

THE

Camellia Review



LADY KAY

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

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No. 7

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, November to April, inclusive, at the Jefferson School Auditorium, 1500 block, East Villa Street in Pasadena. A cut-camellia blossom exhibit at 7:30 o'clock regularly precedes the program which starts at 8:00.

Application for membership may be made by letter. Annual dues: \$5.00.

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Secretary: J. M. Hartke, 874 Paige Drive, Pomona	
Date of meeting: 1st Thursday of each month	
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Meeting Place: American Legion Hall, 127 N. Golden West, Temple City	
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Camellia Society of Orange County.....	Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: Community Center, West 8th Street, Santa Ana.	
Secretary: Harold Larson, 212 S. Orange St., Orange	
Date of meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month	

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EDITOR'S CORNER

By LEONARD F. MURNANE

With this issue the Review ceases publication until July, when it will return bigger, stronger, and better.

And just so you won't forget us—this corner will present a really worthwhile camellia plant as a special award to the reader who sends in the best letter to the Review between now and June 1.

What to write about? Well here are a few suggestions that we think will interest our readers: Which camellias shall I use for a hedge? Which for a window box? Which ones for hanging baskets? How can I plant my camellia garden so that I will enjoy the longest possible blooming period? Shall I leave my camellias in their cans or plant them, and why?

Variety of Topics

Or perhaps you will find your topic in this array of questions: What are the advantages vs. disadvantages of disbudding? Is it true that camellias grow better at altitudes above 2000 feet? What are your clever ideas for arranging a really attractive garden?

One of the letters to the Review—whether it be a description of an amateur's first efforts at raising camellias, or a scientific analysis of results achieved through use of a soil conditioner—will win that camellia. And what is even more important, it will go to a man or woman who can be proud that he or she is taking an active part in furthering interest in camellia culture.

Remember, the deadline is June 1. Letters received after that date cannot be considered in competition, as Review deadlines will be advanced, starting with the July issue, to permit the magazine to reach you promptly on schedule. Hereafter, the Review

deadline will be one month in advance of publication, with no exceptions.

Your entry doesn't have to be fancy. It doesn't have to be a finished, polished article. And you won't be penalized for slips in grammar, punctuation or spelling.

Tip for Readers

And here's a tip for you camellia fans. If you are not already in the habit, then start right now to give yourselves a treat by visiting the nurseries in your area.

Don't feel that you have to make a purchase. Just drop in for a chat and a look at the natural beauty that is the nurseryman's domain. He'll be glad to meet you, and you will find him a storehouse of information that will add immeasurably to the satisfaction that you glean from your own garden.

We've started out to visit every nursery listed among our advertisers and we'd make a lot faster progress if it weren't that we find so much to look at that invariably we must return the following week.

First Effort Rough

A month ago Chic Mason took the time to show us how to graft camellias, and we came home with four glassed-in treasures that have been sources of constant attention.

Almost immediately, son John scored a fatality on one, and I hastened to put the others in the garage where he could not reach them, and where—incidentally—they remained in almost complete darkness for two weeks. And without being watered.

Then a visitor said they needed light and water, and I moved them to our kitchen where son John could be kept out of reach.

To everyone's amazement except mine, my three plants now are beginning to grow, and look like they made it, though they violate every rule of the book.

Camellia MAIL BAG

PRICE ONLY \$1.00

Thank you for the generous commendation for our North Carolina Camellia Society Yearbook. Your gracious words are very much appreciated. The price, however, is only \$1.00 and not \$5.00 as stated in the notice. Could this be corrected?

Your publication continues to hold up to its high standard. Each issue is appreciated.

J. ALLEN EASLEY

Wake Forest College
North Carolina

TEXAS IDEAS DIFFER

To The Editor:

I received the copy of "Camellias, etc.," from the Southern California Camellia Society, also a copy of the bulletin. I enjoyed both of them very much—and I got quite a kick out of seeing my own origination listed (Sasanqua *Pink Snow*).

Apparently sasanquas are not as popular on the west coast as they are in the south and southeast. While interest in the better sasanquas, such as *Little Gem*, *Usi Beni*, *Shishigahiri*, *Pink Snow*, and even *Mini-nozaki*, is not as great as the interest in camellia japonicas—still it is growing rapidly, the real camellia bugs are going in for sasanquas.

Grafts Amazing

I noted with some amazement that in your area you graft on such plants as *Pink Perfection*, *Sarah Frost*, etc.—there was no mention of sasanquas. Here I would say that at least 99% of all grafts are on sasanqua understock.

Occasionally some one grafts on

Sarah Frost, *Pro. Sargeant*, or *Debutante* (*Debutante* is in my opinion one of the best camellias in existence, but it is a healthy, husky grower and makes a good understock).

Pink Perfection is in my mind about the most undesirable understock in existence—it is considered difficult to grow here, though it does not drop its buds as it apparently does out West.

Frost Hurts

After a bad freeze the flowers will open with bad centers—they did this year—still, if anyone in this area cut down a *Pink Perfection* and grafted on it he would probably be put away carefully in the state home for the feeble minded. Here in Texas we know of course that all gardeners are nuts—but some people abuse the privilege—imagine people growing African violets!

Seriously—I note that *Vernalis* (*Dawn*) a japonica-sasanqua hybrid, is listed on page 79 of the book "Camellias," etc. I would certainly like to know where this plant could be purchased. I would also appreciate it if you could tell me where Camellia *Lady Kay* might be obtained.

Sincerely,

PAUL E. HINES

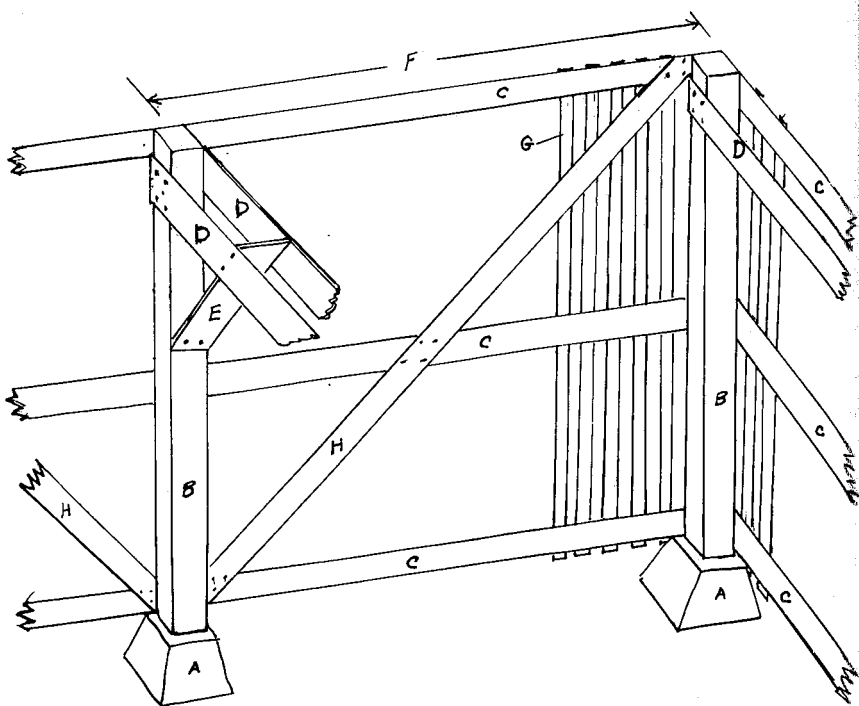
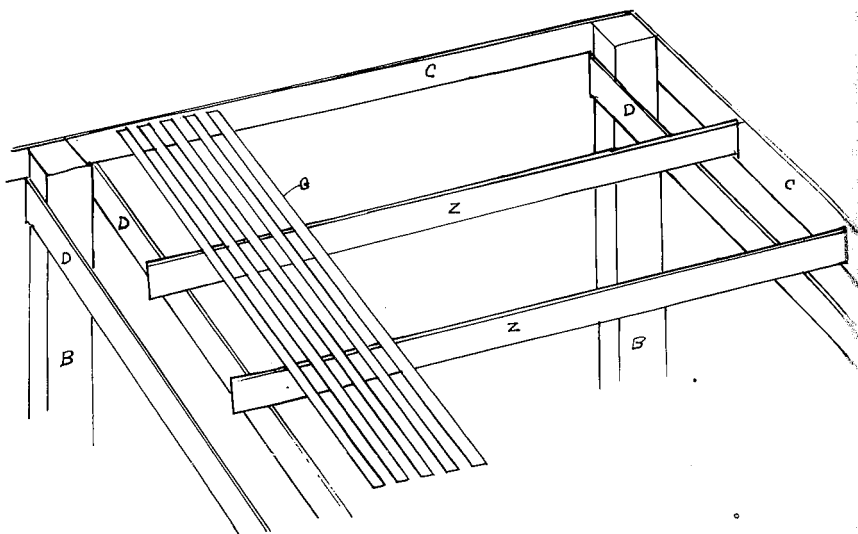
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NUCCIO CATALOG OUT

Nuccio's Nurseries, high above the smog in picturesque Altadena, scored another king-sized hit with publication of a 1953 camellia brochure that is loaded with information, planting hints, gorgeous color photos, and descriptions of camellias.

It is a large-sized publication on glossy paper, and will be prized by the lucky camellia enthusiast who happens to get one.

HERE IS GUIDE FOR LATH HOUSE BUILDER



LET'S BUILD THAT LATH HOUSE TODAY

By CHIC MASON, *Temple City*

I would like to make it quite clear that what I am about to say does not pertain to all lath houses, but rather the lath house I have built in my back yard. With only one addition, which I will point out later, I have followed the standard procedure for all lath houses. The basic principles are the same.

I have discovered in the thirty-two years I have been a carpenter that there are many ways to achieve the same results, and that all will have good and bad features. I think that the lath house I will try to describe to you will have the best features for the amateur in his own back yard.

The first move is to choose your location. I feel that it should not be next to other buildings, or under shade trees. The lath house should be designed to give the desired shade without any other aid. I find it is advantageous to have the back wall next to the property line if possible. It adds privacy to your property, and takes up less useable space on the lot. It is better to have the ground level, or as near level as possible.

Size A Problem

The next decision is how large to make it. My lath house is 12x24. This is a very convenient size, and will accommodate thirty-two camellias spaced three feet apart.

A width of twelve feet will allow you to have the entire space free of posts. Anything over twelve feet makes too long a span for the materials used, and center posts would be necessary.

I have advised and helped two of my friends with their lath houses, and I tried to get them to make their lath houses larger than they had planned, and both men refused.

Both later expressed the wish that they had more room. It is far better to build too large than too small. Any person sufficiently interested in camellias to make a lath house will find that he soon will outgrow the space that he thinks will be ample at the time of construction.

Materials Listed

After picking out the location, the next thing is the material list. The following will be necessary for a 12x24 lath house.

6 cement foundation piers
6 eight foot 4x4 posts (Douglas fir)
22 pieces of 1x4-12'
4 pieces of 1x4-14' (to be used as diagonal braces)

1 pound of 8d (eight penny) box nails
about three pounds of shingle nails
Enough lath to cover area.
The nails should be coated. Galvanized, cadmium or zinc.

Piers may be purchased at any building material supply yard, and may be found in two forms. One type has a block of redwood fixed on top of the pier, and if this type is used you may toenail the posts to this block.

The other type is constructed with an iron rod imbedded in the cement. This rod protrudes about two inches above the top surface of the pier, and it is necessary to bore a hole in the end of the post, and slide it down onto this pin.

Either type can be used. I used the type with the iron rod. These can be made at home if you wish, but it is just about as cheap to buy them ready made.

Poles May Be Rough

Poles may be rough and have knot
(Continued on Page 18)

IN QUEST OF THE NEW

By ELMER MUELLER, Etiwanda, California

Why is it that I can scarcely gaze upon a fine camellia blossom without wondering whether that variety would impart its fine qualities either as a pollen or seed parent?

Why is it that when I bring home a new plant I smuggle it in among my seedlings and it is only when it blooms I am asked "Is it one of your own or did you buy it?"

Oh, why do I endure these indignities?

When I read of the work being done by such men as Swim and Lammerts and Short in bringing about improved varieties, and realize that such work has been going on for decades—when I realize that only one seedling in 2000 is worth propagating—then I wonder whether my puny project of producing 20 or 30 seedling crosses a year is not wasted effort.

Wisdom Questioned

My 80-year-old mother feels that this bachelor son of hers can better spend his spare time keeping the yard in order than fussing with camellias—he only gives them away anyway. And she is probably right at that.

This obsession of mine was neither spontaneous nor deliberate, but like Topsy it never was borned, it just grew.

About 30 years ago Aunt Anna gave mother a small seedling which after about seven years bloomed. None of us was too impressed with the ragged robin type of flower until one day mother stuck her nose into it and discovered that there was fragrance there.

A young nursery man (Hubert Reeves now located at 615 Erie, Pomona, California) became interested in our plant and took several cuttings and made some live grafts. He wanted us to name the variety. Mother insisted that it should be sweet some-

thing or other because it was fragrant. I held out for Delightful (after a comic strip character) so we compromised and named it "Sweet Delight."

Entered Show

Years later we took a few blossoms to a flower show (at Frank Hunt's nursery in San Bernardino) where we first learned that our flower was named in the Southern California Camellia Society's nomenclature book.

Noting our flower's rich coloring among the others exhibited it finally began to dawn upon us that we had a really fine variety.

Other plants were coming along in our garden and when a corolla was sloughed exposing the ovula and pistil I quickly plucked a stamen from a flower of our *Sweet Delight* and applied the pollen. This netted four seeds, three of which sprouted.

One was a casualty of the dog chasing a lizard. One turned out a well formed double white splashed and speckled with red, but not too robust a plant. The other is a fine velvety white semi-double to semi-peony form growing on a sturdy upright plant. This last one is my favorite flower.

Plants All of Them

When our various plants started producing seeds I could not bear throwing them away so I started planting all of them, giving the small plants to friends and neighbors, even to strangers who chanced to stop at our door.

Some of these have turned out just ordinary flowers and a few were pretty fine and my friends seemed well pleased.

A seedling from *Sweet Delight* bloomed single and the idea occurred to me, "Why not cross it with *Daika*."

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JAPANESE-AMERICAN GOODWILL CAMELLIA GARDEN

By RALPH PEER

In 1949, when Mrs. Peer and I visited Japan, the general conditions were not good. All of the principal cities had been so heavily bombed as to practically disappear, the only exception being Tokyo.

Yokohama and Osaka, both among the world's largest cities, were heaps of ashes. The Japanese population received a quantity of food rationed out to them by the US Army. The number of calories per person was slightly below the subsistence level, it being assumed, of course, that the Japanese themselves would be able to raise enough additional items so that they would have more or less the same amount of food as in pre-war years.

Four different kinds of currency, all referred to as "yen" were in circulation. In addition to the Japanese national currency used for the interchange of goods and services amongst the population, the occupying military forces had created the "Army" yen, the "traders" yen and the "tourist" yen. Soldiers and sailors could use their currency to buy from the Post Exchange and from certain department stores set up for the purpose in Tokyo and other centers.

Use Limited

Foreign businessmen visiting Japan used their special currency to pay hotel bills, for transportation and to buy goods for export.

Tourists could use their money only in the Army stores and in specially designated hotels and restaurants. They could also hire taxis, pay railroad fares, purchase postage stamps, etc.

All three of the special currencies could be converted into native yen—but not back again. The restricted

types of currency could be purchased only with dollars, and only by members of the designated classes.

To search for camellias under these conditions was rather difficult. Fortunately, we were able to obtain two tickets for a "guided tour" and to have the good fortune to be the only persons in our party. In this way, we had our own private automobile with chauffeur and saw a good bit of the main island of Japan.

Saw Yokohama

We left Tokyo early one morning, drove through devastated Yokohama and then along the shores of Tokyo Bay until we sighted the famous mountain, Fujiyama. Here we turned inland, and by lunch time arrived at a beautiful lake about thirty-five miles east of the mountain. It was actually wintertime, but we were below the snowline. It was very pleasant indeed to eat our meal on an enclosed veranda with Fuji mirrored in the lake and making frequent appearances through the drifting clouds.

Leaving this beautiful spot, we again turned east toward the ocean. Driving up a rather steep road, we worked our way around the end of a ridge of low mountains. Suddenly we again saw ahead of us and far below the blue Pacific Ocean with the island of Oshima just off shore.

Resort Famous

The slope of the mountainside at this point must be forty-five degrees, and the road wound back and forth to make the descent in safety. On the side of this mountain is built the famous seaside resort named Atami, which, since the dawn of history, has been famous for its hot springs. Until

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WE LOVE OUR CHILDREN

By ELIZABETH C. COUNCILMAN

Here at Councilman Camellia Acres our children are the numerous seedlings we grow (and a few kittens).

Our plants here produce 12-1500 seeds a year. These we plant in beds out under the avocado trees. The beds are about 3' x 6', 8 inches deep, and filled with regular potting mixture.

The seeds are planted in rows about an inch deep and quite close together. They are left in these beds about a year and then taken out, their tap roots snipped off, and they are put into gallon cans.

Each year, after the buds are well set, we go through the group and segregate the budded plants. Waiting for seedlings to bloom is a never ending source of fascination and each morning the first thing I do is to go out and look at the budded seedlings.

Start for the Day

This either starts the day with the thrill of finding a seedling unusual enough to hold over to bloom another year or it starts it with some good healthy seedling understock to graft on to later. Not all seedlings are held for their flower alone. I am almost as interested in unusual foliage and growth habits as I am in the blossom.

For instance I have two seedlings that were put in hanging baskets long before they ever budded solely for their weeping tendencies of growth, and they are lovely plants for this purpose. They have both bloomed two seasons now and they are both formal; one red similar to *Pope Pius* in flower, I call it "*Bashful Pat*" for my father; and the other is a large clear pink I call "*Weeping Anna*" for my mother.

Another type of seedling that interests me is the type with foliage looking as though it might be a hybrid. I have about a dozen of these but none has bloomed to date.

I am also interested in two seed-

lings with fish tail (*Kingyo-Tsubaki*) foliage and another with an unusual shade of green foliage. None of these have bloomed so far.

Space Is Problem

The hardest part of raising seedlings, in my mind, is the fact that you cannot hold the majority of them due to the problem of space and the fact that in one life time you can introduce only a limited number of new varieties. This forces you to smile and cut off hundreds of seedlings for grafting understock that you perhaps would keep if things were different.

All seedlings are bloomed at least three years, and oft' times many more, before they can be registered as a new variety. This is to establish dependability in performance.

We, at this time, have seven registered seedlings and I have two more that will be registered this season. I would say we have about 50 under observation that have bloomed at least one year. Of these, two are on the market at this time (one a sport), and another seven are being propagated in preparation for the future. I will now give you a description of the ones to come beginning with the two varieties which are available.

1. *Undaunted* (California)

Classification: Full peony form

Color: Reticulata (*Capt. Rawes*) shade of red.

Size: Large

Growth Habits: Late

Blooming Season: Late

Remarks: An unusually nice peony shaped flower of good color and texture. This variety make an extremely handsome bush with its deep green foliage and large leaves. This seedling has not been marketed under any other name. I originally

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THE SHOCKING TRUTH ABOUT CAMELLIAS

By SAM KELLER

To find out just what happens when a camellia is subjected to extreme conditions that could be classified as "shock" I planted two identical lots of liners—one-year-old rooted cuttings—and went to work.

One group—let's call it Group A—got the usual nursery treatment, and with the usual result.

The second group, which we shall call Group B, got identical treatment in every way until advent of the budding season. Then came the test.

To "shock" the constitution of my little plants I withheld all water from Group B (this was during the period when the plants normally would be setting buds) until the plants were on the verge of wilting.

Then I resumed watering the plants, and sat back to observe results.

Results Startling

They were startling.

It was on May 18, 1952, that I planted my rooted seedlings to begin my experiment. This Spring the plants in Group A that had been watered religiously bore no buds whatever, as had been anticipated. However Group B—which had been tried out almost to the point of killing them—were loaded with buds, and were bigger, greener, and healthier than their pampered parallels in the next plot.

Why?

It is my theory that plants about to die naturally react by speeding up the processes through which they perpetuate themselves, i.e., by starting to form seeds that will live after them.

This tricky mechanism is nature's way of making certain that unusual natural phenomenon will not wipe out plant life in an area.

Saw Demonstration

I saw this theory demonstrated on an avocado tree, and since have put

it to practice many times. A government agent advised me that I could cause my 13-year-old avocado tree to bear by the simple expedient of girdling the tree. Yes, I said girdling. Or, more precisely, by cutting away a ring of bark about $\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide around the tree.

Girdling should kill the tree. But it doesn't. And the "shocked" tree usually will go to work immediately to produce fruit, and, incidentally, seeds, so that if it is to die it can leave behind the assurances of a new crop.

Incidentally, I am continuing my experiments with Krilium, the Monsanto Chemical Co.'s soil conditioner. And I am prepared to state flatly that Krilium definitely is not toxic, and does not adversely affect camellias.

Used Problem Soils

For my Krilium tests I chose 17 problem soils—the toughest adobes that I could find. One of them, known as City Terrace adobe, was as tough as linoleum glue, and about the same consistency. A cup formed of this adobe would hold water for a week with absolutely no drainage.

And as we all know, poor drainage spells certain death to camellias. They can't survive "wet feet."

I took my adobe soils and to them added one ounce of Krilium for each 125 pounds—just half the amount recommended by Monsanto. However, I then assured good distribution of the conditioner by mixing it in a cement mixer.

What happened? The treated adobe drains easily. In fact the soil remains so loose that it will fall away from the roots to a large extent when plants are removed from the can.

I heartily recommend Krilium for

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OUR CHILDREN *from page 8*

registered it under the name of "*Rusty*" but I changed the name and registration before it was introduced on the market.

2. *Queen of the Acres* (California)
Classification: Rose Form
Color: Var., white with rose and blush pink
Size: Medium
Growth habits: Upright, compact.
Blooming season: Early to mid-season.

Remarks: This variety is a sport of *Rose Queen*. It likes a north exposure, buds up well and has a nice flower and foliage.

3. *Nan Crowell* (California)
Classification: Rose form showing a few petaloids when fully open.
Color: Chrome pink
Size: Medium large
Growth habits: Bushy
Blooming season: Mid season to late

Remarks: This variety, named for my mother, is an unusual and lovely shade of pink. It is a very nice bush and shows a willingness to be propagated.

4. *Dr. Ralph Gladen* (California)
Classification: Tiered formal double
Color: Var., white streaked with crimson
Size: Medium large
Growth habits: Bush, spreading
Blooming season: Mid-season

Remarks: This variety has the growth habits of *Elegans*. The white tiered flower with its crimson streaks is lovely. This variety likes an east exposure or a little more sun than some camellias to set its buds.

5. *Dragon Lady* (California)
Classification: Semi-double to loose peony
Color: Pink
Size: Large
Growth habits: Bushy, spreading
Blooming season: Mid-season to late

Remarks: This variety has a very oriental looking flower with twisted outer petals. It frequently has a center intermingled with stamens and petaloids which are white with pink edges. The foliage and bush are nice. It also has growth habits similar to *Elegans*.

6. *Miss Betty* (California)
Classification: Semi-double
Color: Var., white with crimson and blush streaks
Size: Large
Growth habits: Spreading, bushy
Blooming season: Mid-season

Remarks: This variety is noticeable for its dark green, holly like foliage. The original seedling, about nine years old, has had solid white, crimson, and blush pink sports on it. It propagated nicely and is a handsome bush. The flush pink sport of *Miss Betty* took third ribbon in the 1952 Temple City Camellia Show.

7. *Angel* (California)
Classification: Semi-double
Color: White
Size: Large
Growth habits: Compact, upright
Blooming season: Mid-season

Remarks: This variety is a large fluted white with petal ears up through the center of the flower with its yellow stamens. The foliage rather looks like it could be a *Lotus* seedling but is a hardy prolific plant. *Angel* took second in seedling in the 1953 Temple City Camellia Show.

8. *Heavenly* (California)
Classification: Peony to rose form double
Color: Cream white
Size: Large
Remarks: This variety is unusual in the rich color and heavy texture of its flower. It is a large and lovely camellia supported by a handsome bush. *Heavenly* took second ribbon in the 1951 Temple City Camellia Show.

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IN QUEST *from page 6*

gura which is also fragrant and see if I could not increase the fragrance."

So it was that my hobby of producing camellia crosses started.

For my purposes it has not been necessary to store pollen. There have always been desirable pollen parents in bloom when they were needed and the pollen was applied directly from the stamen using a forceps for the purpose. Later when the bees start to harvest the pollen to feed their young it disappears as if by magic. Then it is necessary to keep a few flowers covered with net.

Indication Noted

Having missed a few flowers at the proper time for emasculation I allowed them to self-pollinate. All of these failed to set, indicating that the *ova* is more receptive to pollen from other varieties. This also seems to be borne out by the large number of apparent crosses among seeds from

open pollinated flowers. When an average of better than a 60 per cent set in manually pollinated singles is weighed against open pollination, there seems little doubt.

Our society's book, *Camellia Research*, has been a great help to me, incidentally. I recommend it heartily to anyone wishing to increase his technical knowledge of camellias.

I like to plant my seedlings in containers large enough so that one watering will last a week during warm weather. Cans are better than clay pots as the water does not evaporate so fast and consequently leaves less saline residue.

Drainage No Problem

There is no need for a lot of coarse drainage material in the bottom of the can. If drainage is poor, a rod thrust through one of the drainage holes across the bottom of the planting medium is sufficient. Screened

(Continued on Page 15)

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SHOCKING TRUTH from page 9

adobe soils where it is otherwise impossible to raise camellias.

Test for Drainage

But by the same token, I can see no advantage to using Krilium where drainage is adequate. To test your own soil, simply dig a hole and fill it with water. If the water stands, you need Krilium. If it drains away, then you do not need a soil conditioner.

And here's an idea that might merit consideration by those of you who are tempted to try the picric acid treatment.

It is my opinion that spraying picric acid on the underside of plant leaves serves to close pores on the leaves which ordinarily admit nitrogen. By cutting off the nitrogen supply you, in effect, "shock" your plant.

I firmly believe that depriving your plant of water, as I described earlier in my article, will accomplish exactly the same end.

Let me know how you make out, will you?

OUR CHILDREN from page 10

9. Red April (California)

Classification: Semi-double

Color: Deep red

Size: Large

Blooming season: Late

Remarks: This variety, which is my husband's prize seedling, is one of the loveliest foliage plants I have ever seen. Large, dark green leaves and an extremely hardy plant. The flower is large with a lovely deep red color and bright yellow stamens. A truly handsome camellia in every respect.

This describes for you our nine outstanding seedlings — or rather eight seedlings and one sport — up to this time. They are all being propagated and will be introduced on the market in the near, but not immediate future.

To The Ladies!

By CHARLOTTE M. HOAK

The years have been long since I first gazed in rapture on my first camellia. My mother had a cherished Japonica—the perennially chaste and perfectly patterned *Alba Plena*.

Before she came as a bride to the "Land of Living Giants" she had visited the greenhouse displays in Boston and had sent her first choice to the husband who was coming to bring her to the new western home he had prepared for her. He even required to the background his other camellias such as *Pink Perfection* and *Purity*. They were not his bride's choice.

To please brides today we still select the white flowers. There are many exquisite ones to choose from, and after careful study I have selected two which seem certain to please.

There is Julius Nuccio's *Primavera*, a formal to please even the vid-Victorial taste.

Picks Award Winner

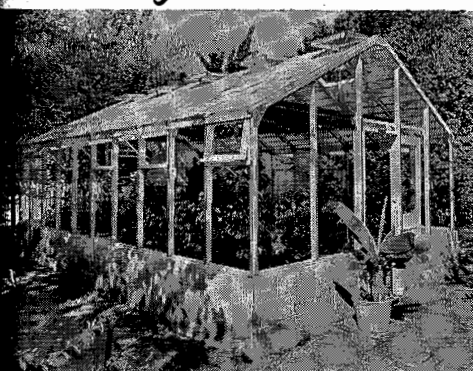
And everyone has seen my second choice—Harvey Short's *Bride's Bouquet* which recently won the third annual Margarete Hertrich Award as the best new seedling of the year to be developed on the west coast.

It is a departure from the formal type. Its superb pure white flowers are semi-double with notched petals most gracefully arranged to display at the heart the light stamens tipped with pure gold. What modern bride would not be charmed to carry in her bridal bouquet Harvey Short's new camellia?

But to return to old *Alba Plena*. In that garden of yesterday it was carefully planted in a huge rain barrel sawed in half and most carefully filled with a soil mixture that would please the most fastidious camellia.

(Continued on Page 14)

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TO THE LADIES *from page 13*

Formula Recalled

In those days before PHs puzzled gardeners and Holland peat was unknown, a most reliable mixture was compounded of Redwood leaf mold, garden loam, sharp river sand, well rotted cow manure, and a little charcoal.

I still use that same recipe, with a few changes. Over and over again I have seen my father make the mixture, his favorite one for potted plants.

And as to the other half of the sawed rain barrel—in the same soil mixture a *Stephanotis Floribunda* grew and thrived for many years with its fragrant white blossoms as my mother's favorite for many years.

Old Book Cherished

Today I have taken out an old, old book which I have cherished for years. It is Paxton's Magazine of Botany dedicated to the Duchess of Southerland in 1835. It contains a

number of color plates such as *C. mellia japonica Fordii*, *c. japonica Chandlerii*, and *c. japonica Cunninghamii*.

Of the first the author said, "It is undoubtedly one of the most perfectly formed camellias that have hitherto been produced. Nothing can surpass the regularity and symmetry of its petals, and the exquisite tint of its delicate rose-colour flowers. The foliage is remarkably fine and the style of growth good. It is highly pleasing to find our native varieties rivaling any of those imported from China."

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IN QUEST *from page 11*

soil mixed with a third as much peat moss is excellent for planting. There is no need of coarse particles or stones to use up the space in the container.

Plants need enough room to spread their roots or they will spiral around in the container. When transplanting plants which have outgrown their containers it is often wise to wash the soil out of the roots and untangle them and spread them out as much as possible, using plenty of peat moss to pack around them. Then keep them fairly wet for a week or two until the roots are reestablished. Coiled roots choking the main stem and each other often are the cause of poor growth and even mortality of the plant.

A quart-size can should be the minimum for starting camellia seedlings and a 46-ounce size is better. Discarded orchard heater bowls make excellent containers for large plants.

Diluted liquid fertilizer may be fed into the irrigating water through a siphon jet. One quart of liquid acid plant food is sufficient for about 100 plants, gallon size, for a year.

Experience with these first seedlings has certainly been heartening. Even if this one chance in 2000 has come to me and my luck has run out, still I feel that my continued efforts will be self-rewarding in the interest and joy that I find in working with the beautiful camellia.

They are both Cup Winners!

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JAPANESE-AMERICAN from page 7

a few years ago, there was a famous geyser supplying very hot water for general use. One of the periodic earthquakes, however, apparently broke up the underground stream because the geyser no longer comes to the surface. In all of the hotels, however, hot water is brought in from shallow wells so that Atami has a great reputation as a health resort, in addition to being a favorite summer holiday spot.

That evening when we made a short inspection trip from our hotel to find out about local camellias, we were astonished to find comparatively few plants and no large camellia trees. We were particularly disappointed because the varieties which were budded or in blossom were of no importance and would certainly have been useful only for understock in California.

Talked Over Problem

The manager of the hotel, Mr. Shiro Matsuzaki, spoke excellent English, and we discussed our problem with him. Finally, to make my point that a place as famous as Atami should have wonderful camellias everywhere, I offered to send a plant from Los Angeles so the Japanese could see what camellias should look like.

Eventually I carried out my promise and the hotel manager planted a *Gigantea* in the garden of the hotel after making the event a sort of local holiday. He had the mayor of the city to officiate, and gathered together quite a crowd in order to make an impressive photograph. The story of the camellia sent from the USA was printed locally and finally reached the leading Japanese newspapers published in Tokyo. My friend built up this event as a Japanese-American goodwill gesture—and eventually this brought more tourists.

In 1951 the *Gigantea* blossomed

for the first time. Again, the local dignitaries were assembled, photographs were taken and articles appeared in the newspapers.

In 1952, anticipating the blooming date, Mr. Matsuzaki arranged for the presence at the hotel of the Poet Laureate of Japan, an elderly gentleman whose principal business was the teaching of poetry to the Imperial Family. This famous man viewed the now famous camellia plant and wrote a special poem. Pictures of this famous man dressed in full ceremonial robes and standing beside the *Gigantea* must have made a great impression. The ode to the camellia was printed in many newspapers.

About this time, Mr. Matsuzaki was forced to retire as manager of the hotel—he had reached the age limit. He could not, however, face the idea of becoming inactive. He decided, therefore, to erect a sort of motel for the use of foreign tourists high up on the mountain and on the road from Fuji.

Flower Moved Too

Of course, he took along his internationally famous *Gigantea*.

He was able to persuade the local authorities to give him a plot of ground adjoining his own project. This was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies as the Japanese-American Goodwill Camellia Garden. It started off with the *Gigantea* and about fifteen additional small camellia trees donated by the famous Japanese nurseryman, K. Wada.

This enterprise, it seemed to me, had been built up in rather remarkable fashion, and I decided to send additional plants. Accordingly, toward the end of January I sent by our express the following varieties: *Joshua Youtz*, *C. M. Wilson*, and *Elizabeth LeBey*.

Mr. Matsuzaki had, in the meantime, opened a new restaurant in

Tokyo and divided his time between the motel at Atami and the "RESTAURANT PARIS" in the Japanese capital. His letter, written from Tokyo on March 3rd as an acknowledgment of my recent gift, reads as follows:

Thanks Expressed

Your letter of January 28th, advising the shipment of three plants by air mail was received and I was bursting with emotion. I really do not know how to say, but my words are too weak to express my appreciation for your kind deed.

Regarding the plants, why at around eleven o'clock of Feb. 26th there was a telephone message from Japan Travel Bureau telling me the arrival of plants from California, so I rushed to the Bureau and no sooner I got a box containing three plants than I hasten back to Atami and had planted them carefully in my garden according to your planting instructions.

I purposely held this letter until today, so that I can watch the condition of camellias after planting and very glad to say that they all look excellent.

I have related the Mayor of Atami regarding your repeated kindness and when he gave an attractive article in the local new paper emphasizing the facts.

In order to mark this memorable occasion in our hearts, I have specially ordered some article which will be forwarded to you by boat through the Post Office here. The container is the WOOD CARVING FISH called "TAI," the king of fish in Japan and also the ceremonial fish used for wedding dinners and other happy occasions.

I am presenting this small thing to you as a reminder of Japan, especially ATAMI SPA, the land of California camellias. Hoping the same will reach you in good order and receive the admiration of both, you

SAN DIEGO WINNERS NAMED

Awards presented at the recent San Diego Camellia Show were as follows:

The Southern California Camellia Society's Gold Certificate went to Dr. Reuben Tellam of Ramona; SCCS Silver Certificate to Mrs. Althea Hebert, La Mesa; most outstanding flower award to Dr. Tellam for his *Shiratoma* which was also the best amateur flower.

The best commercial flower was *Anne Miller*, exhibited by Bradford's Nursery, San Diego; best seedling was *Frosty Morn*, entered by Harvey Short of Pasadena; second best seedling, unnamed, was entered by Stanley and Alice Miller of El Cajon; third best seedling, *Sundial*, came from Harvey Short.

Ted Kohl of Coronado won the C. Scott Campbell Memorial Trophy for the best graft, and Captain F. E. Vensel of La Mesa entered the best plant in flower.

Dr. Tellam received the American Camellia Society's gold certificate; Mrs. Hebert the ACS Silver Certificate; and Harvey Short's *Frosty Morn* took the ACS Highly Commended certificate.

and Mrs. Peer, although this may not cover at all for what you have done in my behalf.

With warmest kind regards,

Yours most sincerely,

Shiro Matsuzaki

We are now rather impatiently awaiting the receipt of "Tai" and will add it to our rapidly growing collection of foreign camelliana.

"The nicest thing about camellias is the people you meet."

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LET'S BUILD *from page 5*

holes in them as long as they are fairly straight. The 1x4s should be fairly straight with only small knots, if any.

The amount of lath depends on just how close together you mean to place them.

I have found by trial and error that the best method in this location is to space them the width of one lath apart. Closer than that does not give enough bud set, and farther apart tends to burn the leaves a bit.

To figure the number of lath needed, take the width of a lath, which is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches, plus the space desired (I used $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches). Divide this total into 12, the number of inches in a foot, and you will have the number of lath per lineal foot.

It took approximately 900 lath for my complete house. I used four lath

to the running foot, and lath being four feet long, four lath and four spaces would cover four square feet of area. Additional material will be needed to make a door or gate, but this will depend on your choice of opening.

Stain Recommended

After you have the materials assembled, it is time to paint or stain.

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TODAY



FOR DETAILS SEE

EDITOR'S CORNER PAGE 2

California Redwood Plant Tubs

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have found stain to be the best protective covering. A good oil stain will penetrate into the pores of the wood better than paint, and needs only one application. The simplest method is to get a trough such as is used to feed chickens, or a section of storm gutter, long enough to accept a lath, and pour the stain into it. Immerse each lath into this stain, then set upright into some sort of tall metal can to drain. Use a brush and stain all other wood to be used in the lath house. It is much simpler and easier to stain before construction than after.

Next set out your piers in their approximate positions. Here it would be a good plan, for measurements only, to cut two short sections of 4x4 and drill a hole in the center of each at the end. Then slip these over the ends of the corner piers. Next set the piers so that the four by fours measure twenty-four feet, two inches

from outside edge to outside edge, on the long side of the lath house, and twelve feet, two inches on the short side. The extra two inches are to allow the top sections to set in without binding.

Check Levels

Pick out a straight piece of one by four, and set it on edge on top of the piers. With a spirit level, starting from one corner, set the piers so that they are all on the same level. Make sure that all posts are cut exactly eight feet long, and that the ribbons and risers are all exactly twelve feet two inches long. On the long sides where the dimensions are twenty-four feet two inches, the ribbons should be only twelve feet one inch since two are used to make up the length.

In figure #1 you will find the pieces called ribbons are marked "C". The risers are marked "D". These

(Continued on Page 20)

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LET'S BUILD *from page 19*

are 1x4s. The letter "B" designates the 4x4 posts, and "G" the lath. The foundation piers are "A", and the sway braces used to stiffen the framework are marked "E". This brace is of the type used on commercial lath houses. The diagonal brace "H" is put in for greater rigidity and strength, and is not found in commercial lath houses. This is the only addition I have made to the conventional methods of building.

Directions Important

It should be remembered that the top lath must be set to run north and south. Then, as the sun travels from east to west, the alternate bands of sun and shadow move across the plants. If the lath ran in the opposite directions, the bands would remain in one position all day, and the results are quite obvious.

In placing your top lath north and south, you must therefor have your north and south dimensions in multiples of four, this being the length of a lath. East and west dimensions will determine the length of your lath sections. All top lath is made up in sections so they may be easily handled and removed for repairs if necessary. These are wired to the risers to keep the wind from removing them without your permission.

Your next move is to start construction of the walls.

Take three posts, and lay them out so that the holes in each post lie next to the piers.

Ribbons Nailed

Nail your ribbons on top and bottom of the posts and place the center ribbon equidistant from both. Nail your lath on so that they butt together on the center ribbon. It is my experience that two nails in each end of each lath is better than one.

If the lath is nailed on both edges instead of the center, they are not apt to curl and twist with the weather. After all lath is in place, get someone to help, and lift the section up and set it in place on the piers. Put temporary bracing on this, and do the same with the other side. It is best to plan the opening you mean to have before you construct the sides. After both long walls are up, you can tie them together with your end ribbon and add the risers. After all lath is in place use your level to straighten the corners and set your sway brace.

Each of my top lath sections is 4x12 feet long. The length of a lath is by half the length of the lath house. As the lath are four feet long, it took three lengths of lath to cover the twelve foot span. This means three sections per side, making six sections in all.

Overhang Allowed

The method of construction for these top sections is to take two twelve foot 1x4s and place them twelve feet apart (letter Z, figure 2). Nail the lath across them, allowing a foot overhang on either side. In my own lath house, I placed a two-foot section of 1x4s between these stringers at either end, thus making an open frame. It keeps the stringers from twisting, or sagging, and makes them easier to handle when nailing the lath on. After these are finished, place them on top of the risers, as shown in figure 2, step back, and admire your handywork.

If this description has not been clear to you, and you feel you would like to ask some questions, I will be glad to help. You can reach me at 8912 East Elm Ave. in Temple City or by 'phone at Atlantic 6-1981. I will be happy to show you my lath house, or to help you in any way you can.

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