bombed constantly by the Communists. We were worried that the airport might become hors de combat ere we were due to leave. Long before arriving in China, my husband had carried on correspondence with a Chinese nurseryman who had been most anxiously awaiting our visit. We were in very much of a quandary, as this man lived far outside the International Settlement. Fighting was going on nearby; we could not speak a word of Chinese, and couldn't tell who were hostile and who were friends. Ralph and I had some lengthy discussions and finally decided to risk the trip; we had already traveled 20,000 miles since leaving home and might never again have an opportunity to know our camellia friend if not at once. I think that trip, out into the strange suburbs of a city filled with every terror, was the only time I have been as fearful as I could be and still remain committed.

We obtained a car with a chauffeur who could speak not one word of English, French, German, Spanish, or what-have-you, a dangerous omen to start with; then, we spent several hours before arriving in the vicinity of the nursery. It took 30 more minutes

to locate the address, and when at last we were permitted to enter one of many locked doors in a very high wall, we were not at all sure that we were even in a nursery. It looked like a mysterious temple with dug outs!

Once inside, new troubles began. Nobody spoke English, knew us or had ever heard of us, but, as polite Chinese, they ushered us strangers into the room for receiving guests. We sat down; a very old lady offered us bowls of hot soup, and then a younger lady a bowl of nuts, another rice, and so on down through the whole family.

Suddenly, to my horror, I noticed Ralph was sitting in front of the portraits of their ancestors, before which incense was burning. I quickly motioned him to move, and after about 45 minutes of welcoming ceremony (of which I understood nothing) there appeared a professor friend of the family who could speak a tiny bit of English. We learned that the nurseryman was very, very ill in the next room but that they thought it was a lucky omen to have visitors from America that particular day—"Chinese New Year's Day."

To celebrate the occasion, they offered us a plant, which they considered their most beautiful camellia (large, red velvet blossoms). This was again a very embarrassing half-hour; I had no idea that they were trying to present it to us. Each time it was given to me (and the plant was heavy) I admired it and then handed it back to someone else. Finally, I realized I was supposed to keep it, and gave them a series of short speeches in English as we gradually bowed ourselves out of the place.

The whole point in relating this incident is to demonstrate again the power of the love of camellias. Then, the Chinese as a matter of good politics should have considered us to be their enemies, and yet we were actually basking in a friendly camellia atmosphere all through this visit.

In Mexico, Europe, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania,

Siam, Japan, China—everywhere camellias are grown—we experienced an effusive reception. Camellia lovers constantly offered to share their possessions, giving freely of scions and plants. It was heartwarming.

I want to add a word about camellia nurserymen. The equality of reception they give to anyone interested in camellias is a beautiful thing. In the meetings of the camellia societies, or at a stranger's home, one doesn't know whether a camellia fancier is a collector or a salesman. Never in any business have I come upon anyone as devoted and unselfish as camellia nurserymen. Never, when visiting nurseries, have I heard a salesman say, "You must buy such and such a camellia." There exists such a mutual love and respect for the plant, that the nurseryman will talk in detail only about the exact variety in which a person is interested. The nurseryman will spend the same amount of time with someone whom he knows will not buy a plant as with the good customer. I have never in my experience come in contact with a nurseryman who, not having the variety requested, tried to sell something else instead. On the contrary, he will go to the extent to tell the customer where that particular plant may be purchased elsewhere.

One last incident I should mention is that, at the age of five years, our son, Ralph Peer 11, began at 8 a.m. to help his Daddy to graft our scions. Ralph II did not leave his Daddy's side until the work was completely finished, at 2pm, which meant going six hours without even a thought of food (he is used to eating around noon). And, after eating he went out again, by himself, to see what else he could graft.

Oh, this love of camellias. If only we humans could be inspired with the same love for one another that we have for the camellia, what a different place this world would be!

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# IDEAS ON CAMELLIA SEED AND SEEDLINGS

Eugene H. Gehry, M.D.  
Orangeburg, South Carolina

*Camellian*, January 1958

Growing and blooming camellia seedlings offers the gardener an endless fascination and a wonderful opportunity for experimentation. Any gardener who grows camellias can easily harvest seed from plants which have been pollinated by nature, or, one may hand-pollinate flowers.

The purpose of this article is to explain easy and quick methods of germinating these seeds, and methods whereby you can force a seedling to bloom younger than what normally occurs.

Let's discuss harvesting camellia seeds. The months of August and September are best for harvesting seed. They may be picked while green. Pods will open by themselves after picking. The outer shell of the seed is still quite soft and the seed will germinate quicker. It is very important to plant the seeds immediately so that they will germinate quicker.

The usual way to germinate seeds is to mix them with dampened peat moss, not quite wet enough to squeeze water from, and pack them in a wide mouth jar. The jar may then be placed near the hot water heater or any window so that the sunlight will strike the jar. By this method the seeds should germinate in four to six weeks. Some will take much longer.

This past season I performed an experiment and was able to germinate seeds in only 10 days.

My seeds were harvested in mid August and allowed to dry for one or two days. They were then soaked in water overnight. After soaking I carefully cracked and removed the hard outer shell leaving only the soft embryo. These soft embryos with the hard shells removed were placed in a bed which was kept warm by a heating coil or an electric light bulb. Subdue controls fungi. Using this method you can germinate seeds before cold weather comes and stops

the young seedlings from growing.

After the seeds have germinated with good tap roots, plant them in small flower pots using a light mixture of equal parts rich loam, sand and peat moss. Plant the seeds so that just the top of the seed shows above the surface of the soil mixture. As soon as the roots become established in the pot, top growth will begin.

The next important step is to accelerate the growth of the newly sprouted seedlings. This is best accomplished by burning electric light bulbs above the potted seedlings to provide continuous light. A "cool white" fluorescent bulb works fine, regardless of size.

The application of this artificial light during the winter months when the days are short will stimulate early and vigorous growth in the young seedlings when spring arrives. During the period when the lights are above the seedlings, you may apply light doses of a liquid nitrogen fertilizer. I foliage-feed my seedlings, using tablespoon of soluble 13-26-13 fertilizer to a gallon of water. But don't over-dose!

Next is how to make a seedling bloom quicker. The average camellia seedling won't bloom until it is six to eight years old. Frequent transplanting of camellia seedlings made seedlings bud much earlier.

The first year after germinating the seeds, grow them in a small can or a 2 inch pot. The second year, remove them from the pot or can and root prune them severely. Replace them in a larger pot or can. After another year's growth the seedlings should be root pruned again and placed in a larger container. If this process is continued one can expect about 50 per cent of seedlings to bloom when they are three years old.

A few words of caution: If your three-year-old seedling blooms and

the flower shows promise, allow it to bloom at least two more years, before using the plant as understock for grafting instead.

I had a group of 80 seedlings and shocked 32 of them into flowering when they were three years old. The remaining 48 seedlings were root pruned in February. I had five of my 32 seedlings bloom:

One was a white semi-double with 13 petals, which went for grafting.

The second one to bloom was a blush pink single, given the knife.

The third one to bloom was a ruby red formal double, with four rows of petals which opened from a rose-bud center. After the rose bud center opened there was a group of yellow stamens surrounded by ruby-colored

petaloids. This flower measured three and one-half inches and was kept.

The fourth flower to bloom sent me into raptures, as I believed I hit the camellia jackpot. This was no Mrs. D. W. Davis or Tomorrow, but many people agreed with me that I had a nice camellia.

Growing seedlings gave me a wonderful reward and a wonderful tranquilizer. I wish that more people who love and grow camellias would grow camellia seeds, because from these seeds will come a true yellow or blue camellia which we are all striving to produce.

If my friends will plant seeds instead of letting them fall, we will get even better camellias.

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## HUMIDITY AND HORMONES

Frank F. Reed  
Pasadena, California  
*Carolinas Camellias*, Fall 1970

"Camellia blooms respond well to "preharvest" (approximately ten minutes before cutting) treatment with 6-Benzyl-amino-purine<sup>2</sup> (Benzyl Adenine); treating the blooms after cutting with Naphthalene-Acetic-Acid<sup>3</sup> (NAA) and then storing for days and weeks in saturated water atmosphere at room temperature (77°F) as well as at lower temperatures.

The Shell Development Laboratory (Van Overbeek et al.) at Modesto has done outstanding work in increasing the life of leafy vegetables like lettuce, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, celery, etc., by applying 6-Benzyl-Adenine (their SD 4901) as a pre-harvest spray and as a post-harvest dip or wash.

The SD 4901 reverses the aging of vegetables and blooms by providing adenine to restore the Soluble Ribonucleic Acid (S-RNA) molecule. The S-RNA then maintains the protein synthesis which keeps the vegetable fresh and green. The same reaction apparently applies to Camellia and other blooms.

Bonner and Honda did fine work for our Camellia Society in 1950 to prove the efficacy of NAA post harvest treatment (good for two weeks) and equal efficiency of the 100% relative humidity at 77° F, which added another two weeks to the life of cut blooms. The NAA sprayed near the floral axis strengthens the bonds between the petals and the leaves and the leaves with the stem. The high humidity causes the bloom to maintain its turgidity and fresh appearance.

### Preharvest Procedure

Upon advice of Dr. William S. Stewart, Research Director of Pacific Tropical Botanical Gardens (formerly at the LA Arboretum), we sprayed our blooms about 10 minutes before cutting with a 100 ppm (parts per million) aqueous solution of 6-Benzyl-Amino-Purine. A few drops are sprayed into the floral axis of each bloom to be cut. Avoid getting the stamens wet if possible. Robert Dorn of Modesto Camellia Society and the

Shell Development Lab uses 100 ppm on his camellias. The lab tests have used dosages range 25 to 200 ppm on other flowers. They point out that a solution applied 24 hours before harvesting a leafy vegetable has no effect on its keeping quality and the same rule should apply to blooms.

Dr. G. Shaw of Bradford Tech says that other Kinins such as Kinetin, Verdan and Zeatin are very efficient in prolonging the life of cut flowers and he reports the use of concentrations as low as 10 ppm.

#### **Mixing of Benzylamino.Purine**

In a 3 fluid ounce bottle mix 2 fl. oz. of ethanol with 250 mgs of Benzyl-aminopurine. This is practically a 0.5% solution. Use a brown bottle and normally store in dark place. Before any spraying is done, mix one tablespoon of this solution with 3 cups of tap water in a quart bottle. Keep this bottle in a dark place. You can fill your windex spray bottle from this quart bottle which is practically 100 ppm Benzyl-amino-purine solution. Show no favorites and keep your windex bottle in the dark when not in use

#### **Post Harvest Treatment**

A 250 ppm (parts per million) aqueous solution of NAA<sup>3</sup> can be made by mixing approximately 200 milligrams of the NAA powder in a quart of hot tap water. 200 mg. NAA is about the size of a pencil eraser or would about fill a quarter inch size capsule.

No special storage provisions are necessary for either the dry powder or the aqueous solution. The exact proportions are not necessary. The purpose of the NAA is to strengthen the bonds between the petals and the stem and to delay the petals dropping off (abscission).

With a windex bottle you can spray NAA solution down into the axis of the flower. Generally, I have directed squirts from 3 to 5 directions always avoiding hitting stamen. The

total liquid will be approximately 5 drops.

#### **High Humidity**

We customarily use a clear plastic lingerie box 15 x 18 x 5 inches for storing, carrying and shipping camellias. A damp paper towel is placed on the bottom of the box. Next, about a two inch layer of dry chopped waxed fiber<sup>6</sup> is put in. For each bloom there is a milk bottle top which holds a cotton wad soaked with the NAA solution. The stem of the bloom rests on this wad. The sales pitch on mixing and use of the NAA has been published a few times but was repeated above.

The morning temperature in camellia season is probably around 55° F. and the relative humidity may be approximately 60%. The expert at your air-conditioner store will tell you that when this air is lowered to the low 40's F, you will get approximately 100% humidity without any added moisture in the air. However, you have plenty water available in your container even without spraying the chopped fiber. Usually, there is "no sweat" in getting sweat on the inside of your box within an hour or two at 41°F. This indicates 100% humidity and saturated atmosphere. Our purpose in lowering the temperature in the containers is to obtain the essential high relative humidity.

The airlines generally keep their rear belly compartment between 40° and 60° F, which is better for cut flowers than the forward compartment which they keep near cabin temperature.

Floyd Honn, who has had long experience with the cut camellia trade, has kept camellias 2 or 3 weeks at ambient temperature but with high humidity. His experience agrees with the work of Bonner and Honda noted in the 4th paragraph of this article.

You should be warned against refrigerating your blooms down to the low 30's. Under certain high humidity conditions, frost can be formed even



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though the reported ambient temperature is above 82° F. This happens occasionally in the L. A. basin and with official temperatures reported as high as 85°F

### Dividends

Several of us have been able to pick our flowers at their peak and have some ready as much as 10 or more days ahead of competition. I have competed in 4 Potomac Valley shows and did as well with week-old blooms as I do in Southern California. I am convinced that the blooms will get to their first stop in fine shape if they are in transparent boxes which are practically air tight and sent by air freight.

After more than a year's correspondence with the Secretary of the Royal Horticultural and our good friend, Dr. Jimmy Smart, we had arranged for four boxes of my blooms to be staged at their London Show on last Saint Patrick's Day. Each bloom had a label indicating the date cut and whether gibbed or not. The shipment was signed, sealed and delivered to the Los Angeles Airport. Just before the airline man picked up my check, he received the telephone message that the strikers had finally closed the Heathrow (London) Airport.

I dared to put on a special exhibit of my week-old flowers in London.

There were no pre-alibis in my explanation of bloom treating methods. Incidentally, Dr. Smart was to translate my song-and-dance on treating technics from American into English.

If you get hepped up, you can check back on this article and the "Pony Express" story referenced below.

1. Apr. 1968 *Camellia Journal* "The Pony Express Rides Again"; 1967 *ACS Yearbook*, p. 22; Nov. 1966 *Camellia Review*, "Increasing Life, Etc" by Reed; and Nov. 1969 *Camellia Journal*, p. 6.

2. Catalogue No. 200241, Calbiochem Corp., 3625 E. Medford, Los Angeles 90063, \$7.20 for 250 mgm.

3. *NAA Catalogue* Number is 4773 with Calbiochem Corp. \$2.50 for 25 grams (25,000 mgm).

4. Mar. 1955 *Camellia Review* "Treatments for Increasing the Life of Cut Camellia Flowers" by Bonner and Honda.

5. Acme Fixture Display Co., 1055 S. Olive, L.A. 90015. \$3.75 per box.

6. Moskatel's, 633 San Julian, L.A. 90014, \$3.00 for 5 lb. box.

7. 25 Mar. 1965 *New Scientist* "The Third Plant Hormone" by G. Shaw.

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There is a common error of thought that all virgin soils are necessarily good. Nature laid down her soil in a haphazard way.

—Louis Bromfield

Every gardener knows that one of the chief joys of his activity is working deeply with the soil, pushing one's hands deep into its moist, life-giving crumbliness.

—Jeff Cox

Working in the garden gives me something beyond the enjoyment of the senses. It gives me a profound feeling of inner peace.

—Ruth Stout

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## HIGO CAMELLIAS

Bradford King  
Arcadia, California

The Higo camellia is a strain of Japonica with some camellia rusticania in its background. Higo's are distinguished by their 100 to 250 stamens that flare out to form a central sunburst. The classic bloom is a single with 5 to 9 large petals, which are asymmetrical with a dense center of beautiful long stamens that spread out like the spikes of a wheel. In Japan the irregular form is an asset because it serves to emphasize the symmetry of the striking stamens. The flower color is always bright and pure. Blooms may be white to pink, cream, scarlet, red and in varieties of these tonal combinations. A Japanese gardener first described the Higo Camellia in 1829. Priests and the Samurais did the original propagation. The Samurais are the noblemen warriors of old Japan who devoted themselves to the arts, gardening and scholarly activities. They hybridized Camellias to please their masters and the Emperor. Devotion to their masters, respect for parents and ancestors was their moral code. This code was instrumental in creating an interesting custom of planting a deceased relative's favorite camellia in the family cemetery. In this way Higo camellias left the palaces and temples becoming more wide spread in the Kumamoto region of Japan. The Higo peaked from 1826 to 1860 with as many as 100 cultivars. Unfortunately, the Japanese Civil War of 1877 and the two World Wars destroyed many of the Japanese camellias.

However, in 1958 the Higo Camellia Society was founded in Kumamoto, Japan to propagate and preserve the Higo camellia. They list 120 cultivars that meet their standards with many of them developed

recently. Higo is the ancient name of the city of Kumamoto, which is on the island of Kyushu in the south of Japan. The traditional way to grow Higo's is as a bonsai. A scion of the desired Higo is grafted on a wild Camellia root and placed in a beautiful pot. The old gnarled root gives the effect of age to the bonsai. The bonsai is best displayed when the plant is two feet by two feet to show the trunk, bark, leaves and blooms to best advantage.

Higo also make excellent landscape plants and do very well in pots where their full height and width can be appreciated. Higo culture is identical as any other Japonica cultivars. They are clearly not a separate species.

Higo's are not frequently grown in the United States perhaps because the uneven single blooms are not appreciated. The few times they have been entered in our society shows they haven't competed well with other Japonicas. Most would be placed in the small or medium classes. Personally, I enjoy them and have added them to my collection. In order to save space and exercise some artistic yearning, I have begun creating bonsai. Bonsai take more care than camellias in the ground, but it's worth the effort to watch the buds swell, the flower bloom and the plant grow and even occasionally set a seedpod. The parts of the plant are normal size but the total package is just right for up close viewing. They are excellent for people who live in apartments or condos. They fit perfectly on a patio or shady nook in any size garden.

In closing, I recommend Higo's as another enjoyable way to expand you camellia hobby.

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The gardening bug can bite at any moment.  
—Barbara Damrosch

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# HOW TO USE CAMELLIAS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Ray Bond  
Dallas, Texas

For purposes of this article, we shall discuss the landscape use of camellia species *C. japonica*, *C. sasanqua*, *C. reticulata* and *C. oleifera*. The first two of these are the most popular and most are hardy through Plant Hardiness zone 8 (+10F). Some *C. japonica* can tolerate lower temperatures. (See "Winter Hardy Camellias," April 15, 1995 issue: American Nurseryman). *C. reticulata* is cold weather sensitive (zone 9, +20F and higher) and its blooms are large and spectacular. *C. oleifera* is hardy through zone 5b (-15F). *C. oleifera* is an excellent landscape plant, exhibiting excellent green foliage, but its small, single white blooms are not as appealing as other camellia species.

Generally, *C. japonica* is more cold weather tolerant than *C. sasanqua*. The accompanying list may help you with your selections. You may have others that have worked well in your area. This chart is mostly for Plant Hardiness Zone 7. If you work in warmer climates, you can use plants that may not be on this list.

*C. japonica* blooms over a longer period, but not as profusely as *C. sasanqua*. Individual *C. japonica* blooms last up to three weeks. Different *C. japonica* cultivars may bloom at different times throughout the fall, winter and early spring. With one or two exceptions, *C. sasanqua* blooms in the fall usually displaying a mass of color, lasting up to two weeks. Individual *C. sasanqua* blooms may last for three or four days. *C. reticulata* bloom in mid winter to early spring, with individual blooms lasting up to three weeks. *C. oleifera* blooms across the late winter season, its small, single, white blooms that last several days.

A pine grove surrounded by a wind break is the ideal location for camellias, but how often do we have the ideal to work with? So, often the environment must be modified to suit

the plants placed there.

Camellias can be used as accent plants. If you need a corner plant, consider *C. japonica*. There are low growing cultivars such as 'Shishigashira' (*C. hiemalis* but sold as *C. sasanqua*). A hedge barrier might be made that will help hide or protect a location and provide color. A plant of one color can be placed to complement another or to give constant color throughout the winter blooming season. Both *C. sasanqua* and *C. japonica* can be used as view screens or background hedges.

Being evergreen, camellias can be used as stand alone plants for winter color. *C. japonica* is best for this purpose. Many *C. sasanqua* cultivars can serve as colorful fall blooming hedges. In zones 8 and 9, you will find windbreaks of camellias. Many *C. japonica* are well adapted as colorful grouped or "stand alone" landscape plants, putting both their deep green color and their winter blooming habits to good use. Landscapers should learn the blooming habits and blooming seasons of various camellia species and cultivars. That knowledge gives the landscaper the ability to coordinate colors and growing habits. Such coordination enables the designer to do a more professional job for his customer.

I have seen great arrangements of *C. japonica* as well as *C. sasanqua* in the landscape. They make great accent plants along walkways, around pools and other bodies of water and along driveways. In a wooded setting, there is almost infinite opportunity for advantageous use of the versatile beauty of camellias.

When you prune camellias, be careful to note the location of the buds. You will find (lateral) buds on branches and buds on terminals. Cutting off branches will eliminate blooms. Camellias set buds in May, so for more and better blooms, prune

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immediately after they have completed blooming and before new growth begins.

If you want to quickly ruin a camellia, use an electric hedge trimmer and give it a "crew cut." Save the electric and other hedge clippers for wax leaf legustrum, boxwoods etc. Prune camellias for effect. If you want a mass of green, prune away the flower buds. If you want a mass of blooms, clean out the plant leaving the new growth where the buds form. Flower buds set in May on the new spring growth.

Camellia branches should be pruned back to the next limb (or trunk) or to the next node. Some growers leave a little stem above each cut. These stems usually die and can cause problems for the plant after a year or so. If pruning is done in the spring, the wounds should be treated with a water based wound paint to seal it against camellia die-back. Some good landscapers use water based school glue or a good latex paint. Each wound is vulnerable to die-back penetration for about three days. Die-back is spread by contaminated water splashing on the plant. Instruct your client how to prune for the best effect should he want to do it himself.

A landscape should be more than a collection of plants. Astute plant selection, more than anything else, will change a two dimensional plan on paper into a three dimensional landscape reality. Consider the camellias you select as a way to shape and add accent to the landscape space you have to work with. Mold your design into a living portrait in plants.

To integrate camellias into an overall design, consider the color, shape and leaf form. Study camellias in relation to one another and to the other plant varieties you use. This creates a distinctive landscape design.

Individual plants should be chosen as part of the overall plan. The

planting design can be arrived at in several different ways, dependent upon the design and the plants selected and their natural growing habits. At one end of the spectrum, camellias can be chosen with the nurseryman's emphasis on growing habits or at the other extreme, the landscapers concern for design. This is a "catch 22" which can lead to a system of trial and error wherein plants that don't make it are replaced.

The logical compromise is to work with the end owner and work professionally meet his goals. Sometimes, if there are questions of which camellia should go where, a corner may be set aside to experiment and determine what works or meets expectations.

Use of camellias in the successful landscape design requires a carefully structured layout to emphasize their qualities. Consider the planting on three levels: (1) Sculptural, which forms part of the landscape's basic framework, setting outlines and shapes. (2) Planting; the bulk of the landscape planting against which the (3) Decorative component is fixed. The usual error committed when using camellias is to assemble the decorative flowering cultivars and throw in an occasional, seemingly unplanned, sculptured shrub. If this is done in any landscape, it looks as if were planted piecemeal.

Camellias are used around the world in formal landscapes. I have seen camellias in small atriums and, in containers, on balconies of townhouses and apartments. Inasmuch as camellias originated in the orient, they are a natural for this style of landscape. Camellias can be espaliered on lattices or on the sides of structures. They can be pruned into topiaries. Much can be done with the plants in containers or in the ground. The potential for use of these beautiful shrubs/trees is virtually endless.

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## AN ASTOUNDING REVELATION!

### Camellia History Changed!

Dr. Frederick G. Meyer and Mr. Joaquim Moreira Da Silva  
USDA and OPORTO Portugal

*Camellian*, March 1960

It has been said that perhaps no one has changed the course of history as much as the historians. If this be true then, the course of camellia history been changed, not by a historian but by a botanist!

Introduction of the camellia into Europe has been credited to the British. Hume in his "Camellias of America" gives credit to James Petiver for their description in 1702. Hertrich in his "Camellias in the Huntington Gardens" tells us of records of the culture of camellias in the greenhouse of Lord Petre, Thornton Hall, Essex, England, "sometime before 1732."

The astounding fact just discovered shows that the Portuguese, not the British, introduced the camellia to Europe!

Although the huge camellia trees of Portugal have long been known and admired, it remained for Dr. Frederick G. Meyer, noted botanist identified with the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, to uncover the facts pointing to Portugal as the first point of entry of tsubaki (camellias).

Scarcely had Columbus returned to Spain to announce his discoveries of the West Indies, than the Portuguese navigators were pushing their vessels along continental America. The resourceful Portuguese were pushing their ships even further into the Orient, where history records that as early as 1501 trading posts were established on the mainland of Asia. It is recorded that Andrade opened trade with China, at Canton, in 1517, and that Japan was visited as early as 1542.

Certainly, the Portuguese were not without the opportunity to see and to admire the tsubaki—as camellias were known then—and bring plants back to Portugal.

In 1957 a plant exploration trip was made into Europe through the New Crops Research Branch of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This was made under a cooperative agreement between the Department and Longwood Gardens. Dr. Meyer was in charge of this expedition.

It was at the Villa Nova de Gaia, across the Douro River from Porto on the farm of the Earl of Campo Belo, that Dr. Meyer made a startling discovery which could make new camellia history. In his report on the expedition published jointly by the Department and Longwood Gardens in October 1959 he states:

"The old camellia trees at the Villa Nova de Gava in Oporto, evidence indicates, are the oldest specimens of *Cainellia japonica* in cultivation yet recorded in Europe. Old family archives of the Conde de Campo Bello, present owner of the villa, indicate that three living plants of *C. japonica* from Japan were planted in the garden about the middle of the 16th century. This is not impossible, since early Portuguese traders in the Orient first made contact with Japan in 1542. The discovery of these aged specimens extends the date of introduction of the camellia back nearly 200 years, to about 1550. Modern reference works only date introduction of *C. japonica* into Europe about 1740."

Hurried inquiry by the *Camellian* to our Portuguese correspondent Joaquim Moreira Da Silva brings assurance of further research on the subject. Dr. Meyer informed the *CAMELLIAN* that he is pursuing his quest for further information, and our readers will be provided with additional data as it is obtained. The following information has been sent to us by Mr. Da Silva.

Mr. Da Silva says that he has found records that show in February 1543 D. Joao de Castro, Viceroy of India, brought many plants from the Orient which were planted at his farm "Penha Verde" at Sintra, near Lisbon, and it is believed the tsubaki were among them. (D. Joao de Castro, by Elaine Sanceau, page 152, Published by Livraria Civilizacao.)

Camellias, or Tsubaki as they were known then, had not previously been in Portugal. Their beauty, foliage and flowers evidently appealed to the Viceroy and quite naturally he took some plants and seeds with him. Penha Verde now belongs to Ernesto and Fernando Rau.

Fernao Mendes Pinto, a most extraordinary Portuguese explorer, served in the Orient as a soldier, Captain, Ambassador, three times a slave, and was shipwrecked five times. He was in Japan on three different occasions. His last shipwreck landed him in Cagoxima (Satsuma, Japan) on August 15, 1549. He was accompanied by S. Francisco Xavier, and when they returned to Lisbon on September 22, 1558 they brought many plants from Japan including Tsubaki. These were planted at the home of the parents of Xavier at Montemor-o-Velho, near Coimbra. There are actually no documents to prove the truthfulness of these facts but the known history and traditions guarantee them.

There are three extremely old camellia trees at Villa Nova de Gaia at the home of the Earl of Campo Belo. These were brought from the Orient by his forefathers in the XVI century!

Although there are no documents to substantiate the truth of these statements, certain facts will prove that these tsubaki (camellias) were planted in Portugal before 1580. During the year of 1580 the King of Spain, Philippe II, invaded Portugal with his vast army. After this historical fact it is known that the forefathers of the Earl of Campo Belo did not make another visit to the Orient; therefore the three old camellias would have been planted before that

particular year.

The three old camellia trees are actually a wild form of camellia. The blossoms are very small single flowers and are pink. The two largest trees are only five feet apart and their combined spread is about 140 square yards! The smaller of the three is planted about six yards away and it is in poor condition. These three historic camellia trees are planted in the court-yard near the house. The trunk of the larger one is 31 inches in diameter.

The history of the family (Campo Belo) indicates that six camellia plants were brought to Portugal. Four were planted at Villa Nova de Gaia, where one died a few years ago. The other two were given to a relative, Marquis of Monfalim, who planted them at his farm "Torre da Marca" at Oporto. Unfortunately, these were destroyed about 1930 to make way for the opening of a new street.

The farm and home of the Earl of Campo Belo has been in the family since the XIV century.

There is another farm in Villa Nova de Gaia called "Fiaes" where very old camellias are located. This farm was bought in 1762 by Pedro Vanzeller and he, together with his son Roberto and his grandson Cristiano, planted a real forest of camellias. Unfortunately most of the camellia trees here were cut off many years ago about two feet from the ground. Some have sprouted new growth for many years.

At this farm there is a very unusual camellia tree. The trunk is not round and in the larger part it is 48 inches wide. We are certain that when Pedro Vanzeller bought this place in 1760 this old camellia had been planted for many years. Today it would be very difficult to guess the age of this camellia tree but experts and family historians will tell you that it is more than 500 years old!

In this same area there are many old wild forms of camellia trees with trunks from 20 to 25 inches in diameter.

At Sintra in the Parks of Pena and Monserrate there are very large

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camellia trees, but they were planted during the last century. From 1800 to 1890 there was great enthusiasm for camellias in Portugal and thousands of camellias were planted, principally in the north. From Albergaria to Valencia on the frontier of Spain there are a number of fine old plants, which were planted during the last century. Portugal exported many camellias to Spain.

The first camellia nurseries in Portugal were established at Porto. In

the middle of the last century there were more than 600 varieties grown in Portugal.

Mr. Da Silva with the assistance of Professor Joao Amaral Franco, who was Director of Jardim do Ultramar, searched for documentary evidence to prove that the tsubaki (camellia) was introduced to Portugal more than 200 years before it was known in Britain. These will become the proof.

Happiness is a habit. Cultivate it.  
Elbert Hubbard

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## 2006 CAMELLIA SHOW SCHEDULE

- January 7** Descanso Gardens, La Canada  
Judges' and Exhibitors' Symposium  
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Council
- January 14-15** Descanso Gardens, La Canada  
Hosted by Pacific Camellia Society
- January 21 and 22** Rogers' Gardens, Corona del Mar  
Hosted by Orange County Camellia Society
- January 28 and 29** Descanso Gardens, La Canada  
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society
- February 4 and 5** Balboa Park, San Diego  
Hosted by San Diego Camellia Society
- February 11 and 12** Huntington Gardens, San Marino  
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Society
- February 18 and 19** La Verne Community Center, 2680 "D" Street  
Hosted by Pomona Valley Camellia Society
- February 25 and 26** Descanso Gardens  
Hosted by Southern California Camellia Council
- March 4 and 5** Church, 17th & S Streets, Bakersfield  
Hosted by Kern County Camellia Society
- March 18 and 29** Descanso Gardens  
"Late Bloomers Show"  
Hosted by Pacific Camellia Society

**CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY**  
**64th Annual Show**  
**February 26 and 27, 2005**

Sweepstakes`		Robert & Linda Ehrhart
Runner-up Sweepstakes		Don & Mary Bergamini
Best of Show	'Lilette Witman'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Collection of Nine		Larry & Nancy Pitts
Collection of 3 Different Sizes		Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Bloom originated in Santa Clara County	'Eleanor Martin Supreme'	Gordon & Barbara Goff
<b>Japonica Very Large/Large</b>		
Best Very Large	'Mary Fischer'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Very Large	'Katie Variegated'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Best Large	'Black Magic'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up Large	'Lady Laura'	Bob & Joanne Logan
Best Tray of 3	'Moonlight Bay'	Robert & Nancy Steele
Best Tray of 5	'Nuccio's Carousel'	Jim & Jackie Randall
<b>Japonica—Medium</b>		
Best	'Cherries Jubilee'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up	'Nuccio's Gem'	Hal & Deane Burch
Best Tray of 3	'Betty Foy Sanders'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 5	'Betty Foy Sanders'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
<b>Japonica Small</b>		
Best	'Tom Thumb'	Jim & Jackie Randall
Runner-up	'Demi-Tasse'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 3	'Something Beautiful'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
<b>Japonica Miniature</b>		
Best	'Pink Perfection'	Bob & Joanne Logan
Runner-up	'Sugar Babe'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 3	'Fircone Variegated'	Harlan E. Smith
<b>Japonica—Miniature/Small</b>		
Best Tray of 5	'Something Beautiful'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
<b>Reticulata</b>		
Best Large/Very Large	'Lilette Witman'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Runner-up/Large V. Large	'Ruta Hagmann'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Medium/Small	'Valentine Day Var.'	Robert & Linda Ehrhart
Runner-up Medium/Small	'Fire Chief Var.'	Larry & Nancy Pitts
Best Tray of 3	'Frank Hauser Var.'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
<b>Non-Reticulata</b>		
Best Large/Very Large	'Julie Variegated'	Bob & Joanne Logan
Runner-up Large/Very Large	'Tom Perkins'	Edith Mazzei
Best Medium/Small	'Island Sunset'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Runner-up Medium/Small	'Les Jury'	Don & Joan Lesmeister
Best Tray of 3	'Spring Daze'	Larry & Nancy Pitts



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**Seedling**

Best Japonica	'Lucy Lou'	Ron & Pat Hardman
Best Non-retic Hybrid		Gordon & Barbara Goff
Best Fragrant	'High Fragrance'	Ron & Arlene Morrison
Best Member's Japonica	'Nuccio's Cameo'	Cynthia Chuang
Best Member's Retic/Non-Retic	'Lady Pamela'	Cynthia Chuang
Best Novice Japonica	'Kramer's Supreme'	Betty Ruth Hogue
Best Youth Bloom	'Carter's Sunburst'	Stephanie Solorzano
Best Santa Clara Youth Bloom	'Nicky Crisp'	Christopher Morton

## GROWING CAMELLIAS IN POTS

Dianne and Peter Chilvers  
St. George and Sutherland, Australia  
*Camellia News*, Winter 2005

Because our home is built on a rockshelf, our garden for most areas has only 2 – 3 inches of soil, so by necessity the majority of our camellias are grown in pots. Some younger plants are growing in black plastic pots while the older plants are in 12", 16" and 18" terracotta tubs. As we don't want dirty water running over paved areas, we set each pot on a saucer filled with river pebbles which allows for free drainage and for air to circulate.

Growing camellias in pots does require more time and effort but also has some positive benefits. Repotting and root pruning approximately every three years for our larger plants and yearly for the younger plants is heavy work. We did a major repot last year, approximately 150 pots. We minimised the cost by going out to a landscape supplier and getting a trailer load mix for a fraction of the cost of buying it by the bag. I added bark and rainsaver crystals to the commercial mix. In the future I plan to do about 50 pots a year so it is not such a backbreaking task

It's fortunate Peter enjoys watering the garden in the afternoon now with the watering restrictions he will water on the allotted days and I'll water any

dry plants by watering can on the other days. I sprinkle rainsaver on the pots every 4 months. We are hoping restrictions do not go to the next stage or continue into next spring and summer as most of our plants grow in almost full sun and really need daily watering then.

Because fertilizer leaches out of pots quickly, we feed our camellias in August with liquid feed; we used Powerfeed this year, Osmocote Plus slow release granules in September and January, blood and bone in November and a repeat liquid feed in late March. I am cautious with fertilizer and use 3/4 the recommended strength. Our Wirlingas and 'Sweet Jane' are given very little as they burn easily.

We keep Confidor and a Bug Gun handy and these handle most problems with pests. Weeding is probably the most tedious task with pots but has to be done. It is a good opportunity to check if the plant is healthy, treat any problems or attend to disbudding.

On the positive side, pot culture gives a manageable size plant that can be supported by a confined root ball. I can reach all the foliage and flowers easily. No climbing on ladders for me!

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Of course you will have less flowers than large established plants but you can fit in more varieties of camellias. There is always room to fit in another plant. Pot plants are mobile; you can move them around until you find their right home. I move most of our pots into the sun in September and in April I move the white and pink flowered camellias into shaded areas. When our daughter married two years ago we moved three 'Paradise Sayaka' in full bloom to the front of our house as a backdrop for photos by the wedding car. I might add they are still there!

If plants in plastic pots blow over in the wind, leave them on the ground until calm weather returns. In

extremely hot weather I can sit a plastic pot inside a larger plastic pot which helps prevent the rootball drying out and burning.

We do not worry too much about a camellia being a "pot variety" or not. If we like it we grow it—so far the only plant that does not seem to thrive in a pot is 'Bob Hope', but he still gives me a few nice flowers each year.

So, if you don't have ideal growing conditions, or you only have a balcony or small garden, you can continue to grow some of your favourite camellias.

*Editor's note: Remember Australia's climate is just opposite of Southern California..*

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## DIRECTORY OF CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

ATWATER GARDEN CLUB & CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Sherry Miller; Secretary—Pam Jambor, PO Box 918, Atwater, CA 95301, Meetings 3rd Tuesday, September-June, 6:30 p.m. St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 1635 Shaffer Road, Atwater.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Art Gonos; 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—Robin Cole, 829 Oleander Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93304. For meeting dates and times, call Helen Maas (661)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—Mary Bergamini; Secretary—Don Bergamini. 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—Doug Nowlin; Secretary—Bob Sheriff. Meetings: 1st Monday, October-April, 7:00 p.m. Dept. of Education Building, 200 Kalmus, Costa Mesa

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

POMONA VALLEY CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—David Trujillo; Secretary—Dorothy Christinson, 3751 Hoover St., Riverside 95204. Meetings: 2nd Thursday, November-April, 7:30 p.m., La Verne Community Center, "D" Street, 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—Gene Snooks; 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.

SAN FRANCISCO PENINSULA CAMELLIA SOCIETY: President—Denise Kupperman. Secretary—Christina Isenberg, SFPCS, PO Box 2103, Menlo Park, CA 92026-2103. Meetings: 3rd or 4th Monday, October-March, Elizabeth Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverly St., Palo Alto (elevator available), Redwood City. (formerly Peninsula Camellia Society.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, INC., CAMELLIA SOCIETY OF: President—Kathleen Hall. 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—Bobbie Belcher, 40641 Via Amapola, Murrieta, CA 92562. Meetings: 7:30 p.m., Ayres Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. Call Marilee Gray to verify meeting dates (909) 624-4107.



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