

THE

Camellia Review



MELODY LANE

Official Bulletin of the Southern California Camellia Society

Vol. 14

NOVEMBER, 1952

No. 2

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All manuscript for publication should be sent direct to the Editor.

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The Society holds open meetings on the Second Thursday of every month, No-
vember to April, inclusive, at the auditorium of the new library of the Pasadena
City College, 1500 Block East Colorado Street. A cut camellia blossom exhibit
is always held at 7:30 p.m., with the program starting at 8:00.

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

DIRECTORY OF AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

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Meeting place: Elementary School Auditorium, Fresno State College	
Secretary: Frances F. Lennox, 4622 Wilson Ave., Fresno 4	
Date of Meeting: 3rd Friday of the month	
Camellia Society of Kern County	Bakersfield, Calif.
Meeting Place: Fiesta Room, El Adobe Motel, Union Ave.	
Secretary: Mrs. Tracy Harkness, 1101 Pershing Drive, Bakersfield	
Date of meeting: 2nd Monday of the month, Oct. thru May	
San Diego Camellia Society	San Diego, Calif.
Meeting Place: Floral Association Building, Balboa Park	
Secretary: Mrs. Donald V. (Mary) Scofield, 2621 32nd St., San Diego 4	
Date of meeting: 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m.	
Pomona Valley Camellia Society	Pomona, Calif.
Meeting Place: Ebell Club, Pomona	
Secretary: J. M. Hartke, 874 Paige Drive, Pomona	
Date of meeting: 1st Thursday of each month	
Temple City Camellia Society	Temple City, Calif.
Meeting Place: American Legion Hall, 127 N. Golden West, Temple City	
Secretary: June Manson Schroth, 432 N. Alabama St., San Gabriel	
Date of meeting: 1st Monday of each month	
Camellia Society of Orange County	Santa Ana, Calif.
Meeting Place: Girl Scout Headquarters, 1004 West 8th St., 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

First, our sincere apologies to Mrs. Mary Watt of the famed Armstrong Nurseries in Ontario. She worked hard to line up color plates of that gorgeous Nagasaki which appeared on our October cover—and got nary a line of recognition or thanks in the Review.

* * *

A garden we want to see is described in a note from Sterling S. Tompkins of the River Road Nursery, Fallbrook, California: "We have a small retail nursery in Fallbrook dealing in general merchandise. But we grow our camellias at our home which is three miles from Fallbrook on the Santa Margarita River.

"We are located in a canyon that is blessed with hundreds of large sycamores and oaks. We have some lath, but grow most of the camellias under the trees. We have 11 acres of land but use only a small portion of it for growing purposes because of the steep hillsides . . ."

* * *

We like the definition of a hobby, as credited to Gordon Hendrickson of the University of Cincinnati: A successful hobby involves a tangible

OUR COVER

The Camellia Review is indebted to Mr. Sterling S. Tompkins, River Road Nursery, Fallbrook, California, for the photo of Melody Lane which appears on our cover.

The color photo of the *Nagasaki* on the October cover was provided through courtesy of Mrs. Mary Watt, Armstrong Nurseries, Ontario, California.

product that can be ad others; it fits the hobbyist's circumstances; it should have of devotees among whom found social contacts, respect and acceptance. It should have the skill, but not be so difficult to prevent some success; it should neither and not interfere with life; it should not interfere with vacation; it should be the servant, not his master; it should have possibilities for growth and continued interests throughout.

And speaking of camellias

I am convinced that raising camellias is a good way to keep growing old.

In fact I don't think I have had a chance of growing old since I got shed of Jenny Jones, who was a camellia.

Take last Sunday for instance. A perfectly normal Sunday afternoon until Jenny got into the act.

TV SHOW UNIQUE

The kiddies were out in the yard about to set fire to a pile of brush they had drenched with gasoline.

Louella—that's my wife—was watching the television screen. A citizen with a vacuum cleaner was showing a Sunday School class how to pick up steel ball bearings without the vacuum—presumably for use in case an unfortunate student one day find himself going down the lower regions in a roller coaster and have a wheel come off.

The old man—that's me—was in the kitchen with a razor cutting a deck of cards, getting ready to play one of those friendly, casual, little neighborhood poker games.

Then it happened.

First there is a scream. I have not heard since Texas came in at Santa Anita \$115.

I dash to the front door

(Continued on Page .

ABOUT THE NEW SOIL CONDITIONERS

By SAM KELLER

San Gabriel, California

Seldom has a new "miracle" chemical discovery created a bigger stir than has the advent of the soil conditioners.

These soil conditioners are supposed to do synthetically what rich humus does naturally, which is to make the earth more crumbly, more water-absorbent, allowing more water and more nutrition to reach the roots.

Soil-conditioner chemicals come in either powder or liquid form, and range in price from around \$10 a gallon for the liquid form to \$1.30 to \$5 a pound for the powder.

The cost of treating 100 square feet of soil varies, according to the makers of the various products whose claims range from 66 cents to \$7.90.

OTHER TESTS REPORTED

Tests in other fields, we are told, produced flowering begonia plants that grew three times as big in conditioned soil as in non-conditioned soil. Yields of carrots went up 20 per cent; potatoes up to 15 per cent.

The first soil conditioner to be marketed was Krilium, a product of the Monsanto Chemical Co. of St. Louis. And we chose Krilium to make our tests on camellias.

While it is yet far too early to finalize results of our findings, we have been impressed with the results we obtained.

17 SAMPLES USED

For our tests we used 17 different samples of problem soils, seven of them clay and the balance adobe types.

We used one ounce of Krilium to 25 pounds of soil, which was enough to test 25 one-gallon plantings.

In all, 442 camellia plants were involved in our tests, part of them *Rosita Purity* and the remainder *Pink Perfection*. The *Rosita Purity* was chosen for our purposes because it is particularly susceptible to damage from over-watering.

Identical plants, side by side, different only in that one grew in Krilium-treated soil while the other grew in untreated soil, were watered twice daily, morning and evening.

The untreated plants reacted as had been expected. All died.

TREATED PLANTS SURVIVED

But of the camellias in the Krilium-treated soil, we lost not one. Three major camellia growers examined the results and declared that all plants which survived (the treated plants) made very satisfactory growth.

One variety that was planted in a soil which we believe to have been taken from the bottom of a very deep excavation showed a very strong peculiarity in that the plants set an abnormally large number of bloom buds in spite of the fact they showed the normal vegetative growth.

One member raised the question that Krilium might possibly have a toxic affect on the plants. To find out, we obtained one-gallon glass jars, cut out the bottoms, and placed the jars in an upside down position in racks so that we could save the water that normally would drain through the soil by catching it in jars.

This water was reused to irrigate the plant so that if any poison resulted from use of the Krilium it would not be leached away into the soil.

We found absolutely no evidence of any toxic affect of the Krilium.

Camellia MAIL BAG

He Was Irked

To answer some of your questions, we enjoy both technical and human-interest stories.

Billie McCaskill's story about sasanquas was beautifully written and should induce every camellia lover to include sasanquas in his collection.

"Investigating Camellia Species," "Add to Your Collection," "How to Live Longer," "Plan Winter Grafts Now," and "The Camellia Japonica" are all well written and interesting.

Only one article in the entire issue irked me, and that one was "A Ribbon-hungry Amateur." Before I go any further I wish to add it was not because the "shoe hurts." I do not believe that articles of this sort tend to promote good relationships among camellia society members.

A "Question and Answer" column would be interesting to many amateur and novice camellia growers. I believe most of us started with one camellia and were ignorant of the characteristics of this most interesting plant. We are eager to learn ways and means of improving the growth and quality of the plant and its blossoms.

You answered a number of questions in the minds of new members in the October issue, and I hope that other issues will be as interesting.

"News and Views of the Camellia World" might prove to be an interesting column constructed from comments of your readers and from facts you discover "here and there."

—J. O. HENRY

Ramona, California

Likes Non-technical Articles

The articles I like best in the Camellia Review are non-technical, telling someone's experience growing various species and varieties under

various conditions, particularly under unusual conditions.

Like so many people, I want to use camellias in landscaping our yard—not in a lath house like a nursery—and I want to know which ones can take the most sun, wind, rain, etc. If they are ailing or doing especially well, I like to know why.

Part of our "camellia garden" gets full sun a large part of the day and we tried for over a year to get other plants for the situation that would look well with the camellias. Then I read about Tanyas and that they would take full sun. Not finding them in any nursery in this part of California we drove to Pasadena (60 miles round trip) for them, and were happy to do it to get the right plant.

This year our plants have healthy foliage but few buds. And we wonder if it is something we did or did not do, or if it is a condition that is prevalent over the country. Last year when our plants were late blooming it was comforting to find they were blooming late everywhere.

These are things I like to read about. Of course the articles about new camellias, propagating, etc., are interesting too.

—MRS. OTTO SCHWILL

Stockton, California

Jenny Needs a Mate

My husband and I enjoyed your column. He said to tell you to come over and we will give you a mate for Jenny. That probably is what is wrong with her—she's lonely.

I think a "letters to the editor" column a fine idea (Editor's note: Still think so?). I will write an article for the Review on reticulatas and sun tolerance soon. Meanwhile I am busy on my second book, "The History and Culture of the Camellia," which I hope to have finished by 1961 maybe.

—ELIZABETH COUNCILMAN

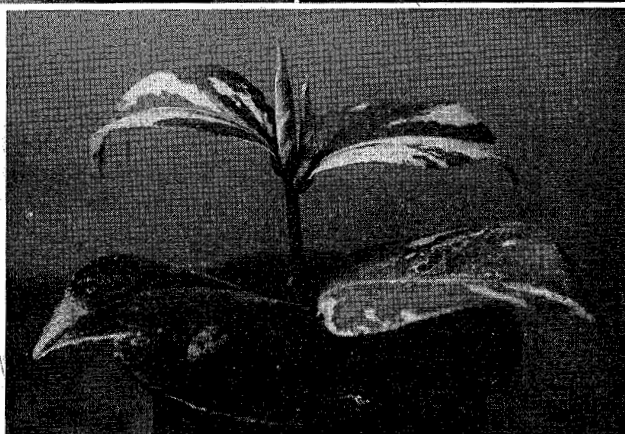
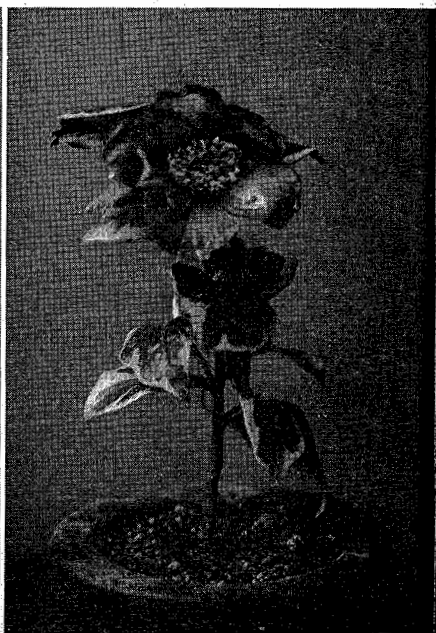
El Monte, California

RULES AND REGULATIONS

MARGARETE HERTRICH AWARD

As Amended September 1952

- I. As a condition for receiving the Margarete Hertrich Award, the cut of the seedling must be entered in competition for the Margarete Hertrich Award at a regular meeting or show sponsored by the Southern California Camellia Society or at any other show where judges authorized by the Hertrich Awards Committee are functioning as judges for that committee and are using the approved classification and scale of points. The award winner must receive the highest number of points of all flowers entered in competition during the flowering season. No flower will be considered for the Margarete Hertrich Award unless it receives a minimum of 10 points and qualifies according to the Rules and Regulations herein set forth.
- II. The scoring of the judges on entries for the Margarete Hertrich Award shall be final, and the Hertrich Award Committee shall be bound thereby, subject, however, to all other of these rules and conditions.
- III. It is necessary that an application for registration of a seedling entering competition for the Margarete Hertrich Award shall have been made with the Registration Committee of the Southern California Camellia Society prior to the time when the same shall have been entered in a meeting or show.
- IV. No seedling shall be eligible for entry in any meeting or show in competition for the Margarete Hertrich Award nor shall that award be granted to such seedling if such seedling has been available commercially prior to entry in competition for said award, nor shall such seedling be eligible unless the same shall have performed satisfactorily for a period of three years immediately preceding such entry in competition for the Margarete Hertrich Award.
- V. No mutation may compete for the Margarete Hertrich Award.
- VI. Any seedling which shall have received the Margarete Hertrich Award shall thereafter be ineligible to compete for that award.
- VII. The Hertrich Awards Committee may require as a condition to the granting of the Margarete Hertrich Award that such seedlings be made available to the public within two years.
- VIII. A seedling can only be entered for competition for the Margarete Hertrich Award once in a flowering season.
- IX. The award will be evidenced by a plaque suitably engraved, bearing the name of the winner of the award and presented to such winner, or, in appropriate cases, to his heirs or assigns.
- X. All flowers entered in competition for the Margarete Hertrich Award shall be judged according to a classification and scale of points approved by the Hertrich Awards Committee.
- XI. All rules and conditions herein contained, provided, and imposed, shall be subject to revision from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Southern California Camellia Society.



JAPANESE GROWERS FAVOR FANCY VARIEGATED LEAF

FANCY variegated leaves are treasured by some Japanese collectors according to Mr. Eikichi Satomi of Tokyo, Japan, who sent these photos to our own Ralph Peer. Upper left, *C. sinensis*, Koshi-no-yuki; upper right, *C. japonica*, Fuji-no-yuki; below, *C. japonica*, Mine-no-yuki. The mottled leaves in these species will persist even where plants are reproduced from cuttings or by grafting. Peculiar characteristics are permanent, and not subject to any appreciable change.

VARIEGATED LEAF CAMELLIAS

By RALPH PEER

A few weeks ago, the Society received a letter from Mr. Eikichi Satomi, whose address is 2-468-Adoroki, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo, Japan, asking for information about the review. With his letter, he sent to me three photographs of camellias having permanently variegated leaves (not afflicted with virus) and advised that "some Japanese collectors are more interested in fancy leaves than in the blossoms."

I asked for further information, and have now received the following chart from Mr. Satomi:

THE CURIOUS LEAVED VARIETIES OF CAMELLIAS IN JAPAN

1—Curious shaped varieties:

Sakazuki-ba: Surface of leaves is cupped like a saucer. Flower: small, single, Chinese pink.

Kingyo-tsubaki (meaning "gold-fish camellia"): Leaves look like gold-fish. Flower: small, single, pink.

Nohogiri-ba tsubaki (meaning "saw-tooth leaved camellia"): Teeth deeper than the usual types.

2—Variegated leaf varieties:

Fuiri - kingyo - tsubaki (meaning "variegated gold - fish camellia"): Flower: pink, single, small.

Benton-tsubaki (Benten is the name of The Buddhist Goddess of Fortune, and the title could be translated as "angel camellia"): Leaves: yellowish marked. Flower: single, small, red.

Ki-fukurin Benton (meaning "gold-edged angel"): Leaves: golden edged. Flower: single, small, red.

Fuiri-otome (meaning "variegated girl"): Japanese variety "Otome" very popular in this country, and is the "Otome" with variegated leaves. Flower: double, medium, pink.

Kyo-un, or *Kyo-no-kumo* (meaning "cloud in town"): Leaves: white marked. Flower: red, single, small.

Fuiri-Kumasaka (meaning "varie-

gated kumasaka," kumasaka being one of the family names in Japan): Flower: pink, peony-flowered, large.

Ki-fukurin-rasen: Flower: deep pink with white spots, double, large. Leaves: Yellow edged.

Ki-fukurin Benikarako: Flower: deep pink, anemone form, small. Leaves: yellow edged.

Kasen-sunago: Flower: pure pink with white spots, large.

Otafuku-Benten: Flower: pink and white, medium.

Fukurin-Ikkyu: Flower: white with pink marks, medium. Leaves: yellow edged.

Fuiri-Kankashibori: Flower: white with pink stripes, peony form, large.

Fuiri-Miden-jaku: Flower: pure pink with white stripes marked transversely, peony form, large.

Fuiri-Shiragiku: This is actually the variety known in the U.S.A. as "Purity," except for the variegated leaves.

Tohbusa: Flower: pink marked on white ground, peony form, large.

In another letter, there is mentioned a form of tea (*C. sinensis*). The name of this variety is *Koshi-No-Yuki*, which means "Snow of Koshi Province."

A variety of *C. sasanqua* usually called "sasanqua variegata" is so named because the leaves are mottled with white.

These camellia varieties are distinguished by the fact that, if reproduced from cuttings or by grafting, the original mottling of the leaves (or the curious shape) will persist. If the mottled leaves are in that condition because of virus, it is easily possible by making cuttings or grafting to eventually eliminate these marks. The camellias referred to here, however, have these peculiar characteristics permanently and they cannot be changed to any great extent.

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To The Ladies!

By EVELYN R. TELLAM

Evelyn R. Tellam is the camellia wife of Dr. Reuben Tellam, past president of the San Diego Camellia Society.

The Tellam camellia collection and their enormous lath house at Ramona, California, are greatly admired by all who have had the opportunity to see them.

I have been wondering whether it would be considered very, very hectic to confess that when the camellia season is over and the final cleaning-up for the summer has been done, that I breathe one big sigh of relief. There have been hectic show days, the rushing hither and yon to visit gardens and nurseries until I felt "a bit bushed."

We women can understand that glad, let-down feeling, practically the same as when a thorough job of house-cleaning has been done. I know that I should explain that I am not a grower, I just trail along with one. I know that there must be others just like me, and I feel that not one of us would like to do anything unethical camellia-speaking.

I must also confess that after that last leaf and flower have been picked up, I probably do not see the camellias for several days, and when I do

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UNDERSTOCK

Seedlings
Sarah Frost
3-5 years old

ANDRES SURINA

4808 KESTER AVE.
SHERMAN OAKS
ST. 4-3953

LET'S RATE THEM

By LUCIEN C. ATHERTON

San Diego, California

Southern California camellia enthusiasts, through their societies, are in a position to render a valuable service to the gardening public and to those who furnish the planting material, the nurserymen.

The average home-owner has no desire for a large collection of camellias, but he would like to have up to a dozen varieties of good performance. The waste of time, money, effort and space due to varieties of poor performance causes the public to be suspicious of the camellias as an acceptable garden shrub.

INFORMATION ESSENTIAL

Well established blooming camellias are now less expensive than many of the common run of garden shrubs, so price is not a major factor. Information concerning the basic cultural needs is always essential.

The camellia's adaptability as a container plant solves the problem of unsatisfactory soil condition. Performance is probably the chief obstacle in the acceptance of the camellia as a free flowering evergreen which deserves a place in general landscape gardening.

It is unfortunate that several of the more popular varieties also have the poorest performance records. Nurseries and growers will offer varieties in accordance to the public demand. Why not create a demand for the good ones?

The acceptance of the camellia as an ideal garden shrub for every home will provide a needed market for our friends in the nursery business. We amateurs are always happy to see our friends and neighbors infected with the virus of our favorite flower, the camellia.

SYSTEM PROPOSED

This problem could be partially solved if each society would make a simple rating of the performance of the more common varieties in their own vicinity. Performance varies in many locations, even within the given area of a society.

Four years ago the members of the San Diego Camellia Society were asked to name their choices for the twelve basic varieties of camellias which could be grown most successfully by beginners in the San Diego area. The whole-hearted cooperation by every member resulted in the following list: *Alba Plena*, *Daikagura Variegated*, *Chandleri Elegans Variegated*, *Debutante*, *Professor C. S. Sargent*, *Aspacia*, *Lallarook*, *Peonia-flora*, *Pope Pius IX*, *C. M. Hovey*, *Emperor of Russia*, and *Stardust*.

LIST OFFERS VARIETY

This list offers a wide range in form, color, growth habit, and blooming season. Every one is a good corsage flower as well as providing good garden color. The intervening four years have proven this list to be a good selection. Several others, especially newer varieties, could be added, but remember this is a beginners list so keep it brief with only the proven top performers.

The goal is to develop faith and satisfaction for the camellia as a garden shrub which fills a color void during the winter season; a satisfaction which may lead some into the collection stage, with its ever increasing confusion of nomenclature.

ADDITIONAL DATA OFFERED

The San Diego Society also provided additional information by rating the different varieties as to

(Continued on Page 19)

"TRANSPLANTING TECHNIQUES"

By DAVID L. FEATHERS

*Vice-President and Director, Northern California
Camellia Society, Inc.*

My story is the usual one of starting with one or two camellias, then outgrowing my garden and being forced to move.

It was along about 1942 that the evidence became overwhelming we would have to buy some acreage in order to accommodate my growing camellia collection. Consequently, from that moment on all camellia planting was done on a temporary basis so as to facilitate transplanting later when we built.

Every conceivable kind of inexpensive container was used, with no attempt at permanence. That proved to be my first mistake for, in many instances, the war outlasted the container. However, we finally moved everything in 1948, the collection comprising several hundred named varieties, a thousand or so seedlings from one to six years old, plants in wood and tin containers and dug from the ground—of all sizes up to large specimens requiring the services of transplanting specialists.

The difference in locale was pronounced—from absolutely flat to hilly ground, from a moist to a relatively dry climate. In the process one could not help learning something new about transplanting.

MOVED IN TRAILER

All of the camellias were moved by private automobile and open trailer. Transplanting was begun in October, 1948, and completed late in the following spring.

A rather unique method was employed with respect to plants dug from the ground. Because it was not possible to drive right in to the planting area, the larger plants were placed on a piece of sheet metal to

which was attached a harness heavy rope and thus skidded to the driveway.

This minimized the lifting and consequently the danger of breaking the root ball; furthermore, as the planting soil was compact rather than loose, the ball held together well without boxing, thus saving much time and some expense.

HANDLES SAVED LABOR

On the large plants which required crating, 2 x 4 handles nailed to both sides of the crate and projecting beyond it about three feet on each end enabled two men, and on the very large plants four men, to lift them. On arrival, whenever possible these large crates were unloaded on driveways above the permanent planting site and skidded downhill on 2 x 4 planks to a point just above the previously-prepared hole. This simplified the manpower situation materially.

There was another interesting aspect of the ground-to-ground transplanting. A sizeable stock of compost had been accumulated at the point from which the plants were moved, which we wished to take along. Therefore, before commencing to load the dug camellias into the trailer, we first loaded about six inches of compost into the bed of it, then placed our dug camellias upon this cushion and filled in additional compost to the capacity of the trailer. This compost packing stabilized the loose plants and prevented exposed roots from drying out in transit.

COMPOST REUSED

When unloading, we first took out the excess compost, which was mixed

(Continued on Page 14)

NEW CAMELLIA BOOK OUT SOON

By RALPH PEER

When our veteran member Bill Wylam returned from his war experiences in the Pacific, he brought back from Australia a copy of *Camellia Quest*, written by Professor E. G. Waterhouse of Sydney. Only 550 copies of the book were printed.

It turned out to be wonderfully well done, and the plates in full color of varieties then unknown in this country were in themselves worth the price.

This book is now a "collector's item." A copy changed hands recently for \$75.00.

For the last four years, Professor Waterhouse has been working on another book called *Camellia Trail*. I have just been advised by the printers in Sydney that the new book will be ready this month. It is described as continuing "the search into origin

and nomenclature of camellias both in Australia and abroad." There are twenty-one color plates as against only four in the first book.

EDITION LIMITED

The edition will be limited to 1,000 numbered copies signed by Professor Waterhouse and the artist, Mr. Paul Jones. The "overseas" shipments are to be limited to 250 copies in the event there is an over-subscription.

The price is ten pounds, ten shillings (Australian) which is \$23.52. Postage and packing will be an additional fifty cents.

If any readers of the Review desire to place orders for this book, individual shipments will be forwarded direct by the printer. The writer will be glad to transmit any orders through Professor Waterhouse, thus insuring the earliest possible delivery.

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FIRST ALL-AMERICAN TRIALS UNDER WAY

The first All-American Camellia Trials in history will get under way this month as exhaustive testing of new seedlings and sports begins at seven locations scattered along the west coast and through the southern states.

The trials are being conducted by the All America Camellia Selections Inc., a non-profit organization of 16 associate member-firms, and competition will be open to anyone who thinks he has a new seedling or sport that is truly outstanding.

To enter competition the owner needs 14 plants of a variety that has not been introduced publicly. The plants should be 2-year grafts on 3-year understock, or the same number of 3-year-old cutting grown plants.

Any owner of a new variety who wishes to be freed of the propagation of the plant may choose to enter an agreement with one of the nursery firms cooperating in the program of the All America Camellia Selections.

RIGHTS PROTECTED

Rights of the owners of seedlings may be protected by a standard test license form which may be obtained by writing to the Secretary, Mr. David Cook, All America Camellia Selections, 13531 Fenton Avenue, San Fernando, Calif.

To further protect owners, test gardens will not be accessible to the public. They will be located on private property or in surroundings where they are screened from public view and access.

There will be three judges assigned to each of the seven test gardens, or 21 judges in all. Each judge will report annually on his evaluation of the plants, and entrants will be notified of results.

Those camellias which consistently, for three consecutive years, attain the

highest scores, may be designated by the governing jury of the All America Camellia Selections to be worthy of the title of a winner in the first true All America Camellia Trials.

A list of the official test gardens and their respective judges is as follows:

Magnolia Gardens and Nurseries, Charleston, South Carolina. Judges: Mr. C. F. Prettyman, Summerville, South Carolina; Mr. Rudolph Siegling, Charleston, South Carolina, and Mrs. Paul Sanders, Jr., also of Charleston, South Carolina.

Fort Valley, Georgia, Estate of Mr. Dave C. Strother. Judges: Mr. D. C. Strother, Mr. Wm. T. Wood, Macon, Georgia; Mr. John P. Illges, Columbus, Georgia.

Semmes Nurseries, Semmes, Alabama. Judges: Mr. A. A. Hunt, Beltingrath Gardens, Theodore, Alabama; Mr. Hoyt W. Lee, Mobile, Alabama; Dr. R. M. Shackelford, Mobile, Alabama.

Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, Louisiana. Judges: Prof. Ira S. Nelson; Dr. James A. Foret; Prof. H. K. Riley—all of the S.L.U.

California Camellia Gardens, San Fernando, California. Judges: Mr. Ronald C. Townsend, Huntington Gardens, Pasadena, California; Mr. Robert Casamajor, Pasadena, California; Dr. Cecil Eshelman, Sherman Oaks, California.

Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon. Judges: Mr. H. H. Harms, Portland, Mr. Dean Collins, Portland, Mr. Andrew F. Sears, Portland. Garden Director: Mr. David E. Thompson, Portland.

State Capitol Grounds, Sacramento, California. Judges: Mr. Jerry J. Olrich, Sacramento, California; Mr. Fred Wittsche, Sacramento, and Mr. A. E. Morrison, Sacramento. Director: Mr. Jerry J. Olrich.

TO THE LADIES . . .from page 8

they have started to grow. In its way, that lush, tender green growth is just as wonderful and beautiful as the flowers. Then I look for flower buds, and about September I get all thrilled again watching the buds swelling and I can scarcely wait for the flowers to appear.

To me it is an unending joy, and that probably explains the appeal, the intrigue, the fascination of camellias. Oh! I can get on a terrific "camellia jag" with very little provocation.

Did you ever experiment with camellias in making funeral pieces? Somehow our florists do not seem, as yet, to understand just how adaptable camellias can be for that kind of floral work.

Last season I saw the most exquisite wreath that had been made at home. The background was *Arizona Cypress* with its lively, soft gray foliage. With it were used *Debutantes* and *Cecile Brunner* roses. I have also seen a blanket made of profusions of lilacs, *Pink Perfections* and a few pink roses. It was a very lovely thing. Pillows are easy to make. Get a wire frame and use camellia foliage if you have any camellias that need pruning. If not, the glossy *Pittosporum* makes a very attractive background. With that you can use the vivid reds, the variegated ones and the always beautiful whites.

I think that we ladies are over-

looking something in camellias — our petite ones—the miniatures.

When our San Diego Society was first organized, one of our members, Lucien Atherton, used to come to the meetings with a little camellia in his buttonhole. He took a lot of "ribbing" about the size of the flowers he was getting. But it turned out that he was holding out on us, when he exhibited some prize winners at the shows.

(Continued on Page 15)

CAMELLIA SEED

The 1952 crop of camellia seed has been received from the Huntington Botanic Gardens and is ready for sale. Price to members of the society \$2.50 per hundred; to others \$5.00 per hundred. Transportation charges and tax paid when payment is received with order. Otherwise they are included in bill. Receipts from sales of this seed are used by the Garden Committee in procuring new and rare plants for the garden.

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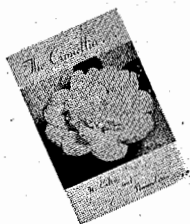
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TRANSPLANTING TECHNIQUE

... from page 10

with good top-soil and placed underneath and around the camellias in the several planting holes previously prepared.

In digging up the camellias, only with the smaller plants was any serious attempt made to preserve the entire root system. It is said that normally the spread of the root system will approximate that of the top. Perhaps it would be well to qualify that statement with the observation that this will depend greatly upon the type of soil in which planted.

It so happened we were dealing with very heavy soil—almost adobe. In such cases, the spread of the roots was found to be generally limited to the size of the hole dug when planting, the heavier native soil practically excluding the roots and acting more like a container than a soil medium.

Therefore, we found the root ball usually compact except in the lath house, where the beds had been carefully prepared with a light, imported soil mixture containing considerable leaf mold and peat.

DIGGING SHEARED ROOTS

Under such conditions the root systems were found to be widely spreading and badly intermingled. It was therefore, a practical necessity to shear the roots when digging, in most instances. However, this unintentional root-pruning procedure did not prove at all detrimental. In fact, I understand that some open-field growers advocate root-pruning as a method of getting a more compact plant.

In our case, while often reduced in size the roots were not otherwise much disturbed owing to their compactness. In sandy soils, it would probably be necessary to burlap each plant, or else confine transplanting strictly to the winter (dormant) season.

(Continued on Page 16)

TO THE LADIES . . . from page 13

Mr. Atherton has always loved the little ones and for years he has been searching for them. I was talking to him about them before writing this article and he told me that there are but two Japonicas that are true miniatures, that is flowers that measure but two inches in diameter. These two are *Fir Cone* and *Tinsie*.

There are others that are small, but not small enough to be classed as miniatures. *Betty McCaskill* and *Kuro-Tsubaki* also fall into this class and probably a few *Susanquas*.

At our San Diego Show last year a collection of miniatures was shown. Not all true miniatures, but nevertheless, interesting. I also heard that there was a miniature class at the Temple City show. Then the schedule of classes for the Sacramento show included as Group III—boutonniere class: "any well-formed flower, fully open, not bud, two inches or less in diameter. Sub-classify according to

color and formation." Evidently people are becoming interested in these camellia babies.

As you well know, some of our breath-taking, large flowers are often very difficult to arrange, and cannot ordinarily be worn as corsages. The little ones could be used in so many ways.

I have been listening in on some of the conversations of the camellia growers and they seem to think that one of the most likely sources of miniatures will be the seedlings. But if you have a grafter in your family, (I mean a camellia grafter, of course) at the first sign of a flower that does not measure at least three or four inches, out comes the pruning knife and the hapless seedling becomes grafting stock.

If we women could start a crusade to "Spare the Miniatures," maybe we could secure a few more of them. It would probably be a losing battle—but it presents a challenge.

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TRANSPLANTING TECHNIQUES . . . from page 14

SEEDLINGS REQUIRE CARE

In growing seedlings, one of the better methods is to plant them individually in bottomless wooden separators so that each seedling may be transplanted after a year into one-gallon cans without seriously disturbing the root system.

Perhaps you may wonder why such solicitude for the seedling's roots, in view of recommendation by some that the tap root be deliberately cut off to induce branching. Being a firm believer in Nature's wisdom, I am not entirely convinced that the camellia is naturally a shallow-rooted plant—at least, not to the extent reputed—such reputation being largely due, one might suppose, to the artificial method of propagation generally employed—rooted cuttings—which tends to develop a lateral rather than vertical root system. It is for this reason, among others, that I use seedling understock almost exclusively in grafting, believing, as I do, in the natural root system theory.

I think that anyone who has seen a really old camellia—particularly one growing in deep, alluvial soil such as in the great Sacramento Valley—will readily agree that the camellia is actually a slow-growing tree. I would be willing to bet that such camellias, although undoubtedly grown from rooted cuttings, have roots that are down many feet into the soil. Probably they do not have tap roots, but they certainly would if reproduced naturally, as the examination of any seedling would indicate.

However, as you will seldom buy a camellia, grafted or "own root," that has a natural root system, you must, of course, treat your own plants as shallow rooted.

TRANSPLANTING NECESSARY

To get back to the gallon-can seedling, if left too long without trans-

planting into a three or five-gallon container, the tremendous root growth will result in some root binding. This is not serious unless the root density is such as to monopolize the available space in the container in which case one cannot keep the plant uniformly moist. Actually, I find that confining the root system expedites the blooming of a seedling. So, at almost any season of the year I transplant either seedlings or rooted cuttings from cans which can be cut off with tin-snips without disturbing the root system. It is best, however, to avoid doing this when the new growth is tender.

DRAINAGE VITAL

In all cases, it has been found essential to provide faultless drainage—even on hillside plantings where we used three or four inches of heavy drain rock in the bottom of the holes. Of course, the smaller the root area the greater the premium upon perfect drainage. I firmly believe that more camellias are lost through improper drainage than any other single cause, and too great care cannot be taken in this regard, particularly when dealing with the heavier soils. Another absolute "MUST" is to plant so that the subsequent compacting and breaking-down of the planting soil medium will not result in lowering the plant dangerously in the ground or container. It helps somewhat to tamp down the soil mix before placing the camellia, but this may only be done safely when it is DRY and is not then an absolute cure.

In planting, it is best to err on the SHALLOW side if at all, for you can successfully mulch-over exposed roots easier than you can keep out an excess overburden of soil. By planting shallow, one can also make the most of the advantages of mulching, simply by building a four-inch embank-

ment about the plant, which will facilitate water penetration as well as hold the mulch in place.

In the hotter climates, particularly, this technique helps the camellia tremendously through maintaining soil moisture longer and more uniformly, besides providing valuable nutriment.

ENVIRONMENT IS CHANGED

There is another interesting aspect of transplanting the camellia and that is the effects of changing its environment. I happen to have had a great deal of experience in this, due not only to having grown camellias in three different locations, but also to the fact that we regularly utilize a great many container-grown plants for the utmost effect about our home.

We endeavor to keep our patios full of blooming plants in season and when one goes out of bloom another container is moved in. This amounts to transplanting the camellia but without the further complication of changing its soil conditions. It takes a camellia a little time to adjust itself to a change in environment or exposure, which seems to disturb its normal processes more or less, depending upon the variety or the degree of change.

GROWTH AFFECTED

This is perhaps more apparent in the growth than it is in the blooming process, and it is entirely understandable when one reflects that it is not a natural thing for a plant to be moved about. In fact, it is difficult to realize just how much difference may be involved in the plant's environment simply by moving it a few feet. For instance, you may have a container against the corner of a wall, or under a tree where it gets only the early morning sun and almost complete protection. Just by moving it a few feet you may change it from a protected to a drafty spot, from three hours' sunlight to six hours, or vice-versa.

Of course, the camellia will adapt itself to such change but it usually takes a little time. Therefore, if you wish to move a camellia about, try to have it be from a cooler to a warmer spot, from an exposed to a protected position, if possible, rather than the other way around.

In undertaking this mass-transplanting job we could not foresee that there would be a reception committee awaiting our camellias, in the form of gophers, field mice and deer. The first-named ate the roots, the second, the bark and the third, the foliage—which gave pretty complete plant coverage.

FIELD MICE DISASTEROUS

Of all three pests, the field mice proved the most troublesome and the most insidious for we did not realize what damage they were doing until several plants had been severely injured, it proving ultimately fatal to a few.

These little rascals seem to like the cambium layer of camellias tremendously, particularly when their normal green feed of weeds has dried or been removed, and, of course, there isn't anything much worse they could do.

While only a few camellias were lost, several were damaged and, with the new leaves eaten off by the deer and root-pruning by a gopher or two, some of our field plants got off to a pretty slow start in their new home. Eventually, of course, we got rid of all these pests but not before paying the penalty of pioneering.

In this short article, I have not undertaken to go into all the details of good transplanting technique, such as soil mixes, types of container, etc., but have endeavored instead to give some of the more unusual aspects of the subject. The methods indicated here are certainly not represented as the best, although found to be quite successful under my particular conditions.

NOTES, NOTICES and NEWS

OREGON

New officers for the Oregon Camellia Society include Corbett McLean, president; Carl Sundquist, first vice-president; A. Butcher, second vice-president; John Kamphaus, secretary; Andrew F. Sears, corresponding secretary; A. O. Mangold, treasurer; and two directors: R. Proppe and H. W. VanHoy.

TEMPLE CITY

Camellia nurseryman Clarence D. Rose, 6025 Muscatel Ave., played host on October 12 to a Sunday morning breakfast gathering of some 50 camellia enthusiasts.

The guest speaker—Mirandy of radio and TV—brought along a huge basket of foliage snipped from her

garden, and used the slips to demonstrate her interesting, informative talk on "Planting to Complement the Camellia."

GLENDALE

The Camellia Show of the Pacific Camellia Society will be held on February 14 and 15, 1953, in the recreation hall of the Glendale YWCA, 735 East Lexington Drive, Glendale, California.

This will be a competitive show. Admission will be fifty cents; children under 12 admitted free when accompanied by parents. The hours will be from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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LET'S RATE THEM

..... from page 9

their performance in each area of San Diego County. From this a composite rating was made for all of the San Diego areas under the four classifications of excellent, good, fair, and poor. Under poor we find the beautiful but poor performers, that give a black eye to the camellia, such as: *Pink Perfection*, *Eureka Red*, *Eureka Variegated*, (*Peppermint*) and *John Laing*.

This rating augments the twelve basic varieties and proves helpful to those beginning a collection.

DISSEMINATE DATA

This rating information, once obtained, should be made available to the gardening public through society members and the nursery operators. In San Diego, an inexpensive leaflet is printed with these facts on one

side, while on the other was a brief statement of cultural needs, a plug for our local society and one for the Southern California Camellia Society. About two thousand of these leaflets were distributed at our shows, by individual society members, and by the local nurseries who welcomed such information and service.

Are we camellia fans a select clan, or do we wish to share our gardening successes and pleasures with all garden lovers? Let's extend a helping hand and guide others along the right path. A little effort will do much to elevate the camellia to the place it deserves in the landscape gardening of our Southern California homes.

(Editor's Note: The Camellia Review would like very much to know the reaction of our readers to Mr. Atherton's proposal. Won't you please send us a card?)

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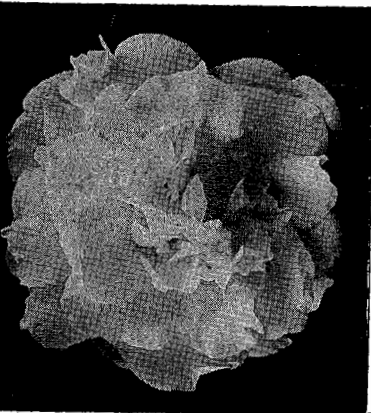
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EDITOR'S CORNER

... from p
wife's needle is stuck on high
when I look out I see Prince
which is my neighbor's poli
about to wet on Jenny Jones.

TRAINING DOES TRICK

It is at times like this wh
realizes the importance of
home training for doing th
thing in a disaster. The whole
went into action immediately.

Johnny ran for the tur
bottle. Mary Anne fetched a
picture of a certain Los Ange
councilman guaranteed to scar
away from a slaughterhouse.

Louella phoned the Highw
trol, the National Guard, a ba
named Louie, and the Pasader
ting bureau which, it turned o
more interested in stray ai
than in police dogs.

Meanwhile Prince Valiant i
ing, making threatening gest
Jenny, and circling around
the wind like maybe he will
a deflection shot rather than
run-of-the-mill, hit-or-miss att

PRINCE MAKES DECISION

Behind me, in the living
a jet airplane engine is revv
to full power, only I suddenly
that it is not a jet engine, ju
ella, and she is wondering o
if I am the kind of a husban
will stand idly by and see my
goods wet upon by a police o

At this point Prince Valiant
to a decision, and something
certainly is going to happen
that just then, around the co
the house, comes the stray o
the kiddies had been soak
gasoline.

Well, there was a big cloud
and stones and twigs, and v
cleared away we could see tha
Jones was even greener than
That darned plant was that SC

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